

Please could any copy for the February edition of The Ebble be sent to ebbleeditor@hotmail.com no later than January 24th 2025 (and any time earlier is even better!) Anything received after this date cannot be guaranteed to be included.

Urgently looking for a new Editor. Would anyone feel able/like to take on my role as editor of The Ebble? Unexpectedly we are moving from Ebbesbourne rather more quickly than we anticipated. The February edition will be the last one I can do. It is a very satisfying and enjoyable role within the valley and, despite my appalling lack of technical ability, have loved doing. Please let me know if you are interested, in time for me to hand over. Without Rachel Thomson as treasurer, proof-reader and counsellor I could not have managed at all. She has been the most wonderful right-hand man (person). Perhaps a group of friends, or a couple could take it on?

The Alfiwake Fund - Supporting our community. Do you need help with your bills? Winter is approaching, energy prices remain high and the Winter Fuel Payment for pensioners has been cut. Can we help? We are able to make contributions towards electricity bills, logs, coal, heating oil, portable heaters, dehumidifiers and boiler services or repairs. We are not only here for seasonal support but for all of those unexpected bills too, whether that be car repairs, MOTs, washing machine repairs or replacements, or perhaps a new cooker. Our contributions are not limited to the examples listed, so please do get in touch if there is anything we may be able to help you with. Your request will remain confidential. Email: alfiwakefund@gmail.com Tel: Hugh Pelly - 780258, Janine Hillary - 780271, Bridget Watts - 780662, Carly Stainforth - 780848, or Andrew Boys - 780835

Volunteer Emergency Telephone System - V.E.T.S In the event of an emergency please dial 999, followed by 01722 581001; this will summon a local volunteer who will assist whilst waiting for the emergency services to arrive.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

ALVEDISTON

CHRISTINGLE at St. MARY'S ALVEDISTON Sunday 12th January at 11.00am

We hold our Christingle service after Christmas, during the season of Epiphany. At the beginning of the New Year we will be thinking about God's promises. All are very welcome to join us.

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Wreath making workshop in Alvediston on Saturday, 30th November, a few completely inexperienced wreath-makers gathered in the church in Alvediston, and emerged three hours later with stylish creations, having been expertly and patiently taught by local florist Alice Grant, who had also decorated the church beautifully. Ann Laity plied us with hot drinks and provided a very generous spread, and other members of the family helped to set up and to clear the mess we made afterwards. Thanks to all, and congratulations to Alice and best wishes for her chosen career.

EBBESBOURNE WAKE

EBBESBOURNE WAKE PARISH COUNCIL The Parish Council met on 5th December 2024 and agreed that there will be no increase the precept for 2025/26. The next meeting is on 27th February 2025.

CHRISTMAS BOXES for SALISBURY'S WOMENS REFUGE

A big thank you from Helen White to everyone who so generously gave gifts to the Women's Refuge - she says they were blown away by your generosity and thoughtfulness.

EBBESBOURNE WAKE / ALVEDISTON / FIFIELD BAVANT VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Festive Greetings and Happy New Year from the whole Village Hall Committee!

Again, some lovely events to look back on: A big thank you to Cathy Long, Helen Lodge and Paul Sampson and all involved for ushering in the festive spirit with carols and seasonal refreshments on the 16th December. Thirty people gathered in the village hall for a fun evening of carol singing, eating mince pies and drinking mulled wine. Donations totalling £160 were made to the Alabare charity and to the village hall. Thank you to everyone who came and to all those who helped. Special thanks to Helen and Cathy for organising the event and to Paul and Cathy for providing the music.

The pre-loved clothes fair at the end of November was great fun - much laughter, shared stories and a wonderfully eco-conscious celebration of fashion, thank you to Anna for coordinating this! There will be a repeat in the coming year.

Much of the great momentum gained will flow into 2025 (but hopefully less flood water into the hall car park!) Yoga continues on Tuesday mornings; it is lovely to see a mix of women and men at these! So, if your New Year intentions include becoming more flexible and stretching your hamstrings, see Caroline's ad on the back page. Also in the mix are plans for another reels night, a dance party and of course more talks from amazing people around us - if you want to get involved let Angelika know at a-j@thehamiltonfamily.org! We are continuing to raise funds to keep the hall going (and heated) with our first talk in 2025.

TALK by MARTIN SHALLCROSS Wednesday 22nd January 6.30pm in the Village Hall

"The Abbess Farmhouses: When Women Ruled the Land"

Journey to an era when women held not just spiritual power but dominion over vast lands.

Shaftesbury Abbey, founded around 888 by King Alfred as the first religious house exclusively for women, became a pioneering institution of female leadership. With King Alfred's daughter Æthelgifu as its first Abbess, the Abbey managed extensive estates, shaping the landscape and local economy for generations.

Join local farmer and historian Martin Shallcross for an engaging talk that delves into the Abbey's landholdings, the women who managed them, and the enduring impact of their stewardship on our region. This is a story of resilience, resourcefulness, and the remarkable women who left their mark on the land we know today.

Tickets £10, £5 concessions; 1 glass of wine included, cash bar and nibbles.

To book the village hall for events get in touch with Fran. Please note that there is a small charge for hiring the hall car park, to help with the maintenance of the hall and pavilion.

Bookings at: ebbesbournewakevillagehall@hotmail.com

THE ALFIWAKE FILM CLUB Monday January 6th 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

A charming Iranian film 'Hit The Road' that comes Highly Recommended.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit_the_Road_\(2021_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit_the_Road_(2021_film)). Doors open at 7.00pm, film starts at 7.30pm prompt, £5. Please bring cash! Drinks available to buy. Suggestions for future films welcome.

Hugh Pelly 01722 780258 hjwpelly@gmail.com.

THE EBBESBOURNE WINE CLUB is back! 18.30-20.00 in Ebbesbourne Wake Village Hall

Banish those winter blues and brush up on your wine knowledge in one fell swoop!

Each month we will visit a different region/style of wine. We'll learn about each country's winemaking history, climatic influences and grape varieties as well as the all-important tasting, plus offering tips on how to navigate the confusing and sometimes intimidating world of wine.

Our programme is:

January 30th – South Africa

February 27th – Austria & Hungary

March – 27th – Australia & New Zealand

April 24th – Sparkling Wine

May 29th – Fortified Wines

£5 donation towards hall hire and snacks, plus bring a bottle of wine (£15-20 price range).

Text/WhatsApp: Anna Hayward on 07930 398432 to book your place.

WILTSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION (BKVC)

In February, entries will be invited for the BKVC. Categories are large, medium and small villages. There are 15 prizes of up to £200. It's a great way of getting villagers together to keep our villages looking good and to build on our community spirit. Entry is simple and must be received by CPRE Wiltshire by 17th April. Can you help your parish council with this? Details are at <https://www.cprewiltshire.org.uk/category/awards/> or call 01380 722157 and leave a message if necessary.

CHALKE VALLEY STORES www.chalkevalleystores.co.uk, email:info@chalkevalleystores.co.uk.

Home deliveries: If you need a delivery, please call the shop, 01722 780998.

Open weekdays 9.00am - 5pm, until 1.00pm on Saturdays.

Coffee Shop weekdays 10.00am - 3.30pm, 12.00pm on Saturdays.

Post Office: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am to 1pm.

We would like to thank all our customers for your continued loyal support throughout 2024. We are able to trade only because you use the shop and café as much as you do. We are so delighted to have been awarded the Kings award for voluntary service which could not have been achieved without your support.

Looking forward to 2025, keep an eye out for our extended range of own label wines. Our own label range of other goods – biscuits, sweets, honey, chocolate sourdough bread and tea to name but a few, have proved very popular. We are restocking and extending the products branded under our name. Look out for the extended range in the shop in February.

We are working on providing you with various events at the Hub in 2025, the first of which will be a wine tasting which we hope to hold in February. Look out in store and on our website for details. Please come and sample items from our new menu put together by our chef, Jay. It is lovely to see our regular groups enjoying his dishes but we welcome newcomers just as much. Booking is recommended for groups of over six. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and hope that you enjoy the festivities. We would like to thank Prescombe Farm for their very kind donation of a beautiful Christmas tree.

BOWERCHALKE MARKET Saturday January 11th, 9.30 to 12 noon in the Village Hall.

We look forward to seeing everyone after the Christmas and New Year's break and will have a good spread of healthy and delicious New Year goodies including local beef, lamb, pheasant and venison, seasonal and possibly a few non-seasonal vegetables. Soups, cakes, pate and preserves. And a cafe to raise a coffee cup to good things in the coming year. For further information please contact Laura on 07445 743014 or lauraloncar.cvp@gmail.com.

CRESS BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE 3rd-10th December 'DOUBLE YOUR DONATION'

CRESS has raised an amazing £19,771.25 and we are so grateful for your donations to our 'Big Give 2024 Christmas Challenge' and Livelihood project. Our Livelihood project aims to achieve sustainable income generation, poverty reduction & socio-economic transformation in refugee and rural communities in Northern Uganda. Many thanks again and we look forward to showing you the difference your donations have made.

A message of gratitude from Soro Isaac, Director of CRESS Africa for our 'Big Give Christmas Challenge' fundraising success.

"Your support is more than financial. It's really a message of hope and solidarity with the communities we serve."

CHALKE VALLEY SPORTS CENTRE - January 2025

The Committee of the Chalke Valley Sports Centre extend its best wishes to residents of the Chalke Valley for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2025. With Christmas and New Year festivities behind us and thoughts and plans being made for the year ahead, all our sports clubs welcome new members so why not try a new activity or start playing some sport again? There is something to accommodate most ages and abilities. Check out the website for all the details.

In 2024 the Committee and sports clubs were able to secure funding to make a number of improvements to the sports centre including resurfacing, repainting and lining the Multi-use Games area, refurbishing the kitchen providing new larger oven, extraction and refrigeration and better storage. Many thanks to Howdens and Aquatech in Salisbury for their very generous donation of equipment.

The Petanque Club secured funds to lay electricity to the petanque shed and provide new bench seating around the playing area as well as completing replacement of the roof on the shed. Other major work was repairs to the roof and guttering of the main sports centre building, now over 22 years old. Many thanks to Chalke Valley Roofing. Replacement football goals for general use on the sports field were bought to replace the one that was broken.

We are hoping for a quieter year in terms of major expenditure, but fundraising will be a key objective to boost funds. Our first event is Race Night on Saturday 8th February. Tickets available from the village shop or by contacting any of the committee. Cost is £18 including supper. There will be a bar and raffle...any raffle prize donations gratefully received. We are also hosting a Stargazing evening with Friends of Broad Chalke School on Friday 28th February...watch out for more information. The Chalke Valley Fete and Show will return on Saturday 16th August 2025 with lots of family fun and activities.

If you have a family celebration in 2025 then our indoor hall, upgraded kitchen and outdoor space, make a perfect venue.

Chalke Valley Sports Centre Contacts:

Chairman: chris.rothwell@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk Tel: 07552159369

Treasurer: Michaela.johns@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk Tel: 01722 780915

Secretary: Vacant

Social Media: tim.moss@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk

Sports Centre general email: Info@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk

Our website is www.chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chalke-Valley-Sports-Centre-110944004548798>

BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL MOVIOLA Friday 31st January 2025

The Moviola film for January will be “Thelma”, doors open at 7.00pm and the film will begin at 7.30pm. A trailer for the film can be seen in the Events section of the village website at www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk. Entry for the film is £6.00. A cash bar with ices and snacks will be available. If possible, please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044, Nigel Peasley on 07761 463737 or Sue Taylor on 01722 780316.

CHURCH MATTERS

NOTES from a CHURCHWARDEN David Walsh

A friend in Norfolk who attends his small church when he can, said to me “I like the symbolic obedience to a good system. That’s enough. And it’s rather beautiful”. This is a man with a considerable sense of duty, who looks after a large amount of land and in his early fifties has a real sense of giving something back, as it were.

I sometimes think one can spend too much time wondering about the existence of God when in fact life is so much richer and more rewarding if we just live as if he does exist .

It is fine to be a divine sceptic in one’s head , but oh so sensible to be an unwavering follower in one’s heart. It’s a case of not looking only for the ship out at sea , as you will then miss the beauty of the sea itself .

I hope these notes over the last years have been rewarding . And as I say our lovely church services are there for you all and random attendance is fine .

Church Flowers and cleaning – January 2025

Alvediston -	Vicky Spendlove & Lil Sykes
Ebbesbourne Wake	Carla Walsh and Sam Lanyon.
Fifield Bavant -	Pip Reis

CHURCH SERVICES for JANUARY 2025

5 th January	11.00am	Ebbesbourne Wake	Morning Prayer	Biddy Trahair
12 th January	11.00am	Alvediston	All Age Service	Biddy Trahair
12 th January	3.00pm	Fifield Bavant	Evening Prayer	Biddy Trahair
19 th January	11.00am	Ebbesbourne Wake	Family Communion (CW)	Kate Woolven
26 th January	11.00am	Alvediston	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alison Waterhouse
2 nd February	11.00am	Ebbesbourne Wake	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Biddy Trahair

ADVERTISEMENTS

If you would like to advertise in The Ebble please contact Rachel Thomson, rachel.thomson@argosgeorgia.com. Your continuing support helps to keep the Ebble running, thank you.

Gurston Down Speed Hill Climb – the South’s premier Speed Hill Climb venue – near Broad Chalke. www.gurstondown.org or follow us on Facebook

Max Turney - Fern Joinery – Windows, Doors, Kitchens, Bespoke Carpentry and more. max@fernjoinery.com, 07900 987406, www.fernjoinery.com

Charlotte Steel (Dip. Couns. MBACP), Qualified Counsellor and Complementary Therapist
The Chapel, Church Street, Bowerchalke, SP5 5AY, 07811 944328, cjsteel92@gmail.com,
www.charlottesteel.org. Counselling: £50, Hot Stone Massage: Full Body (90 minutes) £65, Back (1 hour) £50,
Massage: Full Body (90 mins) £60, Back (1 hour) £45, Reflexology: Initial Consultation £38, Further Treatments £35
*Peaceful therapy room with plenty of parking, Gift Vouchers Available, please see www.bacp.co.uk for more
info.*

Weekly Yoga at Ebbesbourne Wake Village Hall Tuesdays 11.30am-1pm. Spring Term begins
14th January. Experience postures, breathing practices, mindfulness and deep relaxation for
inner harmony, improved strength and flexibility. All ages and abilities welcome. Please contact
Caroline Wilkinson on 01725 552209 or cj@wilkinsonyoga.co.uk www.wilkinsonyoga.co.uk

Landscape and Garden Design: qualified Landscape Architect with 35+ years professional
experience. If you're looking for an innovative landscape design, a solution to a tricky garden
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Richard Harris: Personal Training, Nutrition Advice for all dietary requirements, Sports Massage,
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K H Soft Furnishings (including B V Foam Supplies) bespoke soft furnishings: curtains, blinds
cushions etc as well as foam cut to size and material by the metre. Contact
info@khsoftfurnishings.com 07810 661000 or 01722 780742

JD Vehicle services, Manor Farm, Fifield Bavant.
Vehicle paint and body repair. Contact Joe on 07980 350484 or jdvehicleservices@hotmail.co.uk

Local grass-fed lamb and Dexter beef from Knowle Farm always available, and pork/sausages
often available. Please enquire: Hugo Mann, 07974453623, Dmannandson@outlook.com

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information, please visit www.filthysquirrels.co.uk



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