

The Bridge



**Worton and Marston
Parish Magazine**

April 2021

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THE BRIDGE

Editor: Giles Collins editorofthebridge@gmail.com

Due to the coronavirus measures,
the last few editions of the magazine
have not been printed and distributed.
They have instead been published straight to two websites:

www.worton.org.uk and
www.christchurchworton.org.uk

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.
Some advantages however have been that there has been colour in the magazines, and no clarity has been lost in the printing process.

It is hoped that the May edition
will be printed and distributed,
as well as published on the websites.
The deadline for the May edition is therefore: 15th April.

Thank You

Dennis Rennie would like to thank all the people in Worton and Marston for the cards and letters of condolence he received following the death of Hazel, and for the donations for Dorothy House Hospice (over £1,500).

Dennis Rennie

Postponement

The distributors of The Bridge would normally have by now collected the £3.00 annual subscription. Due to the fact that no distribution has actually taken place recently, the collection of the annual subscription has been postponed until further notice. Many apologies.

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SERVICE CALENDAR

ALL SERVICES SUBJECT TO REVISION,
DEPENDING ON COVID REGULATIONS

Services open to the general public at Christ Church and Marston Chapel are suspended until further notice, with the following exception:

CHRIST CHURCH
APRIL 4TH EASTER SUNDAY
10.00am HOLY COMMUNION

We will be strictly adhering to covid regulations and there will be no singing. Please wear a face mask and maintain social distancing. If you are shielding, vulnerable or anxious about the risk of covid, please do not attend. Booking is essential for this service. Email sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com or contact either of the churchwardens to reserve a space. This service will also be available on zoom using the usual Wellsprings Benefice link.

There were two special services held at Christ Church
during February:
Baptism of Natalie Mai Grimes
Celebration for the life of Mark Anthony Lewis

Visit the church website: www.christchurchworton.org.uk
for service updates

Christ Church Team

Rector: Rev'd Ali Bridewell
01380 739064 07847 952868
alison.bridewell@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Jean Lane 01380 722069
Heather Walker 01380 725785

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Pastoral Letter

Maureen's Ramblings.....

Agatha Christie's play "The Mousetrap" opened in 1952. 69 years ago!! It keeps going because there is an agreement that those who have seen it will not tell others **who dunnit!** What a spoiler it would be if everyone knew the ending. This is one of the problems of Easter. We know the end of the story! We know Jesus does not end up dead, lying in the tomb forever. We know that death is defeated and that love cannot be crucified. This is good, astounding and wonderful news! But because we know the ending and the story is so familiar - we stop being surprised by God at Easter. "So what?"

"So what?" Our world is not always a happy or hopeful place and the past months have been especially tough. Life can be painful and difficult and I guess that every home in our area, including in mine, there has been some experience of suffering, pain and death - some "Good Friday" experience. Maybe when I mention the transforming love and hope of the Risen Christ you will say "So what?". You may be feeling that it's always Good Friday, but I can proclaim with as-

surance – Easter can bring us all alive!

Dolly Parton has written a song called "He's Alive" – check it out on YouTube. The last verses are:

**But suddenly the air was filled
With a strange and sweet perfume**

Light that came from everywhere

**Drove shadows from the room
And Jesus stood before me**

**With his arms held open wide
And I fell down on my knees
And I just clung to him and cried**

**Then he raised me to my feet
And as I looked into his eyes
The love was shining out from him**

**Like sunlight from the skies
Guilt in my confusion
Disappeared in sweet release
And every fear I ever had
Just melted into peace**

The song ends - **He's alive, yes he's alive, yes he's alive and I'm forgiven, Heaven's gates are open wide.**

The disciples on that first Easter morning did not know the end of the story. Jesus was dead.

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Their experience was of endings, lostness, despair, hopelessness and grief. Resurrection! This just isn't possible! I wonder if this is how you feel? Maybe your faith has been wounded. Maybe all you can see is death; all you feel is despair and emptiness? Maybe your tears have blinded you to the great truth of the Christian faith or have stopped you believing the possibility that **Christ is risen! He is here! Alleluia!**

Easter gives us the hope that these Good Friday experiences in our lives are not the last word. In the risen Jesus, there is light in the darkness; there is hope for the hopeless; there is love for the unloved; there is peace for the disturbed; there is a rainbow in the rain. Joy does follow tears. There is new life following death. Emptiness and despair was not the end of the story for those first disciples, nor is it for us. Jesus came to them just as he still comes to us, time after time, whispering our name and offering us his love.

I hope you have a blessed and surprising Easter.

The Revd. Maureen Allchin. Retired priest

FIVE LANES WI

After canvassing our membership over the last few weeks, the committee have found that enough members would like to rejoin for another year to make the group viable. Our AGM was held via Zoom on the 23rd March and we are thrilled that Helen Bodman has agreed to take over from Veronica as President. Veronica will stay on committee and help Helen settle into the job. We are grateful to Veronica for her leadership over the last few years. The rest of the committee are happy to carry on and we very much hope to be able to plan some outdoor meetings in the summer and to be in the Village Hall maybe in September.

NEW MEMBERS would be very welcome so watch this space to see what we're planning into the future!!

Jean Lane 722069

From Christ Church:

On a lovely, but chilly, morning the Mothering Sunday service took place outdoors in St Peter's, Poulshot churchyard, led by Liz our Licensed Lay Minister and Adrian our curate. There was a good, socially distanced attendance along with those at home joining on zoom, as ever, managed by Stu at the Rectory. There were prayers, not only for mothers, but those who could not have children, those who have lost children and any mourning loss of loved ones.

We thank Margaret Charlton for making the lovely posies which were distributed on behalf of Christ Church.

We hope that over the next few months Christ Church will gradually begin to re-open, starting with an Easter Sunday service, with congregation.

The National Day of Reflection, to remember all those lost during the pandemic, was marked, with people being invited to tie a yellow ribbon on the Village Hall railings and at Christ Church, together with children from Five Lanes School joining with a short outdoor service, and adding their own reflections and ribbons. One minute's silence and tolling of the church bell followed.

Please continue to pray for the Ministry team, especially Rev Ali, Stu and family.

Heather & Jean, Churchwardens.

The Food Box

at the **Rose and Crown** car park

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is for.... Fish and Chips, Scampi, sausages,
vegetarian food etc. etc.

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If you would like to go on the email list, please email me at:

barnes208@btinternet.com

Gerald

A Message from Richard Gamble

Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons & Erlestone Division

Hello April!

There are many quotes about this season that I love. One of my favourites is by Harriet Ann Jacobs:

“The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.”

I cannot remember a time when a revival of the soul is more needed than this spring. Dare we dream of our release from lockdown? Meeting friends and family? Going places? Eating out? Shopping? Even holidays?

There are many historical analogies that have been quoted for what we have suffered. The worst pandemic since the Spanish Flu of 1918-21. The greatest leap in public debt since the Second World War. The biggest drop in economic productivity since the Great Depression. We survived all of those and historically even worse - even the Great Plague of 1665 and the Black Death of 1346 to 1353, which was the worst pandemic in human history.

In that context, I am impressed that Geoffrey Chaucer wrote The Canterbury Tales quite soon after the Black Death, yet his stories are immensely positive, characterful and racy! The Prologue starts delightfully:

*Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote,
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour ...*

I must apologise for the spelling, but Chaucer was writing in “Middle English”. The verses refer, eventually, to pilgrimage to Canterbury, which was the main tourist attraction of the day, particularly the shrine of St Thomas a’Becket.

We have links to Thomas a’Becket in this area. The church at Tilshead is dedicated to him. There is an A’Becket chapel in All Saints, West Lavington. And, of course, our local vineyard is at A’Beckett’s Littleton Panell. I am not sure how we connect but, apparently, Thomas did stay at Ivychurch Priory near Salisbury, which had a link with Tilshead.

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Most interestingly, for me, is the fact that Chaucer's characters are so like people we can all recognise now. One difference is that, in those times, the world was getting cooler following the Medieval Warm Period of the previous century. And, of course, we are not fighting a Hundred Years War with France.

You may contact me about this or any other matter
by email to **richard.gamble@wiltshire.gov.uk**
or by phone on 07762 018209

NEWCOMERS UPDATE

If you were newcomers to Worton or Marston during 2020, you should have received a Welcome card and booklet during the last few weeks. We have tried to ensure no-one has been missed out, but if you have been please get in touch. We really hope that we will be able to hold a belated Welcome party by early Autumn and that you have been able to settle in well despite the difficult times.

Jean Lane 722069

90th Birthday

Babs Stockwell would like to thank most sincerely everyone who has sent presents and cards on her **90th Birthday** (21st March). It is incredible that I have received 21 cards as well as so many presents.

Thank you all very, very much.

Babs

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6pm - 11pm
6pm - 11pm
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Worton & Marston Link

Thank you all for coming out on to the High Street and paying your respects to Hazel. The Priest at the ceremony complimented the people of Worton during his address.

It was a very sad occasion and we will miss her terribly. The picture was taken on one of her many trips to the bird sanctuary where she enjoyed flying owls.

Lyn Vickers is manning the telephone 07413 912828 so please use the number if you have an important journey and require transport or even a chat. We have vaccinated drivers to improve safety.

Chris Nixon is taking on the finance side and will keep our costs under control. This includes telephone charges, insurance for our drivers and also fuel costs. We just require time from our volunteers without any extra expense to them.

Anyone who lives in Worton or Marston is welcome to use our service and we always appreciate new drivers. In either case please ring Lyn on 07413 912828.

Alun Newman





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Edington Arts 2021

With the government's Roadmap out of lockdown now underway, we are very hopeful that we can restart our concert programme in Edington Priory Church. All our events this year will be offered under whatever Covid guidelines are in place at the time, and will be made as safe and welcoming as possible.

The first concert will be at 7.30pm on **Saturday 12th June**. This is a change from the date we had to give you in the March issues of all the Parish magazines (early deadlines meant we had to submit copy before the Roadmap announcement.)

So, we are absolutely delighted to be able to announce that our first performers of 2021 will be the internationally renowned brass quintet **Fine Arts Brass**. Consisting of two trumpets, trombone, french horn and tuba, they were founded in 1980, and have toured over 60 countries, commissioned over 50 new works, broadcast on BBC Radios 2, 3, and 4 and much else besides. They have a repertoire which ranges from baroque to swing and everything in between. This year is the 100th anniversaries of both Malcolm Arnold and Astor Piazzolla, so works by both composers will form part of an exciting programme.

There will be few better ways of celebrating a return to live music in person, but we will still be under some form of seat limitation. Therefore tickets, which will go on sale in late April, will be tied to specific seats in the church. We are anticipating strong demand and will be operating a waiting list. Do check our website www.edingtonarts.org for updated information, and we look forward to seeing you.

Worton Parish Council

As I write this update on the latest musings and decisions of your Parish Council we live in hope of a life that soon will give us a bit more normality back - it's now been so long that I for one, am far from sure what that will actually mean in practice. There is still so much uncertainty, but one thing is for sure -longer days will bring certain sunshine for us all to enjoy in our lovely village!

Our response to the Local Plan review has now been submitted - the discussion which surrounded it having taken up the majority of the duration of our March meeting. It is likely that this consultation will prove to be of limited long term relevance for a variety of reasons, but we felt it was important to consider our response very carefully in order to put a “marker” out there that reflects the views, aspirations and needs of our village the best we can.

The full transcript of our response is available to read on our website, but in summary we wanted to keep as much control as we can over the issues that we anticipate will need to be dealt with. Top of the list, as is often the case, was future housing development. The review, as it stood, placed us in a possible position of needing to provide possibly 40 more houses within the next ten years or so, which was a figure arrived at by one of those mysterious “algorithms” we are becoming accustomed to. As a council we felt that the methodology used was flawed, which we made clear in our response.

A conundrum that has re-emerged as we have considered the complexities of the documentation in support of the Local plan review is our designation as a “large” village, as this makes a tangible difference to what is expected of us in terms of the future role we will play within the local and regional contexts. The designation of “large” is not simply based on population size and geographical dimensions. It also considers the services and facilities available, primarily for the local population, but also, potentially, for those who live outside the boundary. We are continuing to discuss whether we should seek to be re-designated as a small village (there are local examples of designated “small” villages which have considerably more people and facilities than Worton). As we consider this we will thoroughly consider just what being a “large” rather than

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“small” village may mean in the future and how the designation could impact on the future of our village and our community as we emerge from the COVID crisis.

One bit of positive news to report that you may well have noticed is the further improvement that has taken place on the new section of the footpath on Back Lane which now has an excellent surface to meet the needs of the wide range of users of the footpath. We need to thank Anne Dunham whose persistence in raising the issue has really paid off. We are lucky to have people like Anne in our community. We await developments on another section of the path close to the church that we referred to last month.

Incidentally, the sapling planted near to the cedar tree in Cedar Close is NOT its replacement. It is replacing another tree in the close which recently had to be removed -the original location being no longer suitable. We still await news on the removal date for the Cedar Tree so there may still be an opportunity for those of you who are interested to secure for yourself a small piece of history (or maybe not so small - it's a very big tree!). Please let Liz Starling know using the usual channels.

We are tentatively considering that our July meeting might see a return to normality in the form of face to face contact, but, in the meantime, we will continue to operate in “virtual” format. Let's all keep focussed and hopefully we can get back together properly soon.

Barry

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March 2021

Monday 8th March saw the return of all the children to school. It has been a joy to have everyone back together again. The past two months have been challenging for everyone but we are so proud of our families who have worked so hard to keep up with the learning whilst juggling their own commitments, you are awesome!

Thursday 4th March was World Book Day and what a great week we had celebrating the joy of books! We had great fun guessing who the member of staff was in The Masked Reader. The highlight of the week was the Book Character Trail around Potterne and Worton. Well done to Mrs Burrows who organised the event and made some incredible book character models. The event was made even more special by our families who produced some amazing works of art for the trail, the creativity blew us away! We hope you were all able to celebrate the day in some way and maybe had time to enjoy a good book too.

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated laptops and ipads to the school, these have been invaluable during the past few weeks. We are very lucky to be part of such a wonderful community.

Louise

*Admin and Finance Officer
Five Lanes CE Primary School*



Worton & Cheverell FC (Youth) 'The Badgers'

<http://www.wortonandcheverellfc.com>



Monday 29th March 2021 – the anticipated date of the return of grassroots football and our teams are ready to restart the season. **The club have decided that no more subs will be payable for the season and invite new players to come along and try for next few months without signing on fees.** The club will also look closely at the rates for next season in recognition of the lockdown impacts this season.

So anticipating FA guidance, training returns as below:

Under 6s - Badger Cubs - Return on Friday 2nd April 0900 then every Saturday 0900 @ Elisha Field.

Under 7s - Return Friday 2nd 1000 @ Elisha Field and then Wednesday evenings 1800-1900 @ Elisha Field.

Under 8s - Return on Friday 2nd April 1000 and then Tuesday evenings 1800 @ Elisha Field.

Under 9-10s - Returns Friday 2nd April 1700-1800 @ St Barnabus. New players welcome.

Under 11s - Return Saturday 3rd April 1000-1200 and then Friday evenings 1800-1915 @ Elisha Field.

Under 13s - Return Friday 2nd April 1815-1915 @ Northbrook. New players welcome.

Under 14s - Return Friday 2nd April 1400 and then Friday evenings 1900-2000. This team have also entered Wiltshire Futsal league starting in May.

Under 15s - Return Tuesday 30th March 1915-2030 @ Northbrook.

Hopefully matches across the county will restart and teams can start to plan for playing tournaments when conditions allow.

Feedback from all teams shows that all are ready and keen to get back to action!

Club Secretary fundraising update - Still going strong and completed 5 runs at the time of writing (15th). Vicky is raising funds for a

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Secondary Cancer charity during the year and will run (virtually or physically) two 10k runs every month in memory of a friend who passed away in November. A link is on our Facebook page for people to read and support her if they wish.

Contacts for 2020/2021 Season:

Badger Cubs - Dave Kiddle - 07843 678781

U7 - Pete Huntley - 07974 756131

U9/10 - Mark Goddard - 01380 813160

U13 - Mark Goddard - 01380 813160

U15 - Aiden Allmark 07341 819154

U8 - Dave Kiddle - 07843 678781

U11 - Neil Black - 07769 261750

U14 - Dave Kiddle - 07843 678781

Follow us on Facebook – Worton and Cheverell Youth Football Club
(No other pages are approved by the club)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

As you all know, there are local elections in May. As it stands at the moment all of those on the Parish Council are men. I feel that 7 of the 9 are in many ways very like-minded and at times this makes it difficult to get a balanced view. I feel that the Council is lacking female input as ladies often look at things with a different perspective. If any ladies have any interest in joining the Council, please come forward. Your village needs you! I will vote for you.

Roger Wilshire



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Sarah 01380 720244
To book a place!

Hearts for Joy Stokes



Services in Wellsprings Benefice in March (& up to Easter) 2021

All our churches, except Christ Church, Worton and Marston, will be open for private prayer between 9:00am and 5:00pm each Sunday. Anyone attending our churches for private prayer are reminded to check-in (on paper or using the NHS app) and adhere to the covid safety notices displayed.

Date	Cycle/ Festival	Time	Service	Church leading service
28 th Mar	Palm Sunday	10am	Outdoor service	St Mary's, Potterne
		10am	Holy Communion	Holy Cross, Seend *
29 th Mar	Holy Week (Mon)	6 pm	Daily compline	Christ Church, Worton *
30 th Mar	Holy Week (Tues)	6pm	Daily compline	Holy Cross, Seend *
31 st Mar	Holy Week (Weds)	6pm	Daily compline	St Peter's, Poulshot *
1 st Apr	Maundy Thursday	7pm	Celtic/Tenebrae	Seend*
2 nd Apr	Good Friday	3pm	Hour at cross	Bulkington*
4 th Apr	Easter Sunday	10am	Holy Communion	Bulkington
4 th Apr	Easter Sunday	10am	Holy Communion	Potterne
4 th Apr	Easter Sunday	10am	Holy Communion	Poulshot
4 th Apr	Easter Sunday	10am	Holy Communion	Seend
4 th Apr	Easter Sunday	10am	Holy Communion	Worton *

Services in red: You are welcome to attend these services in person. We will be strictly adhering to covid regulations and there will be no singing. Please wear a mask and maintain safe social distancing. If you are shielding, vulnerable or anxious about the risk of covid, please do not attend. Booking is essential for all indoor services (not outdoor). Please email sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com or contact the church warden to reserve a space. If the weather is poor outdoor services will move inside the church and be zoomed.

Services in blue will be online only.

* These services will be available on Zoom on this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6778119535>

Prim and Keith Wright

Congratulations to Prim and Keith Wright on reaching their 60th Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated quietly on the 25th March. They received a message from Her Majesty and video calls from family and friends, near and far.

Prim and Keith were married at St Mary's Church Potterne, on a sunny but not too cold day and later that afternoon, took the train from Devizes to London before heading off to honeymoon in Austria.

The happy couple met on an October evening in 1959, at the Corn Exchange in Devizes, when Keith Wright, a young Sergeant in the Army Pay Corps, asked Primrose, a local Potterne girl, for a dance. It was just three weeks before the end of Keith's National Service after which, he returned home to his native Yorkshire. They wrote to each other constantly before Prim ventured north at Christmas to meet Keith's family for the very first time. During the course of the following year, Keith frequently travelled back down to Wiltshire to be with his new love; such a long journey by train in those days. The young couple got engaged in November 1960, Keith proposing on top of Roundway Hill (the old romantic!) and later suggesting that March the 25th 1961 would be a good date for the wedding – apparently, if you got married before the end of the tax year, there was a decent rebate to be had!

Shortly after the wedding and spending several weeks apart, Prim made the move to Yorkshire to be with her husband where they lived a very different, albeit happy life to what Primrose had been accustomed to in rural Wiltshire. In the early part of 1965, they decided to make Wiltshire their permanent home and moved south to the county.

After living with Prim's parents for a while, Prim and Keith bought a plot of land and built their home, a bungalow, in Edington. It took exactly a year – from clearing the site to moving in. Baby Duncan arrived in the August of 1968 and shortly after, they decided to buy one of the semi-detached houses being built in Worton that Keith drove past daily on his way to and from work at the Fire HQ in Potterne. Naming the house Aysgarth, after one of their fa-

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avourite places in Yorkshire, the young family moved in to their new home in January 1970. In November of that year, their second son Justin was born and their family was complete. Aysgarth and Worton will always be 'home' to Prim, Keith and 'the boys' and holds a wealth of happy memories for all.

Having immersed themselves in village life for over 50 years, Primrose and Keith are extremely grateful for all of the close friends they have. There aren't many village activities that haven't benefited in one way or another from their involvement throughout the years.

Prim and Keith would like to thank all of their friends in Worton and Marston for their support and kindness and we in return, would like to wish them both, a very Happy Diamond Anniversary.

Congratulations!

Love from all of your family and friends xxxxxxxx







Worton and Marston Gardening Club

Now Spring has arrived bringing us some normal Spring weather; a couple of warmer days, a bit of sunshine and frosty mornings, and more recently three or four days of gales with periods of rain and the occasional bit of sunshine. According to the forecast the weather is going to be a bit drier over the next couple of weeks allowing us to continue in the garden where we were forced to leave off by the wind and rain. Last weekend Jane and I started planting our vegetable seeds. After last year's failure with my parsnips I was especially careful preparing the seed bed for the parsnip seeds. The warm sunshine of the day helped no end and I was able to sow four rows in ideal conditions. Watch this space for results. I also planted a couple of rows of carrots, and a row of spring onions. Jane did so well with lettuce and beetroot last year, I have left their planting to her. We also spent time tidying our front garden. I have now urgently got to put plenty of horse manure and blood, meat and bone meal around the roses and shrubs. Last year we had plenty of flowers in spite of the drought, so I am hoping this year's results will be as good.

I was contacted this week by one of our Allard Owners Club members who farms between Berwick-on-Tweed and Edinburgh. He was hoping I had a spare part for his Allard as our two cars are the same. I was able to help him with the part and when I rang him back the following evening I was surprised to hear that he was hard at work driving his tractor, drilling barley. According to the weather reports over January and February, the north of England and Scotland have received lots of snow and rain this winter. I expressed my surprise that the ground was fit to work on. He told me that it had dried out surprisingly quickly but was 'a little raw', but that the threat of our last spell of rain determined he got the job done. Just a quick look at Spring activity up North.

Back to Worton now and looking forward to the end of 'Lockdown' we have decided to go ahead with our Village show. We will be keeping villagers informed as the months pass by, but at the moment cannot see why we it shouldn't go ahead. We also hope we shall be able to resume normal Club meetings from July

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on. Fingers crossed for the end of this 'Lockdown' and a happier end to the year. Best wishes everyone.

Dave.

As ever we are keeping a close eye on the changing rules and hopefully we'll have a better idea of what we'll be able to do soon! Certainly visits are a distinct possibility ...even if we have to go in smaller groups than usual. Watch this space!

Sally and I will be delivering sunflower seeds over the next 2 weeks...weather permitting.....let us know please if you don't have yours by Easter!

Sally svwood90@hotmail.com

Rosemary rosemaryrosenfeld@yahoo.co.uk





(Gardening Club photos kindly provided by Rosemary Rosenfeld)



APRIL BOOK SWAP



Have a Happy Easter in April & look forward to having Book Swap in May in the garden?

Keep safe & well. Judy
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V E and V J Day Event

Please note the NEW 2021 dates!

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Despite last years events being postponed we still need your family stories, photographs or war time artefacts to help us record this important event.
Keep them coming!

Was your family a member of the Armed forces, Land Army, Home Guard?
Were they evacuated or in a reserved occupation? Share your family stories.

People are interested.



Contact Chris Johnson 01380 720580 email cvs64@hotmail.com

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The Editor

25 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF FURLONG CLOSE, ROWDE

As your readers may be aware, in October last year, Hft announced that it had reached a joint decision with Wiltshire Council to evict the vulnerable residents of Furlong Close in Rowde, close the site and sell off the land for housing development. The shocked families of the residents, who had not been consulted, asked to talk to Hft and the Council about this terrible decision, but were told it was “a done deal”.

Many of the vulnerable residents (who suffer from a range of learning disabilities including Down syndrome, autism and epilepsy) have lived at Furlong Close for more than 20 years. My cousin, David, is one of those residents. David and the other residents have formed lifelong friendships at Furlong Close and developed close relationships with their carers, whom they know and trust and who provide them with kind and professional care. The residents’ disabilities make change very stressful for them. Breaking up their happy community and forcibly uprooting them from their settled home at Furlong Close, to scatter them to new and strange places in towns like Trowbridge and Chippenham, will be traumatic and distressing for them. In some cases, that trauma will be life-shortening. The residents are happy in Rowde and are well integrated into community life in the village, where they attend church, frequent the local pubs and cafes and have part-time work. They do not want to leave their

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settled home and they and their families are in despair at the prospect that they will be forced to do so.

All of this is made all the more cruel by the fact that there is no good reason why Furlong Close should be closed. The Care Quality Commission gives the site high marks for meeting the residents' needs and for treating them with *"compassion, kindness, dignity and respect"*. The CQC's most recent report on Furlong Close (from April 2020) described Furlong Close as having *"a very happy family atmosphere"* and observed that the residents *"are very caring of each other" and are "living a full and active life in a caring and safe environment"*.

Hft and the Council, however, say that the community model of care provided by Furlong Close is "outmoded" and, on that basis, want to break up this longstanding and happy community and disperse the residents to live a lonely existence in small flats in Trowbridge and Chippenham. This is unnecessary and cruel. The residents and their families deserve better.

Since that decision in October, the local community has rallied around the residents and their families. Our petition – <https://www.change.org/p/hft-and-wiltshire-council-stop-the-closure-of-hft-in-rowde> – has gathered an amazing 43,000 signatures from all over Wiltshire and beyond. The residents and their families and friends are extremely grateful to your readers and the local community for that support, which succeeded in getting the closure decision deferred from its original date of June 2021. The closure decision, however, has NOT been withdrawn and Furlong Close remains slated for closure.

The families continue to fight for Furlong Close to be saved and are optimistic that this will be achieved. In recent weeks, there have been some profoundly disturbing developments, but there is also a ray of hope.

The most extraordinary and disturbing of these recent developments is that, on 15 February, the CEO of Hft, Kirsty Matthews, wrote to Wiltshire Council, giving notice under its contracts with the Council. That notice expires on 19 May 2021. Hft has also an-

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nounced its intention to withdraw altogether from the provision of care services in Wiltshire.

In explaining why it has taken this dramatic step, Hft's CEO has said that the Council's conduct has made any commercial relationship between it and Hft *"untenable"*. Hft says that the Council, in saying publicly that it was Hft alone which decided to close Furlong Close, *"has lied about the commitments and decisions the Council made to Hft"*. Hft says that, far from being uninvolved in that decision, the Council was in fact the moving party behind it and that, in denying this, the Council is *"backpedaling"* and trying to *"hide behind"* Hft. Even more disturbing, in the same letter, Hft's CEO also says that Hft has *"witnessed significant breaches by the Council of its statutory duties towards the service users at Rowde, which it is not prepared to be associated with"*.

Unsurprisingly, allegations by a major, reputable national charity (HRH Princess Anne is its patron) that Wiltshire Council has *"lied"* about its role in the closure decision and breached its statutory duties towards the residents of Furlong Close have given rise to calls for an independent inquiry into the conduct of the Council. On 23 February, the leader of Wiltshire Council, Philip Whitehead, ordered an internal, rapid scrutiny exercise, but this has now been shelved. The result is that these accusations will remain hanging over the head of the Council as Wiltshire voters go to the polls to elect their new Council in May.

All of this has been bad news for the residents and their families, as Hft's giving notice means that the clock is now ticking towards 19 May, when the termination of Hft's contract to provide care at Furlong Close takes effect.

Fortunately, however, Hft has offered the Council the opportunity to bring in a new operator and lease the site for at least two years. This would avert the catastrophe and trauma of a closure later this year, and give the families the time to find a long-term solution to save Furlong Close for its current and future residents. But that offer has now been sitting on the table for four weeks while, instead of saving Furlong Close for its residents, Hft and the Council have busied themselves writing lawyer's letters to each other.

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We need the help of your readers, to press Wiltshire Council and Hft to do this deal, save Furlong Close for at least two years and avoid the trauma and distress that will be suffered if the residents are forced to leave. While Hft and the Council prevaricate, vulnerable and innocent people are suffering and we are calling for decisive action.

If your readers would like to help us, can they please do two things:

Email the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Philip Whitehead and the CEO of Hft, Kirsty Matthews and urge them to work together urgently to save Furlong Close; at

Philip.Whitehead@wiltshire.gov.uk and
kirsty.matthews@hft.org.au ; and

Press your local candidates standing for Council about what they are going to do to save Furlong Close, and don't be fobbed off with waffle about "having discussions" or "keeping people updated" or "staying in touch".

Thank you to the people of Wiltshire for their continuing support for the vulnerable residents of Furlong Close.

Yours faithfully,

Mark J Steele



May 2021 Elections

On 6 May 2021, all eligible residents in Wiltshire will be invited to vote in a number of elections and referendums.

The Police and Crime Commissioner elections, Town and parish elections, Unitary elections, and ten local Neighbourhood planning referendums will all be taking place.

Wiltshire Council's top priority is for you to have your say in a safe way.

Further information is available on their website:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/Elections-2021

It is important that you are **registered to vote** so that you can have your say.

Vote by post if you can: The deadline to register for a postal vote for the 6 May elections is 5pm on 20 April 2021.

Polling stations: All polling stations will be COVID-secure, with full risk assessments carried out.

How is Worton Parish Council affected?

All existing councillors cease to be councillors and will have to be nominated for election if they wish to stand again for the next term (2021-2025)

Are there specific dates I should know about?

Yes, a timetable of relevant and specific dates can be found at:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media/4911> but if you are thinking of standing for election your nomination must be in by **8 April**.

Can anyone be elected to the Parish Council?

To be able to stand for election (or co-option) to a local council, an individual must meet certain qualifications (by law). They must be:

- Over 18 and a UK, Commonwealth, ROI, or EU Citizen and
- An elector for the parish, or
- For the last 12 months, have occupied land or premises in the parish, or

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- Work in the parish (principal or only place of work), or
- Live within 3 miles of the parish boundary

Someone cannot stand for election, if at the time of their nomination and on polling day:

- They are employed by the parish/community council or hold a paid office under the parish/community council (including joint boards or committees).
- They are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order.
- They have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the five years before polling day.
- They have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations). a person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for five years.

How are candidates nominated?

There is guidance for candidates and nomination forms at <https://bit.ly/38CSxkr>

Candidates should also be advised to check the relevant principal authority website:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/Elections-2021

Candidates need to have two subscribers (a proposer and a seconder) and will need to advise them that they will require their Electoral Register number and how it will be used (for GDPR purposes). This information will be in the nomination form and candidate pack.

Nomination papers have to be delivered in person. Wiltshire Council is encouraging appointments to do this and has created a booking system – see www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-town-parish for details.

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Will a poll take place for the local council election?

It depends. If, by 8th April only the same number, or fewer candidates than there are seats on the council have been nominated, they will be elected unopposed. If there are more candidates than there are seats on the council – it will go to the poll on 6th May. More information about being a councillor is available on the Wiltshire Council website: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-becoming-a-councillor>

Kindly provided by Liz Starling, Clerk to Worton Parish Council



(kindly provided by Sally Collins)



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School and Church Fete - Plant Sale

As there will be no fete again this year due to covid restrictions, we are planning to hold a separate plant sale again together with Bill and Dot Francis along similar lines to last year. Although exact arrangements, and dates and times have not yet been finalised it will happen during the first half of May. Final details will appear in the May issue of The Bridge.

Tony Walker

Back Lane

It seems many villagers are appreciating the improved surface at the east end of Back Lane - all those who are able-bodied have a less able-bodied but very plucky villager to thank for this, as she contacted our county councillor about it & prompted action. A salutary reminder that we all have a voice & a vote & should use them.

Judy Shercliff



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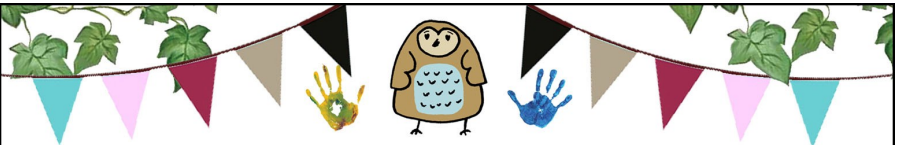
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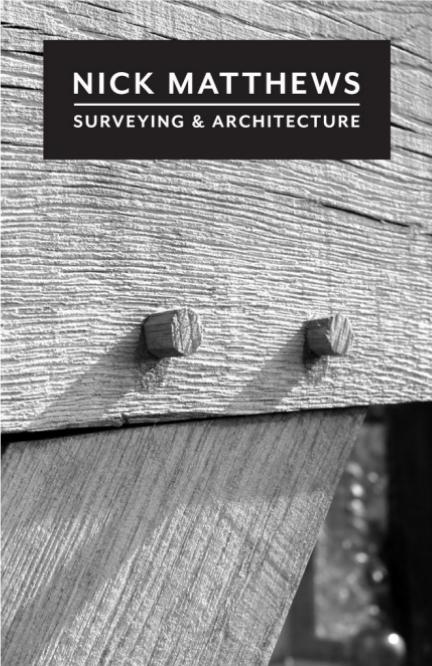
Email: hilaryhornblower@gmail.com

Worton Toddlers



According to the Government update on 22nd February, the earliest we can open is from the 12th April which is the Easter break. This means that our earliest return date will be 21st April. So with fingers tightly crossed that there are no further changes, and current restrictions are lifted at the village hall, it looks as though we may be able to enjoy a few weeks of Toddlers before the Summer Holidays. Keep checking The Bridge, village notice boards and our Facebook page for updates.

Hilary, Tina and Ellie xx



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Surprisingly it has been a busy month for Village Hall Trustees. We have taken receipt of new crockery that is dishwasher safe and a dishwasher that has been plumbed in by Douglas Crisp and Jeff Stocks. We were fortunate enough to be successful in our grant application for such and we hope this will mean that people will feel safer eating and drinking in the Hall when we can all meet up again. The quickest setting is for a fifteen-minute wash so should be able to be used by all groups.

We have also sent for a sample chair which we hope will be suitable to replace the plastic ones. If it proves to be suitable we will go ahead and order new chairs which should provide greater comfort.

We hope to be able to keep the nicest bits of the old crockery and some of the plastic chairs in case villagers wish to borrow either for events not at the Village Hall and we are currently exploring storage possibilities for this.

We've made the decision to support the national movement to not cut lawns and roadside verges but to keep them growing in the hope of encouraging wild flowers and thereby supporting bees and butterflies. So for the time being we will not be cutting the grass at the Village Hall. We know that this might be controversial to some villagers and we apologise for that but we just want to see what happens if we don't mow. If it looks awful we will revisit this decision.

We were disappointed that no one gave us art to put up in the Hall windows ... come on people, surely someone is artistic/crafty? The theme for April will be Spring/Easter. Let's see if we can't brighten the hall up a bit. There is still a plastic box to the right of the main entrance of the Hall for your contributions or you can post them through the door at 11 Gaisford Chase (or hand them to me if I am in ... and frankly I'm in quite a bit these days!).

200 Club

It's time to renew your 200 Club contributions. Renewal has been very slow so we hope that's because you forgot rather than you don't want to rejoin. If you do intend to rejoin please phone me on 726845 so I can put you into the April draw. You can either pay by cheque through my front door (11 Gaisford Chase) or via bank

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transfer ...account number 00327868; sort code 30-92-63. If you pay by transfer please let me know as there is always a delay before we receive the notification. It costs £12 per ticket for the year and you are entered each month into a draw to win £50. At the moment this is the only way we can raise funds for the Village Hall unless we are successful in grant applications.

We plan to hold our AGM by zoom on Tuesday April 27th at 7pm. If you would like to join us please contact me on veronica.franklin@btinternet.com or 726845 and I will pass your details to Sarah. If anyone is keen to come onto the Trustee group please also let me know.

Veronica Franklin



(kindly provided by Sally Collins)

ECO -CORNER

A carbon footprint is defined as the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of an individual, organisation or community. Almost everything you do releases an amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. For example the food we eat accounts for 20-30% of our annual household carbon footprint. The emissions come from the processes involved in the production and transport of our food. (Ref: Climate Stewards <https://www.climatestewards.org/reduce/>). Reducing the amount of meat that you eat and where possible eating locally grown, unprocessed food will reduce your carbon footprint. Choosing a renewable electricity provider will significantly reduce your carbon footprint.

The Climate Change Act 2008 established a target for the UK to reduce its emissions by at least 80% from the 1990 level by 2050. In 2019, following the Paris Agreement, the target was changed to net-zero by 2050 ie 100% reduction in emissions. According to the Committee on Climate Change, in 2016 household emissions of CO₂ accounted for 40% of all UK emissions. In 2016 the average UK household's emissions were 12.19 tonnes - this includes the impact of housing, heating, diet, transport and lifestyle.

If you would like to estimate your household's carbon footprint the WWF has a quick and fun way to calculate this which will show you how your emissions compare to the average person in the UK:

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

Once you know how big your carbon footprint is, you can think about areas where you can reduce or eliminate aspects of your household's emissions. Those things which cannot be eliminated can

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be offset by compensating financially for your emissions. Carbon offsetting schemes invest in environmental projects around the world. The money you give to offset your CO₂ emissions is used to support climate friendly initiatives in the developing world such as tree planting in Kenya and smokeless stoves in Nepal. Climate Stewards provide some really helpful suggestions about how you can reduce your carbon emissions and a simple route to offset the rest.

<https://www.climatestewards.org/offset/>

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

Wiltshire Climate Summit

**If you missed the Wiltshire Climate Summit
on Friday, February 19th
links below will allow you the chance to catch up!**

The cross-party Summit was hosted by Danny Kruger MP.

Speakers in the morning session were Minette Batters (Wiltshire farmer and President of the NFU), Emma Dawney (economist and Green Party candidate for Devizes in 2019), Joe Brindle (a student leading a national campaign to have climate science fully taught in schools), Lt. General Richard Nugee (Ministry of Defence lead on climate change), Richard Clewer (Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council), Tim Wade (local farmer), Louisa Davidson (Climate Change Lobby), Juliet Davenport (founder of Good Energy), Graham Martin (Sustainable Devizes), Jemma Batten (an agri-environmental consultant) and Evangeline Rowe (Wiltshire Climate Alliance Youth Group).

Some 400 local farmers, business people, students, activists and other concerned residents attended the Summit to learn about the issues and to voice their views regarding what can be done, locally and nationally, to combat climate change. Polls were conducted for each speaker to gauge the views of the audience.

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Andrew Griffiths MP, the UK's Net Zero Business Champion for COP 26, closed the morning session with a brief talk and Q&A.

A recording of the morning session can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/q1WHAQTSUDQ>

Following lunch, Breakout sessions provided the opportunity for attendees to take part in one or more sessions on the following topics before feedback from the discussions by the sessions' Chairs:

1. Local policy, chaired by Ariane Crampton of Wiltshire Council
2. Global policy, chaired by Nick Gibbins of New Resource Energy
3. Business, chaired by Juliet Davenport of Good Energy
4. Food and farming, chaired by Paul Cottingham, NFU Environmental Lead for the South West.

The day concluded with a presentation by Claire Perry O'Neill, former President of COP-26.

A recording of the afternoon session can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/6egr0kpFR7o>

"As we approach COP26," declared Danny, "I want Wiltshire voices to be heard in the national debate, and to celebrate the brilliant work that is already going on in the county."

The cross-party focussed campaign The Time is Now, run by The Climate Coalition, may also be of interest to you:

https://thetimeisnow.uk/?mc_cid=c512960323&mc_eid=345103c9f0

(kindly provided by : Anne Wilson mrsannewilson@gmail.com
and Sandra Gamble acanadiangamble@gmail.com)



*Extracts from The Bridge (April 1991),
kindly provided by Tony Walker*

WARE FARM

I am about to embark on a tremendous adventure through Argentina on horseback. I would like the Church roof to benefit from this exciting trip and am trying to raise as much money as possible. A friend from Norfolk, John Labouchere is planning to ride from Barilocho Argentine to San Antonio Texas, following up the route of the historic journey made by A.F. Tschiffely in 1930. Until now no one has tried to recreate the whole of this amazing journey.

I am one of six people John is taking on the journey for 2 weeks each covering roughly 300 miles, and leave on Sunday March 31st. Please sponsor me and help the church roof (form enclosed).

Jane Matthews

SITUATION VACANT.

A Clerical Assistant is required at Worton C.P. School for 7 hours per week (term time only). Salary Scale: £734 - £1,395 (minimum salary at 21: £1,078) including 4 weeks paid holiday. Application forms from the School. Closing date for application April 5th.

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*Extracts from The Bridge (April 1991),
kindly provided by Tony Walker*

CINDERFELLA

*The Ladies Group panto was such fun
Lots of laughs for everyone
The two ugly sisters were a scream
Ralph and Tony, what a team
There was also Postman Pat
Not forgetting Jess the cat
Baron Bogbrush chased Mother Hubbard
Who hid under the table, not in the cupboard
There was even a Miss World contest (Devizes heat)
Which really turned out quite a treat
Cinders was transported by Bodmans bus
No carriage and ponies for the likes of us
She won hands down, then off to the ball (disco)
Where a good time was had by all.
Prince Charming, aptly named Prince Hill
Was enamoured, what a thrill
I quite forgot the Fairy Godmother
In blonde wig, Sheila, no other
Could play that part as well as she
Keeping the kids, alert as could be
So after all the fun and laughter
Everyone lived happy ever after.*

(Congratulations to Primrose Wright who produced the panto)

I. Hale



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The village hall now owns this 9m x 3m party gazebo
Ideal for parties or even wedding receptions
It is available for hire for just £50.

Please contact:

Pauline (720248) or Jeff (726845) or any other Trustee

*Extracts from The Bridge (April 1991),
kindly provided by Tony Walker*

LADIES GROUP PANTO

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard for many weeks to make "CINDERFELLA" such a success. Extra special thanks to all "the girls" and our four intrepid "boys" for their lovely gift of a director's chair - are they trying to tell me something??

The Saturday night produced some hair-raising moments when we had a power-cut shortly beforehand. However, I was very touched by people's kindness and the general feeling that "the show will go on". A generator appeared for the lights and heating, a camping gas stove turned up for making the coffee and the cast and audience arrived with torches determine to see something! As it happened, the power was restored in time but it had certainly brought out the best in community spirit.

We had two full houses and in hindsight perhaps we should have had three - never mind, there's always a next time! The proceeds amounted to the wonderful sum of £364 which I know will be much appreciated by the village hall committee as they are faced with a very large bill for the recent plumbing work.

Thank you all,
Primrose Wright.

The Worton and Marston Ladies' Group Pantomime "Cinderfella" was one of the most entertaining shows I have ever seen. The audience was kept in stitches most of the time. I can't remember the last time I laughed so much.

It was brilliantly written, all the members of the cast and the stage-hands did a superb job. Those who didn't see it missed a wonderful evening out.

Worton and Marston's Cinderfella gets my nomination for the BAPE award. BEST AMATEUR PANTOMIME EVER.

Gill Mason.

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*Extracts from The Bridge (April 1991),
kindly provided by Tony Walker*

EDITOR'S MISTEAK! 'OVER 60's CLUB

I apologise for the error in last month's magazine where I stated that the annual cost of joining the Over 60's was £12. This is **wrong** and the fee is only £1.20. I hope nobody took out a bank loan!

Editor

WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING APPEALS

With reference to the two planning appeals by Messrs. Gill Associates representing Mr. Blake, Prince Hill House, against the refusal of planning permission by Kennet District Council for the following developments:

- a. Erection of 18 retirement homes within the walled garden of Prince Hill House and,
- b. Extension of Christ Church graveyard.

Erection of 9 social dwellings for rent and 6 bungalows for sale. Landscaped village open space, picnic area, car-parking and the diversion of a footpath.

Both appeals were considered upon written representation and a site visit by the D.O.E. Inspector.

Decision. Both appeals were dismissed.

VILLAGE DIARY

Regular Meetings

In the Village Hall
(all currently suspended or on Zoom)

- **Gardening Club**
3rd Monday 8.00pm (not Aug/Dec)
- **Pilates classes**
Thursdays 7pm-8pm & 8pm-9pm
- **Ladies Group**
Last Wednesday (not Aug/Dec)
- **Women's Institute**
2nd Tuesday 7.45pm
- **Worton Toddler Group**
Wednesday 10.00 am - Noon
- **1st Worton & Marston Brownies**
Alternate Tuesdays (term time only)
- **Worton Parish Council Meeting**
1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

In the Chapel at Marston
(currently suspended or on Zoom)

- **Marston Parish Council Meeting**
Last Tuesday (every odd month)

Various Venues
Announced Monthly

- **Book Swap**
2nd Saturday 10.00 - Noon

Mobile Library

Location: The School, 1.10 - 1.50pm
Next Dates: 29th March & 26th April

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

Forthcoming Events

21st Toddlers (probably?)
23rd Are you Crafty? (Zoom)
27th Village Hall AGM (Zoom)

Kerbside Collections

**Black box and Plastic
and card recycling:**
Tuesdays 6th & 20th

Household waste:
Wednesdays 14th & 28th

Garden waste:
Fridays 2nd & 16th & 30th



Worton and Marston Link

If you need help with transport for hospital appointments visiting the doctor and dentist or other important journeys.

**Call W&M Link
on 07413 912828**

Deadline for items for the next Bridge is 15th April 2021
Giles Collins, Editor at Westview House, 109 High Street, Worton
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