

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

1. Parish Council Notes:

- a. The meeting in the Village Hall on 2nd November to hear the details of a proposal for an **improved Broadband service for Forthampton** via “line-of-sight” was well attended and it has been agreed to move to the next stage, which is a survey of all properties who have signed up to ascertain the best method of providing access to the signal. It is possible that a solution could be introduced early in the New Year.
- b. A Planning Seminar was held at Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices on Wednesday 8th November at which details were provided of the latest developments associated with the **Joint Core Strategy**. Since the Strategy was first initiated the demand for housing around Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury has increased from 30,000 to 35,000. However, because the MoD have decided against offering Aschurch Camp as a location for new houses, Tewkesbury BC are now searching for other locations for 2,400 homes. The Strategy is intended to be reviewed every five years to take account of the monitoring of housing and job creation figures and other targets set out in the JCS document. As it has not been possible to identify sufficient land to meet the Objectively Assessed Housing Need in full, an early review of housing requirements in Tewkesbury Borough is likely. We expect the Inspector’s report to be issued before Christmas, enabling the adoption of the JCS in the Spring of next year.
- c. In response to the action in the Parish Plan to introduce **traffic calming measures**, white gates have been installed at the entrance to the village on Bishops Walk. Traffic speeds will be monitored to ascertain whether the gates are having the desired effect.
- d. The Parish Council would like to express appreciation to the Forthampton Estate for the re-thatching of the Cart Shed in the centre of the village, which, together with the repairs to the Stocks in the churchyard, are part of the continuing efforts being made to maintain the quality and beauty of the village. We would also like to express appreciation to Richard Ascough for all his efforts to repair the stocks.
- e. As a reminder, **Father Christmas will be on hand to switch on the lights in Tewkesbury** at 5 p.m. on 19 November. The Tewkesbury Christmas market will be held the same day from 12 noon until 6 p.m. in the High Street.
- f. On Saturday 25th November **Tewkesbury Abbey will host their annual Christmas Fair**. There will be lots of stalls just waiting to help you with your Christmas gift purchases. So why not pop along between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and admire the wonderful Abbey while browsing the stalls.

2. Church Notices:

- a. **Services at St Mary’s, Forthampton** for the coming weeks are:
 - i. Sunday 19th November at 11 a.m. (Sung Eucharist)
 - ii. Sunday 26th November at 9:30 a.m. (Holy Communion)
 - iii. Sunday 3rd December at 6 p.m. (Evensong)
 - iv. Sunday 10th December at 9:30 a.m. (Morning Worship – complementary coffee served afterwards).
 - v. This year’s **Carol Service** will be held on the church on Sunday 17th December at 6 p.m. Sherry and mince pies will be served.
- b. The next fund raising event will take place at Hither Riders on **Friday evening November 17th**, when Peter and Lynda Remmer will be hosting a **Cheese and wine Evening**. Tickets costing £7.50 are available from Peter (01684, 297903; 07769 708501 or premmer@btinternet.com) or any PCC member.

3. **Village Hall Notices:**

- a. Please accept our apologies for having to cancel the **November Fayre**, but we are looking forward to seeing you on Saturday 2nd December 2017. Breakfast for £5 will be available as well as the usual bacon and sausage rolls, Breakfasts should be booked so please contact Lyndon on 01684 275350 or Email lyndonmclean@aol.com. (See attached poster). We are looking forward to seeing you at our last Fayre for 2017. The Committee would like take this opportunity to wish all the stall holders and supporters of our Fayres and our user groups a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year
- b. As a reminder, the first annual **Forthampton Festive Feast** will be held in the Village Hall on Sunday 26th November starting at 12 noon. There will be Mulled Wine and Nibbles, then a lovely meal of Seasonal Casserole and Vegetables, followed by a Selection of Puddings, Tea or Coffee and Mince Pies. Tickets at £15 per head can be obtained from Nick on 07795436339 or Jean on 01684 297854.
- c. On 10th December 2017 there will be **Children's Christmas Disco** in the Village Hall. Tickets are just £5 per adult and children are free! There will be Buffet Tea, mulled wine, mince pies, and children's fruit cocktails. And, of course the usual visit from Father Christmas. (see attached poster)
- d. Planning permission for **improved access to the Village Hall** has finally been granted without amendment. This is brilliant news and means we can now move to the next step of trying to obtain Grants in order for the work to be started.
- e. Jean, of Whist Drive fame, would like donations of tins, biscuits and other none perishables to make **Hampers for the Christmas Whist Drive**. Donations can be left with Jean Morgan on 01684 297854, Audrey Peters on 01684 291540 or Lyndon on 01684 275350 by the end of November, any donation will be much appreciated,
- f. The **Annual Christmas Tree Recycling** will be 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.

4. The November meeting of the **Forthampton WI** was the Annual General Meeting. We are glad to welcome Veronica Silber as our new President, with little change to officers and committee. The good work of individuals who so ably make the meetings run as if by magic was recognised and our appreciation was shown. Business was followed by a Festive Bring and Buy sale and a much enjoyed tea with the most delicious cakes. Each month we have two small competitions, the first being an item of interest beginning with a particular letter of the alphabet, the second is a bloom from our garden/widow box/allotment. The winners are voted for by all the members by putting small change by their favourites. At the end of the year the members with the overall highest number of wins are rewarded with a small trophy. It's a bit of fun and we raise much needed funds for the charity ACWW who do marvellous work with very poor communities overseas. Next week Liz Lean is running a workshop entitled *Folded Paperback Angels* - perfect for this season. Next month instead of our usual meeting on 12th December, we are looking forward to a Christmas lunch at The Broadway Hotel, on the Cotswolds, it'll also be an opportunity to do some lovely widow shopping around the charming village! Please contact Tessa Hadley for more information about our institute on 01684 297463

5. On Monday 13th November 25 members of the **Sevenside Walking Group** started their walk from Upton-Upon-Severn and walked to Hanley Castle and back. On 11th December the group will start their final walk of 2017 from Eastington. So, if you enjoy walking and meeting friends, simply contact Alan Brown on 01684 291220 or e-mail: skepcott1@gmail.com for full details.