

**Market Lavington & Easterton  
Church & Community News**



*The Nestling Trust*

*Quiz Night*



**When**           ?           **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March - 7.00 for 7.30pm**

**Where**           ?           **Market Lavington Community Hall**

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**February 2024**

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## **Market Lavington & Easterton Church and Community News**

**St Mary's & St. Barnabas Church** (Anglican)

**Rector:** Rev. Marion Harrison (01380) 816963

**Address:** The Rectory, 25 White Street, West Lavington, SN10 4LW  
lavingtonrector@gmail.com

**Benefice Office** as above churchlavington@gmail.com

Fridays and the last Thursday of the month are the Rector's days off.

The office is now open twice a week,

Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

**Church Wardens**

**Market Lavington**

**Easterton**

Sue Allen 813603

More information can be found on our website [www.lavingtonchurch.org](http://www.lavingtonchurch.org)

**Trinity United Church** (Methodist/URC)

**Minister:** Rev. Gary Gotham, 69 Queens Road, Devizes, SN10 5HR

Tel: 01380 724264 / gary.gotham@gmail.com

**Church Secretary:** Les Charlton

c/o St. Arbucks Cafe, Church St., Market Lavington, SN10 4DT

Tel: 07962 422 624 secretarytrinitychurchml@gmail.com

**Market Lavington Parish Council**

**Chair**

Mr Colin Osborn 01380 812450

**Clerk to the Council**

Mrs Carol Hackett 01225 760372

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clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

<https://www.marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

**Easterton Parish Council**

**Chair:**

Vacant

**Clerk to the Council**

Sarah-Jane Bullock

clerk@eastertonpc.org.uk

<https://www.eastertonpc.org.uk/>

**This magazine**

Edited by Colin Osborn 01380 812450 colinosborn@compuserve.com

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## **The Bishop of Salisbury's letter for February**

It won't have escaped many of us that this year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. This may feel like an uncomfortable union.

Whilst we know that Valentine's Day is Saint Valentine's Day, the commercial reality of this occasion means that it has become a day of heart-shaped balloons and chocolates, red roses and looking your best for that romantic meal for two. This doesn't sit easily with the sombre, penitential tone of Ash Wednesday when flowers are removed from our churches, and we are brought face to face with our imperfections; our daily ability to turn from God. As a gritty cross of ash is marked on our forehead we are told.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

This stark, deeply humbling, yet powerful moment sets the tone for the season of Lent when we are called to step into the wilderness with Christ and therefore into a time of prayer, self-reflection, repentance and self-denial. Yet, nothing about Ash Wednesday or Lent is about dwelling in self-loathing or indeed an unforgiveness of ourselves for the times when we have turned from God. On the contrary, it is a time when we are re-directed and re-centred on our absolute need for God – for God's forgiveness, for God's grace, for God's saving love made known to us through Jesus.

Maybe then Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are not poles apart after all. For it is in the wilderness of Lent, and indeed in the events of Holy Week that follow, that we see face to face the depths of God's love. A love that isn't expressed in fine dining or red roses, but the bread and wine of the Last Supper, the blood of Christ shed on the cross and the joy of the open tomb on Easter morning.

Bishop Stephen

**Baptisms**

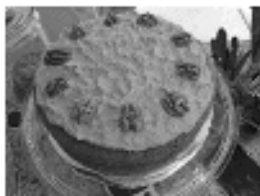
Cousins **Clementine Fairfax FAULKNER-SHEARCROFT (Clemmie)** and **Octavius Albert Fairfax SHEARCROFT-NEVE (Otto)** were baptised at St Mary's Church, Market Lavington, by Rev Marion Harrison on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023.

**Martha Eileen SNAPP** was baptised at St Barnabas Church, Easterton on December 27<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**Funerals**

**Shirley Joan SLIMANE** of Little Cheverell died on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 at Salisbury Hospital aged 90 years. Her funeral at West Wiltshire Crematorium was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Ronald William SIMS (Ron)** of West Lavington died on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023, aged 88 years. His funeral was held at All Saints' Church, West Lavington on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 followed by cremation.



**St. Arbucks Community Café**

1 Church Street, Market Lavington SN10 4DT  
Tel: 01380 816145

**Opening Hours For February and March 2024**

**Monday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm**  
**Tuesday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm**  
**Wednesday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm**  
**Thursday 10 am - 2.00 pm**  
**Friday 10.00 am – 3.30 pm**  
**Saturday 10.00 am – 1.00 pm**

(Half Term 12th to 16th February extended opening to 3:30 pm)

We hope to extend opening hours again from April with volunteer help. If you think you would enjoy meeting people and working with us then please visit the café and talk to Beth or contact us through our facebook page "St Arbucks Coffee House".

# TRINITY CHURCH

We meet in the Community Hall, Market Lavington every Sunday morning at 10.30am unless stated otherwise.

We welcome all visitors to our informal style of worship in the United Reformed Church/Methodist tradition.

All services are accompanied by refreshments.

We follow current regulations to keep you safe.

## SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

**4th FEBRUARY - TRINITY CHURCH SERVICE**

*Led by Jeannie MacMeekin*

**11th FEBRUARY - UNITED SERVICE TRINITY'S 40th ANNIVERSARY**

*Led by Revd. Gary Gotham*

**18th FEBRUARY - TRINITY CHURCH SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION**

**@ 'THE OLD SCHOOL' MARKET LAVINGTON**

*Led by Revd. Gary Gotham*

**25th FEBRUARY - TRINITY CHURCH SERVICE**

*Led by Joanne Williams*

Church Minister : Revd.Gary Gotham: 69, Queens Road, Devizes, Wilts. Tel: 01380 724264 email: [gary.gotham@gmail.com](mailto:gary.gotham@gmail.com)

Trinity Church Secretary: Leo Chilton: Mobile: 079 034 22 824 email: [leo@trinitychurchdevizes.org.uk](mailto:leo@trinitychurchdevizes.org.uk)

Postal address: Trinity Church Secretary, 5 St. Anthonys Cafe, 1 Church Street, Market Lavington, Wilts SN10 4DT

### **The Parish Tree Tapestry at Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, Devizes**

The Parish Tree Tapestry has hung in the Narthex since the building was added to the side of the church after 1997.

The Tapestry was originally planned by Anne Crompton, who then moved away. If there are any Parishioners who were involved at the start and perhaps could give me some more information, please do get in touch.

Also, if anyone knows where the Dove is that hung in the middle, please let me

know. Lots of families have added their names over the years but not in recent times.

Liz Wakefield

Please contact me via

Parish Archivist: Chris Henley ([icarchivist@gmail.com](mailto:icarchivist@gmail.com))

If you are sending Valentines cards, don't forget you can get your card stamped with a Lover postmark, in Lover village on the outskirts of the New Forest, the home of St Mary's church and Redlynch PCC. The villagers decorate their houses with love hearts and there is a café and shop too – it's a lover-ly day out!

I can remember when the village of Lover (pronounced Low-ver) still had a Post Office and the second week of February was busier than the run up to Christmas. Like many villages the Post Office has gone, but from February 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> and from 10am to 4pm they have a pop-up post office.

You can visit Lover,  
55 minutes by car from our villages,  
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Mr Bates vs The Post Office movingly highlighted the plight of sub-postmasters and mistresses who were accused of theft and false accounting by the Post Office. It was the Horizon computer system, not the workers who were at fault. The programme provoked huge public outrage at the injustice faced by hundreds of innocent people. Government ministers were spurred into action. Wrongs will at last be righted and due compensation handed out. Justice at last. We hope.

In an episode of Inspector Morse Lewis asks his boss if he believes in God. The Chief Inspector replies that he sometimes wished he did, reflecting, 'A just God. A God dispensing justice. I'd like to believe in that.' Yet the justice of God is not often spoken about these days. It seems that the church is happy to trumpet God's love, but is all too often silent when it comes to proclaiming a just God.

That is a mistake. An unjust God who was indifferent to right and wrong would not be worth worshipping. 'The Lord loves justice' the psalmist assures us. And rightly so. Justice demands that all are equal before the law. Justice insists that the innocent are declared to be in the right and that the guilty are condemned. A good God must be just.

But 'a God dispensing justice' is an uncomfortable thought. After all, who of us can claim to have lived our lives according to the perfection demanded in God's law? When measured by that standard, the Bible admits, 'None is righteous, no, not one'. We will all therefore be held to account by a just God.

But isn't God forgiving? Yes, but not at the expense of justice. That is exactly why God sent his Son Jesus into the world. He came to fulfil the righteous demands of God's law on our behalf. Jesus suffered and died, bearing the penalty of our sin on the cross. It is on that basis that all who believe in Jesus are forgiven and put right with God.

The day will come when God will put the world to rights. He will overthrow evil and condemn unrighteousness. That day holds no fear for believers. They will stand before their Maker and Judge clothed in the perfect righteousness of Jesus. 'A just God. A God dispensing justice' is certainly worth believing in.

Pastor: Guy Davies

[www.pbc-ebc.org.uk](http://www.pbc-ebc.org.uk)

You are welcome to join us for our Sunday services at 4.30pm. On the 4th Sunday of the month we have 'Time for Tea +', a traditional Sunday tea, followed by a short service.



## **St Barnabas Church, Easterton, Christmas Tree Festival 2023**

The results for the 2023 Christmas Tree Festival were:-

Judges vote: No2 Karen Oldfield and children with The Stickman

Public Vote: No10 Sewing Bee with Twas the Night Before Christmas

Thank you to Harold and Carolyn Kiddle for kindly agreeing to be our judges, not an easy task!

The Childrens Books depicted were:-

The Guides: Harry Potter

Karen Oldfield and children: The Stickman

St. Barnabas School: Twas the Night Before Christmas

Nicola Coupe: The Little Wooden Horse

W. I: Jolly Christmas Postman

Easterton Village Hall: Hansel and Gretel

M.L. Library: The Snowman

Museum: A Night at the Museum

Trinity Church: The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe

Sewing Bee: Twas the Night Before Christmas

The Hub: The Very Hungry Caterpillar

A huge thank you to all those who contributed or provided help and support and, of course, to all who visited over the 2 days enabling us to raise nearly £350 for church funds.

### **Benefice 200 Club December 2023 and January 2024**

I have two winners to announce for two different years. The December winner was Carol Treloar of Market Market Lavington and the January winner is Richard Gamble from West Lavington.

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket for 2024. The proceeds have been sent to the Benefice Treasurer to help with the cost of running the Benefice office and to provide the prize money to be shared out to the lucky winners of every draw.

Unfortunately I cannot increase the winner's prize as we don't have enough participants to fund a larger win. I hope it still feels good to be a winner despite this. Good luck to you all for the following eleven months.

Bonnie Matters [bonnie\\_matters@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bonnie_matters@hotmail.co.uk)



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## EDINGTON ARTS

Edington Arts is celebrating the start of their tenth season on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March with a full length (two hour) performance of Bach's St John Passion by the Oxford Bach Soloists and orchestra under their conductor Tom Hammond-Davies. The great international tenor Mark Padmore will be singing the role of The Evangelist. The performance is being generously sponsored by Edington Station Yard Ltd, and by The Three Daggers.

Bach's account of the Passion from the Gospel according to St John is 'punchier' than that of the St Matthew, and the superb communication skills of both soloists and chorus will be used to most moving effect. The Oxford Bach Soloists have been performing the St John Passion on Good Friday in Oxford for many years, where it has become an iconic, essential ingredient of the preparations for Easter. This will be the first time they have performed the St John Passion during Lent outside Oxford, and we are delighted they have chosen Edington as their venue. Their recent London debut, with Bach's Christmas Oratorio, received a five-star review in The Guardian, whose reviewer said "This virile, collegiate approach to Bach is the most exciting I've heard in a very long time".

Booking is now open, and tickets have been selling fast. There is still a great choice of seats however, and you can book online through [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org) or by phone from 01380 831256. The performance starts at the earlier time of 7pm.

### Appreciation

May I, through your columns, express my appreciation for the messages of condolences, and support at the Funeral Service of my beloved wife Mary on 9th January. We had a lot of visitors from all over the country who were most impressed that, as the cortege passed, villagers stood silently and bent their heads in respect. That is an age-old beautiful custom that seems to have faded in cities throughout the country so thank you all and long may it continue.

**Bill Coulthard**

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**Wednesday February 14, 2024**

### **Valentines Day**

It originated as a Christian feast day honouring a martyr named Valentine and through later folk traditions, it has also become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

It has been estimated that £1.37billion was spent on Valentines gifts in the UK in 2022, on their significant others, beloved pets or even themselves.

Source: <https://www.finder.com/uk/valentines-day-statistics>  
Analysis conducted by finder.com

### **Ash Wednesday (the first Day of Lent)**

The word “Lent” comes from the old English, “lencten,” which means “spring.”

Some Christians from more orthodox or traditional denominations fast during Lent. They begin with the wearing of ashes on Ash Wednesday and give up meat, fish, eggs and more for the 40 day period. Others choose to give up comforts or luxuries such as chocolate, junk food, social media or television.

For many Christians, Lent is a time where they make space to pray, read the Bible and reflect on God’s love.

For others it is a time to give their time and money to make the world a better place.

### **Road Surfacing in West Lavington**

A360 West Lavington From Junction with Russell Mill Lane to Junction with Rutts Lane, closed for resurfacing, road marking, adjustment of ironworks and associated works. Works are due to start on February 14, and the road will be closed overnight until work is completed.

## Nurture Nature February 2024

It might sound like an oxymoron, but a dead hedge is a wonderful habitat that's full of life. Dead hedges provide hiding places and nesting habitats for all sorts of creatures, as well as food for insects. As it rots down, the nutrients are recycled back into the earth below, meaning your garden 'waste' needn't go into garden bins or bonfires. Creating a dead hedge is an ongoing activity, which can be added to every time you prune a tree or cut back a shrub. You can also work in a [hedgehog house](#) into the hedge base, as well as an [open front nest box](#). There is every opportunity to get creative and artistic with a dead hedge - woody prunings can be woven in, and you can even grow climbers along the hedge for added wildlife value. What you'll need:

- Garden prunings
- FSC wooden posts (if using)
- Mallet (if using posts)
- Climbing plants (optional)

Wildflower seeds (optional). In nature, dead sticks, logs and leaves teem with life - they're as much a part of the ecosystem as the flowers, leaves and new growth we prize. A dead hedge is an upright structure of woody cuttings woven between vertical stakes. The stakes are usually the sturdier branches cut from trees or shrubs. They provide a tangled maze and a perfect hideaway for birds such as blackbirds, robins, wrens and dunnocks to nest and forage within. A dead hedge is the kind of feature you can build up bit by bit, month by month, whenever you do a little pruning or tidying around the garden. By giving your dead hedge its own place in the garden, you can keep the garden tidy and good for wildlife at the same time. Ideally, use straight lengths of branch, 3 to 5cm diameter, cut from the garden. If possible cut a point to the end and hammer into the ground in two opposite rows about 45 to 60cm apart and at 1 to 1.5m spacings between stakes along each row. Alternatively, you can use simple wooden garden stakes to get started. Begin by pushing woody prunings between the stakes. Over time, add more cuttings to the pile, weaving longer branches between the stakes and among the cuttings. Although, inevitably some twigs will stick out and look 'untidy', avoid the temptation to cut them back. They will make great perches for birds and even insects to sit and hold territory from. The next step is to add a little colour to your dead hedge. You can grow climbers through or over a dead hedge easily - honeysuckle or clematis is a great idea. Or, how about creating a mini wildflower meadow nearby? Simply sprinkle some [wildlife-friendly flower seeds](#) around to attract bees and butterflies to your dead hedge area.

There was an interesting piece on Countryfile of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 on rejuvenating dead hedges and hedge building in general (BBC 1), which it might be possible to view on Catch-Up. Some topical info – the Asiatic Black Bear, Yampil, rescued from the bombed zoo in Ukraine where most of the animals were killed by Russian bombing, has now arrived at the Five Sisters Zoo in West Lothian to continue his recovery. At the other end of the scale you can watch the wonders of wildlife in our countryside by watching two clips on the internet – 'Tidy Mouse in Shed' in Kent and 'Man Builds Entire Village For Mouse He Saw In His Sheffield Garden'. Children will be absorbed by these clips. We wondered how walnut halves appeared in unexpected locations around the garden! Have a constructive conservation year in 2024.

Otis Tarda

# Kim Pierpoint


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Sat 17 Feb DOCA Festival of Winter Ales Early Session – 11am-5pm Late Session – 5:30pm-11pm Devizes Corn Exchange DOCA's Festival of Winter Ales takes place on Saturday the 17th of February.

The ticket price is £13 to include your first pint and a festival glass. There will be bands and a cabaret, pies, and a range of non-alcoholic drinks too.

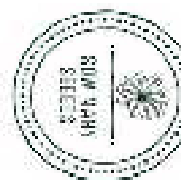
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### Wed 14 Feb Seed Bomb Making

Bring your children along to Hillworth Park on Wednesday the 14th of February from 10am to 2pm to make a seed bomb. The event is free, donations are welcome, and it's all organised by Devizes In Bloom - search on Facebook for more information.



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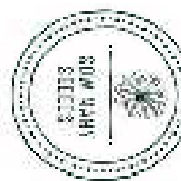
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**WEBSITE:** [mbjoinerydevizes.co.uk](http://mbjoinerydevizes.co.uk)

**E-MAIL:** [mb.joineryltd@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mb.joineryltd@tiscali.co.uk)

**LINKEDIN:** [uk.linkedin.com/pub/martin-bowyer/77/9a8/991/](http://uk.linkedin.com/pub/martin-bowyer/77/9a8/991/)



## RHYME TIME

We hold a Rhyme Time in the library on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 10:15 to 10:45am. The dates for February are 2nd and 16th, which is during half term, and it's fine to bring your older children as well.

If your child isn't a member, it's very easy to join on the day if you just bring along a piece of ID showing your address.

### **Market Lavington Youth Council**

The Youth Council are a group of young people aged 10 to 16 years that come together to discuss and address village issues that concern them. Meetings are held at The Old School, 4:30 to 5:30pm, and the next one is Thursday 22nd February. At this, amongst other things, they will be deciding events to raise money for signs and community facilities, and designs for a road safety display. Young people can come along and see what the group is about before deciding if they would like to join or not, and we look forward to welcoming them.

The young people in our village have the same desires as many of the adults. To live in clean, tidy and safe place.

To be safe for young people to walk and cycle, we need potholes filled, drivers to be aware of others and drive at a safe speed.

To keep at least one part of the village clean, they have raised money to buy a litter bin which will be fixed by the entrance to Lavington School. The school authorities have given permission for it to be put on their land and will ensure that it is emptied regularly.

They have also designed and had signs made to raise awareness of dog fouling, smoking in play areas, and speeding being unacceptable behaviours.

### **The MyWilts App.**

**MyWilts online reporting >**

Available for your phones for free from the Apple App store or Google Play.

You can use MyWilts to report issues in Wiltshire, for example: abandoned vehicles, weather emergencies, fly tipping, dog mess, graffiti and potholes.

You can use the camera on your phone to upload photos.

When you register for an account, you will receive updates as the case you report progresses. You will also have access to view your historical cases and able to access additional services, such as the Wiltshire Council Waste Forms.

If you do not have the app you can still report problems here:

<https://my.wiltshire.gov.uk/>



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or call 101 after an occurrence.

### **Origami helping HMP Erlestoke inmates rehabilitate**

Helen Holtam MBE began Origami classes in HMP Erlestoke in 2017, as part of 'Friends of Erlestoke prison' group. Helen from there created 'Origami inside', her website to sell the items the prisoners make. All profits earned from the sale of the cards and sculptures go towards the rehabilitation of prisoners. The Origami allows prisoners to be creative and engage in an activity which is seen as therapeutic. One maker said, 'I've been in prison for 14 years and never until today have I forgotten where I am for a whole morning'.

<https://origamiinside.com/>



## **We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!**



We ended Term 2 with the children's Christmas party, we had games and a visit from Father Christmas who gave all the children a Christmas present. We had our Lucky Numbers Draw and one of our families won our fabulous Hamper and we had 4 smaller prizes too. We would like to thank Mrs Martin-Hall our reception teacher at DAPS who drew the lucky numbers and we would also like to thank all our families who helped us raise £69.00. THANK YOU!!! We have begun Term 3 looking at "Winter" and "Health and Well-being". The children have been busy exploring our outside area, searching for ice, we have had ice tuff trays where the children have used their large motor skills to break-up the ice using hammers to discover what was hidden in the ice. We have been talking about healthy foods and the children found some giant dirty teeth and practiced their teeth brushing skills. Dental care is very important and our children brush their teeth as part of our daily routine. The children had a Teddys Bears picnic on Thursday 18th January when they all bought in healthy fruit and vegetables to share. We all made bird feeders and hung them on the tree in our front garden, we are also taking part in the Big British Bird Watch 2024.

We currently have vacancies for our afternoon sessions only for 2 year olds and 3-4 year olds, for any new families wishing to join us at Lavington pre-school. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me: [managerlavingtonpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:managerlavingtonpreschool@gmail.com)

Julie Langlands  
Manager Lavington Pre-school

### **Dauntsey's Choral Society & Senior Choir**

present

Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms & Mozart's Requiem on

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# **DEVIZES DEATH CAFE**

**Saturday 2 March**

**1.30 for 2.00pm**

**Devizes Quaker Meeting House**

**Discussion about powers of attorney  
led by Malcolm Tanner**

## **What is a Death Cafe?**

A Death Cafe is a group discussion about death with no agenda, expected outcome or religious themes. It is a chance to talk with others about one of the big taboos of our time.

It is often only in a crisis that we wish we had spoken to our loved ones about death, our own and that of those close to us. We can say as much or little as seems comfortable for each one of us.

Over tea, coffee and cake we can air thoughts about death we may not have voiced before.

For more information  
contact: [bookings@devizesquakers.org.uk](mailto:bookings@devizesquakers.org.uk)  
phone 01380 722560

This form of Cafe follows the European/ USA Death Cafe movement.  
A small donation towards the cost of the event would be welcomed.

## **LOTS OF THANK YOU'S**

The Parish Council would like to thank the Wiltshire Tree Wardens for their work in securing funding for the Community Orchard and working with the Community Group to improve Community Park, below Canada Woods.

Thank you to The Tree Council who have generously awarded all funding for the Community Orchard plus 5 golden themed fruit trees in celebration of their 50th anniversary of the plant a tree campaign.

Also, to The Woodland Trust who have generously awarded 60 habitat hedging trees to replace broken fencing below Canada Woods on the Grove Road side.

Thanks also to NFG and The Tee Tree Group for their collaboration in designing the Community Group logo and delivering samples of fabulous embroidered hoodies which will be on sale to help fund projects within Canada Woods and Community Park.

We give our thanks to Andy Blincow who has supported Friends of Canada Woods and Community Park, along with the Parish Council with projects concerning Easterton Brook and the river bank and who continues to offer his help and advice to The Community Group.

To Wessex Water and the National Lottery Funds For All for funding the river bank repairs and the pedestrian access. And to Cain bio-engineering for such a brilliant job.

Thank you to the Friends of Canada Woods and Community Park, Community Group Committee for all their hard work and to all the volunteers who work with them already, and to those who have come forward to help with the Community Orchard.

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## COMMUNITY ORCHARD IS GO!

Orchards have played an important role in Communities for centuries, providing a focal point, a gathering space, a place where people and nature can successfully work together, with the bonus of a tasty treat each year.

With this in mind, a few months ago, the local Tree Wardens sent out a poll on Facebook to see if there was still an appetite for a Community Orchard in the village. This was based on responses from the community back in 2022 from this magazine and other presentations last year, when asked what you would like to see in Community Park. The answer to the orchard was a resounding YES! The land identified as the potential site was within Community Park (where the rusty goal posts used to be) and so they went to the Parish Council for permission to plant on some of that land. The Tree Wardens would be very happy to help other Parishes, Community Groups, or Schools raise funds for their own orchard for the 2024/25 season.

The Parish Council gave their full support to the Tree Wardens to raise funds for the orchard and to improve the site, working with the Friends of Canada Woods and Community Park Group. Funding has now been awarded by the Tree Council and the planting will go ahead in late February. The site needs to be prepared and all those lovely people who offered help would be very welcome to come forward, fork and/or spade in hand from the 10th February. 😊

The other news is Friends of Canada Woods and Community Park, having worked on behalf of the Parish Council since 2021, now has the status of Community Group and we will be working hard to plant the Orchard with the Tree Wardens, along with raising funds to improve Community Park in terms of accessibility, educational activities, games for young and not so young, seating to create places of reflection, bringing age groups together by organising Community events, while increasing habitat corridors and the biodiversity of the land and the woodland above.

The Community Group has also been busy making applications for habitat hedging and an opportunity to plant 5 fruit trees with a golden theme, awarded in celebration of the Tree Council's 50th Anniversary of the 'plant a tree campaign'. We are hoping 5 people, who have shown community spirit, worked within the community for at least 50 years, or are living in the community supporting others or charitable causes, will each plant one of the 'golden' trees.



We are always happy to accept volunteers along with suggestions in line with the Community Group philosophy to add to the list of wants, so if you would like to get involved, please contact us in any of the ways listed below. There will also be the facility to donate for a project within Canada Woods and Community Park, or buy one of our lovely hoodies direct from the website to raise funds shortly.

Find us on Facebook: Friendsofcanadawoods, email [clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or scan the QR code to go directly to our website <https://friendsofcanadawoods.co.uk> and use our 'contact us' facility.

The trees had to be bought when the grant money came available, and will be delivered towards the end of the winter when they have the best chance to thrive. The layout of the community orchard has not been finalised and there will be other resources available on the site. The ordered trees are on semi-dwarfing stock, so fruit will be within reach of everyone of all ages. Hopefully within 3 or 4 years lunch will be being picked by people on their way to school each morning.

#### **PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS OR DOG WALKERS**

There have been a lot of reports, and evidence, of dog walkers not picking up after their dogs within this village. Within minutes of being in the field below Canada Woods yesterday, where children play, I had to clear up two heaps of dog poo, just off the footpath and easily accessible, or stepped in! And I do not have a dog!

People, for goodness' sake... it is not that hard. You can purchase long handled poop scoopers if you have trouble bending down. Just because you do not walk in areas of Canada Woods for example, it does not mean that children playing games won't step, sit, or roll in your dog's pooh.! PLEASE PICK UP THE POOP!

#### **Footpaths and bridleways**

We are very fortunate to have so many footpaths and bridleways in and around our village, and on behalf of the Parish Council I'm setting up a working group to address issues related to them. We need to look at and assess the condition of each one, including stiles, and consider work to be carried out to bring it up to a better condition. It may be that we also have a working party that walks the paths and carries out light maintenance. I know that there are lots of walkers, dog walkers and horse riders that would like to see the conditions improved also. If you'd be interested in joining this group, please email me so we can organise a mutually convenient date for us all. Many thanks, Jane.

[j.taylor@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:j.taylor@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We do now have an email specifically for reporting issues on footpaths and bridleways: [footpaths@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:footpaths@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## **News from Dauntsey Academy Primary School**

### **Grandparents' Tea**

As a school, we fully appreciate the importance of Grandparents to our children. Some are fortunate to live close by and visit school regularly for school events or for school pickups. However, many live a long drive away and don't get to experience that connection with their grandchildren's school. For this reason, every January, we host our Grandparents Tea and we welcome many of our DAPS Grandparents to school to spend time with their grandchildren in classrooms followed by tea and cake in the hall while listening to our school choir. What a lovely afternoon we had. Our favourite thing to see is the faces of the children when their Grandparents arrive. It makes their week and we are so grateful to those Grandparents that travel such long distances (some travelled more than 3-hours!) to experience this with us! We would like to thank everyone who was able to join us, those who helped by baking and those who helped by manning the teapot! It is no mean feat when we have over 100 thirsty grandparents in the hall! We look forward to seeing you all next year.

### **Equa Collaborative Music Concert**

Our Year 6 pupils recently represented DAPS at the Equa Music concert at the Wiltshire Music Centre. All eight schools that are in Equa sent pupils to represent them and each school had a poem to read and song to sing. Our pupils sang 'Roar' beautifully and represented us in the best possible way. Well done Oak Class.

### **POD PTA event planning**

Our wonderful PTA group are busy working away at organising new events for both our children, their families and loved ones and the wider community. Following the huge success of our 'open to everyone' Wreath Making evening, we are adding three community events to our schedule this year including our Easter Bingo, a Quiz night and an evening of Line Dancing! We are also organising a huge Picnic in the Park event in September to welcome all our new families that join us in the new academic term. We very much appreciate the support the community gives us in our events and we look forward to announcing all these dates over the coming months.

### **Volunteering in school and strengthening our Governor team**

Subject to the necessary safety checks, we are always keen to welcome volunteers to help us within school through supporting events, listening to children read or helping us maintain our beautiful gardens and grounds! We are also keen to attract new Governors to join our committed and experienced team. We are particularly looking for people with a background in education, health or welfare matters to help support both the school and our staff. If you are interested in joining the friendly and supportive team of Governors at DAPS please email Chris Thorne (Chair of Governors) at [cthorne@daps.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:cthorne@daps.wilts.sch.uk).

Philippa Winbolt, Headteacher.



**A Message from Cllr Dominic Muns  
Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons**

2024 started with a bang and sparked lots of ideas for change, including proposals in Highways and Planning which will be of interest to us all.

Poor funding from central government has led to less gully and drain clearances by Wiltshire Council. Likewise, there has been no incentive for landowners to reduce water run-off from fields, and clear ditches. Wiltshire Council is putting an extra £1million into drain and gully clearance, including a third vacuum machine, whilst DEFRA is looking at incentivising landowners. I am pushing for a long-term funding increase to acknowledge the fact that weather patterns are changing and we need to deal with more rain annually than we ever have before.

At Black Dog, the closure of the spur road north of the junction is a step closer thanks to the support of local residents, Parish Councils and the Highways team. I anticipate this being implemented in the next few months once the legal paperwork is complete (the Department for Transport ensures this isn't a straightforward or quick process!).

A proposal for a huge change to our local countryside and agriculture came last month in the form of a planning application for a 200-acre solar farm in Potterne, Easterton and Market Lavington. Opposition is strong with many, including myself, asking why we are losing good land in which we can grow crops in order to generate electricity we cannot use due to grid capacity.

Another proposed change in Market Lavington came from an application for houses and a larger Co-Op. This came as no surprise since a hundred or so residents attended a presentation back in 2022 when the idea was floated. Since that meeting, I have been regularly asked when the new Co-Op will be built by excited locals! I am told a larger Co-Op has been supported by three-quarters of locals who took part in a survey last year. However, there is a lot for residents, the Parish Council and Planners to consider because the proposal is a deviation from the Neighbourhood Plan (voted for by locals) which earmarked the site for housing. I expect some interesting debate will follow!

I have written about 5 Year Housing Land Supply before; a flawed target for building new homes. We have lost many Planning appeals because we have been kept from hitting the target through the manipulation of figures by unscrupulous developers. I am pleased to report our lobbying of Michael Gove has been a success and we now have a 4-year target (which we are exceeding). This should protect us from further overdevelopment in the Devizes area.

Finally, a potentially life-saving change in West Lavington. The defibrillator in the telephone box in Rutts Lane, which was due to be removed because of the loss of its required electricity supply, has been relocated to the wall of The Old Bridge Inn pub. Residents can now rely on a defibrillator in the lay-by in Littleton Panell, one at the Village Hall and another on Church Street. The Parish Council website has a map showing the exact locations.

**You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to  
dominic.muns@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on 07585 394 178.**



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### **The Elisha Field Closing Times**

Sunset times for Market Lavington

February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5.00pm
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	5.13pm
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	5.25pm
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	5.38pm
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5.50pm
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.02pm



## **Planning Applications**

### **Market Lavington**

**PL/2023/10332** Land South of Potterne Park Farm. Installation of a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar PV panels with a generating capacity of up to 49.9 MW, including mounting system, permanent on site grid connection hub, inverters, underground cabling, stock proof fence, CCTV, internal tracks and associated infrastructure, landscaping, biodiversity net gain and environmental enhancements for a temporary period of 50 years.

**PL/2024/002015** Shires Close, T1 Alder T2 Norway Maple T3 Alder T4 Alder T5 Norway Maple - Reduce by up to 2 metres. T6 Willow - Pollard at a height of up to 3 metres.

**PL/2024/00182** Red House, 6 High St. T1. Beech Tree - Up to 15% thin to canopy and reduce by up to 3 metres. T2. Apple Tree – Remove T3. Scots Pine - Remove - growing too close to Beech tree.

### **Easterton**

**PL/2023/10332** Land South of Potterne Park Farm. Installation of a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar PV panels with a generating capacity of up to 49.9 MW, including mounting system, permanent on site grid connection hub, inverters, underground cabling, stock proof fence, CCTV, internal tracks and associated infrastructure, landscaping, biodiversity net gain and environmental enhancements for a temporary period of 50 years.

**Details of planning applications are available at**  
**<https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/?tabset-167f1=3>**  
**Or by visiting the council offices on the Devizes Library site**

## **Market Lavington Surgery**

### Closure of Urchfont Branch Surgery

Reluctantly Market Lavington Surgery has taken the difficult decision to close our branch surgery at Urchfont Village Hall on the 31st of December 2023. We appreciate that this might not come as a surprise to you as we have been unable to provide services there since the pandemic.

As you may know, the opening of the Devizes Health Centre was an opportunity for us, as an average sized practice, to reconsider how we provide care. This was with a view to us becoming more resilient and responsive to patient demand for appointments. To do this, we contribute some of our workforce to the collaborative team of clinicians who work at the Devizes Health Centre. Whilst we now have more clinical staff to provide this service and our routine appointments at the main surgery, we are unable to reintroduce clinics at Urchfont Surgery. We have not considered this option lightly and we hope that you understand our reasoning for the decision we have had to take.

We would like to reassure all our patients that our service will run as normal at Market Lavington, the practice is 2 miles from Urchfont surgery and is purpose built to meet the healthcare requirements of its patients. When the pandemic forced the closure of the Urchfont practice our patient base adapted well to the change and visited our main surgery without too much inconvenience caused. Any housebound patients registered with the surgery in the village continued to receive the same support and continuation of care in the community as before. Therefore, the proposal to make the closure permanent is not without precedence as we have already had a significant impact trial period for the last three years.

We would like to thank the community of Urchfont for their support during our residency in Urchfont. We are saddened to leave our rural outpost but have had to put the needs of our patient base as a whole first and foremost, in our planned activity.



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- Experienced, dedicated and caring team

### Opening times

Mon 9am – 6pm

Tues 9am – 6pm

Wed 9am – 1pm

Thurs 9am – 6pm

Fri 9am – 6pm

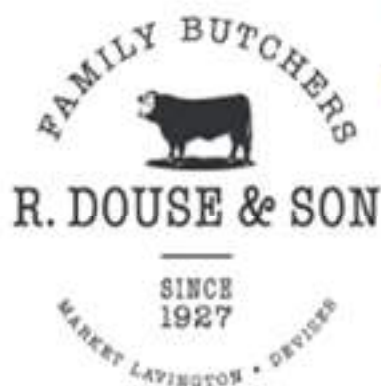
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Website: [www.paddockvet.com](http://www.paddockvet.com)

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## Local Nature Recovery Strategy January 2024 update

A vital part of developing the local nature recovery strategy for Wiltshire and Swindon is engagement with stakeholders.

### Context

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new, England-wide system of map based strategies that will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery and provide wider environmental benefits. Wiltshire and Swindon's strategy will, for the first time, provide an agreed, coherent, and compelling approach to nature recovery, directing financial resources and organisational effort to where it is most needed. Wiltshire Council has been appointed by DEFRA as responsible for preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Wiltshire and Swindon.

### Our approach

The main steps in developing the LNRS are set out below.

User testing focus groups

Workshops to discuss Wiltshire's priorities

Shortlisting chosen priorities

Workshops to discuss and map where best to deliver nature recovery

Collation and writing up

Democratic processes, Wiltshire Council sign off

When more details regarding the engagement programme, come available they will be publicised locally. If you've got any questions in the meantime, email [localnaturerecoverystrategy@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:localnaturerecoverystrategy@wiltshire.gov.uk).

**February Half Term      Lyneham      <https://www.rememuseum.org.uk/>**

A range of family-friendly activities suitable for all ages and abilities!

### **LEGO® Engineering Workshops**

Pre-bookable sessions - Unleash your inner engineer and build a vehicle from LEGO® that will actually drive! Led by our Education Officer, Andrew, these sessions are limited in capacity to allow for suitable supervision, please book your space in advance to avoid disappointment. Recommended for ages 7 and above.

### **Assault Course - Drop-in**

Please note: This activity is weather dependent. Challenge yourself to our miniature army-style assault course based on our grounds. Supervised by serving REME soldiers, you'll be sure to have fun and surprise yourself!

All activities included in entry fee, general entry applies (see details on our website).

**REME Museum MOD Lyneham Calne Road Chippenham Wiltshire SN15 4XX**

**Tue 13 Feb to Fri 16 February**

Contact telephone: 01249894869 Call to check latest times or cancellations.

### **Market Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Review**

The Market Lavington Neighbourhood Plan was made in May 2021, and covered the period up to 2026. During the recent review of the Wiltshire Council Local Plan (formally the Core Strategy) Market Lavington, as a designated Local Service Centre, and deemed capable of supporting new housing development, is currently required to find space for another 55 homes in addition to the land already set aside for development in the existing Neighbourhood Plan. In order to ensure that any further development proposals reflect local wishes in terms of location, design, and local need, we need to be proactive in planning for the future of our village. It is therefore considered that now is the appropriate time to undertake a review of the existing Market Lavington Neighbourhood Plan. The first stage of the review process would be to form a Steering Group, made up of local residents and Parish Councillors.

In order to gauge the opinions and appetite from the local community for undertaking such review, could we please ask you to contact Carol the Parish Clerk with any comments, and indicate if you would be interested in being part of the Steering Group (by end of February).

email: [clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) Tel: 01225 760372

Thank you very much on behalf of the Parish Council

### **WARNING**

#### **PARKING AT BROADWELL & OFF ST. MARY'S RD.**

These 2 carparks count as public highway and vehicles parked there have to be taxed, insured and have a valid MOT.

Wiltshire Council is responsible for removing untaxed or uninsured vehicles, and now that they are able to make a profit on every car they remove, they are quicker to react and remove these vehicles than they were.

These car parks are meant for short term parking.

Local people who have noticed vehicles there for several days have either reported them to the parish council as the landowner, or checked their tax, insurance and MOT status online and then reported the vehicle to the relevant legal body themselves.

Please could villagers use the carparks responsibly.

Colin Osborn, Chair, Market Lavington Parish Council



## Church Services February

4 th February 2nd before Lent		11th February 1 before Lent	18th February Lent 1	25 February Lent 2	3rd March Lent 3
Benefice Service  At  Little Cheverell  10.30am	9.00am	West Lavington Breakfast Church		9.15 am Easterton Holy Communion	Benefice Service  At  West Lavington  10.30am
	9.30am		West Lavington Holy Communion Common Worship	West Lavington Praise and Worship	
	10.am	10.30 am United Service at ML Community Hall	Great Cheverell Welcome to Worship	<b>Café Church</b> Great Cheverell	
	11.00am	Great Cheverell Simple Communion	Easterton Holy Communion		

9.00am Sunday and 11am Wednesday Mass  
 at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church,  
 4.30pm Ebenezer Baptist Church West Lavington.  
 10.30 am Trinity Church in the Community Hall, Market Lavington

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*Please leave a message if no answer*

*Clocks sold, purchased, restored, repaired researched and found*

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*[www.wiltshireclocks.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireclocks.co.uk)*

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LAVINGTON  
AND DISTRICT  
GARDENING CLUB



Upcoming event:

## 'Gardening Question Panel'

*Our February event is another chance to benefit from the collective wisdom of our assembled panel of experts - on a variety of **gardening-related questions!***

*(All with **refreshments + cake** available!!)*

*Plus...the usual **competition** and extras.*

*Existing and new members all very welcome.*

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 7:15pm**

**(for 7:30pm start)**

West Lavington Village Hall, SN10 4HL



Find us online at  
[lavingtongc.co.uk](http://lavingtongc.co.uk)

or

Facebook: **Lavington &  
District Gardening Club**

