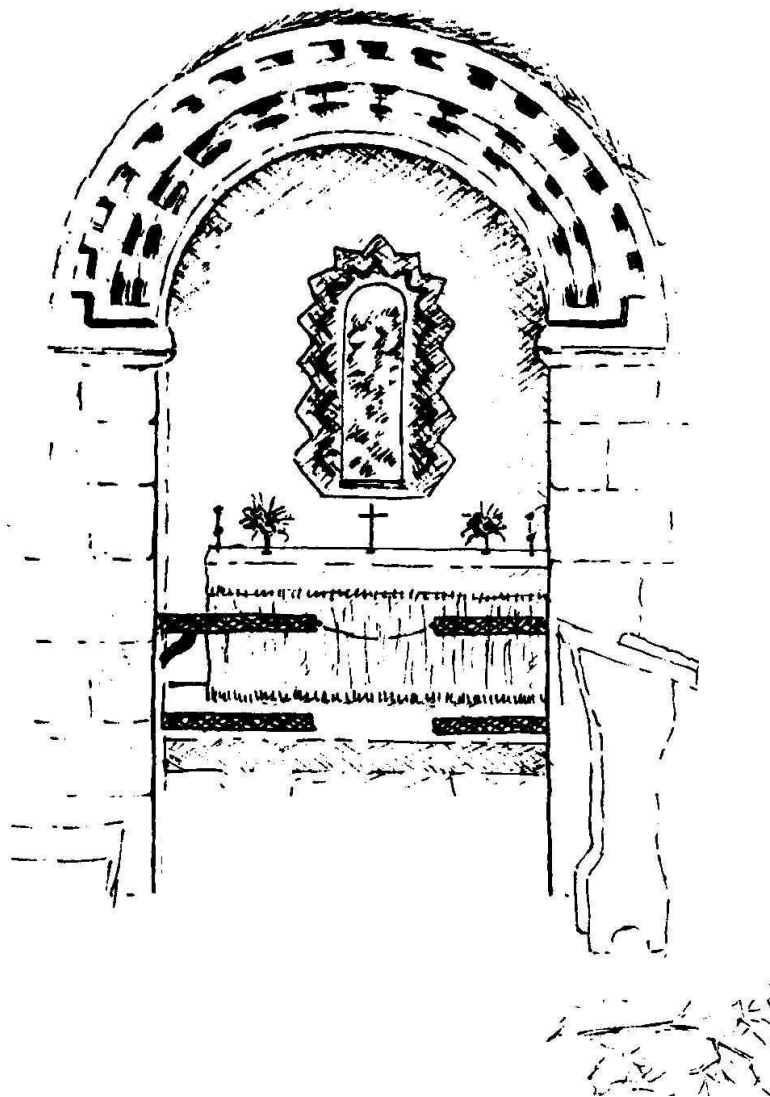


THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



ST OSMUNDS, TARLTON

MARCH 2024

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771300

SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL

Rev Pepita Walker

760211

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Elizabeth Twinch

762897

John Thorogood

762861

St Kenelm's

Mark Hamer

760715

Rotas

Elizabeth Twinch

762897

Treasurer PCC

Charles Houldsworth

760300

Flowers

Pam Thorogood

762861

RODMARTON AND TARLTON (Chapel of Ease)

Church Wardens

Rodmarton

Jane Marlowe

770401

Simon Biddulph

841462

Tarlton (Chapel Warden)

Jasper Biddulph

770230

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07981 793251

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Jane Marlowe

770401

Treasurer PCC

Simon Biddulph

841462

For those with access to the internet the following links will take you to our website pages:

For the calendar: <http://thamesheadchurches.org.uk/calendar/>

For an outline of all our Sunday services: <http://www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk/services/>

The Thameshead Benefice

St. Matthew, Coates: All Saints, Kemble: St. Michael and All Angels, Poole Keynes: St. Kenelm, Sapperton with St. Luke, Frampton Mansell: St. Peter, Rodmarton with St. Osmund, Tarlton: All Saints, Somerford Keynes with All Saints, Shorncliffe

VIEW FROM WOODSTOCK

As I write the rain is pouring down. It is cold. It is miserable. Will spring ever come? But look closer- there are signs of new life everywhere. Masses of snowdrops, daffodils are doing their best to brighten up the garden, it won't be too long before we will be able to forget about the unpleasantness of winter and leap forward into spring and summer. The only trouble with summer is that people start telling you how many days it is until Christmas! It will come only too quickly!

By the time you read this we will be well into Lent. I wonder whether you decided to give something up for Lent. I wonder whether you have managed to stick to your decision. At New Year I heard Kathryn Jenkins and Aled Jones discussing New Year Resolutions. They agreed they had stopped making them because they always forgot them within a couple of days. Is that how we feel about Lenten resolutions? I prefer to try and take up something rather than give something up. There are so many things to choose from.

But now is the time when we get our examples from spring. Spring shows us how to step forward. Spring encourages us to know that summer will be with us. We will not have summer unless we enjoy spring first. Sometimes it takes longer to materialise but it always comes when it is ready.

Is our faith like that? I don't know about you but sometimes I know my faith wavers. I don't think it ever goes away but there are times when it certainly wobbles around a bit. We all go through difficult times and it is good to know that God is there beside us however we are coping and even when we forget that He is there. I wonder if you remember The Footprint Prayer. Why not look it up and read it again. In difficult times it can be helpful.

So as winter leads into spring and spring offers us the promise of summer, I pray that your route forward in faith may continue to progress as well.

With love and blessings

Pepita



Thameshead Benefice

FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

3 March

Third Sunday in Lent

10.00	Kemble	Communion (streamed) + Children's Church
10.00	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion + APCM
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer

10 March

Mothering Sunday

9.30	Coates	Holy Communion
10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
10.00	Kemble	Morning Source all age (streamed)
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion

17 March

Fifth Sunday in Lent

9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer (streamed)
10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
18.00	33 West Hay Grove	Evening Source

24 March

Palm Sunday

9.45	Somerford Keynes	Meet at church for prayer before...
10.00		...walk via Poole Keynes to Kemble...
c11.00	Kemble	...Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton VH	Meet at Village Hall to process to...
	Rodmarton Church	...Morning Prayer with Liturgy of the Palms

28 March

Maundy Thursday

19.30	Kemble	Holy Communion
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29 March

Good Friday

9.30	Coates	Procession from War Memorial
11.00	Kemble	Meditation

12:00	Sapperton	Meditation
13.45	Frampton Mansell	Meditation
14.00	Somerford Keynes	Wild & Messy Church
19.00	Rodmarton	Compline

30 March

18.00	Tarlton	Easter Eve
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31 March

Holy Saturday

Easter Eve

Easter Day

6.30	Poole Keynes	Sunrise Holy Communion
8.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
9.30	Coates	Holy Communion
10.00	Kemble	Holy Communion (streamed)
10.00	Poole Keynes	Easter Praise
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion

COTSWOLD FRIENDS NEEDS YOU!

Cotswold Friends provides Community Transport across Cirencester and needs more Volunteer Drivers.

Local charity Cotswold Friends has been providing Community Transport to elderly and vulnerable people in the North Cotswolds since 1978 to combat loneliness and isolation. They began to expand into Cirencester and surrounding areas (from Rendcomb to South Cerney, Sapperton to Poulton and many places in between) after the pandemic and have seen the demand for the service grow year on year. Their incredible team of volunteers take clients anywhere they'd like to go; for medical or social appointments – to see family and friends, to the hairdresser, shops, doctors, or the hospital. And they'd love you to get involved. Becoming a Volunteer Driver is a wonderful way to meet new people, bring a smile to someone's face, get more involved in the community and be part of the inspiring team of Cotswold Friends volunteers with events throughout the year to celebrate one another.

You can give as much or as little time as you have, from a few hours a month to several hours each week – it can be very flexible. If you'd like to find out more or to apply to become a volunteer, please contact their lovely Volunteer Manager on 01608 697007 or email volunteering@cotswoldfriends.org



NEWS FROM COATES



Coates Cinema presents: A Haunting in Venice ^{12A}



**Thursday
14 March
Coates
Village
Hall**

Admission £5
Doors open
7pm

For any queries contact: Simon Large 07714220558 or simon.large@sky.com

Coffee, Cake and Chat

"Delicious sweet & savoury home bakes, gluten-free too, proper coffee, various teas & decaf at this friendly event"



**NEXT: Tuesday 19 March & 16 April
(always the 3rd Tuesday)**



10.30am to 12 noon Coates Village Hall

Takeaway bakes from 11.45am, they go fast!

£4.00 Two bakes of your choice + bottomless tea/coffee

£1.50 Bottomless tea/coffee

Well behaved dogs welcome

See our notices on the village hall notice board & Coates parish website or contact us on 770596 / 07794 678 928

COATES VILLAGE HALL OPEN NIGHTS – 2024

The hall will be open on the last Thursday of the month from 7 to 9 pm, with talks (when arranged) starting at 7.30 pm. Come and meet friends and neighbours. Hot drinks and biscuits are available. There are no charges, but donations are welcome to help meet our expenses. Any profit will go to Village Hall funds.

29 February ‘Cirencester Community Railway’ – Richard Gunner

Learn about plans to reconnect Cirencester with the railway system. This talk has been postponed from October.

28 March ‘Cirencester History and Heritage’ – Steve Fearn

Steve Fearn of the Cirencester Civic Society will take us on a virtual tour, exploring Cirencester’s past through its buildings.

April Easter break – there will be no talk this month

30 May ‘When Coates had a Station’ – Mike Fenton

Mike, who has recently published a book on the GWR in our region, will give a talk on the GWR in Coates, with a musical interlude.

THE FRIENDS OF
SAPPERTON PRESENT

BINGO NIGHT

COATES VILLAGE HALL

Bingo Bonanza
Well stocked bar
Snacks
Bottle Tombola
Raffle

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for this fantastic event! Together, let's create a night to remember and support our brilliant children at Sapperton School. Hopefully with the funds raised we will be able to provide some iPads for our well deserving children.

DAY	TIME	PRICE
22 MARCH	6PM	£10

CONTACT CHARLIE TO BOOK A TICKET ON
07718 251952

PAYMENT DETAILS
ACCT NUM: 00711959
SORT CODE: 30 92 06



SPRING CONCERT

The Country Life

AN EVENING OF
MUSIC AND VERSE
FROM FRAMPTON
MANSELL
VILLAGE CHOIR
AND FRIENDS

IN AID OF
FRAMPTON
MANSELL VILLAGE
HALL

B.Y.O.B WITH
DONATION FOR
CORKAGE

TICKETS £10.00

TO INCLUDE A
LIGHT
PLOUGHMAN'S
SUPPER, TEA
AND HOME MADE
CAKES.

BOTTLE TOMBOLA

MARCH
FRIDAY 22 7PM START

FRAMPTON MANSELL VILLAGE HALL

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT:
LUCY CAMERON-DAVIES 07866 447725

The Village Club

— COATES —

Everyone is welcome!
We're open 8pm to 11pm, Friday and Saturday evenings

Monthly QUIZ night

First Friday of the month

Free to enter - no need to book!

Bar opens at 6:30pm with the quiz from 7pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Live Sports: Six Nations Rugby

Saturday 9 March - England vs Ireland 4:45pm

Saturday 16 March - England vs France 8pm

Easter fun for children Friday 29 March from 6pm

Easter egg hunt, Easter decoration & mask painting - £3 per child

Situated within the Village Hall, the Village Club is for everyone in our community. Memberships are now due – £10 for a family membership and £5 for an individual per annum.

We really need the support of the whole of the community especially with younger Adults/Parents/Teenagers to offer a new perspective on what future events are organised.

If you can help, or would like to know a bit more, please email coatesvillageclub@gmail.com

LONGFIELD HOSPICE CALLS FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS



A spare three hours a week is all it takes to develop a new social circle and spend time doing something fun while developing new skills - while making a huge difference across Gloucestershire.

We are urgently seeking volunteers to help across all areas of the hospice in Minchinhampton, out and about in the community or in our charity shops.

We have a wide range of volunteering roles, there is something for everyone;

Would you like to be one of our van drivers? Out and about across this beautiful county making sure our shops are getting all the stock they need.

How about being a patient driver, enabling someone to get to the hospice?

If shopping is your thing or you want to channel your inner Mary Portas, our 20 shops across the county need you to help customers find that special purchase.

Or you could be a volunteer based at the hospice itself, supporting activities including cooking, gardening and painting. For anyone who's super organised or has a good eye for detail, we're also looking for volunteer administrators.

If you can find some regular time each week to volunteer with us, we promise fun, new friends, new skills and the simple joy of knowing you are making a huge difference contact volunteering@longfield.org.uk.

Longfield Community Hospice is a charity and relies on voluntary donations to provide the much-needed care and support to patients, their families and loved ones.

CIRENCESTER EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

The next meetings in Coates Village Hall are on Wednesday 6 March at 7.30pm.

Meetings are generally on the first Wednesday of the month.

Further details can be obtained from Pat in confidence on 770385 or email ayrescares50@gmail.com



NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW

According to Benjamin Franklin, we humans can only be certain of two things; death and taxes. Whilst not everyone will agree with Franklin, it is true that most of our life is filled with uncertainties. Where there is uncertainty, errors are inevitable in judgements that are based on the balance of probabilities or incomplete knowledge. Consequently, we are all prone to making mistakes and we require the honest maturity to accept those errors.

Simple errors of judgement due to inadequate judgement are unintentional. Negligence is usually a consequence of arrogant pride. There are also deliberate errors through concealment or deception, which are more accurately termed lies. All too frequently, when errors of judgment are not acknowledged by the perpetrator, the consequences can readily roll into negligence.

In his book *'Objective Knowledge'*, philosopher Sir Karl Popper wisely said, *"Nobody is exempt from making mistakes; the great thing is to learn from them."* To learn from our mistakes, we need to recognise them, accept them, and acknowledge them as our own. Only then is it meaningful to apologise and, where possible, make amends for our errors. Sadly, where a person's pride dominates, there is hindrance to humility and, for those in authority, acts of humility are often repressed by stylistic hubris. Many politicians seem more concerned with projecting a stylised image of themselves as being infallible rather than admitting to making mistakes. Those who do admit their mistakes have stature as, for example, the Labour 'giant' Dennis Healey, who said, *"There's nothing wrong with a U-turn if it goes in the direction of the British people."*

In war, the act of revenge by political leaders is what I would call a deliberate mistake where the killing of thousands of innocent people is dismissed as inevitable 'collateral damage'. Recognising the inevitability of errors and public wrongs, William Blackstone, the 18th century English jurist, wrote in his famous 'Commentaries on the laws of England' that, *"It is better that ten guilty persons escape, than that one innocent party suffer."*

Since the 1997 Law Commission's review of the law on hearsay evidence in the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act, the gross errors of the Post Office 'Horizon' scandal have centred on a false common law assumption that computer systems are always correct, even though there is a high likelihood of errors (bugs) in most

software programmes. It is incomprehensible that the lack of honesty and insight has taken more than 20 years to be acknowledged when the consequences to thousands of people have been devastating. The Bible tells us that, *“If anyone sins because they do not speak up when they hear a public charge to testify regarding something they have seen or learned about, they will be held responsible.”* [Leviticus 5:1]

Consider Pontious Pilate who, despite no evidence against Jesus of the crimes for which he was accused, made a deliberate wrong choice to exonerate his own responsibilities by taking the stylistic face-saving option of washing his hands in front of a riotous crowd saying, *“I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”* [Matthew 27:24] What’s more, although Pilate had the power, he then did nothing to stop the illegal crucifixion.

Errors and mistakes are present in all aspects of society and our responsibility is to act accordingly. We would all benefit from adopting the maxim of the 19th century Scottish architect, Charles Rennie Macintosh, *“There is hope in honest error, none in the icy perfections of the mere stylist.”*

Adrian R. Hill



COFFEE MORNING

10am-12pm
First Wednesday
of every month

FRAMPTON MANSELL VILLAGE HALL

£4.00 entry includes unlimited hot drinks and a delicious home made bake plus a raffle ticket!

2024 dates

- January - 
- 7th February
- 6th March
- 3rd April

Contact: thowes51@gmail.com
kayleigh@xalln.com

WELCOME All



Grampton Mansell Village Choir

A fun community choir for all those who just love to sing!



7pm - 8:30pm MONDAYS
at The Village Hall

£5 per week or £20 per month

The first session
is FREE!

No previous experience necessary
Open to ALL ages and voices

Be Part of it... get in touch with Lucy!

W:www.camerondavies.me

E:lucy@camerondavies.me



Adult Beginner Piano Lessons

It really is NEVER too late...
Whatever your age,
if you have ever wanted to learn to
play piano, give it a try,
the first lesson
is FREE!

Vacancies for Voluntary Roles on the Sapperton Village Hall Trustees Committee are becoming available

After many year's service both the Sapperton Village Hall Chair and Treasurer/Building manager are set to stand down. Over the past 5-10 years the hall has benefitted to a £160,000 refurbishment program and is now ready for someone else to take over and move the hall forward into the future.

Chairperson - Duties include:

- Chair AGM
- Regular communication with Village Hall Trustees and Booking administrator
- General correspondence with Village Hall Trustees, Treasurer and Parish Council
- Preparation and minute taking at Village Hall AGM and ad hoc meetings
- Annual inspection of village hall with Village Hall Treasurer

Village Hall Treasurer/Building manager

Duties include:

- § Management of all incoming and outgoing monies
- § Annual update of accounts and charities commission accounts requirements
- § Overall management of building maintenance
- § Ensure annual insurance, fire regulations and boiler maintenance are up to date
- § Ensure electric and water meter readings are taken and paid
- § Ensure heating oil is monitored and ordered when required

If you are interested in either of the above roles, please contact the Sapperton Village Hall at sappertonvillagehall@gmail.com or leave a message on 07771 006848

The first part of 2024 has flown past in a whirlwind at Sapperton Primary. We welcomed our new Head Teacher, Mr Price, and it has been exciting getting to know him over the past few weeks.



Even though the terms are so short this year leading up to Easter, we have managed to achieve so much already. Our PE and sporting opportunities have been exciting – with dance, handball and games across all the classes. Rowan Class (Year 3 & 4) have also been swimming every Tuesday and had the chance to develop their Life Saving Skills.

This term's Geography focus has given us the opportunity to be geographers. Elder Class (Year 5 & 6) have carried out investigative work on Biomes across the world and how they are changing. We had a debate about what we could all do to improve the chances of saving them from destruction. Rowan Class (Year 3 & 4) have learnt about Iceland and the volcanoes that dot its landscape. This was very topical with them being able to watch live eruptions! Beech and Maple were comparing Sapperton to Antarctica and produced some wonderful artwork and writing about the animals that live there.

Our favourite day from 2024 so far has been our Spirituality Day. The focus was on Light and how Jesus is the light of the world. In the morning, we decorated our own candle jar holders with glass pens and stickers. We could design our own pictures that represented things that were important to us. As a whole school, we created a finger print tree to represent us all as individuals and how together we make Sapperton School so special. Following this, we took our creations to St Kenelm's and contributed to a special service. Mr Price played the organ to the hymns which made it extra amazing! The day finished with a celebration at the village hall where we all had a drink and a yummy cake. Thank you to everyone from our community who helped make this day extra special for us.

By Elder Class, Sapperton C of E Primary

www.sappertonschool.org

01285 760325

To nurture faith; to inspire success

NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON

RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON NEWS & EVENTS

All services are listed at the front of the magazine but please note especially:

Date for the Diary:

Sunday, 10 March, 11am Holy Communion Mothering Sunday at St Peter's Rodmarton with refreshments afterwards

Holy Week and Easter services

Sunday, 24 March, Palm Sunday procession with Liturgy of Palms, meet at Village Hall at 11am before processing to the church.

Friday 29 March, 7pm Good Friday Compline at Rodmarton.

Saturday 30 March, 6pm at Tarlton, Easter Eve Lighting of the Easter Candle

Sunday 31 March, Easter Day:

8am HC BCP at Tarlton

11am Family Holy Communion at Rodmarton

Lenten morning prayer:

Morning Prayer will be said daily on weekdays during Lent at 9.30am at St Peter's.

Saturday 2 March, Quiz Night in aid of the church.

There are collection boxes at the Food Bank collection points in St Osmund's Tarlton & St Peter's Rodmarton.



Village Craft Groups

10am - 12pm...



2nd Wednesday of the month at Frampton Mansell Village Hall

NEW* 4th Wednesday of the month at Sapperton Village Hall *NEW

Whatever your craft: Knitting - Crochet - Embroidery - Felting - Tapestry - Sewing

Whatever your skill level - From beginners to professional crafters

Do please come along with your crafting project and join us! Share ideas and knowledge, and have a chat and a laugh over a cup of tea or coffee with home-made cakes and biscuits... and hopefully make some new friends and progress on your project too!

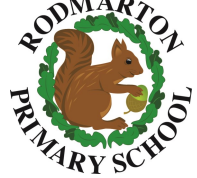
Cost: £3 - Includes refreshments

For more information please contact...

Teresa - Frampton Mansell - Email: thowes51@gmail.com

Jill - Sapperton - Email: allawayjill2780@hotmail.com





Oak class pupils celebrated their return to school after half term with a trip to Birmingham to perform, with up to 6,000 other primary school pupils from across the country, at the Young Voices concert, the world's largest children's choir.

They have spent months practicing and really enjoyed being part of such a huge concert. It was a wonderful experience for them all and for all the Rodmarton parents who travelled to watch them perform.

Later this term, the whole school will perform for parents at their Rocksteady Music School concert. Some pupils have been learning different instruments while others have been working on the vocals and we can't wait to hear it all come together.

And then it's time for sport with children taking part in two cross country running events, a multi-sport event, a netball competition, and a tag rugby festival, as well as competing in the Gloucestershire Dodgeball Championship!

On 7th March we celebrate World Book Day with a Bedtime Reading theme when children will come into school in their onesies and enjoy lots of activities including making a "reading den"! Later in March, the whole school is taking part in a British Science Week event while Acorn class pupils will be visiting the Cotswold Wildlife Park.

Friday 8th March sees the return of The Friends' fundraising Quiz Night – and curry supper - taking place at Rodmarton Village Hall.

This year it's an interactive 'Senses Quiz' in which teams of 6 are encouraged to "be prepared to use all five senses"! Everyone is welcome and we would love to see some teams from the villages sign up to take on the parents and staff!

The bar opens at 6.30pm with the quiz starting at 7.15pm and supper served at half time. Tickets, which are £20 per person and include supper, are available from Penny Norrie on 07890 023594 until 1st March. It promises to be a fun evening with prizes for the winners – and losers!

And finally, having written more than 60 school contributions for this magazine (since Arthur started in Reception class in 2017), this is my final article as, from next month, the school's page will be written by Oak class! I have really enjoyed sharing the school's news with the local community - and thanks to you all for reading my monthly scribbles - but it's now time to pass on the baton and the children are really looking forward to writing for you!

Nutty (aka Bryher Grimes!)

<https://www.rodmartonschool.co.uk/>

01285 841284

NOTES FROM CULKERTON

GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

The joy of autumn planted bulbs emerging from the soil and coming into bloom is so deeply pleasant and satisfying, especially sharing this with the next generation of your family. Planting the bulbs and watching their development.

In the same way gardeners are planting and nurturing for the future, be it for a quick crop or perennial returns, like visiting old friends for many years.

We plant for seasons to come; currently different kales are to be harvested and the autumn broad beans are growing slowly but surely, which is a reminder to sow another succession.

To get ahead with sowing other hardy vegetable and summer flowers, either start with protection inside a greenhouse or cold frame, also warm soil outside prior to sowing with a low tunnel of polythene. Prevailing weather and temperatures are the prime consideration. Hardy vegetables to sow in modules with the intention of planting out in several weeks' time: beetroot, spring onions, lettuce, peas, spinach, coriander, parsley, early cabbage and broccoli.

There is still time to chit potatoes in light cool place, the aim is to produce new shoots no more than a centimetre long that are glistening with energy. Plant when ready but avoid frosty weather (a rarity over winter, but who knows if nature will throw a curved ball) and give ample spacing for growing and harvesting.

Hardy annual flowers to sow now in modules: echium, achillea, cornflower, scabious, calendula, bergamot, Californian poppies, lavatera, and a last sowing of sweet peas.

Recently seed sowing kits have become more widely available which include an element for self-watering; in fact, any self-watering systems are worth considering for plants/seedlings restricted by pots. Large gravel trays have been my choice for many years. Soil in greenhouse borders seems to become impoverished annually, I suspect this is due to intense heat that destroys soil micro-organisms. Give greenhouse borders plenty of organic matter rich compost especially in late summer for autumn planting of overwintering salad crops.

This month is the final time to clear architectural dead stems from the garden, with warmer, longer days overwintering hibernating ladybirds and other beneficial insects should be on the move and seeking out aphids. A good sign of genuine warmth and change of season is the appearance of frog spawn and successful young tadpoles. Keep

NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

weeding and preparing ground for sowing seeds directly later this month as the weather allows.

Look after your own hands and feet with suitable clothing. There are many types of gloves, some snug fitting and waterproof which are best for hand weeding, tough thick thorn proof gloves for pruning; seek out the most appropriate for your gardening tasks and treat hands to restorative hand creams afterwards. As I garden most days, garden clogs with thick memory inner soles are a must for me, very comfortable and more insulating in cold weather.

Soon the early tulips will join the narcissus for the spring blossom show, plenty to look forward too for 2024.

Sally Oates

DRYING OUT

We will remember precious little about the winter now passing: mud, flood and puddle mostly – and potholes and road closures. There were a few grains of snow one early January dusk, the sort that looks like washing powder drifting aimlessly about in the gloaming. The following morning, January 9th, I might just have scraped a tiny snowball off a greenhouse roof, though the garden itself was barren. That was it. This is what rip-off Britain looks like, I can't even remember where my toboggan is. A canoe would be more apt nowadays.

Of course, there could yet be a sting in the tail of the 'winter' of 2023-24, as happened back in 2018 when The Beast from the East struck as February was ending and the rooks were incubating their eggs. Then, snowdrifts closed the main road between Swindon and Marlborough for several days. But all the signs are that this winter will give up sooner rather than later and surrender prematurely into yet another early spring. Already, the fields are greening up strongly. Time was when they looked that verdant in late March. Time was when the early-flowering Mirabelle blackthorn blossom appeared at Easter, this year it was well out during the February half-term.

Easter falls early this year, and early Easters have a track record of being blighted by poor weather. Fingers crossed for our young families, who desperately need warm Easter sunshine after yet another abominably wet, sunless and storm-struck winter, when the kids were stuck indoors far too much – and the grownups, and the

NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

dogs. As it is, venturing away during bank holidays is becoming increasingly risky, with ports, airports and the M5 blocking up horribly, and the railway system closing down for repairs. Roaming local has its attractions, not least because The Cotswolds contain so many hidden gems, and because cloudlessness can transform even the most familiar place.

We need drying out. Bring on a spring even lovelier than the one mired by lockdown restrictions, and worse, back in 2020, when Nature nurtured many of us through a most difficult time. Bring on sunburn! We need to be careful, though, not to take too much for granted, and to embrace each magical moment that spring offers – and not to waste Easter's most glorious day on a shopping trip to Cribbs Causeway.

Matthew Oates

KEMBLE AND EWEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

All welcome to the Tavern on Thursday March 21st at 3pm when we are having a workshop on how to crochet a Brooch. Please come along and join with the members.

Pat Ayres - Secretary 01285 770385



Rodmarton & Tarlton Quiz Night

Saturday 2 March 2024

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm prompt start to the Quiz
with Lena and Hamish Corley

Venue:

Rodmarton Village Hall

£12 entry per person

Bring your own shared supper for your table

Wine bar

Spring Raffle

Teams of six or join a team: to book please ring 01285 770401 or email:
janemarlowe1@gmail.com

All profits are in aid of St Peter's, Rodmarton and St Osmund's, Tarlton

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - KEMBLE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2024

Our AGM and talks will all be held in Kemble Village Hall starting at 7pm

Thursday 28 March - “Charles Taylor: My Part in his Downfall”

Branch social meeting where Alun Crapper will talk through some highlights from his army career.

Thursday 27 June - “Warren Hastings and the East India Company”

Branch social meeting where David Russell will show the military influence a commercial Company exercised in the Far East in period 1600-1850.

Thursday 24 October - Our Annual General Meeting will start at 7pm, following the RBL Women’s Section AGM.

The talk following the AGM has yet to be arranged. Any volunteers?

Sunday 10 November - Our Branch Remembrance Day Service will be at All Saints’ Church Kemble Annual Remembrance Day Service starting at 10am. This Service is for everybody – not just Legion members. After the Service, refreshments will be served in Kemble Village Hall.

Friday 6 December – Christmas Meal – Thames Head Inn

This popular annual event has been arranged for the above date and members will be receiving more information nearer the time.

Membership of Kemble & District Royal British Legion is open to active members in the Services, those who have served and those who haven’t been in the Services and wish to support Services personnel. If you have served, please join this local RBL branch.

If you would like more information, please contact me for details or check out the British Legion website:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership/become-a-member>

Ian Czapiewski – Branch Secretary – 07711 015168

SERVICE AND COFFEE

We hold a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be on **Tuesday 5 March** at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell. The service will start at 11am with coffee and a natter at 11.30am. We would love to see you for either or both.



Want to know more? Need a lift?
Phone Pepita or Paul on 760211





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If you would like to receive a copy of the parish magazine by email I am very happy to add you to my list of those who do. This would not replace your delivered copy but you would get it earlier and with some colour! Just let me know by email at watershedmag@gmail.com

CLOSING DATE FOR THE MARCH MAGAZINE

Contributions should be sent by e-mail to the Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. Articles should be in Arial font at 11 point with **formatting kept as simple as possible**. The editor reserves the right to edit any articles. **Articles should be submitted by 12 March at the latest for inclusion in the next month's issue.**

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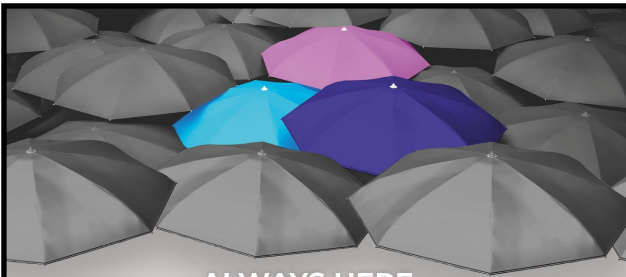
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Watershed Editor	Bob Merrill	07866 972389
Watershed Treasurer	Janet Loines	841578

COATES

Coates Parish Council Chair	Robbie Whitfield	07872 027100
Coates Parish Council Clerk	Alan Moorcroft	641375
Coates Village Club secretary	Tara Davidson	07948 966957
Coates Coffee, Cake & Chat	PJ	770596
Coates Tree Warden	Simon Large	07714 220558
Coates Village Hall	Bookings	07818 192587
Coates Neighbourhood Watch	John Dobson	07808 095553
Coates Snow Warden	Peter Tugwell	770314/07860 718209

FRAMPTON MANSELL

Frampton Mansell Village Hall	Bookings	07710 878987
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RODMARTON

Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Chair	Mark Grimes	770289
Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Clerk	Susan Hare	ex-dir
Rodmarton School	Matthew Smith	841284
Rodmarton Village Hall	Jasper Biddulph	770230

SAPPERTON

Parish Council Chair	Sarah Osborn Smith	07836 512538
Sapperton and FM PC Clerk	Barbara (Babs) Maloney	760276
Sapperton Snow Warden	Mark Franklin	760226
Sapperton Village Hall	Bookings	07771 006848
Sapperton School Head	Gary Price	760325

OTHERS

Watershed RDA	Kathy Mottershead	07979 853907
Cirencester Eating Disorder Support Group	Pat Ayres	770385

Cotswold District Councillors

Ermin Ward	Julia Judd	07853 383874
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Kemble Ward
Mike McKeown
mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk

Gloucestershire County Councillor	Stephen Hirst	01666 504213
Member of Parliament	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	01452 371630
Cirencester Hospital		0300 421 6200
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Police non emergency (24hrs)		101

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Friday 1	6.30pm	Quiz Night in Coates Village Club
Saturday 2	7pm	Rodmarton & Tarlton Quiz Night
Tuesday 5	11am	Service & Coffee in Frampton Mansell
Wednesday 6	7.30pm	BEAT meeting in Coates Village Hall
Friday 8	6.30pm	Friends of Sapperton School Quiz Night in Rodmarton Village Hall
Saturday 9	4.45pm	Live Rugby in Coates Village Hall
Wednesday 13	10am	Village Craft Group in Frampton Mansell Village Hall
Thursday 14	7pm	Coates Cinema <i>A Haunting in Venice</i>
Saturday 16	4.45pm	Live Rugby in Coates Village Hall
Tuesday 19	10.30am	Coffee, Cake and Chat Coates Village Hall
Thursday 21	3pm	Kemble & Ewen WI meeting
Friday 22	6pm	Bingo Night Friends of Sapperton in Coates Village Hall
Friday 22	7pm	Spring Concert in aid of Frampton Mansell Village Hall
Wednesday 27	10am	Village Craft Group in Sapperton Village Hall
Thursday 28	7pm	Coates Village Hall Open Night
Friday 29	6pm	Easter Egg Hunt Coates Village Club

APRIL

Wednesday 3	7.30pm	BEAT meeting in Coates Village Hall
Tuesday 16	10.30am	Coffee, Cake and Chat Coates Village Hall