



Volume 18 Issue 10 December 2021

Christmas is coming the geese are getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hat

Christmas has been celebrated for centuries with various ceremonies and evidence shows that in the West it was tacked on to and subsumed by the pagan winter solstice celebrations, which, in agrarian times when only essential farm work was necessary, left time for a week of festivities. Some of these ancient traditions enabled the needy of the parish to receive food and sometimes money, without having to beg.



Elizabeth I's first Christmas service was marked by the Archbishop of Canterbury refusing to take the Protestant service on which she insisted; only the brave, (or foolish) Bishop of Carlisle agreed to preside, but he ignored her wishes and led to her furiously exiting her chapel when he raised the host in the Catholic manner. However, I'm sure it did not stop her enjoying a lavish spread, indeed she decreed in 1588 that every house in England should serve goose on Christmas Day. This was the first meal served to her after the defeat of the Spanish Armada and thus a continuing tribute to her navy, perhaps giving rise to the title of this gallimaufry of times past. This meal included turkey, (recently been introduced from America), peacocks, swans

and other fowl and birds, which had been skinned, cooked and served in their fine feathers.

Interestingly 'the banquet' was not the savoury course but the dessert and sweet confections made to display the wealth of the owner. Marzipan (marchpane) was a great favourite and many of the creations covered with gold foil and icing were merely decoration, not actually eaten, although Elizabeth had an extremely sweet tooth, as evidenced by her blackened stubs of teeth. I was surprised to learn that as a result of explorations undertaken in the name of both Elizabeth and her father, Henry VIII, peppers, apricots, pineapples, melons and other exotic fruits and nuts were regularly imported from Southern Europe and the West Indies for these great feasts. But mere underlings would have been eating 'humble pie,' 'umbles' being the entrails and other less desirable parts of deer, boiled with apples, currants and spices, washed down, not with fine wine, but small beer which everyone drank as it was safer than most drinking water.

During Cromwell's 'Commonwealth', Christmas was banned but folk still managed to enjoy themselves. Writing his diary in 1660, Samuel Pepys recorded that on Christmas Day he suffered a dull sermon in church, but his wife wore her new mantle, they dined on a good shoulder of mutton and chickens, after which he played his lute and read and went to bed at midnight. In an entry some years later, he mentions that his wife stayed up until four o' clock making mince pies, probably savoury ones rather than the sweet ones we enjoy today.

Our Georgian ancestors celebrated for a month from St Nicholas' Day on the 6th December to Epiphany on 6th January, with extravagant parties, balls, games and family get-togethers. I am not sure their servants did much celebrating with all the work needed to enable the wealthy to celebrate their Christmas.

Gifts have been exchanged throughout the ages, lavish ones to toady to a King or Queen, maybe a new penny for the children, but it was the Victorians who brought us what we now consider to be the way to celebrate, with greenery and a decorated tree and presents for everyone. In Victorian households servants were usually given a present by their employers - maybe a new uniform or just a new apron! The faces of today's children being offered an orange or a handful of nuts, which was often all that ordinary folk could afford, can only be imagined.



Sadly, some children in this country won't experience the excitement of opening even one present this Christmas and I'm sure many of us will donate to a charity which offers support to children who need it, maybe to the value we spend on some of the presents we will be giving to our own children or grandchildren. It shocks me that even in our seemingly civilised first-world country, such charities are vital in protecting so many vulnerable children. Mine will be Barnardo's, - I leave you to ponder your choice.

Merry Christmas! Hilary Legg



Thank you to R J & S Unwin, Tortworth Plants and Tytherington Local History Group for their kind donations to our costs.



Each 20-page edition costs £425 to print, so we are always grateful for donations as our funding de-

pends 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

- 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, Geoff Crosthwaite, The Barn, Townwell, Cromhall, W-U-E, GL12 8AQ or the editor.

TYTHERINGTON VILLAGE CALENDAR 2022

Now on sale at the Village Shop price £3.

If you are unable to get to the shop please contact me and I will aim to arrange delivery/collection.

Val Johnson: <u>valj475@gmail.com</u> or ring 01454 417455







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A TALE OF PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



Cromhall's history, like that of many villages, is one of change, especially during the course of the twentieth century. With the focus on the environment high on the government's agenda, perhaps looking at how things have changed may encourage people to do their bit towards a greener

Like a lot of villages, the majority of Cromhall's residents lived, worked and died within the village boundary rarely venturing further afield. The village could supply everything and Cromhall was fortunate as there was plenty of local employment. Work could be found on Tortworth Estate, the local guarries, or on the land. Very few people were employed further afield as transport was limited. Unlike today, most women stayed at home, where there was plenty to do with none of the labour-saving devices we have now; life was certainly 'greener' but harder.

The village supported several inns: The Red Lion, Hunters Hall, the New Inn, The White Horse at Heathend and the Cat & the Fiddle at Abbotside, (all of which closed between the mid-1800s and the 1920s) and of course The Royal Oak that has survived to this day.

Apparently, everything that a home needed could be supplied within Cromhall, or was brought in. At one time there were four shops in Cromhall, one at Heathend, Townwell with the Post Office, Bibstone and Leyhill; there were also weekly mobile services delivering meat, groceries, bread, fish, hardware and drapery. Milk was delivered daily from local farms and there were also two bakers and a butcher. Two of the local grocers also dispatched pigs so there was plenty of meat available in the village. The shop at Leyhill was made of tin and it thrived for years and eventually became a fish & chip shop. Once most of the prison houses were demolished, the need for a shop ended, and it closed late seventies/eighties.

It may be surprising that a village like Cromhall could support four shops but of course they had to earn a living for the owners so in time they closed. The Heathend shop closed around the 1980s, the Bibstone shop closed in 1960-61 and of course the Old Post Office at Townwell closed around the mid-nineties leaving Cromhall with no shop or Post Office.

It did not take long for the Cromhall residents to realise what they had lost. A group of residents got together and with the help of like-minded people in the village decided to do something about it, so Cromhall Village Shop & Post Office was opened in a secondhand portacabin some 27 years ago on land owned by the Council.

Unlike those shops from the past, Cromhall shop only has to break even and not make a loss, but

at present we are making a loss) Once a six miles for something you have forgotten

village loses its shop & pub the heart disappears and having to drive anything up to

is not good for the environment, so think green before you get in the car to drive to Thornbury or Yate – and remember too that you go to the supermarket for one thing and come out with ten items you didn't know you needed, so shopping locally can save money.

Clearly it does not take long to go from four shops to none. At the start of the pandemic, Cromhall needed the shop and people used it but now we seem surplus to requirement.

We are being encouraged to reduce driving, so use the village shop - be green!

Although we only need to break even, we can only offer a good range of goods if customers use us. As you may be aware, the shop is run completely by volunteers, none of whom are getting any younger, so we need younger volunteers who initially could work on an ad hoc basis.

Are you are coming up for retirement and can spare a couple of hours? Then why not join us? Cromhall

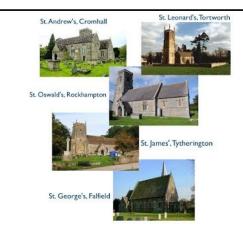
- has been very fortunate in having a **PAST** with 4 shops,
- its **PRESENT** is the one shop & Post Office it has now,
- the **FUTURE** may be bleak and it may have no shop or PO at all.

Is that really what this village wants? Probably not, but that may be what it ends up with.

Please use us or lose us!



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



5th 10.30am **Tortworth** Holy Communion

12th 10.30am **Cromhall** Holy Communion

Falfield Carol service 6.30pm

(time tbc please check locally)

19th 4.00pm **Rockhampton** Carol service 6.00pm **Tytherington** Carol service

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Cromhall Carol Service

11:30pm **Tortworth** Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Dav

10.30am Tytherington Family Communion

26th 10.30am Falfield Holy Communion

Jan 2nd 2022

10.30am **Tortworth Holy Communion**



BENEFICE PHONE: 01454 260096 E-MAIL ADDRESS: office@croftt.org.uk

ASSOCIATE PRIEST:

Rev Sue: 01454 600674 or revsue@croftt.org.uk

CHAPLAIN:

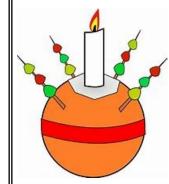
Rev. Frances: 01453 519099 revfrances@croftt.org.uk

Churchwardens:

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

TYTHERINGTON CHRISTINGLE WORKSHOP

THURSDAY DECEMBER 23rd 3.00 - 4.30pm



Come and make your Christingles in St James' Church

We do need to know if you are

coming - so please let Kath Bale know

by 4pm Dec 22nd:

email klb@balesoft.com

North Bristol 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 - 4 pm.

For more information, please call 0117 9791399 or

email info@northbristol.foodbank.org.uk or visit northbristol.foodbank.org.uk



If you feel able to contribute to the Foodbank stocks, here is foodbank our current shopping list.

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

LONG LIFE / UHT MILK, TINNED POTATOES, TINNED FRUIT, SPONGE PUDDINGS, WASH-ING-UP LIQUID, DEODORANT, CRISPS & OTH-ER SAVOURY SNACKS, SWEET TREATS

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF: BAKED BEANS. TINNED SOUP, PASTA, TINNED TOMATOES

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.

We always welcome donations and promise to use them to provide help to people in crisis. Occasionally we send food to other near-

by foodbanks to support their work particularly if they experience shortages. This ensures your donations go to help people wherever in the UK they are. Please contact us if you have any ques-

tions about donating food.

Dementia Support South Gloucestershire Call our support line for more information: Tel: 0333 150 3456

Monday to Wednesday 9am - 8pm, 9am – 5pm 10am – 4pm Thursday and Friday Saturday and Sunday or see our website: www.alzheimers.org.uk

The Thornbury Memory Café is run by local people, and supports those in Thornbury and the surrounding area with some form of memory loss.

The café meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 10.15am in the Methodist Church Hall. Anyone with a memory problem, together with a carer or friend is welcome. There is time for chatter and meeting with others.

Please contact Sue Rowley 01454 412941.

Rhymetime at Thornbury Library



Every Friday 9.30am-10am

Pop in or email thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk to book a family space

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



FALFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Expressions of interest invited for

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant funding.

Expressions of interest are invited from Community organisations. CIL grant funding is to be used for the benefit of the whole community.

Does your community organisation have a project which would fit this criterion?

If so, the Parish Council would like to hear from you.

In order register an expression of interest go onto the Parish Council website for more information to read the guidance notes set out in the Council's CIL Policy and complete an 'Expression of Interest' Form.

The closing date for receipt of Expression of Interest is 28th February 2022.

Any queries or questions please contact the Parish Clerk via email.

parish.clerk@falfieldparishcouncil.org.uk.

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TYTHERINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR - BRIAN ALLEN {0117 9 793104}

5th Joint Service at St James' Val & Brian

12th 'Warnings" [Luke 3:7 – 18][¶] Brian
19th "Carol Service Brian
25th Christmas Day Praise Brian
26th 'Songs of Praise Brian

¶ SERVICE WILL INCLUDE HOLY COMMUNION N.B. ALL SERVICES COMMENCE AT **10:30 A.M.** UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

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

Everyone welcome

Thornbury Library is now fully open for everyone!!!
Activities are returning in a safe bookable way!!!!!

Our computer volunteer is ready to help with your IT and online questions

Pop in or email to book a space thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk

View 5 Alive online

Remember that 5 Alive is available online at www.falfield.org.uk and https://cromhall.com/cromhall/st-andrews-church



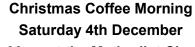


South Glos Citizens Advice Bureau Telephone Advice Service:

For advice contact us on 0808 278 7947

We offer free confidential, impartial and independent advice and information on a wide range of subjects.

St Peter's Hospice



10.00am at the Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury

Christmas cards, Gift stall, Home-made cakes, Raffle etc.,

Entry: £3.00 per person (to include tea/coffee and cake).

Please come along and support us; every endeavour will be made to keep you safe. If you feel more comfortable, please wear a face mask; hand sanitizer will be available if required.

We have missed your company and the Hospice has missed our fund raising, between us all let's see if we can get started again, please.

Looking forward to seeing you all and renewing old friendships.





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South Gloucestershire are developing plans for a new railway station at Charfield to support sustainable travel to and from the village and surrounding area. A new station will improve access to jobs, education and a wider variety of services and facilities.

The Council are undertaking a public consultation on the station from 19th October 2021 to 10th January 2022 prior to a planning application anticipated in April 2022, the station is designed to serve a population of 14,500 within a five-mile

radius, meaning that this is a station for the wider region and important that residents in the Five Alive area engage with the consultation.

It is expected to deliver an hourly service in both directions to start with, but still many questions still to be answered, e.g. If I am a student living outside Charfield and attending Filton College or UWE will there be public transport arrangements to the station, will there be improved cycling routes to the station? and many similar questions.

To have your say visit www.southglos.gov.uk/consultation and search Charfield Station.

Residents will have noticed the white road markings on the B4509 Tortworth Road, this is work to plane and surface those sections of the road prior to surface dressing treatment of the whole road in 2022, that surfacing work has now been postponed till after April 2022 when all the work will be completed.

Development at Falfield continues with several of the properties on the Heneage Farm site occupied, for these types of developments the Council no longer adopts the open spaces, green spaces, play areas etc, this is work undertaken by a management company who are funded by service charges to the new properties, there is a potential date of December for the handover of the open spaces that are designated as public space for use by all.

The additional land that has been consulted on at the Glebe Field is still at the consultation stage and has not progressed to a planning application at this stage.

We are still waiting for speed reduction schemes to be implemented on the western approach to Cromhall and the A38 at Falfield, unfortunately the Council is still playing catchup with the schemes that were not completed during the pandemic.

Last item: Co-op supermarket at Charfield expected to open April 2022.

john.oneill@southglos.gov.uk

Thornbury Library

"Sight Support West of England"

Support and advice for people with visual impairments

4th Monday of every month 10am-1.00pm Next visit: 20th December

You can pick up a box of lateral flow test from the library during staffed hours.

Over 60s Tea Room



Don't forget that the Over 60s Tea Room in Thornbury High Street isl now open 5 days a week, Monday to Friday, from 10am to 3pm.

If you can spare three hours a month and you like to meet people, why not volunteer to help us at the tea room?

If you would like to know more about what is involved phone Sandra on 01454 418690 and I'd be happy to tell you all about it.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE

'All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.' David Jeremiah

St Andrew's, Cromhall



Christmas Eve Carol Service 6.00pm

St Oswald's, Rockhampton



Sunday 19th December Carol Service 4.00pm



St George's, Falfield **Sunday 12th December**

Carol service 6.30pm (time tbc please check locally)



St Leonard's, Tortworth **Christmas Eve**



11.30pm Midnight Communion

Sunday January 9th 2022 Epiphany Carol Service 5.00pm St James', Tytherington **Sunday 19th December** Carol Service 6.00pm



Christmas Day Family Communion 10.30am

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and new Year.

Everyone is welcome to join us for any of our services.





Saturday Dec 18 2021
10.30am - 12noon

Tytherington Village
Shop and Post Office

invites all volunteers,
helpers and customers
for Christmas drinks and
nibbles in the Village Hall
PLEASE COME AND
JOIN US

0-6	FALFIELD WEATHER RECORDS OCTOBER 2021			
V-F	High	Low	Average	
Temp	19.8 °C	4.4 °C	13.4 °C	
Dew Point	17.8 °C	-3.0 °C	8.3 °C	
Humidity	99.0 %	31 %	74 %	
Precipitation	181.86 mm			
Wettest Day	27.94 on 20th Oct. YTD 743.67 mm			
Wind direction		SSW		
Pressure	1035.90 hPa	987.47 hPa		

Go to www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/ dashboard?ID=IENGLAND1163 for live weather information from the Falfield weather station



CROMHALL CHAPEL

Registered Charity No: 1179269



Telephone: Simon Carey (Pastor - Elder) 07824 804305 Email: simoncromhallchapel@gmail.com



Sunday Worship Services for December

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

5th (10.30am) Damon Ujvarosy

(6.30pm) Simon Carey

12th (10.30am) Steve Loader

(6.30pm) Simon Carey

19th (10.30am) Simon Carey

(6.30pm) Simon Carey (Carols by Candlelight)

25th (10.30am) Simon Carey 26th (10.30am) Simon Carey

Wednesdays at 7.30pm

1st Home Groups 15th Bible Study and Prayer in the chapel hall 8th Bible Study and Prayer in the chapel hall 22nd Bible Study and Prayer in the chapel hall

Tuesday half hour of prayer (on zoom)

14th and 28th at 9.30am

7th and 21st at 7.30pm

Ladies Evening Special: Friday 3rd at 7.15pm. Join us for an evening of group craft, finger food and a talk on "Christmas through the Ages" with Sue Bedford.

Games Night: Friday 10th at 7.00pm – everyone is welcome to an evening of board games.

Cromhall Crafters: Tuesday 14th at 7.00pm. Bring your own craft or art-work and meet a group of ladies from the village and around who enjoy crafting.

New Year's Eve Quiz Night: Friday 31st December at 7.00pm.

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

Tytherington Village Shop



With the Christmas season approaching, please make use of your local Post Office. Enjoy the convenience of posting those Christmas parcels with easy parking and without having to join the long queues which exist at many of the bigger facilities.

We are offering longer PO opening hours in the run up to Christmas as follows:

Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
6.12.21	9.00 – 1.00	9.00-12.00	9.00-12.00	9.00 – 1.00	9.00-12.30
13.12.21	9.00 – 1.00	9.00–12.00	9.00-12.00	9.00 – 1.00	9.00-12.30
			2.30-4.00		

Shop hours will remain as normal.

During this time when you may prefer to carry on shopping locally, remember you can order a range of bakery items and dairy products to pick up at your convenience. Just pop into the shop and ask about this service.



The bonus ball is now in full swing and all the numbers have been sold out. Many thanks for those who have supported this fund-raising effort and make sure you check if you are a lucky winner. A further opportunity to support the work of the shop will be through the raffle for our Christmas Hamper and tickets will be on sale throughout December.

We have plenty of Christmas stock in the shop, from cards and wrapping paper to those smaller gifts and stocking fillers.

We hope to see you all for a Christmas drink and get together in the Village Hall on Saturday December 18, 10.30-12.00

Happy Christmas



POPPY APPEAL TYTHERINGTON

Thank you very much to everyone who collected or supported the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Service this year.

Special thanks are due to the young people who collected at Dobbies Garden Centre from different organisations. These were 1st Falfield and Stone Brownies, 5th and 6th Thornbury Brownies, 5th Thornbury Guides and Thornbury Air Cadets, not forgetting the "not quite so young" members (!) of Tytherington RBL.

We thought everyone would like to know that the total collected this year is £2933-94 – our highest ever total and a fantastic result. Thank you all so much for your help and generosity.

Mike and Daphne Brown, Poppy Appeal Organisers, Tytherington.

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



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Thornbury Division Falfield Section.

Back Row: Special Constables Payne, Pratt P.

Front Row: Special Constables Pratt G, Tully, Special Sergeant Cullimore, Police Constable Adshead, Head Special Constable Lanham, Special Constables Fuller, Walker.

This photo from the Gloucestershire Police Archives probably dates from around WW2. The names of those in the front row were listed in the archive as those in the middle but that is incorrect. If anyone who is able to provide names for the middle row, please the editor know. (At least two of the 'Specials', Percy and George Pratt, hailed from Tortworth.)

In the past, Falfield seems to have attracted a strong police presence, having had a sergeant and two constables stationed here in the late 1800s, later reduced to a sergeant and one constable. The original police station was the building now known as 'Roselea', next to the village shop and housed a cell for detaining offenders, which was apparently little-used for its intended purpose but made an excellent pantry because it was cold!

Village police stations were also family homes and wives were often involved in their husband's job and required to help out when necessary. Mrs Hilda Paget, wife of a former policeman who served in the Forest of Dean and retired to Falfield, related that she was occasionally called upon to accompany female prisoners to Gloucester Gaol.

Many retired policemen appear to have found Falfield an attractive place to live. Mrs Paget's husband was one but others included Frank (Womple) Payne (see above), Charlie Jones, Howard Goulding and Henry Rickards to name but a few.

Sammy Morgan was a long-serving policeman in the village. He and his family occupied the original station in the centre of the village before moving to the new one which was built in the late 1930s at the other end of the village next to Green Farm; here they lived until his retirement in October 1939. On his retirement, Sammy and his family moved along the road to The Haven at the top of Moorslade Lane where he continued to keep an eye on the village until his death in

Some of this information originates from 'We Grew Up in Falfield' by Ann Riddiford.



CHRISTMAS TREES

Freshly cut traditional Norway Spruce and reduced drop Nordmann Fir trees will be on sale at Tortworth Estate Yard. GL12 8HF from Friday 3rd December.

Trees larger than 10ft can be cut to order.

Please call our office to pre-order and discuss your requirements

FIREWOOD

Seasoned hardwood logs from our own woodland available for delivery to local parishes near Tortworth



Full or half loads of 8" or 12" logs (approx 1 ton - 1.8 m3)

Please call 01454 260268 or email us on office@tortworthestate.com to place an order

PARKINSON'SUK FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

For information and advice on Parkinson's, or for emotional CHANGE ATTITUDES. support, call the Parkinson's UK helpline on 0808 800 0303

Thornbury support group meets at the Chantry Castle Street, Thornbury BS35 1HB on the last Friday of every month, 10am-12noon.

For more information call Sally Derham on 01454 632910



Thornbury Library is now fully open for everyone!!! Activities are returning in a safe bookable way!!!!!!



Saturday Saturday 18th December 10am - 11am

Pop in or email thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk to book a family space

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

Alveston Gardens Association



"Out and About"

A visit to a Variety of gardens with Roland Harley 7.30pm in Alveston Jubilee Hall

Monday 3rd January 2022

All welcome - Visitors (£3)



Rogue Traders not tolerated

Following an investigation by South Glos Trading Standards team, a roque trader, who stole £1,200 from a Bradley Stoke pensioner, has been sent to prison for 20 months.

The case was pursued following a complaint received by Trading Standards in August 2020 about a cold caller at the house of an 80 -year-old Bradley Stoke resident, who made an agreement to clear her back garden, refence it and build a summer house there. The caller had taken £1,200 up front for materials. carried out very little work to clear her garden and then disappeared.

Cabinet Member for Communities and Local Place Cllr Rachael Hunt said: "We do not tolerate rogue traders here in South Gloucestershire and we will not hesitate to prosecute anyone who operates in this manner." If you need to report roque trading, call Trading Standards on 0808 223 1133.



A Grand Piano Launch for Community Performances!

It is with great excitement that the Armstrong Arts Group can announce that Thornbury and the locality are to have a beautiful baby Grand Piano!

There is to be a concert, attended by the Deputy Mayor and presented by the Armstrong Arts Group, to welcome the new community baby grand piano, which is to live at the United Reformed Church in Thornbury.

It is with sincere thanks to generous sponsors that this has been possible and to Michael Lunts, much loved musician, who has made it happen.

The concert, to include musicians of all ages, is currently being created ready for the piano launch, which will be on **Sunday 23rd January at 3.00pm in the United Reformed Church.** It will be in two halves, each of thirty

minutes or so, followed by refreshments.

Covid considerations will be in place and tickets will cost £5 for adults with no charge for under 16s.

These can be booked by emailing

AAGThornbury@gmail.com or ringing 01454 850933.

PWI Guilda Luc

FALFIELD WIGuilda Ludwell welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting es-

pecially new member Julie Doyle and visitors Kath Burgess and Joyce Taylor.

Guilda told the members that a meal had been booked at the Gables for the 11th January 2022 and that menus were handed out for the members to choose from. After the business of the month had been concluded, Guilda handed over the meeting to Joyce Taylor who had come from Stone W.I. to help with the voting slips for the new president.

All members present were given slips to vote and they were then handed back to Joyce for counting; she then announced that Gill Spiller had been elected the new president.

Guilda had thanked all present for all the help over the four years she had been president and gave a small gift to Ruth Buchanan as she had stood down from the Committee.

A small gift was also presented to Joyce Taylor as a token of thanks for her help in the election.

Once the AGM business had concluded, we played some hilarious games of bingo. While we all enjoyed tea and biscuits Kath Burgess judged the decorated glass jars. The winner was our newest member Julie Doyle, who received a cup which she may keep for a year.

Our next meeting is the pre-Christmas meeting on 7th December 2021 at 7.30pm in the village hall Anyone interested in seeing how the WI works will be very welcome.

The Octopus Pantomime is Back!! Oh, yes it is!

Octopus Drama Group is delighted to announce that we will be back treading the boards at Porch House (Christ the King Church Hall) in January 2022, performing a brand new version of the pantomime favourite - Aladdin. Written and directed by Alison Bagnall (who also designs and makes the costumes), this will be a bright, colourful, full-of-fun production set in downtown Peking.

Widow Twanky and her two offspring, Aladdin and Wishee-Washee, who run The Squee-ki-Clean laundry, will help to 'wash away' the winter blues and bring you some 'comfort' on a dark Winter's night. Of course, a panto



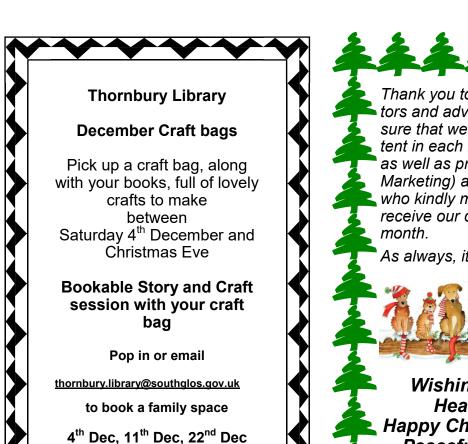
Wishee-Washee, Princess Yasmine and Aladdin

wouldn't be a panto without the evil villain and Peter James as Abanazar will make sure there is plenty of opportunity to boo and hiss. He loves it!!

This year we will be having an extra Tuesday performance as our seating numbers have been reduced due to Covid social distancing. So, may I be so '**bold**' as to suggest that you get your tickets in quickly before they all '**vanish**'!

Tickets: £8 adults (over 18s), £6 children go on sale on 1st December at Thornbury Garden Shop on the High St

Aladdin will be at Christ the King Church Hall, Castle St - January11th to 14th 2022 7.30pm and Saturday 15th January at 11am and 3pm



9.30am



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CRAIG OGBORNE 07477 544344



Re-opening of the Armstrong Hall Complex is achievable.

A viability study has shown that re-opening Thornbury's historic arts and community venue could be achieved as early as summer 2022, a fitting way to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The Armstrong Hall Action Alliance (AHAA) has undertaken the study in response to a widely held view that the closure of the Armstrong Hall Complex is detrimental to many residents, the vitality of Thornbury town centre and the user groups.

A request has been put forward to the Armstrong Hall Charitable Trust (AHCT) to allow AHAA to progress their plans and to agree to permit the re-opening of the Hall if the plans come to fruition. The hope is to receive AHCT's endorsement at the end of November.

Many volunteers are standing by, ready to lend their support to activities such as fundraising and essential repairs. All this is in readiness for a huge effort to re-introduce the memorable performances and community activities enjoyed by so many at the Armstrong Hall Complex in the past. At present, the larger groups who have previously relied on the Hall as a venue, sadly have no suitable venue to host them in Thornbury and the surrounding area.

The Armstrong Hall Complex is viewed by residents as a key centre for community and performing arts events in the area. Many of those who have moved recently moved to Thornbury may never have had the chance to enjoy the hall, due to the pandemic.

The AHCT plan is to relocate the facilities to Turnberries Community Centre, which would require substantial adjustments to the current building. It is likely that this would take several years, causing a significant loss of arts and community services in Thornbury that may never be fully regained.

Jill Dimond, who has overseen the development of AHAA, is keen that the AHCT appreciates the merit of AHAA's proposal.

"The re-opening of the Armstrong Hall Complex will be of great value to the community. I believe that the benefits of this project will be far-reaching, providing personal development opportunities, promoting well-being and offering inspiration to all whom it touches, young and old. Everyone is welcome to join the venture."

AHAA is an informal group of individuals who have come together with the aim of re-opening the Armstrong Hall Complex.

Our vision: A cultural hub where people connect through mental and physical journeys to find comfort and joy.

Our mission: To provide and promote a welcoming environment where people can feel inspired and delighted by activities, entertainment, art and other people.

Contact information: info@ahaathornbury.co.uk

HMP Eastwood Park VOLUNTEER PRISON VISITOR REQUEST

We are looking for new prison visitors at the women's prison HMP Eastwood Park near Falfield.

One of the most difficult aspects of being a prisoner is being excluded from the world outside. It can feel very claustrophobic and isolating being locked between prison walls having very little contact with family and friends. Many prisoners are far from their own communities and may have few or no visits.

Are you someone who could bring a breath of friendly air from the outside? Are you a good listener? Prison visitors are volunteers who visit prisoners weekly or fortnightly for an hour.

We have regular meetings where PVs can meet each other and learn more about the prison environment in which his/her prison visitee lives.

If you are interested in finding out more, you are welcome to contact Jonquil Richards or Tony Williams for a chat or a visit. jonquil.richards@justice.gov.uk anthony.williams@justice.gov.uk

Or ring 01454 382105 and leave a message with your contact details

FALFIELD PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

October meeting

- Cotswold Homes were invited to the October meeting and gave a short presentation on their ideas for developing land next to the Old Vicarage, commonly known as the Glebe Field, following their online consultation. Their presentation along with the subsequent questions and answers session can be found in the October minutes on the Parish Council website. Current indications are that they expect to submit a planning application to South Gloucestershire Council in early January 2022.
- Ward Cllr John O'Neil updated the meeting on the impasse between South Gloucestershire Council and Linden Homes regarding the adoption of the Park & Share located on the corner of Moorslade Lane and advised that further meetings between both parties to discuss this issue were due to take place in the near future.
- A number of highways issues were raised by Parishioners and Cllrs which were subsequently reported to StreetCare. Some of which, at the time of preparing this report, have been addressed.

November meeting

- Cllrs approved the Council's budget for 2022/2023 which included the precept. This will remain unchanged from 2021/2022 even though the Council's budgeted expenditure is expected to increase by 3%.
- The planning proposal for 2 accommodation blocks at Leyhill Prison was discussed with the Council agreeing to object to this application on highways grounds and also concerns that, with an increase in population of 120, this would further increase the frequency of absconds which they considered as being at an already unacceptable level.
- Cllrs also agreed to respond to the consultation on the proposed re-opening of Charfield Station voicing their concerns over highways issues within Falfield and route to Charfield, and whether the proposed public transport would be adequate and frequent enough to encourage car users to switch to using public transport over their car. This consultation runs until 9th January 2022. More information on this can be found on the South Gloucestershire Council consultation page.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 18th January 2022.

Clerk, Falfield Parish Council. parish.clerk@falfieldparishcouncil.org.uk www.falfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

Looking for some alternative Christmas presents?

Record levels of inequality, violence, migration, war and natural disasters mean children are forced to live or work on the streets around the world. They escape

abusive homes, lack of opportunities or end up on the streets after being displaced or trafficked.

The UN estimates there are hundreds of millions of street children but exact, official figures are virtually non-existent. These children are invisible to the world, living without rights and protection on some of the most dangerous streets in the world.

Whatever the reason for children moving to the streets, all of them are at risk of abuse and exploitation on a daily basis. They are exposed to stigmatisation, physical, sexual and psychological violence. Their future is bleak and their life expectancy terrifyingly low.

Toybox is a charity which works in seven countries around the world, adapting its work and programmes by working alongside local partners who understand the unique challenges of each country. For more details go to https://toybox.org.uk/our-work



Julian Trust is a registered charity, No 294751

The Julian Trust started life in 1986 when a small group of concerned individuals, including our founder Meg Grimes, felt there was a need to do something for those who were sleeping on the city streets of Bristol in doorways, derelict buildings, cemeteries, and car-park stairwells to name just a few of the uncomfortable and unsafe locations.

We are open from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We offer our guests hot showers, clean clothes and a laundry service - a bag of clothes can be dropped off on one evening for collection on the next evening we are open. Hot drinks and sandwiches are available for guests to takeaway.

We operate a Covid-safe environment. On arrival guests' temperature will be taken and they will be asked whether they have any Covid symptoms. Hand sanitiser and masks are available for everyone in the shelter. We encourage everyone to observe social distancing.

We ask all guests entering and leaving via our courtyard to be respectful of our neighbours and the wider community.



During the Christmas period, the Night Shelter is taken over by Caring at Christmas. It opens the Christmas Shelter for 24 hours a day for seven to 10 days. During this time, seasonal food and entertainment are provided. Special permission is granted by Bristol City Council for approximately fifty guests to stay overnight.

We're in need of sleeping bags. If you have any you might be able to donate, please drop them into Julian Trust Night Shelter on Monday, Wednesday or Fridays from 7pm.

This list reflects our current needs in the food store:

We urgently need these items:

- Shower Gel
- Washing powder
- Tinned Meat (stew / mince / chilli)
- UHT Milk
- Margarine
- Tinned Meat (ham/spam/corned beef)
- Disposable Razors
- Bread
- Toilet Rolls

These items are also useful:

- Coffee
- Squash
- Tea Bags
- Hot Chocolate
- Sugar
- Sweet Biscuits

We also require good quality clothes and footwear for our guests.

We particularly need new socks and underpants, jeans, joggers, t-shirts, sweatshirts, warm winter coats and men's footwear.



We also need rucksacks.

Food donations can be dropped off at the Nightshelter Mon 9am-12 Noon or Friday 9am-12 Noon. Additionally, donation drop-off can be made when we are open in the evenings (Monday/Wednesday/Friday 7pm-9.30pm

Cromhall Parish Council

Monthly face to face council meetings have resumed at the village hall although restrictions remain in place, please see the council website https://cromhallpc.org.uk for more details.

Local footpaths

Many of the local footpaths run through fields where there is livestock and sadly the council has been made aware of recent incidences of livestock worrying. Please remember "A person who owns or is in charge of a dog which worries livestock on any agricultural land commits the offence of livestock worrying".

The term 'worrying' means:

- attacking livestock;
- chasing livestock in such a way as may be reasonably expected to cause injury or suffering; in the case of ewes, this includes abortion or loss or reduction in the number of offspring;
- not having a dog on a lead or under close control when close by, or in a field or enclosure with livestock.

If you are a dog owner Avon and Somerset Police has issued the following guidance:

- Always check for livestock in fields when walking your dog/s.
- Always make sure you shut gates behind you.
- When in fields with livestock, it is vital that your dog/s are kept on a lead and under control
 at all times. The only time you should release your dog is in the event of being chased by
 cattle. By restraining the dog in this circumstance, you are putting yourself at risk of being
 injured by the cattle.
- If you live near livestock and own a dog/s make sure that your property and garden are secure so your pets cannot escape.

Parking at Bibstone Green

Bibstone green is a village green, owned by the parish council on behalf of the residents of Cromhall parish. Funding for maintaining the green comes from the precept charge paid by residents. This year the parish council has spent a considerable amount of money on repairs to this valuable green space including re-edging the driveway and re-seeding and improving the grass. Sadly, more and more vehicles are now parking along the verge or more recently driving onto the grass to park their vehicles which is causing a lot of damage to your village green.

The driveway across the village green is for access to a few residential properties and the Royal Oak where visitors should use the pub car park. Please remember the village green and its driveway is not a public car park. Please help to prevent inconsiderate parking and further damage to this community asset.

Mike Line, Chair

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01454 260372 07891 482286 clenet02@yahoo.co.uk

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

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 Wottonunder-Edge, Glos, GL12 8DJ. Tel. 01454 260364 Email: 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).

