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Market Lavington & Easterton Church & Community News



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Sunday 2nd July 2023

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Logo for URE 4 CARMEIA (United Reading & Easterton Community Muscular Dystrophy Association) with the text 'STRONGER TOGETHER, END LMNA-CMD'.

Logo for Wonder Wheels Cycle Challenge with the text 'FUNDRAISING FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY UK'.

March 2023



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North Wiltshire

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E: hello@homestartnorthwiltshire.org.uk W: www.homestartnorthwiltshire.org.uk



Home Start North Wiltshire is committed to equality, diversity, and safe recruitment. This volunteering post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.
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March Services

5 th March Lent 2		12 th March Lent 3	19 th March Mothering Sunday	26 th March Lent 5	2 nd April Palm Sunday
	9.00am	West Lavington Breakfast Church LWL			
10.30 am Benefice Communi on BCP Little Cheverell	9.30am	Little Cheverell HC BCP	West Lavington HC CW	West Lavington Praise and Worship	
	10.00am		Great Cheverell Mothering Sunday LWL		10.30 am Benefice Palm Sunday West Lavington
	11.00am	G. Cheverell Simple C. HC	Easterton HC	Great Cheverell Welcome to Worship LWL	
	11.00am	United Service at		St, Barnabas HC	

Regular worship in our sister churches:

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

Market Lavington & Easterton Church and Community News

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

Rector: Rev. Marion Harrison 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

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: 079 624 22 624 secretarytrinitychurchml@gmail.com

Market Lavington Parish Council

Chair Mr Colin Osborn, 01380 812450

Clerk to the Council Mrs Carol Hackett 01225 760372

23 Orchard Close West Ashton BA14 6AU

clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Easterton Parish Council

Chair: Mr Chris Saunders 812317

Clerk to the Council Sarah-Jane Bullock

clerk.easterton.pc@gmail.com

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

This magazine

Edited by Colin Osborn 01380 812450 colinosborn@compuserve.com

Treasurer, Fran Armstrong churchandcommunitynews@gmail.com

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Bishop’s Monthly Letter - March 2023

On Saturday 25 March, there are only 274 shopping days left until Christmas! This timely reminder comes not to send you to the shops, but to remember that there are nine months until Christmas comes round again. Nine months – for this day is the Feast of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, when Mary was told by the Archangel Gabriel that she was to bear a son, and that she will name him Jesus. This day and indeed this month of March reminds us of God’s preparations behind the scenes for our salvation. Each year we celebrate the fact of the Incarnation, of God being born among us, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel. Having an incarnational understanding as Christians means we understand God to be involved in our lives through the Holy Spirit, not just in March or at Christmas, but every day. Indeed, God is preparing the deepening of his engagement with the human condition everyday as we further the work of his Kingdom here and now.

To live the next nine months knowing within ourselves that God is preparing us for his mission now and in the future is a helpful way of life, for it means the God is already at work, whether we choose him or not and whether the society he came to redeem knows him fully or not.

Mary’s response to this amazing news was ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ In what ways in this next nine months, can we say YES to the incarnate Lord? How might you be being called? As the Spirit moves within us, who do we need to say yes to, when before, our answer to someone else, often different from ourselves, is always no? How many days are left, before we all say YES to God?

Bishop Stephen

From the Parish Registers

March 2023

Funerals

The funeral and burial of Sandra MAY of West Lavington, who died on 13th December 2022, aged 82 years, took place at All Saints’ Church, West Lavington on 6th January 2023.

A memorial service was held for Alan Howard Frederick ARNOLD, formerly of Great Cheverell, at St Peter’s Church, Great Cheverell on 7th January 2023. He died in Cornwall on 28th August 2022, aged 80 years.

James Keith HISCOCK of Littleton Panell died on 28th December 2022 aged 43 years. A service was held at Salisbury Crematorium on 20th January 2023.

Brian Oram Formerly of Northbrook, died 23/1/23.

Lynn Dyson of West Lavington died 17/2/23

ECO – CORNER

Earth Hour - The Great Switch-off

At 8.30 pm local time on March 25th, people around the world will be switching off their lights for one hour!

This began in March 2007, as you may know, when more than 2.2 million individuals and 2,000 businesses in Sydney, Australia switched off their lights for one hour to raise awareness about environmental degradation and to encourage people to take action to protect the planet. This marked the beginning of the Earth Hour movement.

Earth Hour was first proposed by the WWF and today it is one of the world’s largest grassroots environmental movements. It takes place every year with the same aim as it did in 2007 - to unite the world in support of the people and the planet.

However, it has gone beyond switching off the lights for one hour. It is also a time for reflection on our impact on the planet and how we can make a difference, together. People join from their homes and local communities in over 190 countries and territories. In 2022, famous landmarks - from the Sydney Opera House to the Colosseum and the Eiffel Tower, stretching to the London Eye and to the Empire State Building - turned their lights off.

Joining in the big switch-off allows even small actions to make a difference because we’re not alone. The next generation cares about tackling the nature and climate crises; every year, schools and youth groups across the UK mark Earth Hour. By raising awareness of this simple, but very significant, movement, we can inspire others around us to take part and show their concern for the planet.

Says the WWF: “We all need nature. And nature needs us to stand up for it every day. By 2030, nature and wildlife could be recovering all around us. Our leaders have promised to put nature at the heart of climate action, to secure a safer future for all of us. Now we must make sure they deliver on their promise. Everyone has a part to play – and it starts with a single switch. Will you join us?”

Anyone who wishes to get involved this year, as well as switching off on 25th March, can visit WWF’s Earth Hour page at <https://www.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour> for information on how they might take part and reduce their footprint on the planet.

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

Lavington Guides and Rangers would like to invite girls to come to our final meeting of the term on 30th of March from 6-7.45pm, at the old school in Market Lavington.

Guides are aged 10-14.
Lavington Rangers are aged 14-18.

Contact Emma on
Lavingtonguides@gmail.com



The children and young people at West Lavington youth club will be completing a graffiti project in March. The children and young people have designed a graffiti collage based on their own experiences of Covid now and how it compared to the previous three years. The project has been quite powerful, bringing to the surface a range of emotions that perhaps had not been explored previously. The artwork has been designed by a professional graffiti artist based on designs submitted by the young people. The artist will sketch the design on the end wall of the youth centre and a select group of young people will help the artist to 'colour in' the design over a few Saturdays in March. The youth centre aims to work with the local community so would love to hear your views on the design and project in general.

Unfortunately during the weekend of the 18th and 19th February the youth centre was subject to criminal damage by unknown people. This has resulted in the youth centre having to temporarily close whilst we make safe the areas that have been damaged. As a charity we have limited funds and rely on grants and donations from local organisations. We do have funds to repair the damage, but the knock on effect is that we will have fewer funds available to run sessions and trips for local young people. Any help or assistance that the local community can supply is always welcomed and appreciated.

Please do get in touch by email:
westlavingtonyouthclub2022@gmail.com
or by finding us on Facebook

Dave and the team.



Ebenezer Baptist Church

Cultural Christianity

Several years ago we spent our summer holidays in Carmarthen, West Wales. Disaster struck. I ran out of books to read. But ever the intrepid traveller I endeavoured to remedy the situation by popping into a local bookshop. Browsing the history section, a book with an orange and gold cover caught my eye. It was *Rubicon* by Tom Holland, who was originally from Salisbury. The book told the story of the rise of Julius Caesar. It was a bloodthirsty tale of ambitious men jostling to become top dog in Rome.

Caesar made a name for himself when leading the campaign to subdue Gaul. It is said that in pursuit of that goal he slaughtered a million Gauls and enslaved a million more. Today we would call him a war criminal and demand he be tried for his atrocities at the Hague. But the people of Rome hailed Caesar as a hero. The glittering prize of being appointed 'dictator for life' was bestowed upon him in 49 BC. Although his life was cut short when Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of March in 44 BC. At first Tom Holland admired the heroes of ancient Greece and Rome, but the more he immersed himself in that world, the more he was disturbed by their casual cruelty. The author realised that he was viewing the actions of the likes of Julius Caesar from the perspective of a culture that was deeply steeped in the Christian faith.

Christianity teaches that all people are made in the image of God and are therefore worthy of dignity and respect (even Gauls). That was the basis of modern day human rights. Jesus said, 'blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth'. Caesar wouldn't have agreed with that. But today we champion the underdog and demand that the poor receive the help they need.

Tom Holland doesn't claim to be a personal follower of the Lord Jesus, but he does recognise that some of our most cherished values derive from the Christian faith. His book *Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind* shows how the faith has shaped our culture. But it is one thing to admire 'Christian values' and another to actually be a Christian

The Christian believes that Jesus is the Son of God who died upon the cross for our sins and rose again from the dead. Jesus promises those who believe in him a place in his everlasting kingdom. Cultural Christianity may admire the faith for its benefits, often picking and choosing the bits it likes, while rejecting the rest. But the kingdom of heaven is not to be selectively admired from outside, but entered as a person is transformed on the inside. As Jesus said, "Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Pastor: Guy Davies www.pbc-ebc.org.uk

You are welcome to join us for our Sunday afternoon 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.

BLAZIN' FIDDLES

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Friday March 3rd 7.30pm

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<https://www.blazinfiddles.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ60snDBO0E>

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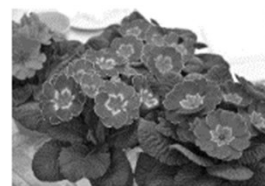


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TRINITY CHURCH

MARCH SERVICES



5th March - **TRINITY CHURCH SERVICE**
Led by Jeannie MacMeekin

12th March - **UNITED SERVICE @ St. BARNABAS EASTERTON**
Led by Revd. Gary Gotham

19th March - **'Mothering Sunday' SERVICE(with communion)**
Led by Revd. Gary Gotham



26th March - **TRINITY CHURCH SERVICE**

((British Summer Time begins)) **Led by Revd. Tom MacMeekin**

Visitors are always welcome to call in and meet us. All services are accompanied by refreshments. We are following current regulations to help keep you safe.

(N.B. All Trinity Services start at 10.30am in the Community Hall unless otherwise stated. Thank you.)

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

Saturday 6th May, 2023

Coronation Day

Sunday 7th May, 2023

Community Celebration Day

Monday 8th May, 2023.

The Big Help Out Day

What do you want to happen in Market Lavington on those days?

Bring your ideas and any offers of time to a meeting
in the Green Dragon Skittle Alley
Saturday 4th of March
1.30 to 4.40pm

Drop in at anytime, even for just a few minutes

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AT

MARKET LAVINGTON COMMUNITY HALL

2PM

FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

ORGANISED BY TRINITY CHURCH

ALL WELCOME

FURTHER INFO

BARBARA

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL SURVEY

Have you ever needed to use a car for just a few hours or day? Maybe you have a second car that isn't used much but costs a bomb to get through the MOT every year? In fact, simply owning a car costs around £3,000 per year in terms of running costs and depreciation – and all for something that doesn't even move 95% of the time.

That's why Co Cars are talking about bringing shared, electric cars to the Devizes area.

Co Cars is a not-for-profit cooperative social enterprise that already has two cars in nearby Salisbury alongside a network of 50+ shared, low and zero-emission cars across the rest of the South West. The company also runs the Co Bikes electric bike sharing scheme.

As a Co Cars member, you can book any car in their network from a few minutes to a few days for an all-inclusive price (plus mileage). The cost covers fuel / recharging*, insurance, tax and roadside assistance. Furthermore, each shared car club car also helps remove 8.5 private cars from the road, reducing the pressure on car parking spaces as well as helping our environment by tackling congestion and pollution.

Co Bikes are a great alternative to the car for many shorter trips including commuting, everyday errands and leisure trips. Plus, because they are electrically assisted, you can zip along and tackle hills, all without breaking a sweat!

In addition, Wiltshire Council wants to understand if residents would like to see secure, on street bike hangars for people who can't store their bikes at home or work.

To help us gauge interest, please take a couple of minutes to complete the short survey <https://bit.ly/ElectricDevizes>.

If you would like further information on Co Cars or Co Bikes, visit www.co-cars.co.uk and www.co-bikes.co.uk.

*At the dedicated charger at the car club bay only.

Litter, Fly-tipping and Rat Infestation

These were related items brought up by members of the public attending this month's Market Lavington Parish Council meeting. There has been waste tipping around Northbrook and Parsonage Lane including food waste. This has led to a boom in the rat population with rats being seen during the day,

Please take your waste home and put it in the lidded bins provided by Wiltshire Council, if your bin is too small an extra one can be ordered from Wiltshire Council

Planning Applications

Market Lavington

PL/2023/00498 Knapp House, White St. 1 - Beech tree – fell

PL/2023/00506 Sands Bungalow, Northbrook, Single storey front extension and detached garage.

PL/2023/00763 & 00778 8 Church Street. Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and separate garage to side. and replacement two storey extension. Formation of internal access to proposed extension at first floor level. Replacement of windows and repointing of external brickwork and new lime render finish to east gable stone wall. Proposal is as approved for applications PL/2022/02523 and PL/2022/02681 with the exception of the new lime render finish to the east gable wall instead of repointing the existing stone wall due to its poor condition.

PL/2023/00774 The Barn, 24 Spin Hill, Construction of entrance walls & gates, garden walls / fences, change of dormer cladding material previously approved.

PL/2022/09535 Mount Pleasant Yard, White Street. Redevelopment of site including demolition of an existing building and erection of 4 no. live/work units (Sui-Generis) and 1 no. bed and breakfast (Use Class C1)
(Outline application relating to access and layout)

Easterton

PL/2023/01355 The Grange, 27 High Street, T1 Holme Oak - 4m reduction with crown lift to 7m and 10% thin.

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

Speeding in Market Lavington

Community Speed Watch Volunteers

Community Speed Watch only takes place where there is an identified speeding issue in a 20mph, 30mph or 40mph speed limits.

Community Speed Watch brings local people together to monitor speeding in their communities. All information recorded is passed to the police.

If you are able to join our team, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Details on page 3

Bishop Stephen's letter to all clergy in the Diocese of Salisbury following the General Synod vote to approve prayers for God's blessing on same sex couples.

Dear sisters and brothers,

As you will know, General Synod has been meeting in London. This follows what many said was an honest and informative session at our own Diocesan Synod. You can read a short report of that synod session on our website.

It has been a challenging General Synod for all involved and for the whole church. I want to offer my deep appreciation to our excellent Synod representatives who have conducted themselves with dignity and partnership, in prayer. Despite how it may be portrayed in headlines or on social media, in my experience the Living in Love and Faith debate was one of quality, sensitivity and grace. Views and concerns were aired over a nine-hour debate which went into a second, unplanned day. One Member of Parliament commented on social media that Parliament could perhaps learn from the General Synod on how to do such things!

Please find the national press release and the amended motion here.

I made clear at our Diocesan Synod that I intended to vote for the motion and after listening to the long debate I did so, in company with the majority of each synodical House. I believe this motion, now passed, provides a way forward for the Church of England, offering greater pastoral care and welcome to those in a same sex relationship and keeping intact the existing doctrine of Holy Matrimony. I know that those who hoped for no change or for greater change will be disappointed with the outcome and I have heard the pain and grief that has been expressed by many on all sides. This has not been an easy road for anyone. Yet I believe that, over the whole lengthy process of Living in Love and Faith, we have modelled a new way of coming together, seeking to listen and understand one another more deeply, which will bear fruits in so many different ways. I thank God for the willingness of all those in our communities who have journeyed so courageously with us over these past few years. There is now much to do as we consider together how the decision will be lived out well in the months and years ahead, in integrity and with good conscience. I will ensure that you are kept informed of any discussions in the House of Bishops, as the draft texts of the prayers are considered in the light of contributions from General Synod. Draft prayers and pastoral guidance will be brought to the July Synod, and no prayers should be used before they are formally commended by the Bishops. I want to say again to you that those who wish to use the Prayers of Love and Faith and those who choose not to will receive equal support from me as your Bishop. I pray we may now have a time of reflection rather than reaction, and a reliance on well sourced information rather than rhetoric.

My most earnest prayer is for you and those in your care. Please also pray for me, and for Bishop Karen and Bishop Andrew. As we pray for each other, may God in Christ bless us all.


Regular users of Wiltshire Council car parks are being encouraged to consider buying a parking season ticket as a more convenient way to commute and to save money.

Having a season ticket can help drivers save approximately 50% on the daily rate at Wiltshire Council car parks. Currently a permit for central long stay Salisbury is £97 per month, which equates to £4.85 per day on a five-day week and £4.04 per day for a six-day week. The standard daily charge is currently £9.90. Savings will, however, vary depending on the car park.

Season tickets are available at individual car parks across the county, including those in Chippenham, Devizes, Melksham, Trowbridge and Salisbury, and are available in one-month, three-month, six-month or 12-month options.

Multiple cars can be registered on each season ticket, although the permit will only be valid for one vehicle at any one time. Season tickets are fully electronic and synchronised with Civil Enforcement Officers’ handheld devices, so paper permits/tickets will not need to be displayed in the vehicle.

Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council, said: “Season tickets are available in many of our car parks and provide the best way to save on your parking costs. It’s also the most convenient for regular parking, as it provides unlimited access to the chosen car park, so you can park as often as you like, regardless of your reason for parking or time period being used.



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Youth Council update

On 2nd February we held an initial Youth Council meeting during which the young people presented very considered issues that matter to them. They included litter and dog mess in areas they meet in, road safety, the loss of the Post Office and lack of play equipment for older youths. Fund raising ideas were also discussed.

It was such a positive meeting, and the outcome is that they'd like to create a Youth Council. We're holding a further meeting to discuss formally creating one, roles, structure and responsibilities etc.

Those present agreed that the next meeting will be at The Old School on Thursday 2nd March at 4:30 to 5:30pm, and young people between the ages of 10 and 16 years are all very welcome.

For more information, please contact
j.taylor@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Jane Taylor

In Term 3 we were very lucky to have one of our parents come into preschool and talk to the children about the Chinese New Year. They spoke about Chinese traditions, foods and presented the children with presents. The children also had a tasting session where they were able to try Chinese food and prawn crackers, both of which were a great success. Another of our parents also came in and shared her daughter’s favourite story book and read this to the children just before lunch time. The children really enjoyed having someone new to read to them. Although the weather has been cold it has not stopped the children going outside and playing in the garden, in the sandpit and enjoying the freedom of running about on the sports field.

We look forward to welcoming 2 new families in Term 4 and enjoying more opportunities to get outside to play and explore our local surroundings. Following on from the success of parents coming into the setting to share their family celebrations and to read to the children, we would like to invite family members to come in and share stories with the children at the end of the morning or afternoon sessions. If you would be interested in coming in to read to the children please contact Miss Julie on the email address listed below.

Lavington Pre-school is open term time only, Monday to Friday, 09:00-1500 hrs. Our sessions cater for a maximum of 26 children aged 2-5 years. Through planning in the moment, we aim to offer an environment that enables child-initiated play in order to capture their teachable moments. We offer a safe and caring environment with constant access to outside play.

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managerlavingtonpreschool@gmail.com

Julie Langlands Manager





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Friday 17th March 10:30 to 11am.

Tuesday 14th March

The Old School, Market Lavington 7.30pm

Topic :

Annual Meeting with display of memorabilia about our WI from the village museum.

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The Parish Steward, employed by Wiltshire Council, will be concentrating on small potholes in Market Lavington and Easterton at the end of March.

Please send photos and locations to Wiltshire Council using the MyWilts reporting system - either through the MyWilts smartphone app for Apple or Android devices, or online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts

Later in the year he will be cutting vegetation back from the edges of roads.

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A Message from Cllr Dominic Muns Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons

You may know that I hold the Education & Skills portfolio within Wiltshire Council, in addition to my role as representative of The Lavingtons. It was therefore a double-disappointment to hear of the White Horse Federation's decision to change the post-16 education offering at Devizes School with huge consequences for Lavington School and our local students, present and future.

Years of work went into creating a sixth form for young people in the Lavington area and great progress was still being made. Lavington School was growing thanks to the post-16 offering and as a result our community could offer an additional pathway to our young people.

I am particularly interested in hearing from young people and their families who are impacted by this recent change, or those who moved into the area with post-16 education at Lavington School in mind. Please get in touch to share your thoughts.

I am committed to supporting our local children and young people in their journey through education. I will do everything I can to ensure they have the opportunities that their peers in neighbouring towns have in terms of A-Level and Post-16.

I do not agree with our Prime Minister in terms of his ambition to see all students study some form of Maths until 18. We must understand that children hold individual skills and passions which need to be nurtured in schools to encourage great achievement. There is no "right" set of skills to hold, other than the basics required in day-to-day life.

Some children will grow to be scientists or mathematicians, some to be musicians or athletes. Pushing all students to study mathematics will be detrimental to those with alternative ability and passion.

Good teaching is the identification of interest, passion, or ability in a subject, and the nurturing of that ability combined with direction. From Early Years to Further Education, the opportunities for young people to flourish exist at every step. This is why I want to see Lavington School students be able to explore an extensive range of subjects at school beyond the age of 16.

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.

Sophie Duker at Wyvern Arts Centre, Swindon

The sexy baby from Taskmaster is all grown up. Back in 2019 she was a Babybel – round, sweet, pure. Now she's vintage cheddar – extra mature and hiding in your fridge. As seen on Live At The Apollo and literally everywhere else. Hag is her new stand-up show. Deal with it. Best Newcomer Nominee, 2019.

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In the recent very cold weather some readers have seen bumblebees collecting nectar from winter flowering plants, such as winter flowering honeysuckle, mahonia, abelia grandiflora and of course - ivy. These will be the hardy British species prevalent at this time of year (February, March), probably the buff tailed bumblebee (*bombus terrestris*) or possibly the early bumblebee (*bombus pratorum*) with an orangy yellowish bum, quite common in gardens and parks in early spring. There has been interest from readers in the super highways of hedges and trees for wildlife and it's still the season to plant native trees and hedges which are best suited to the climate and soils of the British Isles. By planting berry bearing species such as blackthorn and hawthorn, elderberry, spindleberry, viburnum, wild cherry, dog rose and whitebeam, all essential plants providing valuable nourishment to conserve wildlife, and will help stem the decline of species and attract fauna, and the resulting floral displays will brighten up your lives too. Web searches of local nurseries and garden centres will help you source the species you choose. A word of warning from a recent national newspaper article : "Trees left to die in rushed planting schemes". The reasons being lack of aftercare and management. Watering of newly planted stock is essential especially in long spells of hot weather, (dribble hoses are ideal), seasonal pruning to encourage growth will be needed and maybe some form of electric fencing protection (or hazel hurdles) should you be visited by local deer and grey squirrels which can be very destructive too. However you will get much pleasure from watching your whips or larger stock grow and bulk out over the seasons and years, as the old saying has it 'Big oaks from little acorns grow'. It's also frog and toad spawn time – don't you wish you'd dug that pond? One of the best features to attract a multitude of wildlife. Avian flu is still very much a concern of seabirds especially. Wetland reserves are reporting fewer numbers of winter migrants such as geese, swans and ducks and divers. Our native birds are still under threat too, so continue to keep birdbaths and feeders very clean. After a very wet at times, and cold winter, by Valentine's Day snowdrops are at their best, and crocii are flowering too, most parts of the South had not had rain for four weeks. With the Spring Equinox (20th March) not so far away – who will be the first to hear a cuckoo this year? Can you remember when you last heard one? The writer can't. There is a website for following cuckoos' journeys from deepest Africa to our shores. Also spare thoughts for the lot of wildlife in Ukraine, in the earthquake affected areas of Turkey and Syria, in the flooded areas of the Antipodes and in all the regions of the world where current wildfires have destroyed wildlife and their habitats. In 1871 one of the last Great Bustards in Wiltshire, and more than likely in the whole of the British Isles was shot. The taxidermist did his stuff and Otis Tarda was displayed in Salisbury Museum. Quite a few readers will no doubt have visited the Great Bustard Centre at Wexland near Netheravon, established in 2004 to restore this once native species to the British List. One can follow the history on the GB Group's website. Initial failures with eggs and birds from the Russian Steppes, (a BA pilot was very helpful on the transportation side!) Better success from 2014 with Spanish stock, and now in this decade this once extinct magnificent bird is now restored to Salisbury Plain and other parts of Southern England as resident. A great conservation success story.

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Wednesday 15th March, 7:15pm

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News from Dauntsey Academy Primary School

Book week

As we welcome the children back into school after their half term break, we look forward to one of my favourite weeks in the school calendar – book week! Books can be an escape into imaginary worlds or full of facts to help us learn more about our world and how we live our lives. Either way, the research says that young people who read for pleasure, do significantly better at school and in adult life than those who do not. Reading at DAPS is always a top priority and our KS2 results demonstrate the best start we give our young people.

Before the book week commences, we are holding a children's dressing up clothes sale with donated costumes which all helps support our families when the cost of living is adding pressures to most people.

Each pupil and class will be learning specially chosen poems off by heart to perform during our Poetry Slam. Each class holds a competition for the performances and the winners all come together to compete against each other for an overall winner. Each class performs a group poem which again is judged and points given for a variety of success criteria-the more creative, the better!

The children will be dressing up as a character from their favourite book as well as bringing that book in to read with their class. We have a book swap box outside each classroom so the children can swap a book and take a new book home and we have a visiting book fair where the children can browse lots of books and authors they might not have discovered yet.

We will also be inviting our parents and carers into school one morning to enjoy our Reading Café where they are invited into class to share a book with their children and their friends.

It's a fabulous week and one that everyone looks forward to and enjoys.

Mid Wilts Dance Show

A huge congratulations to our DAPS dance team that took part in the Mid Wilts Dance Show at Dauntsey School at the end of term alongside many other schools from the surrounding areas. Their performance was wonderful and I know they did themselves, their parents and our school proud.

Visit DAPS

As we approach the time of year where primary school places are offered to the little ones starting school in September, we are keen to invite anyone new to the Lavington area or who have put DAPS down as either a first, second or third primary school choice to come and visit us. I am so proud of what our children achieve at DAPS and I would love to show you around our wonderful school and grounds.

Philippa Winbolt, Headteacher.

Kim Pierpoint

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Spring Equinox (Ostara)
Derived from a reconstruction produced by linguist Jacob Grimm of an Old High German form of the Old English goddess name Éostre, Ostara marks the vernal equinox in some modern Pagan traditions.
Known as Alban Eilir to modern Druid traditions, this holiday is the second of three spring celebrations (the midpoint between Imbolc and Beltane), during which light and darkness are again in balance, with light on the rise. It is a time of new beginnings and of life emerging further from the grips of winter.

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March 18 th	6.17pm
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