

This is the Parish Council sponsored Newsletter for December 2017, giving details of past and forthcoming events and other items we think will be of interest.

## 1. Parish Council Notes:

- a. Further to previous announcements regarding a proposal for an **improved Broadband service for Forthampton** via “line-of-sight”, the team offering the service have still to identify a source for the signal to be beamed into the village (they continue to search). Meanwhile investigation continues into alternative options, including a company called “Wurzel”, as well as maintaining contact with Gigaclear in case their roll-out plans finally involve Forthampton.
- b. At the December Parish Council meeting the Councillors were able to agree to maintain the **annual Precept** at the current rate of £3,000. With good housekeeping it should be possible to continue to cover all costs from within this amount.
- c. The Parish Council has been advised by Gloucestershire County Council that the contract for maintaining the roads and ditches is currently out for tender and that the existing company – Amey, will no longer be responsible for road maintenance. Until the contract is let, Mr Chris Riley will act as Local Highway Manager and can be contacted via email at: [Chris.riley@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.riley@gloucestershire.gov.uk)
- d. Warm and Well has been providing **free local home energy advice** through their free phone helpline (0800 500 3076) since 2001. They can give energy efficiency advice that will help you stay warmer and healthier in your home, from simple changes through to helping you access grants for insulation. Visit their website at: <http://www.warmandwell.co.uk/> to find out how they may be able to help you.
- e. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December there will be a **Christmas Carol service at the Old Baptist Chapel** with the Tewkesbury Minstrels who will take you back in time as you listen to Christmas music from medieval and renaissance Europe and join in with some of your favourite carols, in this atmospheric location. Doors open at 5.30pm and the service will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Seasonal refreshments will be available and entry is by Donation.
- f. On 30th December at the John Moore Museum there will be a “**Festive Tudor Birds of Prey**” Event, where you can learn how important birds of prey were to the Tudors, as a costumed falconer from J.R.C.S Falconry will be at the museum to tell you all about these amazing creatures and answer your questions. Meet a Kestrel, a Buzzard, a Peregrine Falcon, a Barn Owl and an Eagle Owl. Drop in 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm (last entry 4.30pm) Admission: Adults £4.00, Seniors & Students £3.50, Children £2.00

## 2. Church Notices:

- a. **Services at St Mary’s, Forthampton** for the coming weeks are:
  - i. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30 p.m. (Carol Service - Sherry and mince pies will be served)
  - ii. Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11:30 p.m. (Holy Communion)
- b. The **Wine & Cheese evening** held at Hither Riders in November, was a great success and a very enjoyable evening. Thanks are due to Pete & Lynda Remmer for hosting a wonderful event which raised additional funds for the church.

## 3. Village Hall Notices:

- a. The December Fayre raised the fantastic sum of £187, partly because of a record 10 Breakfasts being ordered, The Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Stall Holders and supporters of the Fayres and all Village Hall User Groups a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
  - b. There will be no Fayre on 6th January 2018; instead you will be able to **recycle your Christmas Trees** from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the car park. The Village Hall will be open for tea, coffee, bacon and sausage rolls during that time. The next Fayre will, therefore, be on 3rd February 2018 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. We look forward to seeing you then.
  - c. The first annual **Forthampton Festive Feast**, held in the Village Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> November was a fantastic success thanks to the hard work and dedication by the organisers - Anabel, Becky, Pauline and. The brilliant turnout raised £633. Photos of the event can be found on the Parish Council web site at: [www.forthamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.forthamptonparishcouncil.org.uk).
  - d. Unfortunately, the recent heavy snowfall caused the **Children's Christmas Disco** to be cancelled. However, it is hoped to re-arrange the event for early in the New Year.
  - e. The **Annual Christmas Tree Recycling** will be held on Saturday 6th January 2018 and, whilst there will be no Fayre on that date, Tea and Coffee together with Bacon and Sausage Rolls will be available so please come along and see if we can beat last year's number of recycled Trees.
  - f. The **Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting** will take place on Monday 12th February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We are always looking for new members, either on the Committee or to volunteer and help at our events, please come along and support your Village Hall.
4. Instead of the usual meeting of the **Forthampton and District WI**, our annual Christmas lunch took place at the Broadway Hotel in the Cotswolds. A photo of the occasion has been posted on the Parish Council web site at: [www.forthamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.forthamptonparishcouncil.org.uk). Despite the adverse weather conditions, twenty members attended, most opting to ride on the minibus driven by a member's husband, who had kindly agreed at the last moment to take on the role of chauffeur. After the meal the President asked for donations to The Gloucester City Mission, a registered charity working with the homeless and other marginalised groups within the city of Gloucester and the local area. Our former President distributed a quiz, which definitely challenged the little grey cells, and was won by Marian Saxton and Sue Neville. Vouchers were presented to the winners of the flower competition and monthly competition. The President then wished everyone a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2018. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, when five Resolutions will be discussed and voted on. The most popular Resolution will be submitted to the Annual Meeting for discussion and voting. The successful resolution will then form the basis of a WI national campaign. Our speaker will be John Holloway who will talk on The Role of a JP. Please contact Veronica Silber on 01684 591513 for more information about our WI.
5. Unfortunately, the heavy snowfall at the beginning of December caused the monthly outing of the **Sevenside Walking Group** to be cancelled, so the next walk will be on 15<sup>th</sup> January when the group will meet at the Twelve Bells at Witcombe for a circular walk to the Witcombe Roman Villa and back. Then in February the group will do the cancelled walk from Eastington. 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.