

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

- Wednesday 1 7.30pm BEAT meeting in St Peter's Court, Ashcroft Road
- Thursday 2 7.30pm Coates Gardening Club Meeting *The Work of Scrubditch Care Farm*
- Monday 6 7.30pm Coates Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 7 11am Service & Coffee at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell
- Friday 10 7.30pm Tales from the Forge - talk by Bernard Tidmarsh
- Tuesday 14 Mobile library visiting Coates
- Thursday 16 2.30pm Good Companions meeting
- Thursday 16 7pm Kemble & Ewen WI meeting
- Tuesday 21 10.30am Community Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates Village Hall
- Tuesday 21 7.30pm Frampton Mansell Rural Cinema *I, Daniel Blake*
- Sunday 26 2 - 4pm Farm Club Service at Watershed RDA

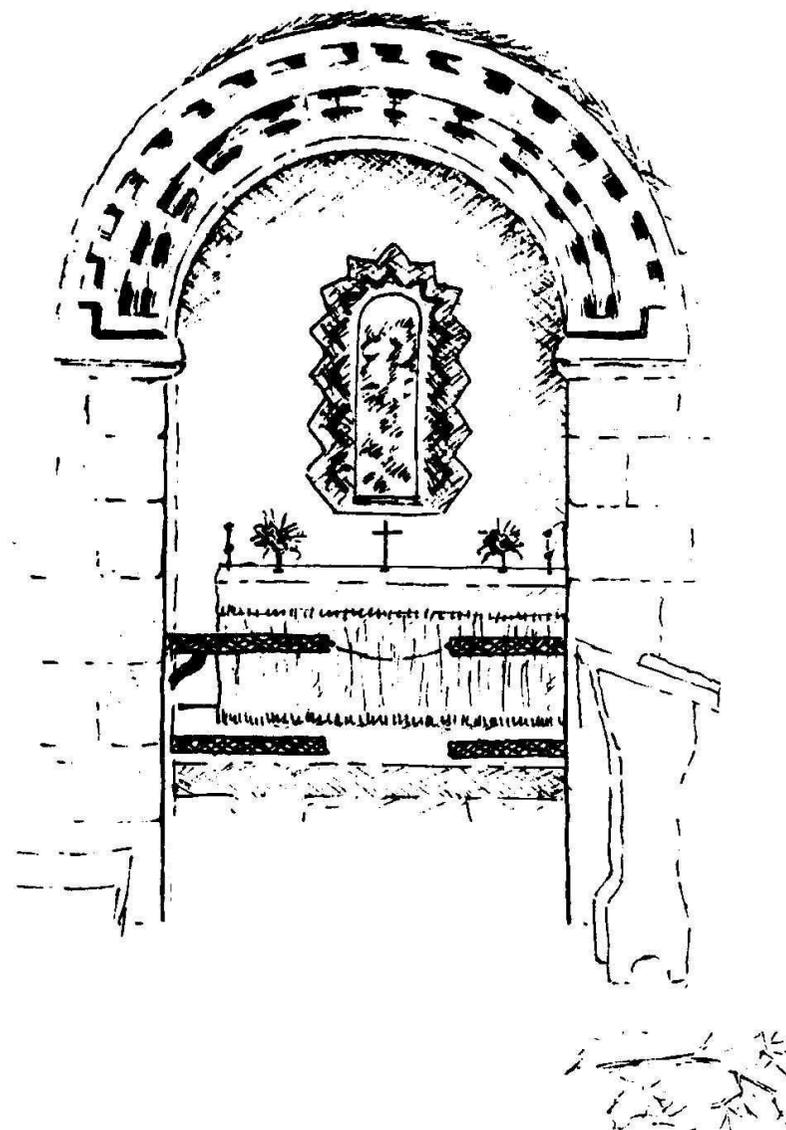
APRIL

- Sunday 2 10.30am Bears Croquet Club Open Day
- Tuesday 4 11am Service & Coffee at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell
- Wednesday 5 7.30pm BEAT meeting in St Peter's Court, Ashcroft Road
- Thursday 6 7.30pm Coates Gardening Club Meeting
- Tuesday 11 Mobile library visiting Coates
- Tuesday 18 10.30am Community Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates Village Hall
- Tuesday 18 7.30pm Frampton Mansell Rural Cinema
- Thursday 20 2.30pm Good Companions meeting
- Monday 24 7.30pm Coates Annual Parish Meeting in Coates village hall
- Saturday 29 7pm Bingo in Rodmarton Village Hall

MAY

- Tuesday 2 11am Service & Coffee at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell
- Wednesday 3 7.30pm BEAT meeting in St Peter's Court, Ashcroft Road
- Thursday 4 7.30pm Coates Gardening Club Meeting
- Tuesday 9 Mobile library visiting Coates
- Tuesday 16 7.30pm Frampton Mansell Rural Cinema
- Tuesday 16 10.30am Community Coffee, Cake and Chat in

THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



St Kenelm's, Sapperton

March 2017

RECTOR

Rev Trevor Kemp 770550
Coates Rectory, Coates GL7 6NR rev.trev@btinternet.com

HOUSE FOR DUTY PRIEST

Rev David Austin 770654
revdavidAustin@gmail.com'

READERS

Barrie Cran 770809
Liz Collins 770698

STRATEGIC YOUTH MINISTER

Anton Wynn 07816 315423
anton.wynn@psalms.uk.net

COATES

Church Wardens: Sarah Fuchs 771393
Anne Chilton 770726
Secretary PCC Liz Collins 770621
Treasurer PCC Liz Allen 771229

SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL

Church Warden: Jeremy Hoskins 760227
Elizabeth Twinch 762897
Deputy warden
St Kenelm's Mark Hamer 760715
Rotas Kate Gordon-Lennox 760651
Secretary PCC
Treasurer PCC Charles Houldsworth 760300

RODMARTON AND TARLTON (Chapel of Ease)

Church Wardens
Rodmarton Simon Biddulph 841462
Susie Edmond-Rees 07881 954650
Tarlton Jasper Biddulph 770230
Flower Team Leader Wendy Taylor 841263
Secretary PCC Jane Marlowe 770401
Treasurer PCC Simon Biddulph 841462

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Watershed Editor	Bob Merrill	07866 972389
Watershed Treasurer	Janet Loines	841578
Watershed Intercession Group	Anne Chilton	770726
Coates Parish Council Chair	Richard Harrison	01285 771449
Coates Parish Council Clerk	Vacant	
Coates Gardening Club	Margaret Reynolds	771354
Coates Social Club secretary	Annabelle Crapper	770266
Coates Tree Warden	Geoffrey Moore	770869
Coates Village Hall	Susan (PJ) Johnson	770596
Coates Neighbourhood Watch	Liz Allen	07771 553061/771229
Coates Snow Warden	Peter Tugwell	
Frampton Mansell Village Hall	Bookings	760102 or 760300
Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Chair	Paul Drake	770267
Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Clerk	Susan Hare	ex-dir
Rodmarton School		841284
Rodmarton Village Hall	Jasper Biddulph	770230
Rodmarton Cricket Club	Nick Clarke	841421
Sapperton and FM PC Chair	Sarah Osborn-Smith	760874
Sapperton and FM PC Clerk	Kath Sanderson	760480
Sapperton Snow Warden	Mark Franklin	760226
Sapperton Tree Warden	Paul Dingley	760788
Sapperton Village Hall	Annette Bullock	760468
Sapperton School	Dawn Thomas	760325
Royal British Legion		
Good Companions	Neeve Vizor	770832
Watershed RDA	Kathy Mottershead	07979 853907
Watershed Farm Club	Liz Collins	770621
Village Agent	Colin Waller	07776 245 754
District Councillors		
Ermin Ward	Nicholas Parsons	623000
Kemble Ward	Tony Berry	770220
County Councillor	Anthony Hicks	01666 504792
Member of Parliament	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	01452 371630
Cirencester Hospital		655711
Police non emergency (24hrs)		101
Cirencester Eating Disorder Support Group	Pat Ayres	770385

CIRENCESTER EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

A warm and friendly support group of volunteers are in St Peter's lounge, St Peter's Court, St Peter's Road, Cirencester on Wednesday 1 March at 7.30pm. Sufferers and Carers receive confidential, accessible local help from people who have had personal experience either as a sufferer or carer. This sharing of experiences helps to lift the mood and can provide a better outcome for the days ahead.

Further details about the group in confidence can be obtained from Pat on 770385.



The Library

MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

The visit for next month will be on Tuesday 14 March between 11.25am and 12.25pm outside the village hall.

CLOSING DATE FOR THE APRIL MAGAZINE

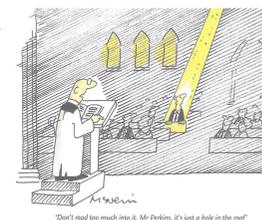
Contributions should be sent to Bob Merrill at Glebe House, Coates, GL7 6NU. Telephone 07866 972389 or by e-mail to the Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. Articles should be in Arial font at 11 point with **formatting kept as simple as possible**. The editor reserves the right to edit any articles. **Articles should be submitted by 12 March at the latest for inclusion in the next issue.**

ADVERTISING IN THE WATERSHED

If you wish to advertise in our parish magazine please contact Bob Merrill at Glebe House, Coates, GL7 6NU. Tel 771496, Mobile 07866 972389 or by e-mail to the Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. Adverts at a third of a page cost £15 for a single issue or £60 for 6 months. Adverts at half a page cost £23 for a single issue or £90 for 6 months. The magazine is published 10 times every year; July/August and December/January are joint editions. Cheques should be made payable to Watershed magazine. Please try to keep adverts relatively simple and remember we print in black and white so colour images do not always show well.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTORY

A friend of mine sent me this cartoon recently as he thought I would find it amusing, as I did. As intended, it set me to thinking about its different interpretations. Firstly that our historic building are in constant need of love and care and secondly about how God might communicate or desire to communicate with us and our expectations or imagination about God and how we might be in communication with him. The idea of communication with God might seem impossible or not to you, but it is a fundamental question to ask if we are trying to understand the nature and purpose of God and his creation. If you believe in the transcendent, then seeking to understand it as best we can seems a good plan of action. The great beam of light, the pointing finger, the Damascus Road experience; these are all possible and do point to the power of God. But I tend to think they also highlight our deafness, our lack of awareness of God so that he has to shout to be heard over all our noise. This brassy approach to conversation does not imply the close and intimate relationship the Christian community says is more typical of God's character. Jesus himself is the ultimate communication from God; He comes without fanfare, he lives modestly and he dies well if unpleasantly. In between, his conversation and miracles touch the lives of many and draw them into a deeper understanding of God. Turning water into wine was probably not even noticed by many of the guests. Calling Zacchaeus or forgiving a prostitute, healing a child or a blind man; these things changed individuals and communities. Challenging a rich man to examine what he really valued and giving him the opportunity to reflect and choose is not coercive but supportive and loving and above all hopeful.



God is always hopeful that we will choose to invite him into our live but he never forces us, however hard the consequence of that rejection might be. Scripture witnesses to that with Adam and Eve and every book affirms its truth, for God's love today is the same as it has always been. Allegorically this cartoon is very accurate. God has a plan and a purpose for all of us, he calls all of us in the hope we may receive his grace and love and choose to become disciples and follow Jesus. He wants to be in an intimate and personal relationship with us, the only issue is whether we want to be in a purposeful relationship with him.

With love and prayers

Trevor Kemp Rector

Lent Course 2017

'Christ and the
Chocolaterie'

Five Wednesdays starting
on 8 March from 8 - 10pm
at the Rectory, Coates.

During Lent 2017 we will
be studying

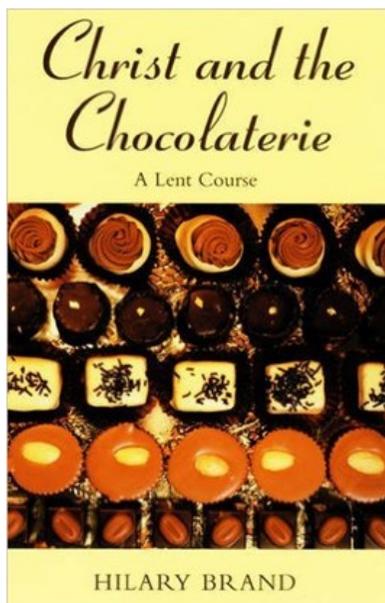
Christ and the Chocolaterie

A Lent Course based around
the film '**Chocolat**' by author
Hilary Brand

Call Rev Trev for more information
or just come along

More information available on our website:

<http://www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk/>



Do you have a mole problem?

With over 30 years' experience in
Traditional mole control, I can effectively, discretely and humanely
remove the culprit(s)!

No gas, chemicals or poisons used and completely safe to children
and pets.

NO MOLE NO FEE

Fully insured and references available

07766 132934 (Day) 01285 770968 (Evenings)

Member of the British Traditional Molecatchers' Register

Member of the Guild of British Molecatchers

BPCA/RSPH level 2 certificate in pest control

Call now for a free, no obligation site survey and quote

<http://www.gbstateservices.com/>

SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

This table provides an overview of Sunday morning services in the
new pattern.

PARISH/TIME	Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4 Benefice Service		
	09:30	11:00	09:30	11:00	09:30	11:00	08:00	10:00	11:00
Coates	HC		FS/MP		HC			Jan/Aug	
Frampton Mansell with Sapperton		HC (odd mths)	MP/FS		HC			Feb/Sep	
Kemble	HC		FS		HC			Apr/Oct	
Poole Keynes	MP		HC		FS			May/Nov	
Rodmarton with Turlton		HC		FS		HC		Jun/Jan18	
Somerford Keynes		MP		HC		FS	BCP-HC	Jul/Feb18	

Combined Benefice services will be at 10am (unless otherwise
notified) on 4th Sunday will be as follows:

March 26 Mothering Sunday in each parish
April 23 Kemble

DAVEY - LAW -

YOUR GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOLICITORS

www.daveylaw.co.uk

01285 654875

@Davey_law

www.seriousinjury.expert

WILLS & PROBATE
ESTATE TAX PLANNING
PROPERTY LAW
DIVORCE & FAMILY
PERSONAL INJURY
COMMERCIAL LAW
CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE
PRIVATE LITIGATION
DISPUTE RESOLUTION

FOR YOU

YOUR FAMILY

YOUR BUSINESS



Specialist in airport transfers and long distance journeys.

Friendly, flexible and reliable licensed service available day or night for pre booked journeys.

All UK and European destinations.

Central London a speciality.

Credit card facilities available

Phil Bradley, Cornerstones, Stroud Road, Bisley

Tel: 01452 770337 Mobile: 07082 154968

office@cornerstoneschauffeurservice.co.uk

www.cornerstoneschauffeurservice.co.uk

Proud to have served the Cotswolds for more than a decade.

HF Property Services

Garden Maintenance

Landscaping – turfing, terraces, fencing

Painting & Decorating – interior and exterior

Handyman Service (1/2 day minimum)

Building - renovation/extensions

Carpentry – kitchen fitting, wardrobes

Contact: 07887 591971/01285 850672

www.hf-limited.co.uk

CALL THE MAN WHO CAN

NO JOB TOO SMALL

R.O.W. BERRY
HOUSE, PROPERTY &
GARDEN MAINTENANCE
TEL (01285) 658398
MOBILE 07971 548962

PAINTING
BATHROOMS
TILES

LEAKS PATIOS FENCING

DECKING

PLUMBING
KITCHENS
GUTTERING

SPRING TIME CROQUET

Try something new for 2017.

The Bears Croquet Club is now based at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester and is preparing for the new croquet season. It is a very sociable club with members young and old, beginners and experienced, including social, league and international players.

Croquet is a game suitable for all and needs little physical strength but certainly will

challenge the brain.

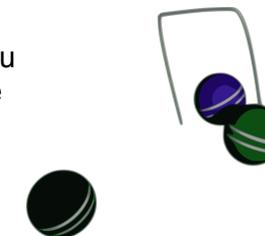
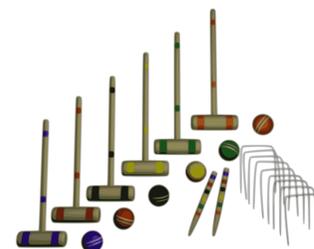
So often the comment from newcomers is 'I wish I had discovered this game earlier'.

If you would like to try this interesting, competitive game that can be learnt quickly but take years to master, you are invited to come along to the Open Day on **Sunday 2 April** between 10.30am and 4.30pm.

Coaching will be available after Easter. Equipment will be provided but please wear a pair of trainers or flat soled shoes.

Please use the RAU's visitors' car park off the main drive via the Tetbury Road entrance. You will then see the croquet court at the top of the playing fields.

For further information, please contact Robert Moss on 841767.



TIME OUT BIBLE DISCUSSION

The Time Out Bible Discussion group for mothers of school age children in the benefice meets twice each month on Thursdays at 10am. For further details please contact Julie on 770123 or email julieallen47@btinternet.com or juliepaulmorton@gmail.com.

PRAYERS IN THE BENEFICE

- ◇ Wednesdays at Kemble at 10am (Holy Communion)
- ◇ Said Communion Service and Prayers at 3pm followed by tea at The Blessings, Coates (2nd Tuesday in the month)
- ◇ Tuesdays at Kemble at 8.30am

NEWS FROM COATES

COATES PARISH CHURCH NEWS

As many of you will know, St Matthew's has started a new rota of services. The 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month will be Holy Communion, the 2nd Sunday will be either a Family Service or Cafe Church led by the congregation, the 4th Sunday will be a combined benefice service for all the benefice churches, with each church taking a turn to host, and the 5th Sunday will be led either by the congregation or a vicar. Everyone is welcome at all the services.



So this March at St Matthew's:

Sunday 5	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 12	10.00am	All Age Service
Sunday 19	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26	2 - 4pm	Farm Club Service for Mother's Day at Watershed RDA stables. Please call Liz Collins for info on 07919 062116.

Everyone is welcome to all the services. On the second Sunday of the month, ie on the 12th this month, we are experimenting with having services which are less traditional and more interactive perhaps with a cup of coffee and cake in hand during the service. So do feel free to come along and see whether this is something you might be interested in. There will be more information about the Farm Club service coming out in March but do feel free to call Liz if you have any queries or would like to help out.

We are working with others in the community to organise the Coates Fete on Saturday 17 June. Do save this date in your diary and if you are able to volunteer to help, either on the day or beforehand or even both, please get in touch with either Lily Burden on 07775 778197 or Sarah Fuchs on 07922 025209.

I can be reached by email at sjfuchs@outlook.com or by phone on 771393.

Sarah Fuchs

Aj arborists
caring for your trees



Tree Surgery & Arboricultural Consultancy

- Tree work to BS3998 standard
- Hedge trimming and reducing
- Large tree dismantling
- Planting
- Fruit tree care and advice
- Stump removal
- Tree surveys and management
- Friendly and professional service with 15 years combined experience

NPTC QUALIFIED AND FULLY INSURED

For FREE competitive quotations call ALASDAIR JEFFREY

01285 750874 or 07793 763535

www.ajarborists.co.uk

DILLYCOT FLOWERS

Country garden flowers, grown and arranged naturally for all occasions. Freshly gathered and seasonal, for parties, weddings, bouquets, also available to flower arrangers.

Email: sally@dillycot.fsnet.co.uk

Need Help Around the Garden?

No job too small

Lawn Mowing & General Garden Maintenance

Reliable, Coates based, Competitive Rates

Contact Paul 01285 771190 - 07890 642360

Designnic Interiors

| Nicola Gladwyn | Interior designer & Soft furnishings maker |

| 07890 856501 | 01285 810589 | www.designnic.info | E: nicola@designnic.info |

| ROOM DESIGNS | STYLES BOARDS |

| MADE TO MEASURE CURTAINS | BLINDS | CUSHIONS | LAMPSHADES |

| POLES | TRIMMINGS | FURNITURE PAINTING | WALLPAPERS | ACCESSORIES |



Sanderson

sanderson
HOME



| Reevey Cottage, Reevey, Kempford, Fairford, Glos, GL7 4HD | Twitter @nicoladesigner | www.facebook.com/designnic.uk |

Excel PA

Your freelance PA.

NOT ENOUGH TIME IN THE DAY?
THEN WE'RE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU SOME OF OURS.

Running a business – or even a home – can put a real strain on your time.
Excel PA provides cost effective freelance support to businesses
& individuals, virtually & on-site.

Call Excel PA now to book your FREE one hour on-site consultation.

e: emily@excelpa.com | t: 0845 094 8412 | www.excelpa.com

Garden Care

A Professional Service

Mowing, Rotavating, Strimming, Hedge-cutting,
Planting, Pruning & Advice plus Stone Walling, fencing, etc

All Garden Jobs

Regular Visits Available.

Enquiries - Tel: 01285 644289 or 07544 061588

Or email: gardencare2009@hotmail.com

WATERSHED RDA

It is all change at Watershed RDA! The news is that Bob Merrill has decided to take a back seat (well perhaps a passenger seat!) and has stepped down as the group organiser. The main contact point will now be Kathy Mottershead on 07979 853907 or Pam Farnsworth on 07812 592286. Bob will continue to run a group of volunteers on Wednesdays doing stable work and DIY as needed.

Our thanks go to Bob for his immense contribution to Watershed RDA over the last 8 years as group organiser during which time the group has expanded, flourished and moved forward substantially. He took over from Sue Bowden, the founder of the group who many of you will remember fondly. Sue started the group in 1994 with the support of her husband Canon Andrew Bowden. Long may we flourish!

CLOTHING RECYCLING BIN

A clothing recycling bin has been installed beside the other recycling bins near the Coates village hall. You are invited to deposit unwanted clothes so that they can be recycled. Every time the bin is full and emptied £30 - £60 will be donated to the village hall.

You are invited to support this environmentally friendly – and fundraiser – in your community.

COATES GARDENING CLUB

We will meet again on Thursday 2 March, when Gerry Fouracres will describe the work of Scrubditch Care Farm. Many Coates residents will remember the late Mike Hyam who volunteered there and contributed to the therapeutic farm-based training and activities which are provided for vulnerable people. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings and the £3 charge includes refreshments.

The following month our meeting on Thursday 6 April (at the usual time and venue) promises to be particularly interesting. Ann Cooper and her husband grow flax in the Cotswolds, and the number of uses from this crop is impressive – cattle food and oil for cricket bats from the seeds, and textiles from linen to rope from the fibres. Come and hear from Ann about the way that Flaxland has become known; you may be surprised! Not to be missed.

We always have a raffle and refreshments. Membership subscriptions are now due please – just £7 for the year, or £3 per evening for visitors who are always welcome.

Margaret Reynolds 771354

COATES VILLAGE LOTTERY

Last month's draw for the Coates village lottery was held on 21 February at the coffee morning. There were 63 participants. The winners were:

First prize £50 to no
Second prize £30 to no
Third prize £20 to no

The next draw will be held in the village hall at the coffee morning in April. New members are always welcome. For information, please apply to Mrs Crane at the Old School, Tel 770976 .

Diana Crane

COATES PRODUCE SHOW – SAVE THE DATE!

If anyone would be willing to help with the organisation or even just has some ideas for appropriate classes or any other aspect please contact Liz Allen on 771229 or 07771553061 or by email

lizallen@hotmail.co.uk

Any help would be very much appreciated!

COATES VILLAGE GRANDE FIESTA

On Saturday 17 June

at Trewsbury Farm, Trewsbury Road, Coates
(with kind permission from Kuldip and Jacqueline Dhillon)

1 - 5pm – Fete and Dog Show

followed by an evening with Asado (Argentinian BBQ)

and music from 6-10pm

Volunteer Now

Your Village Needs You!!

Contact: Richard Harrison on 01285 771449

Lily Burden on 07775 778197

Sarah Fuchs on 07922 025209

In aid of

Watershed RDA, St Matthew's Church and Coates Community

BINGO Night

In aid of: Cirencester Housing for Young People

Rodmarton
Village Hall

**Bar & Refreshments Available.
Bring your own food**

**Saturday 29th April
Doors open at 7pm**

For further details contact:

**Neil: 07907 69 68 49
showerproof@mac.com**

NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

When all this happens the ghost of winter can be seen skulking off into the bushes at the foot of some steep, shady north-facing slope, and you suddenly realise that you're struggling to remember anything about the winter which has just past. Spring's rising makes it an irrelevance.

For the record, it was quite a reasonable winter (at least at the point of writing, in mid-February), staying within the parameters of the traditional Gloucestershire winter. Unless there was a sting in its tail, there were no nasty extreme weather events – ie no apocalyptic 'weather bombs' - and for once it wasn't too mild or too wet. We had cold spells at the start and end of December, in early and mid-January, and in mid-February. We even saw dustings of snow in mid-January and mid-February, the first since January 2015. Above all, it wasn't too wet, for once. In fact, it might have set the spring up rather nicely.

Over to you, Spring – it's all yours...

Matthew Oates

Music is Fun Jo Jingles™
Music, Singing & Movement for babies & children aged 3 months to 5 years
Mondays at
Coates Village Hall
9:30am - walking to 2yrs
10:30am - 3mths to walking
11:15am - 2yrs+
For details call Kim on 07933 651200
kimsjojingles@gmail.com
www.jojingles.com/centralglos

COATES PARISH COUNCIL

The next parish council meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 6 March at 7.30pm in the village hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Copies of minutes of the parish council meetings are available on the Coates parish council website at <http://www.coatesparish.org.uk/>

CALLING ALL COATES RESIDENTS!

Coates Annual Parish Meeting in Coates village hall on Monday 24 April 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

Apart from the normal business of the meeting there will be presentations on;

- **Watershed RDA**
- **RAU Beagles**
- **Coates Village Hall Trust**
- **Gloucestershire County Council during the last year**
- **Cotswold District Council during the last year**
- **Watershed Magazine**
- **Coates Parish Council Website**

The parish meeting is an opportunity for parishioners on the electoral roll for Coates to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community. If you wish to raise an issue at the meeting, please contact the clerk at clerk@coatesparish.org.uk

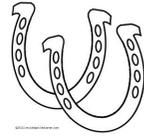
TRAINING TO USE SPEED CAMERAS

Would you like to help improve road safety in Coates. A number of volunteers are going to attend a training course to use hand held speed cameras to monitor speed of traffic through the village. If you would like to join us please contact Councillor Merrill by email at robertmerrill@coatesparish.org.uk or by phone on 07866 972389.



COATES VILLAGE HALL

Friday 10 March 7:30pm



"TALES FROM THE FORGE"

My life as a working farrier
By Bernard Tidmarsh

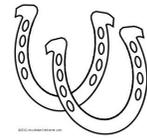


Bernard is one of the country's most well-known farriers, having shod for members of the royal family as well as the Duke of Beaufort, over whose land the world's famous Badminton 3 day event is run.



Tickets £5 to include a glass of wine/soft drink

Please contact Lorraine on 07840 739456, numbers limited



All proceeds to Watershed RDA Group Charity Number 1164924

THE GOOD COMPANIONS

The next meeting will be on Thursday 16 March at 2.30pm when we will be having our AGM followed by bingo, tea and a raffle. Please come ready to pay your annual subscriptions.

N Vizor



Raffle Tickets



NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

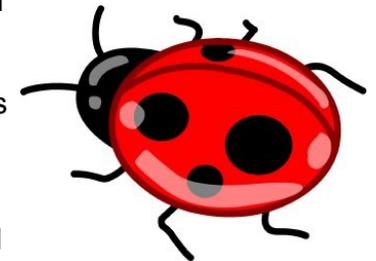
Peony growers should be careful not to cover the crowns with extra compost as these become too deep underground and the ability to bloom will diminish, but these do need a feed and soil improvement; so add compost carefully around the crown rather than on top. There is still time to prune roses and Viticella clematis; also feed these now just before they come into growth and again in a month's time. Make any repairs to lawns by sowing grass seed.

I have additional preparation, for now is the countdown to NGS Culkerton and Ashley open gardens, 10 this year. The grass will continue to be cut on a high setting, many more wild flowers are seeding into the grass areas especially primroses. The box hedges need a feed and a trim. I have many seedling foxgloves to plant out in my long border so I hope these will be in flower for mid-June so fingers crossed!

Sally Oates

SPRING LIFT-OFF DAY

It may have already happened, and you may have missed it, though I hope you haven't: I'm talking about the magical spell, lasting an hour or two, around this time of year, when spring suddenly lifts off. It begins mid-morning when the ladybirds and hibernating queen bumblebees all take to the air and head off sunwards in a whirr and a buzz, and the drone fly hoverflies awake. This usually happens around 11.30am GMT (or 12.30pm for rebellious folk like me who stay faithful to British Summer Time (BST) all-year-round).



You can see it coming: the larks ascend just before 10am (BST, or 9am your time), the rookeries get seriously worked up, the Mistle Thrush sings loud and clear, the celandines open up on mass, and the weather forecast indicates a day of warm sunshine, next to no wind, and a maximum temperature of at least 13°C for the first time in the year. An hour later, the yellow Brimstone butterflies leave the bramble, ivy or holly tangles in which they've been hibernating and begin their springtime wanderings, just for an hour or two, before they again bed down as the temperature drops.

NOTES FROM CULKERTON

GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

I like this month. The clocks return to summer time on the 12th, we have the Vernal Equinox on the 20th, and Mothering Sunday on the 26th. It is also St. Patrick's Day on the 17th and I have a lovely lemon yellow narcissus of the same name. As the weather conditions each year vary, so does the flowering time each year, as with Narcissus 'February Gold' (late show this year); will these be in bloom as the name implies?

March is also a very exciting time for fans of *Fritillaria imperialis* as the flowering stems now start emerging from the ground growing at a spectacular rate. My plants do regularly set seed in large beautiful pods, but self-sown seedlings are rare so these are best collected and sown in a free draining gritty mixture; germination is good from fresh seed the following spring, but they do take several more years to grow bulbs large enough to be planted out, so a long time in a nursery bed is required.

Daffodils are now well in season. Narcissus 'Pistachio' has caught my eye, creamy pale yellow with a green overlay on shaded petals, an artist's delight and growing to 30cm tall.

While giving the shrub beds in my garden a light winter tidy up I was delighted to find a hedgehog overwintering nest. This is the first one I have ever found and comprised of a bowl-shaped hollow about 15cm deep with a deep thatch of collected dried leaves, stems and grass from the surrounding border plants. Nestled under the evergreen leaves of a hardy fern. Although the nest was empty – apparently hedgehogs use several - the upper layers of the 'thatch' was very damp due to very heavy rain but the inside layers were quite dry. I felt sorry for disturbing the nest as I hadn't realised what it was at first, so I hope the hedgehog will use this again and I have added a large bunch of dried grass adjacent to the nest to make good any repairs.

Frogs should be in our pond and making an evening chorus. This is too late to disturb pond plants for division, I prefer to do this during the summer when the little froglets have left the pond and the water is warmer too!

Monthly tasks are to prepare plots, weeding, tilling, forking over, adding compost, allowing the ground too warm and making advance sowings inside. Clean greenhouse glass and keep well ventilated during the day, ideally from about 10am to 4pm.



Community Coffee, Cake and Chat
On the 3rd Tuesday each month
from 10.30am -12 noon
in Coates Village Hall. All welcome.



Tuesday 21 March



If anyone would like to join the team to help with this event or might like to bake a cake occasionally (you will be reimbursed £5 towards the cost) we would love to hear from you. Please either speak to one of the team on the day or contact Sarah on 771393. Many thanks.

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS PARKING



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

As part of the Council's budget proposals, motorists will be allowed to continue parking for free every day after 3 pm in the following car parks:

- Brewery Car Park Cirencester
- Forum Car Park Cirencester
- Church Street Tetbury
- West Street Tetbury

GREAT COTSWOLDS CLEAN UP COMPETITION

Building on the success of last year's 'Clean for the Queen' prize competition, the council is inviting community groups to clean up their neighbourhoods and possibly share in a £1,000 prize fund.

From Friday 3 March until Sunday 30 April, the council will be running a Great Cotswolds Clean up competition. Schools, community groups and other volunteers (such as brownies) are being encouraged to carry out a litter pick, take 'before' and 'after' photographs, and also give an indication of how they might sustain progress to continue reducing litter in their areas. The launch of the competition coincides with Keep Britain Tidy's Great British clean up weekend, and CDC has obtained thousands of branded sacks from the organisation to distribute to volunteer litter pickers.

There will be three prizes on offer in the CDC competition (£500 for first, £300 for second and £200 for third) and applying to enter couldn't be simpler – just email cdc@cotswold.gov.uk or call 01285 623123.



NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

THOUGHTS FROM FRAMPTON MANSELL

“Almost overnight comes gusty March and the first real rousing of Spring - a time of blustering alarms and nudging elbows...It is a bare world still, but a world of preparation...against the naked face of the countryside...Giant combs stir the woods, shaking out catkin and pussy willow - and the birds no longer hop singly about...but suddenly take wing and chase each other, clamouring with new intentions...the dawn songs of these birds are like drops of warm oil in the dark, liquid sounds that pour softly upon our deadened senses, healing us back to life..” (*Laurie Lee-from 'Other notes on the English Year'*)

And, in fact, we see some of these signs in February now as the world warms and the seasons move earlier. But in Frampton Mansell we have had to face a huge jolt as the seasons change. Our railway line, beloved and picturesque location of many a steam train's passing in the minds of some, has once again become the site of another untimely death.

This is not the place to discuss the reasons why, but rather to gently suggest that God is not the cause nor yet is he indifferent to all the suffering. The bible tells us to weep with those who weep* and Jesus himself wept at Lazarus's graveside before he called him forth and presaged his own resurrection**, and he conquered death and suffering on that first Easter day. From my experience, if we want him to, he will be with us at our own point of bereavement and pain- not necessarily to take them away, but to help us through them.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...He restores my soul... though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me...” (*from Psalm 23*).

*Romans 12:15 ** John 11:35

Forget-me-not

SERVICE AND COFFEE

We hold a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month, 7 March, at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell. The service will start at 11am with coffee and a natter at 11.30am. We would love to see you for either or both.

Want to know more?

Need a lift? Phone Pepita or Paul on 760211

healthwatch
Gloucestershire

Your independent champion in health and social care

Talk to Us

Need help finding information about local services?

Want to share a recent experience of health and social care services?

Need help to make a complaint about NHS services you have received?



Call us now!



Freephone 0800 652 5193

info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk

www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk

Local voices improving local health and social care



Cirencester Housing for Young People

Come and Play

BINGO

Saturday 29 April

Rodmarton Village Hall

In aid of Cirencester Housing for Young People

Bring your own food—bar available

Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start

Contact 841601 for more details & booking

(Rodmarton and Tarlton Children's Charity)

KEMBLE AND EWEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our next meeting will be held in Kemble village hall at 7pm on Thursday 16 March when the speaker Meg Blumsom from the Phoenix gardeners will talk to us about Gardening in the Community. New members/visitors male and female are very welcome.

We had some excellent fundraising in February for our institute with hosting a GFWI walk and serving lunches and providing breakfast in the village hall on a very cold Saturday morning. As we are only a small group this goes a long way to keeping us 'open'. Do join us and come as a visitor to one of our meetings. Just ring me for a programme.

Pat Ayres secretary 770385

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

FRAMPTON MANSELL RURAL CINEMA **I, Daniel Blake (15)**

Winner of the Palme D'Or at Cannes Film Festival

Fifty years since Ken Loach raged against homelessness in his television play 'Cathy Come Home', the British filmmaker has made a film infused with the same quiet but righteous anger about the failings of the society around him. 'I, Daniel Blake' is the story of an unlikely but tender friendship between Katie (Hayley Squires), a single mother from London with two kids, and Dan (Dave Johns), a Geordie carpenter in his late fifties who's out of work and recovering from a heart attack.

Tuesday 21 March at 7.30pm

Adults: £3.50, under 16: £2.50

Home made refreshments available



COME AND JOIN US!

At Kemble Primary School

Monday - Friday 8.45am – 12.45pm

(with an option to collect at 11.45am)

**Now also open Wednesday and Thursday
afternoons from 12.45pm – 2.45pm**

Open to all children aged 2 – 4

www.kembleplaygroup.co.uk

info@kembleplaygroup.co.uk

Find us on



SCHOOL TIES - SAPPERTON SCHOOL NEWS



Schools Out! And there have been many strange sightings around the School this month too!

Firstly, a row of besom brooms was found outside class 4 while several owls have been sighted in the cross-trees above class 3's form room. Strange mumblings have been heard on the (moving) staircase and a lot of noisy mangolds have been heard squabbling on the school allotment. What's going on you ask? Well the junior school is going to **Harry Potter Land!** Yes preparations are very advanced, spells are being rehearsed and there are many arguments over the finer points of *Quidditch* in the shadier areas of the playground! And we have been inundated with offers of help for trip day from many parents too – linguists, solicitors, retired sea-farers etc and even one very enthusiastic offer of first aid cover from a local accident and emergency ward! But that's all to come next month!

Right now, at half term, we have said a very fond farewell to Mrs Jo Wallace who leaves after 4 years teaching RE and Science at the school for a new life in Scotland. She will be missed and we all wish her well.

Elsewhere, Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 conducted a geography field trip and "Pooh Sticks" competition on the swollen River Frome, while Year 5 repeated the theme in the annual *Cotswold District Spirit of the Dance Festival* at the Bingham Hall. Despite many of the cast being laid below decks with tropical fever, as ever, the show had to go on and their river-based dance repertoire was received with great acclaim by a packed audience. Rumour has it that next year's performance might even include *the Hornpipe* – or is that just wishful thinking?

Flight Deck Hockey (Quicksticks) has also taken place at the flood-lit Deer Park pitch – on a very atmospheric and chilly winter evening – while indoor football tournaments - 2 in fact, one just for girls – have taken place in the (and I say "relatively") warmer conditions of the indoor Cirencester Football arena. All teams acquitted themselves very well and, once again, Sapperton braced its topsails to the challenges and set a fair wake for the others to follow.

And while all this has been going on in the junior school, at the other end of the playground another entry of pre-schoolers is gearing up for embarkation on their scholarly careers. Is it really that time of year, and has last year's entry developed into that hardy, seasoned crew we see in reception already? Time and tide waits for no man they say – so have a great half term and see you in March! **Molesworth**

NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON

QUIZ NIGHT SUCCESS

Our annual quiz was not only a super evening as usual, but also raised £1,190 for the churches of St Peter's, Rodmarton and St Osmund's, Tarlton. Many thanks indeed to all who came and helped to make it such a success. Particular thanks to our brilliant quiz masters, Wendy and David, for their generosity, skill, patience and humour in preparing another fantastic experience and keeping us all entertained with musical and brain-teasing delights. Our thanks also to Mary and Sophia for the massive task, yet again, of preparing the delicious supper for about 80 people, greatly appreciated and much enjoyed by all; and to Marian for kindly providing a lovely vegetarian dish. Congratulations also to our winning teams, and to the participants for their enthusiasm and for making it such an enjoyable evening.

RODMARTON CHILDREN'S CHURCH CHOIR

Forthcoming choir services all at 11am are:

26 March	Mothering Sunday
16 April	Easter Day

BINGO NIGHT

Rodmarton and Tarlton Children's Charity are raising funds for CHYP (Cirencester Housing for Young People) through a bingo night to be held on Saturday 29 April at Rodmarton village hall. Doors open at 7pm, and there will be a bar and refreshments. Bring your own food. For further details, contact Neil on 07907 696849 or by email showerproof@mac.com

RODMARTON MANOR

A tearoom assistant required to serve afternoon tea
and cake to visitors

Wednesday and Saturday afternoons May to September

Plus assisting with catering for groups at other times

If interested please call 841442 or

email: enquiries@rodmarton-manor.co.uk

