

THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



St Peter's, Rodmarton

November 2024

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SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL

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St Luke's	Elizabeth Twinch	762897
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St Kenelm's	Mark Hamer	760715
Rotas	Elizabeth Twinch	762897
Treasurer PCC	Charles Houldsworth	760300
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RODMARTON AND TARLTON (Chapel of Ease)

Church Wardens		
Rodmarton	Jane Marlowe	770401
	Simon Biddulph	841462
Tarlton (Chapel Warden)	Jasper Biddulph	770230
Flower Team Leader	Alex Bransby	07981 793251
Secretary PCC	Jane Marlowe	770401
Treasurer PCC	Simon Biddulph	841462

For those with access to the internet the following links will take you to our website pages:

For the calendar: <http://thamesheadchurches.org.uk/calendar/>

For an outline of all our Sunday services:

<http://www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk/services/>

The Thameshead Benefice

St. Matthew, Coates: All Saints, Kemble: St. Michael and All Angels, Poole Keynes: St. Kenelm, Sapperton with St. Luke, Frampton Mansell: St. Peter, Rodmarton with St. Osmund, Tarlton: All Saints, Somerford Keynes with All Saints, Shorncliffe

FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

3 November

Fourth Sunday before Advent

10.00	Kemble	Communion (streamed) + Children's Church
10.00	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion for All Saints
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion

10 November

Remembrance Sunday

10.30	Frampton Mansell	Remembrance Service
10.50	Poole Keynes	Remembrance Service
10.50	Somerford Keynes	Mattins and Remembrance
10.55	Rodmarton	Remembrance Service

17 November

Second Sunday before Advent

9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
10.00	Kemble	Morning Source – all age (streamed)
10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer

24 November

Christ the King

8.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
10.00	Somerford Keynes	Combined Benefice Service

1 December

Advent Sunday

10.00	Kemble	Communion (streamed) + Children's Church
11.00	Sapperton	Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
16.00	Poole Keynes	Songs of Praise

VIEW FROM WOODSTOCK

Where do we go from here? You may know by now that no one was tempted to apply for the benefice vacancy. I wonder why. This is such a beautiful area in which we live. Our different parishes offer a variety of services. We have many lay service leaders. But!

However, one good piece of news. We are delighted to welcome our new Reader, Karen. Karen was licensed by the Bishop of Tewkesbury in the Cathedral on Saturday 21 September. I was delighted to see so many people from the benefice there to uphold Karen in their prayers. Thank you for coming.

Liz, Karen and I will do our best to lead as many services as possible. Please remember that our readers are not committed to take a service every week. We are fortunate to have David and Angie Austin who normally take one service a month, usually Holy Communion. Thank you both. + Rachel discourages Communion by Extension except in special circumstances. So should you wish to enjoy Communion regularly you may need to be prepared to travel to other parishes. With the help of all our lay service leaders we will try to keep things running as smoothly as we can. Thank you to Jill and Toto for sorting the rota – it must be a nightmare for them!

We would be grateful for your prayers for our benefice and its future. Thank you.

With my love and prayers.

Pepita



Thameshead Benefice

CIRENCESTER EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

The next meetings in Coates Village Hall are on
Wednesday 2 October at 7.30pm.

Meetings are generally on the first Wednesday of the month.

I am collecting Christmas bits and pieces for the charity as I am having a stand at the Advent Festival in Cirencester Parish Church on Saturday 30 November to promote and raise funds.

Further details can be obtained from Pat in confidence on 770385 or email ayrescares50@gmail.com





Thameshead **L**adies **C**onnection **#TLC**

Come & Join us
There will be an opportunity
to purchase prisoner prod-
ucts
SNACKS AND DRINKS

Tuesday 26 November

7.15pm - 9pm

Venue:

**The Spinney, Sapperton,
Cirencester, GL7 6LJ.**

Interested? Want to know more?

Contact:

Julie Morton 07784 790395

Aileen Shaw 07807 199602

Julie Allen 07704 892029

MELINDA BARRY
FINE CELL WORK

"A stitch in time"

*Meet Melinda, a master
quilter, as she shares her
experiences from working
with the male prisoners.*

RSVP to Julie, Aileen or Julie.

www.finecellwork.co.uk

KEMBLE AND EWEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

All are welcome to the Tavern function room for
our November meeting on Thursday 21
November at 3pm when Nigel Lloyd-Jones will
be giving us tips on 'Driving Safely in Winter'.
Visitors are very welcome and we always serve
delicious cakes and a cuppa!

Contact me if you would like to know more about our programme.

Pat Ayres - Secretary 01285 770385

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

NEWS FROM COATES

Coffee, Cake and Chat



NOVEMBER SPECIAL!

‘Soup ‘n’ Savoury’

Tuesday 19 November 12pm–2pm

(NOT 10.30am –12noon)

Coates Village Hall

Your choice of 3 tasty home-made seasonal soups with home-baked fresh bread (inc. gluten free) or a savoury scone plus something sweet to finish & our bottomless tea/coffee. Just £6

Well behaved dogs always welcome



**Coates Village Hall
Cinema Club**

**Starting on Thursday 12
September**

A new season of films with
screenings every
2nd Thursday of each month.
Doors open at 7pm
Additional screenings for
Halloween and Christmas.

Annual Membership £40
Guest tickets £5 available on
the night. The season will
include:

Fall Guy
Bucket List
Elvis
Paddington in Peru

Refreshments available from the kitchen and the bar

Contact: Simon Large 07714220558 or simon.large@sky.com

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - KEMBLE & DISTRICT BRANCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 10 November - Branch Remembrance Day Service

Our Branch Remembrance Day Service will be incorporated within the All Saints' Church Kemble Annual Remembrance Day Service starting at 10am followed by wreath-laying at the war memorial.

After this service there will be refreshments in Kemble Village Hall.

This event is for everybody – not just Legion members.

Friday 6 December – Christmas Meal – Thames Head Inn

This popular annual event has been arranged for the above date and members will be receiving more information about this event nearer the time.

Membership of Kemble & District Royal British Legion is open to active members in the Services, those who have served and those who haven't been in the Services and wish to support Services' personnel. If you have served, please join this local RBL branch.

If you would like more information, please contact me for details or check out the British Legion website:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership/become-a-member>

Ian Czapiewski – Branch Secretary – 07711 015168

WESTONBIRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you love the outdoors? Is Westonbirt your 'go to' tree destination or have you yet to discover it?



Westonbirt Arboretum is a special place at any time of the year. Those of us who work or volunteer here are united in that sentiment. Our band of over 300 volunteers are incredibly passionate about Westonbirt and what they do here. They work across a variety of roles and are invaluable to help maintain the arboretum and engage people with this beautiful and important plant collection. Our volunteer community is welcoming and friendly and what they do is extremely rewarding and it's not a bad place to work either...! Keep an eye on our volunteering web pages as we are currently recruiting for various volunteer roles, click on the role links to find out more details and how to apply. Full induction, training and uniform provided, plus a variety of volunteer benefits including regular social events.

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/volunteering>

VILLAGE HALL OPEN NIGHTS – AUTUMN TERM

Our Autumn talks take place on the last Thursday night of the month. The Hall is open at 7pm with the talk starting at 7.30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available. There is no entrance charge but donations to help cover costs are welcome: any profit will be added to village hall funds. This term there are some minor variations so please make sure you check the poster or notice in the Watershed for details.

Thursday 28 November


Joint session with the Film Club

This will be a joint Open Night/Film Club venture. We will be seeing a one-hour professional documentary on a pioneering rewilding venture, offering hope in a time of climate change and loss of biodiversity.


Matthew Oates, a local naturalist and regular contributor to the Watershed who has been connected with the project since its early days, will be with us to introduce the film and answer questions afterwards.

On this occasion, entry will be free to film club members; non-members £3. Entry money will go to the film club. Any other donations will go towards covering other expenses, any profit to village hall funds as usual.

Diana Crane



Santa Cecilia, Guido Reni (1606)



Thomas Linley the Younger, Thomas Gainsborough, (circa 1772)

CIRENCESTER CHORAL SOCIETY
Musical Director
Carleton Etherington

Henry Purcell
Hail! Bright Cecilia
Ode on St Cecilia's Day 1692

Thomas Linley Jr
Let God Arise
(for the Three Choirs Festival 1773)

Thomas Hawkes
(guest conductor)

Musical and Amicable Society
(period instrument orchestra)

Susanna Davis (soprano), Maddie Boreham (soprano)
Angelina Dorlin-Barlow (alto), Francis Melville (tenor), Daniel Barrett (bass)
(from the Royal College of Music, London)

Saturday 23 November 7.30 pm
Cirencester Parish Church
(doors open at 6.45 pm)

Tickets: £17 (Student £6, Child £3) (unreserved seats)
available online at www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk, from choir members
or, from late October, from Cirencester Town Council (Bingham House, Dyer St)

Tewkesbury Choral Society



Benjamin Britten
A Ceremony of Carols

Camille Saint-Saëns
Christmas Oratorio

Tewkesbury Choral Society, Regency Sinfonia,
Alison Martin (Harp), Brittany King (Soprano),
Anne Braley (Mezzo), Alexis Hutchinson (Contralto),
Edward Lee (Tenor), Thomas Humphreys (Baritone)

Directed by John Holloway

Tewkesbury Abbey
Saturday 7th December 2024 at 7.30 pm

Tickets £18 (carers and children free; students £9)
• from members of the Society
• from The Abbey Shop (01684 856148)
• from Alison's Bookshop (01684 274600)
• on-line: www.ticketsource.co.uk/t-c-s
• at the door on the evening of the performance

Registered Charity 200611



Coates Christmas Fair

In aid of Cobalt

Saturday 23 November
10 am - 4 pm

Coates Village Hall

Find your perfect Christmas gifts
with ceramics, woodcut prints, knitted crafts,
cards, decorations & other stalls.

Children's craft activities, charity tombola &
raffle

Refreshments available all day

Anyone interested in helping during the event please contact
Alison 07941 377383 amaydom@hotmail.com

Donations for the raffle
can be left with Chris
Azzopardi at 11 Home
Piece



Cobalt
Diagnosis • Research • Education

The Village Club — COATES —

Everyone is welcome!

Open 8pm to 11pm, Friday & Saturday evenings

Monthly QUIZ night

First Friday of the month

Free to enter - no need to book!

Bar opens at 6.30pm with the quiz from

Gin Cocktails!

9 November from 6pm onwards

Annual

Christmas Squares Draw



Saturday 14 December

Bar opens at 7pm with Prize Draw at 8pm

Buy a square for £1 to have a chance of winning an array of prizes from Hampers, Food & Drink and children's prizes

Come on down on Friday or Saturday nights from now until 16 December to buy your Squares.

No profits are made - all monies go back into prizes.

Keep an eye on the Village Newsletter and the Coates Village Facebook page for last minute event details...

Please email coatesvillageclub@gmail.com for more information.

NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY, COME AGAIN ANOTHER DAY!

At the time of writing, we have had soooo much rain; not just here but across the world with floods ravaging through almost every continent. Remember the story of Noah and the great flood over the whole earth as it was known at the time? Historical evidence shows that indeed water did cover much of the Middle East as we know it now, and accounts of flooding since remind us of how vulnerable we are to the natural elements and our need to take responsibility for looking after our world so far as we are able. Stories and rhymes are great reminders of events which have shaped our lives; facts and details fade over the years and the meaning may get lost unless we take time to consider them. Obedience, responsibility and opportunity resulted in hope, a new beginning and promise for Noah and those with him. It was as if cleansing was needed for the earth to recover and heal and nature in due course does do just that; as the seasons change so our environment adapts and we need to work with it both physically and spiritually.

The season of remembrance is upon us, “remember, remember 5th Nov” an important rhyme for any government during difficult times. “At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them” another well-known phrase, gives us an opportunity to consider the sacrifice of those involved in all wars and to pray for peace.

Forgiveness or cleansing is at the heart of recovery as we know from the words of Jesus on the cross, “Forgive them, they know not what they are doing.” To help ourselves from easily becoming overwhelmed by all that is going on right now, perhaps we would do well to remember a little prayer for each day to help us all;

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.”

SERVICE AND COFFEE

We hold a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be on **Tuesday 5 November** at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell. The service will start at 11am with coffee and a natter at 11.30am. We would love to see you for either or both. Want to know more?

Need a lift? Phone Pepita or Paul on 760211

COATES VILLAGE HALL

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

FOR A VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS

Why choose the Coates Village Hall?



The Main Hall caters for 90 persons (standing) 60 (seated)

- State of art Audio/Visual equipment and screen
- Effective heating
- Convenient parking beside the village hall
- Modern well-equipped kitchen including commercial 2 minute dishwasher

The Meeting Room caters for 20 persons

- Effective heating
- Comfortable furnishings
- Convenient parking beside the village hall

The main hall, meeting room, and kitchen offered at competitive rates

With reduced rates for locals

INTERESTED?

For bookings or to be shown what is available

Contact the Booking Officer on 07818 192587 or email villagehall@coatesparish.org.uk



Village Craft Groups

10am - 12pm...



2nd Wednesday of the month at Frampton Mansell Village Hall

NEW* 4th Wednesday of the month at Sapperton Village Hall *NEW

Whatever your craft: Knitting - Crochet - Embroidery - Felting - Tapestry - Sewing

Whatever your skill level - From beginners to professional crafters

Do please come along with your crafting project and join us! Share ideas and knowledge, and have a chat and a laugh over a cup of tea or coffee with home-made cakes and biscuits... and hopefully make some new friends and progress on your project too!

Cost: £3 - Includes refreshments

For more information please contact...

Teresa - Frampton Mansell - Email: thowes51@gmail.com

Jill - Sapperton - Email: allawayjill2780@hotmail.com





**Sapperton
Church of England
Primary School**

As autumn arrives, school is a buzz of hard work with children back in the swing of school life. Our year 6 children passed their cycling proficiency with flying

colours. They spent two days in the glorious sunshine learning how to safely manoeuvre and cycle on the roads with Bikeability. We have warmly welcomed Natalie from Raffles Forest School who is currently running forest school sessions with Maple class and years 3-6 with after school club. The children have been learning to observe their environments, about different types of leaves and berries, playing in the mud kitchen and enjoying hot chocolate, even in the rain!

A couple of weeks ago we had a visit from Coram Life Education with their SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) programme. The children had sessions throughout the day focusing on staying safe and being healthy.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school on our next Open Morning on Thursday 14 November 9.30am to 12 noon. Our doors are always open at Sapperton so if this date does not work for you, please do get in touch to book a tour

Our children enjoy a rich and creative curriculum and are supported and challenged to achieve their full potential within a safe family community. With small classes, our very experienced staff have high expectations of children's learning and behaviour; through observing Christian values our children go on to Secondary education as kind, polite and respectful members of the community

www.sappertonschool.org

01285 760325

To nurture faith; to inspire success

rampton Mansell Village hoir

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



7pm - 8:30pm MONDAYS
at The Village Hall

£5 per week or £20 per month

The first session
is FREE!

No previous experience necessary
Open to ALL ages and voices

Be Part of it... get in touch with Lucy!



Adult Beginner Piano Lessons

It really is NEVER too late...
Whatever your age,
if you have ever wanted to learn to
play piano, give it a try,
the first lesson
is FREE!

W: www.camerondavies.me

E: lucy@camerondavies.me

M: 07866 447725

NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON

RODMARTON AND TARLTON SERVICES

All services are listed at the front of the magazine but please note especially:

Remembrance Sunday 10 November:

10.55am, Remembrance Sunday Matins with Act of Remembrance

Advent Sunday 1 December:

11am, Holy Communion at St Peter's Rodmarton

Collecting for the Royal British Legion: Poppies will be for sale in both Rodmarton and Tarlton, in aid of the Royal British Legion.

CELEBRATION for ALL SAINTS

Sunday 3 November

All Saints will be celebrated at St Peter's Rodmarton at 11am.

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The bazaar will be on **Saturday 7 December** at Rodmarton Village Hall, in aid of the church. Please see the separate flier in the magazine. If you would like to help in any way, donate a raffle prize, or have a stall to sell your crafts, please call Jane on 770401. Father Christmas will be there! Also mulled wine, mince pies, crafts, Christmas music, a very festive and enjoyable afternoon, and we look forward to seeing you there.

RODMARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Are you passionate about education and want to make a real difference in children's lives?

We're looking for someone like you to join our thriving village school as a Primary School Governor.

Learn new skills and access training and support, while attending 10-15 hours of meetings per term.

Call us to find out more on 01285 841284

clerk@rodmarton.gloucs.sch.uk

HARVEST THANKS!

Thank you to all who contributed so generously to the delicious Harvest Lunch we enjoyed after Harvest Festival. It was a magnificent lunch, with food and wine flowing, greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all. Thank you, as well, to all who decorated the church so beautifully. The arrangements were absolutely stunning; a glorious array of flowers, fruits and vegetables. Thank you to all who helped to make this a wonderful Harvest celebration, both in the church and for the lunch.

WOOD BLOCKS FOR SALE!

Local compressed wood blocks, ideal for wood burning stoves. £4.50 for a 10kg bag.

To be collected from 11 May Tree Close, Coates or delivered to your door if ordering 5 bags or more.

For enquiries, please call 07944 689923.



Making your water soft, shouldn't be hard

Soft water helps prevent the build up of limescale, so preserving the longevity and productivity of your appliances.






When these function correctly the results not only extend to your wallet but the hair and skin of you and your loved ones will benefit too.

Find out if you live in a hard water area or request a **free water testing kit** by visiting our website: www.indwatersofteners.co.uk



IND Water Softeners
Priory Industrial Estate, London Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8HZ
Telephone: 01666 503632

What are the benefits of water softeners?

-  Lower Household Bills
-  Longer Lasting Appliances
-  Healthier Hair and Skin
-  Improve Heating Efficiency
-  No Limescale

★★★★★
Rated 4.9
on Google

RODMARTON CHRISTMAS



BAZAAR

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024

2.30pm – 4.30pm



RODMARTON VILLAGE HALL

Join us for a festive family event with....

A Christmas Tree of Wishes Raffle, Festive Cakes and Gift Stalls, Children's Craft Workshop & Jewellery, **plus** much more!...

Christmas craft stalls

Hand-knitted pure wool baby & toddler garments,
berets, alpaca teddy bears

And of course....

FATHER CHRISTMAS!!

3pm-4pm

Back for 2024 Save the date



AUTUMN CRAFT MARKET

FRAMPTON MANSELL VILLAGE HALL

SAT 16TH NOVEMBER

10:00 - 15:00

FREE ENTRY!

High quality hand crafted locally made items - perfect for gifts!

Plus cafe selling hot drinks and homemade bakes - all proceeds from cafe to charity.

Join our school as a

Governor!

Are you passionate about education and want to make a real difference in children's lives? We're looking for someone like you to join our school as Primary School Governor!






What Does a Governor Do?

As a governor, you'll help guide the school's direction and ensure every child has the best possible education. You'll work with other governors and the headteacher to:

- Shape the school's vision and goals
- Support and challenge the headteacher to improve performance
- Ensure the school's finances are well-managed

What's in it for me?

- Make a positive impact on the education of our children
- Learn new skills and gain valuable experience in leadership and governance
- Access training and support to help you in your role

What Are We Looking For?

You don't need to be an expert in education to be a great governor. We're looking for someone who:

- Cares about our school community and children's welfare
- Can work well in a team
- Is willing to learn and develop new skills
- Can attend meetings and commit around 10-15 hours per term

CALL US TO FIND OUT MORE **01285 841284** clerk@rodmorton.gloucs.sch.uk



Cirencester History Festival

26 OCTOBER-3 NOVEMBER 2024

A NEW HISTORY FESTIVAL IS COMING TO TOWN!

HEADLINE SPEAKERS INCLUDE JONATHAN DIMBLEBY, REV. RICHARD COLES, CAT JARMAN, CHARLES SPENCER, MARC MORRIS, NATALIE HAYNES, JANINA RAMIREZ, RONALD HUTTON & MAX HASTINGS, PLUS FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY: CRAFTING, STORYTELLING, WORKSHOPS, DRESSING UP & MORE...

EXPLORE THE PAST.
CHALLENGE THE PRESENT.
CRAFT THE FUTURE.



Full programme & tickets on sale now
Join us on socials and at cirencesterhistoryfestival.org

In association with Gloucester History Festival

NOTES FROM CULKERTON

GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

Autumn has been creeping in prior to the official meteorological start of autumn this year, which runs from 1 September to 30 November. The astronomical autumn starts with autumnal equinox, this year 22 September. However, in practical terms, the first frost marks autumn, it is the end of summer tender flowers and vegetables, many performing well until their cold end. This year 11 October marked the beginning of autumn.

Deciduous shrubs and trees have been gently shedding leaves, these are cleanly swept from paths, allowed to stay where these fall in borders and mown up with grass for compost making.

At last, the vigorous weeds of 2024 can be really cleared. This year's growing weather and extra CO₂ in the air suited cooler growing plants very well. Established shrubs and trees are growing vigorously taller than usual.

Plans are to change the planting in one main central area to a mixed shrub, herbaceous and bulbs for 2025. The paper plans are in preparation for the update and specimen plants are noted for moving. A selection of bare root roses need ordering. Included in the design will be some additional hardy fuchsias which have more than proved their worth and they remind of my Mum.

Roses need a tidy up prune in the autumn. The long new stems on ramblers and climbing roses need training with old stems removed. Bush roses need a light tidy up of removing about a third of the top. In early spring modern hybrid teas are best cut low so new stems shoot up from the base.

As ground is cleared, home-made compost can be added to protect beneficial soil microbiology or in larger areas for vegetables a hardy green manure can be sown. Look for winter hardy mixes.

Another use for cleared ground is as a nursery or holding bed for temporarily displaced plants ready to be relocated into a new place.

There is still plenty of time for tulips to be planted either deeply at 15cm or in containers, these do much better when the weather is cooler. Other spring bulbs can be planted too.

If wet weather prevails, tidy up the garden shed or greenhouse, clean and maintain garden tools, get the mower serviced before the spring

NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

rush. Sort out plastic pots to keep, or recycle; locally Dobbies Garden Centre offer this service with a big container near the entrance.

November is traditionally the month to sow broad beans; this seems best if you have a sheltered plot or if sowing for an early crop under glass. The hardy beans are really affected by strong winter wind, the shorter growing 'The Sutton' fares better than much taller varieties.

With colder weather lovely winter flowers appear, shrubby winter flowering honeysuckle, *Lonicera x fragrans*, winter jasmine, *Jasminum nudiflorum* and the wonderfully perfumed winter box, *Sarcococca confusa*. Look out for other beautiful winter flowering or berried plants and bulbs to suit your plot or style and establish where they are visible

BIBLICAL RAINFALL...

In recent decades, September has been our most reliably fair month – the month in which to hold weddings. Not this year: my humble garden rain gauge recorded a staggering 219mm (8.6”), and the Met Office informed us that ten English counties experienced their wettest September on record, including (of course) Gloucestershire; with Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire recording their wettest calendar month ever, in a series dating back to 1836.

Seven English counties recorded three times their average September rainfall, headed (of course) by Gloucestershire, with an official 212mm. Southern England overall had its wettest September since 1918, and its third wettest on record in a series from 1836. Ironically, Scotland and Northern Ireland had a decidedly dry month.

It all kicked off after a classic week of fine September weather mid-month. Indeed, I recorded 154mm of rain during September's last 12 days, including a preposterous 50mm in just over six hours on the 27th. This episode began with a thundery breakdown on the 20th, when the Storm of Mordor (from the *Lord of the Rings*) raged in from the south-east. I just managed to get home from Bournemouth Airport (a lovely, friendly little airport) with thunderstorms raging behind me, blackening out Salisbury Plain. Swindon and then Cheltenham got deluged, but it ignored our patch.

We got clobbered on Tuesday 8th October, when many of our local roads turned into raging upland rivers, puddles in road hollows became traffic-stopping ponds, and the Thames Head bridge dip got closed for 24 hours. The term everyone used for this stair-rod rainfall

was 'Biblical'. Sorry, but this is not something out of the *Old Testament*, it's now and it's real: the concern is that it's climate change morphing into climate breakdown. I for one am scared, and am not looking forward to winter.

Spare a thought, though, for Rodmarton Farms, which has been trying to harvest potatoes in all this...

Matthew Oates

KEMBLE & DISTRICT RBLWS

As from October 2024 this branch will be a County Supported Branch and the necessary forms are being completed. After 80 years of dedicated work by past and present members it just wasn't sustainable as getting officers and a committee together was just very difficult and we couldn't adhere to the national guidelines. We can hold our heads up high as the women's branch achieved so much for the Service community and beyond. Many photo albums and records held in the archives show the impact we had within National, County and Kemble and district. Thank you to you all for your support to the branch over the years. Remembrance is upon us once again with the poppy team collecting on Kemble station from Monday 28 October. Remembrance services will be held in the Benefice churches on Sunday 10 November.

WE remember those who have lost their lives defending us

We remember those who serve in the forces

We remember all those who live in places of conflict today

Please give generously.

Pat Ayres chair/sec

GET YOUR WATERSHED BY EMAIL

If you would like to receive a copy of the parish magazine by email I am very happy to add you to my list of those who do. This would not replace your delivered copy but you would get it earlier and with some colour! Just let me know by email at watershedmag@gmail.com

CLOSING DATE FOR THE COMBINED DECEMBER/JANUARY MAGAZINE

Contributions should be sent by e-mail to the Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. Articles should be in Arial font at 11 point with **formatting kept as simple as possible**. The editor reserves the right to edit any articles. **Articles should be submitted by 12 November at the latest for inclusion in the next month's issue.**



Aj arborists

caring for your trees



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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Watershed Editor	Bob Merrill	07866 972389
Watershed Treasurer	Janet Loines	841578

COATES

Coates Parish Council Chair	Robbie Whitfield	07872 027100
Coates Parish Council Clerk	Alan Moorcroft	641375
Coates Village Club secretary	Tara Davidson	07948 966957
Coates Coffee, Cake & Chat	PJ	770596
Coates Tree Warden	Simon Large	07714 220558
Coates Village Hall	Bookings	07818 192587
Coates Neighbourhood Watch	John Dobson	07808 095553
Coates Snow Warden	Peter Tugwell	770314/07860 718209

FRAMPTON MANSELL

Frampton Mansell Village Hall	Bookings	07710 878987
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RODMARTON

Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Chair	Mark Grimes	770289
Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Clerk	Susan Hare	ex-dir
Rodmarton School	Matthew Smith	841284
Rodmarton Village Hall	Jasper Biddulph	770230

SAPPERTON

Parish Council Chair	Sarah Osborn Smith	07836 512538
Sapperton and FM PC Clerk	Barbara (Babs) Maloney	760276
Sapperton Snow Warden	Mark Franklin	760226
Sapperton Village Hall	Bookings	07771 006848
Sapperton School Head	Gary Price	760325

OTHERS

Watershed RDA	Kathy Mottershead	07979 853907
Cirencester Eating Disorder Support Group	Pat Ayres	770385

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Ermin Ward	Julia Judd	07853 383874
	julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk	
Kemble Ward	Mike McKeown	07785 362573
	mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk	
Gloucestershire County Councillor	Stephen Hirst	01666 504213
Member of Parliament	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	01452 371630
Cirencester Hospital		0300 421 6200
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Police non emergency (24hrs)		101

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 5	10am	Frampton Mansell Service & Coffee
Wednesday 6	7.30pm	BEAT meeting in Coates Village Hall
Wednesday 13	10am	Village Craft Group in Frampton Mansell Village Hall
Thursday 14	7pm	Coates Cinema
Saturday 16	10am	Autumn Craft Market Frampton Mansell Village Hall
Tuesday 19	12pm	Soup 'n Savoury Coates Village Hall
Thursday 21	3pm	Kemble & Ewen WI meeting
Saturday 23	10am	Coates Christmas Fair
Tuesday 26	7.15pm	Thameshead Ladies Connection
Wednesday 27	10am	Village Craft Group in Sapperton Village Hall
Thursday 28	7.30pm	Coates Village Hall Open Night



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