

This is the Parish Council sponsored Newsletter for February 2019, giving details of past and forthcoming events and other items we think will be of interest.

1. Parish Council Notes:

- a. **On 2nd May 2019 elections will be held for Borough and Parish Councils – including Forthampton.** If you would like to make a difference and have some ideas about how to improve facilities and the local environment, please consider standing for election. If you would like more information or wish to know how to apply, just contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs Ann Butcher at: info@forthamptonparishcouncil.org.uk You can also speak to any of the existing councillors: Alan Brown, John Holloway, Lynda Remmer, Mark Russell or Janet Stewart.
- b. Our next **Litter Picking event has been booked for Saturday 6th April.** We will meet at the bus shelter at 10 a.m. and, with enough volunteers, it should not take much longer than an hour. So, if you can spare some time and like to see the village in good condition, please come along and help.
- c. The Parish Council have been notified by **the Neighbourhood Watch** team that a house near the school in Apperley was entered by forcing a side window sometime on 15th January and items including chinaware were stolen. If you have any information regarding this crime please report it to the police by calling 101 and quoting incident number 5 of 16th January, alternatively you can pass the information by completing this form: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/contact-us/tell-us-about-something/?incident=05&date=16-01-2019> . In addition, the item in the photo



was found discarded at the roadside in the Tirley/Corse Lawn. It is strongly suspected that the item has been discarded following a theft or burglary that has occurred over the last few months but it cannot be linked with a reported crime at present. The picture shows a silver plated teapot about 7 inches tall. If you recognise this item please contact Bob Lloyd, at the Neighbourhood Watch office by calling 01452 752086 or via email at: alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk

- d. One of the aims of the **Corse & Staunton Patient Group** is to help tackle loneliness, particularly for the surgery's older patients and their carers. The surgery has decided to publish a simple paper-based booklet that sign posts patients to Activities and Support across the catchment to raise awareness of and encourage uptake of what neighbouring communities may be offering to this group in addition to their own locality. The rationale for a paper-based booklet is that many older patients and their carers do not use computers/internet. Attached is a summary by Days of the Week of what has been identified to date for Activities that you may be interested in.

2. Church Notices:

- a. **Services at St Mary's, Forthampton** for the coming weeks are:
 - i. Sunday 17th February at 11:00 (Sung Eucharist)
 - ii. Sunday 24th February at 09:30 (Holy Communion)
 - iii. Sunday 3rd March at 6 p.m. (Evensong)

iv. Sunday 10th March at 09:30 (Morning Worship)

- b. Following the excellent response to the **Church Tower Appeal**, discussions have taken place between the PCC and the Architects in order to agree “next steps”. It is hoped that work can begin as soon as the weather improves. During the period of work scaffolding will be erected around the tower so please take care when visiting the ground of the church while work is underway.
- c. In addition to the Book lending library in the church, there is now an opportunity to **purchase DVDs for just £1 each** with all proceeds going to the Tower Appeal. So why not pop into the church and have a browse through the collection. And, if you wish to add some of your own DVDs, that would also be welcome.

3. **Village Hall Notices:**

- a. A reminder that the **Village Hall AGM** will take place on Wednesday 27th February at 7.30pm all welcome so please come along and hear ideas for next year and meet the committee. Should anyone be interested in joining the committee or helping with any events please come along and let us know or send an email to: forthamptonvillagehall@gmail.com. Access to the Village Hall is still high on the priorities of the committee and details of the access improvement will be announced at this meeting; these will be carried out early in 2019.
- b. The Village Hall Committee have arranged a series of events throughout 2019 starting with a **children’s Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 27th April**, followed by a Bingo Fish ‘n’ Chips evening on Saturday 11th May. For full detail of the rest of the year’s programme, see the attachment.

4. **Forthampton Club Notices:**

- a. The **Forthampton Club** is a social meeting place offering reasonably priced drinks and snacks in a friendly atmosphere. It is run by volunteers and welcomes members and non-members. Winter opening times are Thursdays and Saturdays from 8pm.

- 5. At their February meeting the **Forthampton and District WI** were given a fascinating insight into the life of an eel, from its inception in the Sargasso Sea, where billions of eggs are laid, to its journey on the Gulf Stream to Europe and Africa in leaf-shaped form, and its return as an adult eel to the place of its birth, for breeding purposes. These incredible creatures face numerous obstacles during their voyage of survival; dams, flood defences and hydropower stations block their migration route and a large number do not survive. In addition to man-made obstacles, eel trafficking is rife. The conservation group has now begun to work with Customs officials and has already successfully brought about the successful prosecution of at least one gang, involved in smuggling eels to China where prices are high. It is also working towards increasing the eel population by building ‘fish passes’ to enable the eels to navigate the blocked rivers. One project is being undertaken by the Severn & Wye Smokery where eels are grown and released into a safe environment, e.g. Highnam Lake. As the speaker, Andrew Kerr, said, ‘All the world’s problems can be encapsulated in one fish. We all need to work together to right the situation and to help increase the population of this endangered species (as well as sorting out the problems in the world). At their next meeting, to be held in Forthampton Village Hall at 2:15pm on Tuesday, 12th March, the speaker will be the Rev’d Dr Nicholas Henderson who will ‘Explain the Inexplicable – from Ghosts to Visiting Aliens’. New

members are always welcome and, should you require further information, please contact Veronica Silber on 01684 591513.

6. The next outing of the **Sevenside Walking Club** will be on Monday 18th February when we will do a walk around Slimbridge. Then, in March we hope to take a walk starting from King's Stanley. So, if you enjoy walking and meeting friends, simply contact Alan Brown on 01684 291220 or e-mail: skepcott1@gmail.com for full details.