



In a different league



Forget KP's hand-switching antics, Michael Vaughan's tearful farewell or Bell's 199. Sherston Magna provided the highlight of the cricketing summer. Here are the recollections of the team's triumphant captain Andy Tremellen.....

At the beginning of the season, we set ourselves the target of promotion from the Cotswold and District League's second division.

The previous year had been woeful; not one player did himself justice and we were relegated with just a single victory. So this season was all about righting the apple cart and nothing but promotion would do.

In my first term as captain, it was a steep learning curve. Juggling trying to give everyone a run as well as gaining maximum points from each game isn't easy.

And you can imagine the egos that need to be protected!

From our allotted 18 games, we won ten and lost four to opposition and four to weather. Early in the season, we felt comfortable that we would be promoted without breaking into too much of a sweat.

But probably the most pleasing aspect of the season is that the performances were shared around the squad and that no-one could be accused of being a passenger.

Having won the league, we'll be in the top division next year where things really count. That's when we sort the men from the boys!

I'd like to thank everyone concerned for their support through the season and hope that next year brings more success.

The players were: *Phil Duffell, Ian Gould, Alan Dickenson, Richard Cartwright, James Vynne, Ben Littlejohns, Dan Pritchett, Chris Lovell, Jamie Turner, Will Matthews, Ollie Cox, Andy Tremellen, Kev Smith, Ollie Moore, Mark Howell, Jed Pitman, Charlie Green, David Fitch-Payton, Phil Milsom, Ben Dickenson, Bob Panayides, Ewan Maskrey, Geoff Goodway, David Sutcliffe and Simon Hulance.*

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of The Sherston Cliffhanger, the free monthly newsletter for the parish.

Like its predecessor, the Sherston Parish Council Newsletter, its intention is to inform residents about parish news and community activities in the parish and surrounding area. We feel it particularly important that every household and business receives a copy every month.

While the parish council is initially supporting Cliffhanger financially, it is hoped that, by a combination of resources including advertising, it will in time become self-financing. Cliffhanger is produced by a group of local people rather than by the parish council alone. We hope this will result in a true community publication which all feel able to contribute to and identify with.

The size and content of Cliffhanger will depend on the amount of copy we receive from individuals and groups. So, if you feel you have something of interest, don't hesitate to tell us. Copy should be delivered by the 15th of the month before the next edition by email to editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk or paper copy can be left at Sherston Post Office Stores. Thank you to Paul and Gail Mather.

If you are a local business considering advertising in Cliffhanger, please email us at: advertising@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk or telephone 01666 841405.

Would you like to be involved with the production and distribution of Cliffhanger? If so we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us by email at: info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk or call 01666 841405.

Old School

Following the decision to buy the building on behalf of the community, negotiations are taking place with the vendor on the purchase price.

In the meantime, the parish council has had confirmation of a £50,000 grant towards the project from North Wiltshire District Council. Sherston Parish Council is extremely grateful for this support.

Village hall news

Sea Breeze fish and chips

After problems in August with their van, Sea Breeze is now back in the village hall yard every Friday evening from 5 pm until 9pm.

Bookings

Autumn brings bookings for jumble sales, bazaars and parties as well as the fantastic annual panto from the drama group. If you're thinking of booking the hall in the run-up to Christmas, do it now to avoid disappointment. Contact Gail Hayman on 01666 840068 or gail.hayman@btinternet.com to check availability and make that booking.

Dark nights bring dark deeds

Dark nights lead to dark deeds among dog-owners.

A minority of dog owners exploit the extra hours of darkness to avoid clearing up after their dog.

Some owners simply let the dog out to wander the streets and into gardens. There have been two incidences of Noble Street gardens being fouled.

And already the parish council has had reports of fouling on the recreation ground and sports field. These are both areas where dogs are not allowed and the fact is clearly signed.

At least one parent has had to clean their youngster of dog muck after a visit to the recreation ground while footballers have to clear the pitch of 'deposits' before a match. If anyone has information on who these dog owners are, please inform the clerk to the council on 01666 840351 email clerk@sherston.org.uk for appropriate action to be taken.

Remember, remember the *eighth* of November!

Sherston's bonfire and fireworks extravaganza will be back next month. At 6.30pm on Saturday 8 November, freshly-barbecued sausages and burgers, hot soup and cold drinks will greet the crowds at Lower Farm.

The welcome line-up will also include a motley crew of guys made by the youngsters, there will be prizes for the best ones. Entries should be taken to the field during the day on the Saturday.

'As fireworks and insurance become more expensive, we're only able to keep ticket prices at a reasonable level due to the generous donations from local businesses,' said Richard Langley of organisers Sherston 1016.

John Hillier is, of course, loaning his land. And Stedman Nicholas, of Bear Necessities at Pinkney Park Dairy Farm, is sponsoring the hire of a skip to dispose of rubbish harmful to cattle.

In the week leading up to the Saturday, combustible material should be put over the wall into the bonfire field which is on the right as you approach the farm buildings.

If you can help set up the field during daylight on 8 November, contact Mike Tarrant at Grays Garage (01666 840728) or ring Richard Langley on 01666 840112 and leave a message.

Sparklers are not allowed for safety reasons but light-ropes will be on sale.

Entrance charges on the gate remain £5 per adult and £3 per child. An advance family ticket for two adults and three children costs £12 from Sherston Post Office.

'Unstick our traffic' plea

Lorries rumbling over vulnerable bridges into narrow streets and cavalier drivers on hand-held mobiles continue to plague Sherston.

These were among several traffic matters raised at last month's parish council meeting.

Others included:

- speeding through the village on the B4040
- drivers, especially HGV drivers, using C roads as 'rat runs'
- illegal parking at junctions particularly on Noble Street, Church Street and Court Street and the need to improve the Give Way system in Church Street at The Rattlebone.

'Although some of this is particular to Sherston, much of it's common to villages along the B4040 in the Malmesbury area,' said Sherston Parish Council vice-chairman Martin Rea.

'Perhaps it would be better to tackle it as a whole rather than piecemeal village by village.

'This is a chance for the new Wiltshire Council to prove its effectiveness.'

From April next year, the five district councils, including North Wiltshire, will disappear and the county will be run by one, unitary, council called Wiltshire Council.

In a pilot scheme, a Malmesbury area board will be set up to tackle local issues. It will have the power to bring together the new council's services and other agencies including the police and health services.

Project manager Miranda Gilmour said: 'One of the tasks will be to test how the authority can work more efficiently to solve 'sticky issues' that have failed to be properly solved over a number of years.'

'Sherston traffic is certainly a 'sticky issue' said Mr Rea. 'Let's hope the pilot Malmesbury area board can free it up.'

Patience Urged On Planning

Patience is urged over planning complaints.

Residents who report suspected breaches of planning law are waiting too long for an outcome, say Sherston parish councillors.

The parish council is only a consultative body for planning purposes but forwards all complaints to the planning enforcement team at North Wiltshire District Council.

They then decide whether a planning breach has occurred and, if so, what action to take.

'Currently this process can take some considerable time which is frustrating not only to those who raised the original issue but also to members of the parish council,' said vice chairman Martin Rea.

'It's hoped this will improve considerably under the new unitary authority.'

In the meantime, residents should continue reporting matters of concern to the parish council or directly to NWDC on 01249 706681 or planning@northwilts.gov.uk

Sinbad Sherston Drama Group Pantomime

Rehearsals for our 2008 pantomime Sinbad, by Stuart Arden, are underway. There is an assortment of characters including the brave sailor, the beautiful princess, a lovable dame, Eastern potentates, genies, pirates . . . even two stray Aussies!

Come along and enjoy the fun during the autumn half-term break. There will be plenty of chances for audience participation - Oh yes there will!

If you would like to help in any way, contact the chairman Richard Skeffington on 01666 840092 or the secretary Suzanne Price on 01666 840042.

Tickets are £6.50 (£5 concessions) from Sherston Post Office from 1 October or from the box office on 01666 840915.

Performances in Sherston Village Hall will be from 29 October until 1 November at 7.30 with a matinee on Saturday 1 November at 2.30.

The Carpenters Arms

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WHAT'S ON

Sherston

The Rattlebone

First Annual Conker Championships

Saturday 4 October at 7pm

Small entrance fee - conkers & strings supplied, rules displayed in The Rattlebone

Game Week - locally sourced game on the menu

9 - 16 October

Mangold Hurling Day

Saturday 11 October

Further details will be posted in the village

Acoustic Set with Simon Temperton

Saturday 25 October 8pm free

The Rattlebone Pub

Church St, Sherston, SN16 0LR

For further details contact 01666 840871 or

www.therattlebone.co.uk

The Carpenter's Arms

Elvis Night

Thursday 9 October 8pm free

Halloween Fancy Dress Disco

Friday 31 October 8pm free

Live Acoustic Music with Alison Dawn

Saturday 25 October 8pm free

The Soul Destroyers

Charity fundraiser in aid of a number of local causes by: *'Bristol's best party band - a 13-piece soul/funk/cheese/party outfit with a 6-piece horn section, 3 singers and a storming stage show - no one gets out without smiling or dancing'* (Bristol Evening Post).

Friday 7 November 8.30pm

Sherston Village Hall

Tickets £7

For further details contact Dave Shepherd on 840361 or www.soul-destroyers.co.uk

Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 9 October at 7.30pm in the village hall. All are welcome to attend and there are opportunities for you to raise questions and pass comments. If you cannot attend the meeting but have something to raise, please contact our clerk Mrs Sarah Wood on 01666 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. You can also contact the council via the response form on our website www.sherston.org.uk

Westonbirt Arboretum

Seed Gathering Family Event

Saturday 4 October 10.30am - 4pm

Book in advance but included in admission price

Aren't Birds Brilliant - Wild Birds At Westonbirt Family Event

Every Saturday & Sunday in October 2008 11am - 4pm

Book in advance but included in admission price

Specialist Wood Sales

2nd Sunday in the month 10am - 1pm

Book in advance but included in admission price

The Other Arboretum Guided Walk - Silk Wood

Saturday 18 October 2008 11am

Book in advance but included in admission price

Autumnal Highlights Family Event

Mon 27 - Thurs 30 October 10.30 am - 4 pm

Book in advance but included in admission price

For further details contact 01666 880220 or

www.forestry.gov.uk/weston

Westonbirt School

BBC Songs of Praise Recording Session

Friday 10 October 11.45 am

Music at Westonbirt - Copious Notes

Saturday 11 October 7.30pm £8 (concession £6)

National Vaughan Williams Day

Sunday 12 October 10am

Lunchtime Concert

Wednesday 22 October 1.30pm

The Great Hall, Westonbirt School

For further details contact 01666 880333 or

www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk

Whatley Manor

A Talk by David Howard, Former Head Gardener of Highgrove

21 October 10 am - 4pm

£40 incl welcome refreshment & three-course lunch in Le Mazot restaurant

Sunday Cinema - Sex and the City


26 October £36 incl three-course meal

Jazz Sunday Lunch

Sunday 5 October 12 - 3.30pm £36 incl three-course meal

For further details contact 01666 834026 or

www.whatleymanor.com



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2.00 - 3.30 at Cirencester
(Yoga for Softies)
7.45 - 9.00 at Cirencester

Weds 9.30 - 11.00 at Daglingworth
6.00 - 7.30, 7.30 - 9.00 at Fairford

Thursday 9.30 - 11.00 at Chedworth
12.30 - 2.00 at Tetbury

FOR MORE DETAILS
CONTACT Susan (BWY Teacher)
01285 651150