

the malmesbury Jackdaw



Malmesbury's Alternative Community Magazine
27th Edition Spring 2026



**If the Broadband fails,
Malmesbury has the answer!**

Delivered free to homes and businesses in Malmesbury

Welcome...

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

Has everyone come through the winter unscathed? Despite all the rain we've had, reading about other parts of the UK, it looks as though we got off pretty lightly weatherwise.

Now the days are lengthening, the leaves and spring flowers are emerging and the local wildlife is, well ... getting up to whatever it is they do at this time of year; judging by the racket the pigeons on our roof are making, there's plenty of whatever it is going on. What a lovely time of year.

Weren't those photographs of the Earth taken on the recent Artemis II moon mission wonderful? They showed what a beautiful and fragile existence we have. We hope that no watching aliens can ever see what's going on beneath the clouds – need we say more?

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for more volunteer deliverers – welcome to the team and we hope you find it a rewarding and enjoyable experience. We remain continually grateful to our brilliant existing delivery team and all those local enterprises who support us through advertising. A word of thanks, too, to our regular contributors Gordon, Bill, Miranda, Hugo, Kira & Lily and Rev'd Ross – we really value what you do.

We hope that you enjoy this edition. It's the usual mishmash of updates, articles, gripes and our attempts to be funny. As ever, please keep the emails, photos and articles coming – we try to include everything we get (so long as it's

printable).

Best wishes.

Richard, Raphe and Andy

The Malmesbury Jackdaw Team

ERRATA

In our last edition, we habitually referred to Campbell Ritchie as a town councillor. We're happy to put the record straight and confirm that he no longer sits on the town council.

Sorry Campbell!!

Cost of Living Suggestions

Budgeting

We live in uncertain times. Budgeting has always been a valuable tool to help households and individuals get the most out of their incomes, but this is even more true today.

You start with your income, deduct your essential spending (rent, mortgage, utilities, council tax, food, petrol, replacement clothes, phone contracts, repairs etc.) and see what's left. You then decide how you would like to use this surplus income. This might be regular holidays, increased saving, home improvements, eating out, paying off debt, fashion items etc.

There are free online budgeting tools to guide you through the process: www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/budgeting/budget-planner, or www.moneysavingexpert.com/banking/budgeting-planning, for example.

If you don't feel confident with using the internet, then ask a family member or reliable friend to help you. Alternatively contact Citizens Advice on 0808 278 7995.

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

Copyright©TheMalmesburyJackdaw, 2019

Coming To Malmesbury Soon

Planning Update

Since our last publication, there has been one update - an appeal has been lodged against the time taken by Wiltshire Council to make a decision on the 43 homes proposed in the field opposite the allotments on Park Road [PL/2023/07797]. The decision will now go to the Planning Inspectorate.

Decisions are expected from Wiltshire Council on several planning applications about now. We hope to report on the outcome of these in the next magazine:

- Malmesbury CofE Primary School [PL/2025/07919]; a decision was due in January.
- Lea (65 homes) [PL/2025/07909]; a decision was due in January.
- Bremilham Road (5 homes) [PL/2025/03305]; a decision was due in December 2025.
- Filands Phase 4 (149 homes) [PL/2025/02257]; a decision was due in April.
- Filands Phase 3 (71 homes) [PL/2023/08687]; a decision was due in March.

For updates on Wiltshire's Local Plan and the activities in the small field next to Waitrose, please see the articles submitted by Campbell Ritchie.

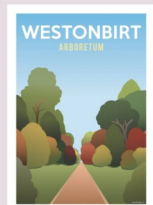
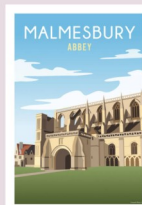
For a list of major planning applications in Malmesbury please see our website. Full details of all planning applications in Malmesbury can be found on Wiltshire Council website.

Letter to the Editor

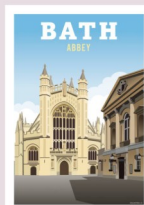
Late last year, there was an article on your website that said that all the shop units and restaurants in Malmesbury High Street were occupied and open for business. Is this right, as, when I read it, they weren't? There was at least one vacant unit down near Alas Smith & Jones or whatever WH Smith is called now. My question is, which bit of the High Street were you referring to?

Name supplied.

Firstly, thank you for contacting us about something other than potholes. We didn't write the article to which you refer, so we can't comment on it specifically. We thought the High Street ran all the way from the Market Cross to the Priory roundabout but, no doubt, someone with an in-depth knowledge of medieval town planning or a degree in marketing will put us right. You're correct in saying that not all the units in the High Street are currently occupied and/or open.



Original poster prints & greeting cards of places you love in the Cotswolds & beyond



Over 130 designs at cotswoldposters.com



Crime Update

The latest crime figures relate to January.

For Malmesbury Town, reported crimes numbers were Violence and Sexual Offences, 8; Shoplifting, 3; Anti-social behaviour, 3; Other Crime, 6. The total number of 20 offences is 10 less than was reported in January last year.

For the rural area surrounding Malmesbury, the most commonly reported offences were Violence and Sexual Offences, 8; Anti-social behaviour, 3; Other Theft, 3; Public Order, 3. Again, this represents an overall reduction on January 2025.

Wiltshire Police's current priorities for our area are:

Road Safety

- **High Visibility Patrols:** Officers will increase their presence on rural roads, conducting regular high visibility patrols to deter speeding and promote safe driving behaviour.
- **Targeted Enforcement:** Officers will carry out focused speed enforcement operations at identified hotspots, using speed detection technology to apprehend offenders and reduce dangerous driving.
- **Community Partnership:** Collaboration with local councillors to ensure that concerns are addressed promptly and effectively, helping to shape ongoing policing efforts.
- **Community Speed Watch:** Continuing to work closely with Community Speed Watch groups, empowering local residents to assist in monitoring speed and raising awareness within their communities.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Conducting high-visibility foot patrols in and around the Malmesbury town centre taking robust action against any anti-social behaviour or other criminal offences that are identified.

Shoplifting

Working closely with businesses to reduce offences, deter repeat offenders, and keep our high street safe and welcoming.

This includes:

- Increased high visibility patrols in and around retail premises at key times.
- Regular engagement with shop staff and managers, offering crime prevention advice and support.
- Targeting known offenders and working with partner agencies to address repeat behaviour.
- Swift response to reports, ensuring evidence is gathered quickly, including CCTV and witness accounts.
- Encouraging businesses and members of the public to report incidents and suspicious activity as soon as possible.

Get Involved

To get involved and participate in the exchange of information with Wiltshire Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Get Safe Online and Neighbourhood Watch - sign up to Community Messaging via www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk.

O&J ELECTRICAL SERVICES



- **Rewires**
- **Storage Heating**
- **Shower Installations**
- **Extra Sockets & Lights**
- **Electrical Maintenance**
- **Electrical Contracting**
- **Inspecting & Testing**

All Electrical work undertaken

For a consultation or if you would like a quote please call: Office - 01666848182

Mobile - 07824885972

email: info@oandjelectrical.co.uk

Letter to the Editor

I'd like to see an article about the very poor parking on the High Street. Cars are parked not at the ends of the bays, but mostly anything up to 2m away meaning spaces are lost. My photos illustrate the point.

Also, what about the ridiculous speed of cars and lorries in and around town? No consideration for pedestrians nor other drivers. It's dangerous out there!

Eddie Briggs



Jackdaw reply: Thank you for your enquiry, Eddie; you make some very valid points. We've featured poor parking and speeding a lot in previous editions and it's made no difference, whatsoever. The standard of parking in the High Street and around Malmesbury, in general, is lamentable and, if we featured every photograph we're sent of a badly parked vehicle, we could probably fill two editions. There seems to be a multitude of reasons for it including too many cars, bigger cars, too few parking spaces, an unwillingness to walk any further than absolutely necessary, poor driving ability, being in a hurry and a complete lack of consideration for others. Poor parking on the High Street simply means that there's less room for others to park there. We appreciate that some people are unable to walk far, but the rest have no excuse including those responsible for Malmesbury's infrastructure.

*Similarly with speeding, what's the excuse? I was late? I didn't realise how fast I was going? I didn't see the speed limit sign? I was driving at the same speed as everyone else? I needed the loo? I'm a great driver so I can drive faster? I'm a complete **** (insert noun of your choice)? All pretty lame for someone entrusted with a driving licence. We note that, on 23rd March, Wiltshire Police reported that they had caught 20 drivers speeding in the Malmesbury area during a full day's monitoring. 20? Just 20? The problem is that they wear fluorescent jackets and stand by big stripy vans with their speed guns. We contend that, if they went incognito, they would catch hundreds by lunchtime and could take the afternoon off. The currently mooted idea of making more of the roads around Malmesbury subject to a 20 mph speed limit may be well meaning, but would it work? Two questions. Firstly, how would it be enforced? Secondly, won't those who ignore the present speed limits just ignore any new ones? Defeatist talk, possibly, but try walking along Park Road, Filands, Abbey Row, Tetbury Hill, Sherston Road, Gloucester Road or Bristol Street (amongst others) for an unnerving experience. Speeding demonstrates contempt for other road users, pedestrians and residents - the only people who can eliminate it are those behind the wheel.*

MALMESBURY CARNIVAL

ALL EVENTS: ROAD CLOSURE CONSULTATION NOTICE

This notice and/or information is posted in:

- Consultation
 - o Malmesbury Jackdaw magazine. Hand delivered to ~3,200 households
 - o Malmesbury Carnival web site
- Notice of road closures
 - o Malmesbury Carnival web site
 - o Malmesbury Town Council What's On Guide circulated to ~10,000 local households

Malmesbury Carnival would like to advise that road and car park closure applications for Carnival 2026 will be:

Sunday 23rd August: Petticoat Lane

8am to 4pm

- Upper High St
- Olivers Lane
- Gloucester St
- Market Cross
- Oxford St

Saturday 5th September: Procession

4pm to 8pm

- Park Road (from junction with Old Alexander Rd to Gloucester Rd)

5pm to 8pm

- Gloucester Rd (from junction with Old Station Mews to Bristol St)
- Abbey Row
- Gloucester St
- Market Cross
- Oxford St
- Cross Hayes
- St Dennis Lane
- Upper High St
- Olivers Lane

Tuesday 1st September 5pm to Sunday 6th September mid-day: Danter's Fun Fair

Station Yard car park

As the Station Yard car park will be closed for this period, alternative parking has been arranged with the kind agreement of the Weaver family in their field off Holloway. For Procession day ONLY, Dyson have also kindly agreed to the use of their car park off Beuttell Way.

Contact: info@malmesburycarnival.co.uk

the Beeches
homecare services

Our family cares
because you matter



The Beeches Homecare Services is a family run company celebrating over 30 years of providing quality care and support to you in your own home.

Areas covered are Malmesbury, Sherston, Tetbury, Chippenham, Cirencester and surrounding villages.

Call us today on
☎ 01666 825496

For more info, visit our website:
www.beecheshomecare.co.uk



Care & Services

- ✓ Personal Care
- ✓ Medication
- ✓ Companionship
- ✓ Domestic Services
- ✓ Grocery Shopping



CHAMPION ELECTRICS LTD
Electricians you can trust

LOOKING FOR A FULLY INSURED AND TRUSTWORTHY LOCAL ELECTRICIAN ? (BASED IN MALMESBURY)

- Fault Finding
- New Circuits
- New Fusebox
- Additional Sockets
- Additional Lighting
- Repairs / replacement on fixed wiring, sockets, lights
- Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR)...

For a Quotation or further information please reach out !

🌐 Championelectricsltd.com

☎ 07462790410

✉ ChampionelectricsLtd@gmail.com

5 STAR RATED ON GOOGLE & FACEBOOK!



MAKING EVERY CLASS COUNT

TAILORED TUTORING

for all

English & Maths
Ages 5 +
Online & In-Person

- ✔ KS2 SATS PREPARATION
- ✔ CREATIVE WRITING
- ✔ ARITHMETIC AND REASONING
- ✔ HOMEWORK
- ✔ 11+ TUTORING AND PREPARATION

and more...

Get in touch

✉ tailoredtutoringforall@outlook.com

🌐 www.tailoredtutoringforall.co.uk



Apple 🍏 issues? New to Apple?

I can help you!

30 years Apple experience
Based in Malmesbury



m: 07715 796 256

t: 01666 750 006

e: pringit@me.com

www.pringit.co.uk

The Malmesbury Magical History Tour – 10th to 12th July 2026

We're looking forward to the weekend of the 10th to 12th July and a great new Malmesbury experience – the Malmesbury Magical History Tour!

It's a weekend of fun where characters from Malmesbury's rich past will take centre stage at places they made history.

Everyone is being invited to take part. Dress up your teddy as Eilmer and let it try the Eilmer zip wire, there'll be a children's favourite

character dress up parade, Ragged School classes to 'enjoy', an immersive live theatre trail across the town centre, the chance to identify Malmesbury's greatest rogue, and more.

Look out for the details being released. Just make sure you aren't anywhere else!



TREAT YOUR EYES

We are Malmesbury's only independent family run opticians. We pride ourselves on absolute professionalism combined with the latest in technology all within a very relaxed atmosphere. Our service to you and your eye care is second to none. Our google reviews say it all...


...go on, MAKE A SPECTACLE OF YOURSELF!

Personal service, competitive prices and no re-glaze fees

01666 822444

www.malmesburyopticians.co.uk

info@malmesburyopticians.co.uk


MALMESBURY OPTICIANS



Nook & HUDDLE

Coworking to find your focus and fuel collaboration. Your home office away from home, right on the high street.

- Half / Day Guest Pass
- Coworking Memberships
- Permanent Work Pods
- Meeting Space
- Community & Collaboration



INFO@NOOKANDHUDDLE.COM
07766546633



WWW.NOOKANDHUDDLE.COM
44 High Street, Malmesbury

Snippet

What's your first impression of Malmesbury?



Malmesbury Voices - 10 Years of Collecting Spoken Memories



Part Five - Manufacturing in Malmesbury by *Bill Reed*

It was only with WW2 that large-scale manufacturing came to Malmesbury: EKCO in 1939, and Linolite in 1941.

EKCO

Marjorie Dunford got a job at the secret radar factory at Cowbridge:

"I was there when they first opened up, there was six of us, learning to solder. I was doing the coils, that was for radar. You didn't take any notice of it, it was a job, you were doing it. But when you stop and think, you were an asset to them, weren't you? You were just told what you had to do. You don't know what it was for, but you just done it. Brought in the money."

The EKCO story fascinated me, and when I discovered the autobiography of Michael Lipman, the manager there during the war, it was clear a book was called for. This is *"You're One of Us Now"*, available from the Museum shop.

Cowbridge went on to host a number of electrical and telecommunications companies, notably Pye, TMC, Philips, AT&T and Lucent Technologies. Jenny Walker worked in the factory in the 1970's:

"I was colour-coding the fuse box. It's what they call cold soldering. What I had was a little [tool] we called "the gun". And it was like a little pistol that you held in your hand and, on the end, it had a little gadget that went round ever so fast, and you put the wire into this, pressed the knob at the bottom, it went round about eight or nine times, tightly onto each metal tag. And my job was to do two thousand wires per eight hours."

Harry Constantine remembers the final years of the site:

"A lot of activity was transferred to China, India and Poland, as those three countries had very cheap labour. India in particular had a lot of well-educated IT people. So activities grew in those particular parts of the world, and everywhere else was starting to be run down. The writing was on the wall in the late 1990s. You could see what was happening and, unfortunately, we went through waves of redundancies."

Operations ceased in 2002 and Cowbridge House was demolished in 2007. The area is now entirely residential, and apart from clues in the street names there is little to show what used to be there.

Linolite

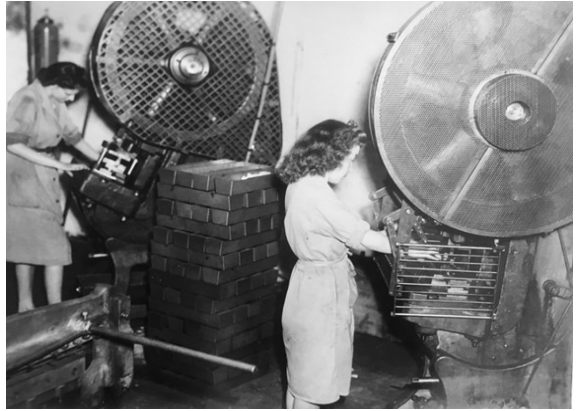
Under its founder Alfred Beuttell, the inventor of the strip light, Linolite moved to Malmesbury from London to escape the bombing. It was making hose fittings for military equipment, stamped out on huge presses operated by women, including Rose Rice and Doreen Austin:

RR: "They were big presses to use for girls really. And you had to cut out the metal for all these different things that we made. If you did so many more you got a bit of bonus, right?"

DA: "We did, yes. At the time, we were making hose clips to go on bombers."

Gary Warner, toolroom manager, remembers:

"At the start of the morning, lunchtime, and the end of the day, there was a whistle, a hooter would sound. The lever would come down, and Who! You'd have the sound bellowed out. Most of the people round Malmesbury could hear it down there!"



Power press operators at Linolite. Photo: Athelstan Museum

You can now hear the very same whistle in the Voices collection.

After the war, the company turned to the production of light fittings. I collected interviews with about 40 employees, covering not just its management, staff and products but also its economic and social impact on the town and the story of its closure. Linolite has its own section in the Voices collection, its own display cabinet, and its own book, "*Linolite - The Inside Story*", available from the Museum shop. We renewed the town's connection with the Beuttell family, resulting in a very generous donation to the Museum and a reunion of Linolite staff in 2023. Mill Works is now the Maltings estate, where a blue plaque commemorates the history of the site. My talk on Linolite is here: <https://www.balh.org.uk/ten-minute-talks>.

Thanks to our friends at Flying Monk Radio you can listen to some stories from the collection. Go to <https://flyingmonkcommunityprojects.weebly.com/malmesbury-voices-collection.html>

This concludes my overview of some aspects of the collection, marking its tenth year and around 350 items; and contributing to Athelstan Museum's objective "*to advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of Malmesbury and surrounding villages*".

Many thanks to Peter Holland for his technical input and to the Jackdaw for supporting the Museum in this way. I will continue to provide updates but, in the meantime, as I always say - **there's no substitute for the Voice itself!** The collection is free to access Tuesday to Saturday 10:30 to 16:30 and Sunday 11:30 to 15:30.

Thanks, Bill, for a fascinating series marking 10 years of the wonderful Malmesbury Voices collection. We hope that readers will continue to pop into the museum or visit the Flying Monk Radio website to hear the Voices for themselves. Andy – Editor.

Malmesbury Concert Band Launches Its Summer Programme at the Market Cross on 16th May

The Malmesbury Concert Band will be launching its new summer programme at Malmesbury's Market Cross/ Birdcage Walk on Saturday, 16th May from 10.30 to 12 noon.

This will be the start of a busy summer schedule for the band, which will include playing at the Carnival Mid-summer Festival in Abbey House Gardens on Saturday, 20th June; local fetes and bandstand performances in Swindon, Chippenham, Keynsham, Cirencester and Stroud during the summer.

The band will be playing selections from popular musicals, including Cats, alongside classical works, TV themes and famous film scores.

Director of Music John Holland said: "We always look forward to playing in the heart of Malmesbury. We have put together an imaginative programme for this summer, which we are sure everyone will enjoy."

The Malmesbury Concert Band is a concert wind band with around 25 players of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments and is currently seeking clarinet, bassoon and horn players. Please see their website: www.malmesburyconcertband.org.uk.



BYBROOK
at The Manor House



Michelin starred Bybrook enjoys the most beautiful of settings with a relaxed yet elegant atmosphere. Treat yourself to a Tasting menu crafted from seasonal, local ingredients by Executive Chef Rob Potter and his team, enhanced with wines from around the world.

Open Wednesday to Sunday

Four course | £120 per person
Six course | £150 per person

www.bybrookrestaurant.co.uk
01249 782206 | themanorhouse@exclusive.co.uk



Traditional Blacksmith based in Malmesbury

Designs hand forged bespoke ironwork including :

- Hand railings
- Gates
- Banister rails
- Curtain poles
- Weather vanes
- Restoration work
- Conservation work
- Garden arches
- Large or small projects

Taught and guided by Hector Cole FWCB MBE. Craig was awarded the certificate of Merit by the Worshipful Company Of Blacksmiths in 2017.

For a free no obligation quote call Craig:

Mobile: 07845289808

Tel: 01666 826578

Email: craig@cpayneblacksmith.co.uk



St Joseph's Nursery

Welcoming children aged 2-4

A unique setting in the heart of Malmesbury

Government funding and childcare vouchers accepted

Tel: 01666 822331
Email: admin@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Visit our website via the QR Code for more information



Available to book for your upcoming event, whatever the occasion.

Find out more and book online at crudwellvillagehall.org

Or just pay us a visit! Find us at Tetbury Ln, Crudwell, Malmesbury SN16 9HB



History Maker at Malmesbury Bowls Club

This year sees Malmesbury Bowls Club create a historic milestone in its 118 year history. At the recent Annual General Meeting, Anne Cox became the first lady to be elected to hold the post of Malmesbury Bowls Club Captain.

Anne lives in Corston, with husband Simon, who also plays bowls. She only took up the game in 2024. Her interest

came about after attending one of the Bowls Club's 'free' Open Days. There is a free Open Day on 23rd May*.

Anne was the runner – up in the club's Ladies Championship in her first year of playing and plays regularly for the Ladies League team of which she is also vice-captain. Anne is also a qualified Bowls Marker (referee).

Anne said she was surprised and delighted to have been nominated and elected as the Bowls club's first lady Club Captain and will endeavour to live up to expectations.

*All you need to bring is some flat soled shoes.



Snippet

Lloyds Returns to Malmesbury High Street ...



.....albeit on the back of a truck touting for mortgage business after withdrawing all its banking services from our town. Are we being cynical ... or are they? Photo: Dave Witt

The Season of New Beginnings

By Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

Spring has well and truly arrived. Across the South Cotswolds, the hedgerows are thickening, the meadows brightening, and the evenings stretching out in the most welcome way. After the long pull of winter, there is something quietly joyful about watching the countryside come back to life.



It is a time that invites us to look forward and to think carefully about the future we want to build, together.

I was fortunate to attend an event at Parliament exploring long-term thinking in public life. The discussion touched on something that feels very relevant to life in our rural communities: so many of the challenges we face, whether that is the health of our rivers, the resilience of our food supply, or the wellbeing of our villages, require us to think well beyond the next few months or years. A tree planted today shades a garden for decades.

Closer to home, I have been spending time out and about in Malmesbury and the surrounding villages; knocking on doors, visiting local groups, and having the kind of unhurried conversations that you rarely get in a formal setting like parliament.

I also had a sobering reminder of our responsibility to the natural world, when I hosted a screening of Channel 4 docudrama *Dirty Business* in parliament. This made me think about Daniels Well being deemed unfit to swim in by the Environment Agency. Clean water is not a political issue; it is a fundamental one at the heart of the Malmesbury community and the wider South Cotswolds.

Spring feels like a prompt to act with care and intention. Our landscape is a living thing. Let us tend it well.

Warm wishes,

Roz

roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk

01285 300555

For Whom the Bell Tolls

Gordon Williams has been out and about again with notebook in hand. Photos by Richard Harris.

Mr Michael Lewis of this parish has an important anniversary later this year. Many readers will recall, with appreciation and affection, that Mike was a dedicated, caring dentist as well as a former town councillor and supporter of many of the town's charitable organisations. Mike has many hobbies, one being bell ringing. I was going to say a campanologist but he "told me off" (see *what I did there?*), so it's definitely bell ringing. Let's find out more about this old British tradition.



Mike (L) with Gordon in St Paul's Tower

When did you first try bellringing?

On 28th. November 1958 at the age of 13. (*That makes it a celebration for 70 years enjoying the hobby!*) I attended Llandovery College in Wales. After lessons, there was something called "society time" in the evenings for games such as chess. I went for the Bell Ringing Society as it allowed us to go into town; St. Dingat's church. There were eight of us, six bells and a kind, supportive teacher.

You must have enjoyed "learning the ropes". What happened next?

After A Levels, I attended University of London. They had an open day, but their bellringing society turned me away - I still resent that! So, I went to ring at St Giles, Camberwell, near King's College Hospital, where I trained. We came to Malmesbury in 1968. There are over 60 guilds of bellringers in the country, and I belong to the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, the Guild of Medical Ringers ...and, of course, the Malmesbury Abbey Guild of Change Ringers.

Tell us a little about the history of bellringing.

The prime purpose of the bells is to call the congregation to prayer and in olden times the church bell would tell the workers when to call it a day. The curfew bell was important and there was even a thunder bell to warn of bad weather. (*Didn't work for the Abbey spire, sadly?*) In WW2, the bells were silenced (*as were town criers, I believe*) only to be rung for the invasion.

How do you learn the necessary skills?

Learners start on a silent bell; then you learn to fit into a group following a mathematical

pattern. (*Lets me out, then*) A bit like a musical score. You follow the line. Each change is a pull on the rope and the fluffy bit on the rope is called the “sally”. It stops your hand from slipping and getting a rope burn.

And ringing the bells in Malmesbury’s St Paul’s Tower?

We have eight bells and around ten in the group. It was 18 before Covid and we welcomed six new faces recently. Newcomers are always welcome. (*If you fancy joining or just would like to see what goes on. Look out for notices by the tower door, adverts at carnival time, perhaps, or see the website for more information - malmesburybells.co.uk.*) We practise on Tuesdays and ring for Sunday services, funerals and weddings as well as occasional civic events, such as mayor making, and anniversaries. Dick Gray is Tower Captain. A quarter peal takes around 45 minutes. You need to be fit for a full peal of say three hours, that’s around five thousand changes. It can be thirsty work. Back in the 1800’s the team took up the tower a gotch of beer, as I believe it’s called in some parts of the country. That’s a gallon of ale. The local clergy were not too pleased and tried to stop the practice.



Mike in action before an appreciative audience

What special occasions have you rung the bells for?

Most recently, on the death of the Queen. We used muffled bells and when King Charles was proclaimed we rang unmuffled. My favourite occasion was being invited to ring at St. David’s Cathedral in Pembrokeshire.

What other churches have you visited to ring their bells?

(*At this point Mike, ever so well organised, pulled up a spreadsheet*) 408, including two in New Zealand and five cathedrals. I enjoyed visiting Hankerton church to investigate their unringable bells. I discovered the redundant bells at Charlton church which were then returned to use as a Millennium project.

Might there be a time in the future when you will decide to hang up the rope for a last time?

Let’s hope not! As long as I can climb the 45 steps of the spiral staircase in the tower. I’d like to go back to Llandovery and to Llanelli, my home town, to ring their bells once again. (*On 28th of November 2026 perhaps?*)

It’s great fun and I enjoy every moment. You’re able to see the country; it keeps you fit and it’s a wonderfully social activity. It is a privilege to play in public what is essentially a large musical instrument. And, as a neighbour once said, “you play music for me every Sunday”.

Congratulations then to Michael for what is coming up soon; 70 years of service and dedication to this ancient and nationally significant craft and tradition.

There's a Hole in My Bucket Road, Dear Liza PM



Eroding utility repairs Gloucester Road (we had loads to choose from)

We weren't going to mention the state of the roads in this edition, but it seems that a lot of readers want us to. So here goes, albeit reluctantly.

Yes, some of Malmesbury's roads are in a mess, but, if January's Road Maintenance Ratings from the Department of Transport are to be believed, Wiltshire's roads are better than most across England. As with many emanations from Government (irrespective of which brand of politics is allegedly in control) this seems akin to what emanates from the back end of a bull. If not, it must be a barren, cratered wilderness outside Wiltshire's Brave New World.

Roadworks by utility companies seem to be at the root of much of Malmesbury's pothole problem. Post-repair infilling and resurfacing seems to erode quickly leaving gaps for water and frost to penetrate. The number of lorries using our roads doesn't help either. So, who's signing off roadworks and resurfacing completion and are

contractors being held to the terms of the guarantees they're required to give? We tried reading the 295 page Department of Transport manual on the subject, but got bored with just 294 pages left to read. This is, however, a serious question and one which needs answering. Also disturbing is the wear apparent on the quite recently resurfaced Old Alexander Road. Our photos demonstrate what we mean.

Ben Thornbury recently delivered an 18,000 signature petition to Downing Street demanding a national plan for pothole repair. Let's hope it achieves something because, after all, the Thornbury effect has worked in Malmesbury. How else did a minor junction in Reeds Farm (Hanks Close/Michael Pym's Road) receive a beautiful new road surface when major thoroughfares like Gloucester Road remain pitted and dangerous? Pothole bowling, that's how! We're not sure whether it was Ben's golf course that achieved the resurfacing of the High Street or the impending parade of 9 Regiment. Whilst there's another debate to be had about how ongoing poor publicity may adversely affect Malmesbury, it does seem to get things done.

Wiltshire Council is apparently chucking cash at pothole repair, but will that alone guarantee high standard, lasting repairs? Time will tell. It will take eons to catch up on years of chronic government underfunding in infrastructure



Deteriorating surface on Old Alexander Road

both here and nationally.

Well, there we go - we've talked about the roads. At the time of writing, the current road maintenance schedule for Malmesbury is as shown below, but could be subject to the Thornbury effect.

- Sherston Road Corn Gastons to Bremilham Road) – Surfacing - 2026/27
- High Street (Priory Roundabout to St John's Street) – Surfacing - 2026/27
- Cross Hayes/St Dennis Lane – Surfacing – 2027/28
- B4014 Dyson to Cooper's Farm – Surfacing – 2028/29
- Athelstan Road – Under review
- Gloucester Road (Park Road to Fire Station Roundabouts) – Under review
- Southfield Lane, Milbourne – Under review



The lovely new road surface on Reeds Farm

**MATTHEWS
OF MALMESBURY**

Est 1880

**MATTHEWS
OF TETBURY**

Est 1880

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Traditional funerals and woodland burials.

24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Interest free pre-payment funeral plans available.

OUR FAMILY WILL CARE FOR YOUR FAMILY



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



Malmesbury

01666 822216

7 BURNHAM ROAD, MALMESBURY
WILTSHIRE SN16 0BQ
WWW.MATTHEWSOFMALMESBURY.COM

Tetbury

01666 505199

23 MARKET PLACE, TETBURY
GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL8 8DD
WWW.MATTHEWSOFTETBURY.COM

Getting Your iCloud Mail Into Outlook

by Hugo Heriz-Smith

You've got an iPhone in your pocket, an iPad on the kitchen table, and a Windows PC on your desk. Sound familiar? Since returning to the UK, I've noticed this combination more than I ever did in the States. It makes perfect sense. Many people have perfectly good Windows computers they have no reason to replace, but prefer Apple's phones and tablets. There's just one situation where the two worlds create a little friction: getting your iCloud email address to work in Microsoft Outlook. The good news is that it's entirely doable. The process does have one catch though, and it trips people up every time.



The App-Specific Password

Outlook can handle iCloud mail without any problem... as long as you give it the right password. Here's the catch: it isn't your usual Apple ID password.

Because Apple requires two-factor authentication, you'll need to generate an app-specific password—a separate, one-time code that lets Outlook connect to iCloud securely. Go to account.apple.com, sign in, and click on "App-Specific Passwords" under the Sign-in and Security section. Next, click on "Generate an app-specific password." Give it a name (like "Outlook"), click Create, and copy the password it generates. Make note of this password and keep it handy, because you'll only see it once.

Adding your iCloud account to Outlook

In newer versions of Outlook, go to File > Add Account, enter your iCloud email address, and click Connect. When prompted for a password, paste in the app-specific password you just created (NOT your regular Apple ID password). Outlook should then be able to connect and set everything up automatically.

If Outlook can't find the settings automatically, it will prompt you to fill in the blanks manually. The incoming server is imap.mail.me.com (port 993, SSL), and the outgoing server is smtp.mail.me.com (port 587, with TLS encryption).

Once it's working, your iCloud emails will appear in Outlook like any other account.

For Anyone Considering a Mac

All of this configuration happens automatically on a Mac. You simply go to your iCloud settings, turn on Mail, and your iCloud email appears. No server settings, no app-specific passwords. This is one of the many benefits to using a Mac computer if you already have an iPhone. If the price of a Mac has been a sticking point, Apple's brand-new MacBook Neo, released this month, starts at £599. It is the most affordable Mac laptop the company has ever made. It won't suit everyone, but it's worth knowing the option exists. (I should note that I am not employed or paid by Apple, but I regularly witness how much easier technology is to navigate for people who have both Mac and iPhone!)

Stay Safe...

Finally, a note on protecting yourself from online scams. Following a recent talk I gave on the topic, I've put together a dedicated resource page on my website with practical tips and tools to help you stay safe. You can find it at hugocanhelp.com/staysafe.

Hugo Heriz-Smith lives in Malmesbury. He has been providing technical support and personal computing assistance to clients of all ages for more than 35 years. Visit his website at hugocanhelp.com or email hugo@heriz-smith.com.

Mayor's of Malmesbury's Newsletter April 2026

We all knew Malmesbury is a tremendous place to live, and thanks to the Sunday Times everyone now knows it's the Best Place to Live in the South West. This has been featured by the media extensively, including ITV News South West, BBC Wiltshire, and local and national press. While some of the criteria for the accolade, such as transport links and house prices, are not within our gift, the busy High Street, the rich and diverse range of social activities, groups and clubs, the strength of community and general friendliness of Malmesbury have been applauded both in the Sunday Times' article and other reports. I think this reflects very well indeed on all the people that make an effort to support others, individually or as part of a group, whether as a volunteer, in commerce, in local government and administration, or in hospitality. I hope the lucky few that appeared on



The Three Cups

TV, radio or in print enjoyed their moment of fame, and I know there were many more who could have conveyed why Malmesbury is best, had they had an opportunity. Following on shortly after this success was the news that The Three Cups has been voted Best Pub in the region by members of the Campaign for Real Ale. Congratulations!

I mentioned at the end of my last newsletter that Malmesbury Town

Council, together with St. Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council, the Malmesbury League of Friends, Malmesbury River Valleys Trust, and Malmesbury Civic Trust had agreed the purchase of the land around Daniel's Well. At the time of writing, the legal work to complete the transfer continues, and the Council has begun work to have the damage around the clapper bridge repaired, together with other urgent priorities. In the longer term it is intended to increase biodiversity of the plants and animals on the land, and improve access throughout the year. It is intended to form a new team of volunteers to help manage the area once the purchase is complete.

I have been pleased to see the progress of the Malmesbury Community Park project in recent months.



Clapper Bridge near Daniel's Well

This will provide a skate park and a pump track in part of the White Lion Park recreation area, and ultimately a multi-use games area too. Malmesbury Town Council is working with Malmesbury Community Park, which is a registered charity. Following an invitation to tender, we hosted site visits by companies interested in the work, and since then their bids have been assessed and preferred contractors identified. This is a really exciting project that will provide first-class facilities for young people in Malmesbury. There are still many steps to complete before building begins, including getting planning consent and further consultation with potential users and residents. I hope you will find this project as worthy of your support as I do.

I explained in my autumn newsletter that there is a link between Fitjar in Norway and



Signing Friendship Agreement with Fitjar

Malmesbury, because King Håkon the Good of Norway was fostered as a child in King Athelstan's court. We have now made a formal Friendship Agreement with Fitjar Municipality, which should promote academic, cultural and tourist links between Malmesbury and Fitjar. Håkon is buried in Fitjar, and Athelstan chose to be buried in Malmesbury because of his links to St Aldhelm, one of the first

Abbots of the Abbey. Since discovering the basic facts of this connection during the walk to Kingston upon Thames to celebrate the 1100th anniversary of King Athelstan's coronation last year, much more information has emerged. Håkon is celebrated for pioneering the introduction of Christianity in Norway, and also for introducing basic concepts of justice, both of which he learned in Athelstan's court. He defeated his older brother, Eric Bloodaxe, politically, and then won 3 battles against Eric's sons before being killed in a fourth. His mother, Tora Mosterstong, was from a nearby settlement where she is commemorated in an annual award for independent women. Athelstan is as well known as Queen Victoria or King Henry VIII in Norway, with every child being taught King Håkon's story. It seems that the history of Anglo-Saxons and Vikings is much more complex than most of us realised.

Over the winter a dedicated group of volunteers braved the frequently wet weather to develop a detailed contribution to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, or LCWIP. Wiltshire Council is developing these plans to promote cycling and walking, and make life easier for those using buggies or wheelchairs too. One obvious example of the benefits of this is journeys to and from school: if obstacles to people walking or cycling to school are removed so that they can do that safely instead of being dropped off and picked up by car,

the amount of car traffic will be reduced and the students will benefit from having more active lifestyles. The group produced a detailed and well thought out response to the original draft from Wiltshire Council, which then issued a revised draft plan for public consultation. It was rather frustrating that the mechanism for making comments was unwieldy and time-consuming, but once again the volunteers stepped in, providing advice and encouragement about how to make comments. This will be an important plan as it should “unlock” funding from central Government to make improvements. We are waiting for the results of the public consultation, in the form of a revised plan, but I hope that it not only identifies “quick wins” – short-term improvements that have big benefits, but also maps out long term strategies so that new developments are properly joined up to existing infrastructure for walkers and cyclists, avoiding gaps like the one between Reeds Farm and Avenue de Gien. I am very grateful to this group led by Keith Freegard for their work, which has been a great support to the Council’s Planning and Environment Committee, and to the whole community.

Several residents have approached me about increasing the extent of roads limited to 20 mph. Narrow sections of road and narrow pavements are common in the older parts of town, and pavements become unusable for anyone pushing a buggy on a bin collection day. Elsewhere in town road widths are reduced by parked cars. There is strong evidence that 20 mph limits reduce the risks associated with these problems, but there are legal requirements for public consultation before changes can be made, with associated costs. Speed limits are the responsibility of Wiltshire Council, and funding is now available for such consultation in the financial year that has just begun. I’m not aware of any specific plans that Wiltshire Council has developed for Malmesbury, but it’s important that anyone that wishes to contribute their views does so in any public consultation.

The period between Christmas and Spring is often thought to be relatively quiet, although I haven’t noticed much difference, with opportunities for me to visit and support groups and organisations in the community still coming up regularly. I particularly enjoyed speaking to the annual gathering of the volunteers that support Movies@Malmesbury, partly because of the great success that our cinema within the Town Hall has grown into, but also because I am also a volunteer there myself. The numbers attending the



Seating in our Cinema

films and theatrical productions has continued to grow every year, and this is clearly an important asset for the community. I'd like to emphasise the incredible value of the live streams of plays, ballets and operas, where the ticket price is a tiny fraction of the cost of seeing the performance in person in London, let alone the cost of travel and an overnight stay. The live performances in the evening are recorded and shown as matinees for those who prefer an afternoon show. Incidentally there are currently vacancies for both projectionists and front of house so get in touch through the Town Hall if you are interested.

I also had a very useful visit to the James Dyson Foundation to discuss their work and Sir James' continuing support for many things in Malmesbury. The presence of Dyson's main R&D facility, the Dyson Institute which runs the graduate apprenticeships, as well as the Foundation all contribute to the town in many ways beyond the simple (and vital) economics of being the major employer. Being located in the Best Place to Live in the South West might help Dyson recruit top talent, and we mustn't overlook how the presence of Dyson helps us have such a great town.



With the Rajah Team

I am grateful for those that supported the Mayor's Charity Curry Buffet in the Rajah restaurant in March. Everyone I spoke to enjoyed themselves, with a variety of curries available to suit all tastes and dietary preferences. The staff of the Rajah worked hard to keep everything (and everyone) topped up, although (not unreasonably, in my view) drew a line when a diner asked to extend the all-you-can-eat offer with a takeaway! Thanks to the Rajah and the volunteers on the door the event raised over £1050

for the Mayor's Charities, HEALS of Malmesbury and

the Malmesbury and District Foodbank. Those of you that keep track of civic matters will know that this is my last newsletter as my term as Mayor will end next month. It has been an outstanding experience, with so many opportunities to meet people and learn more about our community. Records show that I have had 148 extra engagements the year, over and above those that I would normally have as a member of the Council. I look forward to spending some of this time trying to restore my neglected garden! None of the work of the Mayor would be possible without the support and help of the Council Staff, my fellow councillors, and the marvellous team of volunteers that have supported my fundraising efforts for the Mayoral Charities. Any successes attributed to me are more theirs to savour, any failures are mine.



Cllr Stephen James—Mayor of Malmesbury



Hannah Stanton - Travel Counsellors

Looking to book your next trip? Let me take the stress out of it for you!



As an Independent Travel Agent, I don't just work with well-known tour operators — I also have direct relationships with thousands of hoteliers, airlines, and suppliers around the world. That means I can build a completely tailor-made package just for you, with:

- 100% financial protection
- 24/7 support
- One dedicated point of contact



You'll pay no extra fees, benefit from my 5-star service, and support a small local business that truly cares about your holiday.



Check out my reviews on my website and Instagram — and if you're thinking about your next trip, don't hesitate to get in touch!

Hannah Stanton - 01666 540033
hannah.stanton@mytc.com
www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/hannah.stanton
@bespoketravelwithhannah



Snippet

Letter Goes Missing in Malmesbury



Can you spot the difference between the two signs? An eagle-eyed reader did.

Cosying up in Malmesbury

It's been a labour of love for our young reporters, Kira and Lily. Photos: Richard Harris

Hello, Jackdaw readers! In our time writing for the Jackdaw, we've been able to cover lots of exciting experiences. The latest is one of our favourites because we got to serve and eat ice cream! We spoke to Aby Hughes of The Cosy Cone in Malmesbury. Here's what we found out:

Lily: *How did you learn to make ice cream?*

My mum's partner is a dairy farmer and, when I was about your age, we had a lot of cream in the house, and we didn't know what to do with it. So, we thought, okay, you can make ice cream with cream and we bought a home ice cream freezer which freezes and churns it. Then we started making ice cream at home with recipe books. We thought, 'one day, maybe we'll have an ice cream shop'.

When we decided to do it as a business, we took an ice cream course where they teach you about the science of ice cream and how it's made. Also, what you need to put in to make it soft, for example, because if it didn't have sugar in, it would just be like a solid brick.

Kira: *What's your favourite flavour of ice cream?*

That's a tough question. We don't actually do it here very often, but I like Earl Grey with buttery biscuit in it and flecks of chocolate. I love hazelnut, as well, with a creamy, crispy wafer ripple.

Lily: *Why did you want to open The Cosy Cone?*

I was a drama teacher before I did this. I also worked in a vegetarian cafe for ages and I just loved it. I loved working with a group of people. I thought it was such fun, just the actual job of doing it. I also love that you get to know so many different people.

So, it was about the ice cream, but we were keen to make a space that was fun to be in and work together as a team, as well. It was also a desire to create a nice space for people.

Kira: *Where do you get your ideas for flavours?*

That's a good question. Sometimes online, like on Instagram; sometimes I look at what other businesses are doing. We've got lots of different ice cream books that different companies have created, so we might take inspiration from that.

Lily: *What do you enjoy most about running The Cosy Cone?*

I like meeting people, and I like coming into the back room and seeing families playing games together. I like making ice cream as a job. I think it's so fun, listening to music, making ice cream.

Kira: *Have you got any plans to expand the shop or get a bigger one?*

Possibly, yes. We've been running for 3.5 years. It feels like we've finally got to a place where we're quite happy with how things are and we're not fighting fires. It's not as chaotic now. So, it would be nice to do it again. If so, maybe in Cirencester, Tetbury, Stroud, or Chippenham, but it's also a lot of work. We like what we do here and we're just trying to do that really well.

Lily: *Is there a difference between gelato and normal ice cream?*

Yes, absolutely, that's my favourite question! Traditional hard ice cream is 50% cream, 50% milk.



Whereas gelato is 20% cream and 80% milk, so it's a lot lighter than ice cream with a lot less fat. It also has a lot less air in it - hard ice cream has 50% air. If you melted a glass of ice cream down so it lost all of its air, half of it would be gone. Whereas, with gelato, although there's less cream, there's less air as well, so you get more product when you're eating it. That means you actually get more flavour because there's less air, and air doesn't taste of anything. It also has a richer history of using really good quality ingredients.

Kira: *What inspired you to actually go ahead and open an ice cream shop?*

As I said, my mum's partner was a dairy farmer, and she was quite keen for him to work for himself. I'd done lots of different jobs before and working at a cafe was the one that I enjoyed the most. So, I kind of came back to it. I always used to think, 'I'd like to do that one day', but then it doesn't seem very real. Then there was a point in my life where this place was available, the rent was affordable, and I was changing jobs so I had lots of time. We decided that we should either do it now or not at all - we decided to just go for it.

Lily: *Do you get a lot of regulars?*

Yes, we do. In the week we get grandparents or people who are retired for coffee and other things. We get lots of families. We get people who are working at home and might just want to come in and have a coffee and say 'Hi'. So, yes, we get to know people quite well, which I think is a really nice part of what we do.

Kira: *Have you always lived in Malmesbury?*

I lived in Pewsey in South Wiltshire until I was 11, and then I moved to Malmesbury and went to Malmesbury Secondary School. When I was 19, I moved to London until I was 28 or 29, then I moved back to Malmesbury to start the Cosy Cone. I'm now 31, and I'm still living here.

Lily: *Have you invented your own flavours of ice cream?*

Definitely. Some of my favourite ones are the ones we do at Christmas time. We did a Terry's Chocolate Orange that actually really tasted like a Terry's Chocolate Orange. We have done Christmas pudding and now Hot Cross Bun, that one's an original flavour. The Earl Grey tea flavour was also quite original. You can actually make ice cream from any flavour - you can genuinely invent a flavour, which I love about it.

Kira: *What is the most popular ice cream flavour?*

Probably the biscuity ones. Pistachio is pretty popular; also, hazelnut, cookies and cream, dark chocolate and raspberry sorbet.

Lily: *Do you do anything else here apart from ice cream?*

When we first opened, we only did ice cream, but then we looked at other things we could do to help during the quieter winter months. Lots of ice cream shops shut during the winter, but we didn't want to do that because people like to come in all year round. So first we started making bubble waffles, and then savoury pancakes, called galettes, and homemade bagels.

Kira: *Have you got any other plans for the future?*

We've got another freezer, on wheels, and we've bought a van. We're trying to do a few more events and weddings this summer. Kind of Cosy Cone on wheels/Cosy Cone on the move.



Into the Summer

By Rev'd Oliver Ross

Sumer is icumen in...!" as the old song goes. It does seem so with blue skies and a little warmth. We are emerging from the grizzled grey of January and February into the bright sunny uplands of Easter and beyond. Yet the old aphorism of "don't cast a clout till May is out!" still rings true - as April can be very wet and May can offer a chill. Of course, our farmers are praying for April rains and a good run to harvest.

Others of us, as I write, are watching the news and almost holding our breath as Mr Trump threatens the most dire "destruction. By the time you read this, the world will have changed and settled into a new groove I suspect. It is this changeableness that we see rhythmically in the weather, but also within our politics and society. While everything changes, everything still remains the same. Nothing more so than the human heart!

Yet again I sense in the wind of today's Zeitgeist a yearning for something more stable, more substantial, with more integrity, exercising courtesy and generosity. A culture and a character that is both rugged and resilient while veined through with kindness. We worry continually about being overcome by AI yet have eroded and squandered our humanity with a rapacious greed, a careless apathy and shortsighted selfishness.

I believe that though we are frail and foolish, and that most of Life's events are more to do with confusion rather than conspiracy, humanity does have a yearning and a hope of glory - that is why we feel something rise within us when we hear the speeches of JFK or Mr Obama; Stephen Fry or even the King? We can be better than this, and we can do better than this. How? Many of us would remember the story of the house built upon sand and that built upon the rock. The moral of the story is that the house grounded on something solid and eternal would stand the storms and waves' crashing. The story is Jesus', and spoken during the Sermon on the Mount where he called his listeners and even ourselves to live an alternative life rooted in the goodness of God and the gentleness of His way; a life that runs counter to the selfish wishes and tides of the world around us and that stands up and boldly proclaims that we are human beings, not human beasts.

St Paul once said, "work out your own salvation in fear and trembling, for God is at work within you to will and to do his good pleasure".

Whatever you do, have the most glorious, wonderful spring and summer and may all your trees be fruitful and your gardening be productive!

Snippet

Kit Off Anyone?



For those of you who are missing the naturist weekends in the Abbey Gardens, despair not; help may be at hand. This sign at the Wildlife & Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge seems to be encouraging visitors to reveal all. Even the tractor seems excited. Mind those geese!



SEAN MAC
INSTALLATIONS LTD
ELECTRICIAN



FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

From a replacement switch to a full re-wire

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Google



Phone: 01666 630 636

Mobile: 07792 798 467

Email: sean@seanmac.uk

Web: seanmac.uk

Malmesbury Garden Club

Plant Sale

Saturday 6th June

Market Cross
Malmesbury

9-1pm

Cash and Card payments
Accepted



Snippet

Our inquisitive readers have been at it again. We received this photo with the query “shouldn't there be an apostrophe between the G and the S”?

In our (undoubtedly flawed) understanding of grammar, if it means that the Walk belongs to one king then, yes, there should. If it belongs to more than one king, the apostrophe should be after the S. If it is merely descriptive rather than indicating possession (place names can be deemed 'proper nouns') or indicates that male monarchs are capable of perambulation then it's fine as it stands. In modern usage, however, the correct version is whatever has been registered by the local council, whether grammatically accurate or not. So that's cleared that up then; it might be right, but it could be wrong ... glad you asked? English grammar purists are NOT invited to write in as we've already bored ourselves silly writing this explanation.



Step into summer...

Gallery | Art Supplies



caerbladon

24 High Street, Malmesbury

caerbladon.co.uk

Flying Monk Triathlon Club

Malmesbury's Flying Monk Triathlon Club is a friendly and inclusive club which offers coach-led training every week to help members achieve their triathlon goals.

The club was established in 2012 when it was clear there were enough people in Malmesbury interested in triathlon and willing to commit to forming a club. At that time weekly swims were established, coaching was put in place and a committee was formed. In 2013 we became affiliated to British Triathlon.



Many people of all ages have joined the club over the years. Some have been members since the start, and some have just joined for only one season to try triathlon in a supportive and friendly environment. Members have experience at all distances of triathlon, with quite a few representing Team GB at age group level in the European and World Championships. One of our members – Lizzie Rayner is now a professional triathlete. We interviewed Lizzie for this article so that we could better understand how much Triathlon shapes her life.

Lizzie described herself as a sporty child who was keen to join in lots of sports at Malmesbury school and swimming with Malmesbury Marlins. Her first triathlon was aged 12 at RAF Colerne on a cold, wet and windy day. She remembers getting a stitch on the run, but her love of multi-sport grew stronger and some years later she progressed to professional standard. Lizzie's secret strength is her disciplined approach and working really hard. This has enabled her to improve year on year and become someone to watch. Lizzie's favourite triathlon race distance is middle distance, often known as '70.3'. This involves swimming 1.9km, cycling 90km and running 21km in that order and without stopping. Lizzie can achieve this in around 4 hours! Last November Lizzie competed in the 70.3 World Championships in Marbella and described

that race as having the best atmosphere she has ever experienced (Lizzie finished 8th competing against the very best in the world!). As a professional a typical training week for Lizzie will be 8 hours of swimming, 12 hours cycling, 5 hours running and 5 hours of gym work. She often needs to consume 5000 calories a day!

Lizzie's first 70.3 race this season will be at Aix-En-Provence in May. You can track her on the Ironman tracker app. At this race Lizzie is looking forward to racing against her hero and the 2024 Ironman world champion Laura Philipp. Lizzie hopes to follow in Laura's steps and one day earn herself the title World Champion.



*A regular Wednesday evening cycle ride.
Photo: Andrew Smith*

To get some insight to her typical day (and see some of Malmesbury!) Lizzie features in a recent YouTube 'a day in the life' series by The Tri Guys. (Search '**A Day in the Life of a Pro Triathlete | Lizzie Rayner**') Check it out. Also follow Lizzie this season on Instagram [lizzierayner97](https://www.instagram.com/lizzierayner97)

Another of our members, Katharine Dunn, shares her experience of joining the club in 2024. *"Prior to joining the club, I had no triathlon experience at all. I'd been part of a swim club in my youth and had run a few 10k fun runs in my 20s but had never thought that I could complete an event with 3 different sporting disciplines. After being encouraged to join a few trial sessions by a friend, I committed to joining the club and to also sign up for my first sprint distance triathlon (400m swim, 22km bike, 5km run). The coached sessions make training easier as you don't have to plan your own workout and there are always lots of other club members to chat with, motivate you and make training generally more fun. Everyone in the club is super encouraging of whatever goal you are working towards. My first event was Westonbirt Sprint Triathlon in May 2024. It was a great experience - the atmosphere was brilliant with lots of crowd support including many other club members. I definitely felt a sense of accomplishment having completed my first triathlon with just 4 months of training. I could not have done that without the club encouragement. Since then, I have done a number of other events and look forward to the next challenge. And don't worry, it's not all training- there are plenty of club socials to relax and get to know the other club members when you're not all dressed in Lycra! So, if you're thinking about signing up for a 10k or tempted by the challenge of a triathlon then come to one of the Monk's training sessions and give it a go".*



Katharine Dunn

All abilities are welcome and the fun and social side of this sport is also important to us. We support members to enjoy all three disciplines (including lake swimming), although those who have a strong preference for just swimming or cycling or running are equally welcome. In the summer evenings you will see us riding local routes together.

The month of May is typically the start of the Triathlon season. We would like to invite anyone interested to come and see us this month. We swim at The Activity Zone between 8am – 9am every Sunday, and will use the 24th May and 31st May to answer your questions and show you what you can expect. Those who are confident swimmers could join the session on those days! You could also join our run session (Tuesday 26th at 7pm for 1 hour) and cycle session (details tbc) that week. For those who would like to see an event, a very popular local triathlon is at Westonbirt (school) on Monday 25th May in the morning. The club will be there and there is lots to see and plenty of parking. You will see our club gazebo - come and say hello.

Find out more at www.flyingmonktriclub.co.uk

Malmesbury Carnival 2026 Launches in June, with New Midsummer Garden Festival

With news of Malmesbury being awarded ‘Sunday Times Best Place to Live in the South West 2026’, plans for an equally fantastic Malmesbury Carnival are well underway, starting with a new, family-friendly, Midsummer Garden Festival on 20 June at Abbey House Manor.

During August, there will be all the usual carnival favourites of course, Open Gardens, Silent Disco, Petticoat Lane, Jazz, Wine Tasting, Quizzes, Theatre, Talks, Workshops, the iconic Scarecrow Trail, Fun Fair and so much more – leading up to the spectacular Carnival Procession on 5 September.



Petticoat Lane



Scarecrow Trail

As excitement builds, organisers are inviting sponsors and volunteers to be part of this much-loved community event. Sponsors benefit from wide-reaching local promotion, including being featured in the Carnival ‘What’s On’ guide delivered to over 10,000 households. Volunteers are warmly welcomed and can contribute as much or as little time as they wish across a variety of roles.

Tickets for the Midsummer Garden Festival are available at www.malmesburycarnival.co.uk or on the gate. Entry is £10 for a day pass from 12 to 8pm, with live music, theatre and bar & BBQ available. Under-13s are free.

To support with sponsorship or volunteering, please contact info@malmesburycarnival.co.uk

Malmesbury CARNIVAL is *By the community for the community*



Carnival Procession

Midsummer Garden Festival

Saturday 20th June, 12 – 8pm
at Abbey House Manor
(Courtesy of The Old Bell)

Music Programme
12:15 to 17:30

Flutopians
Andy Duncan and Friends
Malmesbury Concert Band
Malmesbury Choir
u3a and Three Cups
Folk Groups
Malmesbury Morris

Theatre Programme
18:00 to 19:30

The Athelstan Players'
A Midsummer Night's Dream
(in 30 minutes).

18:00 Performance 1
19:00 Performance 2
(Repeat)

All Day
**Old Bell BBQ
Carnival Bar**

Brought to you by...
Malmesbury
CARNIVAL
& Festival

No dogs, camping chair recommended

WILVAN
INTERIORS
DESIGN
+
INSTALLATION

KITCHENS
BATHROOMS
BEDROOMS
COLOUR SCHEMES
HOUSE RENOVATIONS

07557 477 118
wilvaninteriors@gmail.com

Get in touch to discuss your next project




www.wilvaninteriors.com

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

A unique setting in the heart of Malmesbury

Visit our website for more information www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Come and see what we do. Tel: 01666 822331

Welcoming all faiths and no faith.



Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together.

The Field by Waitrose

By Campbell Ritchie

We left our last update on the development in the field by Waitrose on a cliffhanger. Would Wiltshire Council take action against the breaches of planning control happening in plain sight in the Malmesbury Conservation Area? Or would they be 'just another one of those things'?



The barn takes shape. Photo: Campbell Ritchie

To recap, just months after an application for a large (20m long by 10m wide by 5.4m high) barn to be built in the small

field by Waitrose was rejected by a Planning Inspector in a public planning application process, Wiltshire Council gave permission for it under a 'hidden from the public' agricultural planning application. But the owner hasn't got permission to build the substantial track we can now all see. They were also previously required to replace three large trees they cut down on the boundary with Waitrose (with permission) with five new oak trees by the end of March 2026.

So where are we now? As we are writing in the first week of April, the new trees are conspicuous by their absence (and can't be planted where required because of the cutting made for the track); the track is, if anything, bigger, and the barn is taking shape – but not in accordance with the planning permission! Substantial additional retaining walls are being built, mystery gated entrances have appeared, internal walls are rising, and substantial earth moving and reshaping is taking place.

Of course, residents, Malmesbury Civic Trust and Malmesbury Town Council are asking the Wiltshire Council enforcement team to take action. Our hopes were raised when the enforcement team said they were asking for a retrospective planning application to be submitted by the end of February that would then be considered in the public domain. But February came and went, so we asked what action would



Entrances and internal walls. Photo: Campbell Ritchie

now be taken? The answer: 'the agent has advised that a planning application will be submitted in due course' and 'the landowner is also aware of the tree planting requirements associated with the development and this matter will be addressed.' So, there we have it, an enforcement action wilfully ignored, no trees planted and still no sign of a retrospective planning application.

Gentle readers, you will not be surprised to know that this situation has been poorly received. A legal letter has been sent by residents to Wiltshire Council respectfully stating that its current lack of action is not in accordance with its enforcement policy; the work already undertaken invalidates the original public rights permission; and public trust and confidence in the planning and enforcement functions is being rapidly eroded. Just maybe, by the time you read this, appropriate action will have been taken. Wiltshire Council will have issued a stop notice that requires the Applicant to cease all operations on the Site until a retrospective planning application has been determined and/or an Enforcement Notice requiring the Site is reinstated to its condition before the works were carried out. You'll be able to see next time you are strolling along Baskerville.

TETBURY GOODS SHED

A R T S C E N T R E



- May 1 Alistair McGowan:3 in 1. Alistair is back with an evening of classic comedy, poetry and beautiful music – three great shows in one! Advance tickets £30. 7.30pm
- May 16 CODA – a Tribute to Led Zeppelin: The music of the greatest rock band ever performed live on stage with no tricks, backing track or safety net! Advance tickets £25.7.30pm
- May 23 Ben Holder – Swing on Steroids: Four of the UKs finest jazz players take us through an evening of jazz and swing. Advance Tickets £17.50 7.30.
- June 4 National Theatre Live – Playboy of the Western World: Filmed live on stage Caitriona McLaughlin directs this darkly funny tale. Advance tickets £15. 7pm
- June 20 Music for Miniatures – Summer Concert. The summer edition of our baby friendly concerts where dancing is encouraged and everyone welcome. Advance tickets £5 children, £7 adults, family £17.10.30am
- June 20 Sam Sweeney Trio: The trio’s sound is grounded in English folk tradition and alive with contemporary energy. Advance tickets £18. 7.30pm
- July 3 Royal Academy of Music Lunchtime Concert: The RAC students’ Scintilla Quartet perform works by Haydn and Beethoven. Advance Tickets £10. 1pm
- July 8 Film – My Blue Whale Family: Tetbury-based film maker Hugh Pearson follows Dr Diane Gendron’s ground-breaking work on her blue whale family. Advance tickets £8.50. 7.30
- July 17 Forever Springsteen: Formed in summer 2025 Forever Springsteen honours the energy and spirit of The Boss’s music. Advance tickets £25. 7.30

For more details of our other events including film, talks, exhibitions, and afternoon tea concerts and to book tickets visit our website:

www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk

Malmesbury and District Natural History Society

The Secret Nature Reserve: Why Your Back Garden is the Front Line in Saving Britain's Wildlife

Britain's wildlife is in crisis. According to the 2023 State of Nature report, the UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth, ranking in the bottom 10% globally. With only half of our original biodiversity remaining—much of that lost within a single human generation—the statistics are undeniably bleak.

However, a powerful solution is hiding in plain sight: right outside your back door.

New research from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) reveals that the UK's 25.8 million gardens cover a staggering 759,800 hectares. That accounts for 4.6% of the country's total land area—more than all of Britain's national nature reserves combined. This means that the nation's 27 million gardeners are, quite literally, the guardians of our most significant collective habitat.

The Rise of the "Ecological Desert"

Despite this potential, many modern gardens are becoming "islands" where nature cannot survive. Experts point to a rise in "minimalist" landscaping: excessive paving, impenetrable fencing that blocks wildlife corridors, and the growing trend of artificial "plastic lawns" which provide zero food or habitat while contributing to plastic pollution.

Even our lighting is a problem. Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) is devastating for local ecosystems, reducing caterpillar populations by up to 47% and fatally confusing navigating moths, bats and birds.

What Does Wildlife Need to Flourish?

There are 6 main things that wildlife needs to survive:

1. Food
2. Water
3. Shelter
4. The right conditions for Reproduction
5. Suitable Habitats
6. Ecological Connectivity

If you can help with these you will have much more wildlife in your garden.



Credit: Teresa Farr

Plants – Flipping the Ratio

To turn a garden into a sanctuary, the Royal Horticultural Society suggests a simple rule: "Flip the Ratio." While the average British garden is currently 70% non-native, we must aim to make 70% of our plants native.

Wildlife and native plants evolved together and so they are generally more suited to each other. Choose native trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals which will provide the essential nectar and fruit that fuel the food web. But it's not just about what you plant—it's about what you *don't* do.

The foundation of a healthy garden is its "primary consumers"—the caterpillars, beetles, and even the much-maligned slugs and snails. These are the vital fuel for hedgehogs, birds, and toads. The message is clear: stop using herbicides and pesticides immediately. If you kill the "pests," you starve the songbirds.

Just Add Water

If you do only one thing for wildlife this year, experts agree: install a pond. Whether it's a full-scale wildlife pond or a simple container on a patio, water is the lifeblood of a garden. A pond with sloping sides allows hedgehogs to drink safely and provides a home for dragonflies and amphibians that act as natural pest controllers.

'Gimme Shelter'

If you want wildlife to stay in your garden they need somewhere safe to live. Plant native shrubs that are dense for them to build homes in, make a log pile for insects and small mammals to live in and create a compost heap or dead hedge. All of these provide both food and shelter for wildlife.

Add together the ponds and these places of shelter and you've created the conditions for reproduction too. Birds will nest in the shrubs, hedgehogs will nest under the dead hedge and frogs, toads, newts and dragonflies cannot multiply without ponds. In fact, what you are doing is adding a new habitat with each of these solutions. Nature tends to specialise in particular habitats so adding a new one will result in adding many new species. Join the 'No Mow May' movement and wildflowers will flourish attracting more butterflies and other insects which, in turn, will bring more invertebrate eating birds as well.



Credit: Miranda Shirnia

Don't be an Island

Lastly wildlife needs to 'get about'. Gardens with solid walls and fences will not attract much wildlife. Did you know that hedgehogs travel up to 2 kilometres a night foraging for food and males will go up to 3 kilometres when they are looking for 'lurve'! Nothing that walks or crawls can get over a 6 foot fence.

A Call to Action

As we move into spring, the challenge for the British gardener is to be a little "less tidy." Don't remove dead trees or plants. Build log piles with the larger pieces and compost the rest. Decay is an essential part of life in nature; taking it away breaks the life-cycle.

Try leaving a "wild area" uncultivated, building log pyramids for stag beetles, and ensuring a 13cm "hedgehog highway" gap in your fence, you are no longer managing a private plot—you are managing a piece of a national nature reserve.

In the fight against biodiversity loss, the spade may well be mightier than the sword.

Top 10 Actions for a Wildlife-Friendly Garden

1. **Ditch the Chemicals:** Stop using all herbicides and pesticides.
2. **Just Add Water:** Install a pond or water feature with easy access for animals.
3. **Go Native:** Aim for 70% native plant species in your borders.
4. **The "Slow" Mower:** Practice "Mindful Mow May" and leave areas of long grass.
5. **Stretch the Season:** Plant flowers that bloom from early spring to late autumn.
6. **Embrace Decay:** Build log piles and leave leaf litter for hibernating mammals.
7. **Compost:** Create your own nutrient-rich soil and insect habitat.
8. **Switch off the Lights:** Reduce light pollution to help nocturnal hunters.
9. **Build a Home:** Install bird boxes, bat boxes, and "bug hotels."
10. **Connect Your Garden:** Create gaps in fences so wildlife can move between gardens.

The Draft Wiltshire Local Plan ... An Unfolding Omnishambles

By Campbell Ritchie

What's the word that comes to mind when you think about the strategic plan for housing and employment development for the next decade Wiltshire Council has been working on for **nine** years?

It won't be 'completed'. The Planning Inspectors assessing the proposals in the draft Plan have identified major problems and given Wiltshire Council a choice. It can scrap it now and start a new one. Or it can try and finish it while also starting a new one to immediately replace it, which would be a logistical nightmare. The sad reality is that the planning team haven't convinced the Inspectors they could do the limited planning they said they would do; a major failure has been the lack of progress towards a promised small new town in the south of Wiltshire. Either way, a new Local Plan will have to be started in June 2026, and finished in 30 months, to establish where the new houses and

employment land Wiltshire needs over the next 15 years to meet current government targets should be built. Until then the failure to deliver the current draft Plan on time and in good shape leaves Wiltshire playing catch-up. Towns like Malmesbury will continue to be horribly exposed to more speculative unplanned housing development.

It's an unfolding omnishambles with consequences. It is forcing communities to grow on the whim and to the timetable of developers without a matching plan for infrastructure like doctors, schools, leisure centres, play areas, cycling and walking paths, or the types of housing and employment land actually needed. It has given away the opportunity to make strategic plan led development decisions for a maze of 'doughnutting' estates, while neighbourhood planning has wilfully been trampled by the planning team, planning inspectors and changes in national planning rules dating back to 2019.

Locally, we could do with an updated Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan, but that is a big task and will require a lot of community effort. To be worthwhile it also needs to be based on a clear indication of the housing and other infrastructure Malmesbury is expected to need in the years ahead...But, wait a minute, that is exactly what we haven't got!

This doesn't mean we are completely powerless while we wait. Focusing on sustainability, quality and practicality when new developments are proposed can still deliver better results, such as winning the improved layout and much needed children's nursery at Filands, securing additional contributions to play-parks at Sherston Road, and achieving the rejection, so far, of the large, disconnected, venture capital backed development at Milbourne. And we can encourage Wiltshire Council to do right by Malmesbury for essential infrastructure development.



Tackling Food Waste - Malmesbury Community Fridge

Did you know that, in the UK, up to 40% of food never gets eaten? Over half of this is down to households, the remainder is waste on the farm, in wholesalers, food processors and supermarkets. Some estimates put waste food from supermarkets alone at over 200,000 tonnes per year, half of which is considered perfectly edible, but discarded due to damage, use-by and best-before dates. Most supermarkets have launched campaigns to tackle this problem, such as donating food to good causes instead of sending it to landfill.

Malmesbury Community Fridge began as a HEALS project in August 2022, funded initially by the Co-op through *Hubbub*, a national environmental charity promoting and supporting community action. The Community Fridge network has a mission to reduce food waste and make it available to the local community, free of charge. Our fridge project is regulated by Wiltshire Council and complies with strict food hygiene and safety regulations.



Jackie B., our 2025 Volunteer of the Year, who completed 110 shifts. Photo: Liz Cook

Malmesbury Community Fridge - a tall fridge, freezer and some shelves for dry foods - is in the Town Hall at the entrance to the Bowen Gallery. We are open to all from 9.00am to 5.00pm, 7 days a week, though the 'early birds' usually have the best choice of the produce available! We are supported by 18 volunteers, who collect surplus food from Waitrose and the two Co-ops, which would otherwise have gone into landfill.

Our volunteers freely give their time and energy to provide this service locally, collecting a wide array of foods such as bread, cakes, vegetables, fruit, ready meals and occasionally fresh cut flowers. All food is checked for 'Best Before' dates, and no food is stocked if it is

past its Use-By date or is obviously gone off. However, food is provided at the customer's own risk! We just ask you to only take items for your own use, leaving some for others, and to respect our volunteers and give them space when restocking in the mornings and evening.

In the 3½ years since we started the project, it has gone from strength to strength, saving over 35 tonnes of food going into landfill. In 2025, the net food received saved and distributed was 12,600kg (over 12 tonnes!), equivalent to a CO₂ saving of 9½ tonnes – that's 35,000 miles in an average family car!

A small amount (about 10%) of waste food we cannot distribute goes to the Malmesbury Animal Sanctuary or a local smallholding.

We are always looking to add to our merry band of volunteers to spread the load. Shifts are early morning or evenings, to fit in around family and other commitments. We welcome all over 18 and only ask that you undertake basic food safety training, which we assist you with. If you would like more information or to volunteer with HEALS then please contact volunteer@healsmalmesbury.org.uk.

HEALS of Malmesbury is a social welfare charity supporting individuals and families who may be in poverty, vulnerable or disadvantaged. We help people make positive change by accessing local services and hardship support, working in partnership with the Foodbank, Citizens Advice and Primary Care Centre, as well as Malmesbury Area Community Trust and Malmesbury League of Friends. Visit www.healsmalmesbury.co.uk



Some of our 18-strong volunteer team. Photo: Liz Cook

Quiz (answers at the bottom of the page)

1. How long is the UK tax code: over 200 pages, over 2000 pages, or over 20,000 pages?
2. How many states make up the United States of America?
3. What do closely bunched isobars mean on a weather map: strong winds, rain, or falling temperatures?
4. Which of the following empires was the last to collapse: Byzantine, Ottoman, or Russian?
5. What percentage of the energy we consume in food is used to power the brain: 5%, 10%, or 20%?
6. Which one of the following countries has a coastline: Serbia, Moldova, or Montenegro?
7. According to the Money Saving Expert website, if you had £3000 outstanding on a credit card at the age of 22 and you did not spend any more on it and only paid the minimum payment each month, what age would you be when it was fully paid off: 25, 30, or 50?
8. Which book did the philosopher Thomas Hobbs write: Leviathan, The Republic, or On Liberty?

Snippet

Deliberate or illiterate. You decide.



Thanks to Callum King for sending this one to us.

Snippet



The land reclamation project in the river near the Brutalist bridge off Park Road gathers momentum

Answers to Quiz: (1) Over 20,000 pages (as measured by *Tolley's Tax Code*). (2) 50. (3) Strong winds caused by rapidly changing air pressure over a short distance. (4) Ottoman 1922. (5) 20%. (6) Montenegro. (7) 50. (8) Leviathan.



Eastgate House Dental Surgery

Family Focused, Friendly, Caring

Stefan Goodwin BDS MJDF MFGDP(UK) Dip Con Sed

General and Cosmetic Dentistry
IV Sedation
Hygienists
Implants - Simple and Complex
Orthodontics
Early morning/After School Appointments

Please contact our friendly team on: 01666 822168
or reception@eastgate-house.co.uk
www.eastgate-house.co.uk



JUST HEATING LTD

Oil, Gas and LPG Central Heating Specialists

- Boiler Servicing and Repairs
- Boiler and Oil Tank Replacements
- Radiator Installation
- Underfloor Heating
- Unvented Hot Water Cylinders
- Landlord Safety Certificates
- Powerflushing and Descaling
- Water Softener Installation



Friendly, Reliable and Expert Service

01666 390 309

Email info@justheatingltd.co.uk

Web www.justheatingltd.co.uk

Just Heating Ltd | School House, School Lane, Grittleton, Wiltshire SN14 6AR

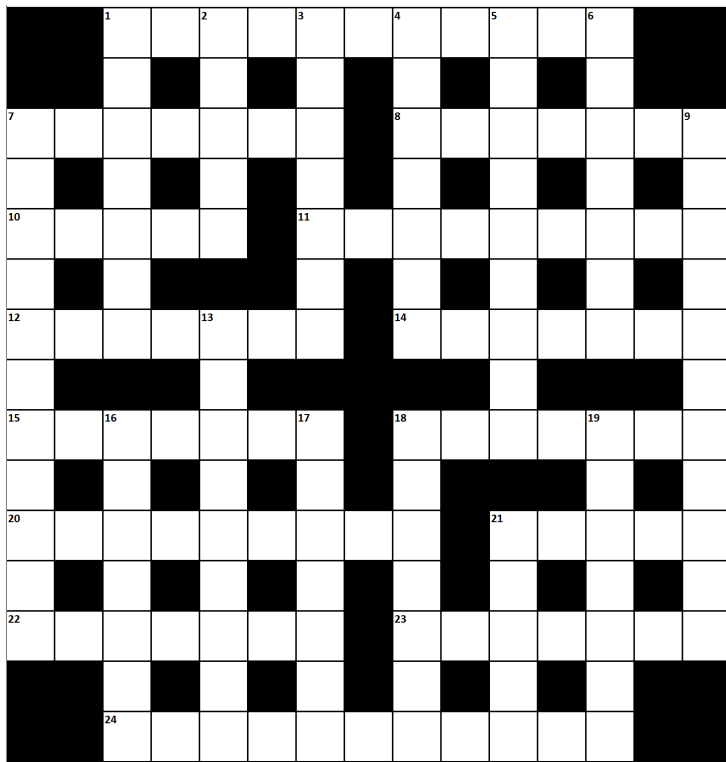
The Crossword

ACROSS

- 1...Will lad seen changing by this local beauty spot jump in? (7,4)
 7...Told backward lad is after confused diva (7)
 8... Sounds like 'e's away. Slow down! (4,3)
 10...Sit next to her and learn (5)
 11...Left demons United (3,6)
 12...Anti friends reporter? (7)
 14...Reds lie disturbed in Erytheia (3,4)
 15...Copy listed company and gallery (7)
 18...Reclaim change? It's a wonder! (7)
 20...9 out of 12? (11)
 21...Deliver in a local vessel (5)
 22...Call for chlorine love (7)
 23...Bursts in! Initially, I ran right under pretty tall structure (7)
 24...Malmesbury's Butch and Sundance (8,3)

DOWN

- 1...Expand short county with stick up (7)
 2...Unpleasant? Not applicable to a stunted eye-sore (5)
 3...Suffered termination around German river (7)
 4...Thin dispatcher surrounds student (7)
 5...Sounds like a sore Cockney (4,5)
 6...Soon lie about fools (7)
 7...Juggling cat in mosaic will keep baby safe (8,3)
 9...Feels his yen to produce an image distorter (7,4)
 13...To reach a grand space, say Othello backwards (9)
 16...Install, initially, in modern factory (7)
 17...Ban mixed award on old boat (7)
 18...Adherent of Karl not Groucho (7)
 19...Caribbean air? (7)
 21...Sounds like a root is being used as a quality measure (5)



Dave Newton
Fencing & Landscaping
 Est 1988
 Free Quotes
All Work Guaranteed
Fully Insured
Tel: 07518 452 132
E: davenewton68@outlook.com