

the malmesbury Jackdaw



Malmesbury's Alternative Community Magazine
28th Edition Summer 2026



Delivered free to homes and businesses in Malmesbury

Welcome...

... to the summer edition of *The Malmesbury Jackdaw*. At the time of writing, we're continuing to enjoy lovely weather after the blistering heat of late June. Long may it continue.

Not much else seems to have changed since our last edition with political turmoil, both at home and internationally, and natural disasters making it an uncertain world. Comparatively, we in Malmesbury have a lot to be thankful for – the news coverage of Venezuelan parents desperately searching for their children through rubble that was once their family home puts our moans about potholes and 'nowhere to park' into stark perspective.

This edition covers a wide range of topics from a thought-provoking eulogy by Gordon Willams to news about cuckoos. We're also pleased to include the first newsletter from the new Mayor of Malmesbury, Cllr. Robert Hastings.

It's a little shorter than our most recent offerings (hurrah, we hear you say) as we had less material sent to us – we hope it was just the heat that put people off. We're sure it will be cooler for the autumn issue.

A shorter *Jackdaw* means less weight for our wonderful delivery volunteers to carry; there's always a silver lining! We remain extremely grateful to them and to our advertisers for their continued support.

Have a great summer and enjoy the carnival and everything else that Malmesbury has to

offer.

Please note that our autumn edition will be delayed by approximately three weeks to mid-November. The deadline for submissions is currently set at 26th October.

Richard, Raphe & Andy

The Malmesbury Jackdaw Team

Cost of Living Suggestions

Budgeting 2

In the last magazine we discussed the importance of budgeting. We also highlighted the need to work out your essential spending first (rent, mortgage, utilities, council tax, water rates, food, petrol, car contracts, essential clothes, phone contracts, broadband, essential repairs, basic TV package, insurance, **debt** etc.).

After this has been accounted for you can then consider discretionary spending (meals out, take aways, holidays, fashion items, non-essential subscriptions, home improvements etc.), with any surplus income you have (income less essential spending).

We need to say a bit more about **debt**. This arises when you fall behind on regular payments for your utilities, council tax, or mortgage, for example. This needs to be addressed with some urgency.

If the **debt** is a relatively small amount, contact the organisation you owe it to and agree an affordable payment plan with them and include this in your essential spending. If your **debt** is more substantial, then get help. Type: <https://www.gov.uk/debt-advice> into your browser's address bar. This Government website will list unbiased, confidential, free charities who can help you. Do not get misled by other websites which will try to make money out of you and your problems. The government website will always be headed GOV.UK.

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

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Coming To Malmesbury Soon

Planning Update

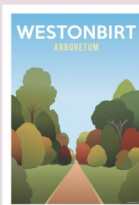
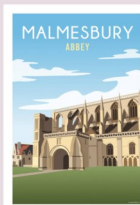
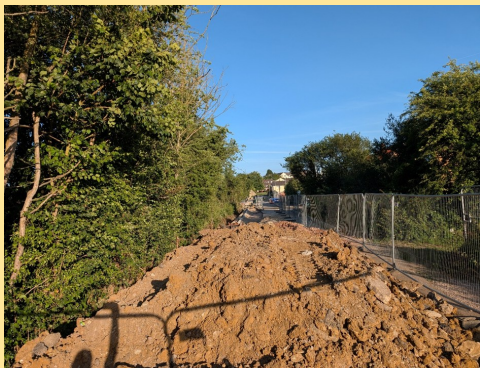
Since our last publication there have been several updates:

- PL/2025/07919 (application to build 9 new classrooms and support facilities at Malmesbury CoFE Primary School): the Council has changed the deadline for a decision to the 10/07/26.
- PL/2025/07909 (65 new homes at Lea): This application has been rejected.
- PL/2025/03305 (5 new homes on Bremilham Road to replace existing bungalow and workshops): this application has been approved with conditions, including the number being reduced to 4 homes.
- PL/2025/02257 (detailed planning permission for Filands Phase 4, 149 homes): the Council has changed the deadline for a decision to 17/07/26.
- PL/2023/08687 (detailed permission for Filands Phase 3, 71 homes): approved with conditions.

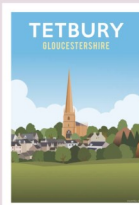
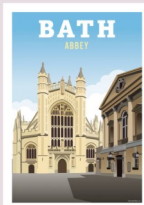
For a full list of major planning applications in Malmesbury please see our website. Full details of all planning applications in Malmesbury can be found on Wiltshire Council website.

Snippet

We were intrigued by the drainage work in Park Road. At one point, we thought they were building a dam.



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Crime Update

The latest crime figures available at the time of writing relate to April.

For Malmesbury Town, reported crimes numbers were Violence and Sexual Offences, 17; Anti-social behaviour, 6; Other Crime, 6; Shoplifting, 5; Criminal Damage & Arson, 2; Other Theft, 2; Public Order, 1. The total number of 39 reported offences is the highest since July last year.

For the rural area surrounding Malmesbury, the most commonly reported offences were Violence and Sexual Offences, 6; Anti-social behaviour, 3; Burglary, 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: 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 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 speeds and raising awareness within their communities.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Officers will conduct high-visibility foot patrol in and around the Malmesbury Town centre taking robust action against any anti-social behaviour or other criminal offences that are identified.

Dwelling and Non-Dwelling Burglaries

Burglary prevention remains a key priority across the area. There is a commitment to reducing offences, increasing patrol visibility and supporting residents in keeping their homes, farms, and businesses secure.

The focus includes:

Targeted high visibility patrols in areas affected by recent reports.

Rural crime prevention advice, including security assessments for isolated properties, farms, and outbuildings.

Proactive investigations to identify offenders travelling into our area and disrupt organised criminal groups targeting rural properties.

Encouraging residents to report anything unusual at the earliest opportunity and to make use of crime prevention measures such as good-quality locks, lighting, CCTV, and secure storage for tools and machinery.

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.

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Cotswolds Security Collaboration Forum

A Call to Action for Our Rural Community from

Paul Crane

Rural crime is rising sharply across the UK, and our corner of the Cotswolds is no exception. Local thefts of farm machinery, GPS equipment, vehicles, tools and heating oil across farms and high-value rural properties are no longer isolated events - they reflect a national trend of organised criminal groups targeting countryside communities. When one village is hit, neighbouring parishes are often struck days later. We are not immune, and we cannot afford to be passive.

To help us respond collectively, I've launched the **Cotswolds Security Collaboration Forum (CSCF)** – a free, community-driven platform designed to share information quickly and *light the beacon* when suspicious activity or criminality occurs. The aim is simple: when something happens, everyone nearby should know about it in real time.

Unlike traditional Neighbourhood or Farm Watch schemes, CSCF is regional rather than hyper-local. Criminal groups don't respect parish boundaries; they move fast, strike multiple sites, and disappear long before information filters through official channels. Many victims, frustrated by limited police response, report incidents only for insurance purposes - meaning others nearby remain unaware and unprepared. This lack of shared intelligence is exactly what offenders rely on.

CSCF fills that gap. Members signed up can:

- View an **interactive crime-mapping tool** showing incidents across the Cotswolds
- **Share** what they've seen or experienced through a simple online form
- Receive **geo-specific alerts** and **periodic bulletins** and practical security guidance

Join **sector-specific groups** (e.g., farming, equine, tourism, places of worship) to discuss risks and best practice

The more people who join and contribute, the stronger and more accurate our collective picture becomes.

As a former Head of Security responsible for large rural estates and farmland. This is exactly the kind of real-time, community-led tool I wished existed. Now running my own security consultancy, I've built it voluntarily so that residents, farmers, landowners and rural businesses across the Cotswolds can benefit.

CSCF is free, simple to use, and designed to help protect the places we live and work. If you want to strengthen security for your farm, business, estate or household, please scan the QR code, sign up, and help us *light that beacon* for others.

Together, we can make the Cotswolds a harder place for criminals to operate.

For more information, please see my website www.cscf.co.uk; email: info@cscf.co.uk or call 07356015121.



Christopher Brooks

26th September 1988 - 5th April 2026

A Personal Reflection by Gordon Williams. Photos by kind permission of David & Wendy Brooks.

Over the Easter holiday, we were made aware of the tragic passing of Christopher. He was much loved by his caring family and a good friend to many. This was borne out by the many floral tributes left in the doorway of his funeral directory in the High Street and so many comments in the book of condolence opened in the Abbey.

As the town learned about his death, there was an increasing feeling of shock and disbelief brought about, in part, by the news that Christopher had taken his own life. I felt that the community came together not to be judgemental nor critical, but to grieve for a gentle man who left us all too soon. There was, however, a sense of "if only we had known" and "what a pity Chris couldn't talk to somebody". I'll return to this later. The hundreds of people who attended Christopher's cremation in May were appreciative of the opportunity to celebrate a short life lived with purpose, integrity and, yes, love of life - and skittles, karaoke and football!

We live across the road from his parents, Wendy and David, and over the years have watched the lads going to school and doing well in their own ways. Dad wondered if Christopher would follow him into the antique trade, but Christopher did his work experience as an undertaker and that's the career he followed. He worked hard to gain the experience which enabled him to go alone. Like his proud parents, I was impressed when he showed me around his new High Street premises. We still found time to discuss the Spurs! Another special day for our cul-de-sac was waving off the car when Christopher married Amanda. I commented once, after a funeral he conducted, what dignity and serenity he brought to the event. With his usual modesty he said "we always do our best".

Men's mental health is very much in the news at present. Is it because many young men see suicide as their only option? The numbers are too high. Only those who experience the feelings of despair, anguish and sense of failure which accompanies depression can understand how events then unfold to a heartbreaking conclusion. Unlike say, an arm in a sling, the signs of mental illness don't show so we cannot offer support. And is it not still true that it's not seen to be manly to admit to having emotional or well-being issues? I read a relevant quote by the rapper Professor Green who commented "I was going through stuff I couldn't tolerate. That's a huge problem. Men generally only seek help at the point of crisis."

Speaking from personal experience, talking to somebody is a good starting point to turn things around. It does not have to be a friend or family member, but that's an excellent starting point towards recovery. Our local doctors are very supportive and caring with a range of ideas to help us work things out. Wonderful organisations such as MIND Wiltshire Peer Support, Wiltshire Mind and Men Walking and Talking can help too. Men's Sheds offer activities and an opportunity to make friends and to socialise....and laugh again. Loneliness and bereavement can often trigger depression.

So goodbye then, Christopher. I know that your folks will always miss you. Thank you from all

the people who you helped and from all your many friends who enjoyed the banter and lager. Thank you for your unstinting support of The Jackdaw and for helping to get the headstones of Hannah Twynnoy and Engine Driver Jones refurbished. And what a legacy for the town. Sponsorship of the Duck Race and support of the Bonfire Night event. You donated the Athelstan 1100 stone in the Cloister Garden. HEALS benefited from your kindness as did the folk on duty on Christmas Day at Stainsbridge House and Athelstan House. They will miss your hampers!

If you are looking down on us from above Christopher, I bet you (like your dad and James) are relieved and pleased that Spurs avoided the drop!



Snippet

Class discrimination on the new estate on Filands?



Snippet

Thank you to the sharp-eyed reader who sent this in.



With the price of ink increasing, an enterprising tattooist appears to have tapped into a cheaper, more readily available substitute.

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Malmesbury and District Natural History Society

Miranda Shirnia

*"The cuckoo comes in April,
She sings her song in May,
She changes her tune in the month of
June,
And in July, she flies away."*



Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

When did you last hear a Cuckoo? This snippet of traditional Folklore is familiar to many and, despite saying wrongly that it is the female that calls the tune, it is pretty accurate. Their song is easy to identify but it is becoming a much rarer sound these days.

Not to be confused with predatory hawks—though the female cuckoo deliberately uses this hawk disguise to terrify other birds into fleeing their nests—these are the fascinating, blue-grey birds renowned for being nature's ultimate tricksters, never building a nest of their own. They spend a remarkably short time with us. The adults travel back to Africa in July, leaving their young chicks to grow up and navigate a treacherous journey later all by themselves!

Cuckoos are insect eaters and, as many of us know, the numbers of insects have plummeted in recent years; with declines of up to 60% over the past 2 decades. Cuckoos are real specialists, relying heavily on large, hairy caterpillars—like the larvae of the Garden Tiger, Drinker, Fox, and Oak Eggar moths—which other birds refuse to touch. It is 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 deeply concerned about. Data from the BTO and RSPB shows that cuckoo numbers have plunged by a massive 33% across the whole UK since 1995.

But while numbers have crashed by a catastrophic 70% in lowland England, populations are actually booming in Scotland with a 54% increase, so why is this?

Well, a big part of the reason is the abundance of host nests and wild spaces. Cuckoos are "brood parasites." They sneakily lay their eggs in the nests of smaller species like Meadow Pipits, Reed Warblers, and Dunnocks. Fascinatingly, female cuckoos belong to specific family lines that pass down the genetic ability to mimic the exact egg patterns of their targeted host. When the nest is left unguarded, the female drops in, snaps up a host egg to keep the numbers even, lays her own in a mind-boggling 10 seconds, and flies away. The Dunnock is so trusting it doesn't even notice if the egg doesn't match! Once the blind, featherless cuckoo chick hatches, its instinct takes over—it rolls any unhatched eggs or native chicks right out of the nest so it can hoard all the food.

But there is an even bigger mystery that explains their decline: their migration paths. Satellite tracking project tags have revealed that UK cuckoos split into two entirely different routes to get to Central Africa's rainforests. Scottish birds overwhelmingly choose an Eastern Route via Italy and Greece, which is still healthy and safe. However, the crashing populations from Southern and Eastern England take a geographic shortcut along the Western Route via Spain. Sadly, intense,

climate-driven summer droughts and severe habitat loss on the Iberian Peninsula mean these birds can't find enough food to rest, causing high numbers to die of exhaustion before they even attempt to cross the Sahara Desert.

Back home, the threats pile up. Intensive modern farming has cleared the wide, wild hedgerows and drained the wetlands where moths breed. The widespread use of chemical insecticides and bug sprays means their caterpillar food source has collapsed. On top of that, climate change is shifting the calendar; warmer springs cause resident host birds to nest much earlier. Because cuckoos fly by rigid internal biological clocks from Africa, they can't change their arrival date easily. By the time they land in Britain, many of their hosts already have chicks growing in their nests, leaving them with fewer places to lay their eggs.

Surprise!

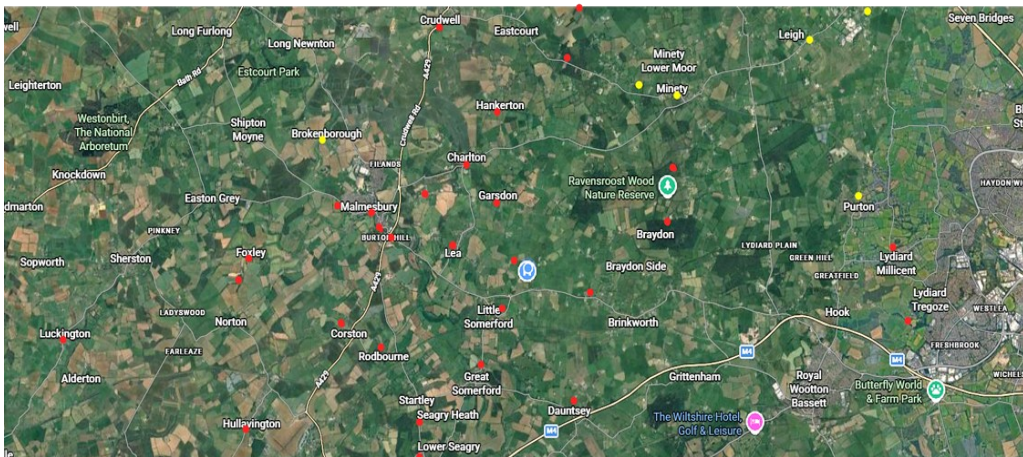
When I moved to this area 20 years ago, I used to hear a cuckoo in my garden every spring. Then, roughly 10 years ago I realized that I hadn't heard one for some time. It's difficult to say when I last heard one, but it was around a decade ago. So, imagine my surprise when, very early in the morning this spring I heard one again. At first, I wondered if I was mistaken but then I heard it again a couple of days later and again after that.

Coincidentally I was speaking to a local landowner about the cuckoo we were listening to on her land and she said she had never heard one before this year and this happened again at another location in a different village – I was starting to wonder if there was a pattern!

So, I posted on the Malmesbury and District Natural History Society Facebook page asking if anyone else had heard a Cuckoo for the first time or at least for the first time in many years... and I was inundated with replies! Many people all over the area had been having the same experience as me. I decided to collect all the responses on a map; red dots were new records, and yellow dots were where Cuckoos were heard reliably every year.

Something strange was happening but it was something good too, **really** good! There's no way of knowing why May 2026 was such a good year for Cuckoos in north Wiltshire, but it clearly was. What is more, it was causing so much happiness. Everyone responding to me was bursting with excitement at hearing this iconic call and wanted to share their joy.

Cuckoo Distribution Map – May 2026



Is there anything we can do to hear the Cuckoo's call in the future?

Absolutely! There is something everyone can do. We must plant insect-friendly flowers, leave a patch of our lawn to grow completely long and wild, and crucially, stop using insecticides. This directly gives moths and their large, hairy caterpillars a safe haven to breed, boosting vital food sources for arriving cuckoos. You can also become a citizen scientist—if you spot a cuckoo or hear that unmistakable call, log it right away on apps like BirdTrack or iRecord to help conservationists protect their remaining active strongholds. Supporting wildlife charities like the RSPB and local Wildlife Trusts helps fund large-scale restorations of wetlands and woods, ensuring we can still live in harmony together.

It is a tragedy that this wonderful bird is under such heavy threat in Britain. But if we can help them by bringing back their caterpillar food, stopping the use of harmful chemical sprays, and backing habitat restorations, we can actively boost our cuckoo populations and ensure that future generations continue to enjoy their brief, magical summer visits for years to come.

Join us on a walk, talk or taking part in a survey by checking our website, Facebook pages or sending us an email, details below...

Website: www.malmesburynaturalhistory.co.uk

Email: malmesburynaturalhistory@gmail.com

Facebook: Malmesbury and District Natural History Society

Facebook Group for sharing wildlife experiences: Malmesbury and District Natural History Society Group



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Tracking My Finds: From Hobbyist to App Developer

Tech Talk:

by Hugo Heriz-Smith

Tracking My Finds: From Hobbyist to App Developer

When not helping people with their Macs, iPhones, and other Apple devices, one of my favorite activities is metal detecting. I started shortly before I returned from the United States to UK in 2020, and have grown to enjoy so many aspects of the hobby. There's the excitement of uncovering bits of history buried beneath our feet, the process of researching and learning about each new discovery, photographing the most interesting finds, and more.



It wasn't long before I began to accumulate quite a collection of "things" I'd found, and a long list of places I'd found them: A Victorian penny here, a Roman brooch there. Despite having a pretty good memory of where and when I found them, I realised I needed a good way to keep track of it all.

If you've read any of my articles here in the Jackdaw, you'll know that my work is helping people get more from their technology. With my new hobby, I now took on the challenge of finding out how my technology could help me. Until recently, there was only one iPhone app out there for metal detectorists. I had tried it over the years and found it lacking. (It randomly deleted all of my saved sessions, for instance!). My wife suggested I develop my own app – after all, I had been closely following the emerging tools that let non-coders (that would be me) write apps. Why not a metal detecting app, and why not me? Excited by the possibilities, I got to work.

Initially, I imagined an app that would simply track where I went and where I found things. I focused on building something that addressed my specific needs as a detectorist. As the app began to take shape, I was able to add other features that I previously had to get from multiple websites, such as historic map overlays, LiDAR, find categorisation, info for Portable Antiquity Scheme (PAS) registration, permission tracking, historic site indicators, and more. It occurred to me that the app was something other detectorists might also find useful, so I recruited some beta testers and soon had a product to offer on the iOS app store. Detectorists with Android phones started requesting a version they could use, and the project has since grown into something much larger.

If you'd like to learn more about the app, you can visit hugocanhelp.com/myfinds. If you have an idea for your own app and would like to learn more about how I built this, please get in touch and I'll be happy to share more. If there's enough interest, I may offer a workshop on the topic in the months ahead.

Hugo Heriz-Smith has been providing technical support and personal computing assistance to clients of all ages for nearly 40 years. Visit his website at hugocanhelp.com.

TETBURY GOODS SHED

A R T S C E N T R E

TETBURY GOODS SHED HIGHLIGHTS



July 17

Forever Springsteen: A group claiming a new chapter in The Boss's tribute scene – one protecting his energy, musicianship and true spirit. Tickets £25 in advance. 7.30pm

August 8

Piano Concert: Rupert Egerton-Smith left his career as a strategy consultant in 2020 to return to his first love as a pianist. Since then he has established a new career, winning several competitions. Tickets £20 in advance. 7.30pm

September 4

Alfie Moore's Radio Warm-up: The star of BBC Radio 4s It's a Fair Cop returns for warm-up show ahead of episode 10. He gives the audience a real-life scenario and asks what they would have done! Tickets £22 in advance. 8pm

September 20

Jeneba Kanneh-Mason piano concert: The third member of the clan to become a soloist, Jeneba comes to Tetbury to play Scarlatti, Chopin and Mozart during a packed international programme. Tickets £30 in advance. 7pm.

October 3

Music for Miniatures: The autumn edition of our baby-friendly concerts where there's no need to sit still, dancing is encouraged, and everyone is welcome. Tickets in advance children £5, Adults £7, Family of 4(incl.one adult) £17. 1030am

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

www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Summer in Malmesbury

By Roz Savage MP

July is one of my favourite times in Malmesbury. The meadows along the Avon are full of life, the evenings are long, and the town has a particular energy that makes it a joy to be here.

It's also a busy month. On 3 July I'll be at the Town Hall for the red-carpet premiere of *Cotswolds: Field & Folk* - a documentary charting a year



in the lives of farmers, conservationists and land managers across our landscape, produced to mark the Cotswolds National Landscape's 60th anniversary. I'm looking forward to it enormously.

Closer to home, work continues on improving the health of the River Avon. Water quality remains a concern that local residents regularly raise with me, and one that I've continued to press in Parliament through my work on the Environmental Audit Committee and elsewhere. The river is part of what makes Malmesbury so special. Its health matters, and residents deserve straight answers about what is being done to protect it.

On that note, congratulations to Malmesbury's new Mayor, Robert Hastings. Civic life in a town like this depends on people stepping forward to serve, and I'm glad to have been able to meet him at the Town Hall – appropriately enough, on Wiltshire Day.

Meanwhile, Parliament has been busy through May and June. I've been raising issues that matter here in Wiltshire - from NHS services, sewage and water quality to the cost-of-living pressures facing many families.

If you have a concern you'd like to raise, my office is always here to help. Please do get in touch and we'll do our best to support you with whatever issue you may be facing.

Warm wishes,

Roz

roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk | 01285 300555

Malmesbury Carnival and Festival 2026

We're off!

Malmesbury Carnival season has kicked off with an incredibly successful new event – a Midsummer Garden Festival held at Abbey House Manor gardens on 21 June, which featured local musicians, singers and performers and was attended by over 500



adults and children. A whopping £5,000 was raised and a large number of BBQ burgers, glasses of rosé and beers were eaten and drunk on a glorious day in the sunshine. Thanks to everyone who helped organise or took part, with special mention to the Athelstan Players for rounding off the event

with a fantastic short performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Carnival guides detailing all the exciting events throughout August and early September are being delivered to homes from 13 July, and tickets - for events



which need them - are now available online at www.malmesburycarnival.co.uk. Don't delay as many events sell out fast. Both the guide and tickets are also available from the Tourist Information Centre. Other new events for this year include a Magic Show, the Riding Lights Theatre Company and



comedy and circus fun for young ones with with FAIL, FAIL, FAIL, WIN. Plus there's all your usual carnival favourites including Petticoat Lane, Open Gardens, quizzes, talks, wine tasting, jazz, crafts,

tours, the popular scarecrow trail, family and adult silent discos, another play not to be missed from the Athelstan Players, and much more... topped off with Danter's fun fair and the fabulous, iconic Malmesbury Carnival Procession at 6pm on Saturday 5 September.

See you at Carnival events folks!



Mayor of Malmesbury's Newsletter - July 2026

Hello to all the readers of the Jackdaw magazine. I am Robert Hastings the Mayor of Malmesbury for 2026/27.

I would like to start by thanking the retiring Mayor, Councillor Stephen James. It was a great honour to serve as Stephen's Deputy. His leadership and organisational skills were a great inspiration and he has worked tirelessly all year; for example, initiating the purchase of Daniel's Well for the town which has just been completed.

The Mayoress for the year is my partner, Barbara Firth. Barbara has been a passionate supporter of the Malmesbury high street from the moment she came here. She was a great support during my year as Deputy Mayor and has been a regular supporter and volunteer at events in the town. With her experience in education and her passion for promoting oracy in schools, I'm sure she will be a great asset for both me and Malmesbury in the coming year.



We have had a Mayoral Cadet in Malmesbury for several years, and I would now like to confirm that our new Mayoral Cadet is Rosa Clough. Barbara and I look forward to working with Rosa over the coming year.

My journey to Malmesbury has been long and winding. I grew up in Australia and left in 1983 for a year of travelling, with no intentions of settling and working in the UK. I ended up travelling for three years and working the summers in London where I met my former wife. We ended up settling there and having four wonderful children. A change of jobs resulted in a move to

Colchester and we lived there for twenty years before moving to Bradford-on-Avon and then back to London. During a break in lockdowns, I received a call offering me a job at Dyson which I happily accepted. I immediately fell in love with Malmesbury so I moved here permanently. I have been here over five years now and I think my wandering days are over. With all these moves I can now claim to have lived in three capital cities of England!

You might be thinking 'why an Australian Mayor in Malmesbury?', but with, wallabies on Somerford and Brinkworth commons, emus in the animal sanctuary, the Australian women's football (soccer) team named



after an English Queen with close links to Malmesbury and a winning cricket team at the Whole Hog (all down to my nephew Hamish), it seems the perfect time for an Antipodean Mayor.

I became a councillor four years ago after attending the Mayor's Ball where I was actively encouraged to apply to fill the vacant position on the council. I have to say it has been

one of the best decisions of my life, through it, Barbara and I have become members of the community and made many new friends. We have never met a group of such hard working and welcoming people.

One of the strengths of Malmesbury Town Council is we don't get involved in party politics, but arrive at decisions through open discussions and agreements. I am aware that there are many opportunities for long term improvements to the town, many of which have been initiated by Councillor James in the last year and which I will continue to support and hopefully bring to a successful conclusion.

One of the aspects of the role of Mayor is to work with the various committees in promoting Malmesbury and encouraging visitors to our wonderful town. Malmesbury is a town with an amazing depth of history and a beautiful hilltop setting that few places in Wiltshire can

compete with. As you know, we have been celebrating the life of King Athelstan over the last few years. In 926 Athelstan had a quiet year with the only highlight being the marriage of a step-sister to the King of the Vikings in York.

My theme for my Mayoral year is 'Nurturing Skills for Success'.

Malmesbury is a great place to live, and the Sunday Times recently confirmed that. However, nowhere is a great place for those living in poverty, hardship and isolation. The formal and statutory responsibility for helping these people lies with central government and the Unitary Authority, but we know there are gaps in their provision that too many people fall through. I have, therefore, decided that my charitable focus as Mayor is to be helping these people, by contributing to the excellent work of HEALS and the Malmesbury and District Foodbank. Both of these charities provide support to people in crisis and longer-term support where necessary. I believe the strength of a community may be judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable members and both charities are fundamental for enabling all residents to achieve their potential.

The third charity I have chosen to support is the Malmesbury Abbey Music Society (MAMS). Established in 1971 and a registered charity since 1994, Malmesbury Abbey Music Society is run by volunteers who organise an annual series of professional classical concerts and recitals in the Abbey, bringing high-quality live performance to our town.

Over the past three years, significantly, its programming has also shown commitment to inspiring the next generation to engage with music, giving young people from the Malmesbury area opportunities to both hear and perform alongside professional musicians, namely



Michael Bockmann, a professional violinist and music education entrepreneur.



Complementing the concerts series, and as part of the ethos to help re-establish and promote music-making and instrumental learning in schools, MAMS' vision is to instigate in the near future a much needed 'out of school' opportunity for Malmesbury young musicians to regularly make music together in the town.

Together with Barbara, I have already visited and met with the headteachers of all of the Malmesbury schools. We are hoping to work

with them to support their oracy programmes through the establishment of a Mayor's Award for Debating. There is a little way to go to put it in place, but we hope to be able to raise enough funds to engage the English Speaking Union to provide each of the schools with training for teachers, resources and debate workshops for pupils. We believe that being able to listen well, discuss and debate not only underpins a good democracy but also is a valuable skill for life.

I look forward to your support at fundraising events throughout the year. Dates for your diaries:

12th August - inaugural Mayor's cricket match with The Mayor's XI vs The Whole Hog XI at the Malmesbury cricket ground. Free entry and there will be a BBQ and bar.

12th September - a Sri Lankan cultural evening in the Town Hall. Tickets will be on sale soon.

I'm hoping as many people as possible can come along and have a fun time while contributing to my local charities. If you have any ideas for fund raising events then please let me know.

To finish, I would like to share my main two commitments; which is to deliver a dry Carnival Procession in September and a storm free Late Night Shopping evening in December! Fingers crossed!

Snippet



More 'interesting' parking. We've heard of plug-in hybrids, but this is the first car we've seen put out to graze. *Photo: Dave Witt*

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Snippet

We received this photo of a display in the new pet emporium on the High Street. Could Malmesbury become the new Paris or Milan for dog fashions? *Photo Dave Witt*



Meeting the Duchess of Beaufort

Kira and Lily ventured over the border to Badminton where plans were being finalised for an RHS Flower Show which took place earlier this month.

Hi Guys, what's good? For this article we decided to mix it up again, so we headed out of Malmesbury to the Badminton Estate to speak to Her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort. The day we visited also happened to be one of the Badminton Estate Open Garden days, so we also got the chance to explore the beautiful gardens.

Kira: You have just come back from Chelsea Flower Show. Are you excited to have the RHS here at Badminton?

I am so excited to have the RHS here at Badminton. I have just been to Chelsea Flower Show for four days, and I was lucky enough to visit on the final build day, just before the public arrived. Seeing everyone getting their stands and gardens ready was the most exciting thing. That is exactly how I feel about RHS Badminton now. I cannot wait, and I am really looking forward to it.

Lily: Could you tell us about the Flower Show and what will happen?

The Flower Show is a huge mixture of different gardens and gardeners, including both amateurs and professionals. There will be everything from small wheelbarrow gardens to a very large show garden being built in the park, which is about the size of five tennis courts and will be the biggest garden there has ever been at an RHS flower show.

There will also be speakers and lots of educational activities, including things for children and young people. Visitors will be able to learn about gardening, but also about how gardens affect our lives, including our physical and mental health. There will be competitions for young gardeners, lots of stands, food areas around the lake. I think there will be something for everyone, from nought to 90.

Kira: What is it like living in Badminton House? How many bedrooms are there?

Living at Badminton is a huge privilege. From my bedroom, I can look down the avenue of trees and watch the sun come up. I could not be anywhere more beautiful. It is absolutely heaven to be surrounded by so much green.

There are 23 bedrooms. We have about 12 or 13 'Top' bedrooms, which are lovely big double bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, high ceilings and four poster beds. Then the rest are backup ones, which are also really nice, but simpler. It is quite busy at the house because we have lots of things going on. It is a little bit like living above a shop. We do have our quiet times, when we sit in our upstairs sitting room and watch telly - we love watching telly in the evenings.

Lily: What is your favourite type of flower?

That is such a difficult question because it changes with the seasons. In spring, I love bulbs like tulips. I particularly like the very early ones. We have some wild tulips, called species tulips, that grow out in the Pleasure Grounds. Later in the year, I love peonies, roses, sweet peas and dahlias. In autumn, I like asters, which are also called Michaelmas daisies and in winter, I enjoy the hyacinths that we grow in the greenhouse. So, instead of having just one favourite flower, I have different favourites throughout the year.

Kira: What jobs do you do?

A lot of my work at Badminton is about running the house. I do the calendar each month, organise the menus, and plan. A lot of my job is writing lists: endless lists. Lists of plants, lists of food, lists of menus, lists of which people are staying in which bedroom. I also do a bit of historical research, because I have become very interested in the first Duchess of Beaufort and her work. I quite often help my husband to use his computer before he throws it across the room. I was a journalist, so I still write articles. I have written for various magazines and newspapers, and the odd book review. I was also a teacher. Up until a couple of years ago, I was doing one day a week teaching university students, but I can only do that a very little bit now because there is more work going on here.



Lily: How many people do you expect to come to the flower show?

I would like as many people as possible to come. At the time of this interview, about a month before the event, around 44,000 tickets have already been sold, and I hope the show might attract at least 60,000 people or more.

Because Badminton already hosts the horse trials, we are used to welcoming large numbers of visitors. I would love as many people as possible to enjoy having a flower show of this standard here at Badminton, especially because these kinds of shows are often associated with London.

Kira: What do you like to do in your spare time?

I do quite like being on my own, and as you can imagine, that is not always possible. The way that I get to be on my own is I go running. I love running and that is when I get a bit of time out from everything. I also like taking my naughty spaniels for long walks. I love reading. I always have two or three books on the go at any one time. I also like looking at gardening books and art books, as well as reading books. I like going to art exhibitions. My mum is an artist, so I love art.

Lily: How long does it take to set up the flower show?

The RHS itself takes about three weeks to set up the Flower Show. However, one very large garden has already started being built. That garden is being created in memory of my friend Julia Rausing, who was a great philanthropist. It will include wildflower meadows and will be something visitors can walk through. It is absolutely incredible. The horse trials take much longer to prepare. Building for the horse trials can start in February, and some work on jumps and ground preparation can begin even earlier.

Kira: How did you become a Duchess?

The key thing was that I married a Duke! How he became a Duke is quite interesting. His father, who was the 11th Duke, became Duke unexpectedly after the 10th Duke died without having any children and then his elder brother who would have inherited was killed in the Second World War. I thought I would be a journalist, but you never quite know how life is going to come out.

Lily: How many events do you have running at Badminton?

We have events throughout much of the year. February is probably our quietest month, although it is also my birthday, so we still have to do something fun. In March, we have guests for Cheltenham Races. In April, there is the spring garden opening. In May, we have the Badminton Horse Trials, followed by a big golf tournament. In June we have the second open garden, going on today. Then this year, RHS Badminton is also taking place 8th-12th July, and in August we have Tough Mudder, which is a bit like eventing for humans. There are more garden events in September, then the shooting season begins again in October, followed by Christmas.

Kira: What did you teach when you were a teacher?

I taught Latin and Greek and some ancient history and English as well. When my children were around Year 7 age, I taught that sort of age, and then as they got older, I taught older and older pupils.

Lily: How big is the Badminton estate and do you ride?

The main estate here is 52,000 acres, although there is also some additional land in Wales. I used to ride a bit, but not so much these days. I think the last time I got on a horse was on my daughter's pony, a very naughty pony. I used to get on her to stop her from bucking. Now I think everyone would expect me to be so good, and all I can do is stop a naughty pony from bucking. I am a bit of a happy hacker. I am not good enough to do any of the stuff that gets done around her. When I see those fences at the horse trials, I cannot believe it. It is so crazy.

One of the things I really love about the horse trials is going round with Eric, the course designer, and him explaining all the jumps. How some of them are horse-scarers and some of them are people-scarers. They are incredible.

We want to thank Her Grace for kindly spending time with us. The next Badminton Estate Open Gardens is on 6th September. Details can be found here: <https://www.badmintonestate.com>



Wiltshire Council and Malmesbury Town Council Responsibilities

Three years ago, we ran an article highlighting the responsibilities of Wiltshire Council and Malmesbury Town Council. We thought it worth rerunning it as, from comments made to us and from what we've read on social media, there is still confusion.

Wiltshire Council is responsible for services across the whole of the county (excluding Swindon), including:

- education
- highways inc. roads, footpaths, potholes, street cleaning, grass cutting, gritting, litter collection
- car parks – Cross Hayes, Station Road, Burnham Road and Market Cross
- street lighting, street furniture and road signs
- transport inc. subsidising bus services
- environmental health
- fire and public safety
- social care
- libraries
- leisure services including the Activity Zone
- waste management inc. collection and recycling, some litter and dog waste bins
- trading standards
- Council Tax
- housing
- strategic planning
- deciding all planning applications and enforcements

Malmesbury is represented at Wiltshire Council by a single Councillor, currently Liberal Democrat Gavin Grant. Part of his role is to liaise between the county and Malmesbury Town Council.

Malmesbury Town Council is the first level of local government and operates at the level below Wiltshire Council. In legal terms it is a parish council. It has 17 elected councillors and a small team of employed staff based at the Town Hall. It's funded from a charge (precept) in our Council Tax and can apply for other funding such as grants. It also generates significant income itself through the operation of the Town Hall and other activities. It does not receive money direct from central government.

Malmesbury Town Council's responsibilities:

- representing the interests of the local community
- owning and running the Town Hall, including the Tourist Information Centre
- running the play parks at St Aldhelm's Mead, Filands, Newnton Grove, Reeds Farm and White Lion Park. Owning and running the open spaces at Cuckingstool Mead and St Aldhelm's Mead.
- Owning and running Tetbury Hill Cemetery
- the Market Cross and, by lease, Cloister Gardens (which is owned by Abbey House) and Birdcage Walk (which is owned by the Abbey)
- some of the litter bins (most are operated by Wiltshire Council) and the green grit bins around town (the yellow ones are managed by Wiltshire Council)
- the public toilets at Cross Hayes, St Aldhelm's Mead and the Cemetery
- promoting Malmesbury as a place to visit, including directly organising and/or supporting community events such as Late-Night Shopping, Remembrance Day, Malmesbury in Bloom and St Aldhelm's Day
- supporting the work of voluntary groups
- providing input to Wiltshire Council on local highways matters and providing funding for some improvement projects
- active involvement in the development of the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan and providing input to Wiltshire Council as a statutory consultee on planning matters



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Welcome to the Summer

Encouraging words from Rev'd Oliver Ross.

What a June it has been? Quite amazing heat and quite a bit more to come it seems. But with the heat, the rain has been with us. Looking around, the grass has not been burnt and incinerated in the way that it was in previous heat waves or in 1976. It's become a parable for me.

Though we walk through troubled times and there are clouds on the horizon, we are still a green and pleasant land. It's so easy to be caught up in the criticism of the media and the cynicism of the Zeitgeist. Yet my parable has called me to be hopeful but also to rejoice. It has also caused me to ponder...

What would happen if I took up the challenge this summer not to echo the Today programme as a critic of everyone, pulling them down and pointing the finger? What would happen this summer if I was resolute and determinedly polite and gave people the benefit of the doubt and spoke well of them - as well as to them? What would it be like if this summer instead of seeing all the shadows and the darkness, I concentrated on the light – the hope, the joy and the future? There is so much to rejoice about and to be happy on our part and with others.

It's easy to say these things, but actually it is a challenge to determined action and to catch ourselves when we slip from the path that we've chosen. So, we are waiting for the next game in the World Cup - as I write we are still in! But whether we go forward and we even win or not, let us follow the word of the words of St Paul, "Rejoice and again I say rejoice! "



Snippet

Progress?

We've reported regularly on the use of tarmac to repair broken slabs in the Market Cross area. Not only do these repairs seem to erode rapidly, but they also look unsightly – surely not the image that the town wishes to present to visitors. It was, therefore, interesting to see that the Town Council has reacted to a communication received from concerned residents asking for, amongst other things, the slabs to be repaired with stone, not tarmac.

At the time of writing, the Town Council had agreed to seek the support of a conservation officer at Wiltshire Council to get the tarmac replaced with stone. Let's hope that the conservation office moves quicker than the planning department at Wiltshire Council. The Market Cross will be 600 years old in 2090 do you think it might be done by then?

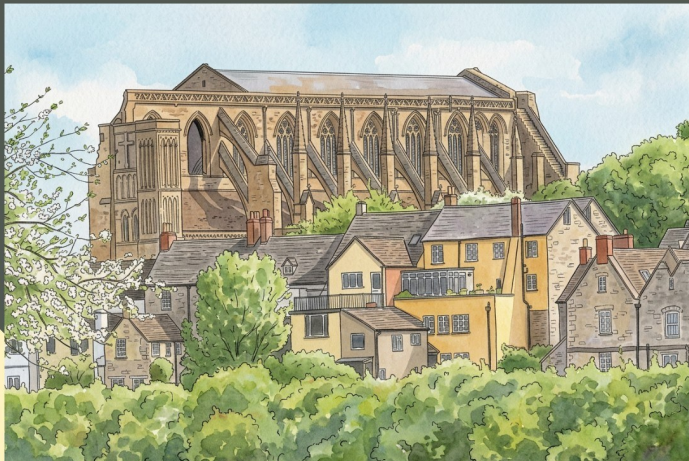
There was a similar problem in Cheltenham where the Civic Society went one step further last year and submitted a Section 56 (of the Highways Act 1980) notice to Gloucestershire County Council as the first step in a legal enforcement action to get the council to fulfil its responsibilities and replace tarmac repairs to the town's pavements with stone. That stirred things up a bit. Let's hope it doesn't come to that here.



Photo: Dave Witt

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Malmesbury Men's Shed

Received from John Fairbairn

Just over a year ago, I wrote in *The Malmesbury Jackdaw* about a Men's Shed here in Malmesbury. Well, we're still trying to get it up and running. Unfortunately, we've had problems and delays getting the lease we were promised from Wiltshire Council. The latest being the discovery of a rain drain running from the Activity Zone under where we need the Shed to go.

We're hoping to have that sorted out quite soon and Wiltshire Council will be able to get the lease to the Town Council who'll then pass it to us. When that happens, we'll put posters in the town shops to let possible members know about our inaugural meeting to inform folks what's happening and when.

It's been a difficult time for Chris (Secretary) and I (Interim Chairman), not knowing when things were going to be passed on. But we both think that it's worth the work to get the Shed for the town. We know that Malmesbury will be better for it and it's already a lovely town.

Last September, the UK Men's Shed Association, officially launched the Armed Forces Community Accreditation. A scheme for the those currently serving in His Majesty's Armed Forces, either regular or reserve, along with ex-service personnel, families and dependants. The accreditation is to help service and ex-service folks to feel welcomed, supported and valued in every Shed. We'll be applying for this accreditation as I served in the RAF for 14 years. Being close to the camp at Hullavington, I hope that we'll have members from there as well. After all, the only limitation is age, with a minimum age of 18. It's not just for us oldies!

There's also the Beyond Dementia charity. This is a Wiltshire charity that I believe is in partnership with some of our local Men's Sheds. We hope to join them in that partnership. The Men's Sheds already have a wonderful reputation for helping men with loneliness and mental health problems and I feel that we would really help folks in these situations.

Blokes I've met at the various Sheds I've visited have initially turned up to see what it's like. Some have all sorts of hand skills and some aren't sure which end of a screwdriver to stand. The ones with the skills have shown the others how to do jobs and the 'unskilled' ones are very quickly making simple things like bird boxes and small planters. When I say unskilled, I mean those who've maybe worked in an office all their working life and have never been interested in DIY. We all have certain skills and one of the things we do is share them. If you'd like to know more about the UK Men's Sheds Association, please see their website www.menssheds.org.uk.

One of the things that's given me a very pleasant surprise is the generosity of people and companies towards Men's Sheds. As I've said many times, we're a Shed in name only at the moment, but so many people have donated tools to us. In fact, we're a bit embarrassed having a shed load of donated tools which we're struggling to store. A lot of companies I've approached have told me that they'll help in various ways, from donations of cash to services and discounts on , and in the nearby villages too, and we'll let you know when that first meeting is going to be. the things we buy. It's done a lot to make me realise that so many people still care about others.

So, if you're interested in coming along to see what we do, please look out for the posters in the shop windows around town

If you'd like to contact us, I can be reached on jonzjob6@aol.com and Chris on chris4mmshed@gmail.com.

One of the Men's Sheds Association mantras is '*We are not carers, but we care*'.

Malmesbury Stands with Ukraine

On 29th June, Mayor of Malmesbury, Cllr Robert Hastings, joined well-wishers to see off the town's gift of an emergency ambulance and 4x4 Medical Support vehicle as it departed to their Ukrainian Friendship Town of Cherkasy in central Ukraine.

The vehicles were driven by a team of five volunteers from local support group *Malmesbury Stands with Ukraine*.



The group has raised more than £20,000 from the local community, following a special appeal by past Malmesbury Mayor Cllr Steve James. This funded the purchase and equipping of the ambulance and support vehicle, with both carrying essential and much needed medical equipment. Both vehicles carry the Malmesbury Town Crest and graphics, the design and production of which were donated by designer David Wood and Flying Monk Graphics.

The final fundraising event before the send-off was a free event on 26th June in Cloister Gardens to celebrate *Ivana Kupala*, a traditional Ukrainian midsummer festival.

This year is the fourth time that the festival event has been marked in Malmesbury. It features the making and wearing of flower crowns. By tradition, girls and women wear their flower crowns down to the local river where they are tossed into the water. Local boys and men jump in to rescue the "crowns" and

return them to their intended sweetheart. The first part of the tradition was re-enacted with the crowns making a colourful garland in the Tetbury branch of the Bristol Avon where it flows below the Cloister Gardens, but no one took the plunge!

Money raised through the raffle, bar and donations aided the cost of driving the Malmesbury Ambulance and a Support vehicle on its journey to Ukraine.



Snippet

Is this part of Wiltshire Councils re wilding scheme?



Snippet

During their recent refit, the owners of our local service station were still able to provide life's essentials.



Snippet

Where our river used to be by the black bridge at Backbridge.



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Letter to the Editor

Stalelated – But Not for Nature

Some time prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, and certainly reinforced by its restrictions, I decided to take up a more active lifestyle and became an avid walker, and cyclist. In doing so, I engaged with nature in a way that I had never done before, primarily developing a love for birds and small wildlife. During these past years I have joined a number of County level Trusts, and a Society, along with the bigger national versions of which I am sure that most readers would be familiar.

When I became a Water Guardian, one of my tasks was/is to check certain allocated stretches of the Avon River that flows through and around Malmesbury. Those checks include measuring temperature and solids, plus two chemical tests of 'indicator' nutrient levels. Sadly, these tests re-enforce what can easily be found online; that we have one of the most polluted waterways in the country.

In addition to the above, I also carry out a visual check for pollutants; whether that be from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) for example, or from general waste material that has made its way into the watercourse. For many months now I have been pointing out a particular item that has become entrained in low branches on the riverbank close to the Riverside Centre.

My readings are submitted to County level records, but I have also approached people down to local level. You will note that I am not putting down the specific names of the bodies here as I am trying to get across a general point.

I now have a list of contacts, some who have kindly responded with valid reasons for not being able to get involved with this particular issue; some who have promised they will get back to me but, for reasons unknown, have decided they will not.

All I would like, as a (very) concerned citizen, is a 'guide' of how to assess the 'not so obvious' types of pollutant – sewage, chemical spills etc. – and with whom to address the issue to stand the best chance of it being resolved.

I understand that 'riparian law' – the legal responsibility for rivers, banks and ditches - is not absolutely clear cut, but, regardless of where this particular piece of detritus emanated, the bank against which it sits is obviously under someone's ownership and clearly, as long as it keeps inching its way along the river it will never be taken away.

I would like to think that our local Council would be the ones to produce a checklist that would help anyone who identifies this sort of pollution, but they are sadly taking a back seat to this issue.

Robin Shelley.

Jackdaw Response. Thanks for your letter, Robin, we share your concerns. We're watching with interest to see what difference Malmesbury's River Management Group (which was formed last year) makes. Hopefully, its progress will be faster and less interrupted than the river's flow through Conygre Mead!

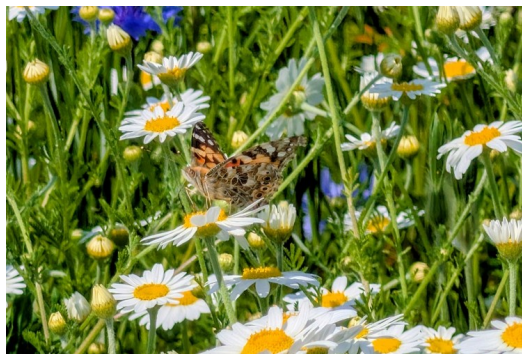
Flower Power!

In an article in our January edition about the restoration of engine driver Ted Jones' memorial stone, Sue Alexander mentioned that a wildflower area had been planted in Malmesbury Cemetery on Tetbury Hill which she hoped would look beautiful through spring and summer. Here's an update and some more information received from Ann Skinner.

A group of local residents were keen to investigate whether the value of Tetbury Hill cemetery could be improved for the benefit of people and wildlife. They commissioned a biological survey which showed that the older parts of the cemetery were already rich in wildflowers and pollinating insects, whilst small birds used the native hedgerows for nesting, and hedgehogs benefited from the undisturbed corridors. All have suffered severe declines in abundance over the last 50 years.

A management plan was drawn up for the Burial Committee, suggesting minor changes to the mowing regime, the installation of a bug hotel and bird boxes, and planting a small copse of birch trees. A conifer hedge was replaced with native shrubs, and is already providing valuable nesting habitat for small birds.

Diversifying the areas of grassland that were not species-rich proved more of a challenge. The first method tried was to introduce plug plants of primrose and cowslip, betony and moon daisy, grown on and planted by children from the local primary school. Unfortunately, the weather that year



Painted Lady in Malmesbury Cemetery

Hopefully seeds of the wildflowers will colonise other areas naturally, spread by birds, the wind and animals, so that the cemetery can provide a beautiful place for the quiet contemplation of life and nature into the future.



Malmesbury Cemetery in Bloom

was incredibly hot and dry so few of the plants survived in the hard clay soils. Further attempts also failed so, last autumn, a different approach was trialled. The topsoil in the far corner was stripped and a cornfield annual mix was sown for an immediate display of colour, with a locally appropriate meadow mix that can be mown regularly in future years. All seed was supplied by Emorsgate Seeds, the largest supplier of wildflower seeds in the country based near Bath.

The result has been spectacular, with hoverflies, bumble bees and butterflies galore.



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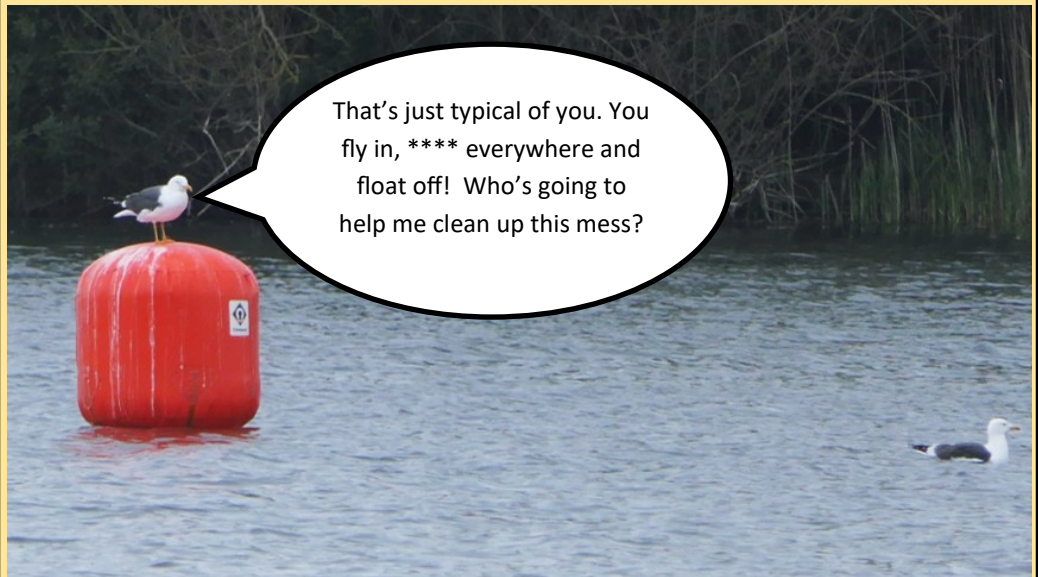
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Quiz (answers at the bottom of the page)

1. In 1961 who were paid a maximum of £20 per week: actors, footballers, politicians?
2. When shaken, gels that are thixotropic turn to: solids, liquids, gas?
3. Winners of which literary award receive a rocket: Agatha, Booker, Hugo?
4. What does a compass needle point to: magnetic north, true north, grid north?
5. Which dwarf planet was discovered less than 40 years before the first moon landing?
6. What drink is made from ice cream and milk?
7. What was Alfred Nobel's main invention?
8. What was the name of the moon lander launched by the USA in 2024?

Snippet



Answers to Quiz: (1) Footballers (2) Liquids (3) Hugo (4) Magnetic north (5) Pluto (6) Milkshakes (7) Dynamite (8) Odysseus.



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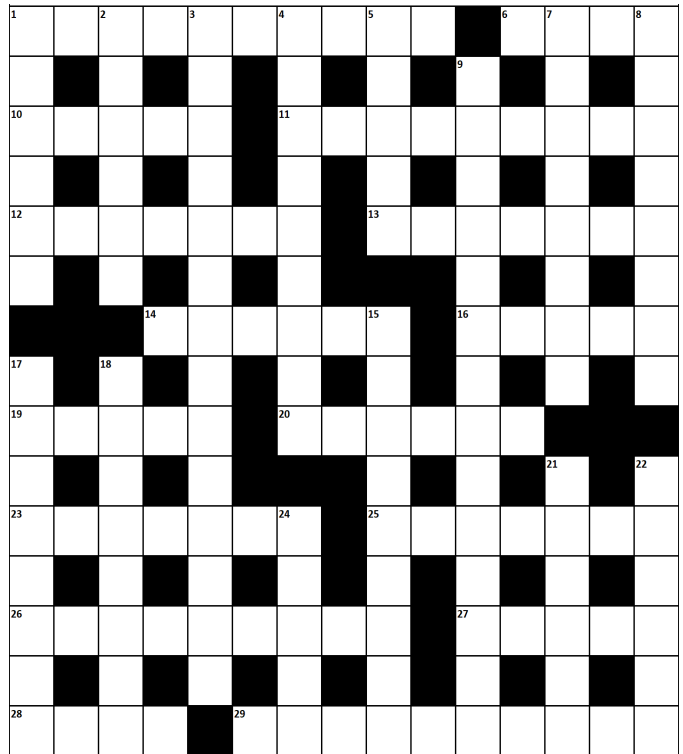
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The Crossword

ACROSS

- 1...Heighten rage; get axe tangled (10)
- 6...She's back in the slammer! (4)
- 10...Fully mature moon around short publication (5)
- 11...Criminal mistake is in race (9)
- 12...In a cut I clean a skin layer (7)
- 13...He's in and out (7)
- 14...Swapping gold for iodine changes the location (6)
- 16...Set about northern girl (5)
- 19...Dig in! (5)
- 20...Threw a messy garland (6)
- 23...Encourages former lover with mixed drink ((7)
- 25...Realising the day is breaking (7)
- 26...This could be Shakespeare (9)
- 27...Entre dimanche et mardi (5)
- 28...Lapwing, emu, tern and rook. Find the swan (4)
- 29...Stare at eel making land in USA (4,6)



DOWN

- 1...Reveal ex-England footballer is after an electric vehicle (6)
- 2...Sad Pat changes (6)
- 3...Local thoroughfare possibly used by Doctor Foster? (10,4)
- 4...Foul altercation in Hyde Park (6,3)
- 5...Beat of the heart? (5)
- 7...Salty dinner? (4,4)
- 8...Surprise! An area of Birmingham in safe hands, initially (8)
- 9...Hosts tow clouds into our constituency (5,9)
- 15...Such evidence may not stand up in court (9)
- 17...Supplement total aim with hesitation (8)
- 18...Tall hare becomes so kind! (3,5)
- 21...Anne is back making an earthy hue (6)
- 22...Remove the top from the fuel to light (6)
- 24...The point of Terence Milligan? (5)

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