

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

1. **Parish Council Notes:**

- a. It is very pleasing to be able to report that the work to introduce fibre-optic cable into the village **to improve Broadband access** has finally arrived. There will obviously be some disruption while the work is in progress but, hopefully, this will be temporary and we will all soon be able to access the internet at much faster rates. There is currently a slight hiatus in the work while "Wayleave" questions are addressed but we expect work to re-start very soon.
- b. From Monday 3 to Friday 21 December, **Hempsted Household Recycling Centre**, near Gloucester, will be temporarily closed to allow some important upgrades to the site. The method used to compact some types of waste and recyclable materials is being changed. A mobile materials handler will replace the existing static compaction equipment which is old, breaks down frequently and has become expensive to maintain. The new method will save money and also give more operational flexibility. The information on this closure can be found at www.recycleforgloucestershire.com. During this closure our closest alternative centre, will be Wingmoor Farm HRC in Stoke Orchard (closed on Wednesdays). Hempsted HRC will re-open on Saturday 22 December.
- c. Members of the public are being asked to help **review the options for the Joint Core Strategy** which sets out the identified need and location for employment and housing sites, and associated infrastructure, up to 2031. This stage of the review, called 'Issues and Options', will look again at the growth needs and options up to and potentially beyond 2031 and the strategy for delivering them. This review asks members of the public, and any other stakeholders, 15 key questions to help develop a way to best deliver growth, including:
 - What should the scope of the review be?
 - What timeframe should the review plan for?
 - Are the JCS vision, aims and objectives still relevant?
 - How can the review best plan for city/town centres so they remain vital and viable in the future?
 - Are there suitable sites for development?
 - What infrastructure needs should be considered?

The consultation lasts for over eight weeks between Monday, 12 November 2018 and Friday, 11 January 2019. Consultation events will be held in the following locations, where members of the public can come along, ask questions and have their say:

Gloucester Eastgate Shopping Centre on 30 November 10am to 4pm.

Cheltenham Municipal Offices on 4 December 10am-4pm

Tewkesbury Town Hall on 13 December 4-7pm

Alternatively, members of the public can view the consultation documents and have their say online at <https://jointcorestrategy.org/joint-core-strategy-review>

- d. The annual **Fireworks evening** held on 3rd November was a fantastic success with about 130 people attending. Our thanks to Alan & Anabel McKinnon for hosting and organising the event, and to all those who acted as Marshalls etc, Apart from a very enjoyable evening, the event helped to raise over £700 towards the Church Tower appeal.
- e. The **litter picking** event held on **13th October** was also a great success. It is always interesting to see what strange items people throw into ditches and at the side of the

road; the most unusual object this time was a microwave oven! (See attached photo of the resulting rubbish heap that was quickly removed by the Borough Council personnel.

- f. Another successful activity was the installation of **the Kissing gate** into the field opposite the Church. Our happy band of volunteers, led by Richard Ascough, worked diligently in the rain to complete the task, which should prevent further incidents of cattle escaping into the churchyard. (see attached photo).
- g. And, don't forget, **Tewkesbury's Christmas lights** will be switched on by Santa Claus on Sunday 25th November. There will be the usual Christmas Market starting at noon, with food, drinks, Christmas gifts & crafts, and free parking.

2. Church Notices:

- a. **Services at St Mary's, Forthampton** for the coming weeks are:
 - i. Sunday 18th November at 11 a.m. (Sung Eucharist)
 - ii. Sunday 25th November at 9:30 a.m. (Holy Communion)
 - iii. Sunday 2nd December at 6 p.m. (Evensong)
 - iv. Sunday 9th December at 9:30 a.m. (Morning Worship)
- b. **A Christmas Coffee Morning**, to raise funds for the Church Tower Appeal, has been arranged for Saturday 8th December at the home of John & Phillipa Holloway (Glebe Cottage in Church Lane) starting at 10:30 a.m. So come along and enjoy a coffee and cake with friends.
- c. This year's **Carol Service will be held on Sunday 16th December** starting at 6:30 p.m. and, as usual, there will be wine and mince pies for all! So come along and join the festivities.
- d. 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. The long standing issue **of improving access to the Village Hall** continues. Planning permission was granted just before the new committee was formed but this permission still had a number of steps. The present committee have been seeking a solution that would not require steps so prams and wheelchairs would have easier access. A revised proposal was discussed with the Borough Council planners but we have just been advised that this has been rejected. We are again seeking other options but this is proving to be a difficult and time consuming exercise. The committee would like to reassure all of our users that improving the access to the hall remains a high priority and we are determined to find a satisfactory solution for everyone
- b. The, now, **annual Festive Feast** is being held in the Village Hall on Sunday 25th November – this is another Village Hall event that sold out showing just how successful and enjoyable such events are. Keep an eye out for future events and book early!
- c. The annual **Children's Christmas party** will be held on Sunday 9th December between 2 pm and 5 pm. Tickets are just £5 for children to include refreshments and

a gift from Santa. There will be party games and prizes for the best Christmas Jumper! See attached poster 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. The club has now changed to Winter opening times of Thursdays and Saturdays from 8pm.

5. The Annual General Meeting of the **Forthampton & District WI** followed the usual monthly meeting on Tuesday 13th November. Next year's committee and officers were elected and Veronica Silber will remain President. The remainder of the afternoon was taken up with stocking up Xmas presents and treats from the burgeoning tables of the Xmas Bring and Buy sale and, of course, partaking in tea and delicious home-made cakes. We are looking forward to lunch at The Angel at Pershore and a craft afternoon led by Liz Lean in December. The next meeting is in the New Year on Tuesday 10th January at 2.00pm at Forthampton Village Hall. Call Veronica on 01684 591513 if you'll like to come along.

6. Following a strenuous but enjoyable walk around Hollybush on a gorgeously sunny day in November the **Sevenside Walking Club** will start their next walk on 10 December from the Green Dragon on Cockleford. Then in January, we hope to do a walk around Purton and Sharpness. So, if you enjoy walking and meeting friends, simply contact Alan Brown on 01684 291220 or e-mail: skepcott1@gmail.com for full details.