

# Limpley Stoke

## news

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## Top of the cops

**W**iltshire Police Force is the best in the country for dealing with priorities highlighted by the community, according to a national survey which measures the types of crime experienced by the public. The Force could only manage 29th place in last year's national rankings. Wiltshire came second in the country for confidence in the police (up from 20th in the same category last year), and third for residents' satisfaction that police do a 'good or excellent job', compared to 12th place in 2017.

The survey, conducted by the Office for National Statistics, asked members of the public about their experiences of crime over the past 12 months, recording all types of crime experienced, including unreported incidents.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, Angus Macpherson, said: "It's really positive to see such a significant increase in how the Force deals with priorities as outlined by the community from last year and is clearly testament to the hard work going on within the Force to forge better links with those who live and work here. For the Force to come second nationally for public confidence in the police is great news and I'm glad that the public believe in our Force as much as I do."

Chief Constable, Kier Pritchard, added: "Since the introduction of Community Policing Teams (CPTs) in 2016, officers have tried to put a real emphasis on building strong and sustainable relationships in the communities where they live and work, and placing first in the country shows that the public feel those links to the police have improved.

### A message from your Wiltshire Councillor



**I** was very concerned to hear of the closure of the Hop Pole over the summer and have been in liaison with concerned residents about ways of securing the future of this important community asset. I have also been in contact with the Parish Council to alert them that the listing of the pub as an Asset of Community Value is due to expire in November and to ensure that it is renewed. This listing is essential to ensure that the pub cannot be sold for redevelopment without the community first having an opportunity to bid for the pub. I am contacting the owners of the pub, the Wellington Pub Company, to emphasise the importance of this historic pub to the community.

I have been in discussion with residents about the ongoing problem of commuters using Woods Hill as a cut-through, particularly following a bad crash at the top of the hill over the summer. I raised this issue at a recent meeting of Wiltshire Council's Community Area Transport Group and solutions to improve safety are being explored. Safety issues on the A36 also continue to be a concern. Unfortunately, the A36 is in the control of Highways England rather than Wiltshire Council, however I did raise the matter with our local MP at the most recent of our regular meetings with a view to engaging Highways England on the issue.

I am always happy to hear from residents about any local issues. My contact details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and you can keep up to date with news from Wiltshire Council affecting our area by 'liking' my Facebook page by typing JohnnyKidney4WandW into your Facebook search box.

**Cllr Johnny Kidney, Wiltshire Councillor for Limpley Stoke, Winsley, Westwood and Wingfield**

# Thieves target village again

More incidents to add to Limpley Stoke's recent catalogue of petty crime. A rowing boat belonging to the late Miles Kington which had sat on the river's edge at Limpley Stoke for more than a decade and had provided, every summer, a depository for swimmers' towels, a place to sit, and a familiar sight for walkers, was stolen some time on Friday, July 27.

The boat, securely fastened with a padlock and chain, disappeared after thieves cut through the chain with a bolt-cutter. The boat is cumbersome and was fairly waterlogged, which would have made it very heavy to lift. Miles's widow, Caroline, is obviously upset by the theft and cannot understand why anyone would want to steal it.

Miles Kington (*pictured*) was a renowned writer, broadcaster and musician who was well-known for his columns in *The Times* and *The Independent* and is fondly remembered by his many friends in the village and beyond.



In another boat-related theft, a large outboard motor was stolen recently from a boat stored in a padlocked field in Sharpstone and evidently carried some distance away.

Back in Limpley Stoke, a sculpture of Brunel on the outside wall of Alan Dun's studio disappeared early in August. The thieves, who no doubt believed the sculpture to be bronze, will be disappointed to discover it is, in fact, made from resin.

# Crisis averted at local food bank

A Bradford on Avon charity which provides vital help for low-income families and homeless people in the town and surrounding area issued an urgent plea at the start of the school holidays for donations to its food bank. The Hub @ BA15, which also runs a local debt counselling service, was fast running out of supplies and had reached crisis point.

"In the three years that we have been running, I have never seen empty shelves in the food bank", said manager, Avril Clarke.

People were quick to respond to the appeal and their generosity meant that The Hub was able to provide not only more than 50 boxes of food to help families over the school holidays, but also to restore stocks to normal levels.

Each week the food bank issues around 10 food parcels through procedures stipulated by the Trussell Trust, which regulates operation of the food bank.

Last year, more than 700 local adults and over 350 children were helped by the food bank. Demand has increased due to difficulties in applying for Universal Credit and the delay in receiving benefits.

The Hub would like to thank everyone who responded to the crisis appeal for donations. The charity, based at Church Street, Bradford on Avon, is open from Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm. There is a food collection point at the Sainsbury's store in Bradford on Avon.

## £10m Novichok bill

Wiltshire Police operational costs for the Novichok nerve agent incidents in Salisbury and Amesbury, which left one person dead and three others fighting for their lives, are expected to reach more than £10 million. It is projected that more than £7 million of the total bill will cover the cost of calling in mutual-aid support from countryside forces to meet the extraordinary demand placed on Wiltshire after two major incidents in the space of four months.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, Angus Macpherson, says he fully expects all costs associated with the operation to be met centrally by the Government.

## Alan Titchmarsh at American Museum

The American Museum at Claverton has launched its £2m new garden, which will be officially opened by **Alan Titchmarsh on Saturday, September 15**. Between 10.00am and 5.00pm, visitors can meet the head gardener, enjoy music by the Park Lane Big Band, and step back in time to the 18th century, with a little help from The Natural Theatre Company.

The new American garden contains 10,000 native trees, plants and shrubs, as well as an American rose collection.

Admission to the museum and gardens is free on the day. On-site parking may be limited but the museum's shuttle bus will be operating (for details visit [americanmuseum.org](http://americanmuseum.org)).

# Time to dig out your walking boots

The schools are back and so are two popular walking festivals. **The Bradford on Avon Walking Festival** gets underway on the weekend of **August 31 to September 2**. Several walks are already sold out but places are still available on bird-spotting; gargoyles and shrapnel; wild food foraging; and dry pub walks. Call 01225 865725 to book or visit [walkbradfordonavon.org/](http://walkbradfordonavon.org/).

Organisers of the second **Bathscape Walking Festival** are urging people to get out and explore the countryside and reconnect with the unique setting of Bath and its surrounding area.

Free walks led by local guides will start from locations across the city from **Saturday, September 15 to Sunday, September 23**. Most are accessible by public transport. Local authors, historians and wildlife experts will be on hand to help you discover and delight in the heritage of Bath's landscape.

You can explore the history of Solsbury Hill; search for lost pleasures and view the panoramas of Bath; learn about the springs that made Bath; give the Bath Skyline Walk a go; and much more besides. Several walks are suitable for children and all the bat walks are designed with them in mind. To book, call 01225 47265 or visit [bathscapewalkingfestival.co.uk](http://bathscapewalkingfestival.co.uk).

To set yourself a real challenge and raise sponsorship for a good cause at the same time, why not sign up for the **Julian House Circuit of Bath Walk** on **Sunday, September 23**. To book, call 01225 354656 or visit [julianhouse.org.uk](http://julianhouse.org.uk).



*Solsbury Hill walk (© Bathscape)*

## Get your owl souvenirs

If you've been hot on the trail of Bath's Minerva's Owls sculptures, you might like to know there's a locally-based online shop selling mini owls, posters, mugs, maps, etc, with more products to follow. So, if you'd like a memento of this summer's trail, contact Freshford's Gitte Dawson on 01225 722511.

As well as her involvement with the owls project, many of you will remember that Gitte masterminded Bath's King Bladud's Pigs trail ten years ago. Freshford's 'Country Pignic' stands on the Galleries Shop terrace. The Minerva owl, The Wowlet, at the village hall was



sponsored for and decorated by Freshford Pre-school.

Limpley Stoke's Alan Dun, who also brought us the pig in 2008 and lion in 2010, is the owl sculpture creator. Freshford artist, Annabel Menheneott, painted both NocturnOwl and Sea Owl.

## No 'News' is not good news!

Some of you have been experiencing problems accessing **digital editions** of *Limpley Stoke News*. There appears to be an issue for some with the newsletter having to be accessed via a 'link' to click on, rather than as a PDF attachment, as was previously the case. With computer virus software having to be updated constantly in order to be one step ahead of hackers, some emails containing links can be considered suspect. Also, it seems that **googlemail and gmail addresses are particularly prone to having mail 'junked'**, which is very frustrating for me, as a high percentage of people on my list have those addresses!

If you think your monthly newsletter hasn't arrived, it's worth checking your junk or spam folder. Obviously, if you haven't been receiving the **digital editions** then you're unlikely to be reading this now! But, if you know someone who has been suffering withdrawal symptoms through lack of local news, perhaps you could pass on this message. Editions of *Limpley Stoke News* are always available to view at [limpleystoke.org](http://limpleystoke.org) and on village notice boards.

**Sheena Broadhead, Editor**

# What's On

## Prize produce at the ready

Freshford & District Horticultural Society show is on **Saturday, September 1** from 2 to 5pm at Freshford Memorial Hall. The show is open to all Freshford, Limpley Stoke, Hinton Charterhouse and Westwood residents. Refreshments, home-made cakes and raffle.

Schedules and entry forms are available from the Galleries Shop or downloadable at [freshfordvillage.com](http://freshfordvillage.com).

Entrance fee £1/exhibitor fee 25p.



## Autumn events at History Centre

FREE 'Pest Detective' Conservation Workshop on **Thursday, September 13** from 2-4pm. Get advice about caring for your precious family photographs, keepsakes and treasures. Repeated every second Thursday (Oct 11, Nov 8 and Dec 13). **Booking essential.**

**Saturday, September 15**, 9.30am-12.30pm: 'Beyond Ancestry' workshop with Claire Skinner. Only 2 per cent of archives at the History Centre in Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, are online. Find out more about the many sources available for family history research (cost £10).

To book: 01249 705500 / [localstudies@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:localstudies@wiltshire.gov.uk).

## History of Packhorse Inn, South Stoke

Freshford Local History Society's lectures continue on **Wednesday, September 26** at 7.30pm with a talk on **The Packhorse Inns of South Stoke** by Bob Parfitt. The Inn, which is Grade II listed, probably started out as a farmhouse but had become an inn by the mid-19th century. The pub closed in 2012, re-opening in 2017 as a community venture.

Meetings are held in Freshford Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on the fourth Wednesday in the month. Annual subscription: £10. Visitors welcome: £2. More information and membership details from [peter.pennyjones@gmail.com](mailto:peter.pennyjones@gmail.com) / 01225 723447.

## Waste collections

**Plastic / cardboard:**  
**Monday, Sept 3**  
**Monday, Sept 17**



**Domestic waste/ black box:**  
**Monday, Sept 10**  
**Monday, Sept 24**



**Green bin:**  
**Wednesday, Sept 12**  
**Wednesday, Sept 26**



## 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](mailto:andrew.maclachlan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

Wiltshire Unitary Councillor:  
Johnny Kidney 07805 236 480  
[johnny.kidney@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:johnny.kidney@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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**Mobile library monthly visit:**  
**Thurs, September 6**  
**10.00-10.25am**  
Uplands Close, Midford Lane