

# The Bridge



**Worton and Marston  
Parish Magazine**

**December  
2023**

**Price 40p**



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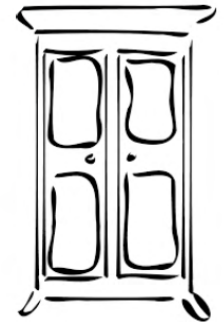
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# THE BRIDGE

Editor: Giles Collins [editorofthebridge@gmail.com](mailto:editorofthebridge@gmail.com)

## Chris Gingell

Chris Gingell, who moved to the village in 1991, died in November after a very long illness. He is survived by his wife Ros, his children Kate, Paul, Tom and Laurie, and his grandchildren Theo and Rose. He was supported throughout his illness by the staff of the Dorothy House Hospice who in the final weeks also enabled him to remain at home, for which the family are very grateful.

## The Children's Society Box Collections

The total of the household boxes in aid of the Children's Society amounted to the splendid sum of £520.09. I'd just like to express my thanks to each household which contributed. Also, many thanks to Tom Harwood and Frank Marshall who helped to count the money. I am advised by the Society that house box holders raise nearly £1 million a year in support of the Charity's work amongst vulnerable children. Should anyone wish to join in the scheme, please let me know so that I can arrange to deliver a collection box.

Tony Walker  
01380 725785

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## Pastoral Letter

### You are Invited!

As Christmas approaches we can find ourselves getting swept away in a whirlwind of activity as we seek to ensure that everyone's expectations of the season's celebration are met.

I wonder what Mary's expectations were in the days leading up to the birth of her son Jesus? I doubt she imagined it would take place in a lowly stable amongst the animals sheltering from the cold, in Bethlehem. After all, it was an angel who had visited her and invited her to be the mother of Jesus, 'Emmanuel', God with us.

No doubt she would not have expected either, that local shepherds would be told of the birth by an angel, amidst a multitude of angels, praising God's Glory. Nor would she have expected to be visited by kings, who had followed a star from a distant land, to bring precious gifts and their heartfelt worship to her baby son.

This year as many of us come once again to celebrate Christmas, we do so knowing that no matter how hard we try, we cannot possibly create the perfect Christmas, for ourselves or anyone else. But we can accept God's invitation to share together and celebrate afresh the gift of his son, 'Emmanuel', God with us. God with us, not only at Christmas time, but with us this day and everyday no matter what.

The Wellsprings Family of Churches would like to invite you to join us across the Benefice for our various services as we celebrate Christmas. These include, Carol, Crib and Nativity Services, Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve and morning services on Christmas Day. Please see the magazine and our website for full details.

A special invitation, to our Live Nativity, in the Vicarage Byre at 22 Dial Close, Seend on 20th December from 6.30-8pm. All welcome, real donkey in the barn, carols, mulled wine, fire pit and more!

In the New Year we will also be celebrating the arrival of our new Wellsprings Rector, Revd. Gerry Lynch, more details to follow!

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Revd. Caroline O'Neill  
Associate Priest

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<b>SERVICE CALENDAR</b>
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<b>DECEMBER 2023</b>
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<b>Sun Dec 3rd</b>	1ST IN ADVENT 9.30am.  6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion  <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Revd Gary Gotham</i>
<b>Sun Dec 10th</b>	2ND IN ADVENT 9.30am  6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Morning Praise  <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Carols by Candlelight</i>
<b>Sun Dec 17th</b>	3RD IN ADVENT 9.30am  6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion  <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Revd Gary Gotham</i>
<b>Sun Dec 24th</b>	CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Carol Service
<b>Mon Dec 25th</b>	CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Family Communion
<b>Sun Dec 31st</b>	CHRISTMAS 1	CHRIST CHURCH No Service (Benefice Service is at Bulkington at 10.00am)

<b>JANUARY 2024</b>
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<b>Sun Jan 7th</b>	EPIPHANY 9.30am  6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Revd Gary Gotham</i>
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There were no weddings, funerals or baptisms at Christ Church during October.
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Visit the church website: [www.christchurchworton.org.uk](http://www.christchurchworton.org.uk)



**WELLSPRINGS BENEFICE SERVICES**

**DECEMBER 2023**

We would like to warmly invite you to join us at our services across the benefice this Christmas.

<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup></b> 3:30pm	Messy Church	Potterne Village Hall
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> (Advent 1)</b> 8am 9:30am 9:30am 11am 11am	Matins Holy Communion Matins Morning Praise Holy Communion	Potterne Worton Poulshot Bulkington Seend
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> (Advent 2)</b> 9:30am 9:30am 9:30am 11am 4pm	Morning Praise Morning Praise Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Bulkington Worton Poulshot Potterne Seend
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> (Advent 3)</b> 8am 9:30am 9:30am 6pm 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion Holy Communion Carol Service Carol Service	Seend Poulshot Worton Bulkington Potterne
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b> 7pm	Carol Service	Seend
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> (Advent 4/Christmas Eve)</b> 2pm 6pm 6pm 11:30pm 11:30pm	Crib Service Carol Service Carol Service Midnight Communion Midnight Communion	Bulkington Poulshot Worton Potterne Seend
<b>Christmas Day</b> 9am 9:30am 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am	Family Holy Communion Family Holy Communion Family Holy Communion Family Holy Communion Family Holy Communion	Bulkington Potterne Poulshot Worton Seend
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> (Christmas 1)</b> 10am	Benefice Service	Bulkington

(continued on next page)



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**Every Tuesday, 9am Daily Prayer service at Poulshot**

Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

Tuesday Group meets each week at 10am in Potterne. Call 723289 for details.

Please visit our website [www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk](http://www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk) for more details of all our services, latest updates and to keep in touch.

**Ministry Team**

Rector:	Vacant	
Associate Priest:	Rev Caroline O'Neill	01380 828302
Benefice Administrator:	Sarah Leckie	07516 224057
		<a href="mailto:sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com">sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com</a>

**Church Registers**

No baptisms, weddings or funerals this month.

## Devizes Flower Club

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month  
Upstairs in Devizes Town Hall, SN10 1BN  
Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

If you love flowers then come and join us for monthly professional guest demonstrators, practical sessions and seasonal workshops tutored for all abilities, summer garden visits and much more.

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## From Christ Church:

We are delighted that Revd. Gerry Lynch has been appointed the new Rector of Wellsprings Benefice.

Gerry has been a Curate in St John's Church in Devizes for the past three years and has also been doing services in all the churches in the Benefice during the last year, so he is familiar with the churches and congregations, and we have all got to know him a little as well. He will be licensed on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024, in St Mary's Church, Potterne.

We still think of, and pray for Revd. Ali as her treatment continues, and for Revd. Adrian who is also unwell at the present time.

An All Souls service was held, a quiet reflective service for those who have lost loved ones.

Five Lanes School held their well-prepared Remembrance service in church on 10<sup>th</sup> November and the Brownies and Rainbows and families joined the Church service on Remembrance Sunday.

The Toddlers group will be in church doing their Christmas activities, hearing the Nativity story, and decorating the Christmas tree, near the end of term.

The monthly Family service is enjoyed by several families, all the children being very comfortable and relaxed, joining in activities, and enjoying the cake, along with the adults after the service!

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December we are running the Cake and Christmas goodies stall at the Village Hall Bazaar. Donations for the stall will be very welcome.

On 16<sup>th</sup> December the Christmas Community Café will be held from 10am – 12noon. Come along and enjoy coffee, cake, chat with friends, maybe play a board game.....

Christmas Eve, our Carol Service will be held at 6pm.

We would like to thank all who have helped keep our church and churchyard in such good order and looking so lovely with wonderful flowers in church throughout the year, and for those who help in any way to keep our services running. Sarah, the Benefice administrator does a wonderful job to ensure that every church in the Benefice maintains its pattern of service.

With best wishes for Christmas and 2024.

Heather and Jean, Churchwardens



**Carols By  
Candlelight**

**Marston Chapel**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**6:00pm**

**All welcome**

## WORTON & MARSTON LADIES GROUP

October, we joined Poulshot Ladies for an evening with local Poulshot artist Jean Perrett, who from a blank canvas added a few swift strokes of the paint brush here and there, adding colour she gradually transformed it into a beautiful local scene. I'm sure it inspired some of us to pick up a brush and have a go. An enjoyable evening with refreshments and wine to follow.

November meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> is back in the Village Hall for a games/quizzing evening. Sally and Alison to host.

By the time you read this we will have had our December AGM meeting, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2024.

Pam Woods

## WORTON AND MARSTON FAMILY OF CHURCHES

We hope you can come and join us for our **BEER AND CAROLS** evening at the rear of **THE ROSE AND CROWN** at **8:00PM**. All your well known/loved carols, fires for warmth and yummy snacks. Hosted by Jackie and John.

Having got into the carol mood, join us at **MARSTON CHAPEL** on **SUNDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00PM for **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**.

**NEWCOMERS WELCOME PARTY** on **FRIDAY JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30PM in the **VILLAGE HALL**.

We haven't identified many houses changing hands this year!! If **YOU** moved into Worton or Marston during 2023, please get in touch so you can receive a **FREE TICKET!**

Tickets for other villagers to buy will be available early January. Look out for posters etc. If you would like to offer help with food or on the night please contact **JEAN** on **722069** or **HEATHER** on **725785**.

We are a non-profit-making group so when we find we have a surplus, we like to give some money away to charities. We have recently sent £150 to both Wiltshire Youth for Christ and Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal.

Christmas Tree Festival 2023  
St Barnabas Church Easterton  
This year's theme is A Children's Story  
Will you be able to guess which ones?  
Come and join us on  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
10.00-16.00  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
**Free Admission**  
**Craft Activities for Children**  
**Children's story telling at 11.00 and 15.00 each day.**  
**Competition**  
**Raffle**  
**Refreshments**  
**Contact June Wright for more details**  
[junwri@outlook.com](mailto:junwri@outlook.com)





1<sup>st</sup> Lavington Guides meet termtime on a Thursday 6.15-7.45pm in Market Lavington. Girls aged 10-14 years old from Worton, Potterne, Market Lavington and surrounding villages come together for fun, engaging activities. We explore a variety of activities and themes including crafts, arts, camping skills and loads of other things that you will absolutely love. Come and join our small, welcoming guide pack, meet new friends and enjoy trying new things together.

'I wasn't really sure what guides was or what they did. I went for a taster session and loved it. Everyone was so friendly and really made me feel welcome. I've been a guide for nearly 2 years now and I love it, we do loads of different, fun stuff' - A Guide

For more information or to arrange a free taster session contact Emma [lavingtonguides@gmail.com](mailto:lavingtonguides@gmail.com) or 07866 498759



## DECEMBER BOOK SWAP



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10.00am - 12 noon**  
 Westview House, 109 High Street,  
 Worton (hosted by Sally Collins)

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January**  
**10.00am - 12 noon**  
 11 Mill Road (hosted by Elizabeth Murray)

Over quite a few years, & despite all the crises in the outside world, generous bookworms have given almost exactly £175 to The Children's Society – many thanks again.



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**Potterne  
Christmas Market  
Saturday Dec 2nd  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
at the Village Hall  
and the Social Club**

Come and support Potterne people  
and organisations.

**Worton Community Speedwatch  
October/November 2023**

(Speedwatch sessions are of 45 minutes duration)

Sessions: **SIX**

Total Vehicles Counted: **2,043**

Vehicles recorded for exceeding the 30mph speed limit: **60** of which **11** were reported to Wiltshire Police for excess speed.

Maximum Speed Recorded: **38mph** on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October between 15.30 and 16.15.

Highest vehicle count **499** on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October between 15.30 and 16.15

(The comparable figures for **October 2022** were: Sessions **7**, Vehicles **1,801** with **143** vehicles exceeding 30mph of which **27** were reported for excess speed. Maximum Speed Reported **42mph**)

Bob Mitchell

**Christmas Trees**

You choose then we cut

**Saturdays and Sundays  
9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Open 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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**Christmas Village Carol Singing  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6:00-8:00pm**



Join us to sing carols around Worton and Marston on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**. No rehearsals necessary, just some Christmas spirit and singing enthusiasm. Bring an instrument too if you would like to play along. All welcome, including children accompanied by an adult, and no previous experience necessary!

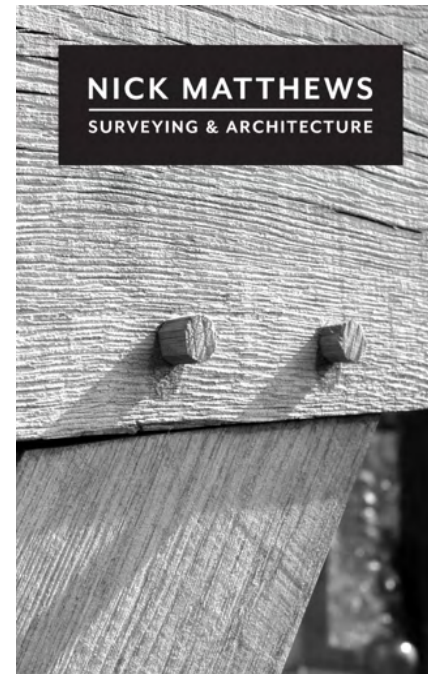
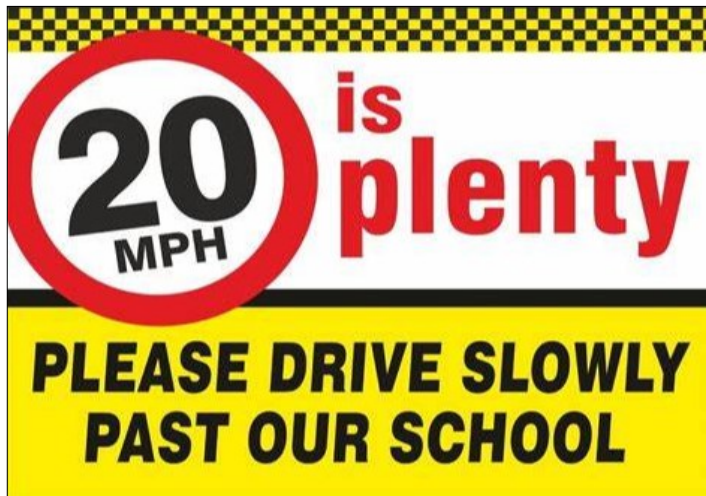
Meet at the corner of Gaisford Chase/High Street at 5:45pm, wrap up warm and bring a torch. We will walk to various locations through the villages (see below), finishing up at church for hot chocolate (estimated to be around 8:00pm). If you'd like to join in, but would prefer to drive between singing points, that should work out fine, and it would be lovely if lifts could be offered to others in the villages. Or just join us at one of the locations below.

In the event of very poor weather, we will publicise alternative arrangements on the Worton and Marston Community Network Facebook page.

Any queries, or for more information, contact Catherine [cathbridger@hotmail.com](mailto:cathbridger@hotmail.com) or Rachel [rachelholland@mac.com](mailto:rachelholland@mac.com) Participants take part at their own risk.

**Approximate timings:**

- 6:00pm Gaisford Chase
- 6:20pm The Old Forge Garage
- 6:45pm Mill Head
- 7:15pm The Plough/The Green, Marston
- 7:45pm Christ Church, Worton



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# Christ Church Christmas Community Café



**A warm welcome**



Feeling a bit frazzled?

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**chat relax Christmas craft**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Family fun**

**board games**

We look forward to welcoming you



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### Worton and Marston Garden Club

We have enjoyed a varied and interesting gardening year with talks, social gatherings and garden visits. Not to mention the planting of the commemorative Crab Apple beside the church and the collaboration with the Parish Council on the flowerpots which now adorn the outside of the Village Hall.

We do not have a meeting this December. We will be starting our new 2024 programme on January 15<sup>th</sup> starting with the very popular Quiz. Not all horticulture, but quite a lot of it is related in some way. Teams of 6 and new members/visitors welcome.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and look forward to a busy gardening year in 2024.

Best wishes  
Alison Parker  
aelparker@aol.com

### Does anyone have a knowledge of the village in wartime?

My mother and I were evacuated from east London to the village in 1939/40 and I am led to believe we stayed with a Mrs Anstey. My mother died some years ago aged 98 never having told me any more other than that Mrs Anstey was a wonderful woman who looked after us well. My only memory is a steep narrow staircase with Mrs Anstey at the top and a toy red fire engine that I played with in the garden. Even the date, 1939/40 is as a result of working around what else I know.

I have left it a little late in life to start on this research but you never know? I'm fascinated to think what this might turn up.

If you can help with my research in anyway, I would be very grateful if you could get in contact using the email address below.  
I now live in East Sussex.

Kind regards,  
Gary Woodhouse  
[gwoodhouse0@icloud.com](mailto:gwoodhouse0@icloud.com)



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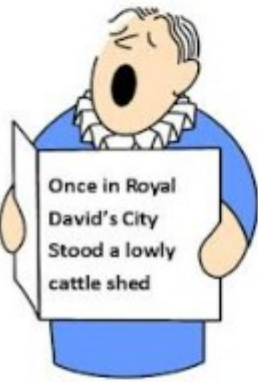
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[www.doggy-dilemmas.co.uk](http://www.doggy-dilemmas.co.uk)






**BEER**




Once in Royal  
David's City  
Stood a lowly  
cattle shed

and



**CAROLS**

**7 pm Monday 4th December**  
**outside at the**  
**Rose and Crown Worton**



**Celebrating Christmas in Worton & Marston**



**Beer and Carols**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**  
**7:00pm at The Rose & Crown**  
Gather behind the pub to sing some favourite carols and enjoy seasonal refreshments, warmed up by cosy wood burners and accompanied by live music.

**Carols by candlelight**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6:00pm at Marston Chapel**  
A longstanding tradition of readings and well-known carols.

**Christmas Community Café**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00am-12:00pm at Christ Church**  
Drop in any time for free festive family fun – tea, coffee, cake, Christmas craft, board games, chat and good cheer. You will be sure of a warm welcome, a warm space, and some time to relax, make merry – and perhaps make new friends too.

**Community Carol Singing around our village**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 6:00-8:00pm**  
Join us to sing carols around Worton and Marston. All welcome, including children accompanied by an adult. No previous experience necessary and bring an instrument if you'd like to play along too! Meet at the corner of Gaisford Chase/High Street from 5:45pm, wrap up warm and bring a torch. We will walk to various locations through the villages, finishing up at church for hot chocolate (estimated to be around 7:45pm). More details appear elsewhere in The Bridge.  
Approximate timings (but may run slightly later): 6:00pm Gaisford Chase, 6:20pm The Old Forge Garage, 6:45pm Mill Head, 7:15pm The Plough/The Green, Marston, 7:45pm Christ Church, Worton.

**Carol Service**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve): 6:00pm at Christ Church**  
Traditional carols and readings suitable for all the family.

**Christmas Day: Holy Communion Service**  
9:30am at Christ Church



## FIVE LANES WI

Our November meeting was well attended and we were, as always, impressed by a display of flower arranging by local expert, Pam Lewis. Pam had been at a class all day, which shows you can always learn something new. She showed us two items she had made there, and went on to explain how the flower arranging world now try and avoid where possible, the use of Oasis, as it is not bio-degradable! Sadly some of the substitutes are not much better so we must all be careful not to let bits of oasis go down sinks as pieces may well end up in the sea.

So some of Pam's arrangements were made by using covered insulation boards, and attaching orchid tubes ( a bit like test tubes) to them. A little water in the tubes, then flowers and foliage are inserted into them. Some members have pictures so just ask if you want to see them. Pam did one arrangement using Oasis, though, which was a beautiful green and yellow one on a gold platter and a big white candle in the centre. Another was an upright Christmas Tree shape with orange flowers and greenery put into the aforementioned tubes. Stunning! A great idea for a shelf or windowsill was a display of 3 covered tins with water in, and arrangements of foliage and flowers, simply put in the water in the tins. I say simply, but Pam, of course, makes it look simple.

We were very grateful to Pam for giving up her evening and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially those who won arrangements in the raffle!!

Our December meeting is on **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** but this is now to be held at the home of Helen Bodman. We will try some Christmas Crafts, prepared by Sarah and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. **Please car share.** We will be discussing our **MEAL OUT** on **WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Jean Lane 722069

## VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

200 Club winner for November: Harriet Andrews, Congratulations.  
Pam Woods, Administrator, Worton & Marston Village Hall  
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I am keen to earn some money over the summer and wondered if anyone needed help with strimming or mowing. I can be contacted on 07885579240 or [bodmanjoe9@gmail.com](mailto:bodmanjoe9@gmail.com)

I have my own strimmer but would need to use your mower.

I charge £12 per hour.

Many thanks.

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**Living Nativity**

**20th December 6-8pm**

**Seend Vicarage Byre**  
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Details TBC

**4th Sunday of month 9.30am**  
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**3rd November**  
**1st December**  
**2024 Messy Church**  
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**Blessing of the Crib with**  
**'Scratch' Nativity Play**

**2pm 24th December at Christ**  
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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

### Christmas Bazaar

Don't forget to come along to the Village Hall on Saturday December 2nd at 2pm for the annual Christmas Bazaar. We will have lots of lovely stalls with organisations who regularly use the Hall providing cakes and gifts for sale as well as some of the regular competitions such as the bottle stall. In addition some talented villagers will be selling their wares, from honey to wooden crafts, from glassware to cards...so plenty of opportunity for some Christmas shopping ... and to complete the afternoon, Trustees will be providing teas/coffees/squash and cake for donations and mulled wine for sale.

### Chair

We are still seeking someone who will take the role of Chair. Without a Chair the hall will have to close as the Charity Commission will not let us function without one. The role of the Chair is not that onerous since we have a really proactive Trustee group to support you. Our current Chair (me) will stay on for a while to help initiate you if you'd like but I'm moving to Devon soon so will be working long-distance and it would be good to know there is someone willing to pick up the role. Please contact me if you are remotely interested. It might sound a bit daunting but it isn't really and it is very rewarding.

### Kitchen

The kitchen plans are progressing well. We hope to go out for tenders shortly with a view to choosing a contractor. The provision of the new kitchen will inevitably cause some disruption but we will update you on this once we are at the contract negotiating stage. I have agreed to stay on to complete this (hopefully not as Chair but as a co-opted Trustee for this purpose).

### Warm Spaces

We would very much like to open the Hall on Saturday afternoons in January and February for people to come for a warm up and a cup of tea and cake. BUT Trustees do not have the capacity to do this alone. I know there are a number of you who said they would like to help at the Hall without actually becoming a Trustee so here's your chance!! We are looking for you to volunteer to organise one Saturday afternoon in either January or February. It will entail, opening up, putting out tables and chairs, making teas and coffees in the afternoon and

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maybe making cake beforehand (or buying it). The Village Hall will provide the tea/coffee/sugar/squash for children. You will need to bring milk and cake ... keep receipts and we can reimburse these too. You will also need to clear away tables and chairs but usually all who attend will help with this. If you can offer an afternoon please ring me on 07593 832481.

Veronica Franklin  
Chair of Trustees

DAUNTSEY'S CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

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**CHRISTMAS**  
**CAROLS**  
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Friday 8th December  
7.30pm at St Matthew's Church,  
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## Worton Parish Council

I thought I would take the opportunity to share some background and alleviate some concerns about Worton and Marston's joint project to have WORT 11 and MARS 10, which are bridleways and WORT 13 which is a footpath to be recognised as **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Walkways**". This is an honorary title recognising the connection of our villages to wider history, heritage and culture. It represents a remarkable achievement for our two communities and gives us an ongoing recognition of the two villages that we love.

Before I share some information about the concept and what it can mean, I feel the need to deal with the practicalities. No changes will be made to any of the pathways as a result of this. **No names will change!** Church Lane remains the same. As will WORT 11 and 13, Back Lane, and the wonderfully named MARS 10. There is absolutely no intention to make any changes to public (or private) thoroughfares or land. The title is largely symbolic -though it makes a statement about us.

The concept of Royal Walkways goes back to the Queen's Silver Jubilee in the 1970's. Since then there have been a number of designations of Walkways and titles, though they share a common aim and theme. All have been granted the right to use the insignia of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and aim....

*"to preserve and protect the physical and mental health of people, advance their education in relation to natural and cultural heritage and promote conservation, protection and improvement of the historical and natural environment"* (quote from the Commonwealth Walkway website: <https://commonwealthwalkway.info/about-us/> )

The original Walkway is in London and there are Queen's Jubilee Walkways in Windsor, Glasgow, Poole, Bristol and the newest in Birmingham, as well as Commonwealth Walkways in many countries of the Commonwealth. The towns awarded Queen's Walkway status have all included pictures on their websites and shown pride in their plaques.

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The honour that we have been given is one of a very small number linked to our late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Due to her sad passing, we will in all probability be amongst the last Walkways to be established -so there is a responsibility there!

So where do we go from here?

We want to make the Jubilee Walkway a project that the whole community can participate in. There are various ways in which this can be done which we will consider at our December meeting. Once established, we can consider how better to use the Walkway status to promote our history and values and be something for all of us to be proud of. If anyone still has any concerns about this initiative, would like more information, or, even better, would like to be involved, please contact Jules at [clerk@worton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@worton.org.uk).

The Parish Council has given considerable scrutiny to the content and implications of Wiltshire’s Local Plan, which I shared details of last month. Once the new housing estate has been built at the eastern end of the village, the great majority of the “target” we have been set in terms of new homes will have been met, so there should be no significant changes in the foreseeable future. We, and other comparable villages, have done all we can to ensure that any changes are reasonable and in line with the stated objective of “sustainability”. For us in particular, we continue to be concerned that we are supported in the service provision needed by a “large” village and that our local views are listened to and respected.

We continue to have an eye on the traffic related issues that we know concern many residents and are working closely with Wiltshire Council, particularly the LH FIG group in this respect.

Some residents are still raising concerns about issues such as footpath safety. If these are communicated to Jules, our clerk ([clerk@worton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@worton.org.uk)) we will endeavour to use the support of the Parish Steward to deal with them as soon as we can. However, please be aware of the facility of the “My Wilts” portal as the best way to

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deal with more urgent issues and those beyond the Parish Council remit.

Those of us who enjoy walking in the village will be aware of the problems in using the path by Mill Race. This has been looked at in detail in the hope of finding a solution. Unfortunately, the long term prognosis does not look good, in the views of the experts (in this case the Environment Agency). We will share more on the topic when the position is clearer.

Lastly, we have a plan to deal better with a problem near to everyone’s heart (or should I say feet?) in the form of overflowing dog poo bins. Again, watch this space.

Please note that our December meeting will begin at 6 PM in order to avoid a clash with the Beer and Carols at the Pub scheduled for the same date to allow choristers (and drinkers) to attend both.

Barry Devine

### The Worton and Marston Link Scheme

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# Hair of the Dog

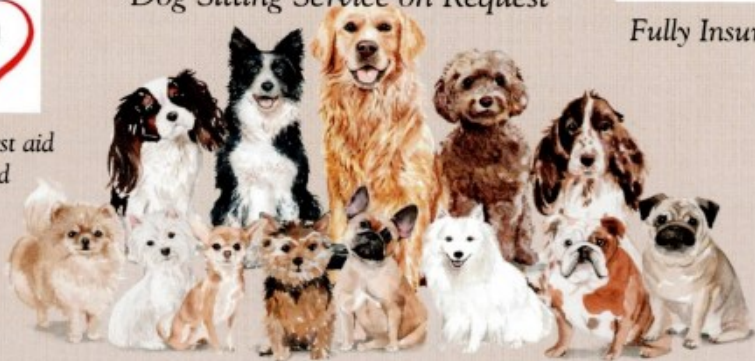
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# Christ Church Worton & Marston

## Come and join our village

# Carol Service

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 6:00pm

Traditional carols and readings  
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### The Edington Arts Advent Concert

Online booking for the Edington Arts Advent Concert in the Priory Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December is now live. By clicking the 'Book Tickets' button on the website ([www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org)) you can choose and pay for your seats. You will receive an e-ticket which you can print out, or keep on your phone, to show at the door. Alternatively you can still use the telephone Box Office at 01380 831256, and we will allocate your seats in the usual way.

Seats are going quickly for this concert, a highlight of the Edington Arts concert calendar. The choir of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, is a mixed voice ensemble of choral and music scholars, and they have put together a lovely programme of music not only from Advent, but also of beautiful music for Christmas. They were to have been conducted by their Director Matthew Martin, but he is unable to be there for the best of reasons – he's flying to South Africa to get married. He has handed the baton to his good friend, another superlative choral conductor, Jeremy Summerly, familiar to many of us through the Edington Festival.

So – 'Book Tickets' through [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org), or phone Chrissy on 01380 831256.



The village hall now owns this 9m x 3m party gazebo  
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# WHITE HORSE OPERA

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Your paragraph text

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## Worton and Marston Village Show 2024

We have set the date for next year's show as Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Please put this in your diary although you will probably get a few reminders over time.

Given it's the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first show, we have decided to review the amount of awards and how they add up to the show champions. Up to now, points awarded in different classes fed in to two different show awards, some included just Gardening Club members, some all participants. We have decided to make the whole show open to all. There will be a couple of classes open to Gardening Club members but most classes will be open to all entrants. Points awarded in all sections will be put forward to the show champion. From this we have rationalised the awards. Many of the cups and shields (some which were already second hand prior to 1974) are showing their age. Engraving of the cups and shields is not cheap. Therefore we would like to provide trophies for the various sections that the winners would keep. The trophies would not necessarily be cups or shields but could relate to the section, eg cooking equipment for the winners of the home produce. We wondered whether individuals or local businesses would like to sponsor a prize. What do you think? Please get in touch.

We have reviewed the schedule and made minimal changes. We will advise the photographers amongst you of the classes in due course.

Finally, can we add our voice to the need for volunteers to help with village institutions, not least this magazine. We all live in this community and whatever happens, it will not function if we are all isolated. Offering to help in any area or task does not necessarily mean hours of hard work and can lead to fun, enjoyment and fulfilment. Come on, put your hand up and get involved.

Hopefully we will talk to you in December.

On behalf of the Village Show Committee  
Bill Francis



## Devizes & District Foodbank

Collection box for  
donations in Christ Church



With the cost of living rising and more families than ever asking for support from our local foodbank, we have set up a donation box at the back of Christ Church. The Devizes & District Foodbank is very grateful for any non-perishable items that you are able to donate. Perhaps you could consider popping in with one small item each week to put in the box, such as a tin of tomatoes, a sachet of instant mash or a bottle of shampoo. All donations are much appreciated.



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WortonToddlers@gmail.com



Ho! Ho! Ho! Christmas is coming to Worton Toddlers this month! We have lots of lovely crafts planned and a trip to Christ Church, Worton, to decorate the tree and listen to the story of Christmas.

Our last session on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December is a bookable session; please pop along to group for more details.

Worton Toddlers will be at the Village Hall Bazaar on 2<sup>nd</sup> December; please come along and see us.

**We are closed on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 - Worton Toddlers would like to wish you and your family the most magical Christmas.**



National Trust

## National Trust Avebury: What's on Christmas 2023

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Why not take a guided tour around the largest stone circle in the world? Our expert guides can tell you all about the people who built it. The tour takes about an hour.



### Alexander Keiller Museum

Find out all about the archaeology of the Avebury World Heritage Site. This small museum is filled with fascinating artefacts that have been discovered through past excavations.

## What's on at Christmas



### Avebury Manor The Twelve Days of Christmas

18 Nov to 1 Jan, 10 am to 4 pm, last entry 3pm (Closed 24/25/26 Dec.)  
Normal admission charges apply.

Step into The Twelve Days of Christmas as we bring the classic song to life. Avebury Manor has become well-known for stunning hand-made Christmas ornaments and decorations and this year, each room will take you to a different part of The Twelve Days of Christmas. There will also be a family room dedicated to children's crafts and festive decorations across the whole site.

Find out more at [www.nationaltrust/avebury](http://www.nationaltrust/avebury)



### Christmas Storytime in Avebury Dovecote

2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 Dec, 10:20am to 2pm (20 min sessions) £8 per child with one adult.

Booking essential [www.nationaltrust/avebury](http://www.nationaltrust/avebury)

In the magical atmosphere of the Avebury Dovecote, children can take part in an interactive telling of The Twelve Days of Christmas. The story will be read by the 'True Lady Love', the recipient of gifts in the carol, and at the end children will also receive a Christmas gift.

See the website for further information [www.nationaltrust/avebury](http://www.nationaltrust/avebury)

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### Wreath Making

2, 3, & 4 Dec, 10:30am-2:30pm, £55.

Booking essential [www.nationaltrust/avebury](http://www.nationaltrust/avebury)

Nothing says 'Christmas is here' like putting up a home-made wreath on your front door. Join local florist Sue Scott, who will guide you through making your very own wreath. Using freshly cut foliage and Christmas decorations, you'll be able to create your own unique wreath, a beautiful centrepiece for your festive decorations that will last for up to six weeks. Tea, coffee and mince pies will welcome you on arrival to the workshop. Please bring your own packed lunch.



### Christmas Market

Sat 2 to Sun 3 Dec, 10 am to 4 pm, Avebury Barn

Support local artisans and indulge in a spot of Christmas shopping in the atmospheric seventeenth century threshing barn. A wide range of hand-made gifts will be on sale and each afternoon there will be music, carols and festivities for everyone to enjoy.

Please note that due to the lack of mobile signal at Avebury, most stalls will be cash only.

Find out more at [www.nationaltrust/avebury](http://www.nationaltrust/avebury)



### Winter Walk with an Archaeologist

8 & 14 Dec, 10:30am-12:30pm, £15

Booking essential [www.nationaltrust/avebury](http://www.nationaltrust/avebury)

Join archaeologist Dr Nick Snashall for a walk around the stone circles to learn more about the rich archaeology of Avebury and recent research into this enigmatic place. The walk will be followed by a warming drink and mince pies served in the barn, where you'll have an opportunity to ask questions and chat with Dr Nick.

For further info, text, quotes, photos and press passes please contact:

[Simon.Fyles@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Simon.Fyles@nationaltrust.org.uk) or 01672 538035.

## Semington Brook

Residents will be aware that the recent bad weather has exacerbated some of the long-standing issues relating to Semington Brook and that Worton 10 has been closed. I want to assure you that I have been working, since I was elected in 2021, to secure solutions. This includes working with Worton and Marston Parish Councils, the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council Rights of Way officers, and affected local residents to make progress. At a recent meeting I asked the Environment Agency for their expert assessment of the causes. Please see the note below.

Readers of The Bridge are probably wondering who is responsible? I am afraid that is more than slightly complicated. As you will see below - the Environment Agency is of the view that the deterioration of the Mill Leat embankment which was created some hundreds of years ago is NOT due to the operation of the Worton Sluice or The Mill, but natural degradation.

You will know that over the years various repairs have been done to keep the water in the watercourse. Sadly though, it now seems likely that further repairs may well only have a temporary benefit and would not be a good use of public money. Whilst Worton and Marston Parish Councils do not have a legal responsibility for this, Councillors have of course been working closely with me to represent local interests and monitor the brook on a daily basis, and I would like to thank them for all their work.

**What is happening now? We are progressing two courses of action:**

**In the Short Term:** Unfortunately, the recent breach close to the sluice has exposed power cables and the power to the sluice has therefore been switched off. The Environment Agency is looking at a temporary solution to stem the breach. Beyond this, there are concerns about the overall effectiveness of any further repairs.

**In the Longer Term:** The community need to agree the long-term strategy for the Semington Brook and we will be working to consider the impacts and opportunities of this for local landowners, residents and the natural environment.

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Thank you for your patience. As you will appreciate there is a real risk of banks collapsing - please do not seek to contravene any closed Rights of Way. I will of course keep you informed about further developments.

Tamara Reay  
Wiltshire Councillor for Devizes Rural West  
[tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk)

### Semington Brook - Mill Stream banks

The Semington Brook has had a Mill located on it probably since the 1600s and therefore the alteration of the watercourse and the creation of a Mill Leat has been established over a long period of time. The purpose of the Mill Leat is to supply water to Worton Mill at a ‘head’ which is high enough to drive the water wheel back in the time when the Mill was a working Mill. The height of this water level is above the original watercourse and the existing flood plain – see Fig 1 on next page.

From approximately just upstream of Ray Bridge along the Mill Leat to the Worton Mill, the left bank of the Leat is an embankment, which was created by heaped spoil from the river. Back in the early days, this bank would not have been an engineered bank of compacted cohesive material as modern engineered banks would be and therefore watertight. Over the years, these banks become porous and have deteriorated. A number of leakage points have been repaired over previous decades. If the river has crayfish in, these creatures are burrowing and may well exacerbate the issues in the banks.

It’s our opinion that the water level fluctuations caused by the operation of the Worton Sluice or the Mill have not caused the porosity of the banks.

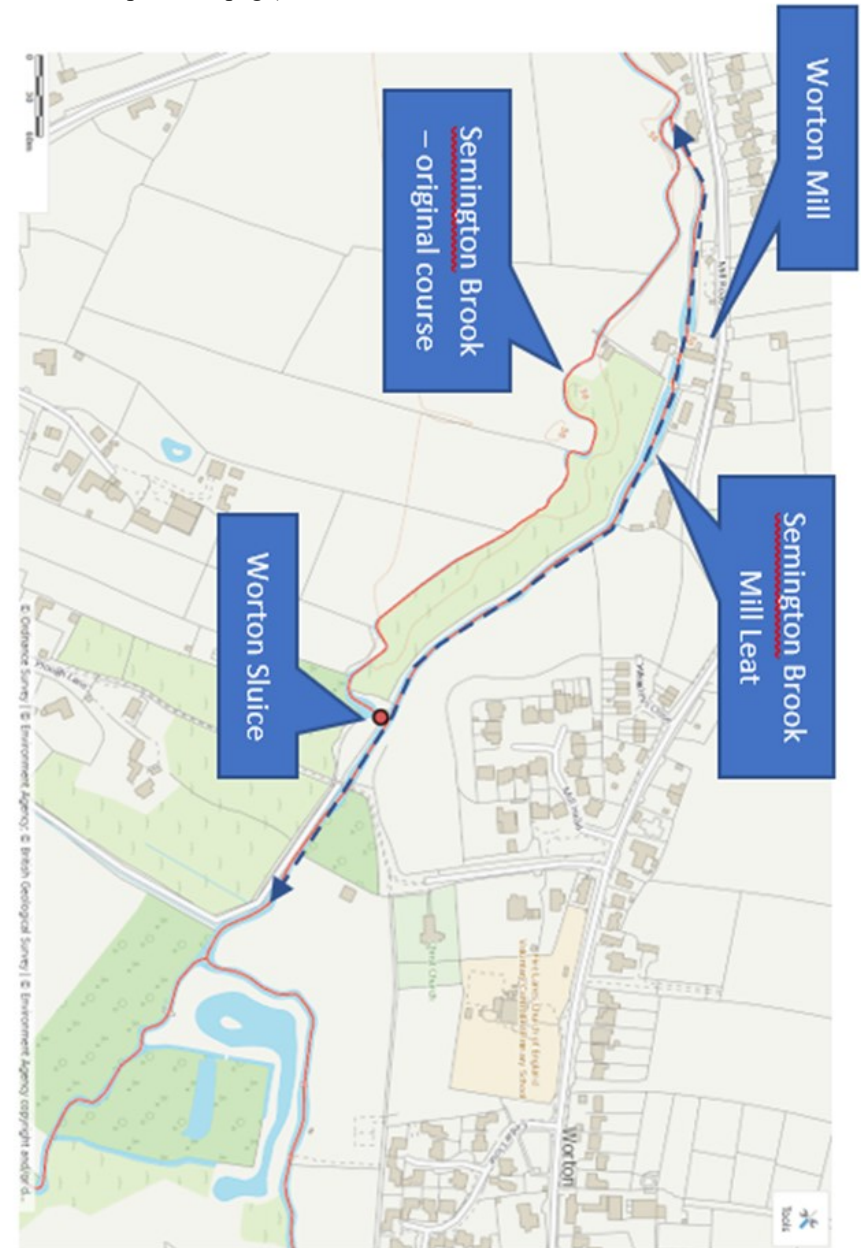
Melvin Wood  
Engineer for Environment Agency – Wessex Area – Bristol Avon Asset Performance Team  
[wessexenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:wessexenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Please see the maps on the following pages....

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Fig 1 Location of Worton Sluice



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Fig 2 Flood map of Worton area



## A Snapshot of the History of Marston

Called Merstone in 1309, derived from a Saxon name mersctun (marsh settlement).

In the early 1600s Potterne Manorial Court asked the Inhabitants of Marston to repair the ditch known as 'le gripp' leading from Marston to Bulkington. The villagers were also told not to let their pigs roam in the lanes of Marston.

1646 saw Potterne and Marston grievously visited by the plague.

A survey of the Manor of Potterne carried out by John May in 1656 shows many houses in Marston that have long since disappeared. A similar map, dated a year later, clearly shows the cobblestone path which probably joined up with a causeway that came from Potterne.

The bridge leading from Worton to Marston called Ray Bridge was in 1740 out of repair and dangerous to travellers and the Marston Supervisors of the Highway were asked to make repairs within two months. These Supervisors or Surveyors of the Highways were responsible for the upkeep of the lanes, bridges and drains in the parish. Their account books make fascinating reading and in those days labour was one shilling per day.

Between 1815 and 1830 George Watson-Taylor was building up the Erlestoke Estate and by the time the Wiltshire Tithe Apportionment was agreed in 1841, there were 33 landowners in Marston. The main owners being: George Watson-Taylor (405 acres), Valentine Hale Mairis (107 acres) and Martha May (63 acres). Marston had 525 acres of meadow, 320 acres of arable land and 26 acres that were lanes etc.

By 1835 the Chapel had been built (Primitive Methodists in those days) and by 1841 Christ Church had also been built after £1200 had been raised mainly by subscription.

Most of the houses that had been built in Marston prior to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were built from bricks made from local clay, the majority of which would have come from local brickworks either on the outskirts of Worton or at Stoke's Marsh, Coulston. The latter probably belonged to the Watson-Taylors, their bricks being bigger than most, perhaps to reduce the brick tax paid?

The first Parish Meeting for Marston was held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1894 and Charles Frederick Biggs was elected chairman. By June 1899 ap-

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proval had been given to make a new road between Worton and Marston in place of the footpath and bridleway. Until then the Horse Road had been the main way through between the two villages.

In June 1910 much of the Erlestoke Estate was sold including most of the Watson-Taylor’s property in Marston. What remained was sold in 1920.

The Grip appeared to still be an important source of water in Marston in the 1920s, with much correspondence with the Ecclesiastical Commission in London regarding keeping it clean. The villagers depended on the water for domestic use, a ‘dipping place for water’.

In her Memories from Childhood, Jean Carter tells of her life on a farm in the 1920s, and how very different it was from life today. Families were virtually self-sufficient, the days were long and work was hard and manual. Pigs and chickens were kept for food and butter was made once a week. Haymaking was a very hard job with long hours as it was all done by hand and horses. The toilet was a little wooden house at the bottom of the garden and the only lighting in the home was oil lamps and candles. The children walked to school at Worton and although school life was very strict, at Christmas there was a party with presents. Saturday night was bath night, with the water coming from a well in the garden. Monday was washing day, Tuesday ironing day and on Wednesday the eggs had to be cleaned and counted ready to be taken to Devizes Market on Thursday.

Marston was known as Marston in the Mud, the lanes were very muddy as seven herds of cows were driven four times a day from farm to field or field to farm until the weather got too bad for pasture feeding.

In 1937 the Coronation of George VI was celebrated with Worton and during the war years American soldiers were frequent visitors to the Plough Inn as they were stationed at Erlestoke Park. Italian prisoners of war worked on some of the farms in Marston and some families had evacuees from London.

After the War, the Parish Meeting continued to oversee Marston and deal with many local issues, including taking over the Green from the Church Commissioners, getting a telephone kiosk and in 1954 a Coronation seat.

In 1958 a Parish Council for Marston was established and in 1960 it

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was agreed to build a bus shelter. Times were changing in Marston and by April 1978 there was concern about the high level of soil round the Jubilee oak tree due to the Green improvements being done by Pearcees. Unfortunately by 1984 the oak tree was dead and had been cut down.

To be continued.....

Dave Hansford May 2014

**Guess the Length  
of the Scarf**

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Christmas Goodies!**

Worton Knit & Natt invite you to  
guess the length of the scarf  
wrapped around the Village Hall  
railings

**£1 a go**

Entry sheet in the Rose &  
Crown

All proceeds to the  
Village Hall &  
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# Beer and Carols



in  
**The Rose & Crown**

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**7:00pm**



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**Useful Village Contacts - 2023**

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**Book Swap:** Judy Shercliff [judy.shercliff@gmail.com](mailto:judy.shercliff@gmail.com) 01380 723136

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

Contact the Benefice Office on 07516 224057 or  
 at [contact.wellsprings@gmail.co.uk](mailto:contact.wellsprings@gmail.co.uk)

**Church Wardens:**

Mrs Heather Walker 01380 725785 [heatherwalker66@gmail.com](mailto:heatherwalker66@gmail.com)  
 Mrs Jean Lane 01380 722069 [joje@talktalk.net](mailto:joje@talktalk.net)

**Cricket (Worton and Poulshot):** Giles Collins 07530 771405  
[giles.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:giles.collins@btinternet.com)

**Football (The Badgers):** Club President Pete Huntley 07974 756131  
 or Club Secretary Rob Nuttall 07706 167347

**Garden Club:**

Alison Parker 07786 985741 [aelparker@aol.com](mailto:aelparker@aol.com)  
 Sally Brooks 07957 917851 [svwood90@hotmail.com](mailto:svwood90@hotmail.com)  
**Village Show** - Bill Francis 01380 739986  
[dfrancis162@btinternet.com](mailto:dfrancis162@btinternet.com)

**Ladies Group:** Pam Woods 01380 726679  
 Meet last Wednesday each month 8pm, in the Village Hall.

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

**Marston Parish Council:** Steven Bennett  
[clerk@marstonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@marstonpc.co.uk)

**Rose and Crown:** John & Jackie 01380 724202

**School (Five Lanes):** [admin@fivelanes.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fivelanes.wilts.sch.uk)

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**SpeedWatch:** Bob Mitchell [wortonspeedwatch@gmail.com](mailto:wortonspeedwatch@gmail.com)

**Tennis:** Seend Tennis Club: Sally Jackson 07798 564712  
Devizes Tennis Club: Barry Devine 07809 221341  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings.

**Toddlers' Group:** Linda Rose [wortontoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:wortontoddlers@gmail.com)  
text 07921 867206

**Village Hall (Worton and Marston):** Veronica Franklin  
[veronica.franklin@btinternet.com](mailto:veronica.franklin@btinternet.com) 01380 726845

**Wiltshire Council:** Tamara Reay  
Wiltshire Councillor of Devizes Rural West  
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**Worton Parish Council:**

Chair: Barry Devine [barry@worton.org.uk](mailto:barry@worton.org.uk) [bazandsaz@gmail.com](mailto:bazandsaz@gmail.com)  
Other Parish Councillors: Richard Slack Dicky Parsons  
Patricia Goodenough Malcolm Powell Chris Collins  
Robert Goss Nick Stokes Clerk: Jules Slack

**Women's Institute (W.I.):** Helen Bodman (President) 01380 723593

**Worton United Charities:** Trustee Chair Bill Francis  
[dfrancis162@btinternet.com](mailto:dfrancis162@btinternet.com)

(Please contact me ([giles.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:giles.collins@btinternet.com)) if there are any contacts you would like to add, change or remove.)



Extracts from *The Bridge* (December 1993),  
kindly provided by Tony Walker

### Forthcoming Events

#### ADVANCE NOTICE

A PARTY to welcome newcomers to Worton and Marston will be held on Friday 28th January at 7.30 p.m.

..... please book the date in your diary

#### Christmas Bingo

A Christmas Bingo will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 13th December commencing at 8 p.m.

If anyone would like to give a raffle prize contact Primrose Wright on 721837 or June Clack on 725414.

All proceeds to Hall Funds.

June Clack

### School News

#### Worton and Marston School

Mrs Bemment talked to the children about her experiences growing up in the Second World War and being an evacuee. The children looked at Identity Cards, ration books and gas marks. They have been using contemporary newspapers to find out facts and verify some of the things they heard.

Lady Johnston came in with poppies for the children to buy and talked to the older children about why we wear poppies at this time of the year. As a result the children decided we should visit the War Memorial outside the village hall.

Liz Mapstone, our Road Safety Officer, has talked to Class 2 about the Green Cross Code and keeping safe as a pedestrian. Later this term, small groups of children will be taking her for a walk to demonstrate that they can keep themselves safe. This is part of the Wiltshire Pedestrian Scheme.

Our Christmas Concert will be held at the school on Friday 17 December at 7.00 pm

Lesley Hall

Extracts from *The Bridge* (December 1993),  
kindly provided by Tony Walker

### WORTON & MARSTON W.I. NEWS

The November meeting of Worton & Marston W.I. was held on the 9th of the month in the Village Hall. The President Mrs Babs Stockwell welcomed all members and thanked everyone involved with the Jumble Sale held on 16 October for their help and contributions. The total raised was †165.35.

There will be no formal meeting next month but a Christmas Meal is to be held at The Raven, Poulshot on 14 December meeting at 7.00 pm to eat at 7.30 pm. Could members please bring the usual Christmas gift to go in the Christmas Hamper.

Members were also given advance notice of a Whist Drive to be held on 12 January 1994 in the Village Hall. Further details will be provided later.

*Dorren Harwood*

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TEL: 724202

The Bridge,  
Worton and Marston  
Parish Magazine

## VILLAGE DIARY

### Regular Meetings

#### In the Village Hall

- **Garden 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 Wednesday 7.00pm
- **Worton Toddler Group**  
Wednesday 10.00 am - Noon
- **1st Worton & Marston Brownies**  
Tuesdays 6pm-7.30pm
- **Potterne Rainbows**  
Tuesdays 4.45pm-5.45pm
- **Worton Parish Council Meeting**  
1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

#### In the Chapel at Marston

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

#### Various Venues

Announced Monthly

- **Book Swap**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10.00 - Noon

#### Mobile Library

**Location:** The School, 1.10 - 1.50pm  
**Next Date:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Call Wiltshire Library Services  
on 01225 713727 for information

### Forthcoming Events

9<sup>th</sup> Book Swap  
10<sup>th</sup> WI  
15<sup>th</sup> Garden Club

### Kerbside Collections in December

**Black box, and plastic  
and card recycling:**  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>

**Household waste:**  
Thursdays 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

**Garden waste:**  
Fridays 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>



### 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**Giles Collins, Editor at Westview House, 109 High Street, Worton**  
**Telephone: 01380 728664**  
**email address: editorofthebridge@gmail.com**