VILLACE VOICE

A Month

etter for Chilmark & Ride and Fonthill B

with Berwick St Leonard

Black Dog Carols Night

Further to the welcome reopening of The Black Dog on 1 December, we're delighted to report that Sophie Eden's popular Carols Night will return to the pub on Monday 23 December, with singing getting underway at 9pm. The preceding evening, Sunday 22 December, will be marked by the annual Candlelit Carol Service in Chilmark Church, starting at 5pm. Remember to bring a torch.

Thank you, all

As another year comes to an end, we wish to thank all those who make possible the monthly production of The Village Voice, and its distribution to 200-plus homes in Chilmark and Ridge. From our contributors and distributors to our advertisers and Spectrum Print, please know that your support is greatly appreciated by The Village Voice Committee.

Chilmark this Week emails

If you would like to receive the weekly email updates of forthcoming village events, please contact sarah@raggedapple.co.uk

Village Voice website

Current and recent back issues: www.chilmarkvillagevoice.co.uk
For earlier issues, or to opt in to receiving The Village Voice in online format only, please contact: editor@chilmarkvillagevoice.co.uk

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Welcome to the December '24 and January 2025 issue of The Village Voice



The Black Dog is Back

There were smiles all round in the packed bars of The Black Dog as dozens of villagers raised glasses to the reopening of the pub on Sunday 1 December, some 14 months after its closure in October 2023. The new *team* at the BD - Stuart, Will, Mike & Bob – opted for a low-key reopening as none of them is an experienced publican. In the short term, the pub will be cashless – ie card payments only. Updates and details of opening hours will be posted on social media and, to this end, residents are urged to follow the *blackdogpubchilmark* on either Instagram or Facebook.

Parish Council Precept

Further to budget planning discussions at the November Parish Council meeting, Chilmark PC Chair Sir Richard Packer has asked us to include the following:

Every Parish Council (PC) is empowered to set

the precept for the village for each fiscal year from 1 April to 31 March. That precept is then collected as part of Wiltshire Council Tax. For the year 2024/25 the precept for Chilmark was set at £44.77 for a Band D house. That produced an income of £11,000 for the Chilmark Parish Council (CPC) which was has been used to provide services for the village. There is only one part time paid officer and that is the Parish Clerk. CPC arranges grass cutting, maintenance and deals with matters of Highways and Planning. All the Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers. Over the last 10 years, CPC has fallen behind neighbouring villages in terms of precept levels; in 2024/25, for instance, Hindon's precept was £70.17, Teffont's was £85.23 and Dinton's was £54.21.

CPC has almost no reserves as the £11,000 raised is spent each year on Parish matters. As we budget for 2025/26 there are two significant items in front of us:

- The Claybush Playing field and playground, p4 & detail in CPC Minutes
- Speed control on the B3089, p4

These matters have been debated at recent PC meetings and it is the intention of CPC to increase the precept for the 2025/26 year significantly so that we may deal with them both. We consider that £3,500 is needed for these two issues and this alone would necessitate an increase in the precept of 32%. In addition, there are other Retail Price Index increases to consider. Hence, it is our proposal to increase the precept by 40% going into next year. This will mean that a Band D house pays £62.68. This is an increase of 34p per week. We intend to take questions on this matter at the next CPC meeting on Wednesday 8 January 2025, to which all residents are welcome.

Wishing you a very happy season, The Editorial Team



The Village Voice - Directory

The Village Voice Editorial Team

Copy deadline 20th of each month. Please note that there will be one issue for December & January (copy deadline 20 November) and one issue for July & August (deadline 20 June). Items will be welcomed from any individual or village organisation and should be sent to the Editor. However, newsletter content remains at the discretion of the Editorial Team and on some occasions will be space dependent. If you wish to advertise in the newsletter, please contact the Treasurer.

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> Call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not an emergency - 999

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Clerk to the Parish Council

Citizens' Advice Bureau

Chilmark & Fonthill Bishop School

Chilmark Cricket Club

Doctors' Surgery Hindon

Doctors' Surgery Tisbury

Flood Warden

Fonthill Park Cricket Club

Chilmark Horticultural Society

NHS 111 Service

Police (non-emergency)

Pothole & Fly Tipping Reporting

Reading Room bookings

Salisbury & South Wiltshire MP

Scottish & Southern Electricity

Tisbus

Tisbury Sports Centre

Tisbury Library

Wessex Water

Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Councillor



The Village Voice - Diary

		December Dates for your Diary					
Tuesday 3rd	7pm	Social Stitchers	Chilmark Reading Room (CRR)				
Wednesday 4th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR				
Friday 8th	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	CRR				
Saturday 7th	2-4pm	Chilmark Christmas Bazaar CRR					
Sat 7-Wed 11th	9am-5pm	Food Bank Collection	Chilmark Church				
Wednesday 11th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR				
Wednesday 11th	10.30-12noon	Chilmark Coffee Kitchen	CRR				
Tuesday 17th	7pm	Social Stitchers	CRR				
Wednesday 18th	9am	Kettlercise	CRR				
Wednesday 18th	9.30-12noon	Christmas Coffee Morning	Chilmark House, SP3 5AP				
Wednesday 18th	2.30 & 7pm	Christmas Wreath workshop	CRR				
Saturday 21st	10am-12noon	Fonthill Book Swap	Fonthill Bishop Reading Room				
Sunday 22nd	5pm	Candlelit Carol Service	Chilmark Church				
Monday 23rd	9pm	Sophie's Carols Night	The Black Dog				
		January 2025					
Tuesday 7th	7pm	Social Stitchers	CRR				
Wednesday 8th	10.30-12noon	Chilmark Coffee Kitchen	CRR				
Wednesday 8th	7pm	Chilmark Parish Council meeting	CRR				
Tuesday 21st	2.55-3.20pm	Mobile Library	Hops Close				
Tuesday 21st	7pm	Social Stitchers CRR					
Wednesday 22	9am	Kettlercise	CRR				
Sat 25-Wed 29th	9am-5pm	Food Bank Collection	Chilmark Church				
Wednesday 29th	10.30-12noon	Chilmark Coffee Kitchen	CRR				

Activities Contacts:

Social Stitchers - Emily Wilkins 07523 131630
Art Group - Rose Chapman 01722 716502 - rosechapmaneva@gmail.com
Reading Group - Sally Butcher 01722 716387 - odneyo@btinternet.com
Astronomy - Rod Greening 01722 717462 - barrod888@gmail.com
Wednesday Kettlercise Class - Annabel Webb 07816 621300 or annabelwebb@gmail.com



Unit 2, Chaldicott Barns Semley, SP7 9AW

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In our kitchen & larder you will find a selection of quiches, sausage rolls, scotch eggs and salads, along with coffee and sweet treats, wine and fresh bread.

We also offer a daily lunch specials menu - we encourage you to book due to our limited number of tables!



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Parish Council News

To read the latest draft minutes and future agendas, visit: www.southwilts.com/site/chilmarkparishcouncil

Chilmark Parish Council met in the Reading Room on Wednesday 6 November. Twenty residents attended, the majority interested in measures to reduce speeding on the B3089 Salisbury Road; see *Speeding* item below.

Claybush Playing Field

The possible transfer of ownership of Claybush Playing Field from the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) to the Parish Council (PC) was again on the agenda. In the October VV, we reported that the SDBE's School Estates Manager Olivia Evans would be invited to the November PC meeting to provide an update. However, a few days ahead of the November meeting, the SDBE submitted a completely new proposal, and no SDBE representative was present. The gist of the proposal is the transfer of the playing field's ownership to the PC on the condition that Chilmark School has exclusive use of the field for one day per week in term time. Councillors discussed the possible legal and cost implications of this solution, along with ramifications for the Playground Committee. Important details to be clarified included responsibility for the reinstallation of the playing field fencing which had been dismantled by SDBE contractors in autumn 2023, without the required planning permission for replacement fencing. The Playground Committee Chair Olivia von Halle noted that two pieces of the playground equipment - the climbing frame and the tyres - had recently failed safety tests and were to be dismantled; the playground was not really fit for purpose in its current condition and there was a question over its insurance status while no ownership agreement for the playing field was in place.

Barn Hill Parking

Wiltshire Councillor Bridget Wayman reported that she would be visiting the site with Senior Traffic Engineer Paul Shaddock during November; she was optimistic that at least two more parking spaces could be provided for Barn Hill residents.

Speeding concerns on B3089 Salisbury Road

Following discussions at the November PC meeting, and later PC consultation with Councillor Wayman & Emma Painter (Wiltshire Council Traffic Surveys), the Traffic Survey (previously known as a metro count) position has been moved further east along the Salisbury Road, in the direction of Teffont; it was originally going to be positioned near the Black Dog.

The Traffic Survey cable will now be attached to the telegraph pole on the verge outside The Rowans on the north side of the B3089, opposite the large tree on the boundary of The Old Rectory & Odin Cottage on the south side of the road. It will be in position for seven days and will measure the speed and density of the traffic in both directions. This Survey is due to be installed in coming weeks; once the results have been analysed, the PC will be able to further update the village. All traffic calming options for consideration do need to fulfil police and highways criteria.

The most likely outcome is that the PC should be able to seek planning permission for one or two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). All SIDS are 100% self-funded by a PC; the poles & installation can be 75% funded by Wiltshire Council from the Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) budget and 25% self-funded by a PC.

Depending on the traffic speeds recorded by the Traffic Survey, Chilmark may be eligible to apply to join the Community Speed Watch programme. This is a police-led, village volunteer programme. We do not expect to be able to provide any further updates until the next Parish Council Meeting on 8 January 2025. Please do contact Cllrs Bev Small & Peter Young if you have any queries :bevsmall@me.com / youngs.4@btinternet.com

Safe Crossing Point

At the November PC meeting a resident asked if a traffic island could be installed to provide a *safe crossing point* across the Salisbury Road - from the north pavement almost in front of the Milestone to the footpath down to the church. Please note this is the only appropriate location for a *safe crossing point* on the B3089 Salisbury Road through the village as a pavement and dropped kerb are required on both sides of the road.

The PC has consulted the Wiltshire Council Highways Engineer on this matter. Officially known as a *Pedestrian Refuge*, this cannot be provided at this location. Current design guidance requires a carriageway width of 7.5 metres to provide a pedestrian refuge (this is based on 2 x 3-metre wide carriageway lanes and 1.5 metre wide pedestrian refuge) and the width of the carriageway at this point is only 6.8 metres wide.

An informal crossing point at this location may be possible. This would be the installation of a different coloured road surface with dropped kerbs, and usually roadside bollards. There are some dropped kerbs already at the location. Kerb side bollards may not be possible due to residents' driveways.

A zebra crossing can only be installed if more than 50 people per hour cross the road in the peak/busiest four-hour period, measured at some point between 7am - 7pm. Chilmark does not qualify for this.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next Chilmark PC meeting will take place on Wednesday 8 January, 7pm, in Chilmark Reading Room.

Latest Planning Applications / Decisions:

There are currently no new or outstanding planning applications in the village.



Forbes Field

With the planting of the final tranche of trees and completion of a stone cairn, the main tasks of the Forbes Field project, launched in January 2022, have now been accomplished. From 2025 onwards, work will switch

principally to the maintenance of the Field as a valued village asset. In the meantime, this report describes our latest activities.

Over a dozen volunteers from the Management Group and the Friends of Forbes Field turned out to our Field Day on Saturday 16 November. Although representing a smaller number than in previous sessions, a lot was achieved by this gallant band, kindly reinforced by Janie Whipp's parents, who were visiting Chilmark. Work undertaken included: the replacement of three poorly Cherries in the Orchard; the planting of four Field Maples and three Silver Birches in the high, southwestern, corner of the Field; the clearing of tree bases and hedgerows of weeds to give trees and young whips a better chance of future growth and, not least, the strimming of a number of

areas to tidy up the Field and its entrance area. And, not forgotten, switching off the water supply at the roadside stopcock. As a result, the Field is now ready for winter.



Wednesday 20 November saw us complete the cairn located near the highest point of the Field. It now features a plaque donated by the Forbes family, inscribed: Forbes Field Given to Chilmark in 2008 by Diana Forbes who lived here for over 70 years. Looking over the cairn, visitors will enjoy not only a fine view of the Field, but also one of the village as a whole, as Diana Forbes intended 16 years ago. That said, we still have a little landscaping to do in this corner of the Field, which we'll undertake next year. We anticipate that the area in the vicinity of the cairn will become a pleasant picnic spot in summer months, with the newly planted Silver Birches and Field Maples providing a backcloth and shade in the years to come.

In closing, and on behalf of all members of the Management Group, I would like to thank most sincerely all those who have supported the Forbes Field project so enthusiastically and effectively over the past three years. The results of this great community effort are now plain to see and to experience: please visit the Field and be prepared to assist us in sustaining it as an accessible and attractive place for all in Chilmark to enjoy long into the future. We have some fun events in store!

Mungo Melvin



Please put Saturday 7 December into your diary and come along to the Reading Room Christmas Bazaar, from 2-4pm. The raffle will be just as spectacular as last year, so don't miss the chance to buy your tickets - these can also be bought in advance from Ellie Rees: ellie@withbrickworks.com

Christmas gifts, holly and mistletoe, seasonal fresh produce, mulled wine and mince pies will be on sale, and there are many Tombola prizes to be won. We would be

very grateful for any good quality, unopened and in-date donations to the Tombola stall. Gifts, bottles and confectionery are all very popular. Becky Lee, 07914 406843, and Alison Whipp-Long, 07854 550363, would be delighted to receive these by Friday 6 December. Eddie Young and Liz Nixon have very kindly agreed to run the Fresh Produce stall for us again. Donations of savoury goods, Christmas nibbles, chutneys, marmalades, pâtés, dips, pickles, sausage rolls and small cakes or brownies would be extremely welcome. Please list the ingredients on the label and contact Eddie and Liz for details of where and when to drop donations off. Eddie: 07470 047099 / Liz: ernixon66@gmail.com

The AGM of the Trustees and Management Committee of the Chilmark Reading Room took place on Monday 18 November. Many thanks to our Trustee, Sally Butcher, who chaired the meeting and presided over the re-election of the committee. Alison Whipp-Long was elected as Chair, Richard Mann remains as Treasurer and Jenny Gavin the Bookings Secretary, together with Dathan Trent, Henrietta Cockrell, Janie Whipp and Becky Lee. We said goodbye to Ellie Rees and would like to thank her for the huge effort she put into making the Christmas Bazaar Raffle a great success over the last few years. I stepped down after five years as Chair and would like to thank you for all your support of the Reading Room in that time, and the committee members past and present for their considerable contributions to the smooth running of the Reading Room. I wish Alison and the committee every success in the future.

Morag Philpott



A fun and festive afternoon with Oulled Wine & Oince Pies,

Christmas Gifts & Decorations, Tombola & delicious Nome Produce. Don't miss the chance to win a fantastic prize at this year's Raffle!

Any donations to the Produce Stall and Tombola would be very warmly welcomed. For further details on the Produce stall please contact Eddie Young and on 01722 716423 - edwina.young@yahoo.com. For the Tombola (bottles, gifts, chocolates etc) please contact Alison Whipp-Long on 07854 550363 - alisonwhipplong@gmail.com For Raffle Tickets in advance please contact Ellie Rees on 07709 353297 - ellie@withbrickworks.com

Chilmark 1990 Movie Night

Thanks to all those who supported the Chilmark 1990 Film Night in the Reading Room. The event proved popular with more than 50 residents turning out to view the two-and-

half-hour movie of a year in Chilmark, filmed and edited by former resident George Stone. Many were struck by just how different the village looked nearly 35 years ago, when Chilmark still boasted a shop & post office and a petrol station. Our thanks go to Colin Diaper for sharing his copy of this fascinating record of what proved to be an eventful year in the village. Tickets and donations raised £400 for the Chilmark War Memorial restoration project. The Reading Room bar on the night raised £175 which will go towards ongoing upkeep of the building.

War Memorial Restoration Campaign

Twenty-one Chilmark villagers lost their lives during the 1914-18 war and a further two during the 1939-45 war. Their sacrifice for our freedom is honoured by the



Chilmark War Memorial, around which many villagers gather every Remembrance Sunday. Twelve of our fallen came from just four families. Nor was it all men - Annie Moores is amongst those commemorated.

The condition of our War Memorial, a listed monument, is sadly no longer in keeping with its solemn purpose. Many of the names are illegible, the stonework is broken and spalling and its

broken and spalling, and its structural integrity questionable. *War Memorials Online* classifies the Memorial's condition as *Poor*. From time to time, the Parish Council (PC) and Parochial Church Council (PCC) also receive letters of concern from individuals and families.

In view of the deteriorating state of the Memorial, the PC and PCC have researched the cost of restoration and several villagers have already pledged generously towards the costs. Monies collected from this year's Remembrance Service and from a recent Film Night in the Reading Room have also been dedicated to this purpose. As a result the funding position is as follows:

Target repair sum	£4500
Pledges (9 people)	£2650
Remembrance Sunday	£496.50
Film Night	£400
Sum still to raise	£953.50

The aim is to collect this sum by the year-end so that planning permission can be obtained and the work commissioned and completed in time for next year's Remembrance Service. The Chilmark War Memorial Restoration Campaign would therefore warmly welcome all support towards raising this remaining sum. Contributions may be made directly to:

Chilmark Parochial Church Council Fabric Account

Sort code: 54 41 19 Account: 01117637

referencing the purpose: War Memorial or cheques/cash may be handed to Peter Young at Meadow House, The Street, SP3 5AR. Donations made by taxpayers areeligible as Gift Aid - declaration form available from either Peter Young or by emailing Grant Philpott at grphilpott@yahoo.com

Chilmark Coffee Kitchen

Please do come and join us for our special Christmas Coffee Kitchen and final session for this year on Wednesday 11 December from 10.30am -12 noon in the Reading Room. Everyone is welcome to pop in for coffee, tea and homemade cakes with a seasonal theme! It is a great way to get to know people, especially if you are new to the village. As always, entry is free but there is the opportunity to donate to Salisbury Trust for the Homeless.

Dates for the following month will be Wednesday 8 and Wednesday 29 January from 10.30am -12 noon, in the Reading Room. Any queries, please contact **Lynn Menzies** - 01722 717925 / angus.menzies1@btinternet.com

CHILMARK COFFEE KITCHEN SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



Do pop in and join us for coffee and a chat Home-made cakes, stollen and mince pies



WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER
10.30-12.00 in THE READING ROOM

Coffee and cakes are all free Donations to Salisbury Trust for the Homeless gratefully received

Chilmark Food Bank Collection

As we come to the end of 2024, and look ahead to 2025, it is time to thank all who have contributed so generously to our village foodbank over the past year. I can hardly believe that the total weight collected so far in 2024 amounts to 1352.8 kg and we still have December to go. It has been a fantastic effort; thank you so much, to the village, the School and Fonthill Bishop Book Swap. It means that together we have helped many in need.

Looking ahead to next year, I am hoping that our village will be happy continue with the monthly foodbank donations just as we have been doing since March 2020 when Kathryn Mann started the initiative during lockdown. The next collection is our Christmas one, running from Saturday 7 to Wednesday 11 December. This needs to be early in the month to help the depot with all the sorting, which simply is not possible at the last minute. It has been suggested that one or two Christmas treats would be very welcome in amongst the mundane necessities. As previously, everything needs to be in date and non-perishable, please, and to be dropped in the church by the font.

I need to tweak the January date a little as I will be away for part of the month so drop off will be Saturday 25 to Wednesday 29 January. We will proceed from there on the last Wednesday to Saturday of each month, excluding August.

We have had Fonthill Bishop Book Swap adding to our monthly donations for the past two-and-a-half years which we have been very grateful for. Thank you Netta and your team. However, as they collect money for tea and cakes (yummy), it makes more sense from now on for FBBS to make a monthly direct bank transfer, which will enable Salisbury Food Bank to purchase items that are especially needed along with some fresh produce. All at more competitive prices.

I end by thanking you all once more and wishing you a very Happy Christmas and New Year. May 2025 bring some global peace.

Angi Štoop



Wednesday 18 December, 9.30am-12noon at Chilmark House. Everyone is most welcome to come for coffee, tea, cakes and mince pies. Please do pop in; entrance is free but cash donations will be gratefully accepted with all proceeds going to the Chilmark War Memorial Restoration Fund. Any queries, please contact Bev Small 07889 618219 / bevsmall@me.com

Christmas Wreath Workshops

A reminder that this year's workshops are taking place in the Reading Room on Wednesday 18 December, with the afternoon session starting at 2.30pm, and the evening session at 7pm. This popular event is in its 11th year and can be enjoyed by beginners and pros alike. Tickets £10 each from Chrissie Eden: 01722 716571 or email: chrissieeden@yahoo.co.uk

Chrissie Eden

Watercress

Our thanks to Tim Stoop for once more volunteering to bring fortnightly deliveries of delicious Chalke Valley Watercress to our doors throughout the 2024 growing season. As the season ends, Tim writes:

We started back on 27 March but then had to wait a month until the end of April for the next pick up as the seedlings were slow to grow. The grand total for the year amounted to 768 bags.

I shall be on parade to repeat the exercise in 2025 and will continue as long as the demand is there - we all need that beneficial iron! Chalke Valley are very appreciative of the orders we have given them since we first started at the beginning of lockdown, and it is good to support a well-run local business.

Tim Stoop



Chilmark & Fonthill Bishop School

We raised £265 for Children in Need through our non-uniform day, cake sale and online donations. Thank you to all who supported our fund-raising efforts.

As we approached the end of November, we started to hear jingling in the corridors and see glitter on the carpets. Mrs Eden & Mrs Roberts have been in helping the children to make bells that will be used to decorate the church this Christmas. We will also be carol singing in the village this year on Wednesday 18 December. Details with timings and locations to follow. The staff and the children would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas!



Mrs Roberts and Mrs Eden help make church decorations



Winter in the Garden

Whilst the days are short, and the weather often cold or wet, there are still things to do in the garden. Open-grown

apple and pear trees (ie not grown against a wall) can be pruned now. We are aiming for an open goblet shape. Remove any diseased or damaged wood, and any stems crossing or rubbing against each other. Follow this link for more information: Apples and pears: winter pruning/RHS Gardening.

If frosts are forecast, wrap terracotta pots in fleece or bubble wrap. Move plants in pots to a more sheltered position if you can. Float an old football on your pond to prevent ice from covering it completely.

Many of us will be thinking about Christmas trees. The most popular are Norway Spruce (Picea abies), The Nordman Fir (Abies nordmanniana) or the Colorado Spruce (Picea pungens). Did you know that the cones of spruces hang down whereas the cones of firs stand up like candles? Please do remember to water your tree, to help prevent needle drop, and site it away from fires or radiators if possible. If your tree has no roots, try standing it in a bucket of water for 24 hours before you bring it indoors.

Potted Hippeastrum (Amaryllis) bulbs can be brought indoors now, to a bright and warm position, where they should flower over the festive season. A liquid tomato feed every ten days helps to promote flowers. Christmas Cacti come from rainforests, so keep them out of direct sun and away from draughts.

As the New Year arrives, it's a great time to make garden plans. I like to review my seed tin and work out what I need to buy. I always sow chilli seeds in January, but they need warmth to germinate. A sunny windowsill above a radiator is perfect.

My warmest wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.





Chilmark Cricket Club

Chilmark Cricket Club stalwart Carl Jacobs has had his contributions towards the local game recognised with a lifetime achievement award from Wiltshire Cricket. The ceremony,

held in Devizes Town Hall in early November, saw volunteers from clubs across the county nominated in various categories. They saved the best for last, however, with Jacobs receiving his award towards the end of the ceremony. Tributes from fellow Chilmark players were compiled into a moving video tribute and played in front of the 40 strong crowd in the Assembly Room. Jacobs celebrated the award with a glass of cheap Sauvignon Blanc.



Wiltshire Cricket's Development Manager Ali Goodard presents Carl Jacobs with his Lifetime Achievement Award

Jacobs played in Chilmark Cricket Club's first ever game back in 2002. Over the next 22 years he took on every role possible within the club, both on the field and off – wicketkeeper, bowler, batter, scorer, umpire, fixture secretary, groundsman, tea wrangler. In 2015 he became club chairman and helped steer the club from one era to the next. He has been integral in reinstating the junior program, maintaining relations with other stakeholders and village entities, and in ensuring the club retains its reputation as a quintessential village cricket destination.

He's played a bit too. 168 games to be precise. But you can probably add another 20 for opposition teams when they've turned up a player short. His batting return for Chilmark is a respectable 1407 runs at the very village average of 13.93. However, as a bowler, his 58 wickets at 21.95 put him into 'strike weapon' territory. Indeed, his proudest moment came when he took 5-28 against the London Erratics back in 2010. A haul that ensured his name will feature on the club honours board long after he hangs up his whites for good. Until then, Chilmark Cricket Club joins Wiltshire Cricket in honouring an icon of the local game.

Brand King

Chilmark Horticultural Society

The Society is delighted to announce a talk on British Flowers in Nature and the Garden. This will be given by RHS affiliated speaker Mr Robert Harvey, of Natural World Photography, and will take place in the Reading Room on Thursday 27 February 2025, commencing 6.30 pm. Light refreshments will be available.

Robert says: From woodlands carpeted by spring flowers and summer meadows to wetlands and sea cliffs, our native flora has a wealth of colour and interest to inspire gardeners. Appreciating plants' natural surroundings

provides ideas to create our own miniature wildlife habitats.

We very much hope you will join us for what we hope will be an interesting and inspiring evening.



Distillery Tour

What an interesting evening we had visiting the Witchmark Distillery in Fonthill Bishop at the beginning of November. We had not expected the barn conversion to have been so sympathetically or beautifully done, and all very much in keeping with its original character. The guided tour lasted about one and a half hours during which we were shown the most impressive equipment, including the 5 km of stainless-steel piping and a state-of-the-art copper still. This all fits into the old building without any of the original timbers having been removed.

Our guide Richard talked us through the process of making whisky and gin, from grain to finished spirit, and its maturing process. Great care is being taken to have as low an impact as possible on both the environment and the local community, which was good to hear.

Before we embarked on the tasting, back in the welcoming reception, we were shown the very first caskets, including casket 001 holding the first maturing whisky; this needs time before being bottled. The gin on the other hand was ready, which we then sampled - delicious!

The intention is for the reception to be open to the public for coffee and cake as from January, and guided tours of the distillery to be available by arrangement. The gin is ready for sale now but the whisky needs a little longer before it will be available.

Angi Stoop

Church Times

St Margaret of Antioch, Chilmark

Services this Christmas

Sunday 22 December, 5pm – Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols, to be led by Revd Elaine Brightwell. All ages welcomed. Please remember to bring your torch.

Tuesday 24 December, 10pm – Christmas Eve Communion with Carols, to be led Revd Michael Goater

Wednesday 25 December, 11.15am – Christmas Day All Age Communion, to be led by Revd Mark Hayter

Sunday 29 December, 9.30am – Benefice Communion at St John's Tisbury, to be led by Revd Jo Naish

Christmas Flowers

If you are on the Festival Flowers Rota, please remember to get you flowers in place in time for the Carol Service on Sunday 22 December. Thank you everyone!

Bell ringing practise

A reminder that the Tisbury and Chilmark Bell Ringers are now ringing at St Margaret's on the second Wednesday of each month, from 7pm until 8pm. Anyone who is interested in starting, or resuming bellringing, should contact Angust Menzies: angus.menzies1@btinternet.com or 01722 717925.

Focus Point

How long before I can put up the Christmas tree? has been a topic of conversation since early October on social media. By now, I expect many of you will be either proudly looking at your beautiful decorations or wondering whether it is time to Deck the Halls with boughs of holly. Others may be shuddering in a somewhat Scrooge like fashion, muttering Bah Humbug and privately thinking that Christmas Eve is quite early enough.

I confess I belonged to the latter group. That is, until very recently. Because the month of December, for me, for our family and church family, is a time of preparation. A time for us, in spirit at least, to journey towards Bethlehem to help us prepare for Jesus' birth. We think about the whole history of the coming of Jesus: God's promises to Abraham; the words of the prophets still so beloved in works like Handel's Messiah and our carols, the coming of John the Baptist, Patron Saint of two of our churches and, of course, our focus on Mary, mother of our Lord.

But decorations also tell a story. One family use their tree like an Advent Calendar. Each day a new decoration or object is hung up as the Christmas story unfolds, with the Angel arriving on Week 4 and Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve. It helps them to reflect on the small things, that end up being the important things.

Christmas is a time of great joy but not everyone who puts up decorations is joyful. In full Bah Humbug mode, I asked one young friend of mine why she puts up her trees in early November. I was silenced by her response. It's because each of my three trees commemorates a baby that we lost in the autumn, and they give me hope at a time when I am most sad. The birth of Jesus is all about bringing hope into a world which sometimes can seem bleak and comfortless. The love of God brings light into the darkness.

So, in recent years, we have placed a bare Christmas tree in the church in Hindon during Advent so that families who have lost loved ones can put a simple star on the tree, take a prayer card and know they are not forgotten. It remains bare until Christmas itself when, together with the main tree, it is lit. Christmas brings hope as we celebrate God's wonderful gift in the light of Christ child.

Around the country you will see trees of light: raising money for local charities and reminding us that Christmas is a time when we too should be looking to bring light into the dark places. As you prepare for Christmas, why not add a few pieces to the foodbank box, a decoration or two that remind you to pray for those who are in need, in war zones, or facing a different Christmas this year after bereavement. And, if anyone wishes to buy a Tesco supermarket token for those in the Refuge this year, I'll make sure they arrive in time. Bring a little light and sparkle into every place we can!

Every blessing, Jo

Revd Jo Naish - revdjoannanaish@gmail.com

Wholeness and Healing

Come and join us for a time of quietness and space to find *Wholeness and Healing* on Wednesday 11 December, 3pm at St John's Tisbury, in the Lady Chapel. We invite you to join us for our monthly period of contemplation - to pray for yourself and those for whom you care as Christmas approaches. In the New Year please join us on Wednesday 8 January, 3pm. All welcome.

VAT fears on repairs to churches

Residents and churchgoers are being urged to write to John Glen MP over fears the Government will not renew the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The current scheme - in place since 2004 – means churches can claim VAT refunds on the cost of repair work. This is due to expire in March 2025 and it's thought the Government is on the brink of ditching the scheme. For more information, visit:

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news/autumn-budgetimportant-update-uk-churches

Church Cleaning Rota

If you feel that you can help, join the Rota, please contact me on 01722 716675. Many thanks.

Judith Barrett

December	Group
1st	five
8th	six
15th	seven
22nd	eight
29th	nine
January	
5th	ten
12th	one
19th	two
26th	three



Church Times

TEAM CLERGY

Revd Elaine Brightwell, (Team Vicar)

01722 717883

Parish Priest responsible for Barford St Martin with Burcombe, Baverstock, Chilmark,

Dinton, and Teffont Evias with Teffont Magna.

email: elainebri57@gmail.com

Revd Jo Naish (Associate Priest) The Rectory, Park Road, Tisbury, SP3 6LF

01747 871820

Parish Priest responsible for Hindon with Chicklade and Pertwood

email: revdjoannanaish@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Chilmark, St Margaret of Antioch

Vacancy - contact Revd Elaine Brightwell

Fonthill, All Saints with Berwick St Leonard

The Hon Mary Morrison 01747 820231

Ann Kirk 01747 820542

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sacred Heart, Tisbury and All Saints' Wardour Parish - Parish Office

01747 870228

Fr Jonathan Creer - tisburyparish@cliftondiocese.com

Sacred Heart, Tisbury: Holy Mass, Sunday 9am - Weekday, Thursday 6pm All Saints', Wardour: Holy Mass, Sunday 10.30am - Weekday, Tuesday 9.30am

TISBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd Denise Binks, 7 Ridge Way, Shaftesbury SP7 9HB, denise.binks@gmail.com

01747 854631

Sunday Service: 10.30am

CHILMARK CHURCH, ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH

ChoirFelicity Pattendenfgpattenden@hotmail.com01722 716271OrganistDavid Daviesdavidracheld@gmail.com01722 714440BellsAngus Menziesangus.menzies1@btinternet.com01722 717925













Date SUNDAY	1st Advent 1		8 th Advent 2		15 th Advent 3		Midweek Carol Services		22 nd Advent 4		24 th		25 th		29th	
											Christmas Eve		Christmas Day		Christmas 1	
South Area																
ANSTY	_	-	1115 PC	JN	_	-	_	_	1630 Carols	MH	_	_	_	_	_	_
COMPTON	_	-	_	-	_	_	_	_	1600 Carols	JA	2200 PC	EB	_	_	-	-
FOVANT	0800 HC _{O2T}	EB	_	_	1800 Carols	EB	_	_	_	_			0930 PC	MG	_	1-
SUTTON	_	-	0930 Mcw	EB	1600 AAS Christingle	EB	_	-	-	-	1730 Carols	EB	_	_	-	-
SWALLOW -CLIFFE	1115 PC _T	MaG	1800 E _{BCP}	JA	1800 Carols	JP	-	-	-	-	2200 PC _T	MH	1115 AAS	JA	-	-
North Area		•		•		•										
BARFORD	1115 AAC	EB	0930 Mcw	LAY	1600 Carols	JA	_	_	0930 AAC	EB	2200 PC	MC	-	_	_	_
BAVERSTOCK	_	-	_	_	_	_	20th 1800 Carols	EB	_	_	_	_	0930 AAC	EB	-	1-
CHILMARK	1600 Carols and Readings for Advent	EB	0930 AAS	JA	1115 AAC	EB			1700 Carols	EB	2200 PC	MG	1115 AAC	МН	_	-
DINTON	0930 AAC	EB	-	_	1800 Carols	JA	23 rd Village Carols (Pavilion)	EB	_	-	1600 Crib Service	EB	0930 AAC	CF	_	_
T. EVIAS	1115 AAC	MG	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_			-	-
T. MAGNA	_	_	_	-	1800 Carols	MH	_	_	_	_	_	_	1115 AAC	EB	_	T-
West Area																
CHICKLADE	_	_	_	_	_	_	17th 1900 Carols	JN	_	_	1800 PCBCP	JN	_	-	_	_
HINDON	1115 PC	JN	0930 AAC	JN	1800 ES	JN	20 th 1800 Carols 23 rd 1600 Walking Nativity	JN JN	-	-	2200 PC	JN	0930 AAC	JN	-	-
FONTHILL BISHOP	1700 E _{BCP}	JN	0800 HC _{BCP}	EB	0930 M _{BCP}	JD	18th 1800 Carols	МН	-	-	_	-	0930 PC _{BCP}	TM	-	-
FONTHILL GIFFORD	0800 HC _{BCP}	JN	1115 M _{BCP}	JA	_	_	_	_	1600 Carols	JD	_	-	1115 PC _{BCP}	JN	_	-
TISBURY	0930 AAS	JA	0930 PC	MC	0930 PC	KPM	16 th 1930 Tisbury Council of Church's Village Carols	Fr.J//DB /JA	0800HC _{BCP} 0930 PC		1600 Crib Service 2200 PC	JA TM	0930 PC	МН	0930 PC	Л

AAC All Age Communion

AAS All Age Service

E Evensong or Evening Prayer

HC Holy Communion (said)

PC Order 1 Communion (with hymns)

PC Order 2 Communion traditional language (with hymns)

M Mattins or Morning Prayer

MPr Morning Praise

CbE Communion by Extension

PC Order 1 Communion, traditional language (with hymns)

M Mattins or Morning Prayer

MPr Morning Praise

+AR Bishop of Ramsbury +SL Bishop of Salisbury +RC Bishop Richard Chartres AP Andrew Poppe AJ Alan Jeans BH Barney Hopkinson CF Colin Fox DB Denise Binks EB Elaine Brightwell FrJ Father Jonathan JA Judy Anderson JD Julie Dunstan JN Jo Naish KPM Paul Mellor KR Katharine Rumens MC Michael Camp MG Michael Goater MaG Maggie Guillebaud MH Mark Hayter PC Patricia Clegg PG Paul Gorford NW Nigel Worn SE Simon Evans TF Tina Fox TM Rev Canon Tony Monds

Tisbury Surgery

Firstly, a very happy Christmas to everyone. We hope everyone stays well and enjoys the festive season.

Despite the challenge of rising fuel costs, it is very important to say warm. Keeping warm over the winter months can help to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression.

The ideal temperature of rooms that you use regularly (eg living room and bedroom) is at least 18°C and this is particularly important if you have a health condition. It's best to keep your bedroom windows closed at night. Remember that the library at the Sports Centre is a designated *warm space* and is open from 7am-9pm on weekdays and 8am to 1pm at weekends.

Checks on smoke alarms are important too and there are grants, benefits and advice available to make your home more energy efficient, improve your heating or help with bills. Find out more about ways to save energy in your home as well as details about benefits and financial support from 'gov.uk' or call the government helpline on 0800 444 202.

Thank you to all those who have come to the surgery for their flu and covid vaccinations. Do remember if you're planning on being away at Christmas, and require medication, to let the surgery know in plenty of time to ensure your prescription is available.

With best wishes from all the staff at Tisbury Surgery. **Dr Adam Smith**



New East Window

Exciting news from Tisbury where the parish church of St John's is about to reveal a new East Window. After a project, for which fundraising started as far back as 2009, to replace the deteriorated Victorian one, the new window was completed in November. Designed by internationally renowned stained-glass artist, Tom Denny, the unveiling will take place on Saturday 7 December in time for visitors to the Tisbury Christmas market, *Tis the Season*. The arrival of the new window will be celebrated at the parish communion on Sunday 8 December, 9.30am.

As a memorial window, funds for it have been raised by individuals sponsoring the glass in memory of a loved one, a family, or just for the joy of being part of the project. In the age of cremations and no new headstones in the graveyards, this has proved very popular.

The names of the people remembered, and those of their sponsors, will be collated in an accompanying memorial book to be on permanent display in the church, providing a historical document for the future.

We hope as many people as possible will come and see and enjoy this wonderful new addition to the church. For further information please visit the website www. eastwindowtisbury.com

Tisbury Flower Group

Tisbury Flower Group will not be meeting at the Hinton Hall in December. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Tuesday 28 January (2025). Meanwhile, we would like to wish all our members, and the residents of Tisbury and surrounding villages, a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

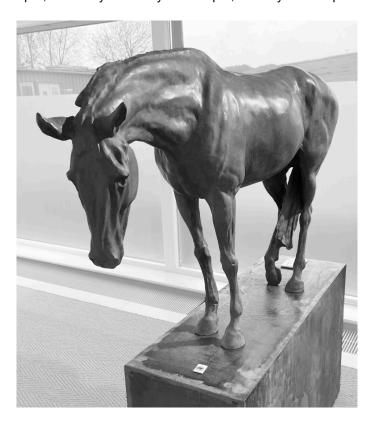
Why not make a resolution to come and join our Club during 2025. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings for a small fee, so come along to enjoy learning about flowers. We have many ways of enhancing your love of flowers through demonstrations and workshops. Learn a new skill and meet new people. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month except December. For more information, contact Bernadette Watson: 01747 228371 or blwatson4@gmail.com

Carol Singing in the Tithe Barn

Head to Messums Barn, Tisbury, on Thursday 19 December, 6pm, for Raise the Roof 2024, the annual carol singing event in aid of Tisbury Fire Service. Join 300 voices and the Woodfalls Band for this hugely popular evening in the tithe barn. The event is free and the bar will be open from 5pm. All very welcome: bring your voice and best Christmas wishes to help raise money for Tisbury's fire-fighters.

Horse Show

The exhibition of equine art on display at Messums West, Tisbury, has entered its second half, with a change of horses and the addition of further exceptional works to the show. If you have not yet visited, do drop by to see this wonderful *carnival* of equine art before the show closes on Sunday 6 January. Opening hours are: Monday 10am-4pm; Thursday-Saturday 10am-5pm; Sunday 10am-4pm.



In the Shadow of War

Plans are underway to commemorate next year's 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War with an event in Dinton Village Hall in early November. *In the Shadow of War* will remember those who fell during the six fateful years of 1939 to 1945. It will focus on those who fought and those were lost from South Wiltshire, particularly the Nadder Valley, as well as the social changes which came about. The evening of music, song, readings and poetry will include an act of remembrance. Money raised will go towards two locally-based national charities, RE:ACT Disaster Response and ACE SMA, supporting children with spinal muscular atrophy. The event will take place on two evenings, Friday 31 October and Saturday 1 November, 7-9.30pm. Tickets on sale from 1 July 2025.

Hospital Christmas Raffle

Salisbury Hospital's fund raising charity the Stars Appeal is offering a top prize of £2,500 in this year's Christmas Raffle. A second prize of £500, third prize of £250 and other cash prizes are also up for grabs. Tickets cost £1 each and are available online – see below – and they can also be bought at the Stars Appeal Bookshop and from raffle ticket sellers in the Hospital's Main Entrance.

Money raised will go towards the £1million the Stars Appeal aims to raise this year to fund new equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects supporting patients across the hospital. This will include the Stars Appeal Wi-Fi, hospital chaplaincy, and support for patients with cancer and provision of accommodation for parents of poorly babies and children in hospital.

Online entries will close on Sunday 5 January. Paper ticket stubs must be returned to the Stars Appeal by 6 January. The draw will take place on Thursday 9 January and the winners will be announced on the Stars Appeal website. To enter online or to find out more visit: www.starsappeal.org



NewVic Tisbury – coming up

Sunday 8 December, 7pm, the Magic Lantern Film Club is screening Alcarràs, a 2022 Spanish film set and shot in Catalonia and featuring a non-professional cast of Catalan-speaking actors. For as long as they can remember, the Solé family has spent every summer picking the peaches in their orchard in Alcarràs, a small village in Catalonia. But this year's crop may well be their last, as they face eviction. The new plans for the land, which include cutting down the peach trees and installing

solar panels, cause a rift in this large, tight-knit family. Doors open 6.30 pm.



Sunday 15 December, 6pm, Encore presents The Royal Ballet's revival of Cinderella, set to Prokofiev's exquisite score and heralded as on ode to Frederic Ashton, the original's director and choreographer. Stuck at home and put to work by her spoiled stepsisters, Cinderella's life is dreary and dull. Everything changes when she helps a mysterious woman out. With a little bit of magic, she is transported into an ethereal new world – one where fairies bring the gifts of the seasons, where pumpkins turn into carriages, and where true love awaits. Running time195 minutes, with two intervals.

Tickets and more details for both of above available online or from newvictisbury@gmail.com or call 0300 302 3090 - www.newvictisbury.com/events



Tisbury Natural History Society

TNHS is hosting a talk about Dormice ecology and conservation at the Victoria Hall, Tisbury, on Thursday 12 December, 7.30pm. The bar will be open from 7pm and Christmas food and drink will be served. In the New Year, Dominic Couzens will give a talk on about the secret life of garden birds, on Thursday 9 January. This will also take place in the Victoria Hall, starting 7.30pm, with the bar open from 7pm. More info at: www.tisburynaturalhistory.com



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Recycling & Waste Collections

December 2024

Grey bin - household waste Wednesday 4

Tuesday 10 Blue lid - mixed dry recycling

Black box – glass & recycling Green lid – chargeable garden waste

(no household compost)

Wednesday 18 Grey bin

Tuesday 24 Blue lid, Black Box, Green lid

January 2025

Friday 3 Grey bin

Wednesday 8 Blue lid, Black Box, Green lid

Wednesday 15 Grey Bin

Tuesday 21 Blue lid, Black Box, Green lid

Wednesday 29 Grey Bin

February

Tuesday 4 Blue lid, Black Box, Green lid

NB: please note that residents who pay to have their garden waste collected at the kerbside can have their real Christmas trees collected on Tuesday 21 January. One real Christmas tree will be collected per property. Trees over 5ft should be cut into manageable pieces and placed in the garden waste container or the crew may not be able to collect. Residents who are not signed up for the chargeable garden waste service can take their real Christmas trees to any of the council's Household Recycling Centres for free.

For information about what and how to recycle, visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/recycling

Household Recycling Centres - winter opening times Wiltshire's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)

- Amesbury: every day except Tuesday & Wednesday, 10am-4pm
- Salisbury: every day except Thursday & Friday, 10am-4pm
- Warminster: every day except Wednesday & Thursday, 10am-4pm

HRC Xmas opening dates

- Amesbury: Open 27, 28, 29, 30 December from 10am-4pm; closed 24, 25, 26, 31 December & 1 January
- Salisbury: Open 24 December, 10am-1pm, plus 28, 29, 30 & 31 December, 10am-4pm; closed 25, 26, 27 & 1 January
- Warminster: Open 24 December, 10am-1pm, plus 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31 December, 10am-4pm; closed 25 & 26 December and 1 January.





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www.nadder.oilbuyingclub.com

Charity Xmas Tree Collection

Salisbury Hospice Charity will again be collecting Xmas Trees for recycling in January to raise much needed funds. Last year their tree collection service raised £30,000 for the charity. This Christmas, the service will take place over the weekend of Friday 10 to Sunday 12 January. Donations are welcomed in return for the collection and recycling of trees. Register your tree for collection by Monday 6 January at: charityxmastreecollection.com

Wiltshire Police News

Anti Poacher measures

The Hare Preservation Trust has donated seven poacher blocks and a drone to Wiltshire Police to prevent hare coursing from taking place. Since September, Wiltshire Police have made 11 arrests, seized 11 vehicles, and issued nine dispersal orders in relation to rural crime. In continued efforts to deter hare coursing and poaching across the county, Wiltshire police are now loaning the blocks on a short-term basis to those farmers who have been hit the most by hare coursers illegally accessing their land.



Poacher blocks are concrete blocks designed to be stored in gateways and entrance access points to private land. Their unique shape enables farm machinery such as tractors to drive over the top of them, providing minimal disruption to farmers. However, they prevent regular cars and 4x4 vehicles from accessing the land, which therefore disrupts individuals from carrying out hare coursing.

Chief Inspector James Brain, the Tactical Lead for Rural Crime at Wiltshire Police, said: Tackling hare coursing and poaching is one of the Chief Constable's priorities for rural crime, and officers across the Force remain absolutely committed to tackling these crimes. We are grateful to the Hare Preservation Trust for donating such valuable resources for us to be able to loan to our farming communities. We are hopeful that the seven new poacher blocks will support the most vulnerable victims of hare coursing to protect their property and prevent further destruction by hare coursers.

Life Back Then

Those present at the 1990 Chilmark Movie Night in the Reading Room last month were struck by just how different village life seemed then, a mere 34 years ago. A look further back into the past, ie 173 years ago via census data from 1851, reveals differences hard to comprehend. Some 619 people lived in the village, in contrast to today's population of 482. This was made up of 131 Heads of Household, of whom 49 were agricultural / farm labourers. There were eight farmers and eight stonemasons; a

further 19 of the heads of households were *labourers*; five were listed as *paupers*, and an additional 13, despite having occupations, were also described as paupers.

Some 26 children under the age of 15 had an occupation recorded, nine of whom were plough boys ranging from just 10-14 years old. Eight of these children were girls, including 8-year old Deborah Yates, and 9-year old Matilda Lidford, both listed as *helping in the family*.

In contrast to today, just 3.9% of the population were aged 70 or more; the eldest in the village that year was 82-year John Rowden, a Beer Seller. The eldest woman was 80-year old Elizabeth Lever, whose occupation was listed as *Retired from Business*; her daughter was the head of the household.

One of the most striking differences with life today was that 57% of the 131 Heads of Household were Chilmark-born and bred, with just nine of them from outside Wiltshire. The most common heads of household surnames were: Macey (17), Goodfellow (9), Yates (7), Penny (5) and Mould (4). When it came to Christian names, William was top of the householder pops list, at 23, whilst James, Thomas, John and George were not far behind. Just 11 of the 131 heads of household were women, and each had a different Christian name. Two joint heads of household, still represented in the village by family today, were farmers William Flower and Edmund Flower, born in Chilmark in 1822 and 1823 respectively.



Wiltshire Police

Tisbury Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)
Inspector Louise Oakley
louise.oakley@wiltshire.police.uk
Sergeant Josef Sadowski
josef.sadowski@wiltshire.police.uk
Police Constable Georgina Russell
georgina.russell@wiltshire.police.uk
PCSO Stewart Hunt

stewart.hunt@wiltshire.police.uk

Emergency: call 999 - Non-urgent: call 101

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Advertising in The Village Voice

Display advert prices (all revenue towards VV printing costs): Quarter page (portrait) £65 per year (10 issues) Eighth page (landscape) £45 per year

Classified adverts can be run for up to three issues at the rate of 10 pence per word (30 words max) per issue. Should you wish to place a display or classified advert please contact our Treasurer **Susan Lewis:**

susan@chilmarkvillagevoice.co.uk

The Village Voice

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