

This is the Parish Council sponsored Newsletter for January 2018, 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**, Gigaclear have now agreed to include Forthampton and Chaceley in their Tirley fibre rollout which is scheduled to begin this Spring. Precise details are still to be defined and more information will be disseminated as it becomes available. In the meantime, it is important for everyone to register their interest in the roll-out by going to:  
<https://www.gigaclear.com/postcode.co.uk/broadband.html>  
After entering your postcode and selecting your address from the drop-down list, you should find where to "Register Interest". If your address is not listed, please enter "not one of these" which will enable you to register your interest while reminding Gigaclear to update their lists of addresses.
- b. In response to the action in the **Forthampton Parish Plan to introduce a small number of additional houses**, discussions are underway with Tewkesbury Borough Council to arrange an on-site meeting with members of the TBC Planning Office to discuss options. This meeting should occur within the next few weeks, after which we should have a better understanding of the options and restrictions.
- c. The **Corse & Staunton GP surgery** has issued its Winter newsletter which is attached for information.
- d. The **Tewkesbury CAMRA Winter Ales festival** is to be held in Watson Hall (Barton Street) from 1<sup>st</sup> – 3rd February. The festival will feature 80 lovely winter ales together with freshly made, locally sourced food at every session. Tickets cost £5, including souvenir mug (CAMRA members free).

## 2. Church Notices:

- a. **Services at St Mary's, Forthampton** for the coming weeks are:
  - i. Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 09:30 (Morning Worship) Coffee and biscuits will be served after the service.
  - ii. 21<sup>st</sup> January at 11 a.m. (Sung Eucharist)
  - iii. Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 09:30 (Holy Communion)
  - iv. Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 6 p.m. (Evensong)
  - v. Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 09:30 (Morning Worship) Coffee and biscuits will be served after the service.
- b. In December the PCC received some disappointing, but perhaps hopeful, news from the **South West Region Heritage Lottery Fund** in that the application for a grant to cover the Church tower refurbishment has not been successful owing to "insufficient funds". However, the application was described as a good application, and it did qualify for Heritage Lottery Funding support. As the application meets Heritage Lottery criteria the PCC have been asked to submit a new application which will be made in the New Year. In the meantime, **the Tower Appeal still continues** as there are many 'incidental costs' which need to be covered. Any support is greatly received. There will be several fundraising events in 2018, an 'Auction of Promises' is being considered, so please contact Pete Remmer if you can offer a service or similar which can be included in the auction.

3. **Village Hall Notices:**

- a. The first **Village Fayre** of 2018 will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 10.30am to 12.30pm, so please come along and support the Stallholders and enjoy a bacon or sausage roll along with your tea or coffee. We look forward to seeing you on the first Fayre of the year.
  - b. The **Annual Christmas Tree Recycling** held on Saturday 6th January was a great success and once again 20 Trees were recycled. Many thanks to Mike and Andrew Barrett for giving up their time. In addition the event raised £75 from teas, coffees and bacon & sausage rolls, which will be added to the hall refurbishment fund.
  - c. A message from Lyndon (Village Hall Committee Chairman): The **Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting** will take place on Monday 12th February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Some of you may know that both Mark and I are standing down, so if you would like to join the Committee or just volunteer to help out at Events please come along and talk to us. New people with new ideas are needed if your Village Hall is to remain at the centre of the Village and surrounding areas. Tea, coffee and biscuits or perhaps something a little stronger will be available. I have enjoyed my time as Chair and whilst I am sad to leave, it really is time for an injection of new blood. We look forward to seeing you there.
4. The President opened the January meeting of the **Forthampton & District WI** by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and presenting buttonholes to those members whose birthdays occur in December and January. The guest speaker, John Holloway, gave a detailed and fascinating insight into the role of a JP, outlining the differences between a Magistrates' Court and the County Court. He spoke of the types of crime dealt with by each of the courts, the former dealing with minor offences and preliminary hearings for more serious offences, which will then be referred to the County Court. Whereas the County Court has a judge and jury, the Magistrates' Court has three magistrates (one Chairman and two wingers). Those present were somewhat amazed to learn that Cheltenham Magistrates' Court is the only one serving Gloucestershire. John explained that a number of very minor offences are now dealt with by the police, either by an on-the-spot fine or a verbal warning. Hence the number of defendants being referred to the Magistrates' Court has declined in recent years. John also outlined the process by which anyone can apply and be considered for the position as a JP. He concluded his presentation by setting up a role-play where members took part in the trial of an alleged shoplifter. The verdict was not as expected which leads to questions as to whether our WI members would make good magistrates! The February meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, when Mike Bottomley will give a talk on Katherine Parr. Please contact Veronica Silber on 01684 591513 for more information about our WI.
5. The January outing of the **Sevenside Walking Group** 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 Eastington walk which was cancelled in December. 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.