

Village Diary for February

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| 1 | Probus / Table Tennis Club |
| 6 | Parish Council |
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| 8 | Mobile Library / Table Tennis Club |
| 10 | Churchyard Work Party |
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Church services for February

Sunday 4th February 2nd before Lent

9am Holy Communion at Christian Malford

Thursday 8th February

9am Morning Prayer at Christian Malford

Sunday 11th February Sunday before Lent

10.30am Coffee, Chat and Craft Christian Malford

Sunday 18th February 1st Sunday of Lent

10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion at Kington Langley

Thursday 22nd February

9am Morning Prayer at Christian Malford

Sunday 25th February 2nd Sunday of Lent

9am Holy Communion at Christian Malford

Lent Groups

Saturday, 24th February 10am – 12 noon

BREAKING BREAD at Goss Croft Hall, Seagry

Saturday, 3rd March 10am – 12 noon

PRAYER at All Saints Church, Christian Malford

Saturday, 17th March 10am – 12 noon

TEACHING at All Saints, Sutton Bengier

Saturday, 24th March 10am – 12 noon

FELLOWSHIP at Kington Langley Village Hall

followed by Lent Lunch.

BE STILL and know that I am Lord. During Lent there will be an opportunity for a led time of meditation in All Saints, Sutton Bengier 6.15 – 6.45 on Tuesdays, February 20th, 27th & March 6th, 13th, 20th.

More information from Evelyn 750519 revelyn@ hotmail.co.uk

Waste Collection dates

Household waste, black box and garden waste - Thursdays, 8th and 22nd February.

Blue lid recycling - Thursdays, 1st and 15th February

To check your collection days visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days

Household recycling centre opening hours

Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres to check which days your local centre is open.

Village Memorial Cross. Most days many villagers will walk past the memorial cross situated on The Green and perhaps cast a glance at the names of the servicemen carved thereon. Details of those servicemen and the circumstances in which they died will appear in these pages. Most died in the first world war and the brief notes that describe the circumstances in which they died bring home the sheer horror and often chaos of their situation.

Corporal HARRY GEORGE HUNT

8185, B Company, 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment who died aged 27 on 27th May 1918. He is remembered with honour at the Soissons Memorial.

Born in Chippenham, Herbert attended Christian Malford School living at the time with a guardian, Charles Knott of 63 The Green, who was also guardian to Herbert Knighton. Husband of Frances Emily Hunt, of Oak Tree Cottage, The Wure, Brockenhurst.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Paris. At the end of April, 1918, five divisions of Commonwealth Forces (IX Corps) were posted to the French 6th Army in this sector to rest and refit following the German offensives on the Somme and Lys. Here, at the end of

May, they found themselves facing an overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. Having suffered 15,000 fatal casualties, IX Corps was withdrawn from this front in early July. The Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men who died during these battles in 1918 and who have no known grave.

Battalion War Diary Extract – 27th May, 1918:

1am enemy starts a heavy gas bombardment which lasts until 5am when he commenced to attack the forward Battalion line 7.30am Orders received to move forward to cover retirement of front line troops and 3 Coys take up position further forward. 10.15am Battalion again moves forward and holds line in front of Bouffignereux. 11.30am - 3.30pm line held as follows, D left Coy, Centre B and A, 1 platoon of C Coy only ... in front line, remaining 2 platoons of C support D. Enemy shelling constantly Battalion HQ, M Gun fire continually sweeping roads and tracks to HQ and front line. Supplies of SAA were however maintained. 5.30pm Enemy attacked when owing to greatly superior forces the Battalion was compelled to retire and, splitting up into small parties, slowly withdrew, fighting rearguard actions.

Christian Malford Village Website, Gives details of village events, clubs and societies There is a notice board and a list of useful telephone numbers and local services.

To include your event within the village diary send your item to email: parishclerk@christianmalford.org.uk

Parish Council. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 6th February in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.45pm. See page 31 for a report of the last meeting.

The Luncheon Club, This much appreciated club will meet on Tuesday, 13th and 27th February at 12.30pm. Contact Angela Hamilton on 721091 or Shirley Palmer on 740627

Women's Institute. The next meeting is on Thursday, 15th February at 7.30pm in the village hall. See page 29 for a full report from the WI.

CHRISTIAN MALFORD SCARECROW TRAIL

Once Upon a Time... Fairytales and Fables
24th -25th March 10am - 5pm

Scarecrow entries: It is free to enter a scarecrow and there is prize money of £100 for the winner! There is no need to live in the village, we will find somewhere for you to put your scarecrow. Please email Laura Sidhu (laura.sidhu@sky.com) to enquire about entering. All scarecrow entries must be in by 23rd February but the scarecrows do not need to be built until 24th March!

How to make a scarecrow: If you are still not sure come along to our scarecrow workshop at school on Friday, 9th February between 3.30pm and 5pm. £5 for everything you need to make a Scarecrow, a piece of cake and lots and hints and tips from our scarecrow experts! No need to book just turn up.

Scarecrow sponsorship: We are looking for one more main sponsor and individual scarecrow sponsors. The costs are £250 and £30, respectively.

If you would like to promote your business and support your local community please email us on: christianmalfordscarecrow@outlook.com

Memories of a Christian Malford childhood. Part 1.

Brian Coller

I Started at Christian Malford School in the summer of 1942. Back then your mother did not take you to school, you were told to go with an older pupil who showed you the way. Afetr that, you walked to school on your own or with friends. This was during the war when we were supplied with gas masks. At school you had to stand in line wearing them so we could be inspected. They were horrible things to wear – I used to keep my finger in the side of mine so I could breathe better and then take my finger out just before it was my turn to be inspected.

Another thing you had to stand in line for was for the nurse to inspect your hair for nits and fleas.

When you started school you used chalk and slates for your lessons; you then moved on to a pen which you dipped into the inkwells for ink. The school was heated by two coke stoves and two fires and, as there was no ceiling, the heat went straight up to the rafters. Once it was so cold that the ink froze in the inkwells and we thought we might not have any lessons and be sent home but no such luck – they gave out pencils and we had to carry on!

The headmistress was a horrible, short-tempered person. There was a girl in our infants class who was always staying away from school. The headmistress took her to the front of the class, held her with one arm and hit her on the bottom. The girl screamed but the headmistress did not stop, it was horrible and it is still a horrible memory for me.

Just after the war ended we used to have a Christmas party but the problem was that rationing was still in force. The teachers said to bring any food that we could but if you could not afford to they would ask us to bring the coupons so that food could be purchased with the coupons. My mother would send me with a pot of homemade jam or some small cakes made with a very thin layer of icing sugar on them. There was not any cheese, meat or cream. The party would start with sandwiches spread thinly with margarine and jam then we would have cake, but the cake did not have any fruit or marzipan, and jelly. The drink was a very weak orange squash.

Would I like to live those years again? Yes, I would but it would be nice if I could edit out the nasty bits.
Part 2 will follow in the March edition.

Your Churchyard needs you!

Roger Carter writes;- I am organising a couple of tidying sessions in our churchyard on Saturdays, 10th and 17th February, 10am - noon. Would you be able to help?

The principle job to be carried out is re-gaining the footpath up to the church, this involves removing a top layer of grass and gravel and applying a new layer of gravel. Tools required would be a fork and spade and a few wheelbarrows.

Other lighter jobs are to cut back undergrowth in the ditches and car park area towards the stables. Some secateurs and loppers can be provided.

What's in it for you; well, a bit of banter with your neighbours, the satisfaction of knowing that the place is looking tidy and loved due to your efforts and a combination of tea/coffee/biscuits/bacon butties, as a thank you from me.

For catering purposes it would help if you could let me know approximate numbers, so phone or email as follows:
Tel 720810, email r.carter302@btinternet.com

Easter Lilies in Christian Malford Church As in previous years there will be arrangements of beautiful lilies in our church this Easter. If you would like to purchase a lily, in memory of a friend or loved one, these will be available at £2.50 per stem. There will be a box for requests and payment in the village shop, or your order may be given to Pam Carter at 5 The Nurseries. Please note the name/s of those to be remembered, and it would be helpful if you could include your name/contact number, just in case of a query.

Mobile Library will visit on Thursday, 8th February stopping at the village hall between 2.15pm and 2.45pm. The Mobile Library Service consultation has now finished and the mobile library will continue to visit Christian Malford on a monthly basis on a Thursday, 2.15 – 2.45pm (North route D). Copies of the new timetable will be available from the mobile libraries and can be viewed on <http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/MobileLibrary/>. please refer to North Mobile Library Routes February 2018.

Rising Sun Update Following the open meeting in late November there has been considerable behind the scenes activity as local community support builds to keep this favoured amenity alive. A number of volunteers have stepped forward to help operate the pub both front of house and in the kitchen; their support is greatly appreciated and is proving invaluable in balancing the costs of running the business as the level of custom is built. Further meetings have been held in January to consider ways of funding the purchase of the building for the community. Work is at an early stage so if you would like to join and contribute please contact Ian Kirkpatrick idkirkpatrick@btinternet.com

School Local Board vacancy

There is a vacancy on the Local Board of Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerfords' Walter Powell Primary Schools. This is a voluntary role which is akin to the governor role in a Maintained School. The Local Board works with staff on the strategic aspects of the schools and supports them to continue to improve the education of the pupils in our community. If you would like to get involved, or find out more about the role, please either call the school (01249 720496) and leave a message for Claire Kennedy or email Claire Kennedy on localboard@christianmalford.wilts.sch.uk.

The school website is: www.christianmalford.wilts.sch.uk

Village Hall 100 Club January winners were, £40 Mrs Barnes-King, £20 Mrs S. Palmer, £15 Mrs Marriot and £10 Mr and Mrs Meats.

Christian Malford Allotments. If you would like to have a plot (or even just half a plot) when one becomes available, put your name on the waiting list now. For full information visit <http://malfordallotmenters.weebly.com/>

Brush With Art. The art group will resume in March at the village hall between 6.30pm and 9pm. Dates for March are Monday, 5th and Monday 19th. Full details next month.

Women's Soft Ball Cricket Rod Alcorn Christian Malford Cricket Club writes,
Women's Soft Ball Cricket was a new initiative in the 2017 season which aimed to introduce ladies to the game of cricket with the use of a softball. This initiative was a great success and saw many ladies enjoying cricket across the county at both club training nights but also at the Women's Soft Ball festivals. Overall, the initiative is broken down into two sections. Firstly, clubs are offered the opportunity to take part in a 6-week coaching program to develop batting, bowling and fielding skills in a sociable and enjoyable environment. It is hoped that these sessions will prepare the participants for a soft ball festival, in which they can showcase their newly acquired or improved skills. Secondly, women's teams are provided with an opportunity to participate in a Women's Soft Ball Festival, which allows teams from across the county to participate against one another in a relaxed manner.
If any ladies or girls would like to play soft ball cricket, they should contact me and I will collate their names.

Rod Alcorn Christian Malford Cricket Club
W: <http://christianmalford.play-cricket.com> M: 07979 366023

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The revised (final) plan has now been submitted following receipt of the Examiner's Report. The Council agreed to hold the Referendum on **Thursday, 8th March 2018.**

Further details will be available on the village Noticeboards and website - <http://www.christianmalford.org.uk/neighbourhood-development-plan>.

Parish Steward for Christian Malford and Sutton Benger

The Parish Steward, Adrian Moss, visits each of our two villages two days a week at the beginning of each month to address a wide variety of minor highway defects and needs. To ensure that we do not lose this valuable service, provided by Wiltshire Council, we need to ensure that he has plenty of work to do.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? - by reporting any of the following tasks for the Parish Steward to undertake:- Hand cleaning of small grips, rodding of small culverts and manholes, filling small potholes, hand cleaning of road gully tops, hedge trimming around road signs to maintain visibility (but not wholesale hedge cutting as this needs to be done by the landowner), washing highway signs, over-run damage, strimming of grass verges for visibility at junctions and of highway signs, siding out overgrown vegetation obstructing footways, clearing debris and leaves (but not litter) and painting railings away from water.

Please report tasks, with as much detail as possible to:-

Cllr Mike Lawrence mike@hamhouse.co.uk or
Linda Bragg, Clerk, parishclerk@christianmalford.org.uk or 07982 030973 (answerphone)
All other highway matters should be reported to Wiltshire Council

BOOK THESE DATES NOW!

The Malford Players'

next production will be

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

that well-known comedy by Constance Cox

based on the short story by Oscar Wilde

Performances at Christian Malford Village Hall

on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Saturday 19 May

Watch this space for further details nearer the time

.Advance Notice

Village Ball, 2018

Saturday, 16th June in the Church, 7pm until 1am.

Dancing to the Park Lane Big Band

Tickets £45, tables of eight.

Tickets will be available from mid-April

Fewer tickets will be available this year so buy your tickets early.

Dauntsey Vale Link Scheme This good neighbour scheme covers Dauntsey, Foxham., Brinkworth and Christian Malford. The scheme offers far more than just driving clients to/from medical appointments. Other helpful assistance includes shopping, visit to the hairdressers, walking the dog, small DIY tasks in the home, help with forms and letters, visiting a friend in hospital or at home, taking you to meetings and events, reading a book or newspaper, small jobs in the garden. Please ring our Co-ordinator to discuss your requirement. Even if we are unable to help, he/she may be able to give you details of someone who can. Telephone 07563 769549.

Church news. *Church Brass* Could you spare an hour or so during one month a year to help give the church brass a bit of TLC and sparkle? The brass only requires cleaning once each month but currently there are quite a few spaces on our brass cleaning rota and some additional volunteers would make a tremendous difference. Also you don't have to work alone, as two people would get the job done in half the time! So if you could help, please contact Teresa Bolter (720035) for more information.

Church opening times The church is open each day from 9am until dusk for villagers and visitors from elsewhere to enjoy, reflect, pray or just sit quietly within its medieval walls. The entries in the visitors book indicate how pleased visitors are to have this church open and available to visit. It belongs to the village so please make use of it.

Table Tennis. The group meets on Thursdays 7.30pm 'til 9.30pm (except third Thursday in the month) at Christian Malford Village Hall Cost:£1.50 per session. There are two table tennis tables, bats and balls provided. The only skill required is the ability to hit a ball! Average standard play, but we are good teachers if you are a beginner. No match play or leagues....only pub drinks afterwards, if you've worked up a thirst! From age 12 to 90 (12 to 16 year olds must be accompanied at all times by a parent). Phone Sally Purkiss 01249 720077for further information. Dates: February 1st, 8th, 22nd and March 1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th

Village Fete. Saturday, 14th July The arrangements for this year's fete are taking shape. The initial plan is to hold it later in the day with games for children such as slippery pole, foam pit etc., and to have the usual stalls such as tombola, books and plants. This would lead into an evening event where the WI organise a BBQ supper along the lines of the skittles evening. Fire pit for toasted marshmallows and possibly a small firework display at the end. Village organisations will be expected to play their part and if you would like to volunteer your services contact Phil Hines on 720003.

Information sought. We have received a request from a Canadian who is doing some family research and would be pleased to receive any information or a photograph of a past headmaster by the name of Frederick Waterman Jordan. It is believed that he was the headmaster in the mid to late 1800's. The possibility of someone having such information or photograph is remote but one never knows. If by chance you can help please contact the editor.

Black Duck Folk: Helen Stevens writes...Next up with the black duck folk (Sutton Benger Village Hall) - on February 24th, we have two bands, Kim Lowings and the Greenwood, supported by Road Not Taken. Kim is a young singer/songwriter who is early in her career, and has a distinctive, almost soulful voice. Inspired by the folk tradition, Kim Lowings and The Greenwood perform their songs with a contemporary twist. Their live shows are an energetic blend of original compositions and traditional songs. Kim Lowings, Andrew Lowings, Tim Rogers and Dave Sutherland bring together their multi-instrumental skill and individual experience resulting in an innovative and sensitive approach to arrangements. The motivation is to keep the tradition alive and to share their own tales. Tickets £12 in advance, £14 on the door. And on April the 28th a complete contrast, two of the UK acoustic/folk scene's finest songwriters who have had 30 years plus in the business, a huge body of work as sole artists now joining forces - Steve Tilson & Jez Lowe. It'll be an evening filled with songs and music, chat and banter and intimate insights into their approach to their craft. Tickets £15 in advance, £17 on the door. As always there will be a bar stocked with the Flying Monk's finest ale, wine and soft drinks. Phone Helen and Phil 07415 861597 for tickets or www.blackduckfolk.uk

School news. This term we are learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. We are linking literacy lessons to this topic and in our art we will be creating Egyptian textiles and costumes. We are also learning about hieroglyphics which should prove fascinating.

After school clubs are proving to be very popular and the children are taking part in clubs varying from volleyball to art and modern dance.

A very successful cake sale was held at the end of January in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity. This was Kieran's idea – he wanted to help this charity as his grandfather died of a brain tumour recently. He was helped in his culinary exploits by Theo and George. The cakes were delicious and all homemade.

The Friends of School are busy organising events – they have a bingo session booked for the end of January and a popcorn film club just before we break for half term. The children are looking forward to the next blockbuster!! They have also got a scarecrow workshop planned where they can advise and help with scarecrow building ideas in preparation for the scarecrow weekend in March.

Finally, we are looking forward to putting the finishing touches to the first phase of our outdoor project and making a start on the Early Years outdoor space.

Acorns. Since returning from the Christmas break the children have been busy in the setting preparing for the village scarecrow trail in March. With the theme of Once Upon a Time... Farytales and Fables we have been reading and enjoying lots of different farytales, from Sleeping Beauty to Little Red Riding Hood. The children are making a display board of princes and princesses, fairytale castes and big bad wolves, they are also having lots of fun dressing up and acting out some super role play.

We have been focusing our group time around 'Helicopter Stories' an approach based on creating our own stories which are written down and then acted out. The children are thoroughly enjoying taking part and have come up with some amazing stories. These are then recorded in individual booklets for the children to keep. It encourages creativity, an understanding of the written word and how stories are constructed - a good foundation for future learning.

With such cold weather we have been unable to get to the woods and have instead stayed closer to home for forest school sessions. We have registered for the Big School's Birdwatch and the children have been making all sorts of bird feeders in an attempt to encourage them into our garden. We plan to do a count in a few weeks to see how many birds we have visiting our garden.

This term Acorns welcome three new children, Zac, Jayden and Lachlan. They are settling in well and already making lots of new friends. Currently we have a few spaces still available for the remainder of the year and are taking bookings for September, 2018. If you would like to visit Acorns and see what it has to offer you and your child, please call or email Paula. 07816280810/ acornspreschool.2009@gmail.com

Christian Malford & Foxham WI BBC Wiltshire radio won a Gold award for the best afternoon presenter – James Thomas. Each week Gillian Hinton from our WI group, organised a different Wiltshire WI lady to explain, taste and cook their favourite recipe on air! James Thomas then had to cook the same recipe! This was an incredibly popular part of his 'radio time'. Well done to Gillian for promoting the WI all around the county.

Aunt Martha Victorian Experience Thursday, 15th February, 7.30pm.

For over 20 years Nadine and Philip have been enthraling audiences as authentically dressed Victorian characters bringing to life different periods of history.

This is a humorous talk by Philip 'The Professor' on "A Rose by any other name".

The English language is full of words, the origins of many of which are open to debate. To get you thinking here are some questions: Why is a train called a train? What is an ampere and who was he? Which event inspired Thomas Cook? Come along and be entertained.

Discover, Cook and Eat Italian Winter Wednesday, 28th February, 10.30am

Open to all WI members. Bookings in advance to Tina at the village shop or to

Christine Bowyer £5 per session. 10.30am until 12.30pm in the village hall. **Chocolate/Flowers Outlet**

Saturday, 6th March (booking essential)

You will be making a chocolate/flower gift for Mothering Sunday at Kelston near Bath.

Open to all WI members. Bookings in advance to Tina at the village shop or Helen Hylands

The Big Chinese Takeaway Saturday 10th March, (booking essential)

This event is in the 'pipeline' at the village hall for all WI ladies bringing along your partners if you wish! More information nearer the date, but just keep the date in your diaries as you will not want to miss this!

All our information and club activities can be found on the notice board outside the Christian Malford village shop.

New members are always welcome. Phone Tina for any queries on 01249 720956.

Probus Club The next meeting of the club will take place at The Foxham Inn on Thursday, 1st February starting with coffee from 11am. The meeting will start promptly at 11.30 to cover any business. This will be followed by a talk by Brig. Howard Ham on The SAS in World War 2 - The Diary of their War. Lunch will be served at 1pm. There are still some vacancies and should anyone wish to join our friendly band or would like to find out more about our Probus Club please contact a committee member. Nigel Fairley 721278; John Webb 720216; Steve Purkiss 720077 or Ray Stockall 720676.

Report from the Parish Council meeting of 9th January

Linda Bragg, Parish Clerk contact details – Tel: 07982 030973

Email: parishclerk@christianmalford.org.uk

Parish Councillor Vacancy – we have 1 vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are aged 18+ and have lived in the parish for more than 12 months OR are on the Electoral Register for the parish and would be interested in joining the team, please contact the Clerk or visit our website – www.christianmalford.org.uk/councillors.

Finance Support was given for the initial application to Visit Wiltshire for Brown Tourism Signs for The Rising Sun pub at a cost of £200.00 and to review the matter on receipt of their decision. The Draft Budget (v1.3) for 2018-19 was approved, subject to agreed amendments discussed at the meeting. The Council agreed to a 2% increase on the Precept to £29.40 per household, giving the Parish Council a total Precept of £10,320.87 for 2018-19.

Planning – 17/00945/FUL - APPEAL Ref: APP/Y3940/W/17/3185524 – Foxham Farmhouse – the Council will be submitting an objection to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the appeal lodged for the retention of barn conversion to C3 residential use & installation of replacement oil tank. (Retrospective and Amendment to Previously Approved Application 15/05097/FUL).

Neighbourhood Development Plan - The revised (final) plan has now been submitted following receipt of the Examiner's Report. The Council agreed to hold the Referendum on Thursday, 8th March 2018. Further details will be available on the village Noticeboards and website - <http://www.christianmalford.org.uk/neighbourhood-development-plan>.

Flood/Emergency Planning Cllr Nick Cox was appointed as the Lead Councillor to co-ordinate Flooding and Emergency Planning matters.

Recreation Ground – The new signs for the play areas and dog poo bag dispensers have now been delivered and are ready for installation at the Rec.

Highways – Parish Steward – Adrian Moss, our Parish Steward, will be in the village on the following dates: 7-8 February / 7-8 March and 4-5 April. Please see separate advert on how to report tasks for the Parish Steward.

Burial Ground – The Council have received a request for a small stone plaque/memorial to be installed in the churchyard for a local family to remember their parents who recently passed away and, whilst not buried in the village, lived in Christian Malford for many years. The Clerk was asked to identify possible areas/formats for this within the burial ground as the current policy does not support this type of memorial.

Road Closure – A350 to J17, M4 15-Jan to 8-Feb 2018 will be closed in 2 Phases between 20.00 and 06.00 on weeknights for Wilts Council to undertake works for A350/M4 improvements.

Next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday, 6th February in the Village Hall, at 7.45pm.