

Limpley Stoke

news

September 2023

Issue No 62

Hop Pole restoration well underway

Work on the Hop Pole restoration is well underway, with contractors, Biggs, working with volunteers to help keep costs down.

The Hop Pole project is among a small number of schemes given dispensation for an early payout of the government's £300,000 Community Ownership Fund's grant. £10,000 in grants has also been received from the Co-op and Hills Waste Management which means that, to date, an incredible £880,000 has been raised, but a further £300,000 is still needed to complete the project.

Work is being carried out in three phases and, providing the necessary funds can be raised, it is hoped to reopen the pub next summer.

Shareholders who have helped rescue the pub are being given the chance to join hard hat history tours inside the building, with architect James Sibson describing period features and how the pub will be restored. James has revealed an interesting snippet that, of the 13 Hop Pole pubs in the UK, ours is the oldest known pub in England with that name.

LSCBS (Hop Pole) AGM: Wednesday, October 18 at 7pm at Freshford Memorial Hall *(more details next month)*



No 94 bus update

The local No 94 bus service, run by Libra Travel between Trowbridge and Bath, continues to operate as normal for the time being.

Wiltshire Council is still awaiting confirmation from BANES council on future funding. Watch this space!



Book box whodunnit?



The Lower Stoke Book Box was vandalised some time last month. A panel at the base of the door was kicked in and the bookshelves smashed, causing considerable damage.

The old telephone kiosk was painstakingly restored by a former parish councillor to commemorate the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Since then, it has become popular with locals and visitors.

The good news is that the shelves have already been repaired and a local resident has offered to replace the wooden base panel.



Ticket offices under threat of closure

Nearly 600 people have signed an online petition to help save Bradford on Avon railway station's ticket office.

Great Western Railway (GWR) has announced plans to shut ticket offices at seven stations in Wiltshire due to a fall in the number of people buying tickets as more passengers use online booking or buy at platform ticket machines.

GWR says: "Ticket office staff would be freed up to work in other areas of the station where they are better placed to help. Digital tickets have made it easier and faster for customers to buy and manage tickets online, which means fewer people than ever are using ticket offices."

Petitioners claim, however, that ticket offices are a valued source of advice on routes and fares for those who do not have access to online information, and also for vulnerable and disabled travellers.

Film season returns this month

A new season of Limpley Stoke film nights begins this autumn with a mix of world films and arthouse cinema.

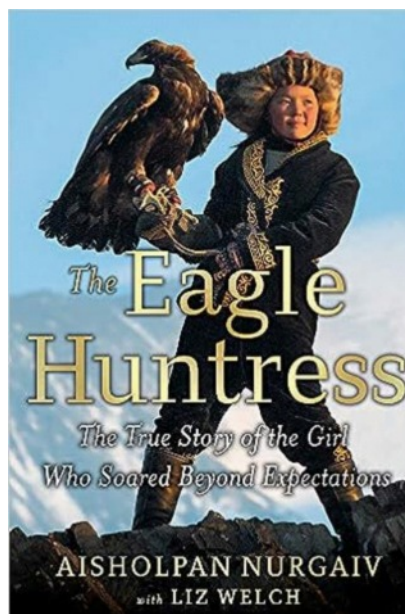
There's an interesting line-up of eight films, running monthly from September to April, starting with *The Eagle Huntress* on **Wednesday, September 20**.

Why not go along and enjoy a friendly atmosphere, licensed bar, and some fabulous films.

To book membership (£25 for the season) or for more details, contact Vicki at WhatsApp on 07803 589108, or email limpleycreative@gmail.com

Limpley Stoke Village Hall

Doors open 6.45pm / film starts 7.15pm



Lower Stoke road closure

Part of Lower Stoke – from its junction with B3108 for approximately 260m in a southerly direction – will close temporarily on **Monday, October 2 between 10am and 3pm** to enable Network Rail to carry out a retaining wall examination and associated works. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses, where possible.

For further information contact Network Rail on 01787 237509 or visit

<https://www.one.network/?tm=134392497>



Wiltshire Council LOCAL PLAN

The Wiltshire Local Plan consultation, which begins this month, sets out the vision and framework for housing, infrastructure and land for employment growth for the next 15 years. Once adopted, all planning applications will be determined against the plan, making it the most important place-shaping document for Wiltshire.

The consultation runs from **Wednesday, September 27 to Wednesday, November 22.**

There will be a drop-in event at **Bradford on Avon Library on Monday, October 2** from 3pm to 7pm. If you're unable to make that date, you're welcome to attend any of the other events to discuss the plan and your own area.

More information, including drop-in event timetable, is available by visiting <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8029/Overview>

Martin Walker

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death on July 27 of Freshford resident, Martin Walker, aged 70. Martin was a beloved husband to Helen, a father and grandfather, and known to many in the community.



He chaired the Freshford Memorial Hall Committee for several years and served as a Freshford parish councillor. For many years he was also involved in organising the annual Freshford and Limpley Stoke village fetes.

Martin was instrumental in the recent refurbishments of both St Peter's Church and Freshford Memorial Hall. One of his proudest achievements as a chartered surveyor was his work on the ceiling of Bath's Theatre Royal, where there is a plaque dedicated to him. He was also involved in the renovation of Grade I-listed No 1 Queen Square, designed by Bath's famous architect, John Wood the Elder, which is now a business centre.

In his eulogy at Martin's funeral service at St Peter's Church on August 14, his twin brother Richard spoke of a talented sportsman who was also principal cellist with the Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra.

The orchestra was said to have a formidable national and international reputation and Martin had the privilege of playing under André Previn and Sir Michael Tippett, among many other composers and conductors, across the UK and Europe. Martin went on to be principal cellist of both Bristol Concert Orchestra and Bath Symphony Orchestra.

Over a third of items put in the rubbish skips at Wiltshire's Household Recycling Centres could be recycled.

Let's Sort It before you bring it!

Some of the items you can recycle at our sites include:

Textiles and clothes	Metals, cans and aerosols
Plastics	Electrical items
Paper	Wood
Cardboard	Soil and rubble

Wiltshire Council

More than a third of items deposited in the general rubbish skips at Wiltshire's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) could have been recycled.

As part of its **'Recycling: Let's Sort It'** campaign, Wiltshire Council is encouraging people to sort their waste before visiting their local HRC, ensuring that all items are separated correctly.

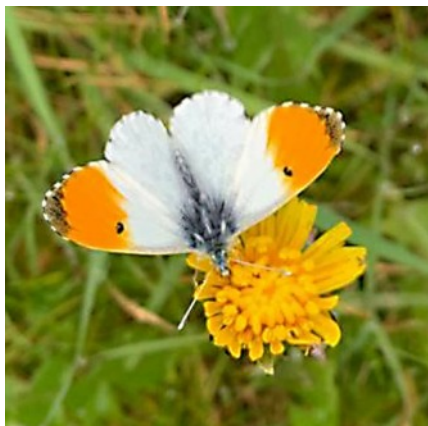
So, whether clearing out the garage, moving house, or just having a tidy up, please take time to sort out your recycling before you visit.

Park flora and fauna

Limpley Stoke resident, Alan Dun, shares his summer discoveries in Woods Hill play park.

“I was walking through the park last week [late June] on a baking hot day, pushing my bike. As I walked along the tarmac path towards the Twizzle, I noticed something.

To my right, where the grass was cut short, all was still, quiet and hot. To my left, where the meadow was long, was alive and buzzing. There were hoverflies, at least three species of butterfly, bees. Bending down, I saw iridescent green beetles and a dragonfly landed on a long blade of grass.



Cheered, I returned to the park on two evenings that week, with the Merlin bird app on my phone. I discovered bullfinch, nuthatch, chiffchaff, thrush, goldcrest, robin, blackbird, wren and more. All, no doubt, in the park for the shelter and range of food they could find there.



The initiative to provide nesting sites for swifts is working. From zero nests in the village, to my knowledge we now have four nesting pairs. And the park is providing one small source of food for them.

Let's hope the hedgehogs that have come to Middle Stoke this year, but are obviously struggling to find food, can find the park and prosper.

We need more initiatives like the park – small rays of hope in an increasingly anxious and dangerous world. Thank you for giving us hope.”

Alan Dun



Photos: © Chimene Roberts

Orange tip butterfly, garden tiger moth, common spotted orchid



The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust (WBVT) is a charity working in partnership with Wiltshire Police to provide a **free** home security service for elderly and vulnerable people throughout Wiltshire.

WBVT's mission is to help people who have been victims of, or are at risk of, house crime, hate crime, domestic abuse, or fire.

The Trust was set up in 1998, the first of its kind to be established in England, and is overseen by a board of trustees.

For more information or to arrange a home security visit call 01225 256867; email bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk; or visit the website at <https://www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk>



A new app describing the history of Wiltshire towns has been launched.

The Explore Wiltshire app, which can be downloaded for free via your app store, has information about historical landmarks, cultural sites and significant events across the county and features information and trails for Bradford on Avon and other Wiltshire towns.

Produced by Wiltshire Council in collaboration with town and parish councils, each town gets an audio introduction from Channel 4 Time Team member, Phil Harding.

What's on

Galleries artist

Mike Service will be exhibiting at the Galleries until **September 17**.

A figurative painter of large seascapes, clouds, creeks, boats, and flowers in jugs, mainly in oil but occasionally watercolours. Mike, who has a studio in his Combe Down garden, shows his work in galleries from Castle Cary to Edinburgh and has also exhibited at the Royal West of England Academy.

For more details, contact him at <https://www.mikeserviceartist.com>



Horticultural Show

Freshford & District Horticultural Society **ANNUAL SHOW** returns on **Saturday, September 2** from 2 to 4.30pm at **Freshford Village Hall**. Entry forms from Galleries shop. Entry £1 / children free. Everyone welcome. Refreshments available.

More details available at <https://www.freshford.org.uk>

Pop-up pub

Friday, September 15, 6.30–10pm
Limpley Stoke Village Hall

Food, drinks, music, and board games. Wine £3 a glass, Prosecco £4, bottles and cans of beer and cider £3, and soft drinks £2. Spanish-themed food. Cash or card. Profits towards hall.

History Society

Bath and its local government in 1800

Wednesday, Sept 27
7.30pm

Freshford Village Hall

Dr Rose Wallis is a senior lecturer in British social history at the University of the West of England in Bristol. Her talk will explore the role of the magistracy as local government and the particular problems it posed in a fashionable city like Bath.

Annual subscriptions: £10 per person due at Sept meeting (*cash please*) / visitors £3. All welcome.

Bath Children's Literature Festival

Friday, September 29 –
Sunday, October 8

Various city venues

Books and stories come alive this autumn as Europe's largest dedicated children's literature festival returns with a vibrant array of talks and activities.

Visit the website at <https://www.bathfestivals.org.uk/childrens-literature> for details.

Mobile library monthly visit:

Thurs: September 28
10.00 – 10.25am

Uplands Close, Midford Lane



THE WELLOW VILLAGE SHOW

WHATS ON AT THIS YEARS SHOW

THE WELLOW FLOWER SHOW / DOG SHOW / LOCAL STALLS FEATURING A VARIETY OF ARTISAN GIFTS AND GOODIES, FOOD & DRINKS AND FUNDRAISING. / BBQ / THAI STREET FOOD / TEA AND CAKES / BEER TENT / FERRET AND SNAIL RACING / INFLATABLE JOUSTING / DISCO DOME / OLD WELLOW EXHIBITION / COCONUT SHY / TUG OF WAR / FIRE DANCER AND LOTS MORE.

FROM 12 NOON TO 16.30
SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2023
WELLOW RECREATION FIELD