

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

Saturday 2	10am	Coates Litter Pick
Tuesday 5	11am	Service and Coffee in Frampton Mansell
Thursday 7	7.30pm	Coates Gardening Club <i>Gardens, Gardening and Plant Conservation</i>
Tuesday 12	11.55am	Mobile library visiting Coates
Tuesday 12	7.30pm	Sapperton with Frampton Mansell Parish Council meeting in Frampton Mansell
Monday 18	7.30pm	Coates Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 19	7pm	Frampton Mansell Rural Cinema <i>The Lady in the Van</i>
Thursday 21	2.30pm	Good Companions meeting

MAY

Tuesday 3	7.30pm	Coates Parish Council meeting
Thursday 5	7.30pm	Coates Gardening Club
Saturday 7	8.30am	Women's Breakfast Kemble Village Hall
Saturday 7	7pm	Bingo in Rodmarton Village Hall
Tuesday 10	11.55am	Mobile library visiting Coates
Tuesday 10	7pm	Sapperton with Frampton Mansell Parish Council AGM in Sapperton
Saturday 14	1pm	Cotswold Highland Games and Dog Show
Saturday 21		Coates Gardening Club Plant Sale
Saturday 21	7.30pm	Coates Quiz Night

JUNE

Saturday 4		Rodmarton & Tarlton Fiesta
Tuesday 14	7.30pm	Sapperton with Frampton Mansell Parish Council meeting in Frampton Mansell
Saturday 18	7.45pm	<i>Midsummer Medley</i> in Rodmarton Village Hall

THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



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April 2016

RECTOR

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

CURATE (Non-stipendiary)

Rev David Austin 860692
davidreaustin@hotmail.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 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
Watershed Treasurer	Janet Loines	841578
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
Coates Resilience plan agents	John Birch	770360/07989946224
	David Lattimore	771006/07836511011

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Paul Atkinson 771190 – 07890 642360
paulatkin41@tiscali.co.uk

MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

The mobile library visits Coates every 4 weeks. The visits for the next 2 months will be on Tuesday 12 April and 10 May between 11.55am and 12.55pm outside the village hall.

CLOSING DATE FOR THE MAY 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 April 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

Second Sunday of Easter

3 April	9.30am	Kemble	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Coates	Holy Communion
	11am	Poole Keynes	Family Service
	11am	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
	11am	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
	11am	Sapperton	Holy Communion

6 April Midweek Wednesday

10am	Kemble	Holy Communion
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11 April Third Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Kemble	Family Service
9.30am	Coates	Holy Communion
9.30am	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11am	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11am	Rodmarton	Mattins
11am	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion

13 April Midweek Wednesday

10am	Kemble	Holy Communion
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17 April Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Kemble	Morning Prayers
9.30am	Coates	Family Service
9.30am	Frampton Mansell	Family Service
11am	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayers
11am	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayers
11am	Rodmarton	Holy Communion (BCP)

20 April Midweek Wednesday

10am	Kemble	Holy Communion
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24 April Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am	Tarleton	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Kemble	Morning Prayers
9.30am	Coates	Morning Prayers
9.30am	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11pm	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11am	Rodmarton	Family Service
11am	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayers

27 April Midweek Wednesday

10am	Kemble	Holy Communion
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REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTORY

As some of you will know my wife recently had knee replacement surgery. We were truly touched not just by the prayer support from so many but by the practical help we were given (especially more than a whole week of suppers to save the Vicar from learning to cook properly). I can manage of course but it was a real blessing from an emotional and spiritual perspective as well as the very practical one of enjoying the gastronomic gifts. I am very grateful for all that we received, not least because of the hours of preparation and cooking I was saved and had expected to need to find and for the far more varied and healthy diet we enjoyed. In the end though this was not the greatest gift but rather it was the feeling of being valued, cared for and supported that was for me the most significant gift we received.

We are now entering the last part of Lent as we prepare to remember again the story of Jesus arrest, crucifixion and resurrection, as part of this story in Matthew 25, shortly before his arrest Jesus speaks of the final judgement and that is all about how we have fulfilled the commandment to love others as we love ourselves. How do we respond to the needs of others? This is a fundamental question of Christian faith for Jesus died for all of us (even if we choose to reject the gift) and he dies because he loves all of us (even if we reject his love). I sense that within the gifts we received I have learned something new of this scripture and the need to allow others to minister God's grace to us. Jesus said as you do this for the least member of my family you did it to me. This says something profound about God's relationship with his creation, that the creator of the universe is aware of the needs of all and of the responses of all to those needs and that at the final judgement we will be held to account for our actions or lack of them. It is personal to God and our actions reveal our priorities, as St. James said words without actions are not a life changed by faith.

As we move on from Easter to celebrate the wonder of resurrection and the joy of the Holy Spirit how will we respond? How will we listen to God? Will we allow ourselves to continue the process of transformation so that we reflect more of the nature of God in our lives? Jesus is Good News because he brings a new grace and because he calls us into a new life and a new love. You may remember what it was like to fall in love, the desire to see, to hear, to be with this person you love, It should be like that with God, the more we seek to be with him the more wonderful we will discover he is and the more lovable we will discover we are.



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Finally I would like to thank all who supported my son on his charity walk for Blind Veterans UK for whom you raised £280. Thank you.

With love and prayers

Trevor Kemp

Rector

Saturday 7 May 2016

Kemble Village Hall

8.30am

Women's Breakfast

With guest speaker

Amy Boucher Pye

Booking in advance essential

Tickets cost £10 including breakfast and can be obtained from Elaine Kemp 01285 770550 The Rectory

Coates email: office@thamesheadchurches.org

or booked on the Thameshead Benefice Website

www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk

There's no place like Home

In our adventure with God, one of the greatest gifts we can receive is finding our home and our Homemaker. But what is home and how can we find, make and create it?

Join Amy Boucher Pye - an American who has made her home in Britain for nearly 20 years - as we explore how we are all citizens searching for home, no matter whether we find ourselves thousands of miles from the land of our birth or we've lived in the same village all our lives.

Amy Boucher Pye is the Author of *Finding Myself in Britain: Our search for Faith, Home and True Identity* (Authentic Media:2015) She enjoys writing devotional thoughts for *Our Daily Bread* and *Day by Day with God* as well as running the *Woman Alive Magazine* book club.

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)
- ♦ 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

COATES VILLAGE LOTTERY

The latest draw of this year's Coates Village Hall lottery took place on 4 March. Prizes were awarded as follows:-

First prize	£50 to no 39	Fiona Sanders
Second prize	£30 to no 58	Sue Russell
Third prize	£20 to no 59	Jeanette Chipping

This was the penultimate draw of the lottery year; the last draw, with an extra bumper prize, will be made at 7.30pm on 8 April, at The Old School. All are welcome to attend. Registration for next year's lottery will be opening immediately after the last draw is taken. If you have held a number this year, you will be offered the opportunity to continue subscribing under your old number. Leaflets will be distributed around the village with information on the amount raised this year, what it has been spent on and needs for the next year.

Additional leaflets will be available from Diana Crane at The Old School, Betty Mixture at 2 Home Piece and other village hall trustees and volunteers. We are always keen to increase our support and would like to see more members of the community taking part - the village hall is for us all.

Diana Crane

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COATES PARISH COUNCIL

The Coates parish council meeting took place on Monday 7 March 2016 with 16 members of the public and invited guests.

The following issues were discussed:

1. Cirencester Development. Patrick Moylan from Save our Cirencester was invited to the meeting to give a presentation on the challenges faced by Cotswold District Council proposals to develop the Chesterton area with up to 2,350 new houses. The parish council will be submitting its comments on this planning application covering the Coates related issues of: effects on quality of life, pollution, traffic problems and health services access.
2. The Bathurst Estate has requested to divert some Cotswold Show 2016 traffic through Coates between 10.30 am - 12.30 pm on 2 & 3 July. The parish council has set a number of restrictions on this request and agreed to trial the diversion on a one year basis.
3. Coates Lane Garages. Bromford Housing Association has approached the parish council with a view to the council taking over ownership of the site. Talks remain on-going but the parish council and residents in attendance at the meeting agreed that there was no advantage to this action.
4. The play area has seen a number of repairs to ensure health and safety requirements are met.
5. Dog fouling remains a problem in the village and dog owners are asked to use the dog poo bins situated at various locations in the village.
6. A village litter pick will be organised for 2 April 2016.
7. The Coates parish website may be used by local residents to advertise events, businesses and services. Currently there is no cost for this service.

The **Coates Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on Monday 18 April 2016 in the village hall at 7.30pm. The main speaker will be Mr Edward Allsop, resident agent for the Bathurst Estate who will talk on the work of the Bathurst Estate in Coates.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Tuesday 3 May 2016 in the village hall at 7.30pm. Minutes from the meeting on 7 March 2016 will be published on the Coates parish website from the beginning of April 2016 - www.coatesparish.co.uk

Libby Harrison - Coates Parish Clerk

Coates Quiz Night
Saturday 21 May 2016
7.30 for 8pm
Teams of 6 £1 per person
To book a table please contact Liz Allen
lizallen@hotmail.co.uk/771229

COATES GARDENING CLUB

On Thursday 7 April at 7.30pm in Coates village hall, Dame Fiona Reynolds will speak to us on Gardens, Gardening and Plant Conservation. Do come along to hear her. The charge for visitors is £2.50 and there will be a raffle and refreshments to follow Fiona's talk.

Our meeting on 5 May cannot be held in the village hall because of the election for a Police Commissioner, so we will meet at Aspen House, Coates at the kind invitation of Philippa Moore – further details will be announced.

Then on Saturday morning 21 May, we will hold our traditional annual Plant Sale. This is an opportunity to bring along surplus plants and seedlings and to buy from the wide choice available. Coffee will be served and there will be a stall of homemade cakes. Please put this date in your diary.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 21 April at 2.30pm in Coates village hall. Bill Eteson will sing some popular songs for us followed by a raffle and refreshments. We are an over 55s group and would welcome new members.

Betty Mixture

COATES LITTER CLEAN UP

The annual Coates Litter Clean Up is on Saturday 2 April. If you would like to help, please come to the village hall car park at 10am where we will provide work gloves, bags, hi-vis jackets and litter pick sticks, and consult you on which locations you would be prepared to do. It is up to you how long you spend litter picking. Last year all enjoyed tidying up our surroundings.

All full litter bags are collected from the car park by the Cotswold District Council afterwards.

Geoff Moore 01285 770869



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Monday - Friday 8.45am – 12.45pm

(with an option to collect at 11.45am)

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9:30am - walking to 2yrs
10:30am - 3mths to walking
11:15am - 2yrs+



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CIRENCESTER EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

The local team will be on hand for the monthly meeting to be held on Wednesday 6 April which takes place in St Peter's Lounge, St Peter's Court, St Peter's Road, Cirencester from 7.30 - 9pm.

During February the national awareness month both events the group was involved in the joint WI meeting and assisting Cirencester college students with their lunchtime tombola in aid of the National funds, again highlighted the need of awareness and funding.

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.

DO YOU HAVE A BIKE THAT YOU NO LONGER USE?

If so, the Rotary Club of Cirencester collects bikes on behalf of education charity jole rider, The Bike Shed, Tetbury, who renovate them and send to schools in Africa.

Contact David Lattimore on 01285 771006 to arrange collection.



HRH THE QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday 21 April Kemble and Ewen will be joining in with the national/district lighting of a beacon/bonfire. This will be sited in the field just past the Tavern pub. Ann and Phil will put on a suitable menu of food. To assist with the costs of Kemble and Ewen's Royal afternoon tea and entertainment in May at the bonfire night there will be a Crown cut-out which will be mounted on a table when it is hoped residents will save from NOW their loose change so that they can fill the crown in with 'HEADS UP' coins.

KEMBLE AND DISTRICT RBL WOMEN'S SECTION

Standards and members can be on parade for the annual Anzac day service taking place at Leighterton Cemetery near Tetbury on Sunday 24 April at 3pm. Muster will be at 2.15pm at the school. Parking is tight so be early to get a space near. Observers very welcome to this most meaningful occasion.

Pat Ayres 770385

NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

A THOUGHT FROM FRAMPTON MANSELL BY 'FORGET-ME-NOT.'

Are you somebody who plays April Fool tricks on friends and family? I expect not, but I am afraid that in my younger days I had quite a bad reputation for my pranks. Probably the worst was when I persuaded our vicar (aptly named Rev. Humble) that he had been selected to enter a 'Mr Personality' contest. Another time I convinced one of my students that a girl from Portugal he had been corresponding with since he met her at a youth conference was about to arrive with her extended family in tow, all needing to be accommodated. He was so relieved to find out that it was a joke that I was forgiven immediately. The bible has quite a lot to say about fools, mostly negative, such as "The Fool says in his heart, 'There is no God,'" (Psalm 14:1) or "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise", (Proverbs 13:15)

But on the other hand, Jesus warns us against calling anyone else a fool and Paul, in fact, says that "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are headed for destruction." and that "God has chosen the foolish things of this world to shame the wise."* In other words, those who are not considered very wise and important in the eyes of society but are rich in faith are often selected to be his messengers, just as Jesus chose fishermen and a tax collector to be his followers, rather than those with a great intellectual reputation. I always remember a dear old man, wearing old-fashioned workman's black leather boots, who sat in the corner of the room at a bible study group I briefly attended with a couple of my school friends when we were studying for 'A' level RE. We foolishly thought we knew a thing or two, but after we had finished trying to put the group to rights with our head knowledge, his simple utterances silenced us. He knew God in a way that we didn't and his deep personal faith strengthened through years of walking with the Lord, day by day, was the real thing. Later, after struggling with some highly intellectual liberal theology, I came to see that what was actually needed was a humble personal faith in the Lord Jesus which was available for everyone - a four year-old child or a person with Down's Syndrome could grasp what needed to be spiritually, not intellectually discerned. And how else could it be? A faith that is not available to all is surely not valid for anyone. Yet at

the same time, the biblical truths are so profound that they are satisfying to those gifted with a high intellect like C S Lewis, Blaise Pascal or many modern scientists and thinkers.

So isn't it great that because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, there is hope for us all?

* See I Corinthians chapter 1.

FRAMPTON MANSELL RURAL CINEMA

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the indomitable MAGGIE SMITH in

The Lady in the Van (12a)

on Tuesday 19 April at 7.30pm

(Doors open at 7pm)

The Lady in the Van tells the true story of Alan Bennett's strained friendship with Miss Mary Shepherd, an eccentric homeless woman whom Bennett befriended in the 1970s before allowing her temporarily to park her Bedford van in the driveway of his Camden home.

Adults : £3.50, under 16: £2.50

Home made refreshments



SERVICE AND COFFEE

We are holding a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month, 5 April, 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.



NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

to get into the mind of other living beings, and dwell there, in conquest, even as part of spring's ministry? This is puzzling, as the Mistle Thrush song is almost impossible to conjure up in the human mind, though it is distinctive and instantly recognisable when heard.

Since then, I give out a personal Mistle Thrush of the Year award, as a gesture of thanks to one of the eight species of British songbirds I would take with me to the proverbial desert island in lieu of gramophone records. The fact that in 2015 this species was placed on the European Red List, having undergone a significant decline, should concern us all, for it is one of our primary songsters, in both town and country. Recently, one particularly skilful Mistle Thrush managed to flute his notes through the bridge that cuts through the railway line embankment in Hailey Wood, near The Tunnel House. The bridge acted as a trumpet, and megaphone, amplifying the stentorian notes, and accentuating the song, and enhancing the singer. So that's Mistle Thrush of the Year sorted.

Matthew Oates

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NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

harvest any stems for the first two years. The plants are very long lived. Some good varieties are 'Champagne', 'Victoria', 'Timperley Early', 'Giant Grooveless Crimson', 'Fulton's Strawberry Surprise', and 'Glaskin's Perpetual'. Rhubarb has a long harvesting season, and a wet year is good for rhubarb, keeping the stems tender. Forced early rhubarb is delicious, blanching the stems seems to refine the flavour. This can be achieved by covering the crown in February with either a traditional forcing pot, a bottomless but lidded dustbin or an empty composting bin, but this does weaken the crown, so best done using several crowns over a rotation of several years.

Prepare pots and containers for replanting. To remove vine weevils, empty the compost onto a sheet of polythene and let the wild birds find and eat the grubs and eggs. Also replenish with new compost.

Fragrant viburnums, crown imperials, euphorbias, pasque flowers, aubrietia loved by butterflies are in bloom.

Sally Oates

A HOMAGE TO THE MISTLE THRUSH

Back in April 1976, I succumbed to the dreaded mumps – long past the age when one is supposed to experience this obligatory childhood illness. Three days were spent lying prostrate in bed; any movement was difficult, if not unmentionably painful; whilst outside spring rose to perfection. During this time of near-delirium a cock Mistle Thrush sang almost relentlessly, favouring an ornamental cherry tree in bloom close by, but ranging from perch to perch within his domain, near and far, as his kind do. Perhaps he was trying to attract a mate; but more likely he was maintaining contact with a mate who was spending two weeks incubating her clutch of four eggs in an untidy nest high up in a tree fork. Perhaps the nest contained strands of agricultural bailer twine, as many do.

No way could he be shut out, for on the rare occasions when he seemed to be silent his song reverberated on in my mind. The song continued within me to the extent that I was far from sure whether it was a trick of memory, a feature of my illness, or a genuine aspect of his song. Perhaps the song's objective was



and big summer party

Saturday 3rd September

SAPPERTON VILLAGE HALL

Entry booklets coming soon. Or see www.sappertonvillagehall.org

Open meeting - all welcome!

Tuesday 12th April, 6pm (The Bell, Sapperton)

Are you willing to lend a hand to make this year's Cotswold Highland Games the best yet? The games raise funds for Sapperton School and the beautiful Churches of St Kenelm in Sapperton and St Lukes in Frampton Mansell. From the BBQ to welly wanging to taking money on the gate - even if you can spare just a couple of hours that afternoon it would be a great help. Or perhaps you have some ideas to throw into the mix? Either way - please get in touch:

Come along to our open meeting or contact
Jeremy Hoskins: jeremyhoskins@btconnect.com or
Rachel McHugh: rachel.mchugh@yahoo.co.uk

www.cotswoldhighlandgames.org (Park Corner Farm, Nr Sapperton - Sat 14th May)



MATHS COACHING TO GCSE

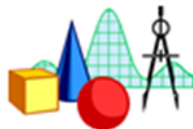
Does your teenager need a little extra help with Maths?

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. Afternoon and evening sessions available.



Cotswold Highland Games & Dog Show

Saturday 14th May, 1pm

Activities for all the family

Have a go at the games:

air rifles, archery, golf challenge, tug of war, welly wanging and more.

Enter the dog show (2pm):

loveliest lady, most fabulous fella, best trick, best brace, best young handler, waggiest tail

Plus BBQ and bar, teas and cakes, live music and more.

Park Corner Farm, Nr Sapperton

www.cotswoldhighlandgames.org



Kindly sponsored by



NOTES FROM CULKERTON

GARDENING TIPS FOR APRIL

Spring at last. This can be a month where sun hats and wellington boots alternate as appropriate attire, giving sunshine and showers for seedlings, cuttings and divisions.

Seeds of beetroot, carrots, radishes, autumn and winter cabbages, sprouts, kales, turnips, main crop peas and Swiss chard can be sown and potatoes planted. Under glass start aubergine, peppers, sweetcorn, runner beans, outdoor cucumbers, marrows, courgettes, squashes, pumpkins, and outdoor tomatoes.

Later in the month and into May, the three 'P' activities are in season: Protection; Potting on, and Planting out. Protection used to be all about keeping young plants at a suitable temperature to maintain constant, strong, unchecked growth from cool weather and late frosty nights. Now protection may be needed from heavy rain, and maintaining a better soil temperature, by using vented cloches. Last year, cold nights and dull days hampered much of the growing season, making vegetables especially a challenge. Successional sowings helped here; I found that the later runner beans did much better than the earlier sowings.

Using soil based or peat free composts are better for the environment, and much better for Cotswold gardeners when potting on young plants. If you buy in container plants grown in peat, re-pot using soil-based compost until a good root system has established before planting out into the garden. Peat is an acidic growing medium and we garden in an alkaline area. As new plants are being grown on, start to use liquid feeds.

Young plants grown in the greenhouse or window-sill need to be hardened off before planted in to the garden.

The wet cold winter seems to have taken its toll on thyme; this valuable hardy herb has many different cultivars and grows well on stony soil in full sun. Another herb worth planting annually is French Tarragon, as this is seldom winter hardy.

A traditional bed of rhubarb will crop for many years, with the minimum of attention, and the large leaves suppress weeds. The spring planting time is upon us. Some varieties are available to grow from seed, usually planted as crowns in a well prepared area, it is important to nurture these in the first year, water in dry spells, avoid root disturbance, remove flowering stems and resist the temptation to

Come and Play **BINGO**

Saturday 7 May

Rodmarton Village Hall

In aid of the James Hopkins Trust

(for severely disabled, life threatened and life limited young children)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start

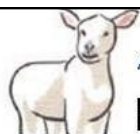
Contact 01285 841601 for more details

(Rodmarton and Tarlton Children's Charity)

**The Dolphins Dramatic Society
Present
"Gaslight"
by
Patrick Hamilton**



At The Dolphins Hall, New Church
Street, Tetbury on Thursday 14, Friday 15 and Saturday 16
April 7.30pm. Concessions £6; Adults £7.
Box Office -Tetbury Hardware, 30a London Road, Tetbury,
GL8 8JL or online: <http://www.dolphinsdramaticsociety.org.uk/>



Zara Lamb

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Tel: 01285 771471 - 07870 943397

Email: springlamb33@gmail.com

SCHOOL TIES - SAPPERTON SCHOOL NEWS



Schools Out! It's the run up to Easter, fair weather sailing lies ahead, the long wet winter lies astern and will soon only be a memory!

But it's been very busy – the Donkey Service (2 Donkeys, 3 Sheep and one Chicken assisted by a variety of Angels from Year 3, ably watched by Year 4) delighted the crowds in Cirencester parish church), the Spring Local Schools Cross Country Championship is in mid flow (heats held at Kingshill and Deer Park with Farmors School yet to come) has seen notable results by Sapperton juniors while, elsewhere, wherever one looks, children have been practising solo performances and musical extravaganzas for the end of term concert (always one of the high points of the artistic year) – that's on Thursday 24 March in Sapperton village hall.

Then we have had a visit from the Bishop's Visitor, a retired Head Teacher whose aim is to provide a very useful source of additional pastoral help and expertise in building links between the Diocese and local church schools. He will also assist with the promoting of Christian beliefs and values on which, of course, our school is founded. Mr Rod Harris is our BV and he used to be the Head Teacher at Minchinhampton. He liked what he saw and we will be seeing more of him at assemblies and other significant events.

Anton, ably assisted by Rebecca, also helps in this area and runs the very popular Club Pulsar on Wednesday afternoons (your correspondent has looked into several of these and has emerged totally baffled by the rules of some of the games enjoyed by all. There is Ninja that is played 'tween decks (totally puzzling) and Sky Quoits which appears to be a cross between netball (which I have never understood the rules of), deck quoits (that's a little clearer obviously) and hockey (or at least using the hockey sticks to catch the quoits (or were they acting as lightning conductors? - the weather was none to good at the time) but no matter, everyone else knew what to do!)

On the more traditional sporting front on almost the last day of term, staff and pupils will be competing in the Sport Relief Mile race held on the ride in Sapperton. This event is combined with World Book Day and everyone is invited to dress up as their favourite fictional hero. Sounds fun: Who would you go as?

Have a wonderful Easter everyone and see you all in the Summer Cruising Season!

Molesworth

NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON

THE LAMB

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!

He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.

Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

By WILLIAM BLAKE published in Songs of Innocence in 1789

RODMARTON CHURCH CHOIR

Forthcoming choir services are:

27 March 2016: Easter Day

15 May 2016: Whit Sunday

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

8 May 2016: Tarlton Rogation Procession at 11am, starting at St Osmund's, Tarlton. All welcome, including dogs.

RIP Derek Davis (5.10.29 - 6.12.15)

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Derek Davis, who passed away on 6 December aged 86 after a short illness. Following a career in industry, latterly as a board member for the Central Electricity Generating Board, Derek moved to Rodmarton in 2000 and over a number of years was engaged in Christian work across the benefice under Stanley Emson, Michael Sanders and Trevor Kemp. He ran a house group, organised Christian Aid collections in Rodmarton, led matins for some years and also took morning assemblies at Sapperton Primary School, something he particularly enjoyed. He was a member of the PCC, for a while representing Rodmarton on the Deanery Synod and he also organised a number of residential weekends in Lee Abbey for the benefice.

Derek brought a wisdom, humour and strong sense of service to his Lord in his significant contribution to church life. He will be deeply missed by his family, (his wife, Ann, his three sons and eight grandchildren), friends and wider community.

RODMARTON & TARLTON FIESTA – Saturday 4 June 2016:

If you wish to be involved in any way, help on a stall, make cakes or salads, provide any good quality bric a brac, books, tombola prizes, or an auction promise, it would be greatly appreciated. We will be meeting on 14 April, and if you would like to help, please call Jane on 770401 or email janemarlowe1@gmail.com

Please also make a note of the date in your diary, and come and support us on the day. More details will follow in next month's issue.

“MIDSUMMER MEDLEY”

Come and enjoy a Midsummer's Evening at Rodmarton Village Hall

Performed by Cirencester Parish Handbell Ringers
and the Linden Singers

7.45pm Saturday 18 June

Bring your own picnic from 7.00pm

Tickets £6

Call 01285 841452 or 01285 654591

In aid of the James Hopkins Trust

(for severely disabled, life threatened and life limited young children)

Rodmarton and Tarlton Children's Charity