

Copy for the February edition of The Ebble to [ebbleeditor@hotmail.com](mailto:ebbleeditor@hotmail.com) no later than 24 January 2026 please.

## Elaine Longstaffe

It was with great sadness that we learned that our friend and, until very recently, next door neighbour Elaine Longstaffe had died. For 35 years we shared a garden fence and a septic tank, looked after each other's dogs, cats, chickens and greenhouses at holiday times and supported each other in very practical ways during bad times. You always knew where you stood with Elle, she told it like it was but unusually was equally happy to take it in return, telling us without any acrimony when our old Rayburn was smoking her out (we changed it for a shiny clean new boiler), but when we told her that her trees were blocking our evening sunlight, giving us free rein to chop them down (we didn't, just pruned them a bit). Life had been tough for her over the last few years; she selflessly nursed her husband Mike at home through his last dreadful illness and made frequent four-hour drives each way to support her sister, enabling her to continue living independently. Very much a part of both Ebbesbourne and Alvediston, and with dear friends in both villages who will miss her greatly, she began to find the isolation of living here in the winter too much and made the move to Salisbury, where she also had friends, in April of this year. She was very much looking forward to working her magic on the garden at her new house in the same way that she did 35 years ago on the house here, sadly this will never happen. She leaves daughters Sara and Amanda, son-in-law Chris and granddaughters Gemma and Kelly and our hearts go out to them at this sad time. Frances Turner

Many of us in Alvediston knew Elaine as a member of the church cleaning and flower-arranging team, both when we got together for festivals and on the rota with Ann Turner. We will always think of the east window of the south transept as Elaine's, and we miss her arrangements and quiet contribution. Biddy Trahair

## Thank you

Thank you to all our valued advertisers for their continuing support of The Ebble. Without you there would be no Ebble. If you are looking for local advertising, please contact us! Rachel and Kate  
Thank you too to all our regular contributors – please let me know if you have anything you would like to submit.

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](mailto:ebbesbournewakevillagehall@hotmail.com)

## RBL Poppy Appeal 2025 (omission from December Ebble)

Thank you also to those in Alvediston who generously contributed a total of £216.25. This is in addition to the £552.90 collected in Ebbesbourne and Fifield. Deborah Boys

**The Alfiwake Fund - Can we help?** - The Alfiwake Fund is available to the residents of Alvediston, Ebbesbourne Wake and Fifield Bavant who are suffering financial hardship. We are able to contribute towards items such as logs, coal, heating oil, portable heaters, dehumidifiers, 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 contact the Fund via telephone, email or in person if there is

anything we may be able to help you with. We will endeavour to deal with your request promptly however there may be occasions when responses take a little longer due to the availability of trustees. Any request made will remain strictly confidential. [Email:alfiwakefund@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Christingle Service in Alvediston**

As usual, we will hold our Christingle Service on the second Sunday of January (the 11<sup>th</sup>) at 11am. Although this is a service with children in mind, everyone is very welcome to join us, and there will be coffee and biscuits as usual afterwards. The idea of the service came from The Children's Society, whose work of supporting children in difficult or dangerous situations is more than ever needed today, so this is also an opportunity to support the society.

### **Ebbesbourne Wake, Fifield Bavant and Alvediston Village Hall**

#### **Village Hall Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, 7 pm.**

February: Village History Month - *History all around – not just in June!*

The Village Hall Committee is planning a Local History Evening on Friday 6 February in the Village Hall to celebrate "*The way we lived, worked and partied.*" covering Ebbesbourne Wake, Alvediston and Fifield Bavant. This will be followed by the Film Club evening on Monday 9 February, which will feature old films and footage of the village and surrounding area.

We would love this to be a shared community event, so if anyone has old photographs, films, documents or memories they would be willing to share, please do come forward. Your contributions would really help bring the village's history to life.

More details to follow – but for now, please save the dates and start looking through those photo boxes! Get in touch with Hugh or Angelika!

### **Village Hall Carols**

On 11 December a small group of villagers gathered in the village hall for a fun evening of Carol singing, eating mince pies and drinking mulled wine. Donations totalling £90 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 Lodge and Cathy Long for organising the event. Extra thanks to Cathy and to Paul Sampson for providing the accompaniment for the singing and to Annie Parnell and Mary Fleck for their humorous song!

### **Ebbesbourne Wake and Fyfield Bavant Parish Council**

Next Parish Council Meeting; Thursday 19 February 2026 at 7.30pm

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS (in chronological order)**

#### **The Alfiwake Film Club – Monday 5 January – The Ballad of Wallis Island**

A delightful comedy: 96% from Rotten Tomatoes, it hums along a sweet melody without lapsing into outright sentimentality, mining a great deal of warmth from its humble premise. Doors open at 7, Film starts at 7.30 prompt, £5, Drinks available to buy - please bring cash! Film suggestions welcome! Hugh Pelly ☎ 780258 [hjwpelly@gmail.com](mailto:hjwpelly@gmail.com)

### **Comedy – Bishopstone Village Hall – Saturday 14 February at 7 for 7.30pm**

We are please to present a show by Rob Barratt “a Dudley-born, brain-tickling, word-mangling comic poet and singer from North Cornwall”. A combination of clever word play and song with satire, parody and audience participation (see <https://robbarratt.wixsite.com/robbarratt> £10 with an optional light supper for £7.50. Please book in advance with Caroline Ash on 781044 or Sue Taylor on 780316.

Join Brenda Read-Brown in a playful celebration of growing older. A show to amuse and delight anyone who is older than they were yesterday. £12.50 (inc a drink and canapes). Booking essential. Anne Stutchbury ([annewheelwright@gmail.com](mailto:annewheelwright@gmail.com)) and Sarah Seal ([theseal1@outlook.com](mailto:theseal1@outlook.com)).

**What’s on @NewVic in Tisbury in January** – look at [www.newvictisbury.com](http://www.newvictisbury.com) or call 0300 302 3090.

### **Save the Date - Alvewake Flower and Vegetable Show - 1 August 2026**

#### **BROAD CHALKE**

**Chalke Valley Stores** - [www.chalkevalleystores.co.uk](http://www.chalkevalleystores.co.uk), email: [info@chalkevalleystores.co.uk](mailto:info@chalkevalleystores.co.uk).

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

Open weekdays 9.00am - 5pm (1pm on Saturdays)

Cafe weekdays 9am – 2.30pm, 11.30am on Saturdays

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

We wish all our customers a very happy New Year. We very much look forward to providing a good service to you in the coming year and we look forward to welcoming you in the shop and the café. 2025 has been a good one at the Hub and we hope that this new year brings joy and happiness to you all.

As visitors to the Hub will have seen, the re-fit is now complete and we are very happy with how the shop is now configured. Customers will have noticed that there is a large increase of almost 50% in product range and that it is easier to find what you wish to buy. There is a new “Go Local” affordable range of items which we think will prove popular.

We are very grateful to Parfett's who are now our main suppliers and who worked in partnership with us on the re-fit. But above all our thanks go to Tony Patel, our manager, who master-minded the whole project from its beginning to its completion; we are extremely grateful to him.

The Hub hosted the children from Broad Chalke School in early December for a carol concert which was well attended, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. It’s always a pleasure to host this seasonal event for the children and parents.

On the afternoon of Thursday 11 December a soft launch of the refitted shop took place – tastings of Thatchers ciders, wines from our regular suppliers and Purbeck and Ammonite gins were on offer. All these products are now on sale in the shop.

#### **Chalke Valley Sports Centre**

The Committee of the Chalke Valley Sports Centre extend its best wishes to residents of the Chalke Valley for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2026.

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 2025, after a few years without football at the Sports Centre, we were delighted to welcome Hotspire Football Club for their home matches. We are hopeful that this can be a long-term partnership and will encourage players from the Chalke Valley to join.

Some improvements and updating to the Sports Centre website have been undertaken. Many thanks to Martin Altham. In 2026 we are hoping to secure grants to help fund refurbishment of the changing room showers and replacement water services.

Chairman: [chris.rothwell@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk](mailto:chris.rothwell@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk) Tel: 07552 159369

Treasurer: [Michaela.johns@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk](mailto:Michaela.johns@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk) Tel: 01722 780915

Secretary: Vacant

Social Media: [tim.moss@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk](mailto:tim.moss@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk)

Sports Centre general email: [Info@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk](mailto:Info@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk). Hall available for private hire.

Our website is [www.chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk](http://www.chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk)

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

**Petanque** – Friday evening, 6-8pm. All welcome, £2 per session.

**Tennis Club nights** – Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings.

**Tennis Coaching** – Adult and Junior, Tuesdays. More info from the Tennis Club.

**Table Tennis** – Sunday evenings, **Short Mat Bowls** – Monday evenings

## **BOWERCHALKE**

### **Bowerchalke Market Saturday 10 January , 9.30 to 12 noon in the Village Hall**

Many thanks to everyone who comes along and supports the market and in particular those who volunteer to help run things. We are always looking for extra helpers to do the occasional Saturday so let me know if you would like to join us. We are so lucky that we can fill the tables with top quality lamb, beef, venison and pheasant and seasonal vegetables – all produced within a handful of miles of the market. On top of these are the home cooked pies, soups, pate, cakes preserves and local honey. Not to forget the excellent café serving teas and coffees and a Full English Breakfast. For further information please contact Laura on 07445 743014 or email [lauraloncar.cvp@gmail.com](mailto:lauraloncar.cvp@gmail.com).

## **BISHOPSTONE**

**Bishopstone Community Café** - The Village Hall Café is normally open on alternate Thursdays throughout the year. Dates are 15 and 19 January from 10.30am until noon. Everyone is welcome to look in for a coffee and chat. There is presently no charge for refreshments.

**Moviola – Friday 27 February - “The Roses”**. Doors open at 7pm and the film will begin at 7.30pm. Entry for the film is £7. A cash bar with ices and snacks will be available. If possible, please book in advance with Caroline Ash on 781044 or Sue Taylor on 780316. A trailer for the film can be seen in the Events section of the village website at [www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk](http://www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk).

**Bishopstone Community Lunches – Wednesday 7 January. Virginia Haworth will be talking about “Reading a Film”**. Times as usual: 12 for 12.30pm. Advance booking is essential. Please telephone Caroline Ash on 781044 and advise her of any dietary requirements. The cost is £8.50 and includes a drink.

**Bishopstone Playgroup** – Friday mornings during term time from 9.30 – 11am. Breastfeeding support is available from qualified breastfeeding counsellor Cally Edwards and trained peer supporters. Find further information on our Facebook page or contact Cally [callyedwards@me.com](mailto:callyedwards@me.com) or 07968 797168.

## **CHURCH MATTERS - Parish of Ebbesbourne Wake with Fifield Bavant and Alvediston**

### **Notes from a Churchwarden - David Walsh**

The wonderful thing about Christianity is that we are offered truths whose depths are always beyond our reach. They are absolutely true , but not fully within our grasp.

Poets and artists help us to discern a little bit about the meaning of these truths.“

Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe

**Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)** are trained and authorised by the church to visit and/or offer pastoral care to anyone in our parishes. Whether you are sick, recently bereaved, new to the area, or know someone who might like a visit from the church community, please contact the clergy (see below). If you would like to explore this ministry yourself, for more information please contact Maggie on [revmaggie@gmail.com](mailto:revmaggie@gmail.com) or chat with anyone on the team.

## Church Flowers and Cleaning – January 2026

Alvediston - Vicki Spendlove & Lil Sykes  
Ebbesbourne Wake - Cathy Long (Flowers), Carla Walsh and Sam Lanyon  
Fifield Bavant - Pip Reis

## Church Services – January 2026

4 January	11.00am	Ebbesbourne Wake	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Biddy Trahair
11 January	11.00am	Alvediston	All Age Service (Christingle)	Biddy Trahair
18 January	11.00am	Ebbesbourne Wake	Family Communion	Ruth H-S
25 January	11.00am	Alvediston	Holy Communion	Alison Waterhouse
1 February	11.00am	Ebbesbourne Wake	Morning Prayer	Biddy Trahair

Ministry Team: Team Rector ~ The Revd. Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple: 01722 697022

Team Vicar ~ The Revd. Alison Waterhouse: 07904 034221

Associate Priests ~ The Revd. Kate Woolven: 07754 582395, The Revd. Maggie Metcalfe: 01722 325825

Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

Lay Worship Leader ~ Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666

For the weekly email bulletin with details of services and activities throughout the Chalke Valley,  
contact Emily on [thechalkevalleychurches@gmail.com](mailto:thechalkevalleychurches@gmail.com)

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Charlotte Steel (Dip. Couns. MBACP), Qualified Counsellor and Complementary Therapist  
The Chapel, Church Street, Bowerchalke, SP5 5AY, 07811 944328, [cjsteel92@gmail.com](mailto:cjsteel92@gmail.com),  
[www.charlottesteel.org](http://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](http://www.bacp.co.uk) for more information.

JD Vehicle services, Manor Farm, Fifield Bavant.  
Vehicle paint and body repair. Contact Joe on 07980 350484 or [jdvehicleservices@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Dmannandson@outlook.com)

Filthy Squirrels Woodland Nursery, Manor Farm Fifield Bavant. Ofsted rated Outstanding. For all information, please visit [www.filthysquirrels.co.uk](http://www.filthysquirrels.co.uk)

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