

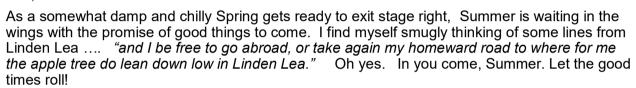


Volume 20 Issue 6 June 2023

Waving or drowning?

The clues are all there:

- the heady aroma of Wild Garlic hanging on the fresh early morning air: Tick.
- the abundant flowers of Cow Parsley adorning the roadside verges: Tick.
- the petals of Apple Blossom gently drifting down like confetti to cover grass and paths: Tick...
- and now the May Trees are starting to show their colours too. Yes, the clues are all there.



But not all of us have homeward roads to meander down with accommodating apple trees to greet us at the end. The curved balls life has a habit of throwing have bowled some completely over and many people are desperately in need of a helping hand. None of us can truly know what goes on in people's lives behind the outward veneer we all surround ourselves with – the face we show to the world. Sometimes we're not waving but drowning.

Charities play such a big part in helping those in need. Roots Independent Street Team in Bristol rely on volunteers to provide hot meals to the homeless, but maintaining numbers is not easy in



this time of economic difficulty. The drop in numbers of people volunteering was highlighted over the coronation weekend, and many charities are struggling to keep going.

Volunteering can make such a difference in so many ways. It doesn't even have to be a big commitment and can be simple: An offer of help cutting grass in the local churchyard, or litter picking when you are out for a walk, or helping with a fund raising event locally, all help. Or, of course, offer to cook 35 meals for

the homeless on a regular basis! Big or small, it makes no difference, but even a little bit means so much to so many.

In the meantime, while you're thinking about what you could do, I'll just go and see how those apples are getting on

Christine Robertson

1st - 7th June is Volunteers Week - see page 12 for details. Volunteers are also needed for the Summer Reading Challenge - details on page 6.

a reason to smile find it!

LEGO CLUB at Thornbury Library

Listen to a story or some poems, then create your own LEGO masterpieces and display them in the library for your family and friends to see.

> FREE Every Saturday 9.30am no booking required

Tytherington Village Shop Association

Annual Members Meeting

will be held

on

Tuesday June 6th 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Annex

All welcome but only TVSA members will be able to vote. Membership forms are available on request at the shop.



SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 10.00am - 12 noon

Organised by St George's Church

Enjoy a free hot drink in Thornbury Library Available Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.30am-4.00pm

Use the computers or use your own iPad, phone etc. (wifi available).

Read a book, a newspaper, browse the shelves, enjoy a communal puzzle or just relax.

Tat3

Cromhall Village Hall at 3pm on Wednesday 14th June



for tea and a chat.

All senior citizens living in and around Cromhall are welcome.

For more information, or if you require a lift. contact Ann on 01454 294200

Computer Support 1-1 at Thornbury Library

Book a session with our computer volunteer for IT and digital support

Every Thursday 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am

Thornbury Art Club



theV

Tues 27th June St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury Thornbury Art Club monthly Club Night.

Jackie Cox will demonstrate "An Animal Portrait in Pastel".

Visitors welcome. Non-members £5. Tel. 01454 414433 for further details.

Falfield WI News

In May our speaker was Hugh Evans who was an employee of the famous Fry's chocolate factory. He gave us a potted history of the company up until the takeover by Kraft.

This was an ideal talk for chocolate-lovers and anyone interested in some of the history of Bristol. Samples were provided and recommendations made for good quality modern products

in the shops. All proceeds from his talks go to Hospice South West.

On the 6th June our picnic meeting will be held. We need to bring a chair, cup, plate and cutlery and arrive at the venue by 6pm.

In August there is a proposed outing with Applegates; details available from a committee member.

South Gloucestershire Over 50s Forum

The Forum was formed in 1993 in order to enable people over 50 to

have a voice. We listen to issues about people's local areas and communities and try to resolve these through meetings with local council, agencies and government whilst providing a safe, warm environment for people over 50 to meet and share some social time together.



At our monthly online and Face to Face meetings, we invite guest speakers to talk about issues from health to estate planning,

these speakers are often discussing topics relevant to the local community. At all our meetings you will get the chance to ask questions and bring us topics and issues you would like us to get involved with from pot-holes to bus cancellations and lack of GP appointments, whatever your concerns, you have a voice and we are here to listen. We will try and help with any issues your community may have in a welcoming environment with free refreshments!

We have local meetings in Yate, Kingswood, Thornbury, Patchway and Emerson's Green on a rolling monthly basis and zoom meetings once a month.

If you care about your community and would like to be involved in helping to make it a better place please do get in contact, membership of the Forum is completely free and can be done via our website.

www.southglosover50sforum.org.uk or get in

contact with our Development Worker Jess Ford for more information.

Be a part of making South Gloucestershire a better ageing community!

For more information contact us at mail2southglosover50s@gmail.com or ring 07426862121

The Forum became a registered charity in September 2020, number 1191820 and is supported by South Gloucestershire Council.





ASHWORTHY CATTERY

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For all enquires please contact Nicola on 07799805996



Make a difference this summer!

South Gloucestershire Libraries are looking for friendly and enthusiastic volunteers to join the team running Summer Reading Challenge 2023, *Ready, Set, Read!*

Volunteers will spend their time supporting children to do the Summer Reading Challenge, talking with them about the books they're reading and helping at a range of fun activities in the library. This is a great opportunity to develop skills in communication, team working and creative projects, whilst having fun and making new friends.

Summer Reading Challenge volunteers say:

'Being a volunteer for the Summer Reading Challenge was as much fun as it was doing the Summer Reading Challenge when I was younger; volunteering helped me grow in confidence and help support the growing community. I can't wait to do it again next year!!'

'Volunteering at the library has been really great – especially hearing the children talk about their favourite books. Everyone at the library has been helpful and friendly and making sure I knew what I was doing '

'Being a SRC volunteer has been very rewarding and has helped improve my self-confidence and people skills.'

The theme for this year's Challenge is *Ready*, *Set*, *Read!* – celebrating games and sports and encouraging children to join in any way that suits them. Children read books of their choice and collect stickers to get their medal and certificate.

The closing date for applications is 23 June. Volunteers must be aged 14 or over. For more information ask a member of staff at any South Gloucestershire library, email libraryvolunteers@southglos.gov.uk or visit www.southglos.gov.uk/library-volunteers.

Like us on Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/</u> <u>sgloslibraries</u> for the latest updates.







INSPIRING ACTIVE READERS







Salmon Fishing Exhibition

Thornbury and District Museum has revived a popular exhibition, **Severn Salmon Fishing**, originally curated a few years ago by the late Nick Large. It tells the story of salmon fishing in the River Severn, recording traditions and crafts handed down through the

generations and was based on his conversations with some of the men who were still fishing in the Severn. From the mid-1960s, Nick had been talking to the fishermen on the river, listening to their tales of bygone days and taking many wonderful black and white photographs of them at work. The exhibition shows just a small part of his research.

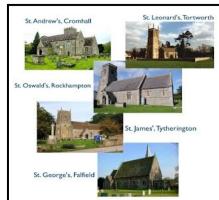
Following that exhibition, Nick was then encouraged by volunteers at the Museum to produce a book based on the large amount of material he had gathered over the years and *The Glorious Uncertainty: Salmon Fishing in the River Severn*



was almost completed when he died suddenly. Fortunately, volunteers Meg Wise and Tony Cherry were able to finish his work and the book was published in 2020, just before the first lockdown. It can still be purchased at the Museum. If you missed the exhibition the first time, do come and have a look at it now. We'd love to see you.

'Severn Salmon Fishing' is at Thornbury & District Museum in Chapel St.

Tues & Fri: 1–4pm, Sat: 10am - 4pm. FREE entry. Tel: 01454 857774. www.thornburymuseum.org.uk



Church services and information

A reminder that the five parishes of the former benefice are now separate entities. There is no longer a benefice office or a central point of contact. This means that the churchwardens of each church need to be contacted directly.

Cromhall: Ann Greenhalgh 01454 294200 Falfield: Headley Pain 01454 269017 or

Sian Hogg 07986699986/sianhogg@gmx.com

Liz Cullimore 01454 412208 Rockhampton: Tortworth: Hilary Legg 01454 413234 or Fen Marshall 01454 260821

Tytherington: John Williams 01454 412515 or Phil Coward 01454 281444

If they are unavailable, please try one of the other Wardens who will try to help you. Please bear in mind they do have other lives and may not be available instantly. However, leave a message and they will deal with it as soon as they can. Failing that, contact Rev. Graham Stacey, the Area Dean on graham@stbarts-camandcoaley.org.uk or Tel. 01453 709859

Cromhall PLEASE NOTE SERVICES WILL START AT 10.00AM

Sun 11th 10.00am Holy Communion with Rev. Jean Capstick

Sun 18th 10.00am Morning Prayer

Falfield

Sun 4th 3.30pm Café Church Sun 11th 10.30am Holy Communion Sun 18th 10.30am Christening

Sun 25th 10.30am Join Rockhampton

Rockhampton

Sun 25th 10.30am Holy Communion with Rev. David Powe

Tortworth

Sun 4th 10.30am Holy Communion with Mike Kippax

(Our 3rd Sunday event). No service but Cream Teas from 2.30 until 4.30 pm. Sun 18th

Sun 2nd July 10.30am Holy Communion

Tytherington

Thu 1st 9.30am Said Holy Communion

Joint Service with Baptists at St James' Sun 4th 10.30am

Sun 18th 10.30am Holy Communion & Baptism

You are welcome to join us at any of these services

Ukrainian Storvtime at Thornbury Library



Starts Monday 19th June at 4pm

Please tell your Ukrainian

family, friends, and colleagues, about Zoya, a Ukrainian teacher, who will be in the library every Monday at 4pm to share stories, reading, etc, from the Ukraine



presents Thornbury's first open air opera

Opera in a Box performing

Don Giovanni at Rockhampton Village Hall Field, GL13 9DX on June 18th 2023, 2,30pm

For open air comfort bring chairs and somewhere to put a drink! Tea, coffee and cakes available from the Village Hall.

Tickets: £20 from AAGThornbury@gmail.com

AAG are looking for accredited First Aiders, free tickets by arrangement for specified events. Contact janeparfittrail@gmail.com

Martin Lewis TV show on Death and Dementia

The financial expert Martin Lewis recently focussed his TV programme on the difficult issues of death and dementia that so many families avoid discussing.

5 key takeaways from his programme were:

- 1: All adults need an up to date Will (for when they die) to provide for those they love, and to save money spent on family disputes.
- 2: Having Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) is now even more important than having a Will.
- 3: The age for adults to set up LPAs is NOW!

LPAs need to be set up whilst you have mental capacity, and you don't know what life will bring – LPAs make sure your wishes are followed if you became seriously ill or injured and lost mental capacity. The alternative to LPAs was described as horrendously expensive, slow and may still not give you the results you'd want.

- 4: The gold standard to aim for is a Will and LPAs prepared by a firm of solicitors. They may cost a little more, but you should take professional advice and they will make sure they are legally valid.
- 5: Also, a firm of solicitors will (as part of their service) help you avoid other problems as they will check related documents such as property titles.

The programme is Episode 14 and is still available on ITVX – but everyone should take professional advice on their particular circumstances.

A free (no obligation) Will and LPA review is offered to our readers by our local experts - Simpson Solicitors. To book your free review pop into their Thornbury Offices or call **01454 412 278**



Free Will Review

Book your FREE MEETING at our Thornbury Office

Ensure your family and loved ones are protected and your assets pass to those you choose to inherit.

Simpson Solicitor's award winning team will help you do the job properly, protecting those you most care about with **Wills** and **Powers of Attorney**. At the FREE review meeting we'll take as long as you need to consider what is best for your personal circumstances. We offer clear fixed prices with no hidden costs.

On your own - Your Will is how you decide who will inherit from you

Living Together - Mitigate disputes and provide for your partner in the way you want

Parent Wills - In case the worst happened, provide for children under 18 and decide who you would want to raise them Later Life Wills - Protect your family's inheritance from Care Home fees and Tax

Lasting Powers of Attorney - Ensure your wishes are followed by appointment of those you trust, in case of serious injury or illness



"We were made to feel very welcome and cared for" H.L.

"You have lifted a great weight off our shoulders" C.R.



Call us today or drop in to our Thornbury Office 12 The Plain, Thornbury, BS35 2BE

If getting to us is difficult, our **FREE Home Visit** service covers all of South Gloucestershire including Cromhall, Falfield, Rockhampton, Tortworth and Tytherington.

www.simpsonsolicitors.com | 01454 412 278 | message@simpsonslawuk.com









Thornbury Orchestra Concert

Saturday, 10th June 2023 7.30pm Marlwood School, Alveston.

Programme includes:

- Beethoven's Symphony No 3 (Eroica),
- Peer Gynt Suite No 1 by Grieg
- Force of Destiny overture by Verdi.

Tickets available on the door: £10 for adults, children and concessions free.

The concert is in aid of "Listening Post", a professional voluntary service established to assist those who cannot afford private counselling to relieve distress. For more details, contact info@thornburyorchestra.org.uk.

The orchestra was founded in 2002 and draws players from across South Gloucestershire and beyond. We rehearse regularly in St Helen's, Alveston and normally give two or three concerts a year, all in support of local charities. We are always keen to hear from interested players and currently have a number of vacancies. For more details, visit our website www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk

Tytherington & Itchington Parish Council

Tytherington & Itchington Parish Council should now be quorate, as four residents have submitted nomination forms and hopefully their first meeting will be on Monday 5th June 2023 in the Village Hall. They do, however, still need more Councillors to help to run Tytherington & Itchington during the next 4 years, so if you are interested, please come to the first meeting where the present Councillors will be able to co-opt you onto the PC.

The solar panels are now installed on the Village Hall roof due to a grant from the Larks Green Solar Farm and a donation from the CIL fund from the Parish Council. The mosaic which was funded from the Tower Hill Community Fund is now on the Village Shop wall and is a most interesting wall plaque.

The capsule and sculpture due to be sited on Walnut Fields will take place soon and the Parish Council will advise on the date once it is known.

At the Annual Residents' Meeting, concern was expressed again about the speeding down Stowell Hill Road, the flooding around Tytherington during the heavy rain during April; these items will also be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Thank you for donations towards our printing costs from:



The Churpel Society and Falfield Stores

Donations are always welcome, particularly from those organisations which use this magazine to publicise their events.

We prefer payments by BACS (Account Name: Benefice Newsletter Bank Sort Code:55-61-38 Account No: 72008733 Reference: Your name to allow us to identify the payment.)

Regular donations may also be made by standing order.

For further details please contact our Treasurer, Mr Geoff Crosthwaite telephone 01454 294140

Email: 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 or the editor.

Dan

View 5 Alive online

Remember that 5 Alive is available online at www.falfield.org.uk,

https://cromhall.com/cromhall/st-andrews-church and www.tytherington-pc.gov.uk

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THORNBURY CARNIVAL 'EARLY BIRD' TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Tickets for the 2023 event taking place over the weekend of Friday 30th June and Saturday 1st July are now available to buy via the Thornbury Carnival website.

This year's entertainment will start on the evening of Friday 30th with 'Swing in the Park' and continue from 11am on Saturday 1st July with Thornbury Carnival 'The Main Event'.

Thornbury Swing Band will headline the Friday evening event and the Saturday event will feature a wide range of attractions such as the main stage with a variety of tribute acts including 'Absolutely Elton' and 'On a Night Like This' Kylie, local talent, stalls, a funfair, and a licenced bar and food concessions.

There will also be a Show 'n' Shine with a range of modern sports, American, and classic vehicles, and much of the children's entertainment will be included in the ticket price including face painting, mascots, balloon modelling, and a graffiti artist.

Further details can be found on the What's On page of the Thornbury Carnival website. 'Early Bird' tickets for both events are available to buy online until 11.59pm on Tuesday 27th June after which online tickets will be available to buy at gate prices.

Saturday 'Early Bird' tickets are £25.00 for a family of four (two adults aged 17+ plus up to two children aged 5-16), £12.00 for an adult, and £5.00 for a child aged 5-16 (entry is free for children aged 0-4).

We know many people are feeling the effects of the cost of living rises but when you compare Thornbury Carnival with other options for a family day out, it's actually great value for money.

'Early Bird' tickets are available now from www.thornburycarnival.co.uk/tickets. People will also be able to buy tickets at the gate using contactless payment or cash.

TYTHERINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

AFTERNOON TEA 2:30 – 4:00pm Wednesday 7th June



in the Schoolroom at rear of chapel Everyone welcome.





"CALENDAR GIRLS" Charity Fund Raiser

Collaborative Productions, a new amateur group of local thespians, is thrilled to announce that we have been given rights to perform the play "Calendar Girls" at Rangeworthy

Village Hall on 21 – 23 September 2023. This exciting charity event will be raising funds for (1) BUST (Breast Cancer Unit Support Trust) supporting the Bristol Breast Care Centre at Southmead Hospital, and (2) Blood Cancer UK.

Subsequent to the film starring Helen Mirren and Julie Walters, the stage version has been immensely successful. It is based on an inspiring true story of a group of friends from a Yorkshire WI who do something extraordinary sparking a global phenomenon when they pose for a charity calendar with a difference!

Due to the popularity of this play, it is likely to be a sell-out and early purchase of tickets will be advisable when they become available. There will be three evening performances plus a matinee on the Saturday. Calendar Girls is quirky, poignant and hilarious, guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and come out singing Jerusalem! Don't miss this amazing play; make a note of the dates in your calendar without delay.

More details to follow.



Get help from Thornbury CAB Town Hall, Thornbury.

Tuesdays 10am - 12 noon No appointment needed

For free independent, confidential advice given on a wide range of subjects from housing to relationships, benefit entitlement and debt.

Ring 0808 278 7947 or www.southgloscab.org.uk

The wonderful world of West African Music at Thornbury Library Saturday 10th June at 11am



with Alain Roumba and Servo Mputu

Come and hear the amazing sounds of Kora, drums, marimba and vocals and enjoy close encounters with instruments that we rarely get to hear.

A concert in collaboration with Rockhampton Folk Festival where Alain and Servo will be performing and giving workshops the following week.

TYTHERINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH



PASTOR - BRIAN ALLEN

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF ANY OF OUR SERVICES/ACTIVITIES, PLEASE CONTACT Brian on 0117 9 793104 or e-mail: allenbroncksea@blueyonder.co.uk

4th Joint Service at St James' 'Trinity Sunday'

11th 'The Calling of Matthew' [Matthew 9:9 - 13]*

18th Hymns of Praise Service ['The Story Of Jesus'] Congregation

25th 'The Twelve' [Matthew 10:1 - 20] Brian

*Service includes Holy Communion
All services commence at 10:30 a.m. (Unless otherwise stated)

Everyone welcome

Coronation Event in Falfield on Monday 8th May 2023

It was wonderful to see so many people attending the afternoon event on the village green. This year's May Day event was put back by one week to celebrate the King's Coronation on the extra Bank Holiday.



Val & Brian

The occasion saw volunteers from several Falfield organisations putting on refreshments, activities and games. It was great to work together and in the spirit of showcasing volunteering. Thanks go to all groups who participated: St George's Church, 1st Falfield Scout Group, Falfield Women's Institute Tortworth Primary School PTA, Falfield Fielders skittles team and Falfield Village Hall Management Committee.

The afternoon saw entertainment from Standing Stones group, the very talented Hayley Heads face painter, a bouncy castle, coconut shy, stocks and a friendly tug of war competition.

Homemade Crowns fit for a King were displayed in the church and winners awarded prizes. The weather stayed kind to us our local singer Martyn Bishop started his set. After a few soggy songs outside, the entertainment moved into the Huntsman entertaining those fleeing the rain!

We would like to thank the Huntsman Inn and Falfield Stores for supporting this event, which proved a successful day coming together as a community.

A small grant was awarded by South Gloucestershire Council enabling the purchase of prizes etc, hire of equipment and cost towards entertainment. A small profit was achieved despite it not being intended to be a fund raiser. An idea which has been put forward is to provide an accessible picnic-style bench for the village green.



ADVERTISEMENTS: To advertise in this publication please contact Kay Rea, The Bungalow, Moorslade, Falfield. Tel:01454 260364 Email kay.rea@btinternet.com



"Sight Support West of England drop in"

at Thornbury Library

Support and advice for people with visual impairments.

Monday 19th June 10am - 1pm





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> www.ncnltd.co.uk info@ncnltd.co.uk



An Afternoon of Tea. Coffee, and Cake, at **Thornbury Library** with International Bestselling Author



Amanda Prowse Saturday 3rd June 2023 at 2pm £5.00 per ticket Tickets available from Thornbury Library and sglibraries.eventbrite.co.uk



Saturday 17th June 2023 from 2pm

Have you seen our friendly scarecrows out and about again, smiling in the local lanes? It's not long now until the Rockhampton Folk Festival on Saturday 17 June.

This year we have top quality Gaelic folk from two of the best young musicians of their generation - BBC Radio Scotland young musician finalist Ainsley Hamill and Toby Shaer. Plus music from the Balkans with Bristol Troyka, traditional African harpist Alain Rouamba from Burkina Faso, the Dovetail refugee and asylum-seekers orchestra, Bach and Bubbles and more.

There'll be participation workshops for all ages with the musicians and our new 'Field Art Gallery' where you can try Street Art on a large board wall using aerosol paint.



It all happens in a small field by the church in Rockhampton and is simply about quality music and having fun in a safe. relaxed friendly atmosphere. More information and great value tickets from rockhamptonfolkfest.org.uk.



Tytherington Shop 25th Anniversary Tea **Party** Saturday June 24th 3.00 - 5.00 pm in the Village Hall

Yes - our lovely shop really has been going for 25 years. Save the date and come along to help us celebrate, newcomers to the village especially welcome - you are our shop's future!!



Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration of the contribution millions of people make across .UNTEERS' the UK through volunteering in their communities and takes place 1-7 June every year; it's a

chance to say thank you, to celebrate and inspire. The aim is to show that there's more than one way to volunteer and encourage people to take that first step into volunteering.

Do you want to volunteer but don't know where to start? Volunteers' Week is a great time to find out more about the many types of volunteering roles available, all requiring different levels of commitment, experience and time availability and each contributing to many varied causes.

Volunteers' Week is an ideal time to have a chat with Thornbury Volunteer Centre and let them know what you're interested in and find out more about local volunteering opportunities.

As well as helping others, volunteering has been shown to improve the wellbeing of the volunteer, it's human nature to feel good after helping someone out. Volunteering can also help you gain valuable new skills and experiences, and boost your confidence

So, to all the new volunteers who have come forward this past year and to all those who volunteer regularly please accept our very grateful and massive thanks, you are the people who make our communities strong. To those of you who are thinking of volunteering we look forward to hearing from you.

Thornbury Volunteer Centre is open 10.30am - 12 noon Monday-Friday in Thornbury Town Hall, no appointment necessary. Alternatively, visit our website at www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk and search the many opportunities online. Or you can email us at: mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk

TYTHERINGTON MAY DAY FAIR

On behalf of the May Day Committee, Debbie & Val would like to thank everyone who helped and supported the May Day Fair.

The weather was very good and we have never seen so many people.

All profits made on the day are distributed to the participating organizations who are all based in the village.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out during the run up to the day, and on the day - we will be asking for your support next year and hope that many of you will offer,

Also, please keep taking photos in and around the village that you think may be suitable for the Ihank 2024 Village Calendar.

Debbie & Val





CROMHALL CHAPEL

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Welcomes You!



Tel: Simon Carey (Pastor - Elder) 07824 804305

Email: simoncromhallchapel@gmail.com

All our sermons are available on the website: WWW.CROMHALLCHAPEL.ORG



Join us as we worship the Lord each Sunday, followed by refreshments.

4th (10.30am) Roger Page (6.30pm) Simon Carey 11th (10.30am) Simon Carey (6.30pm) Jonathan Brain 18th (10.30am) Simon Carey (6.30pm) Jim Short 25th (10.30am) Damon Ujvarosy (6.30pm) Simon Carey

Wednesdays at 7.30pm: 7th and 21st we meet in various homes in the area. 14th and 28th we have Bible Study and Prayer in the chapel hall and on zoom.

Tuesday half hour of prayer (on zoom): 6th and 20th at 7.00pm 13th and 27th at 9.30 am

Cromhall Crafters: Tuesday 13th at 7.00pm. Join a friendly group of ladies to work on your own craft while we chat and enjoy a cup of tea.

Townwell Tots: Thursday 8th and 22nd from 10.15am - 12.00. This is a free stay and play for parents/ carers and their babies and pre-school children. It's a great place to meet others in the community. Enjoy coffee and cake while the children play with a wide range of toys. We finish with a time of singing and a Bible story aimed at the very young.

Ladies Summer Special: Friday 9th at 7.15 "Card Making for all Occasions" by Alison Young. Card making demonstration, group craft, finger buffet and talk.

Verse of the year for 2023:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1:16 and 17



Rhymetime at Thornbury Library

Rhymes and songs for parents and babies/toddlers to enjoy together,

FREE Every Monday and Friday 9.30am-10am

Alveston Gardens Association

June 5th
The Natural World of Gloucestershire
with Robert Bryant

7.30pm in Alveston Jubilee Hall
All welcome - Visitors (£3)

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This extract from 'We Grew Up in Falfield' continues directly from that printed in February's edition of 5 Alive. Apologies for the delay but only now has space become available once more!

Setting the Scene (2)

In the central village itself and practically forming a crossroads, to the west lies Sunday's Hill Lane (running through to Rockhampton) and to the east Mill Lane (formerly Tortworth Road) – leading on to the neighbouring parish of Tortworth. Southwards, one climbs up to higher ground at Mount Pleasant and at this point one begins on an almost separate village, that of Whitfield.

Travelling up to this point, looking to the left, one surveys Tortworth Estate. It is possible to catch a glimpse of Tortworth Court, lucky to still be standing in its magnificence following the fire which swept through it in the early 1990s, almost causing it to be demolished, but now a hotel.

Around the mansion can be seen a great variety of shapes, heights and colours of trees. This is Tortworth Park and part of the Arboretum. Casting the eye on southwards, the beautifully kept fields and farmland of the Tortworth Estate farms can be observed.

The Earl of Ducie, whose seat was at Woodchester Park, on making Tortworth his home decided that a new mansion must be situated at the far end of the estate, well away from the original Tortworth court (a dower-house) which stood behind Tortworth Parish Church. He started his work on the area in the 1830s. By 1839 he had totally re-arranged the landscape. The area in which this farmland now stands was until then Cromhall Park, a thickly wooded area. By travelling through Gambril Lane, it was possible to be in Cromhall village within ten to fifteen minutes. The brook which runs across Gambril Lane is actually the parish boundary, and officially, certain properties in that vicinity are in Cromhall parish.

However, the enterprising Earl of Ducie felled trees by the score, grubbed out hedges, dug drainage ditches, altered roads and tracks, enlarged and standardised fields. Whole farms were pulled down and demolished. Where a dozen farmers had made a living on their individual farmsteads, the space was used to create three or four farms. By 1839 he had created the Model Farm, or Example Farm as we have always known it (now named Whitfield Farm). Here, he established all the up-to-date methods of farming which had transpired from what we call 'The Agricultural Revolution'. As a founder of the Cirencester Agricultural College, he had many contacts and was well acquainted with the people we only know as names in our history text books from schooldays. Whitfield was well and truly on the map.

As a result of all this activity at the Whitfield end of the Tortworth Estate, even now, we can trace almost everything on the left hand side of the main road from Mount Pleasant, travelling southward towards Thornbury, as having connections with the Ducie family and Tortworth.

If we begin at the Mount Pleasant chapel, it provides a strong link, as the Earl of Ducie responsible for the present Tortworth Court, was in fact a non-conformist. He financed the enhancement of the existing chapel which had been built in the early 1800s; he also financed a manse home for the Minister in charge (The Reverend William Dove); the house now called Falfield House. The stone-built separate building adjoining the chapel at the south end and dated 1848, was re-

portedly brought, stone by stone, from Tortworth Court where it had been a private chapel for the Earl and his family. It is said to have stood on the site of the present Orangery Restaurant. The Earl had it moved to provide a building to be used as a Sunday School and a day school. Children could attend there and be educated until the age of nine, when they transferred probably to Tortworth School which was well established by then.



Against the chapel graveyard wall stands the black corrugated iron building known by all villagers as 'The Hut'. Again, this was erected at some time between the two world wars on land kindly donated by the Earl of Ducie. The building was erected as a YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) room where the local youths could meet together and socialise. It was well used in its time through the 1930s, 1940s and into the 1950s and figured affectionately in the memories of many villagers. Together with The Hut was the field in which it is situated and this was used for village events, shows, races, fairs and other recreational purposes.

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