

# 5 Villages Alive

Volume 17 Issue 5

**We're  
Back!**



September 2020

## *A Point of View ..... Opening up*



My front hedge fell over last year. Actually, it started with Christine's next door then ours joined in. It was rather like two old drunkards rolling over into the ditch on the way home from the pub. It's an old hedge that had gradually been taken over by brambles and ivy. It had got very tall and wide and you couldn't see a thing through it. The storms pulled it over so we had to decide what to do. We decided to remove everything but the hawthorn, then lay what was left. It's recovering remarkably well but it's only about three feet high. You may remember that we get glow worms every summer and this year I was hoping that the open aspect would help them flourish. So far we've had very few by the hedge, but lots opposite on the other side of the lane. If you know your glow worms, you'll know that they live by eating snails. Because the hedge is so low, I can throw snails out of my garden right across the lane (I'm really sorry if you happened to be that lady walking past last week!) Perhaps that's why they're thriving over there.

Suddenly we can see everything and everyone that goes up and down the lane. It's all very open. Before Covid-19 it was generally quiet, but now it seems that everyone is enjoying the fresh air down our lane. At first I found it really disconcerting but I'm getting used to it now. So many people stop for a chat as we all seem to have more time at the moment. People I haven't seen for years appear and we catch up on what they've been doing. I think I'm going to keep that hedge trimmed all the time now! I do hope we keep making sure we have time for chatting.

In the conversations over our new hedge one of the things that amazes me is the way that people, especially older ones, have stopped talking about the past all the time. Everyone is talking about the future instead. "What's the latest data?": "Are you going to the pub again?": "Are you going abroad next year?": "When will a vaccine be produced?": "When we will be able to start ringing again?": "I wonder ....."

Opening up seems to be the big topic of conversation. We were ahead of the game with our hedge but I'm not really sure that was really what was meant! Either way I'm all for it, and trust that the impact of this dreadful virus has not affected you too much. So many people have gone through, and continue to go through, such challenging times. My hedge will grow up again but hopefully it won't mean we close up again.

*Fen Marshall*



There's always  
a reason to  
smile .... find it!



## Waking up after a nightmare

After four of the strangest months most of us have witnessed in our lifetime, we've decided to start publishing our local magazine once more in the hope that this will give people in our five villages a chance to find out what everyone is up to. 'Not a lot ...' you might say, but despite appearances, life has been going on around us, albeit it in a new and different form in some cases. However, many of the things we've taken for granted as features of village life are no longer possible. Village organisations such as WIs are struggling to find ways of meeting in a suitably distanced way, parish councillors and other groups have been meet-

ing via Zoom and other forms of technology, which may have been a mystery to them until recent months set them on a steep learning curve. Our village halls and churches have been lifeless and summer events cancelled - even the church bells have been silent.

Of course, it's only a matter of a couple of months before the Christmas Countdown begins! Which store will be the first to launch its Christmas advertising campaign this year? Will they even bother? Fen Marshall has written in his 'Opening Up' article about the interest that he's noticed, particularly amongst older people, in what the future holds. Let's join them and see what our benefice has to look forward to in the coming months.

*Any contributions you may wish to send for inclusion in the magazine should be sent in Word or Publisher format to [kay.rea@btinternet.com](mailto:kay.rea@btinternet.com) to arrive no later than midnight on the 19th of the month preceding publication.*



**Thank you to CRoFTT benefice for their kind donation to our costs.**

Each 20-page edition costs £360 to print, so we are always grateful for donations as our funding depends on advertising and the generosity of our readers.

Regular donations may be made by standing order; we also accept payments by BACS. For further details please contact our Treasurer, Mr Geoff Crosthwaite

- by telephone on 01454 294140
- by email at: [geoffrey.crosthwaite@outlook.com](mailto:geoffrey.crosthwaite@outlook.com)
- or write to him at The Barn, Townwell, Cromhall, Wotton-Under-Edge, GL12 8AQ.

Cheques, payable to **Benefice Newsletter**, may also be sent to our treasurer, Geoff Crosthwaite, The Barn, Townwell, Cromhall, W-U-E, GL12 8AQ or the editor.



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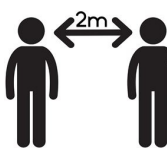


**'To see Christ in all and to show Christ to the World.'**

## SEPTEMBER SERVICES 2020

6th	TORTWORTH
13th	{ TYTHERINGTON
13th	{ FALFIELD
20th	CROMHALL
27th	ROCKHAMPTON

- These are all Benefice Services and will be at 10:30am.
- This month they will not be Holy Communion services.
- Some of these may be Harvest services and they may be outside the church. We will let you know as soon as we can about that. There will be notices locally but if in any doubt, please do phone or email.
- Booking your place! Never thought we'd have to do something like this!
- Numbers are limited in the churches as we adhere to the 2m social distancing guideline, and so we need to ask you to let Jan know by the Wednesday before the service if you wish to attend a service. We will then be able to work out how many people we can safely accommodate in the church. If you are in a 'bubble' with another family or family member who would like to come, please will you say so when you either phone Jan or email her. We will use a first-come basis if we find we cannot accommodate everyone.
- If we find we cannot safely get people into the church for a service, then that person/those people will be put at the top of the list for the following week if they wish.
- Please do understand that if you come to a service 'on spec' and have not let us know, much though we would love to welcome you, it may not be possible to do so if all the spaces have been allocated for that particular day. We will do our best!
- To attend a service please let our Benefice Administrator, Jan Leach, know: Email: [office@croftt.org.uk](mailto:office@croftt.org.uk) or phone: 01453 845324



- According to present government guidelines, we ask you to wear masks in church and we will ask you to leave your contact details. There will be hand sanitiser for your use as you enter the church.



- If you have any questions please do phone or email either: Jan as above or Rev Sue: [revsue@croftt.org.uk](mailto:revsue@croftt.org.uk) (01454-600674) or Revd Frances: [revdfrances@croftt.org.uk](mailto:revdfrances@croftt.org.uk) (01453-519099)

## HARVEST

**September services may be Harvest services and donations this year will go to Send a Cow.**



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### CHAPLAINS:

Rev Sue: 01454 600674 or [revsue@croftt.org.uk](mailto:revsue@croftt.org.uk)  
Rev. Frances: 01453 519099  
[revfrances@croftt.org.uk](mailto:revfrances@croftt.org.uk)

### Churchwardens:

Cromhall: Ann Greenhalgh 01454 294200  
Rockhampton: Liz Cullimore 01454 412208  
Falfield: Headley Pain 01454 269017  
Tortworth: Hilary Legg 01454 413234  
Tytherington: John Williams 01454 412515 or Phil Coward 01454 281444





### From Councillor John O'Neill

A brief roundup of what is current in the 5 Alive area, firstly a little about where we are on the Coronavirus stage, there were 779 confirmed cumulative cases (cumulative being in hospitals and in the community) in South Gloucestershire at 16<sup>th</sup> August, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July there were 750, an increase of around 30 in that time shows that the transmission rate is low in South Gloucestershire which is mainly down to the good work on social distancing and hand hygiene by our communities. The South West continues to maintain the lowest number of cases despite the number of visitors to the area.

All local authorities are now required to maintain a Local Outbreak Management Plan that monitors all cases paying particular attention to vulnerable groups and those in vulnerable occupations. The plan is responsible for the track and trace and testing systems with mobile testing now available in South Gloucestershire with results being delivered in 24 to 48 hours, this all to try and prevent further restrictions in our area.

Most will be aware that the Joint Spatial Plan was withdrawn just prior to the lockdown, since then we have had the launch of the Local Plan with a call for sites, we are aware that the Buckover Garden Village will be submitted to the call but no further information on how that will proceed, the Local Plan will take three years to process.

Planning that will have an effect on the area is Charfield where JSP developers were permitted to submit planning applications that would be used as evidence of deliverable sites, with the demise of the JSP these have reverted to speculative planning applications that the Council must determine.

A further 800 homes at Charfield would have a huge impact on local roads particularly junction 14 that will require an upgrade to manage the capacity, Linden Homes are now back on site at Falfield with the 85 home development and the park and share.

From the Council perspective most services that were suspended in March have now been reinstated as we try to learn to live with the virus, many of the Council staff continue to work from home and all meetings are being held virtually including the Parish Councils.

[john.oneill@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:john.oneill@southglos.gov.uk)

### ST PETER'S HOSPICE SEVERNSIDE SUPPORT GROUP



Friends of St Peter's Hospice Registered  
Charity No: 269177

What extremely sad times we have had to cope with, and the charities within our community are missing our support, especially St Peter's Hospice to whom so many of you have been steadfast over the years.

Our fundraising events locally have all had to be cancelled, to ensure everyone's safety. We as a group have really missed the hustle and bustle of preparing things, welcoming people, doing the washing up and of course counting any profit.....

The Hospice is estimating a loss of at least £2 million pounds this year. The 51 charity shops were closed although they are slowly beginning to open again. The corporate events were all cancelled, but it is hoped that some may happen in the Autumn.

Three beds on the Inpatient unit have been temporarily closed and also the Day services for the medium term. The need for service and care has not decreased but increased considerably.

If you are able to help in any way shape or form, please do contact the Hospice fundraising office direct 01275 391400. Thank you.

We give you our assurance that as soon as is ever possible we will be back with you all within our community enjoying our social life as well as raising vital funds for St Peter's.

So take care and stay safe.

*St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group*

#### Tytherington Village Hall

There are no Hall Committee meetings until further notice, but we are able to communicate by email should any issues arise.

An issue did arise at the beginning of June when it was reported by the Pre-School that the gazebo on the Hall lawn, which was purchased by the Pre-School, had been vandalised. They had it repaired but within a week it happened again! Several of the vertical bars had been kicked in leaving jagged edges and rendering the Gazebo unsafe for children to use.

It is a sad reflection on the village that certain elements delight in such mindless vandalism. In any case access to the lawn is only allowed for groups who have booked the Hall and any future infringements will be reported to the police.

*John Lewis - Village Hall Secretary*

**ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH, CROMHALL**  
**100 CLUB WINNERS**

**EASTER DRAW WINNER:**  
 NO.57 MRS LINDA YOUNGS £50

**MAY DRAW RESULTS**

£30 KEN PARKER (NO.2)  
 £20 KAY REA (NO.71)  
 £10 LINDA CLOTHIER (NO.53)

The next draw will be in Cromhall Village Shop at 11am on Friday 28th August. Thanks to everyone for their support.

*Mandy Bird (Tel 01454 294186)*

*Quizzing readers may be interested in this - a Victorian rhyme to learn the kings and queens of England. One of our readers learned this in Primary school where apparently it was recited it out loud with great gusto:*

Willy, Willy, Harry, Ste  
 Harry, Dick, John, Harry three.  
 One two three Neds, Richard two  
 Henry four five six, then who?  
 Edward four five, Dick the bad,  
 Harries twain and Ned the lad.  
 Mary and Bessie, James the Vain,  
 Charlie, Charlie, James again.  
 William and Mary, Anna Glor-i-a,  
 Four Georges, William and Victor-i-a  
 (You could bring it up to date with:  
 Edward the seventh and George the fifth,  
 Then Edward the eight and George the sixth.  
 And long live Elizabeth two!)



Tytherington WI

**Trip to RHS Wisley Garden**

Because of unforeseen circumstances (!) the proposed

trip had to be postponed for this year but it is now hoped to be able go ahead in **June 2021**, by which time we hope the situation will have improved.

If your name was on the original list and you still want to go on the trip, you need do nothing. However, if you would like to cancel and reclaim your deposit, or have any other queries, please contact **Mrs Valerie Niblett on 01454 417982**

**Thornbury Citizens Advice Bureau**



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**How to contact the Foodbank**

The Thornbury outlet of the North Bristol Foodbank is based at Thornbury Baptist Church, Gillingstool, Thornbury, BS35 2EG, and is open every Friday afternoon from 2 - 4pm.

**For more information, please call**  
**0117 9791399 or**

**email [info@northbristol.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@northbristol.foodbank.org.uk)**  
**or visit [northbristol.foodbank.org.uk](http://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk)**

***The Foodbank is running very low on some products. Here's the list if anyone feels able to help:***

Tinned potatoes, Packets of mashed potato, Noodles, Brown and tomato sauce, Long life fruit juice, Pot noodles, Squash, Sponge puddings, Angel Delight, Jam, Marmalade, UHT milk (1 litre), Chocolates/sweets, Washing capsules including non-bio, Washing up liquid, Disposable razors, Shaving gel, Male and female deodorant.

**Thank you for your on-going support. Donations can be placed in the Thornbury basket in Tesco or left on the church steps on Fridays between 10.30am and 4pm.**

**Rogue Traders and Licensing**  
**Contact Details**

If you think you have been the victim of a scam or rogue trader, please contact Trading Standards, Citizens Advice Consumer Service: Mon to Fri 9.00 – 17.00 Ring 03454 04 05 06

**St Leonard's, Tortworth APCM**

**5th October at 7.00 on Zoom.**

All welcome please notify Hilary on [hilary.legg@yahoo.com](mailto:hilary.legg@yahoo.com) if you would like to receive the link to join in the meeting. As long as you have an internet connection, you do not need to belong or have down loaded Zoom; a link will be sent for a simple link for this meeting only.

# St Andrew's CE VC Primary School

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- Warm friendly environment



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## Sunday 5th July 2020..... What should have been The 77<sup>th</sup> Almondsbury Horse Show, Gymkhana and Dog Show



## ST JAMES' CHURCH, TYTHERINGTON 2019/2020 100+ CLUB DRAW RESULTS

**EASTER:** 1<sup>st</sup> No 3 D Brock, 2<sup>nd</sup> No 16 D Wrench  
JOINT 3<sup>rd</sup> No 57 M Lacey, No 52 M Brown, No 37 D Such

**SUMMER:** 1<sup>st</sup> No 182 J McCollam, 2<sup>nd</sup> No 131 M Travell, JOINT 3<sup>rd</sup> No 168 F Christiansen, No 62 B Longworth, No 144 R Keen

Many thanks for your support  
St James' PCC



## New Art Barn in Thornbury

This 200 year old barn on Grovesend Road in Thornbury, formerly a piggery and then a pottery, opened as an art gallery in June.

Many will remember the barn as Zair Pottery, the workshop of Chris Zair for almost 40 years. The building has been empty since 2016, but was acquired by local artist, and Severn Vale Art Trail participant, Jenny Krupa. Jenny and Bill have created a beautiful exhibition space, and a wonderful asset for the community; displaying art work from local artists and those from further afield.

Work ranges from pottery, jewellery, glass art, photography, willow sculptures, mosaics, paintings to textile art. Local artists include the paintings of Anne McAllister and Shirley Sharp as well as the pottery of Clare Stephens and of course the unique work of paints on metal of Jenny Krupa.

The Art Barn is open daily from Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 4.00pm. Tea & cake are available.

Due to current circumstances social distancing is in place; hand sanitiser on arrival and a one-way system around the exhibition. There is an attractive area to sit outside and enjoy some refreshments. A must place to visit, which will be not only attractive to locals but also visitors to the town.



## Jim Bennett 1923 – 2020

William James Bennett, better known as Jim, was born on July 20<sup>th</sup> 1923 (as he proudly recalled) in the Anchor Inn, Oldbury-on-Severn. He was the eldest of three brothers: Don and Alan followed on behind.



Jim attended Oldbury School but his heart was always outside the classroom where a variety of activities were on the agenda, ranging from being wheeled around the village atop a wheel barrow delivering bags of coal, to collecting baskets of gooseberries for making Oldbury tarts. As a teenager he would have been found scrumping apples or riding his bicycle as part of the village gang with only a couple of lights between them. Many of the friendships formed in these early years were to remain constant throughout his life.

On leaving school he became an apprentice carpenter and the skills he learned were to stand him in good stead throughout his life, later to be passed on to his son, Nick. Whilst he was working for Hawkins the well-known Thornbury builders, he set about achieving his ambition to build his own house at evenings and week-ends on a field in Newton, where he and his wife, Jean, having married at Hill church in 1949, eventually settled ten years later. Here their daughter Jill was born.

The arrival of the family in the parish of Rockhampton was significant because they became part of the fabric of the village for over sixty years and there can be few aspects of village life in which Jim did not take a leading part along with Jean and the children. He was a keen sportsman, enjoying football, initially as a player but after damage to his knees, becoming an ardent Bristol City supporter. He played cricket for Rockhampton in the days when the only pitch was on The Common and was one of those who instigated the building of the pavilion which now sits alongside it (its predecessor being a small shed on the opposite side of the road!) The Common had a key role in Jim's life for other reasons too. It was there that he met Jean, and there he could be found at key times throughout the year helping to organise the village fête in July and the bonfire in November.

The parish church owed much to Jim's devotion and building skills; as a member of the PCC and churchwarden for many years, he was responsible for maintenance on the building but he also enjoyed meeting and greeting people as they entered the church. His expertise on burials was valued as he readily recalled who was buried where and could even turn his hand to grave-digging (by hand!) when necessary.

Alongside this, Jim was a member of the parish council and the village hall committee, being heavily involved in many of the improvements to the village hall. His interest in gardening led him to become a key figure in the village flower and produce show where his skills focused on dahlias and roses, not only exhibiting but also judging at other local shows. Home-made wine was another interest which gave him considerable pleasure!

Winter months saw Jim often acting as MC and playing at local whist drives, although dominoes later became his forte. He was an avid Berkeley Hunt follower, amongst whom he formed and cemented many friendships. He could often be found making the most of the viewpoint offered by Oldbury church or along the lanes around Hill & Rockhampton with a variety of lifelong friends as they recalled old times and shared their comprehensive knowledge of the local area.

Jim was the epitome of a local character for whom family, friends and social activities were key to his enjoyment of life. His children and grandchildren will miss him greatly and we offer them our condolences in their loss.



## Closure of the Armstrong Hall – please be assured that all is not lost.....

The Armstrong Arts Group (AAG) is a small group of volunteers that organises many of the events you will have enjoyed in the Armstrong and Cossam Halls, known as the Armstrong Complex. The group is continuing to raise money for the improvement of the complex, which Mrs Joan Hawkins started in May 2009, donating £1,000 to start off the fund and who organised the fund-raising concerts and events along with Daphne Ashton. Barbara Ray joined them in January 2010 and has been continuing their excellent work with other willing volunteers who have joined since.

The AAG has written, in strong terms, to the Armstrong Hall's Charitable Trust about its decision to close the Armstrong Hall Complex for the foreseeable future. This has sadly involved making five redundancies. The letter presses the trustees to prioritise finding a solution to the current difficulties and to use whatever monies that can be found to make the hall safe and usable again for community groups.

The unexpected appearance of COVID-19 and its devastating consequences has meant that we have had to cancel the events due to take place since the end of March, for the foreseeable future. However **please be reassured that the AAG is continuing to meet regularly and has a rolling programme in place, so that we are ready to go as soon as the Armstrong Hall opens for business.** It is keen to ensure that the Armstrong Hall Complex continues to fulfil its vital role in the life of the town and for the well-being of the community, as confirmed in the Council's recent poll, which resulted in a clear preference that the complex must continue to be the community hall for the town.

With an eye to the future, the AAG has engaged Michael Lunts to present his "Christmas Crackers" concert at a date in December. Michael's lively and uplifting performance is sure to banish the lockdown blues. He will take "a satirical look at the festive season in the company of Tom Lehrer, Jake Thackray, Paddy Roberts, Noel Coward and other classical exponents of the comedy song."

Watch the local press and mythornbury for further details: contact 01454 412272.

Meanwhile from all at the AAG, "If we don't use it – we'll lose it" so please help us keep this vital facility working.



## British Legion Coffee Mornings At Last – We're Back !!

The drop-in coffee mornings for HM Forces and Veterans are back at Hawkes House. The next session will be on Thursday September 10th, and again on Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup> both from 0930 – 1130 .

To say that we are delighted would be an understatement. This Covid-19 lockdown, whilst necessary, has been a major disruption. We have all missed the opportunity to meet up for coffee and a chat, and to provide support and comradeship.

The team from Royal British Legion Thornbury are looking forward to seeing old friends again, and of course to meeting new ones.

Drop in to see us – you WILL be welcome.

FALFIELD WEATHER RECORDS FOR JULY 2020			
	High	Low	Average
Temp	32.5 °C	6.1 °C	17.2 °C
Dew Point	17.9 °C	-10.0 °C	4.8 °C
Humidity	99.0 %	10.0 %	50.0 %
Precipitation	45.72 mm		
Wettest Day	11.68 mm on Monday 27th. mm		YTD 539.53
Wind Speed	27.0 km/h	--	1.5 km/h
Wind Gust	32.0 km/h		
Wind direction	SSE		
Pressure	1033.19 hPa	1004.74 hPa	

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## Jeffrey Watkins – Memories of my Tytherington Childhood and Beyond

*We printed the first part of Jeffrey's memories, recorded in 2016, in the April edition of 5 Alive but since much has happened to make it likely that we have forgotten what it contained, we've decided to print the whole piece.*

I was born in 1921 in the back room of a cottage on Stowell Hill Road opposite New Road. I lived in the room with my grandmother Mary Ann Smith (nee Livall) and my mother, her daughter Annie Smith. After my birth we moved to one of the cottages on Tytherington Hill (The Poor Law cottages). Ours was the second cottage in from the right facing the eight acres of Squire Hardwick and looking across the wonderful view to Wickwar and Hawkesbury.

The cottage consisted of one room down with a kitchen and two beds upstairs, very primitive but liveable. My gran and mother were very religious and went to services at Saint James' Church every week. My first real memories came at five years of age when my Mother and I trundled down the steps to go to the village school. Mr Hemmingway was the Headmaster and I remember the one large room with all the grades being taught with very little disruption.

A strong memory was the dentist coming and having much painful work. The four cottages were occupied by Fred Davis and wife in the first, us in the second, Skuses (sons Les and Lionel) in the third and the Caineys in the fourth. Les and Lionel Skuse were both grown up and played football and cricket for the local teams. Sonny Fry was the landlord of the Swan Inn where a bowling alley operated at the rear of the Pub.

My grandmother cleaned the Church Room building on Duck Street and the Quarry Offices on West Street. I understand that the Church Room building has since been removed. My mother and I would accompany gran on her cleaning expeditions. I was fascinated by the instruments of the Tytherington Band, stored in the rooms. I tried to blow those that had mouthpieces. Not much sound! As an aside, my gran had three children by a previous association. Ted Livall who lived in a house off Stowell Hill. Bill Livall, who had a successful small farm at Rangeworthy, and Emmy Wilson who lived on Tytherington Hill with her family and husband Tom Wilson, an ardent Welshman. Bill had played the trombone with the Tytherington Band, and it may be interesting to know that the instrument is still being played by his grandson who lives in the Kingswood near Wotton under Edge. I am in fairly regular touch with my Uncle Bill's granddaughter, Joan, who also lives in the Kingswood area and she told me of this; I offered to buy the instrument - but no luck.

I was friendly with Arthur Cassell who lived on the Hill with father, Bert Cassell, brother Reg and mother. Bert ran a small engine at the Quarry at the foot of the steps. The engine drove a generator supplying power to the Quarries of Squire Hardwick. Bert constructed a swing for Art and me on the old lime tree near his house. Art and I spent many happy times on it swinging to our hearts delight. At age eight I moved with my mother to live with my father at the Hackett, near Thornbury. I was fortunate to win a scholarship to Thornbury Grammar School.

Mr Kitson was the Vicar of St. James' Church and I was baptized by him. He had two sons, older than I was but I had met both: Harold was in the Army and Hugh in the Air Force. Hugh was a pilot and was unfortunately killed on a training mission in New Zealand at the beginning of World War 2. I have been in touch with his wife (who has since died), Miss Jenner Fust of Hill, and his daughter who was born before his death.

My gran was an ardent supporter of the Tytherington Rocks Football team at the time. She and I would trundle across the fields and woods from the Hill to the playing field and stand on the side lines in all winds and weathers The Rocks in their black and white stripes, with Ambrose Johnson centre half, Cliff Ponting on the wing, Bert Nelmes in goal, an excellent inside forward



Tytherington Rocks 1932

whose name escapes me (his last name beginning with H.), Harry Wilson my cousin and others. Gran and mother were strong supporters of the local Women's Institute and would attend all of their meetings. They met, either at the Swan Inn or the Church Rooms. The Post Office was run by the Humphries and I was quite friendly with their son Wilfred. The Boyts operated their butchers' shop on West Street. Horrible memories of pigs being slaughtered in the field behind, in full view of the school play yard.

Fred Tavender, with his wife and family, lived in a small farm at the foot of the steps. I would go to them for milk and butter. A grocery van would come to the Hill on occasions supplying us with necessary groceries, and - happy days - an ice cream van from Bristol!

Gypsies frequently camped on the Hill at the entrance from New Road with their caravans, horses; they sold clothes pegs. A memory is of Gran and me standing at the steps of our cottage looking across the wonderful view and seeing the R100 or R101 airship flying by across the Vale. At the same time, she said (dramatically) that the end of the world will come as a result of conditions in the Middle East. An uneducated lady but possessing total faith. Gran, my mother and I would visit mother's sister Nellie Woodward very often for supper. They lived on Station (Itchington) Road. Tom Woodward was Nell's husband. Their children were, Herbert, Jinnie (McCarthy), Marge, Hilda, Doris and Arthur. Arthur Cassell's brother Reg blew the bellows for the Church organ and Art and I loved to try to ring a bell in the belfry. I still hear, in my mind, the wonderful sound of the peal of bells every Sunday, and the sad sound of the solo bell for funerals. I heard that sound in 1932 for the funeral of my dear gran who is buried in the churchyard.

I joined the Royal Air Force at 16 straight from Thornbury Grammar School. I wanted to fly from about the age of 11, and I knew of a number of school students had joined the Air Force as Aircraft Apprentices. This involved a three-year course covering all aspects of aircraft and engine technology, at the end of which a pilots' course was available for those who qualified academically and physically. My course had ended in March 1940, and I was granted a pilots' course immediately, obtaining my wings in December 1940. The Battle of Britain was over, but Bomber Command was rapidly building, and so most of us were drafted to bombers.



I was posted to the Gold Coast (Ghana) to ferry twin engine bombers from the assembly unit in Takoradi, Gold Coast, through Central Africa to Cairo in Egypt, where the aircraft were prepared for operations in the Western Desert. I did this for 18 months, returning to England in June 1942. I then converted to fly four engine bombers, Handley Page Halifax, and started operational flying on these aircraft in January 1943. My crew and I completed an extended tour of operations after which we were "foolish enough" to volunteer for another tour on Pathfinders. We were asked to join a special duty type of Squadron which we accepted. The operations would involve attacks on special targets needing precision bombing techniques, such as dams, bridges, isolated ships etc. some of which would be daylight attacks. We accepted this direction, which meant converting to four engines Lancaster aircraft. All, except one member who had already completed a tour of bombing operations, joined my crew. He was the rear gunner and was replaced by a Canadian. This resulted in my crew consisting of an Australian navigator, a Canadian bomb aimer, a Canadian rear gunner, with the rest of us English; quite a delightful mixture. The aircraft crew contained only one pilot with the bomb aimer and flight engineer taught to fly straight and level, in the event of pilot injury, but they would not attempt to land the aircraft, turning it out to sea with the crew parachuting out, once the English coast had been reached. Our crew never needed to exercise this manoeuvre.

We completed our two extended tours on November 12<sup>th</sup> 1944 by attacking the German Battleship "Tirpitz" (pictured right) in Tromsø fjord Norway. Twenty-nine Lancaster bombers successfully completed the attack, each carrying one 1200-pound bomb, called "Tallboy", named for the designer Barnes Wallis, who was a tall man. The Battleship was destroyed much to the delight of Sir Winston Churchill, who wanted that "beast" sunk at all costs.



I was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for my actions, and finished with the rank of Flight Lieutenant, leaving the Royal Air Force in August 1946.

*Some years after the war, Jeffrey emigrated to the U.S. where he had to take out citizenship in order to take advantage of the opportunity to work on top-secret jet engine development, in the company of Frank Whittle and the leader of the German war-time jet engine project. Jeffrey's C.V. has included a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. taken during his mature years, is littered with contacts with distinguished aero engineers and projects.*

*An incredible fact about Jeffrey's career in Bomber Command is that during a colossal 83 flights he was never shot out of the air and neither did his crew suffer any casualties.*



## Rockhampton Parish Council

The Parish Council have continued to meet during the pandemic with online council meetings taking place in July and August. The internal audit of accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 has now taken place, been approved, and sent off to the external auditors.

Highways issues including speeding traffic through the village are as always a concern to the Council who have made requests to South Gloucestershire Council to replace a number of missing 30 mph repeater signs and white lines which have disappeared over time, this work is expected to be completed in the autumn. Avon & Somerset Police have also been requested to undertake some speed enforcement through the village.

The Council are now in receipt of an external defibrillator purchased by the Council with the assistance of grants totalling £1,300.00. This unit will be installed shortly and will be sited externally on the Old Cricket Pavilion and available 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

Finally, the next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and will currently be online. The agenda for this meeting will be published on the notice boards at Newton and The Wheel as well as on the Council's website ahead of the meeting. The website also contains information on Councilors, minutes of the previous meetings and the Council's current and previous year's finances.

*James Carpenter, Clerk, Rockhampton Parish Council.* [rockhamptonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rockhamptonpc@gmail.com)  
[www.rockhamptonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.rockhamptonparishcouncil.co.uk)



### Dementia Support South Gloucestershire

Dementia support workers offer information and practical guidance to help people understand dementia, cope with day-to-day challenges and prepare for the future.

They offer support face to face, over the phone or in writing. The service is for people with Dementia and their carers, family and friends.

**Call our support line for more information:**

**Tel: 0333 150 3456**

<b>Monday to Wednesday</b>	<b>9am – 8pm,</b>
<b>Thursday and Friday</b>	<b>9am – 5pm</b>
<b>Saturday and Sunday</b>	<b>10am – 4pm</b>

**or see our website: [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)**

**Please note: Alzheimer's Society has [temporarily suspended](#) all of our face-to-face and group services.**

## Local charity launches major appeal for survival



Like so many charities, Brain Tumour Support, which has had its headquarters in Thornbury for the last 17 years, has launched an urgent appeal to ensure its survival. The charity, which supports thousands of brain tumour patients and their families across the country, including many in the local area, has had to furlough the majority of its staff and suspend much of its service across the country and now faces the prospect of leaving hundreds of vulnerable people without support if vital funds are not raised in the near future.

Tina Mitchell Skinner who founded the charity 17 years ago after losing her husband to a brain tumour said, "Brain Tumour Support has grown every year to help more people. We had exciting plans to extend our support services when the pandemic hit. This coincided with funding from Macmillan England coming to an end, so for us it was a double blow. We rely solely on voluntary donations and have an amazing army of fundraisers, but most of the events and activities they were planning have had to be cancelled or postponed, so our income has plummeted."

This decrease in income comes at a time when Brain Tumour Support has seen a huge increase in demand for its services. The lockdown has not only increased isolation for brain tumour patients, it has also delayed many people receiving diagnoses or treatment, which means the charity is expecting an even larger increase in demand for its services once lockdown measures are eased. Coming to terms with a brain tumour diagnosis is a worrying and difficult time under any circumstances, but coping with the symptoms, treatments, the physical and emotional impact whilst also dealing with a pandemic is a terrifying experience for both patients and their loved ones.

Although Brain Tumour Support has adapted its services to try and help as many as possible, many vital aspects of its work have had to be put on hold. It now offers a limited number of video chats instead of support groups and has managed to keep its telephone support line and on-line support forum open for the time being. But in order to survive it urgently needs donations from individuals, organisations and companies.

"We are currently working with over 1,500 patients and carers requiring critical and intensive support with many more waiting for help," said Mrs Mitchell Skinner. "As well as patients who need our help, many NHS staff are also supported by us, as we provide a service that they simply do not have the resources to provide. These are challenging times for many people, but any support offered will be welcomed."

To find out how you can help the Together We Are Stronger Appeal, go to the charity's website: [www.braintumoursupport.co.uk/appeal](http://www.braintumoursupport.co.uk/appeal)

The first cases of Covid-19 occurred in May and numbers of cases remained low. Even so, schools, churches, bars and other gathering places were closed in an attempt to avoid the pandemic. All went well until July when numbers began to rise. We are watching the daily figures and hoping numbers will slow down.

The worrying news is that lockdown has greatly affected the Zambian economy, which is very poor anyway, and there has been no help from the government, such as the furlough schemes there!

St Mark's and St Anne's community schools re-opened for grade 7 pupils on June 1<sup>st</sup> and are working throughout August to catch up on the work.

The photo shows the grade 7 pupils on June 1<sup>st</sup> as they return to school, socially distanced and wearing masks. They are having lessons in the partly built St Anne's church as this allowed more space. There is no talk yet of the return of other years.

The parental contributions have greatly reduced as most children are not in school and parents are even less able to pay now.



CLinC looked at the problems facing the two schools and decided that it was important to help them weather the pandemic! They had been doing so well in recent years that we felt we must help them survive. So, this week we have sent funds to cover the teachers' pay, provide grade 7 with a weekly meal and pay the cost of the six teachers' college fees until the end of the year. The college teaching is mainly distance learning and E-learning and has managed to continue even when the college buildings have been closed. The exchange rate has improved in our favour, but even so this still cost us £3,400.

Like all charities, fundraising has been very difficult for CLinC. However, I would like to thank all of our supporters who give weekly, monthly or annually as this has kept us going. In addition we have continued to make and sell our marmalade and jams. We have also been making non-medical facemasks for sale locally. Thank you to Cromhall Shop for helping with these efforts. The sale of facemasks alone has raised over £750. Thank you to everyone who has bought them. There are plenty still available in Cromhall Shop!

Our big worry for 2021 is whether we are going to be able to afford to finance the schools, teacher training and also pay the school fees for the grade 8 & 9 pupils at Chipata School. We will do our best. As our Zambian friends would say 'have faith'!

*Ann Greenhalgh* For more information visit [www.cromhall.com/clinc](http://www.cromhall.com/clinc)

## Tytherington Parish Council Needs You!

Tytherington Parish Council is still looking for a Parish Councillor. If you care about Tytherington and Itchington and would like to have more of a say on local issues, why not apply? No previous experience needed. Please contact the Clerk to find out more details at [clerk@tytheringtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@tytheringtonpc.org.uk)



### How much time does it take up?

Councils usually meet once a month for the council meeting, to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last two or three hours, depending on the agenda set for the meeting to discuss. In addition to the regular meetings, councillors are required to attend other meetings representing the council. For example, acting as a representative on an outside body, community activities or helping develop a new project for the community. Such meetings won't happen every day, so it's not going to take over your life, but its best of allocate 2 to 3 hours a week for council business, plus meeting time. Applications to the clerk at [clerk@tytheringtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@tytheringtonpc.org.uk)

The council have been busy holding zoom meetings during the Covid-19 epidemic and have managed to keep various items moving on the agenda. Past Minutes and agendas are available on the Council web site [www.tytheringtonpc.org.uk](http://www.tytheringtonpc.org.uk). There is a wealth of information about Tytherington and Itchington on the site and if you would like to see any more information please let the clerk know.

The Parish Council will also consider grants for this coming year. Grant applications need to be with the Clerk by 30<sup>th</sup> October to be considered at the November meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

The Parish Council have also been awarded £24869 CIL from the Duck Street development. Community Infrastructure Levy which can be used to help pay for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation and maintenance of infrastructure. This would include village shops, roads, open spaces and flood defences. The Parish Council will be consulting residents of the Parish in the Autumn on how the money could be spent. Any ideas on projects should be sent to the [clerk@tytheringtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@tytheringtonpc.org.uk) for inclusion in the consultation.

## Church ... as we have NEVER known it....!

Before all this pandemic and lockdown and closing churches etc., I would have laughed at the thought of us ever having to sign up to come to church because of possible lack of space. In fact the thought of churches so full that you had to 'book a place' would have sent my excitement levels off the scale! Sadly now we have to ask you to let us know if you would like to come to church because we have to keep our 'social distancing' guidelines in church and wear masks. How very sad and difficult this is for us all.

Weddings have been postponed or radically altered in content and style. Many couples are still undecided about how best to go forward with planning their wedding day. Funerals as some of you will know have been very quiet, respectful occasions, but with the additional sadness of being unable to truly celebrate a life and to say 'goodbyes' in the way that would have been appropriate for loved ones.

Our great Christian festival of Easter and the Ascension and then the celebration of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost so many occasions have passed by as we have adapted to worship in our homes, through Zoom services and using You-tube services to encourage us in our own spiritual lives. Times when we would have been together worshipping God, we have all been adapting to a very different way of 'church'. We have learnt a lot!

Now we are looking to meet together once more, but this will be so different and challenging for us all. Not only do we have to keep apart from each other, we can't sing! I know you will understand that for me, this is just terrible, as indeed I know that for some of you too; it is just awful to think we cannot sing together. I know that church is more than singing - of course I do, but being together and not being able to raise our voices in song and praise of our Lord, is just something I do not want to have got used to!! All through this lockdown I have been, in my musings, encouraging people to sing and to laugh and I so long to be able to sing hymns and songs with other people. It looks some way off at the moment.....but it will happen again. Take heart!

As we take our first tentative steps into church again, I know you will help us in the observance of the guidelines. We are all taking one step at a time and I am aware that at the end of all of this, you may be able to look back and say "you were wrong to do this" or "we could have done that" - and I will understand that. Let's hope and pray that it will not be too long before we can meet and sing out our worship and praise to God. In the meantime - do please sign up and remember most of all - God loves you!

*Rev Sue*







## Limited library services now available

Now COVID-19 lockdown restrictions have eased, our libraries have introduced pre-bookable services to borrow books, DVDs and audiobooks and access a computer and use the Wi-Fi. This is so you can access them in a safe and controlled way. It does mean visiting the library in the way we were all used to before lockdown, for the moment, is not possible.

- **Find something to read**

You can order up to 6 items to collect at a pre-booked time of your choice. Complete a Click and Collect webform for the library you will collect from online at [sglibraries.eventbrite.com](http://sglibraries.eventbrite.com) or call 01454 865022 Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm; Saturday 9:30am – 12pm and speak to a member of library staff.

- **Book for 1 hour free use of a computer or our Wi-Fi using your own device**

Call 01454 868006 Monday to Thursday 8:45am - 5:00pm; Fridays 8:45am – 4:30pm

Find the latest information on our website [www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges)

- **Our free online library is still open 24/7**

eBooks, eAudiobooks, eComics, digital magazines and newspapers continue to be available for library members to download anytime - [www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources) has all the details. It now also includes *Who Else Writes Like?*, and for children, *Who Next?* where you can find authors who write in a similar way to those you have already enjoyed reading.



## Your churches need you – Ride+Stride to go ahead for 2020

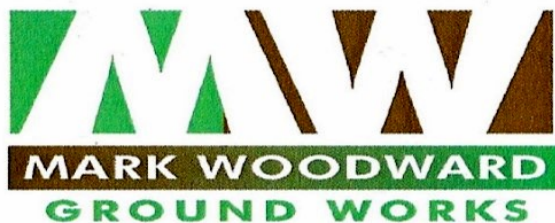
Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) are delighted that despite coronavirus Ride+Stride 2020 will be taking place on **12th September**. More than ever, historic churches in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and North Bristol need your support.

Ride+Stride is a nationwide event supported by the National Churches Trust and organised by local historic churches trusts. Cyclists, walkers, and horse riders raise money by being sponsored to visit churches and chapels on any route of their choice. Because of the special circumstances this year, supporters also have the options of taking part in a sponsored activity of their own choice at home, or just donating to the Trust. Of course, everyone taking part should ensure that they follow government guidelines, especially relating to social distancing.

The money raised by Ride+Stride will be shared between GHCT and local churches. You can take part as an individual or in a suitably social distanced group – as part of your local church or even with friends from work. In this unusual year we have taken steps to make it as easy as possible to take part by simplifying our processes and materials and participants and local organisers can find all the information they need for Ride+Stride on the GHCT website at [www.ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride](http://www.ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride).

**Remember, whether or not someone actually takes part, they can still support us by donating via our JustGiving page**  
[www.justgiving.com/campaign/ride-and-stride2020](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ride-and-stride2020).

**For more information visit: [www.ghct.org.uk](http://www.ghct.org.uk)**



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## Falfield Parish Council Report

Well these have certainly been challenging times for all of us, not least for the Parish Council who have had to meet on-line to undertake ongoing council business. Monthly on-line meetings have taken place in May, June, and July with a further meeting to take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. It is expected that for the foreseeable future, and in line with government legislation, all council business will continue on-line. These meetings are available for parishioners to join and full details on how this can be done can be found on the meeting agenda when it is published.

During lockdown, the Councillors have approved the Annual Governance and Financial Statement of accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Councillors have also commented on several planning applications received. The Parish Council have been approached by a number of parishioners over the condition of the A38 road surface through the village and other highways issues which have been brought to the attention of StreetCare.

James Carpenter, Clerk, Falfield Parish Council  
[parish.clerk@falfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@falfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)  
[www.falfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.falfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Tytherington Churpel Society

Unfortunately, there will be no meetings until further notice. Clearly we cannot consider any productions at the moment until we are able to rely on having an audience. *John Lewis - Chairman*

### Driving on country lanes



Driving on rural roads can be a joy. You're surrounded by beautiful countryside and often have long stretches of the road all to yourself.

However quiet and tranquil rural lanes might seem, they can be exceptionally dangerous. In fact, **the number of people killed on British rural roads was more than ten times higher than on motorways in 2017.**

So, whether you live in the countryside or rarely get out of town, it's important to be prepared for the nuances and dangers of rural driving. The hazards and obstacles you might encounter on rural roads range from wild animals, livestock and fallen branches, to walkers, farm vehicles and horse riders.

Rural roads are prone to flooding, so plan ahead in wet conditions. If you come across a section of road that appears to be flooded, but you can't tell how deep the water is, then it's wiser to find an alternative route.

*One interesting phenomenon about vehicles driven in the country is that many seem to lack brakes or reverse gears!*

## ***SWEETSAFE***

***Chimney Sweeping from £50***

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***CRAIG OGBORNE 07477 544344***

# Tytherington Time Capsule



As part of the new development off Duck Street, Cotswold Homes have commissioned me as an artist, to design and create a piece of public art for Tytherington. I have been busy working on the project since October last year and as part of my work I would like to create a 'time capsule' with the villagers of Tytherington for the Tytherington of the future.

There are many things to be discussed about the 'Tytherington Time Capsule' and the whole village will have the opportunity to have their input. Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit, this idea has become even more poignant and the aim will be to record what villagers agree is most important to go into the time capsule.

Due to the current situation I have decided it is safest for everyone if I contact people via email. So to start off I need to collect the email addresses of interested villagers and then I will send out a series of questionnaires.

All villagers of Tytherington are invited to get involved with the time capsule. If you are interested please email me at:

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

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions!

Henrietta Armstrong

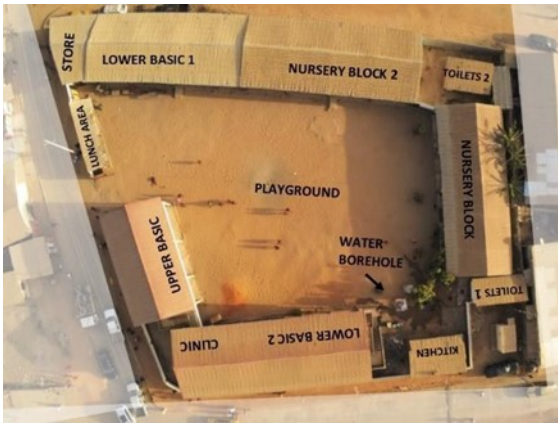
[www.henriettaarmstrong.com](http://www.henriettaarmstrong.com)  
Instagram: @henri\_armstrong





## TALLINDING PROJECT - 2020 UPDATE

Charity no. 1124143



DRONE VIEW OF WHOLE SCHOOL 2002 – 2020

Our January visit is always very busy with our container arriving from England to be unloaded and goods distributed. That sounds easy but in reality it took over 4 days to get the container out of the docks and transported to the school. Once it arrived there were many hands to help. The Xmas gifts, clothing and school items went to the store to be distributed later in the week. The hospital beds were sent to the small local hospital, the medical supplies into the school clinic.

We have arranged with the local Red Cross organisation to run the clinic, tending to minor injuries in school and undertake training of senior students in first aid, giving them an important life skill.

The building of the second 2-storey block is finally complete and we organised and paid for a group of painters to come in and paint the entire school, inside and out. The school was looking somewhat grubby and hopefully smartening it up will encourage the children to be a little less messy. Rubbish is an ever present problem in the Gambia so we also have installed 'rubbish bins' and encourage the children to 'litter pick' daily.



Our other major achievement this trip, and probably one of the most important, was to organise the sinking of a bore-hole to provide a constant source of drinking water for the whole school of 1500 pupils. This was officially certified as drinkable and then attached to a pump which delivers the fresh water to our existing 500gal tank.

### COVID 19 EMERGENCY

*The Gambia, like the UK, has been in lock-down. Out there the vast majority of people are dependent on the tourist trade, directly or indirectly. At the present time there are no tourists, the hotels etc are closed and they have very little or no government help. With the school closed the sponsored children are not getting their lunch so we have decided to supply some food (a bag of rice and cooking oil) to the families of the children on sponsorship, who are the poorest, mostly single mums or orphans. This costs roughly £25 each. We are only a small charity so any donations would be very welcome.*

**OR SPONSOR A CHILD FOR ONLY £12 PER MONTH.**

***Our sponsorship scheme offers education to the poorest children: payment of their school fees, school uniform, lunch daily plus school supplies (books and pencils).***

**JOHN & CHRISTINE CARTER, Trustees Tallinding Project**

To contact us email – [tallindingproject@btinternet.com](mailto:tallindingproject@btinternet.com)

or Tel. 07411 430818 or 07715 878620

*John and Christine run the printing business, Cotsmark, in Cam which is responsible for printing 5 Alive along with several other local magazines.*

To find out more about the Tallinding project go to: <http://www.tallindingproject.com>

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## Volunteering during lockdown

Thornbury Volunteer Centre feel that there should be a permanent record of what volunteer action has done to help the local community throughout this crisis. We are gathering the experiences of individuals and organisations in their own words and then publishing them on our website and in our Annual Report later in the year.

If you have either played a part in helping your local community or are a representative of an organisation which has been vital to helping we would ask you to tell us what you have done and are still doing and what impact this has made on you, your organisation or both. We would be very grateful if you could drop us an email at [mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk](mailto:mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk) This may be a sentence, a paragraph or something more substantial.

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Watch the local press and mythornbury for further details: Contact 01454 412272.

## Your magazine: How to send copy or adverts for inclusion in '5 Alive':

### NEWS COPY:

#### Where?

- News items should be sent to Kay Rea, The Bungalow, Moorslade, Falfield, GL12 8DJ Tel. 01454 260364 Email: [kay.rea@btinternet.com](mailto:kay.rea@btinternet.com)

#### When?

- Copy date is **strictly before midnight on the 19th of each month** (but the earlier we receive material the better).

#### In what form?

- Please submit all copy by e-mail (attachments should be in **Word or Publisher** format, **not PDF**). (We reserve the right of the editor to edit, and you may find that small changes are made for the sake of space etc)
- If you want to submit an advertising poster or similar, black and white is preferable as it reproduces more clearly.
- Charities wishing to publicise events should quote their charity number.**

### ADVERTISING:

- The deadline for inclusion of advertising in 5 Alive is the 12th of the month preceding publication.**
- Enquiries about advertising should be directed to Kay Rea, The Bungalow, Moorslade, Falfield, Nr Wotton-under-Edge, Glos, GL12 8DJ. Tel. 01454 260364 Email: [kay.rea@btinternet.com](mailto:kay.rea@btinternet.com)

Charges per issue are as follows:

	Business Rates	Rates for businesses within the benefice
Full page:	£56	£40
Half page:	£28	£20
Quarter page:	£18	£15
Eighth of page:	£10	£8

**There is a 10% discount for advertisers paying for a year's advertising in advance and 5% for those paying for 6 months' advertising in advance**

Cheques should be made out to '**Benefice Newsletter**' and sent to Kay Rea (as above).

**AskKath**  
For all Animal & Pet Care  
Making pet ownership simpler for you

Home Dog Boarding now available  
Dog Walking & Feeding  
Cat Feeding & Petting  
Rabbit & Guinea Pig Feeding  
Horse Turn Out  
Chickens  
Vet Transport  
Grooming Transport  
Bird Feeding  
Fish Feeding

Licence for Boarding  
DBS Checked & Fully Insured  
Animal Care Certificate  
First Aid Certificate

Tel: 07870 842685  
email: [kathbryant@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kathbryant@yahoo.co.uk)

The advertisement features a colorful illustration of various animals including a rooster, a blue chicken, a white rabbit, a black cat, a brown dog, and a brown horse, set against a background of green hills, trees, and a bright sun.