

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

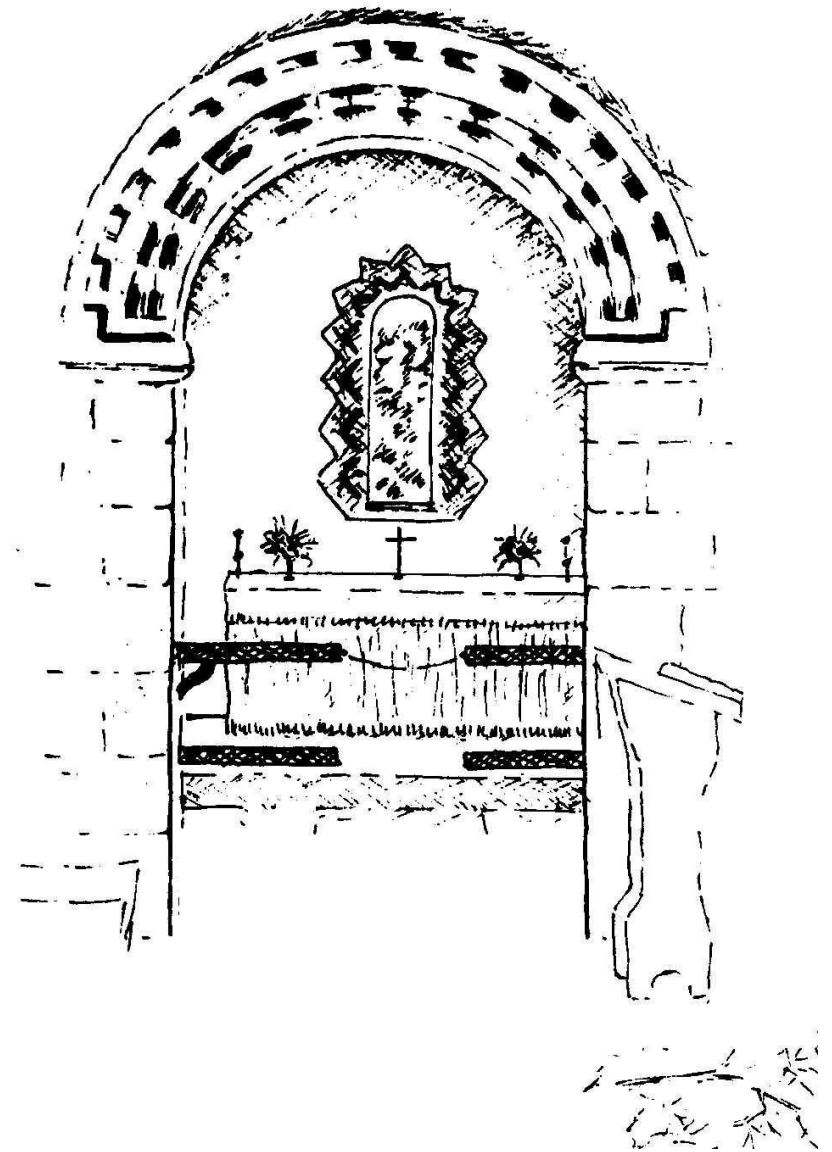
FEBRUARY

Tuesday 2	11am	Service and Coffee in Frampton Mansell
Wednesday 3	7.30pm	BEAT meeting in St Peter's Hall
Thursday 4	7.30pm	Coates Gardening Club
Saturday 6	7.30pm	Quiz Night in Rodmarton Village Hall
Tuesday 9		Intercession Group at The Blessings
Tuesday 9	7.30pm	Sapperton with Frampton Mansell Parish Council meeting in Frampton Mansell
Tuesday 16	10.30am	Community Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates Village Hall
Tuesday 16	11.55am	Mobile library visiting Coates
Tuesday 16	2pm	Kemble & Ewen WI meeting
Tuesday 16	7pm	Frampton Mansell Rural Cinema <i>Suffragette</i>
Thursday 18	2.30pm	Good Companions meeting
Thursday 25	2.30pm	Kemble & District RBL Women's Section meeting in Kemble Village Hall

MARCH

Thursday 3	7.30pm	Coates Gardening Club
Saturday 5	2 - 4pm	Farm Club at Watershed RDA
Monday 7	7.30pm	Coates parish council meeting
Tuesday 15	11.55am	Mobile library visiting Coates
Thursday 17	2.30pm	Good Companions AGM and Bingo

THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



February 2016

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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 Natalie Hunt 760421
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
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Watershed Intercession Group	Anne Chilton	770726
Coates Parish Council Chair	Bob Allen	771229
Coates Parish Council Clerk	Libby Harrison	07791 943822
Coates Gardening Club	Margaret Reynolds	771354
Coates Social Club secretary	Annabelle Crapper	770266
Coates Tree Warden	Geoffrey Moore	770869
Coates Village Hall	Susan PJ	770596
Coates Neighbourhood Watch	Liz Allen	07771 553061/771229
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 with FM PC Chair	Sarah Osborn-Smith	760874
Sapperton/FM PC Clerk	Kath Sanderson	760480
Sapperton/FM 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	John Chilton	770726
Good Companions	Betty Mixture	770569
Watershed RDA	Bob Merrill	771496
Watershed Farm Club	Liz Collins	770621
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
Lynn Saunders - Village Agent		07776 245 754
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MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

The mobile library visits Coates every 4 weeks. The visit for the next 2 months will be on Tuesday 16 February and 15 March between 11.55am and 12.55pm outside the village hall.

CLOSING DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY 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. **All articles should be submitted by 12 February 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.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

3 February

10am

7 February

9.30am

9.30am

11am

11am

11am

11am

3.30pm

10 February

10am

14 February

9.30am

9.30am

9.30am

11am

11am

11am

11am

17 February

10am

21 February

9.30am

9.30am

9.30am

11am

11am

11am

28 February

8am

9.30am

9.30am

9.30am

11pm

11am

11am

6pm

Midweek Wednesday

Kemble

Holy Communion

Last Sunday before Lent

Kemble

Holy Communion

Coates

Holy Communion

Poole Keynes

Family Service

Somerford Keynes

Morning Prayer

Rodmarton

Holy Communion

Sapperton

Family Holy Communion

Kemble

Messy church

Midweek Wednesday

Kemble

Holy Communion

First Sunday of Lent

Coates

Holy Communion

Kemble

Family Service

Poole Keynes

Holy Communion

Tarlton

Holy Communion

Somerford Keynes

Holy Communion

Rodmarton

Mattins

Frampton Mansell

Holy Communion

Midweek Wednesday

Kemble

Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Lent

Kemble

Morning Prayers

Coates

Family Service

Frampton Mansell

Family Service

Poole Keynes

Morning Prayers

Somerford Keynes

Family Service

Rodmarton

Holy Communion (BCP)

Third Sunday of Lent

Tarlton

Holy Communion (BCP)

Kemble

Morning Prayers

Coates

Holy Communion

Poole Keynes

Holy Communion

Somerford Keynes

Holy Communion

Rodmarton

Family Service

Frampton Mansell

Holy Communion

Kemble

The Source

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTORY

We British need little encouragement to talk about the weather but it has been a funny winter so far, very warm and wet tending to soggy with barely a frost worth the name. We have autumn and spring flowers out at the same time and I have seen wildlife reports worrying about species that hibernate because they are confused by the weather but the right food is not available. Perhaps such things don't matter much to us with our global economy but I can't help feeling there will be a price to pay somehow for all this.

It is the same with politics isn't it. The German decision to open the borders to refugees for understandable reasons is having repercussions across Europe. The political fanfare of presidential hopefuls in the USA is being led by Mr Trump who seems to be anti almost everyone who doesn't think just like him and yet the polls suggest he might win the Republican nomination and maybe the Presidency. God help us! Whilst the USA lurches to the right over here the Labour party have certainly leapt to the left and the recession seems to have led to a similar polarisation in much of Europe as the South struggles with economic recession and the North with immigration. I can't help feeling there will be a price to pay in the world for all of this.

I also can't help feeling that it mostly stems from the same source. Industrialisation has led to humanity treating the world as something to consume rather than nurture and tend as we would a garden and which was God's instruction to Adam and Eve at the beginning of humanities reign. Global warming is a consequence of a world industrialisation that was either ignorant or careless of the consequences. Changes in weather patterns have led to erratic weather across the globe with some places (usually in the undeveloped nations) suffering droughts and floods adding to political havoc and displacing populations as they seek to escape from the hopeless economic deprivation around them. In some developed countries of course there is a need to hold on to what they gained economically and politically as a result of industrialisation. Building a wall against Mexico (and expecting them to pay for it) is 'get of my land' NIMBYism on a national scale.

How are these two things the same? Essentially economic migration is about someone else having something you want, at its very lowest level, survival. Self-interest is the driving force. Protectionism as put forward by Mr Trump is about a refusal to share something you have



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control of except by your rules which will always ensure your dominance. This too is self-interest.

When Jesus died on the cross it was not about self-interest, it was about sacrificial love; true love seeks the good of the beloved. These days being religious is often seen as suspicious or irrelevant but the lightest observance of human nature reveals a deeply selfish heart, the space between Incarnation (Christmas) and self-sacrifice and resurrection (Easter) is a good time to reflect on the meaning of life and what is really important to us, what we truly hope for. Jesus said we need to love all others as we love ourselves; the world is clearly not very good at doing that.

With love and prayers

Trevor Kemp

Rector

RIP

Peter Tacon Russell aged 90 who died peacefully on Friday 15 January in Gloucester Hospital. Peter and Virginia have been residents in Coates for over 27 years. Our thoughts are with the family.

www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk

We are delighted to announce the arrival of the new Thameshead Benefice Website!

Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, starting out at church or already a member or if you just want to know more, there is something for everyone.

PRAYERS IN THE BENEFICE

- ◆ Wednesdays at Kemble at 10am (Holy Communion)
- ◆ Tuesdays at Kemble at 8.30am
- ◆ Fridays at Rodmarton at 9.15am
- ◆ Saturdays at Somerford Keynes (first Saturday in the month only)

NEWS FROM COATES

NEWS FROM ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

Happy New Year! It was lovely to see the church so well attended at our Christmas services and we are most grateful for your generosity. It makes a huge difference to our funds.

Upcoming events

Everyone is welcome at all these events:

Tuesday 9 February - Intercession group with said communion by extension followed by tea and cake at Anne Chilton's house (The Blessings - down Dark lane, next to Bledisloe). Call Anne on 770726.

Tuesday 16 February 10.30am - 12 noon - Coates Community Coffee and Cake in the village hall. Call Sarah on 771393.

Saturday 5 March 2 - 4 pm - Farm Club at the Rectory. Call Liz on 770621.

Sunday 6 March - Mothering Sunday Service.

Sunday 27 March - Easter Day Service.

The church has new lights over the entrance gates and also a new locking device on the front door much to the relief of all who have been on our regular church locking team! We are hoping to install a loo in the churchyard in time.

Our monthly family services have seen lots of children involved, whether reading, acting or playing music. Watch this space for an Animal Service in the spring!

Many thanks to all those of you who help in so many ways. We are always grateful for more volunteers whether doing flowers, cleaning the church, doing DIY or tidying up the church yard. It can be a great way to get to know more people in the village.

Please do feel free to contact any of us with your thoughts.

Anne Chilton on 770726, Sarah Fuchs on 771393, Liz Collins on 770621, Julie Allen on 07704892029, Sue Russell on 770797 or Sally Beach on 771228.

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.

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or email simon.johnson@tiscali.co.uk

COATES PARISH COUNCIL

The latest Coates Parish Council meeting took place on 5 January 2016 and the following items were discussed:

1. Repairs to equipment in the play area are to be arranged when the weather improves.
2. Dog fouling continues to be a problem in the village and residents are asked to use the dog waste bins provided at various points in the village.
3. The parish council supports marking the Queen's 90th birthday in 2016 and has made provision of a small budget for celebrations.
4. Road signs in Coates and surrounding areas are to be cleaned and tidied.
5. Parish council representatives will discuss the proposed changes to public transport in Coates with district council staff and transport providers in the near future.

The next Coates Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 7 March 2016 in the village hall at 7.30 pm.

Libby Harrison Coates Parish Clerk

COATES HAS A NEW WEBSITE

Add www.coatesparish.org.uk to your favourites now so it's easy to keep in touch with news and events in Coates.

- Would you like to publicise an event that you are organising?
- Would you like to promote a service that you can offer?
- Want to know what is discussed at the parish council?
- Ever wondered about hiring the village hall?
- New to the village?

Explore the website to find out about village history and local facilities. How else could the website help you? Got a village photo that would look good on the website? Send your ideas to: info@coatesparish.org.uk.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 18 February at 2.30pm in Coates village hall when a representative from Age Concern will give advice on what help is available from them. This will be followed by a light hearted quiz if there is time and we will finish with a raffle and refreshments. Our AGM will be held on Thursday 17 March when subscriptions will be due and a committee elected for the coming year. We are an over 55s club meeting most months and welcome new members.

COATES VILLAGE LOTTERY

The ninth draw of this year's Coates Village Hall lottery took place on 4 December and the tenth on 8 January at the Family Day. There were 52 participants. Prizes were awarded as follows:-

First prize	£50 to no 51	Jeanne Wilkinson
Second prize	£30 to no 59	Jeanette Chipping
Third prize	£20 to no 68	Liz James

First prize	£50 to no 52	Thomas Russell
Second prize	£30 to no 24	Dee Perks
Third prize	£20 to no 26	Annabelle Crapper

The next draw will take place on 5 February.

Please remember that new subscribers are always welcome.

Subscriptions cost £4 per month, for any number of months from one to the number of remaining months in that year. Forms are available from Diana Crane, Betty Mixture, Ron Smith or Michael Vaughan. The next draw will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 5 February at the village hall if there is a Family Day, or at the Old School if there is no Family Day. All are welcome to attend.

Diana Crane

COATES GARDENING CLUB

The year's programme will begin on Thursday 4 February at 7.30pm in Coates village hall with Sue Albone telling the story of an Australian Garden for Chelsea 2015 – a garden designed and built by her son Charlie. Sue will give an insight into the many complexities of competing at the Chelsea Flower Show. Visitors are always very welcome (£2.50) and there will be a raffle and refreshments to follow.

We will meet again on Thursday 3 March when Sue Dodd will talk on Gardening for Butterflies and Moths then on Thursday 7 April we will welcome Fiona Reynolds to speak on Gardens, Gardening and Plant Conservation.

If you are sowing seeds in the next few weeks, please remember that our annual plant sale will be held on the morning of Saturday 21 May. Annuals and runner beans in particular are always sought after.

Margaret Reynolds 771354

KEMBLE AND DISTRICT RBL WOMEN'S SECTION

Sadly I have to report the passing of two loyal and dedicated members who supported the branch over many years, namely Mrs Beatrice (Bet) Napper and Mrs Pamela Stewart. These two ladies were neighbours in Windmill Road, Kemble for many years before Pam and husband moved to the OAP bungalows in Abbots Way. They remained dear friends and it was poignant that they died within a few weeks of one another; Bet aged 98 and Pam 83.

The one most important asset to any voluntary group or organization is to have someone to be in charge of the teapot and both Bet and Pam could be found the village hall kitchen in the years gone by. Both attended church in the past and all the activities associated with the church, fetes, Young Wives and Mother's Union. Bet's trademark ginger cakes were the best ever.

On Thursday 25 February in Kemble village hall at 2.30pm the speaker for our meeting will be Angie Abingdon, a TV extra. Come along and hear what Angie has to say. She travels around the country from Kemble appearing in all sorts of TV productions.

Membership for the year costs just £8.50. Delicious refreshments are served at our meetings and visitors welcome for a small donation.

Pat Ayres poppy area organizer 770385

CIRENCESTER EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

The local team will be on hand for the monthly meeting to be held on Wednesdays 3 February which takes place in St Peter's Lounge, St Peter's Court, St Peter's Road, Cirencester from 7.30 - 9pm.

With the national eating disorders awareness week taking place in February, the speaker at Kemble and Ewen WI on Tuesday 16 February at 2pm in Kemble village hall is Joanne Croxford president of the Cambridge Blue Belles W I in Cambridge.

Joanne is a dedicated NHS worker, a green-thumbed goddess and a recovering drug addict. She was a binge eater/over eater; she has tattoos. Come and hear how she turned her life around. Joanne was in the WI tea tent in Glastonbury last year serving tea and homemade cake to hungry revellers.

Please feel free to call me for a chat anytime; if the answerphone kicks in I will ring you back at my earliest convenience.

Further details about the group in confidence can be obtained from Pat 01285 770385.

NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

In my (wife's) garden I recorded 43 major types of plant in flower on New Year's Day (including weeds, not that there were many of course). The previous record was 30 and in most years I record 20-25 types. They were mostly spring plants, some of which were out seriously early, notably our Banksia rose (which normally flowers in late April) and the wallflowers.

Normally, moth enthusiasts hibernate during December, comatose probably. This winter, they've remained fully active and have recorded a remarkable number of moth species, including a number of rare migrants from as far afield as Africa, brought here on southerly winds. Over 60 specimens of one small but distinctive moth (with no English name) appeared here during December. Previously, only seven specimens had been recorded. This means that the bats have remained active too, as there's been a fair amount of bat food flying about.

Locally, caterpillars of the rare Marsh Fritillary butterfly emerged from hibernation at their only Gloucestershire site, near Oakridge, on January 5th – some twenty days early. If it snows, they'll just go back into hibernation, they're fairly bomb proof.

Crucially, the Rooks, for whom I have a high regard, have not been fooled. They have not started building their rookeries.

We need winter, and we need it now – otherwise May will happen in March.

Matthew Oates

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NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

TALKING TO MYSELF

By the time you read this Christmas will be over and almost forgotten, New Year's resolutions may also have been forgotten. It may be cold and miserable with icy roads. What, if anything, is there to look forward to? We saw many sadnesses in 2015; the attacks in Paris, the plight of refugees, thousands fleeing from a life of misery; a small child dead on a beach. And no doubt in your personal life there have been sadnesses, a death in the family; serious illness; failed examinations. I could go on. We could continue to dwell on such things but we should also remember the good things that have occurred. Marriages, births, the earth coming to life in the spring, flowers and trees breaking into bud and the grain filling in the fields. Things we take for granted but all are life's little miracles.

Over the Christmas season we have watched small children enthralled by the baby in a manger; gazing in wonder as they hold a Christingle. Isn't it sad that as we grow older we sometimes lose this sense of wonder? Maybe we are just so busy preparing for the festivity that we do not have any time to pause and reflect.

Life can overtake us if we are not careful – so many things to do. This year I hope to make more time to be quiet, to pause and let life speak to me rather than telling it what to do. I am giving no guarantees that I will succeed but!

SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL CAROL SINGING

Many thanks to all who supported the carol singing - both vocally and financially. We have been able to send just under £212 to the Save the Children Fund.



SERVICE AND COFFEE

We are holding a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month, 2 February, 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.



**FRAMPTON MANSELL RURAL CINEMA
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in

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on Tuesday 16 February at 7.30pm

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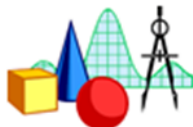
Would it help if they could understand some topics better?

Do you feel they could speed up with a bit more practice?

Wouldn't it be good for them to feel confident about Maths, not just for exams but for life?

If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes", then call Rosemary Bailey on 01285 770278 to find out how I can help.

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NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

apples, Sorbus cashmiriana & Sorbus villmorinii, Roses 'Shot Silk', 'Madame Alfred Carriere' and 'Albertine', Clematis tangutica and alpines.

February is a great month to read about gardening. If you haven't already made her acquaintance, may I introduce Marjorie Fish, a knowledgeable plants woman, with a great sense of humour.

Wet & mild weather during this 'winter' has caused delays in weeding, pruning, and renovation/re-designing garden projects but there still time! However keep off the ground if wet or frosty, weed if dry and mild, and plant broad beans.

A good winter flowering plant is Vinca difformis. This does need space to run about and thrives when planted on banks. The arching stems are sprinkled with flowers for months; pink 'Ruby Baker' and white 'Snowmound' are good cultivars.

Watch and enjoy visiting wildlife.

Sally Oates

WHERE'S WINTER?

At last something approximating to winter has arrived – after the mildest and wettest December on record and a mild start to the New Year. Nights have been positively balmy. Indeed, one of the key features of December 2015 was the harmony between day and night temperatures. We had only three frosts in November and two in December.

The Met Office says that December was twice as warm as the December average for the last 35 years, levelling out at 8°C as opposed to the 35 year mean of 4°C. This is the greatest monthly temperature anomaly they've recorded, and in meteorological terms is actually more significant than the record rainfall figures. If we were to get the equivalent temperature anomaly in June we'd have an average June temperature of 40°C as opposed to 20°C and the roads would melt!

The impact on nature has been amazing, though the incessant rain and saturated ground actually held many things back. By Jan 7th I had recorded all the early signs of spring I look out for in January, and some of February's too. Most of them were ticked off in December – Hazel catkins, Primrose, Snowdrop, daffodils, crocus, Great Tit calling, Mistle Thrush singing, etc.

NOTES FROM CULKERTON

GARDENING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Turning the clocks back for winter just doesn't suit me so I left the house clocks alone and rely on my own body clock. I'm a lark and enjoy the first light breaking through the morning skies. At the moment as I type this, appearing are beautiful shades of indigo from deep smoky black, dark ultramarine through to pale stone washed denim.

There are only so many daylight hours. Last year I made a study of this in relation to my garden most of which faces due south. A smaller plot is behind the house facing north and initially this was just a utilitarian area for a shed and washing line. But over the years it has changed in value and I'm finally getting to grips with the advantages the plot has to offer. The limitations of this plot are the exposure to biting north and east winter winds and lack of winter sun. In fact by making a study of the daylight hours and making observations I was astounded to find that no sunlight reached the plot for five months, from mid October to mid March. However, by midsummer with the sun higher in the sky this plot was equal to the main garden.

Now a make-over in the north plot is well under way, and fine tuning is the next phase. The washing line moved south many years ago, the shed was re-homed last year making space for a romantic al fresco gravel surfaced area under a mature apple tree, with views of wonderful sunsets across the open fields. The planting has changed or been amended over the years too. Some plants are tough and hardy, others are tried as an experiment, and a few succeed as a complete surprise!

The tough & hardy; honeysuckles both climbing and shrubby, cyclamen, bluebells, ferns, euphorbias, hostas, hellebores, chaenomeles and box, used in a combination of hedges, specimen shrubs with an under-planting of bulbs and perennials. As an experiment skimmia, phlox, astrantia, aquilegia, lily of the valley, primroses, pittosporum, and pots of blueberries are all growing well. A complete surprise! Mallow moschata, buddleja, and Ranunculus aciaticus are all sun lovers, but will obviously tolerate complete shade during the colder months.

Over the years, particularly during building work, some plants are lost. These have been good garden plants through our unpredictable weather and giving their best, so on my 'must plant again list' are flowering cherries, especially Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis', crab

SCHOOL TIES - SAPPERTON SCHOOL NEWS



School's Out! Well actually it's not – the wet weather is keeping everyone very much inside but, no matter, the new night storage heaters make the classrooms very snug and the view across the valley is probably best appreciated through the rain-streaked windows at this time of year anyway.

We are now well into the swing of the spring academic terms with Breakfast and After School Clubs now back up and underway and swimming classes (one sport that can still be enjoyed in relative comfort) taking place for years 2, 3 & 4. For those of you who are unaware, the early morning Breakfast Club runs from 8am and a wide range of after school clubs and other activities run from the end of the school day until 5pm (4.30pm on Fridays) and can be enjoyed by all children (and busy parents) throughout the term. Please see Mrs B in the Harbour Master's Office for enrolment and further details.

This year, the school is also offering German Conversation as a new subject on Friday evenings, drawing on Mrs Hutchison's recent experiences on the continent, and complementing Mrs Barry's French Conversation class which is being held (as usual) on Tuesday evenings. Quite amazing: as the UK faces a potential BREXIT poll later this year Sapperton is getting ever more European! Elsewhere, and by kind agreement with Mr Bunting, the school is continuing to fund Ukele lessons for Year 4 (you may recall the ensemble performed to a very high standard at the Nativity Play) – so there really is something for everyone.

Oh yes, swimming; while on this subject, the school team (Years 5 & 6), came second in the Local Schools' Gala during the first week of term which portends an excellent start to the sporting year. Looking ahead, the next big event, which will hopefully cement this theory, will be the Small Schools Football competition in March in which Sapperton has done very well of recently. Watch this space for coaching and results news.....

Talking of outdoor activities, the school also held a Photographic Workshop on 8 January courtesy of a Mr Ian Green, during which the rain held off for most of the day and the wellington-clad Juniors were able to wander around the local lanes photographing rare fungi and surprising some rather sodden sheep (that's die Schafe or les moutons for those of you attending After School Clubs). We are all keenly awaiting the results from this intrepid expedition and are wondering who will be the next David Attenborough. Roll on spring!

**NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON,
CULKERTON AND HAZLETON**

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

St Peter's Church has been without church bells for a long time and it was decided to restore them (there are three). To this end a few fund-raising events were held, including a fun bingo evening, and many donations were given towards the appeal. We also received generous support for the campaign from several official bodies and to the delight of all involved the target was reached in pretty short order. The first celebratory ring, after the work was completed, rang out on Friday 13 November 2015 and when the peals were heard, there was joy all around the village. On New Year's Eve, whilst the new-to-the-job ringers toiled away in the church, about thirty people of all ages congregated on the green to see in the New Year along with a glass of champagne. We are thrilled with the outcome and the bells are rung before each service; moreover, the bell-ringers are getting more proficient by the day.

Susie Esmond Rees



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6 March

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