

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

1. Parish Council Notes:

- a. **As a reminder, on 2nd May 2019 elections will be held for Borough and Parish Councils – including Forthampton.** There are likely to be a number of vacancies so, 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. Also a reminder that 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 in Apperley had its patio door smashed between 10am and 2pm on 4th March. The house was searched and a car was stolen off the drive using keys found in the house. The car was later recovered at Elmstone Hardwick. If you have any information regarding this crime please report it to the police by calling 101 and quote incident number 220 of 4th March. Alternatively you can pass the information by completing this form: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/contact-us/tell-us-about-something/?incident=220&date=04-03-2019>
- d. This year the annual **NGS Open Garden day at Forthampton Court** has been moved from the usual date in July to **Sunday May 19th from 12noon till 4pm.** This is the day before Chelsea Flower Show opens, so could be viewed as a taster day before you all dash off to London! Apart from the wonderful gardens on display there will be tea/coffee and cakes as well as plants for sale.
- e. On Saturday 6 April the City of Birmingham Choir will return to Tewkesbury for an evening of stunning symphonies and beautiful music, performing Bach's masterpiece St John's Passion in the town's magnificent Abbey. Directed by Adrian Lucas in Tewkesbury the concert starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are priced from £15 for the rear nave and £20 for the front nave, plus an online booking fee.

2. Church Notices:

- a. **Services at St Mary's, Forthampton** for the coming weeks are:
 - i. Sunday 17th March at 11:00 (Sung Eucharist)
 - ii. Sunday 24th March at 09:30 (Holy Communion)
 - iii. Sunday 31st March at 11 a.m. at **Chaceley** (Family Eucharist for Mother's Day)
 - iv. Sunday 7th April at 6 p.m. (Evensong)
 - v. Sunday 14th April at 09:30 (Morning Worship)
- b. A **new Electoral Roll list** is being developed this year. Those wishing to be on the list for Forthampton please contact Richard Ascough (the Electoral Roll Officer) for the necessary form. Richard can be contacted via email at: rcnahillbeck@gmail.com

- c. 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 grounds of the church while work is underway.

3. **Village Hall Notices:**

- a. The improvements to the **Village Hall access** are planned to start on Monday 8th April and to be completed by Easter. Please note that the hall will be out of use during that period,
- 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. See the attachments for full details.

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 the March meeting of the **Forthampton & District WI** the Rev’d Dr Nicholas Henderson gave a fascinating talk on ‘explaining the inexplicable’, concentrating on the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle, and ghosts. As far back as the fifteenth century, Christopher Columbus reported seeing a great light and something falling into the sea. The disappearance of many ships and airplanes in the area stretching from Bermuda to Miami to Puerto Rico has always been the subject of much speculation. Possible explanations have been electronic fog (barrel clouds) that makes navigation instruments go haywire, and air bombings (downdraughts from the stratosphere) that cause squalls and solar storms.

Dr Henderson explained that the earth’s magnetic field deflects solar storms but that it changes and flips every million or so years. It is now in the process of ‘flipping’ and this can cause sense of direction to disappear. Global warming is taking place and, currently, jelly holes are appearing and methane is being emitted into the atmosphere. Normally permafrost does not melt but in Siberia this is now occurring and, in such areas ships can suffer loss of engine power and sink.

Interspersed with short bursts of ‘Good Vibrations’ by the Beach Boys, Dr Henderson referred to our most famous ghosts: Ann Boleyn in the Tower of London, Catherine Howard in Hampton Court, and Thomas Millward in Hammersmith Graveyard. Explanations include ectoplasm, reflective lenses, and the presence of carbon monoxide, which can cause hallucinations. The most likely environment in which to see a ghost is a dark, damp, cold place. In medieval times ghosts were looked upon as messengers; nowadays they are considered to be comforting.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th April in **Chaceley Village Hall** at 2:15 pm, when Ian Caskie will give a talk on S.S. Great Britain. New members are always welcome and, should you require any further information, please contact Veronica Silber (01684) 591513.

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