

This is the Parish Council sponsored Newsletter for March 2018, giving details of past and forthcoming events and other items we think will be of interest.

## 1. Parish Council Notes:

- a. As a reminder, **The annual Litter Picking Day in Forthampton** has been arranged for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 when we will meet at the Cross at 10 a.m. All equipment (gloves, pickers, sacks etc.) will be supplied; all we need is volunteers. So, if you have an hour or two to spare to clean up our lovely village, then please come along on the day.
- b. The Forthampton Parish Plan, together with details of the progress being made to complete the 14 actions originally identified, is now available on the Parish Council web site at [www.forthamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.forthamptonparishcouncil.org.uk)
- c. The new **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** will soon be introduced, bringing the regulations governing how personal data is used "bang up to date". It is the biggest change to data protection in a generation and gives all of us back control of our own information. Any organisation that processes personal information – be it a multi-national bank, a hair salon, or a local authority – will have a legal obligation to treat that information fairly and transparently. They must be able to account for what they do, how and why they do it. Consequently, the Parish Council is in the process of reviewing what information is held about residents; how securely it is held and how necessary it is to retain it. This mainly involves names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses needed to ensure everyone is kept abreast of events and activities that may concern them. The Regulation is still being discussed in Parliament so full details of how it will be implemented are not yet known. However, details will be published as soon as they are available together with information on how the Parish Council ensures that data is held securely.
- d. **The Forthampton Estate would like to express a huge vote of thanks to Steve Loader** for giving up three Saturdays to 'lay' the hedge alongside Church Lane together with his team of keen volunteers - Graham Hall, Ken Jeynes, Gary Loader, Jim and Lottie. Please see attached photos showing their fantastic work!
- e. The Parish Council continue to receive messages via **the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**. The latest concerns the fact that Public sector agencies are currently experiencing high demand for services associated with the cold weather and are encouraging people to check on neighbours or anyone who lives nearby that might need some extra help. Check if they are feeling well, help them stock up on food supplies and make sure they have any medication they need. If you normally have care in your own home, you may experience some delays or changes in timing of calls owing to the weather and travel conditions. If you have any concerns about your existing care arrangements, contact your care provider directly. For advice on keeping warm and well please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/KeepWarmKeepWell.aspx>

## 2. Church Notices:

- a. **Services at St Mary's, Forthampton** for the coming weeks are:
  - i. Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 8 p.m. (Compline)
  - ii. Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 09:30 (Holy Communion – Palm Sunday)
  - iii. Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 11 a.m. (Easter Day Holy Communion)
  - iv. Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 09:30 (Morning Worship) Coffee and biscuits will be served after the service.
  - v. Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 11 a.m. (Sung Eucharist)

3. **Village Hall Notices:**

- a. At the Village Hall AGM in January a number of new volunteers joined the committee and are busy planning for future events. **The main officers on new committee are:** Chair: Pauline Coleman, Secretary: Rebecca Wynne, Treasurer: Rachael Jones and Bookings: Jean Morgan.
- b. An Easter Egg Hunt has been arranged for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April from 09:30 to 12:30 starting at the Village hall. The cost is just £3 per child and there will also be Crafts, tea/coffee and cake, and a raffle. For tickets, email [forthamptonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:forthamptonvillagehall@gmail.com) or text 07976 372593 (see attached poster)

4. At their March meeting the **Forthampton WI** welcomed Brian Partridge, a former Wimbledon linesman and umpire, who gave a talk entitled 'You cannot be Serious'. Having played tennis from a young age, Brian joined the Civil Service tennis club in Cheltenham, eventually becoming a coach. At the age of 45 he was playing for Gloucestershire at Veteran level and realised that his knees could no longer take the punishment inflicted upon them. He then decided to train as an umpire and three years later (in 1992) he put his name forward to be a line judge at Wimbledon. He was delighted to have his application accepted and spent the next ten years, both as a line judge and umpire, working at Wimbledon and other prestigious tournaments. He umpired on Centre Court for the first time in 1997 and officiated at matches featuring a number of top players. He recalled how his last match ever at Wimbledon was a boys' doubles featuring a very young Andy Murray and his partner David Brewer against a pair from the Far East.

During the course of his talk we learned:

- There is a pecking order for umpires and that only those graded L1 and L2 can umpire on Court 1 and Centre Court.
- One of the 'perks' for an umpire/line judge is that they are allowed to sit in courtside seats.
- There are 330 officials employed during the course of the tournament, 60 from overseas.
- 52,000 tennis balls are used. These are made in the Philippines while the fabric for covering them is manufactured in Stroud.
- Used tennis balls are quite often cut in half and make nesting boxes for harvest mice. Mostly they are sold for £10 per dozen.
- In 2005 Ralph Lauren supplied all the uniforms in return for being allowed to use the Wimbledon logo on its T-shirts.
- If you wish to buy an official's outfit for a child/grandchild this would cost you £700 as Ralph Lauren now supplies them!

Brian retired in 2002 and still has his official Wimbledon uniform (complete with panama hat and sunglasses) and a certificate in recognition of his contributions to the most famous tennis tournament in the world.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, when the speaker will be Rose Hewlett on the subject of "1914-1918: Village Life during the Great War". For further information about Forthampton WI, please contact Veronica Silber on (01684) 591513.

5. Sadly, the March outing of the **Sevenside Walking Group** fell victim to the "mini-Beast from the east", when the ground was covered in snow and the planned route along the banks of the river Severn was waterlogged. So that particular walk will be re-arranged for a future date. In the meantime, the next walk will be on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April when the group will enjoy a lovely walk through bluebell strewn countryside near Monmouth. 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.