

the malmesbury Jackdaw



Malmesbury's Alternative Community Magazine
19th Edition Spring 2024



Delivered free to homes and businesses in Malmesbury

Welcome...

... to the spring edition of *The Malmesbury Jackdaw*.

Spring is a time to look forward and there's certainly a lot to look forward to in Malmesbury this year. Let's forget about rain, potholes, strikes, lying incompetent politicians/chief executives and depressing news broadcasts as much as we can, and hope for long, warm summer days where we can dry out, remember how to smile and enjoy ourselves. In this edition, we feature Athelstan 1100; the Devereux Regiment's next attempt to capture our town nearly 400 years after they last had a go and the first rumblings about this year's carnival (we're not wishing the summer away!).

There's also a mixture of other articles and observations sent in to us (and gratefully received) so we hope you find something to your taste – if you don't, why not write an article you think others would like to read and send it in? The mayor's latest newsletter is in the centre pages.

We're delighted to welcome some new advertisers to our pages – thanks to them, and those who have stuck with us, the magazine remains viable. Thank you also to our delivery team, especially our new members who made a huge difference to the workload.

We appreciate you reading *The Jackdaw* and enjoy the feedback we receive – even the critical stuff!

Richard, Raphe and Andy
The Malmesbury Jackdaw Team

Contents

- Page 3 Parliamentary Constituency
- Page 4 Planning Update
- Page 6 Malmesbury Natural History Society
- Page 8 Carnival Events
- Page 9 Carnival Street Closures
- Page 12 Malmesbury League of Friends
- Page 13 Crime Update
- Pages 14– 15 The North Wessex Way
- Pages 16 – 17 Athelstan 1100
- Page 18 Devereux Regiment
- Centre Fold Mayors newsletter
- Pages 24-25 George Jackson Churchward
- Pages 26-27 Caerbladon
- Pages 28—29 Feathers and Fur
- Page 30 Adventures in Mud
- Pages 31-31 Malmesbury Cycling Club
- Page 33 Malmesbury Voices
- Page 34 Smartphone
- Page 36 And Another Thing
- Page 37 History Quiz
- Explore Malmesbury

Cost of Living Support Equity Release

If you watch day-time TV or pick up a magazine, it's hard not to miss adverts extolling the benefits of equity release to improve your standard of living during retirement. But this solution is not right for everyone, and, even if it appears to be right for you, there are pitfalls. It's a big step which has long-term implications, so, before speaking to any providers of equity release, it's advisable to get some independent advice. The debt charity StepChange offers free, impartial advice tailored to your circumstances. You can contact them by ringing 0808 1686 719, or by going to the StepChange website and search for equity release.

Contact & Information

We're always looking for stories to include so if you're aware of something interesting or important relating to Malmesbury then

please check out the editorial policy on our website (www.themalmesburyjackdaw.com) and submit an article. If you would like to discuss any ideas you might have first then drop our editor an e-mail.

To contribute contact Andy at editortmj3@gmail.com

To place an advert contact Raphe at ral43.tmj@gmail.com

For the website or distribution contact Richard at richard.harris61@icloud.com

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Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries Review

Sounds boring, but what does it mean for Malmesbury?

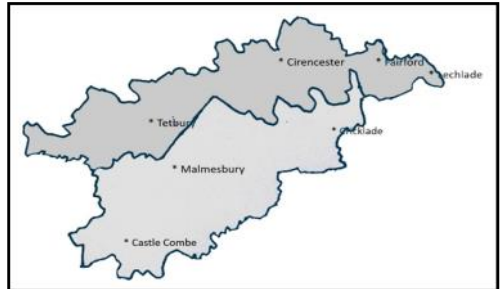
The electoral map of England has been revised to reflect population shifts and the government's aim that all Parliamentary constituencies contain similar numbers of electors.

Since 1983, Malmesbury has been in North Wiltshire constituency along with towns like Calne and Royal Wootton Bassett (Chippenham and Corsham became part of the newly-created Chippenham constituency in 2010). But, from the next general election, we will join such places as Cirencester, Tetbury, Lechlade and Fairford in voting for an MP to represent a new constituency called South Cotswolds. Calne and Royal Wootton Bassett will move to a redefined Chippenham constituency. North Wiltshire constituency will no longer exist.

The boundary review does not impact local authority boundaries. For Malmesbury, council services and council tax will still be administered by Wiltshire County Council. The new MP, when elected, will, however, have to work alongside both Wiltshire and Gloucestershire County Councils

The map (not to scale) shows the new South Cotswolds constituency. The southern lighter shaded area comprises the part of the old North Wiltshire constituency included in South Cotswolds.

For more details, see <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/boundary-review-2023-which-seats-will-change/>.



Snippet

Nothing Really Matters

“Dangerous Saracen Magic “. Would you like to hazard a guess what William of Malmesbury was referring to when he penned this in the 12th century? Strangely, he was referring to the use of the number zero. At the time, European arithmetic depended on Roman numerals which did not need a representation of zero, nor did the medieval calculator, the abacus. It took many hundreds of years before Hindu-Arabic numbers (the numbers we are all familiar with) were adopted. Their clear advantage played a major role in bringing about the modern era we live in today.

Saracen: A term for Arabic Muslims at the time of the Crusades.



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Coming To Malmesbury Soon

Our regular update on major planning applications impacting Malmesbury. No decisions had been communicated at the time of writing, except where indicated.

PL/2023/03637 – An application for an agricultural building on the land next to Waitrose. Concerns have been raised to The Jackdaw by local residents about alleged land clearance activity on the site.

PL/2023/04996 – Land between Milbourne and the bypass. Miller Homes has speculatively applied to build up to 92 homes. Malmesbury Town Council has raised objections, including that it falls outside the Neighbourhood Plan.

PL/2023/05471 – Land opposite Huws Gray (ex-Buildbase) where Cotswold Homes has outline permission to build 23 houses. Malmesbury Town Council has raised concerns about the additional flooding risk.

PL/2023/07797 – Part of the field opposite the entrance to the allotments on Park Road where Lagan Homes has outline permission to build 43 homes. Malmesbury Town Council has raised objections.

PL/2023/08687 – Filands (Phase 3) – 71 homes. Phase 2 is already under construction. Malmesbury Town Council has raised objections about the standard of design.

PL/2021/09852 - Land to the East of Waitrose, A429. This is an application for outline planning permission for up to 26 self-build homes on a site on the opposite side of the bypass from Waitrose. It has been allowed with conditions upon appeal. One of the contributory reasons for the appeal's success appears to be that Wiltshire, as a whole county, doesn't have enough self-build properties.

PL/2023/09930 – Punters Farm (land behind the cemetery and next to the current

boundary of Backbridge Farm Development). Persimmon Homes has speculatively applied to build 21 homes. Malmesbury Town Council has raised concerns about the lack of a suitable path between the entrance to Backbridge Farm Development and the top of Tetbury Hill, and that this development would exceed the overall housing requirement plan to 2038.

More information can be found on Wiltshire Council's website under Planning Applications.

Snippet Spring or leak?

There are mysterious flows of water seeping from the ground on Webbs Way on Reeds Farm. Apparently, the utilities say it's nothing to do with them, so are they natural springs? We understand that, before development, the fields where the estate was built were full of springs. The land was owned by a farmer called Webb, so is it Webb's way of demonstrating that nature can outwit any developer?

(There was absolutely no need for that pun. Editor)





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- LITTLE BERTIES: a room dedicated to children: wooden toys and games, eating utensils, lamps and some clothing.



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Malmesbury and District Natural History Society **Frequent Fliers** by *Miranda Shirnia*

Have you seen a Swift? It's that time of year when they start to return from wintering in Africa. They're easy to spot as they wheel high above us in a noisy 'scream' of sickle-shaped birds. Not to be confused with the ribbon-tailed Swallows or white-rumped House Martins, these are the sooty-brown birds with a white throat renowned for living on the wing, sleeping, eating and even mating in flight, only ever landing to nest.



Swifts are insect eaters and, as many of us know, the numbers of insects have plummeted in recent years. It's not surprising then that these iconic birds are also becoming a much rarer sight. In fact, they are now on the Red List and a bird we should be concerned about. But Malmesbury has LOTS of them, so why is this?

Well, the main reason is the abundance of nesting sites. Swifts like to nest in the roofs of buildings – especially old ones. They return to exactly the same spot year after year, squeezing through tiny gaps to nest *inside* roofs – their nests are not visible from the outside.

Sadly, as older buildings are renovated and gaps in soffits closed up, Swift nesting sites are fast disappearing. Of course, it's understandable that people want to repair

their roofs and there is a way to do this and still share our town with these charismatic birds. When the holes the Swifts used to nest in are closed, erecting a Swift box in the same area means we can still live in harmony together.

What if I don't have Swifts living in my roof, but still want to help them? Is there anything I can do?

Swift boxes can be erected on other buildings and homes, too. While established pairs will return to the same nest site, birds breeding for the first time need to establish a new location and that could be in a box you put up.

There is also one thing everyone can do; plant insect-friendly flowers and stop using insecticides. This will lead to an increase in Swift 'food' and many more Swifts as a result!

It's a tragedy that this wonderful bird is threatened in Britain, but we should be very proud of the healthy population we have in Malmesbury. If we can help them by erecting Swift boxes, planting more insect-friendly plants and stopping the use of insecticides we can actually boost our Swift population and ensure future generations continue to enjoy their brief summer visits in the future.

Find out more about these enigmatic birds at a talk on Swifts at the Town Hall on 7th May at 7pm. Our guest speaker, Sarah Roberts, of North Wiltshire Swifts, will tell us all about their lives and how we can help preserve the population we have in our town.

Email: malmesburynaturalhistory@gmail.com to reserve your place.

Members: £3, non-members £5.

Membership £10 per household per year.

*Photograph courtesy of Neil Parker
[instagram.com/neilparkerphotography](https://www.instagram.com/neilparkerphotography)*

Snippet

Ancient Roadway?

The winter floods washed away the top surface at Daniel's Well to reveal a stone surfaced path. Farmer's track or ancient roadway?



Malmesbury Bridge Club

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**Mondays & Thursdays 6.45pm, at Malmesbury Town Hall,
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patonbagpath@btinternet.com

*We can talk you through how to get online.
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More info at Malmesbury Bridge Club website



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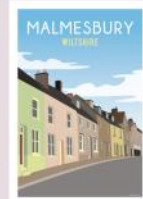


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Malmesbury CARNIVAL & Festival 2024



let's celebrate!

Open Gardens – Sunday 4th August

Petticoat Lane – Sunday 18th August

**Music in the Cloisters – Monday 26th
August**

**Danters Fun Thursday – 29th
August to Saturday 31st August**

Procession – Saturday 31st August





Malmesbury Carnival Road Closures

Malmesbury Carnival would like to advise that road and car park closure applications for Carnival 2024 will be:

Sunday 18th August: Petticaot Lane

**8am to 4pm
Upper High Street
Oliver's Lane
Gloucester Street
Market Cross
Oxford Street**

Saturday 31st August: Procession

**4pm to 8pm
Park Road (from junction with Old Alexander Rd to Gloucester Rd)**

**5pm - 8pm
Gloucester Rd (from junction with Old Station News/Bristol St)
Abbey Row
Gloucester Street
Market Cross
Oxford Street
Cross Hayes
St Dennis Lane
Upper High Street
Oliver's Lane**

**Tuesday 27th August 5pm to Sunday 1st Sept mid-day:
Danter's Fun Fair Station Road - Long Stay Car Park
Long Stay car park will be closed, alternative parking by kind agreement of the Weaver family in field off Holloway. For procession only, Dyson has kindly agreed to the use of their Beuttell Way car park**



Malmesbury & District u3a

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We have over 500 members and over 40 interest groups, including History, Dancing, Gardening, Languages, Book Clubs and Walking Groups etc.

Check our website for more info:

www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk

or email:

membership@malmesburyu3a.org.uk

Monthly meetings, with a Guest Speaker, are on the 4th Thursday of each month (10.00 – 12.00) at Malmesbury Town Hall. Details on our website. Non-members welcome. 50p donation.

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Town Council Premises Licence Application



**MALMESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that Malmesbury Town Council has applied in respect of The Cloister Gardens, Malmesbury for a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 to allow for occasional live music events with the sale by retail of alcohol. Events covered will be the Carnival 'Music in the Cloisters' Carnival event on 26th August (16:00 – 20:00) and the Malmesbury 'Folk & Roots Festival' on 28th September (12:00 – 22:00).

Representations to this application must be made in writing by 20/05/2024 to The Licensing Officer, Licensing Department, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN (where applications can be inspected during office hours), or by email to publicprotectionnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk.

It is an offence liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

This application is being made by Malmesbury Town Council to support the Carnival and Folk & Roots Festival music events. It is a requirement that the application is publicised in the local press to allow formal representations, but you are also welcome to contact the Town Hall office with any comments or questions.

TETBURY GOODS SHED

A R T S C E N T R E

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS AT TETBURY GOODS SHED



- May 18** **The Jazz Defenders:** Led by one of the UK's most formidable jazz pianists, George Cooper, the group are born from a deep love of Blue Note jazz, using its inspiration to craft their own raw and vibrant compositions. 7.30 Tickets £16.50
- June 1** **CarmenCo present A Pocket Opera:** A concert of Spanish and Spanish inspired music presented as a play with a storyline which roughly follows the story of Bizet's opera Carmen but told from her point of view. 7.30 Tickets £15
- June 15** **Comedy Club:** Come and have fun in the company of some of the finest from the UK comedy circuit. This month featuring the talents of Roger Monkhouse, Kate Martin- headlined by Adam Beardsmore, 8 Tickets £13.50
- June 19** **Playtime:** The Last Baguette bring you Ratty and her friends for a fun, relaxed participatory theatre session. There'll be silliness, play-acting, games, and music..... 2-6 year olds.10-11 Tickets £5
- July 19** **Floyd UK:** Dedicated to crafting Pink Floyd's performances with careful attention to every note and inflection, with amazing visual effects including lasers to enhance the live experience. 7.30 Tickets £20

To buy tickets and for more information about other events such as talks, cinema and exhibitions please visit our website:

www.shed-arts.co.uk

Malmesbury League of Friends Donates £10,000 To Boxing Club

The Malmesbury League of Friends (MLOF) has donated £10,000 towards the cost of a new minibus for Malmesbury Boxing Club.

The new minibus, which cost £21,000, will be used to transport the boxers to events and competitions all over the country. The balance has been raised by the club itself, including fund raising, Go Fund Me and individual donations.

For many years, the club used an old minibus, which was worn out and used large amounts of fuel. So, a new minibus was essential if the club was to continue taking part in the all-important competitions and events.

The club, which has around 60 regular members, operates three weekly training sessions, helping the young boxers develop their fitness and self confidence in a friendly and disciplined environment.



Head coach Mike Rees told The Jackdaw: "I'd like to say thank you so much to MLOF for their huge support. Supplemented by so many donations from the people of Malmesbury, local businesses and the Carnival and Bonfire committee, we have been able to purchase a very important asset for our club".

The boxing club is an important facility within the town for both youth and adults. MLOF chairman David Hide said: "We are always keen to help those, particularly young people, to participate in healthy, character-building activities. The boxing club, under Mike's leadership, does a first-class job and fully deserves our support."

Snippet

Hannah Twynnoy

Hannah Twynnoy's tombstone is showing its age. A reader has asked if there's any chance that it might be restored as it features in a lot of the tourist information about Malmesbury. It looks like the rodent equivalent of the Bond villain Jaws has been nibbling at the bottom righthand corner. *Photo: Mike Lewis*



Crime Update

The latest available reported crime figures for Malmesbury are based on January. During that month, 21 crimes were reported - 10 Violence & Sexual Offences, 4 cases of Vehicle Crime, 3 cases of Criminal Damage & Arson and 4 other crimes.

15 crimes were also reported for Malmesbury's surrounding rural area comprising 8 Violence & Sexual Offences, 2 Thefts, 3 cases of Criminal Damage & Arson and 2 other crimes.

For both areas, Violence & Sexual Offences remains the most reported category of crime over the past 12 months.

The current policing priorities for our area remain:

- Car interference issues and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - High visibility mobile and foot patrols in the town centre and associated hot spots to target ASB. Pro-active operations are being actioned for the night-time economy and reassurance patrols will continue for the foreseeable.
- Burglary Issues - Extra patrols and community reassurance will happen in the reported areas of concern.

Across the county, Wiltshire Police intensified its Operation Scorpion during March to disrupt gangs involved in drug and other criminal offences. One week's activity resulted in:

- 31 arrests
- £24,000 cash seized
- Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine) valued at £33,600 seized
- 27 people safeguarded
- 79 cuckooed addresses visited

- Weapons seizures including two real guns, one imitation gun, several knives,
- a Samurai sword and a set of nunchucks
- Assets seizures including a car, designer jewellery and clothing
- 3 children, missing from home and being exploited to run drugs as part of County Lines gangs, were safely returned home

Road Maintenance

Here's Wiltshire Highways Road Maintenance Schedule 2024-2030 for Malmesbury.

A financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March.

SCHEDULE

St Aldhelm's Rd to Burnham Rd -

Carriageway Repairs in Financial Year 2024/25

Park Road - Surfacing 2024/25

Old Alexander Rd - Surfacing 2024/25

St John's St to Baskerville Hill -

Surface Dressing 2024/25

Gloucester St and Abbey Row -

Surfacing 2025/26

Athelstan Road - Surfacing 2025/26

St Mary's St - Surfacing 2025/26

Newnton Grove and Exton Close -

Surfacing 2025/26

Sherston Road (Corn Gastons to Bremilham Rd) -

Surfacing 2026/27

High St (St John's St area) - Surfacing 2026/27

Cross Hayes and St Dennis Lane -

Surfacing 2027/28

Tetbury Road (Dyson to Cooper's Farm) -

Surfacing 2028/29

For further information see Wiltshire Council Website.

The North Wessex Way

Gordon Williams has been on the investigative trail. All photos are courtesy of David Mitchell except where shown.

Do you know that the most important road linking Oxford to Bristol passed through Malmesbury many years ago? It's just a lane, a byway, now.

To find out more, I sat down with local historian (although he insists, modestly, he is no such thing) Mr. David Mitchell who told me how he came to rediscover what he has named 'The North Wessex Way'. It all began with an old map drawn up in 1675.



How did you come into possession of the map?

In 2014, I spotted an old map in a shop in Hay-on-Wye. It caught my eye as it showed a route connecting Oxford to Bristol mentioning local towns and villages on its way. My wife bought it for me as a surprise birthday present.

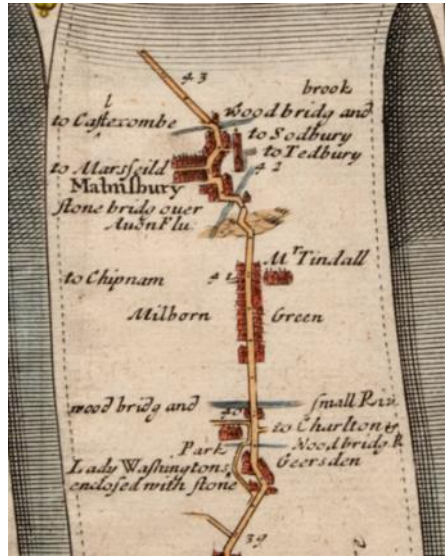
You came up with the name of the road 'North Wessex Way'?

It's a name I gave the road as it passes East to West following the boundary between Wessex and Mercia, much used then by the Kings of Wessex!

How did the original map come about?

It was designed by John Ogilby in 1675 at the

instruction of Charles II. He needed accurate information to help him plan military campaigns. It comes in 100 sections (the Oxford-Bristol section is number 79) and is in strip form just like an ancient Sat Nav. It



was plotted by three men, one on horseback and two pushing a cart (called a way-wiser). So, it's the first time the highways were measured accurately.

Can you tell us what places it passes through?

It starts in the bottom lefthand corner then, running up the map, it goes to Farringdon, Highworth, Purton, Garsdon Common, Malmesbury, Sherston and on to Bristol. (*I couldn't help noticing that the route passes close to ancient hill forts such as Castle Hill Blunsdon, Ringsbury Camp at Purton, Badbury Camp and Cam Hill near us*)

Who would have used the road?

Traders, armies (musket balls have been found), civilians, drovers and monks from Malmesbury Abbey. It would have been a way of getting to Gloucester College, Oxford which they had founded.

And what route did it take through Malmesbury?

From Milbourne, it went down Blicks Hill to Holloway then up to Oxford Street, Abbey Row, Bristol Street, over the wooden Truckle Bridge and on to Foxley. But there was another way... the town's first bypass! Coming down Blicks Hill, you used to be able to turn left at the bend to go over a beautiful bridge



Photo: Mike Lewis

(see picture) then track the town wall to Town Bridge, before moving on to Arches Farm - it saved going through the town.

Can we see evidence of the North Wessex Way today?

The country lanes are unusually wide in places. If they were badly cut up, the traveller would move to the other side and back again when that side became too churned up and muddy. We have the bridge over the Avon at Blicks Hill and the street names Oxford Street and Bristol Road as reminders.

Do we know if any notable characters used the road?

On the 7th June 1740, John Wesley left the town at 6:45am to ride 42 miles, stopping on the way to preach. Charles I, Henry VIII (*he dined at Tower House*), King Stephen and Henry II are known to have come

to Malmesbury and would have used this road. As did many of the Saxon kings.

But why has it become the forgotten road?

With the passing of the Turnpike Act in 1755, William Rawlinson Earle, originally the MP for Malmesbury, for which he paid the grand sum of £1500, then became one of the two MPs for Cricklade who managed to have the road diverted via Cricklade so that the town benefited and prospered from all the travellers who passed through. The old road became neglected as the B4040 took over as the main thoroughfare.



Thank you, David, for telling us about the fascinating story of this once important route and for bringing it back life so we don't forget about it again.

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Athelstan 1100



It's just two months until **Athelstan 1100** gets underway to commemorate the anniversary of Athelstan becoming king. We can already feel the

excitement as banners get designed, our local businesses become 'By Appointment of King Athelstan', rehearsals start, test pits are plotted and summer diaries are planned. Everyone knows someone who is already involved! All the information is at www.athelstan1100.co.uk

So, what's in store? Four action packed weekends, a star-studded speaker programme, brilliant live performances, Athelstan Museum doing Athelstan proud, picnics, activities and trails, food and drink and much, much more!

Speaker Programme

Finding Athelstan in Malmesbury – Anne Goodyer. Wednesday 15th May 2.30 pm, Rausing Building & Tuesday 9th July 2.30 pm, Town Hall

Athelstan and Malmesbury – Tony McAleavy. Saturday 29th June 7.30 pm, Town Hall

A Walk on the Wild Side: Malmesbury 924 – Miranda Shirnia. Tuesday 2nd July 2.30 pm, Town Hall

Athelstan 1100, the essential backstory – Jim Storr. Wednesday 3rd July 7.30 pm, United Reform Church

The Lost Life of Athelstan: Further Reflections – Michael Wood. Friday 5th July 7.30 pm, Malmesbury Abbey

Athelstan and the Battle of Belief – Rev'd

Oliver Ross. Thursday 11th July 7.30 pm, United Reform Church

Athelstan, First King of Britain? – Sarah Foot. Friday 12th July 7.30 pm, Town Hall

Delight and Dread: Unladylike Tales from the Age of Aethelflaed – Stephe Harrop. Monday 15th July 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. The King's Arms

Staying Well in Anglo Saxon Malmesbury, Herbal Medicine, Cures and Remedies – Sam Entwistle. Wednesday 17th July 7.30 pm, The Old Bell Hotel

What was Warfare like in Athelstan's Age? – Paul Hill. Friday 19th July 7.30 pm, Town Hall

Snippet

Sign of the Times?

Another admirable bit of thinking here from those who administer our roads. They've put up a sign that completely blocks the view of residents trying to pullout on to Milbourne Lane. *Photo: Dave Clarke*





GET READY TO ENJOY

- **Speaker Programme**
- **Banners in the Town Centre**
- **Athelstan Museum – A stunning special exhibition about Athelstan**
- **28th June** – ‘Oh! Athelstan’. A fun musical performed by pupils of St Joseph’s RC school at the Abbey
- **30th June** – The opening of the Athelstan Pilgrim Way
- **6th and 7th July** – ‘Malmesbury’s Big Athelstan Dig’. Community archaeology at sites around town.
- **13th July** – Anglo-Saxon food drink and craft fair.
- **13th and 14th July** – ‘Athelstan – A United Kingdom’. The exciting live telling of Athelstan’s story at the Abbey.
- **14th July** – Children’s Big Athelstan picnic.
- **20th and 21st July** – ‘Anglo-Saxon Malmesbury’. A large scale re-enactment village and hands on experiences.
- **Plus Themed Guided Walks and Self-Guided trails, pop up activities, ‘Athelstan to Aldi’ album launch, ‘By Appointment of King Athelstan’ along the High Street and Athelstan 1100 inspired products and services.**
- **31st August** – Malmesbury’s Carnival Procession, with an Athelstan theme
- **19th to 26th October** – Malmesbury’s famous annual Wessex Week continues the Athelstan and Anglo-Saxon theme with a brilliant programme of talks, music, walks and entertainment.
- **Tickets and Information for all Speakers and Events:**
www.athelstan1100.co.uk/events-ticketing (See Event Details for specific ticketing and attendance information. Not all Events require ticket purchase in advance. Many are free).
- Sign Up for our Newsletter: **www.athelstan1100.co.uk**

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Malmesbury in the English Civil War



The only place to be on the Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May is Malmesbury town centre as



the Devereux Regiment arrive to take the town by storm – again! They were here for two years in 1644; this time they are putting on a show to mark their 50th anniversary as a re-enactment group. Experience the military camp in the Cloisters, the displays in the Town Hall and the Warden and Freemen office and the re-enactment performances on Sunday the 5th May. Full information at <https://www.malmesbury.gov.uk/devereux>.



FRIDAY 3RD MAY 7:30PM

'Wiltshire and Malmesbury in the English Civil War' A talk by Dr Chris Scott, former Director of Education for The Royal Armouries and an accomplished storyteller. Malmesbury Town Hall. **Tickets £10** from Malmesbury Town Hall and at [malmesbury.gov.uk/devereux](https://www.malmesbury.gov.uk/devereux)

SATURDAY 4TH MAY 10:00AM – 4:30PM

Cloister Gardens and Malmesbury Town Hall: Visit a Civil War military camp and displays in the Town Hall. See live demonstrations of food preparation and cooking, the officers tent, scribing, dyeing and making, sword skills, a beer shop and tavern, C17th music and dancing, period games and meet Chuck and his rider.

PLUS: 12NOON – 4:00PM

Market Lane: See the original unique Birds Eye View Map of Malmesbury produced at the time the Devereux were in Malmesbury from 1644 to 1646 and important Warden and Freemen of Malmesbury memorabilia.

SUNDAY 5TH MAY 10:00AM – 4:30PM

All of Saturday's activities in the Cloister Gardens and Malmesbury Town Hall **plus two showings of the live re-enactment of the last attack on Malmesbury in May 1644 ... Abbey Row, Gloucester Street, Market Cross**

RE-ENACTMENTS: 1:30PM & 3:00PM

Spectating places open from 20 mins before each event.
Stewards instructions must be followed at all times.

Malmesbury Mayor's Newsletter

April 2024

As the old saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun". That is certainly true for the Mayor of Malmesbury!

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as our town's Mayor. As you read this, the mayoral gold chain and red robes will soon be passing to my successor, elected at our Annual Meeting



ITV Zoom interview on Ukraine 2nd anniversary

at the start of May. I wish our next Mayor all the luck in the world.

My last few months have been busy trying to improve things for our residents,

connecting with young people, thanking those who work so hard for others in our community, raising money for my three Mayoral good causes, representing our town elsewhere in Wiltshire and building relations with our friends in Germany and importantly, war torn Ukraine.

One of my mayoral commitments was getting CCTV installed. That became an even bigger priority after the thefts

at the Abbey. Rapid progress is now being made. The necessary new lampposts have been put up, rewiring work to take the cameras completed and contracts signed.

There will be 29 high spec cameras, covering both main car parks, the upper High



Bake for Ukraine at United Reformed Church

Street, Market Cross and Cloister Gardens, with a live feedback to the Town Hall and very high-quality day and night time images available for police investigations. Criminal gangs visit small towns to spot those without CCTV. Residents and visitors returning to their cars to find them damaged often ask for images to show what happened. Very soon wrong doers will know Malmesbury is not a soft touch, and honesty is the best policy when an accident happens when no one is around to see it.

We are fortunate to have so many great shops, cafes, pubs and hotels and see new businesses opening. Running a business is a big challenge, especially when money is tight, costs are soaring, and more people are buying online. Those factors have seen closures in our High Street. When I speak to other Mayors, this is a common trend, and some places are seeing their town



With Graham Soutl at the meeting with retailers

centres spiral downwards. That must not happen here. That is why, with Wiltshire Council funding, we got town centre national expert, Graham Soutl, who has a flat near Malmesbury, to work with us, the Town Team, local businesses and visitor attractions. His experience of good things happening elsewhere, the sessions he ran locally, and his written report say what we need to do together to ensure we are a thriving trading town. We are on with sharing and putting his recommendations into action. Watch out for our expanded *Folk & Roots* music festival on 21 September and

our first *Food and Drink* festival on 19 October.

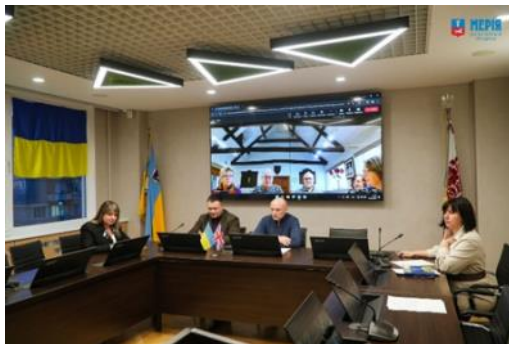


Waitrose steps reopening

It was a real pleasure to mark the reopening of the Waitrose steps, some years after they were shut down on safety grounds. What a battle this has been to get the John Lewis Group to keep their promise to Malmesbury. I want to thank all Branch Partners at

Waitrose Malmesbury for their support in making this happen. One of my more dramatic moments came in a Zoom call with the Mayor of Cherkasy in central Ukraine. Our *Malmesbury Stands with Ukraine* group fundraises for the local hospital that

treats injured and wounded Ukrainians. Their mayor wanted to thank us, and we wanted to explore a more formal link between us. Our video meeting was being translated when their mayor suddenly interrupted with “So sorry, the air raid sirens have just sounded, so we have to go to the shelter”. I cannot imagine that ever being said at a Malmesbury Town Council meeting.



Mayor of Cherkasy and officers Zoom into Malmesbury Town Council



Town councillors and Town Twinning representatives on the call to Cherkasy

Thank you to everyone who is helping raise money and supporting our friends in Ukraine. Hopefully, Putin will withdraw his forces and peace will return. But until he does, Malmesbury will stand with Ukraine and in particular, Cherkasy.

Malmesbury is the envy of many towns in Wiltshire. When I meet other Mayors at their

events, we talk about our towns. Most recently the Mayor of Trowbridge’s civic reception, the blessing of the River Marden organised by Calne’s Mayor and the Rule of Law service in Salisbury Cathedral. Hosted by Salisbury City Council, we gathered to thank our police, probation service, magistrates,



With other Mayors at Calne Civic Service and River Blessing

judges and other emergency services so ably represented by the High Sheriff of Wiltshire. Sometimes we take for granted what we have here, but they certainly do not. So many people work so hard to make Malmesbury special. Meeting and thanking the individuals, organisations and groups who dedicate their



Interview with BBC Radio Wiltshire on pot-holes



Cartmell Community minibus

time to help others as a guest at their events is a huge pleasure as Mayor. I was delighted to welcome the brand new Cartmell Community Minibus offering transport at great rates, and a particular highlight was sitting in our Council Chamber as the 1st King Athelstan Scouts became town councillors for the night and debated their good ideas for young people in our town.

The *Music for the Soul* concert in the Abbey featuring professional musicians playing as three local primary school choirs sang was absolutely magnificent and it was an honour to join the 992 (Malmesbury) Air Training Cadets at their Dining In Night and Awards ceremony.

This culminates with our annual Malmesbury Town Council Civic Awards night at 7pm on Thursday 25 April in the Town Hall.

Please come along and join in the appreciation of individuals recognised for their service to our community. Judging those entries with my fellow Councillors is a tough task and all nominees deserve our thanks and appreciation. Finally, I want to thank my fellow Councillors for granting me this privilege and working so hard for the



Lloyds Bank mobile bus closure

good of our town as unpaid volunteers. I'm also grateful to all the members of our Town Council staff under the leadership of Town Clerk Claire Mann.

The reality is I could not have done this without the dedicated and loving support of our Mayoress. She gave up a job she loved at Wiltshire Police to support me through this Mayoral Year. Thank you, Liz!



With Mayoress Liz Cook at Salisbury Guildhall for the Rule of Law service

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Malmesbury Abbey (The One Built in Swindon)

P3-The 1000- year-old Yew Tree the & Man with Two Tombstones - George Jackson Churchward, 1857-1933

by Bill Reed

George Jackson Churchward, designer of the *Star Class* of locomotives to which *Malmesbury Abbey* belonged, was one of the greatest railway engineers ever. His designs were the pride of the Great Western Railway for half a century.

Stoke Gabriel

In the picturesque churchyard of St Mary & St Gabriel, in Stoke Gabriel, South Devon, stands an ancient yew tree. The sculptor Edward Lovesey estimated its age as at least 1000 years. Using a slice from a cedar, Lovesey created a sculpture showing, on the annual rings, major events which the yew has lived through - the Crusades, the Spanish Armada, the Wright Brothers' first flight. One ring is marked "Churchward b. 1857 in S.G. Railway Engineer".

Elsewhere in the churchyard, a grave is inscribed "In Loving Memory of Mary and Adelina Churchward"; "Also of George Jackson Churchward CBE Died December 19th 1933 aged 77". But, although Churchward was born in Stoke Gabriel, he is not buried with his sisters Mary and Adelina.

Career

Churchward took up an apprenticeship with the South Devon Railway at Newton Abbot. There he met Richard Neville-Grenville, and together, in 1875, when Churchward was only 18, they designed and built a three-wheeled car powered by steam. The Grenville Steam Carriage now resides in the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, and is believed to be the

oldest self-propelled passenger-carrying road vehicle still in working order.

When the SDR merged with the Great Western Railway, Churchward moved to Swindon. He became Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME) at Swindon Works from 1902 until his retirement in 1921. He made ground-breaking steps forward in locomotive efficiency, carriage and bogie design, and vacuum braking.

First Mayor of The Borough of Swindon

In 1900, when Swindon Old Town and New Town were combined, Churchward was appointed the first Mayor. Some of the town issues at the time were the installation of a tramway system, the improvement of water supplies, and an electricity works. Churchward was also a member of the Water Board, and Chair of the Technical Education Committee. He was made a CBE for his work on munitions during WW1, and became the first Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Swindon in 1920. On retirement, he donated most of the collection made on his behalf to a Churchward Memorial Fund for technical students, retaining only a small sum to buy himself a new fishing rod.

Newburn House and Death

During his time as CME, Churchward lived in Newburn House, a Victorian mansion belonging to GWR and situated beside the railway. It housed a workshop, a billiard room and a shooting gallery. He never married.

Churchward had a routine for his walk to work. A gate in his garden fence led to a footpath on railway land beside the "down" track. He would take this route to his office,

passing through various workshops to talk to the foremen.

In retirement, he remained at Newburn and continued his habit of taking a walk along the tracks. On Tuesday 19 December 1933, he did so for the last time. It was a foggy morning and, at almost 77, Churchward was hard of hearing. A true railwayman to the end, he bent down to examine the track, and was struck and killed by an express train.

Funeral And Commemorations

Churchward was laid to rest at Christchurch, Swindon, in a black marble grave with a scrolled headstone. A large crowd attended. Commemorative wreaths were laid there in January 1957 (the centenary of his birth) and December 2008 (the 75th anniversary of his death).

Acknowledgement: *With special thanks to Andy Binks, Chair, The Swindon Society*



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Caerbladon

On St. David's Day Friday 1 March, Caerbladon, Malmesbury's arts development organisation, opened the doors of its new gallery/arts space at 24 High Street, Malmesbury. Over a hundred visitors came to the opening event, enjoying exhibitions of work by four North Wiltshire artists, and a guided tour of the arts studio, meeting rooms, and Caerbladon's art supplies and stationery shop.

Caerbladon founders Karen and David Drake comment:

"This is an exciting moment for Caerbladon. After two successful years operating from our gallery/shop on Market Cross we finally have the larger premises on the High Street we have been working towards, thanks to Warden and Freeman. Since opening in March 2022, we have mounted exhibitions and events in several venues across town, along with running the annual Flying Monk Arts Trail, the Pride of Place Malmesbury festival and two partnership projects with WOMAD. As well as exhibiting and selling artwork and art supplies, we will be offering a wide range of creative workshops and courses and establishing a young person's art studio acting as a springboard for many exciting projects. As well as activities in our new space, we see the



Photo: David Drake

whole town and surrounding area as a canvas for Caerbladon exhibitions, events and projects".

With an ever-changing programme, Caerbladon encourages people of all ages to enjoy art, buy artworks and express themselves creatively. As a not-for-profit community interest company, Caerbladon set out to respond creatively to the local context and to address the needs of various communities, promoting sustainability, understanding of and respect for the unique heritage and character of the area. They believe strongly that celebrating diversity and being accessible to all is the key to a vibrant and inclusive cultural life.

To this end, they initiated a new arts and cultural festival, and play a lead role in commissioning local and international artists to undertake residencies and projects in collaboration with a wide range of organisations including Athelstan Museum, WOMAD, the Abbey, Wiltshire Libraries, the British Council and local authorities. They supply high quality art materials and books at affordable prices to offer inspiration and useful advice on different techniques and approaches. They also act as a hub for activities such as artist talks, social get-



Karen and David. Photo: Richard Harris

together, and walking and sketching tours in the local

For Karen and David, the enhanced offer is also about helping to enliven the town centre and bring new visitors to Malmesbury's High Street:

"We have seen a growth in visitors from across the South West and beyond since we opened, including many international visitors, and they love the Malmesbury vibe. With the town expanding through new housing developments, and those in the surrounding villages, there is a demand for arts and cultural activities and a more diverse offer in the High Street. The rise in independent businesses taking on empty properties in the High Street and transforming them into specialist shops and community enterprises we believe is the way forward for the town. We can't simply rely on our heritage attractions and we need to create a vibrant, animated Town Centre offering something for everyone"

Snipet (Intentional!)



The new direction signage at the Priory Roundabout was obviously written by a republican who can't spell.

Wiltshire Landscapes

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Feathers and Fur

Hello Malmesbury, it's Lily and Kira once again. It's Spring and, since we like animals so much, we decided to go to Malmesbury Animal Sanctuary to see some furry friends. We were shown around the sanctuary by two of the volunteers, Luke & Dylan, then we went to the Three Cups pub to interview Janinka, who runs the project.



The sanctuary was in the news two years ago when an emu, Boomer the Brave, helped stop a drunk driver who was running away from an accident.

Kira – Has an animal ever escaped?

One of the emus, Cha Cha, escaped because she was being chased by her brother and sisters (Émy, Doble and Mo Mo). Luckily, there were volunteers there, so she didn't get very far. Now they are more grown up they don't chase each other.

Lily – Who is your favourite animal?

I don't really have a favourite, but Cha Cha definitely has a special place in my heart because she was the first chick that hatched. In fact, she hatched on our kitchen table.

Kira – Do the animals ever hurt you when you feed them?

No, they are only ever interested in their food, like goat muesli, emu pellets and hay.

Lily – Has one of the animals ever attacked you?

No, but one of the goats, JP (Jean Paul Gaultier), can be forceful because he is big.

Kira – Where do you rescue the animals from?

We don't do emergency rescues. We take in animals that need rehoming. For example, 2 sheep escaped and ended up on Gaston's Road, so we took them in – they're now called Thelma and Louise!

Lily – What do the Emus eat?

In the wild, emus eat grass, leaves, bugs and small mice. We feed them ostrich pellets and a salad and vegetable bowl every day.

Kira – Do the animals ever have babies?

We had Emu chicks once, but we won't let them breed again and we don't breed the other animals.

Lily – Which is your favourite season at the Sanctuary?

Summer is my favourite season there – long days, drier, warmer and happy animals.

Kira – What is the best thing about your job?

The satisfaction of giving the animals a good





donations are always welcome. The sanctuary is the Mayor of Malmesbury's chosen charity of 2024. Although it isn't open to the public, the animals love people saying hello over the wall.

Joke Corner:

Kira: Where did the duck go when he was sick? To the Ducktor!

Lily: What is the difference between a bird and a fly? A bird can fly, but a fly can't bird!

Letter to the Editor

We printed a snippet in our last edition about a muddy cut-through on Avenue de Gien and have received this photo and response from a concerned resident.



Re: Snippet "Let Them Get Muddy!"

I would like to point out that the gap in the hedge referred to, was illegally made by a few residents in Filands View, who needed quick passage to work at Dysons. We, who live close to the path in Ave.de Gien, are not happy about the constant stream of pedestrians who have made another MUDDY path on the green, when there is a proper path alongside for their use. *Name withheld.*

life and the volunteers enjoyment.

Lily – How old do you have to be to volunteer?

You have to be over eight, with an adult, or over sixteen if you're on your own. We have forty volunteers working four shifts every day.

If you're interested in finding out more, there's lots of information on <https://animalsanctuary.net>. Details of how you can donate are on the website and there's also a collection jar in the Three Cups pub –



Adventures in Mud

We're delighted to hear from Wiltshire farmer and award-winning children's author, Joanna Collingborn.

When we launched two books in a new series for children, I began a journey that has been full of surprises and hasn't stopped since. My diary is full of school visits and, excitingly, the series has just been awarded a children's book prize.

Stuck in the Mud and *Sledging in the Snow* are adventure stories for children aged 4 to 8 full of humour and mishap. They're inspired by life on my family's farm in Wiltshire, just outside Chippenham heading towards Malmesbury. It has always been my hope that by writing about the farm, I'm bringing nature to children wherever they are.

Children Teddy and Lara have brilliant adventures with their grandparents – although I imagine it paints quite a clear picture of farming life when the first book in the series features an adventure with a quad bike getting stuck in the mud ...

My grandparents moved to Hillside in the early 30s. My grandmother used to tell me wonderful stories of the carthorses and the adventures she had. In a way, she is behind my decision to start writing for children.

These days, I'm a wife, a mother, I work in cyber security and I help to run the family farm with my sister. Our farm is approximately one hundred acres and we have about 50 cows and some chickens. We haven't used chemicals or fertilizers here for a long time.

As a child, I always helped my parents, feeding the cows, silaging and hay making. My sons Teddy, aged 15, and Maxi, aged 13, have just started driving the tractors and they love it!

Hearing that *Stuck in the Mud* and *Sledging in the Snow* have been recognised by the Golden Wizard Book Prize has been amazing. It doesn't stop there either. I'm visiting primary schools across Wiltshire and it makes me really happy every time I see the books in beautiful bookshops such as Barn Owl Books in Malmesbury, in farm shops and read new reviews on online retailers such as Amazon.

And at the core of it all is the farm itself. There are generations of memories here. Farming is hard, but such a lovely way of life. It's the perfect place to put pen to paper and start writing another adventure.

***Stuck in the Mud* and *Sledging in the Snow* by Joanna Collingborn with illustrations by Anna Platts are in bookshops and online retailers now.**



The History of Malmesbury Cycling Club

By Paul Freegard

Research has shown the existence of a Malmesbury Cycling Club going back to 1933.

See the photograph taken of club members from that year. There is also reference in 1954 to the formation of a new Malmesbury Cycling Club. This was formed with 24 members. It was intended to start a sporting programme under the captaincy of Roy Clarke, who, at the time, was a trainee at Ekco.

As it was to operate on a Sunday, permission to meet at the Youth Centre was denied – which sounds a little harsh nowadays! The secretary was Mrs Baker of Silver Street. Early the following year, a meeting was held in St Mary's Hall when A. Baker (name not profession) was elected Chairman. Treasurer was Miss C. Butcher (ditto), Vice-Captain T. Beale, with a Mrs Davey, Miss P. Campbell and J Hayward on the committee. We are unable to confirm if there was a committee member

with the surname Candlestick-Maker. Many thanks to local historian Charles Vernon for supplying the above information.

Malmesbury Cycling Club is very keen to know more about the history of cycling and cycling clubs in the town. This could be either from 1954, 1933 or maybe even earlier! Any photos or other documentation would be of great interest to our members.

Please email malmesburycycling@gmail.com if you know anything about our history that you could share with us.

Referring back to the 1933 photo, the rear of the photo has the following names on it: Tom Brown, Bert Porter, Jack Thornbury, Douglas & Dick Lockstone, Vic Hislop, Bill Bowman, Jack Brown, Percy Cole, Kimber Dinham, Chris Blanchard, Lionel Newth, Alf Barnes, Tom Beard, Sidney Hunt and Joe Poole.

We've had some success in identifying the riders and their present-day relatives – can



Photo courtesy of Louise Bowman

you help us?

So, in its (at least) third reincarnation the present day Malmesbury Cycling Club was formed in February 2012 by Howard Sprange, Tim Hibbert and the late Dave Ellis. The focus of the club was and still is for local folk to cycle together and enjoy steady group rides around picturesque lanes in the Malmesbury area. In 2023, the original founders Howard and Tim decided to take a step back and enjoy a well-deserved rest from the day-to-day running of the club. A new committee was formed and confirmed at the Club Annual General Meeting held at the Town Hall in late September 2023.

Committee members are Andy Poolman, Sian Wiltshire, Peter Cattermole, David English and me – Paul Freegard. If you see us about the town, please say hello! Alternatively, visit www.malmesburycyclingclub.org.uk to find out more about our club.

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Malmesbury Voices

By Bill Reed

Forward Family Memories

The aim of Athelstan Museum's "Voices" project is to make accessible stories of the area which are usually only heard within a limited circle of family and friends.

Since December 2023, I have been working with Vieve, Tristan and David Forward to bring some of their family memories and images into the collection.

Their parents Colin and Sylvia were well known in Malmesbury for their artistic work, and for their support for local causes including the River Valleys Trust, the Art Society, and the Thomas Hobbes Society. Art retrospectives have been held on several occasions to exhibit their creations, and now some of their stories are available to all on the "Voices" screen in the Museum.

Vieve took this photograph of her parents at Malmesbury Town Hall.

She says,

"What they normally did on a Saturday was they went up town together. They usually went to the Apostle's Spoon or later they went to The Bell and met friends there and had coffee. They did their shopping, but it took them absolutely ages because Colin would stop and talk to everybody. And then they went to the chip shop in the Cross Hayes and they bought fish and chips, and sat outside the Town Hall and ate them. My mother had a stroke in the late 70's, which affected her left side. But her mind was not affected at all. So, in a way she was really lucky. But it changed her life quite seriously. Colin was always cheerful! He was always very positive. Round his neck he's got a pair of glasses I think and a magnifier, or perhaps two magnifiers, he always went well-equipped to look at whatever he wanted to look at."



Photo © Vieve Forward

As those who remember them will attest, Colin and Sylvia led a colourful life in more ways than one and now, for the first time, we have accounts and photographs of Sylvia's knitwear business, Colin's bookshop in Swindon which he named 'Shakespeare & Co', the story of the original road signs he made for Swindon's 'County Islands' (now known as the 'Magic Roundabout'), and many other engaging and unusual tales.

On behalf of the Museum, I would like to thank all members of the Forward family for their generosity in making these memories available.

Entry to the Museum, Tuesday to Sunday, is free.

Smartphone-Free Childhood Malmesbury



Malmesbury parents and carers are banding together to protect their children against the harmful effects of smartphones. A new group has formed to try and achieve an alternative 'norm' where enough children don't have a smartphone that they're not 'the odd ones out'. Text Miranda on 07786 961249 if you'd like to be added to the Malmesbury Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp group.

This newly formed group aims to:

1. Allow parents and carers to see that other families think the way they do;
2. Reassure parents and carers that their child won't be the 'odd one out' at secondary school and reduce peer pressure;
3. Share useful information, e.g. alternative 'basic' phones and the impact of smartphones on kids' mental health.

There might also be discussions about other initiatives people want to take to share the message. e.g. school or community group-based initiatives.

It is NOT a no-phones /no-screens thing - it's about smart phones because of mental and physical health issues that arise from web access, social media and online forums/ communication.

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Snippet

Beware – Barbed Wire!

The paths from Cowbridge Weir and Milbourne across the field bordered by Woodbridge Brook towards Southfield Farm and Lea have been fenced in. This has created narrow passageways which became very muddy and slippery during winter, as the photos show.

Whilst the landowner has every right to enforce the Rights of Way across their land, please be very careful when using the paths, especially when muddy, as the fencing contains a lot of barbed wire.



And Another Thing ...

We had some interesting reactions to Dave Witt's article on what needs fixing in Malmesbury. It seems there's quite a list of other concerns, too. At this point, can we emphasise that, whilst we publish information provided to us by the Town Council, we are completely independent of them and Wiltshire Council. We report on matters affecting Malmesbury, but are not in a position of influence and get fed up when things go wrong the same as everybody else!

Rather than go into detail, here's a list of the most common concerns that have been raised to us. It's in no particular order.

Parking – the lack of town centre parking and inconsiderate parking – presumably the former leads to the latter. Parking allocation is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. Parking correctly is the driver's responsibility.

Potholes – whether fished in or not. Pretty much all road repairs around Malmesbury are Wiltshire Council's responsibility. More information is available in the Roads, Road Care and Cycle Lanes section of their website.

Empty shops in the town centre – the Town Council has an initiative with some local businesses to improve the High Street. For details see malmesbury.gov.uk.



Rajah Indian Restaurant – a lot of readers seem to be getting increasingly upset about

the decline of this historic Grade II listed building. We reported our concerns nearly 5 years ago and nothing much has changed. It's privately owned so the responsibility lies with the owner.

Speeding vehicles – incidences on Tetbury Hill, Swindon Road, Holloway, Sherston Road, outside Waitrose and Filands have all been mentioned. Again, we've highlighted most of these in the past, but nothing changes. Community Speedwatch anyone?

Overgrown hedges/shrubs/trees blocking footpaths – it's best if the owner takes responsibility and prunes them (preferably not during bird nesting season February – August). There are legal aspects to consider, too. See Trees and Hedges on Wiltshire Council's website.

Noise from building sites (and there are plenty of them) – mainly from vehicles announcing that they're reversing - and other machinery. You can complain to Wiltshire Council's Environmental Protection Department. See Noise Nuisance under Environmental Protection on their website. Ear plugs might be easier.



Blocked drains causing flooding on roads and footpaths – er, Wiltshire Council's responsibility again. See Drainage under Civil Emergencies on their website. The nearest boat hire firms seem to be in Bath or Gloucester.

New house building with no commensurate improvements to the town's infrastructure. According to the revised Local Plan, Malmesbury has sufficient new homes either built or planned to meet its requirement to 2038. This doesn't mean that no additional sites will be approved as one already has - see our article 'Coming to Malmesbury Soon'. The county council is responsible for all planning decisions; Malmesbury Town Council can only lobby on our behalf, as they have done successfully on several occasions. The county council also receives most of the infrastructure development money generated by new building development, so where is it being spent?

Wiltshire Council charges one of the highest average levels of Council Tax in England. Are the residents of Malmesbury getting value for money?

Over to you!

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Early British History Quiz

1. Who built Stonehenge: (a) Neolithic Man (b) The Druids (c) Aliens?
2. Who introduced iron to Britain: (a) The Vikings (b) The Romans (c) The Celts?
3. Which of the following are Roman: (a) Offa's Dyke (b) Antonine Wall (c) Hadrian's Wall?
4. Who conquered England first: (a) The Vikings (b) The Saxons (c) The Normans?
5. Who was Athelstan's grandfather: (a) King Arthur (b) Alfred the Great (c) Gandalf?
6. Where did the Scots come from: (a) Wales (b) Shetland Isles (c) Ireland?
7. Where did the Normans originate: (a) Germany (b) France (c) Scandinavia?
8. Which of the following took place in 1066: (a) World Cup (b) Battle of Hastings (c) Battle of Stamford Bridge?
9. The Domesday Book was commissioned by William the Conqueror, but was it: (a) a tax document (b) an autobiography (c) a religious text?
10. When Henry II was on the throne which of the following was he blamed for: (a) general mismanagement of the country (b) the Irish Potato famine (c) The murder of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral?
11. In the 10 years Richard I (Lionheart) was on the English throne how long was he in the country: (a) 6 months (b) 4 years 6 months (c) 9 years 6 months?
12. Which king was on the throne when Magna Carta was drafted: (a) Richard III (b) Henry I (c) John?



So did the little building in this photo

Explore Malmesbury

We've featured *Explore Malmesbury* a couple of times before, but not for a while. For those who don't know, it's an interactive website full of interesting facts about our lovely town which are brought to life by guided trails, short videos and quizzes. You can learn about places as you look at them

We decided to give one of the trails a try and



This used to be a pub in Cross Hayes

no one who knows us will be surprised that we chose the Pub Trail.

The first thing to say is that *Explore Malmesbury* is an interactive website not an app, so you're using up data allowance during your walk. Nevertheless, we found it easy to load and, once we'd selected which trail to follow, straightforward to use. If we're being a bit picky, some of the icons you need to click to get information are a little close together on a phone screen so you have to expand the view to separate them.

The trail started in Cross Hayes which, back in the day (*dreadful phrase - Editor*), was home

to a brewery and at least two pubs. Who knew that there also used to be two pubs, The Volunteer and The Unicorn, on Lower High Street between The Rose & Crown and The Smoking (and currently sleeping) Dog? We didn't; but we do now.

This trend continued throughout the walk with many modern-day dwellings and business premises turning out to have once been pubs. We also learned about some of the characters such as the landlord who always wore a gold coloured top hat (current landlords take note) and, of course, Hannah Twynnoy, although we knew about Hannah already.

There used to be over 50 pubs in Malmesbury which must have made it a pub crawler's paradise. The trail covers 18 of these premises, including the late and lamented (by some) Guild Hall and Borough Arms. It's only a short trail which took us about 40 minutes to complete once we'd stopped to read about each building we were looking at. Perhaps there will be more ex-pubs added in future?

We thought we knew a lot about Malmesbury, but now realise there's still plenty to learn. We strongly recommend doing some or all of the walks and trails in *Explore Malmesbury* – you'll never take anything you see around town for granted again.

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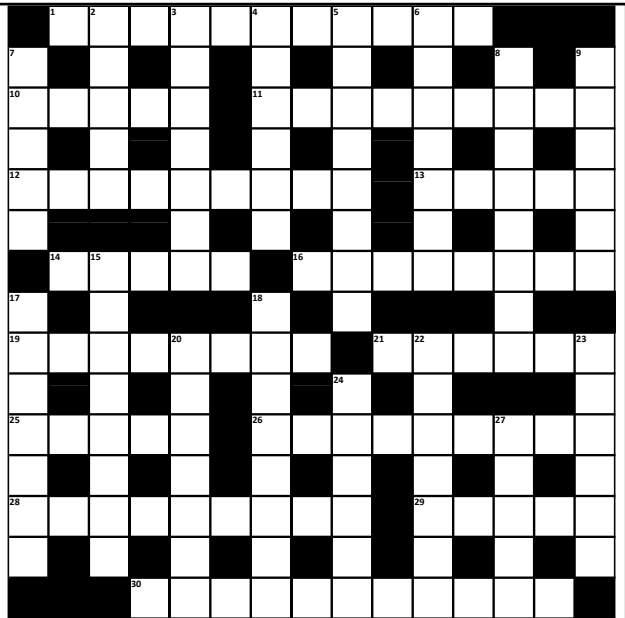
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The Crossword

ACROSS

- 1...Mock arrests around this local meeting place? (6,5)
- 10...The marbles weren't found here! (5)
- 11...Socialist landlord gives a day to remember (3,6)
- 12...It's just us (2,3,4)
- 13...Push back pariah (5)
- 14...A young lady's inappropriate (5)
- 16...Cha-cha-cha? (3,5)
- 19...A housecoat? (8)
- 21...Mess up or dust a Cotswold town (6)
- 25...There's no hole in Sonny! Sounds thin (5)
- 26...Attends a twin soup mixture (5,4)
- 28...Lack of practice causes oxidation (9)
- 29...Feedback sounds like success on the green! (5)
- 30...Pee thy anger out. It may make you feel better! (4,7)

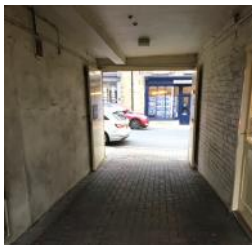


DOWN

- 2...A little irritation? (5)
- 3...Lists include two names for doghouses (7)
- 4...Neck after, turn before swimmer (6)
- 5...In barred den Eddie blushed (8)
- 6...Pierced mixed red peas (7)
- 7...Was d, now p (5)
- 8...Roughly sip ten to enter (4,4)
- 9...Cook food to a point after grating (6)
- 15...Girl in a muddle shows spite (8)

- 17...In the disco terse fowl appear (7)
- 18...A random place where we hear you can dress as you wish (8)
- 20...Before (or after) nightlife? (7)
- 22...Examiner and I become more grumpy (7)
- 23...Indicate salary objective after study (6)
- 24...Lick it scheme involves bad taste (6)
- 27...Appear to be a river dog (3,2)

Snippet – Parking



Inconsiderate parking makes it really difficult for users of Bear Yard on High Street to get in and out of the entrance. It seems some

drivers are parking with their wheels outside the double yellow lines, but their boot overhangs the No Parking zone.

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