

Limpley Stoke news

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Freshford School 'top of class'

Freshford Primary School has been rated the best state-funded primary in the Bath and North East Somerset area, according to *The Real Schools Guide 2019*.

The guide aims to give a more comprehensive picture than traditional league tables, taking into account more than 40 different data points, including progress, pupil-teacher ratios and absence rates, as well as Key Stage 2 results.

This year's results put Freshford Primary School on top as the best in the local area with 69.3 points, followed in second and third places by Weston All Saints Primary and High Littleton Primary.

Parents can go online to browse the full data, compare different schools, and find links to contact details and recent Ofsted reports. You can see how each primary school compares against other schools in the area and across the UK [here](#).

*Source:
Bath Chronicle and Somerset Live*



Sadly, yet another incident to report. On Sunday, January 20, two men were spotted attempting to break into a house in Cliffe Drive in Limpley Stoke in broad daylight.

The men, one of whom was seen carrying a rock, were described as black and both were wearing jogging bottoms. They were spotted approaching the house through the garden. Police and sniffer dogs attended the scene but the culprits had gone.

A reminder that I am the semi-official **Neighbourhood Watch** co-ordinator for the village. Should you see or hear anything suspicious, please let me know on 01225 723404 or sheena.broadhead@tiscali.co.uk and I will pass on the details to my contacts located around the community. You should of course always dial 999 if immediate help is required, or police non-emergency number 101 if the matter is less urgent.

Precept 2019/20

Limpley Stoke Parish Council has agreed – subject to Wiltshire Council approval – a precept figure of £21,311 for 2019/20, representing an increase of 3.99 per cent.

This is smaller than last year's 7.5 per cent rise and represents an annual increase of £2.68 for a Band D property. The precept is part of the Council Tax for the year and is a charge on each property within the parish.

The increase will enable the Parish Council to maintain its existing services for the benefit of the community and to fund future projects, such as traffic calming solutions and a mobile speed indicator device for the village.

New police chief

Wiltshire has a new Chief Constable. Kier Pritchard has been with the force for 25 years and had been temporary Chief Constable since last March. He began the role just one day before the Novichok nerve agent attack in Salisbury, when Wiltshire police found themselves propelled into the national and global media spotlight.

Mr Pritchard, who was born in Salisbury, says he is honoured to be chosen for the highest ranking role in the force. He has outlined his vision for the future of Wiltshire by saying that preventative measures to help people before they are led to commit a crime was a top priority for the police force.

Meanwhile, his predecessor, Mike Veale, who left Wiltshire to take up the chief's role with Cleveland police, has resigned after less than a year in the post, following serious allegations about his behaviour.



Photo © Wiltshire Police



Wiltshire Air Ambulance (WAA) is calling on Wiltshire folk to help the charity continue saving lives as its annual costs increase.

The rise, by 15 per cent to £3.75 million, is due to the increasing cost burden to the charity in staffing from the NHS, and the ever-growing expense linked to the vast array of specialist medicines and painkilling drugs being administered by the team during emergencies.

WAA, which has been operating since 1990, relies on donations – equivalent to just over £10,000 per day – to keep its life-saving service operational. It is not funded directly by the Government and receives no National Lottery grants.

WAA has seen a 26 per cent rise in missions, with helicopter and Rapid Response Vehicles called to 1,103 incidents across Wiltshire and surrounding counties during 2018, an increase of 228 from 2017. (wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/)

More money needed for police

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire, Angus Macpherson, is asking residents in the county if they'd be prepared to pay an extra couple of pounds a month for more police officers.

Currently, the average Wiltshire household contributes £15.19 per month to local policing but, if people back the proposal, this would rise to £17.19 per month (relating to a Band D property), meaning more police officers and cyber crime staff could be recruited.

Mr Macpherson says that the long distances between communities puts added pressure on police resources and he will continue to lobby the Government to give Wiltshire a fairer amount of the national funding pot.

Any increase to the policing precept will be added to council tax bands proportionately.



Action Fraud has received more than 5,000 reports about fake emails and texts purporting to be from TV Licensing.

The messages contain links to genuine-looking websites designed to steal personal and financial information.

Always question unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information in case it's a scam. Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text.

For information on how to stay safe online, visit <https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk/>.

Drop-off zone at Bristol Airport

Bristol Airport is to provide a free drop-off waiting facility for private vehicles and an on-site waiting area for taxis.

The move follows feedback over the airport's expansion plans from concerned, long-suffering residents about cars waiting on the A38 and side roads, lanes and laybys, often blocking access to other road users, in order to avoid having to pay parking fees.

Water troughs saved from ruin

More recent inhabitants of Limpley Stoke may not be familiar with the four water troughs located around the village. Very little has been written about them or when they were built, even though they feature throughout the area. One in Newtown, Bradford on Avon, is thought to be of Roman origin.

Limpley Stoke has natural springs running through the limestone in several areas of the village and the troughs are likely to have been used for drinking water both by people and animals.

Some local dwellings had wells, such as that at the Manor House which dates back to the 14th century. Water was still being collected from a well down the Drung passageway in Middle Stoke until the 1960s. The story goes that, when the water was tested, it was said to contain enough bacteria to have incapacitated most folk, although the occupants of the cottage were apparently immune to the bugs. Another Middle Stoke house even had a well in the middle of the living room. A holy well exists in Stoke Wood's Shingle Dell, where people searching for eye disease cures would bathe their eyes with the water.

By the end of last century, the troughs had fallen into disrepair and were in danger of disappearing forever. But Limpley Stoke resident, Anne Jarrett, was determined not to let that happen and duly set about having them restored. The cost of restoration was approximately £2,000, with generous donations from local people and organisations, such as Wessex Water.

To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, about a hundred residents turned out for a village walk and parish well blessing, with some of the troughs having been decorated with flowers.



*Top: trough being winched into position
Below: restored trough 'dressed' for the Queen*

*Special thanks to Anne Jarrett for her research
Photos: Anne Jarrett and Sheena Broadhead*



Lower Stoke trough in disrepair

Foodbank thanks

Bradford on Avon charity, The Hub @ BA15, has thanked the public for helping people in need over the Christmas and New Year period with their generous donations to the local food bank.

Manager, Avril Clarke said: "We would not be able to continue without the generosity of people in Bradford on Avon and the surrounding villages. We have been able to maintain provision to some of the neediest people in the local area during a time of year when hardship seems most distressing."

Help came in the form of over 1,750 kilos of food and donations of money from individuals, groups and organisations.

Fifty-eight Christmas boxes were delivered to families whose children would not have received the usual school meal, and 32 hampers were made up and distributed to people identified by charities or organisations.

What's On

Extraordinary women of west Wiltshire

Thursday, February 21 at 10.30am

What do geologist Etheldred Bennet, Lady Maria Thynne of Longleat, Bradford on Avon's aviation and motoring pioneer Mary Bruce, convict Praxell Hinwood, and Lady Blanche Arundell of Wardour Castle have in common? They are all included in the swansong talk being given by Wiltshire History Centre's principal archivist, Claire Skinner.

Admission: £4. Booking advisable.

Contact Wiltshire History Centre in Chippenham on 01249 705500 / localstudies@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Talk by National Trust head gardener



Troy Scott Smith, one-time head gardener of The Courts at Holt and Bodnant in North Wales, and now at the helm at Sissinghurst, will talk about the three National Trust gardens he has looked after and his gardening inspiration. Freshford & District Local History Society at 7.30pm on **Wednesday, March 6**, at Freshford Memorial Hall.

FDLHS meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Freshford Memorial Hall. Annual subscription: £10. Visitors welcome: £2.

Contact: peter.pennyjones@gmail.com / 01225 723447.

New website for Bradford

Bradford on Avon Town Council has a new tourism website. Its aim, as reported in the *Wiltshire Times*, is to make the town's online 'shop window' attractive, informative and responsive.



Aimed mainly at tourists and visitors to the town, there is a wealth of information for locals, too, such as links to history and heritage,

waterways and wildlife, arts and culture, and health and well-being, as well as an extensive 'What's On' section.

Take a look at the new website at www.bradfordonavon.co.uk.

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Plastic / cardboard:
Monday, February 4
Monday, February 18



Domestic waste/ black box:
Monday, February 11
Monday, February 25



Green bin:
Wed, February 13
Wed, February 27



Useful numbers

Transport Link 07714 16 92 16
Power supply emergency 105
Police (non-emergency) 101
Bradford on Avon Police:
Andrew MacLachlan
0752 897 2236
andrew.maclachlan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Wiltshire Unitary Councillor:
Johnny Kidney 07805 236 480
johnny.kidney@wiltshire.gov.uk

Editor: Limpley Stoke News
Sheena Broadhead
01225 723404
sheena.broadhead@tiscali.co.uk

LSPC Clerk: Bryony Kohn
01225 723749
bryony.kohn@gmail.com



Mobile library monthly visit:
Thursday, February 21
10.00-10.25am
Uplands Close, Midford Lane