

This is the Parish Council sponsored Newsletter for March 2017, giving details of forthcoming events and other items we think will be of interest. This edition also marks 5 years since the newsletter was introduced; hopefully all recipients are still finding it useful.

1. **Parish Council Notes:**

- a. As a reminder, arrangements have been made for the annual **"Litter Picking Day"** to be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March. We will meet at the Cross in the village centre at 10 a.m. Tewkesbury Borough Council will supply the usual gloves, "pickers", refuse sacks and "Hi-Viz" jackets for all sizes. The task should not take more than a couple of hours so please come along and help us to keep the village clean and free of litter.
- b. Residents may have noticed that the **Highways Department have now replaced the broken marker posts** near the War Memorial, and have installed new posts near the bus shelter and both sides of the road outside Corner House Farm. Hopefully this will reduce the amount of damage to the grass verges.
- c. On a related subject, the Parish Council have arranged a **Working Party to clear some of the ditches along the road towards Forthampton Court** on Saturday 22nd April. The task should not take more than an hour or two if we get sufficient volunteers. We will meet at the bus stop in Bishop's Walk at 10 a.m. If you can spare some time, please contact Alan Brown on 01684 291220 or via email to: [skepcott1@gmail.com](mailto:skepcott1@gmail.com)
- d. 2017 marks the **65<sup>th</sup> year of Queen Elizabeth's reign** and the Parish Council are planning to mark this **Sapphire Jubilee** with an event in the Summer. Dates and details are still being considered so watch this space for further information.
- e. The Police have been made aware of a **telephone scam** whereby someone will call you stating they are from the 'Telephone Preference Service' offering you no more bogus calls. They will tell you your name and address and might make reference to you paying for your telephone service by Direct Debit. They will then say your card is out of date and ask you for new card details. Trading Standards have stated this is a scam. People are advised not to provide card details over the phone and only sign up to services where you have checked the company are legitimate. If calls of this nature are received please consider reporting to Action Fraud either online at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or on 0300 123 2040. If you wish to report any matter to the Police please report this by ringing 101 or by email to [101@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:101@gloucestershire.police.uk).
- f. The Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury **Joint Core Strategy (JCS)**, for the building of up to 30,000 new houses in the area, is now at the Proposed Main Modifications stage. The purpose of this stage is to generate a proposed list of changes to the Pre-Submission document (June 2014) in order to make the plan 'sound'. A public consultation event is being held in Tewkesbury Town Hall, High Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5AL on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March** and everyone is welcome to attend any time between 3pm and 7pm
- g. The **Parish Council Annual General Meeting** will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The agenda will include a report on progress against the Parish Plan, details of our financial position and aspirations for future improvements to the village infrastructure. We would be very pleased to see you there.

2. **Church Notices:**

- a. **Services at St Mary's, Forthampton** for the coming weeks are:
  - i. Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 11 a.m. (Sung Eucharist)
  - ii. Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 6 p.m. (Evensong) - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month
  - iii. Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 9:30 a.m. (Morning Worship – complementary coffee served afterwards).
- b. The annual “**Dessert Island Evening**” fund raiser will be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April in church starting at 7:30 p.m. For tickets (which are just £7:50 each to include wine and desserts) contact Pete Remmer on 01684 297903. All funds raised will go towards the church fabric fund.
- c. A further donation of books has been made to the (ever-growing) **lending library in the church**, so if you haven't yet had a browse, why not pop in and check out the range of books available.

3. **Village Hall Notices:**

- a. **Repairs to the Village Hall ceiling** are now underway and will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. At the same time the opportunity will be taken to repaint the top half of the walls. Users of the Hall have been notified, and the Village Hall Committee thank everyone for their understanding. Should you have any queries regarding access or usage during this time please contact Lyndon on 01684 275350 or Jean on 01684 297854.
- b. The next **Village Fayre** will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017; so please come along and support it, meet up with friends and have a bacon or sausage roll with your cuppa. See attached poster.
- c. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017 a “**Race Night**” will be held in the Village Hall. Tickets are just £7.50 to include a Fish & Chip Supper and are available from Lyndon 01684 275350 or Jean 01684 298754.
- d. **The plan for improved access to the Hall** has now been submitted to the Planning Authorities at Tewkesbury Borough Council. Once agreement has been obtained a Grant will be applied for. The Plan will be in the Village Hall for all to see, and if you have any questions or thoughts, please contact Lyndon 01684 275350.
- e. To book Forthampton Village Hall for a social event please contact Jean Morgan on 01684 297854.

4. This month the Forthampton WI met at Bushley Village Hall because of the refurbishment of the ceiling at Forthampton Village Hall. We had a really good turnout and welcomed four new visitors. The business included organising the garden visit to Showborough House Sculpture Garden in June, the reorganising of the Denman day trip, and the various forthcoming Group social events. In early March a group of members enjoyed a stencilling workshop given by Diana Carter; each person created a design to make into 'something useful or decorative'. This month's talk, entitled Gardening for Wildlife, was illustrated by the most beautiful photographs of the many insects, butterflies, animals & birds that visit Philip Mugeridge's specially designed and created garden on the edge of The Forest of Dean, we also saw the progression of the maturing garden. The whole talk was a real treat. We were very pleased to celebrate both the 60th wedding anniversary and 62 year's membership of Forthampton WI of Heather Bloxham. A posy of flowers, an embroidered silk box containing tree lily bulbs, and

a certificate were gifts for Heather, and everyone raised a glass and shared a piece of her special cake! Next month's meeting will be held on April 11th at 2.00pm. Phone Tessa Hadley 01684 297463 for details of venue

5. On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March the **Forthampton Walking Group** will take a shortish walk starting from the Corner Cupboard in Winchcombe, then, in April we will explore the area around Dymock taking in part of the Daffodil Way and the local canal. So, if you enjoy walking and meeting friends, simply contact Alan Brown on 01684 291220 or e-mail: [skepcott1@gmail.com](mailto:skepcott1@gmail.com) for full details.