

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

Saturday 2	2.30pm	Rodmarton Christmas Bazaar
Tuesday 5	11am	Service & Coffee at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell
Wednesday 6	7.30pm	BEAT meeting in St Peter's Court, Ashcroft Road
Thursday 7	7.30pm	Festive Whist Drive in Kemble Village Hall
Thursday 7	7.30pm	Coates Gardening Club
Tuesday 12	2 & 7pm	Sapperton School Nativity Play
Wednesday 13	10am	Frampton Mansell Creative Group
Thursday 14		Rodmarton School's Christmas Production
Thursday 14	2.30pm	Good Companions Meeting
Tuesday 19		Mobile library visiting Coates
Tuesday 19	10.30am	Community Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates Village Hall
Wednesday 20	3.30pm	Rodmarton School Carol Service
Sunday 31	7.30pm	Coates New Year's Eve Party

### JANUARY

Wednesday 3	7.30pm	BEAT meeting in St Peter's Court, Ashcroft Road
Friday 12	7.30pm	Coates Village Club AGM
Tuesday 16	10.30am	Community Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates Village Hall
Tuesday 16		Mobile library visiting Coates
Monday 8	7.30pm	Coates Parish Council meeting

### 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](mailto: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 January at the latest for inclusion in the next issue which covers February.**

## THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



Drawn by Lily in Oak Class, Rodmarton School

December 2017/January 2018

## RECTOR

Rev Trevor Kemp

770550

Coates Rectory,

[rector@thamesheadchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@thamesheadchurches.org.uk)

Coates GL7 6NR

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## COATES

Church Warden:

Nigel Pollock

Secretary PCC

Alison Pollock

Treasurer PCC

Dickie Randall

771300

## SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL

Church Warden:

Elizabeth Twinch

762897

St Kenelm's

Mark Hamer

760715

Rotas

Kate Gordon-Lennox

760651

Secretary PCC

Treasurer PCC

Charles Houldsworth

760300

Flowers - Frampton Mansell

Pat Hatcher

760330

## 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

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Watershed Treasurer

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841578

Watershed Intercession Group

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770726

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Richard Harrison

771449

Coates Parish Council Clerk

Janet Griffiths 07946418713/771257

Coates Gardening Club

Margaret Reynolds

771354

Coates Social Club secretary

Tara Davidson

07948 966957

Coates Tree Warden

Geoffrey Moore

770869

Coates Village Hall

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

Mrs Musty

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

Sheila Dingley

760788

Sapperton School

Dawn Thomas

760325

Royal British Legion

Good Companions

Neeve Vizer

770832

Watershed RDA

Kathy Mottershead

07979 853907

Watershed Farm Club

Liz Collins

770621

Village Agent

Colin Waller

07776 245 754

Cirencester Eating Disorder Support Group

Pat Ayres

770385

District Councillors

Ermin Ward

Nicholas Parsons

623000

Kemble Ward

Tony Berry

770220

County Councillor

Stephen Hirst

01666 504213

Member of Parliament

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown

01452 371630

Cirencester Hospital

655711

Police non emergency (24hrs)

101

## CIRENCESTER EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

A warm and friendly support group of volunteers meet in St Peter's Lounge, St Peter's Court, St Peter's Road, Cirencester on Wednesdays 6 December and 3 January at 7.30pm. There is no charge to attend and sufferers and carers receive confidential, accessible local help from people who have had personal experience either as a sufferer or carer.

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

## CHRISTMAS WASTE COLLECTION DAYS

Cotswold District Council's waste and recycling collection service provider, Ubico Ltd, will be making normal collections up to and including Friday 22 December.

Thursday 28 December will move to Saturday 30 December

Thursday 4 January will move to Saturday 6 January

Thursday 11 January will move to Friday 12 January

The normal schedule resumes on Monday 15 January 2018.

## MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

The visits for next month will be on Tuesday 19 December and 16 January between 11.25am and 12.25pm outside the village hall.



## 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](mailto: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.

## SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

<b>3 December First Sunday of Advent</b>		
9.30	Kemble	Holy Communion + Sunday School
9.30	Coates	Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
11.00	Sapperton	Holy Communion
16.00	Poole Keynes	Songs of Praise & Possada
18.00	Kemble	The Source
<b>10 December Second Sunday of Advent</b>		
9.30	Kemble	Family Service TOY?
9.30	Coates	Family Service/Morning Prayer
9.30	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Tarlton	Christingle - Family Service
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer/ Family Service
15:00	Kemble	Scout Carol Service
<b>17 December Third Sunday of Advent</b>		
11.00	Rodmarton	Carols
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Carols
15.00	Coates	Carols
15.00	Poole Keynes	Carols
16.30	Somerford Keynes	Carols
18.30	Kemble	Carols
<b>24 December Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve</b>		
15.00	Somerford Keynes	Crib Service
16.00	Kemble	Crib Service
17.30	Tarlton	Carols
18.00	Kemble Tavern	Carols at The Tavern
18.00	Frampton Mansell	Crib Service
23.00	Kemble	Holy Communion
23.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
23.00	Coates	Holy Communion

## SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

### 25 December Christmas Day

8.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
9.30	Kemble	Holy Communion
9.30	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
10.00	Coates	Holy Communion
10.30	Somerford Keynes	All Age Service
10.30	Sapperton	Family Friendly Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion + choir

### 31 December

10.00	Shorncote	Benefice Service of Carols
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### 7 January Epiphany

9.30	Kemble	Holy Communion
9.30	Coates	Holy Communion
9.30	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion

### 14 January Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.30	Kemble	Family Service
9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
9.30	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Tarlton	Feast of the Kings Family Service
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
9.30	Kemble	Holy Communion

### 21 January Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30	Kemble	Family Holy Communion
9.30	Coates	Holy Communion
9.30	Poole Keynes	Family Service
11.00	Somerford Keynes	All Age Service
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
15:30	Kemble School	Messy Church

### 28 January Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10.00	Rodmarton	Benefice Service
08:00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP

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## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTORY

Christmas is nearly here again. We will be putting up the decorations, straightening the Christmas tree and attending many parties where we will eat too many mince pies and drink too much wine. Unless of course you are John Humphries or most of the other Today journalists. Apparently for them Christmas is all about being nice and following Jesus' example which is 'deeply boring'.

Compared to the opportunity to attempt to twist politicians and leaders from all walks of life into answering the hard questions of life as if they were no more complex than which coffee to order from your preferred café, I guess questions about ultimate truth must be trivial and boring indeed.

I wonder what Mr Humphries as an atheist would use to encourage humanity to be more 'civilised', what would encourage greater 'niceness'? Natural goodness or shared responsibility and values really don't carry any weight. Survival of the fittest, natural selection, evolution: they don't lead to generosity of spirit and value for other human beings. If chaos is our past and future then all is indeed vanity. Christmas is not about being nice or even Jesus being nice, quite the opposite in fact, Christmas is equally about love and justice and righteousness. Christmas is about truth. If Jesus stays in the manger or if it is just about his insightful teaching it is mostly a waste of breath because humanity has not heeded much of it so far.

To be fair, if the leaders of the great faiths had not spoken in our world we would live in far less generous and hopeful places than we do now.

In a world in which slavery was normal Jesus said there is neither slave nor free or any difference in value between genders or any other human distinction, but we are still trying to accept that 2000 years later our natural inclination is to create difference for our own advantage by race or gender or wealth or any other means on which we can lean to gain power over others. Far from being 'nice' Jesus spoke truth to all with impartiality. Where do you find such courage in your world?

Mostly we can't even tell our colleagues when they do something inappropriate.

Jesus managed to challenge and upset both the secular (Jewish and Roman) and spiritual authorities of his day until they killed him as many modern day governments do to silence dissent. From behind the protection of the most respected news organisation in the world and as one of its highest paid employees Mr Humphries feels

confident no one will contradict his poorly researched view. Our ethics and laws are based on spiritual truths and assumptions without which humanity will descend into chaos because our goodness is far from good.

The problem with Jesus is the challenge. He challenges our current actions and he challenges our view of the purpose of life and in doing so he challenges us to change. God is an inconvenient truth that we cannot airbrush out of creation. Life is about experiencing something of what God experiences: surely that is the purpose of creation and the result of love. God being ultimate love and goodness is impelled to offer the opportunity to share that experience (including the pain). The problem is that failure to love will be met with judgement and after judgement, consequence. Jesus, boring or nice, I don't think so; but full of love and compassion and hope for tomorrow, definitely. You have to open your eyes and your heart and embrace the truth and then the Truth will set you free.

With love and prayers

Trevor Kemp - Rector

#### RIP

Mary Jakeman. Mary's funeral was held at Cheltenham Crematorium on 1 November. She had lived in Frampton Mansell since the late 1970s and served the village and parish well. For many years she was clerk to the parish council. She and Harry were part of the team that started the village club; they were the programme organisers arranging speakers and visits. When we were running the youth club she would man the canteen for us. She would help at jumble sales and at fetes and BBQs. And of course, she was very involved in the life of the church; being a member of the PCC and treasurer for several years. Our thoughts are with her family. We shall all miss her.

#### PRAYERS IN THE BENEFICE

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

#### TIME OUT BIBLE DISCUSSION

The Time Out Bible Discussion 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](mailto:julieallen47@btinternet.com) or [juliepaulmorton@gmail.com](mailto:juliepaulmorton@gmail.com).

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## NEWS FROM COATES

Hi Everyone

We have some exciting activities that will be taking place at your village club over the coming weeks/months.

The Village Club  
**COATES**

We are open from 8pm to 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays so don't be shy, we'd love to see you here. Membership is only £5pa for individuals and £10pa for the whole family. These small fees help us to put on free things like BBQs and Fireworks Night throughout the year.

**Friday 1 December**      **Make Christmas tree ornaments in clay with Tara Davidson and Family Games Night - early opening at 6pm for an evening of fun and games for all.**

**Saturday 23 December**      **Our village club traditional Christmas Squares raffle prize draw at 7pm and an opportunity to have a festive drink with neighbours.**

**New Year's Eve**      **ALL THAT GLITTERS - Coates Village New Year's Eve party at 7:30pm, £5 for Adults (includes a drink and nibbles), free for children.**

**Friday 5 January**      **Family Games Night - early opening at 6pm for an evening of fun and games for all.**

**Friday 12 January**      **Village Club AGM at 7:30pm. There will be drinks and nibbles and everyone is welcome to attend.**

Any questions about forthcoming events, please contact the Village Club secretary, Tara Davidson, or follow our Coates village Facebook page.

### THE GOOD COMPANIONS

Our next meeting on Thursday 14 December is our Christmas Lunch for ticket holders only. Please come at 12.15pm for lunch at 1pm. We will be entertained by Shayne Driscoll followed by a raffle.

N Vizor

## CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY COFFEE AND CAKE

Tuesday 19 December 10.30am -12 noon



Come and join us on in Coates Village Hall for a little festive spirit with coffee, cake and nibbles.



For more information, call Sarah on 771393

We will meet again on **Tuesday 16 January** When there will be a small increase in the charge from £2 to £2.50. Please let one of the organisers know if this would be difficult for you.

## ALL THAT GLITTERS!

New Years Eve Party

31 December from 7:30pm until late in Coates Village Hall

£5 Adults, free for children

(includes a welcome drink and nibbles)

Tickets available from: Liz Allen [lizallen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizallen@hotmail.co.uk)

## A SALUTE TO BETTY MIXTURE

Last month Betty Mixture raised £796.15 at the sale for the Cobalt Fund. She has been a staunch supporter of Cobalt's for over 42 years which is simply incredible but has decided that this will be the last year in which she will organise the sale. Betty went to a talk in 1976 that Fred Hanna, founder of Cobalt gave and she has raised funds for them ever since; records show that Betty has raised in total over £15,000. She has a loyal group of supporters among her family and friends and it is with the help of fundraisers like Betty that Cobalt has become the success that it is today – a local medical charity helping people affected by cancer, dementia and other conditions. Apart from this she has been a long standing member of the village hall committee and was instrumental in getting the village lottery going. The village needs people like Betty.

It would be a pity for the village to lose this Autumn/Christmas event and a real tribute to Betty as well if we could keep it going. I am happy to help if the village hall committee or a couple of younger residents would be willing to organise such an event with funds being shared between the village and cancer charities.

Pippa Moore

# Jolly Nice... CHRISTMAS



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## COATES PARISH COUNCIL

As usual there was a busy agenda for the Parish Council meeting on 6 November. There were the usual items, financials and reports but the main focus was on two topics – Bromford's plans for the garage site and consideration of next year's budget.

Two representatives attended from Bromford to give an update of their plans for the former garage site in Coates and answer any questions raised. Bromford are currently conducting a review of all their garage sites which is due to be finalised in April next year. With regard to Coates, they have the intention to resurface the site and potentially install some lighting and there is a proposal to have some permit parking. This may help in a small way to solve some of the parking problems in that area of Coates. They are hopeful that this work will be done next Summer and are keen for there to be a community event around this, possibly next Spring. Watch this space.

The chairman of the village hall management committee also attended the meeting, requesting a grant from the parish council to help with some very necessary updating that needs to be done in the village hall. The work includes urgent refurbishment in the bar/club room and kitchen areas and a replacement alarm system. In principle the councillors were favourable as they agreed that the hall is overdue some essential maintenance and modernisation.

However, any large grant from the parish council will incur an increase in the precept – the amount that each household in Coates pays to the parish as part of their council tax bill. The final decision on this will be made at the next parish council meeting on 8 January when the village hall chairman will provide more detail of his proposal and the councillors will consider the request for a grant. Residents are encouraged to attend and offer their views on this topic. There will be more information on the website before the meeting.

And, as an update from a topic raised at the previous council meeting, the RAU have reviewed the safety situation regarding signage around the grain storage at Manor Farm. They have now erected two HGV warning signs in the area.

The public are encouraged to attend the parish council meetings. The minutes of all our meetings are on the Coates parish website at [www.coatesparish.org.uk](http://www.coatesparish.org.uk). The next meeting will be held on Monday 8 January 2018 at 7.30pm in the village hall. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Janet Griffiths Coates Parish Clerk

## COATES GARDENING CLUB

On Thursday 7 December at 7.30 pm in Coates village hall our special guest and speaker will be Roger Morgan who has been custodian of Caerleon Roman Amphitheatre and Chepstow Castle before becoming a member of the events team of CADW, the organisation supported by the Welsh government to protect historic sites in Wales. He has previously shared with us his passion for medical history. This will be his third visit to us, and he will talk on *Being Santa – the history of St Nicholas and the traditions which have grown up around him*. We can promise a lively and entertaining account, which may even include a sight of Father Christmas himself!

There will be supper to follow with wine and soft drinks provided by the Gardening Club. There will be no raffle on this occasion. Visitors will be very welcome at £3 for the evening.

There will be no meeting in January but we look forward to meeting friends old and new on 2 February 2018

Our annual subscription is only £10 so do consider joining the club next year for outings and talks on local, conservation and environmental issues as well as gardening.

Margaret Reynolds 771354

## COATES WEBSITE SUPPORT

Since the Coates village website went online 2 years ago it has provided information about the parish council, activities at the village hall and general news of interest to the Coates community.

There is now an opportunity for someone who has, or wishes to develop, some skills in maintaining a website to assist in further developing the website. This would be a voluntary role. If anyone is interested please send an email to [info@coatesparish.org.uk](mailto:info@coatesparish.org.uk)

## THE VILLAGE CLUB AGM

Friday 12 January

7:30pm

Coates Village Hall

Join us for drinks and nibbles and learn more about this wonderful village facility and our plans for the future.

The Village Club  
COATES

## NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

That technology cannot be too far off. It would save the nation a fortune, and prevent the NHS from experiencing its annual winter implosion. The truth is that I really don't know why we stay put here, and grim and bear what we do grim and bear – for winter's emptiness is endless.

The alternative, of course, is southward migration. Now, that does sound appealing, though the prospect of half the West Country queueing through security at Bristol Airport fills one with considerable trepidation, and of course Easy Jet and Ryanair would already have closed down and entered some form of corporate hibernation. And, going from northern hemisphere summer straight into antipodean summer would lead to rapid, life-shortening burn out.

I suppose we're stuck here. In which case, may I shamelessly recommend my latest book *Beyond Spring*, wanderings through the brighter months, (Fair Acre Press, £10.99, available through Amazon Books). It was written partly to help the author through the drear of last winter, and partly to help readers through the grime of this winter.

Matthew Oates



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## NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

Established large clumps of *Iris sibirica* and daylilies from other flower beds have been lifted, divided, and planted. Burgundy leaved *Ajuga* has been mass planted as ground cover, again lifting plants from propagated stock from another part of my garden. These little plants have upright blue flower spikes in spring when they will be visited by overwintered adult butterflies for nectar.

When considering new plants to add to your garden, look at winter hardiness. Beware of ambiguous terms; look for descriptions of hardy or even better fully hardy, and find out if the plant will tolerate winter wet, as some will be fine if their roots are in a free draining winter soil, raised beds with extra grit, gravel gardens or under cloches. The values for hardiness are expressed either by the RHS H system or the USA Zone system; for example, here we are H4 to H5, or Zone 7,8 or 9, describing winter temperatures falling between -5° to -15°C as an average.

Prolonged winter weather is not what it was in the past, with weeks of permafrost when digging winter vegetables like leeks and parsnips was impossible, but short freezing snaps will kill off less hardy plants.

Sally Oates

### WINTRY MUSINGS

The long wait has begun. I don't mean the wait for Christmas, which if anything comes too quickly, and is on its way out by the time Heston Double-Barrel's biodynamic lemon-drizzled must-have turkey scallop (Waitrose £19.99) lands on the table, having reached its zenith during Nine Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve. No, I mean the long, slow haul through January, and beyond, towards the lengthening of days.

Oh to be given a hibernation pill on the NHS and sent into dream-full slumber; not tucked up amongst sunken leaves like a hedgehog, but snuggled up in a pod open to full sun, to generate essential Vitamin D; ideally curled up with a cat. In our new, reinvigorated NHS we should be given the option: stay awake, and keep the wheels of industry turning, or conk out for three long months. I'm for the latter, scheduled to be woken up when the rooks begin to build. The rooks can be left in charge: they can drop a twig on a touch-pad linked to my sleep-pod, so that I can be gently roused, and instantly encounter a purring cat. Of course, the cat will need feeding; so will I; then I can have a bath, dress, catch up with the Six Nations' Rugby and Ashes cricket, and bumble off in search of the first primrose flower.

## NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

### GOOD INTENTIONS...

I love the long, bright days of summer, more time to work/ relax in the garden but as the nights draw in and the clocks go back, I feel the gloom descending. Even in summer on rainy days, I can feel quite miserable and poorly motivated to do anything.

So...I am taking a new approach. It is easy to think that from November to February it is just dark and overcast but that is not the reality. So, I am going to mark on the calendar every bright and sunny day in those months and try to motivate myself to get out in them.

I shall report back on how many crisp, bright, blue sky and sunny days occurred; I hope we will all be surprised.

Not only that, I shall try to smile and exchange a greeting with more people or see if there is someone that would welcome a visit. It is difficult not to smile when someone smiles at you.

Can you imagine how much better the cold days of winter would be if we made a point of noticing sunny days, acknowledged others smiles and greetings and actually popped in to see a housebound person occasionally should they would welcome it.

*'No man is an island entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the whole' John Donne.*

Let us look out for each other and shorten these long dark days of winter with neighbourliness and kindness.

*'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me' Matthew 25:40 NIV*

And of course in the middle of it all we have the joy of Christmas 🎄 to remind us of Jesus's birth ✨, a time of joy and celebration but remember it can also be a time of loneliness, so look out for the opportunities to cheer each other and SMILE 😊☐

Further information on depression or seasonal affective disorder (SAD) can be found at: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)



### SERVICE AND COFFEE

We hold a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month, 5 December, 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 VILLAGE HALL CREATIVE GROUP

We meet in Frampton Mansell Village Hall

**Wednesday 13 December, 10 - 12noon.**

We would love to see you there. The cost is £3 to cover hall hire and refreshments.

For further information, please contact:

Teresa Howes

[thowes51@gmail.com](mailto:thowes51@gmail.com)

Kath Sanderson

[kathsanderson@btinternet.com](mailto:kathsanderson@btinternet.com)



Drawn by Tippi in Acorn Class, Rodmarton School

## NOTES FROM CULKERTON

### GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER

I have already made my new year's resolution, and it is to grow more vegetables and replace some of the older soft fruit with either new plants of the same variety or new varieties.

I have grown the Thornless Loganberry LY654 in different gardens for many decades, and my current plant has produced plenty of fruit for about twenty years, but this year it looks really tired and hasn't grown the usual long growths for bearing next year's fruit; possibly the very hot dry weather early in the growing season didn't suit it, but it has been tended and fed. So, I will dig up the roots for inspection to see if there might be a problem lurking underground and if the roots look viable, these will be replanted in a different part of the garden with compost enriched soil. The root ball may also be suitable for dividing, so possibly making several new plants.

Planting in the dormant winter season seems to be much better than spring planting when the soil can become too dry before good root systems form on free draining Cotswold soils. If you have a clay based soil that holds water, early spring planting in February or early March is more appropriate. Only do your planting in mild, not frosty weather and water plants in afterwards.

Our pond has been very good this year for dragonflies, with a succession of species emerging; blue and scarlet damselflies, golden coloured and pale blue chasers, and magnificent large and noisy hawkers. The pond water quality has improved immensely as the oxygenating pond weeds have become established, but the star plant clearing the pond of blanket algae must be water soldiers. They did need some help in the spring, when rising from the watery depths the blanket algae became a drying mat on the toothed leaves. But it was easy to remove with a long stick. I observed that the algae did not grow near the water soldiers and then disappeared from other parts of the pond too. However, the number of frogs remains low, with just two individuals peering out of the duck weed.

The plants around the pond have recently been upgraded by removing or thinning existing low shrubs, allowing more light into the pond to enable the waterlilies to flower more abundantly. Although nettles do form part of the garden here, they need reducing, so roots have been dug out. Nettles grown here were used as caterpillar food plants for the Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma and Red Admiral butterflies.

# Quiz Night & Supper

Saturday, 17 February 2018

7.30pm prompt

Rodmarton Village Hall

£12 entry per person

including 2 course meal

Wine Bar

All profits are in aid of the churches of St Peter and St Osmund

Teams of six or join a team

To book please ring 01285 770401

## PILATES CLASSES IN COATES

If you would like to know more about the classes feel free to contact me for more information!

Jodie Bensley-Jones 07803 056 799 [Jodie.bensley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Jodie.bensley@yahoo.co.uk)

Classes are held every Monday evening at 7pm in Coates Village Hall. Coming soon! Friday mornings at 11.30am.

## SAPPERTON SCHOOL QUIZ ANSWERS:

**1** King George III **2** Bishop Rachael Treweek **3** Ernest & Sydney Barnsley and Ernest Gibson **4** A prime number; the first 7 prime numbers are: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17 **5** A Surd **6** Sir Martin Evans Stem Cell research **7a** - Where the Chapman's Cross/Park Corner Farm Road crosses Cirencester Park's Broad Ride 594ft **7b** 0.98 atm **8** The Tatler **9** First house on the right on entering Church Lane heading towards the church **10** It brewed beer **11** Cider with Rosie, 1998 **12** Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, The Nun's Priest's Tale **13** Horatio Hornblower **14** Mrs Moira Gobey **15** Gloucestershire Old Spot **16** Single Gloucester was a mild cheese made from the skimmed milk of the evening milking and full cream from the morning milking It did not need to be ripened and it has not been produced commercially since c1945 Double Gloucester is stronger in flavour and is made with full cream milk from the evening and morning milking It takes many months to mature, keeps well and is therefore easier to transport to market - hence its continued commercial production **17** 1848, Earl Bathurst **18** 11 May 1911 28 locks **19** Escarpment or Scarp slope **20** An area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas **21** Archery **22** 7 Players **23** Pirates of the Curry Bean **24** 6 years **25** Bricklayers Arms  
Bonus Nautical Questions: i Juan Sebastian Elcano ii A Ketch or a Yawl has two masts; Schooners always have two or more masts

## SCHOOL TIES - SAPPERTON SCHOOL NEWS



**School's Out!** Christmas is fast approaching and the excitement 'tween decks is almost palpable.

Decorations are run aloft (going up), carols and the nativity play are being rehearsed, children scan the northern horizon for signs of activity and the ship glides on, double lookouts posted in the foggy weather. And those sports results keep coming in: An excellent performance against much larger schools at the Quicksticks tournament and some excellent "scores" at the friendly, floodlit Tag Rugby session, both at Deer Park. All much enjoyed by all, including the frozen parents on the ice floes (touchline)!

And the Christmas dates you have all been waiting for: First will be the Advent Service at 2pm on Tuesday 28 November at St Kenelm's Church, Sapperton, followed by the Christmas Fair on Friday 8 December (check the website and Parent Mail for further details of this event). Then, with the Watch Change and by popular request, it's a return to Bishop's Walk, Cirencester for Christmas Carols, everyone to be closed up and ready for action at 10am on Saturday 9 December, stand down 11am – before the Grande Finale: The Nativity Play on Tuesday 12 December with two performances at 2pm and 7pm, both in St Kenelm's church again. Something for everyone, and everyone welcome!

And now something different for this year: The Sapperton School Christmas Quiz! Test your knowledge of the school and its environment with the 25 questions over the page that make up a typical school day. Winner to be announced next month.

Season's greetings and a Very Merry Christmas to all our readers!

**Molesworth**

## CALLING ALL CARD PLAYERS FESTIVE WHIST DRIVE

KEMBLE VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER

PROMPT START 7.30PM

ENTRANCE £2 INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

IN-HOUSE RAFFLE

WHIST PRIZES

PROCEEDS TO KEMBLE AND DISTRICT RBL WOMEN'S SECTION BENEVOLENT FUNDS

## THE SAPPERTON SCHOOL CHRISTMAS QUIZ

### Registration:

1. Which King came to view the construction of the Sapperton canal tunnel?
2. What is the name of the present Bishop of Gloucester?
3. Who were the Sapperton craftsmen, what did they do and (approximately) when did they operate?

### Numeracy:

4. What is the opposite of a composite number and what are the first 7 terms of the sequence?
5. What is the name given to a group of irrational numbers that contain an infinite number of non-recurring decimals and how are they normally simplified/handled?

### Science:

6. A Stroud-born scientist was awarded a Nobel Prize for Physiology in 2007. Who was he and what was it for?
7. Sapperton has a "Fundamental Benchmark" recording the village's altitude. (a) Where is it and what height does it record? (b) If one day the pressure at sea level is recorded as 101.3kPa, and identical climatic conditions are being experienced across the entire country, which of the following is the most likely pressure to be recorded at this benchmark: (i) 760mm Hg, (ii) 14.7 psi or (iii) 0.98 atm?

### Playground Chat:

8. In which celebrity gossip magazine did Sapperton school feature this year?
9. The village once had a tuck shop. Where was it?
10. What else was once produced at this shop?

### Literacy:

11. Sapperton school starred as the main location in a film of a well known book of local interest. What was the film and when was it shot?
12. Sapperton church is dedicated to St Kenelm. In which famous literary work was St Kenelm first mentioned?
13. Which fictional naval hero helped to "leg" a boat through Sapperton Tunnel?

### Lunch:

14. Who was the famous school cook who has a room named after her in the school?
15. Everyone loves sausages. What is the name of the local breed of pig?

## RODMARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



After a fantastic first half of the term, the children are feeling refreshed after their half term break and have been busy creating festive designs for the front cover of this very magazine!

The winning design – announced just as we go to press – is by Lily in Oak class and features on the front cover of this edition of the Watershed. Well done to everyone who took part. If there's space, the Watershed Editor has promised that some of the other designs will be included in the magazine so have a look through.

This week the children have been taking part in our Christmas Craft Week, creating all sorts of crafts and other goodies to sell at the Rodmarton Christmas Bazaar which takes place at Rodmarton village hall from 2.30-4.30pm on Saturday 2 December.

At the end of the bazaar, the school children will take part in a lantern procession from the hall to Rodmarton church where the lights on the Christmas tree outside the church will be switched on and the tree will be blessed. We hope you will join us for mulled wine and a couple of Christmas carols to get us all into the festive mood.

Sticking with the Christmas theme, later this month all pupils will be enjoying a special Christmas lunch, the school's Christmas production will take to the stage in the village hall on Thursday 14 December and our candlelit carol service takes place at Rodmarton church on Wednesday 20 December at 3.30pm.

The school admissions process – for children starting school in September 2018 - is now in full swing. We had two very successful open mornings last month with lots of parents coming to visit our fabulous little school and see the individual learning we offer our pupils. Don't worry if you missed the open mornings - just call us and we would be very happy to show you around. As well as next September's Reception class intake, we have places available now in every year group. And don't forget that we also offer Little Acorns, early morning and after school clubs from 7.30am to 6pm.

Our Little Squirrels preschool group has got off to an amazing start and is proving very popular. If you haven't been yet then please come and join us at Rodmarton village hall from 1.15 to 2.45pm every Friday in term time.

Happy Christmas to you all!

Nutty xx

# FATHER CHRISTMAS IS COMING

TO THE RODMARTON CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2017, 2.30-4.30pm

at  
RODMARTON VILLAGE HALL

A great family event with  
Christmas Tree of Wishes Raffle  
Festive Stalls & Crafts  
and Children's attractions including



## Father Christmas in his grotto

Mulled wine, teas and refreshments,  
Crepes, cakes and mince pies

in aid of Rodmarton parish churches

**Followed by a lantern-lit procession to light the village  
Christmas tree**

16. What is the difference between Single and Double Gloucester?

### History:

17. When was Sapperton school first opened and who built it?

18. When did the last commercial boat manage to pass through Sapperton canal tunnel and how many locks are there in the climb up from Stroud?

### Geography:

19. In geographical terms, what is the correct name for the slope off the Cotswold plateau leading down to the Severn Vale?

20. The local magazine is called the "Watershed". What is a Watershed?

### Sport:

21. In which sport has Sapperton school regularly got through to the county final?

22. How many players are there in a Quidditch team?

### After School Activities:

23. The school play once featured a gorilla on the stage. Can you name the play?

24. How long has the Cotswold Highland Games been running for?

25. What was the previous name for the Daneway Pub?

### Bonus Nautical Questions (Tie-breakers):

(i) Who is generally recorded as the first man to circumnavigate the world?

(ii) What is the difference between a schooner and a ketch or yawl?

Answers on p20. Any disputed answers should be referred to Molesworth!

## Frampton Mansell Village Choir

A fun community choir for all those who love to sing!



Come and hear our festive repertoire,  
7-8pm 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. @ The Crown & Rural Cinema 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Spring Term starts 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**MONDAYS 7pm - 8:30pm**

at Frampton Mansell Village Hall

£5 per week or £20 for 5 weeks (half term)

**BE PART OF IT!**

**Interested? Please get in touch with Lucy!**

W: [www.framptonmansell.uk](http://www.framptonmansell.uk) E: [choir@framptonmansell.uk](mailto:choir@framptonmansell.uk) T: 07866 447725

**FRAMPTON MANSELL VILLAGE HALL**  
**Tuesday 21 November at 7.30pm**

**Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them**

In 1926 Newt Scamander had just completed a global excursion to find and document an extraordinary array of magical creatures. Arriving in New York for a brief stopover, he might have come and gone without incident were it not for a No-Maj (American for Muggle) named Jacob, a misplaced magical case, and the escape of some of Newts fantastic beasts, which could spell trouble for both the wizarding and No-Maj worlds. Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them returns us to the wizarding world created by JK Rowling.

Tickets £3.50 per person doors open @ 7pm, film starts @ 7.30pm Free Festive Refreshments  
Seasonal Carols by the Frampton Mansell Choir



Drawn by Hector in Acorn Class, Rodmarton School

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

**RODMARTON CHILDREN'S CHURCH CHOIR**

Forthcoming choir services at St Peter's, Rodmarton are:

Sunday, 3 December	11am	<b>Advent</b>
Sunday 17 December	11am	<b>Carol Service</b>
Sunday 25 December	11am	<b>Christmas Day</b>
Sunday 4 February 2018	11am	<b>Candlemas</b>

Please also note the following festive services at St Osmund's Tarlton:

Sunday 10 December	11am	<b>Christingle</b>
Saturday 24 December	5.30pm	<b>Candlelit Carol Service</b>
Sunday 14 January 2018	11am	<b>Feast of the Kings/Epiphany</b>

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**On 2 December 2.30pm - 4.30pm, followed by a LANTERN LIT PROCESSION TO LIGHT OUR VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE**

Please see the attached poster for our annual Christmas Bazaar to be held at Rodmarton village hall, in aid of St Peter's & St Osmund's.

A lantern lit procession will follow immediately after the bazaar to light our village Christmas tree. This is to be a blessing of the new village tree and a turning on of lights and will include a couple of carols and some refreshments - weather dependent! We hope it will encourage everyone to join in and stay a bit later and come and welcome in our new tree and bring Christmas to the heart of Rodmarton.

**TELEPHONE BOXES**

Rodmarton parish council, following the wishes of the community, has purchased the two old telephone boxes in Tarlton and Rodmarton. Volunteers are now needed to help renovate and maintain these boxes. Please contact the chair, Mark Grimes at [mg@boylegrimes.co.uk](mailto:mg@boylegrimes.co.uk) or vice-chair, Paul Drake at [padrake@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:padrake@hotmail.co.uk) or any other parish councillor.

**RODMARTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The parish council meetings are held in Rodmarton village hall on the 3rd Tuesday of every third month at 7pm. Future dates are 20 February 2018 and 15 May 2018 which will include the AGM.