

# VILLAGE LIFE

OF BIBURY, ARLINGTON, ABLINGTON,  
BARNESLEY AND WINSON



DECEMBER 2020

## VILLAGE LIFE

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

### ISSUE 454

#### DECEMBER 2020

Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Fair – hopefully – St Mary’s Church, Bibury	All being well!
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting via Zoom	7 pm
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Festive Friday at the Football Club	5.30-7.30pm
Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	*** Early deadline for January Village Life ***	
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Festive Friday at the Football Club	5.30-7.30pm
Monday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Village Carol Singing – see notice	Starts at 7pm

#### JANUARY 2021

Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	7 pm
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Bibury Village Hall AGM – hopefully!	7.30pm

### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH from Bob Hope

My idea of Christmas, whether old Fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?

### COVER SKETCH

We asked last month for sketches for our December issue. This one was the first to arrive. It was drawn by 9-years-old Jennifer Johnson and depicts a lovely starry Christmas night. Thank you, Jennifer.

#### VILLAGE LIFE PANEL

Treasurer: Mr Roger King, 8 Pike Villas, The Pike, Arlington, Bibury	740510
Secretary: Mrs Wendy Challinor, Chestnut Grove, Arlington, Bibury	740021
Mr Neil Harvey: Technical Director, 2 Meadowlands, The Pike, Arlington	740295
Mr Chris Dunn, Four winds , Ablington	740823
Mrs Sarah French, 11 Arlington Fields, Bibury	740698
Mrs Tabitha Mayall, Ready Token House, Ready Token	740120
Mrs Claire McDermott, 5 Aldsworth Road, Bibury	740190
Mrs Sarah Smith, 7 Arlington Fields, Arlington	740214
Please Note: if you wish to put an article or advert in ‘Village Life’ magazine it should be sent to <a href="mailto:biburyvillagelife@hotmail.com">biburyvillagelife@hotmail.com</a>	

## **BIBURY, BARNSELEY AND WINSON CHURCHES**

Bibury Vicarage, Gloucestershire, GL7 5NT

[tim.hastie-smith@hotmail.com](mailto:tim.hastie-smith@hotmail.com) 01285 740301

Dear Friends,

It feels a little like Groundhog Day as we find ourselves back in a realm of uncertainty. However, I can categorically assure you that contrary to popular belief Christmas has not been cancelled, and one way or another we will celebrate the midwinter feast, when we celebrate that light conquers darkness. As I'm sure you are aware, Christmas is celebrated at this time of year, not because Mary kept a handy diary, but because early Christians in Europe realised that the winter solstice gave the most brilliant, continent wide visual aid of Jesus's victory over death and darkness. Pagan midwinter festivals were common, and included the Roman Festival of Sol Victor (The victorious sun) so slipping the Christian celebration in, for want of a better date (Jesus was probably born in the summer when shepherds were far more likely to have been out, watching their flocks, and a time far better suited for a census) was quite easy. And ultimately the cuckoo in the nest (Christmas) came to be the dominant festival. That said, a load of old pagan stuff clung on. Christmas trees (Symbol of fertility and continued life) the green man who morphed into Father Christmas, and don't get me started on mistletoe! And even the Emperor Constantine who brought official recognition to Christianity got pretty confused between the power of the sun and the son. But Christianity has always been accommodating, and welcoming, and our current Christmas is a glorious smorgasbord of traditions, myths and eternal truth.

*The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome or understood the light.*

So, look up to the stars this Christmas

Light has conquered darkness. The sun (son) is victorious and light is returning.

*The heavens declare the creator's glory*

God is with us (Emmanuel)

As Archbishop Desmond Tutu put it

*Good is stronger than evil*

*Love is stronger than hate*

*Light is stronger than darkness*

*Life is stronger than death*

*Victory is ours through Him who loves us*

Clearly making plans is going to be tricky but I tentatively offer what I hope to be able to do this Christmas with the major caveat that things may change (Numbers limited. Services outside. Who knows?! Do email me nearer the time if you are looking for confirmation of arrangements (Email is massively easier than the phone)

I would particularly draw your attention to Village Carol singing on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December. Possibly the only chance this year to do some proper carol singing.

I would also like to invite you to come and get an Advent Candle from one of our three churches. Although Advent actually begins on 29<sup>th</sup> November, the candle makers start the count from 1<sup>st</sup> December. So join the countdown to Christmas.

The churches are also open to receive gifts for the Cirencester Food Bank. Thank you for all your gifts this year which have been incredibly generous. Christmas can be especially difficult for many, so anything you can do would be enormously appreciated.

Finally, our churches remain open throughout the Christmas period. A sign of hope, a sign of love, a sign of God's presence. Do come and pray, light a candle (in Bibury) and enjoy the Christmas beauty of our lovely church buildings. Why not come as a family for a regulation compliant private sing!

May you enjoy a wonderful celebration of Christmas this year.

**With every blessing and fond love**

**Tim**

## **Christmas 2020 in Bibury, Barnsley, Winson, Ablington and Arlington**

**Saturday 5th December: Advent Fayre at St Mary's Bibury**

**Monday 14th December: 6:00pm: Ignite Christmas Party**

**Sunday 20th December**

**11:00am Holy Communion Bibury**

**3:00pm Carol Service Barnsley**

**6:00pm Carol Service Winson**

**Monday 21st December**

**Carols with Salvation Army Band from 7:00pm**

**On the Square, Bibury @ 7:00**

**Catherine Wheel @7:45**

**Village Pub, Barnsley @ 8:30**

**Winson @9:15**

**Thursday 24th December**

**3:30pm Crib Service Barnsley**

**5:30pm: Crib Service Bibury**

**11:30pm: Midnight Mass Bibury**

**Friday 25th December**

**9:30am Christmas Communion at Winson**

**10:00am Christmas Communion at Barnsley**

**11:00am Christmas Family Communion at Bibury**



**You are invited to**

# **Village Carol Singing**

**With the Salvation Army Band on**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

**7:00pm The Square Bibury**

**7:45pm: The Catherine Wheel**

**8:30pm The Village Pub Barnsley**

**9:15pm Winson**

Where possible, refreshments will be served

**Service Schedule****December 2020**

	<b>Bibury</b>	<b>Barnsley</b>	<b>Winson</b>
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Advent 2</b>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion  <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion  <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion  <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Advent 3</b>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion  <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	10:00am Common Worship Holy Communion  <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion  <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Advent 4</b>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion  <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	3:00pm Carols and Readings	6:00pm Carols and Readings
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve</b>	5:30pm Crib Service  11:30pm: Midnight Mass	3:30pm Crib Service	
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day</b>	11.00am Christmas Family Communion  <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	10:00am Christmas Holy Communion  <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:30am BCP Christmas Holy Communion  <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Feast of St John</b>		10:00am United Service Common Worship Holy Communion  <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January Christmas 2</b>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion  <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion  <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion  <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>

**Churchwardens:**

Jackie Colburn, 01451 860212: Elizabeth Gledhill, 01285 740836: Lavinia Sidgwick, 01285 720682 **Vicar** Tim Hastie-Smith, 01285 740301

**HANDYMAN** Local Bibury Handyman available for any help with Maintenance/Gardening/Landscaping/Small Tree Surgery / Electrical / Driving / Shelving / Lighting/Wi-Fi/ TV/Audio.....Just Ask!! and even small Building Projects. Please call Chris on 07884 180623 for a quote or email [ledgie1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ledgie1@hotmail.co.uk)

THE YEAR OF KINDNESS would be a positive spin on 2020, random and deliberate acts of kindness have cheered up our community whether we are giving or receiving.

We should be proud of our local communities, here are some of the things we got up to this year, Easter egg delivery, food bank donations, VE day deliveries, Sunday lunch deliveries, shopping for others, a fund for financial relief for local families struggling during the pandemic, phoning others for a chat, clapping the NHS, sewing scrubs, painting rocks with encouraging messages for others to find, helping others connect via zoom with families....you will each have your own stories to add to the list.

During this Christmas season let us dwell on all the good things about life here in our community, friends, family, presents, homes and good food but also help us to remember those less fortunate and give what we can, let us make our villages a place where everyone is cared for, if we are able give time, money or just a smile to those we meet it makes the world a better place.

I challenge you this month to do random acts of kindness and you will find such rewards in return.

In the Bible book Deuteronomy 15:10 it says "Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."

ABC will be helping you to feel festive by playing Carols and decorating trees to light up the area at the football club for the food takeaway outlet evenings on Fridays 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December, 5.30-7.30pm.

There will be collection buckets for donations if you are able, supporting both UK Spurgeons children`s charity and Arlington Community Rooms and Kitchen project, so please give what you can but most importantly enjoy the sound and sight of Christmastime celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

ABC are also hosting three festive zoom events for everyone of all ages to join, the more the merrier. Everyone welcome.

Please see [www.arlingtonbaptist.org.uk](http://www.arlingtonbaptist.org.uk) for the links or look on our Facebook or Twitter for info or email [info@arlingtonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:info@arlingtonbaptist.org.uk)

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm Festive Scattergories Game, rules are easy and will be explained. Prizes for all.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6.30pm Fun Nativity, join in or watch with cracker jokes and laughter.

Christmas Day join us at 10.30am for 20 mins Christmas unwrapped, a show and tell your present and wish one another Happy Christmas

Join Cirencester Baptist church online evening of 20<sup>th</sup> for Carols by candlelight

**Happy Christmas Everyone!**

[abcarlington2015@gmail.com](mailto:abcarlington2015@gmail.com), see us on Facebook or [www.arlingtonbaptist.org.uk](http://www.arlingtonbaptist.org.uk)

# FESTIVE FRIDAYS

11TH & 18TH  
DECEMBER  
FROM 5.30-7.30PM



## Carol's & Lights

While you wait outside  
**Bibury Football Club** for your  
Fish n' Chips or Pizza get into  
the spirit of Christmas!

Organised by  
**Arlington Baptist Church**



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## CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE !!



'Drop' needle - £6 per foot  
'Non-drop' - £9 per foot

**WREATHS, MISTLETOE  
DECORATIONS & MINCE PIES**



Pop in to pick your tree:

Church Farm,  
Barnsley,  
GL7 5EF

@theTbarn

Weekdays 12 - 4pm  
Weekends 10am - 4pm

Or we can deliver:

eloise.dey@gmail.com  
**07717 756 935**

## **FROM THE PANEL.**

It is getting to the end of the year and time for some reminders!

### **Early Deadline in December**

The deadline for the January issue will be early Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. This gives everyone involved a few days extra to type, duplicate, collate and distribute the magazine.

### **Trade Directory adverts**

Please check your entry and let us know of any changes. We have some new business wanting to advertise. Charges remain at £2 a line and will be due in January for 2021 – so please let us know of any changes.

### **Postal Copies charges.**

Postal charges seem to go up every year these days so we have reluctantly had to put up our prices for postal copies to £10 per annum from 1st January 2012. The charges just covers the increasing cost of the stamps, envelopes etc.

### **Help wanted**

As always, we would love to have more people able to type, collate or help to distribute the issue. If you would like to get involved in any way, please contact any member of the Panel to get further information. The more helpers we have the fewer times we have to call on you each year!

### **Distribution changes**

We have two new distributors join the team this month. Coco Adey has taken over the job of organizing the Barnsley bunch of distributors from Paul and Beryl Lebars who have undertaken this task for many years. Beryl and Paul will continue to deliver 'their patch' of Barnsley and Jean and Adrian Wright have volunteered to deliver the magazine to Cirencester Road (Mill to Owl Cottage) after Carol and Tony Ridgway left Bibury last month. We welcome the new distributors and appreciate the efforts made by the retiring members of the team. In fact we are very grateful to all those who continue to deliver to each household in our villages.

### **Thank you and Good wishes!**

Our duplicating machine is stored at the Trout Farm and we are very grateful that they have continued to allow us to have access to it during Covid and the alterations to the shop. They always make us welcome and we really appreciate being able to duplicate on any day! Even if it is normally only once a month.

And finally - We **wish all our readers and helpers a very happy and healthy Christmas** (especially this year)

## **HEAVENS ABOVE**

This month's full moon is on December 30<sup>th</sup> also known as the Long or Cold Night's Moon. We shall have the winter solstice on the 21<sup>st</sup> which marks the start of Yule, a mystical day for many who go out walking for a dry piece of wood to burn. The Sun Venus and Mercury all pass through this month nudging many to make changes and take better charge of their lives. After the New Moon on the 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a surge of energy and urgency to get things done and by the time of the full moon is due you can sit back and enjoy the ride.

# St. Mary's Church, Bibury

Still hopes to hold a

## Advent Craft Fair

on

Saturday

5<sup>th</sup> December 2020

10.15am – 3.15pm

Come and buy from local crafts people....

Potted Christmas trees, Christmas decorations

Cards, Paintings, Mosaics, Cushions, Honey,

Cakes, Mulled wine, Soft toys, Wreaths,

Plants, and all kinds of fascinating items.

Free Entry but masks must be worn.

Cake donations most welcome

**BIBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL – Sharing a Passion for Excellence!**

**Sharing a passion for excellence!**

### **ACORNS CLASS**

Across the school we have been developing a new approach to writing using The Write Stuff approach by Jane Considine. The approach introduces children to rich vocabulary and sentence structures. Each lesson, new sentences are developed, and children's efforts added to a sentence stack. Once completed the children then use the model to help them create their own individual stories. The children are really enjoying this new approach and we can clearly see their writing improving. We received very positive feedback from our monitoring visitor last week.

### **OAKS CLASS**

This month we have been very busy in the classroom. In English, we have written wonderfully informative newspaper reports about a rare scorpion fish being spotted in Australia. We definitely have some potential reporters in Oaks! In Maths, we have finished our topic on addition and subtraction. The column method doesn't seem anywhere near as scary anymore! In Science, our investigations about electricity were very successful. The children were all able to make simple and more complex circuits with a bulb and buzzer (The buzzing became a bit of a headache by lesson 3!) Art lessons have allowed children to identify the works of Picasso and Matisse, and in history the children have found out about crime and the cruel punishments that were acceptable in the past. Overall, children have been working their socks off!

### **MIGHTY OAKS**

Mighty Oaks have begun their topic 'We are dinosaur hunters' in science, where they are learning about the evidence that scientists have used to learn about dinosaurs. First, they constructed models of dinosaurs and explored how different features and body shapes help us to understand how they moved.

They then explored the way that fossilised dinosaur faeces (coprolite) can help us to learn about what they ate. To help with this understanding, they all dissected owl pellets. They made some fantastic finds which they were able to identify as the skulls and bones of various small animals and birds including a rat skull and frog shoulder blades!

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

The children and staff all gathered outside for the 2 minutes silence on Remembrance Day. Poppies from Acorns Class decorated the window and Oaks and Mighty Oaks contributed with a prayer and a beautiful song. The calm and respectfulness of the children, and thoughtfulness of their responses, was impressive.

## **CHRISTMAS**

Whilst Christmas might be somewhat different this year, we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year from all the children and staff at Bibury CE Primary School.

Suki Pascoe, Head Teacher, 'Great Oaks from little acorns grow'

\* Bibury C of E Primary School \* 01285 740268 \* [admin@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk) \*

For more information please see [www.bibury.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.bibury.gloucs.sch.uk) or come and visit us.

Bibury PTA can be contacted on [ptabibury@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ptabibury@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk)

## **BIBURY SCHOOL PTA**

Our popular Christmas wreath making workshop is, sadly, unable to take place this year but we are selling pre-made wreaths that will be made by a professional florist in aid of the School. If you would like a wreath for £25 we would love to hear from you – please register your interest by sending us an email at [ptabibury@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ptabibury@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk) or by sending us a Facebook message. Please get in touch with us by the 4<sup>th</sup> December. Please note we have only a limited number left so booking early is recommended!

Our Annual Christmas raffle tickets can be bought from the Post Office, School and from parents at the beginning of December... there are some fantastic prizes to be won so do please join in the fun! Thank you 😊

## **BIBURY CRICKET CLUB**

The second lockdown has effectively nixed our idea for a virtual duck race this year. Instead, we are discussing the feasibility of holding the race over Easter, with a year's supply of Russian vaccine as the first prize!

We are really low on funds at the moment having had all our usual fund-raising events Covid cancelled. However, the English Cricket Board has ridden to our rescue with a Return to Cricket grant that will provide enough money to prepare the ground, pay the insurance etc so that we can go again next spring, even if we cannot raise any more money before the start of the season. So, lets raise a glass to the ECB and also to Steve Silk and Scott Tremain of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board who were extremely helpful with and supportive of our grant application.

Meanwhile, preparations for next season continue with a healthy Sunday fixture list emerging. Have the best Christmas you can manage in the circumstances everyone.

Leslie Smith, Bibury CC, 07867 467433

## **BIBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council aims, where possible, to submit updates for the Village Life.

We would also like to encourage everyone to check out the website in which the full draft minutes are published normally within two weeks of each meeting, plus a copy of each report (i.e. Clerks report, RFO Report, Planning Report and updated Action Plan).

Parish Council meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom - the sign in details are included on the Agendas.

Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm - the next meeting will be Tuesday 8th December at 7pm.

## **BIBURY PARISH COUNCIL ADVICE ON ASH DIEBACK**

You've probably noticed road closures for tree felling around the Cotswolds over the past few months. Much of this is because of Ash Dieback, which is posing a huge problem right across the UK. Bibury Parish Council is keen to inform residents about the implications, and we hope the following guidance will be of use.

### **What is Ash Dieback?**

This is a fungal disease, sometimes known as Ash Chalara (chuh-LAH-rah) which affects the tree's ability to draw nutrients into its upper branches. Young ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are killed very rapidly by the disease. Older trees will often resist the disease for longer but will eventually succumb if they are exposed to it.

### **How serious is it?**

Very serious indeed. If an infected ash tree is close to a footpath or bridleway, or to buildings, roads and powerlines, it **MUST** be removed because of the danger posed by falling branches or even the collapse of the whole tree. The National Trust is scheduled to remove 7,000 trees in the Cotswolds alone over the next year. It is estimated that 90 per cent of Britain's 80 million ash trees will be affected, changing the landscape forever.

### **How does it spread?**

Like all fungi, it is spread via spores, which are carried on the wind. Infection over greater distances can be the result of diseased trees being imported from elsewhere in the UK or abroad. Transporting infected logs and leaf litter may also spread the disease.

### **How do I know whether my ash tree has dieback?**

Leaf loss and crown dieback are the classic signs. Scars and cankers may appear on the bark. A typical symptom is the diamond stem scar – a long vertical diamond-shaped area on the trunk. Leaves may wilt in summer, but these black leaves don't drop as quickly as healthy leaves in autumn.

### **What should I do?**

If you have an ash tree on your property, inspect it regularly. If you are concerned about a tree, you should refer it to an approved and qualified arboriculturist. You can find a professional tree surgeon at the Arboricultural Association ([www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)). Act now to minimise the landscape impact of ash tree loss - start planting new trees and taking better care of existing trees.

### **Will every single ash tree be cut down?**

The Woodland Trust advises that, where they do not pose a danger, infected ash trees should be left where possible. Even dead, they remain a vital habitat for many species including birds, beetles and lichens.

### **I have more than one ash tree in my garden. Will they all be affected?**

Sadly, it is very likely, though some may prove more resistant than others.

### **Will it spread to other trees?**

There have been reports of ash dieback affecting Phillyrea (mock privet) and *Chionanthus*. Mountain ash is not affected; this is the common name for members of the *Sorbus* genus, or rowans, which are not related to ash (*Fraxinus*).

### **I want to plant a replacement tree. What would be a good disease-resistant and wildlife-friendly alternative?**

Aspen, alder, field maple, beech, lime, sycamore, birch, rowan and the disease-resistant elm 'New Horizon' are all good contenders. In terms of pollen and nectar production, flowering time, fruit type and tree height, elm is the closest match, followed by birch and rowan. Ash trees have a big impact on soil quality because their leaves are nutrient-rich and decompose very rapidly. Alder and lime leaves have similar qualities, and to a lesser extent sycamore, field maple and aspen. Reduce the risks of introducing new diseases by only planting trees grown in Britain by reputable nurseries, preferably from seed sourced locally.

Structural diversity is also important, so consider planting or encouraging smaller trees or shrubs such as crab apple, holly, hawthorn and rowan. These produce heavy crops of flowers and berries and are excellent for wildlife.

Councillors Neil Clegg and Victoria Summerley

## **OLD DECEMBER**

I surveyed the bright room, all done I could see.  
Then my eyes drew attention to the note on the tree.  
Dear Father Christmas could I have things to play  
Just like my Nan had on her Christmas Day?

An Orange, an Apple and some nuts would you bring  
A top with a whip, and a hoop that you bowl.  
A slate with some chalk and a raggy doll  
And some mice and some marbles that you shoot through a hole.

Daylight was breaking, a new Christmas Day  
Full of surprises and fun things to play?  
Presents then were different, not quite the same  
But the Magic of Christmas comes round again.

## **BIBURY VILLAGE HALL**

Covid continues to make a major impact on the use of the Hall but we on the committee are now planning events for next year that we hope will take place.

The first will be our AGM on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 at 7:30pm ideally in the Hall. Our committee is made up of representatives from major organisations, users of the Hall and some co-opted members. Covid has meant that many organisations have not been able to meet and we are hoping that our present committee will continue to serve until organisations are free to meet normally. If you would like to attend the AGM or have questions you would like to put to the Committee please let the secretary or Chairman know. Numbers may have to be limited but we'd like your views so do please contact any committee member, Wendy 740021 or Angela 740241.

We are hoping to be able to host the Bibury Open Gardens that were cancelled this year. The date chosen is Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May to avoid the Bank Holidays. Put the date in your diaries and if you are new to the village and would like to take part by opening your garden or helping or for more information just contact Wendy or Angela. New Gardens are always most welcome. And may we wish you all a hopeful and safe Christmas in this time.

## **THE OLD MAN OF THE PIKE**

Here we are coming up to Christmas and the New Year still with "Covid 19" dominating our lives. Hopefully with the latest lockdown and the prospects of vaccines on the horizon by the spring we may have it on the run, but we may have to live with it for many years to come. One thing for sure we will be paying for the crisis for a very long time. It is very hard to accept this as we cannot see the enemy that we are fighting as opposed to the cases of the two World Wars. Still we must make the most of our lot and try to get back to normal as quickly as possible. We all have had some hardship to bear during this time and I do feel for the people whose businesses have been hit hard and for the people who have lost their jobs and we will all think that some have been hit harder than others by some quirk of government's orders. By now we all know that Christmas is not going to be the same as usual but please do not break the rules laid down. I know that it is easy to think that our own misdemeanour will not make a difference, but they do all add up. We will get through it even if things are different this year.

Human nature is a marvellous thing, just look around us at this the present time to see what we have managed to do differently to overcome the conditions we find ourselves in. Just remember this this coming season and try and ring or write a letter to someone you know that you have not been in contact recently, it will give a big boost to somebody's feelings. I am sorry that I have seemed to be a bit morbid but hopefully I can be bursting with the joys of spring in a couple of months' time.

Let us hope that we can be like Mother Nature herself and overcome anything that is thrown at her given Time! I can still wish Seasonal Greetings to you all and hope that 2021 is much better than 2020 and good health to you all.

## **VILLAGE HALL HISTORY: THE 'MOTOR SMASH' OUTSIDE THE READING ROOM**

*A collision between a car and a motorcycle at the junction near the Reading Room in February 1923 must be one of Bibury's first motoring accidents.*

-oOo-

A young lady - Miss Christine Plumbe - daughter of a farmer called John Plumbe of Manor Farm, Ablington - was driving her father's car along The Street in Bibury when she collided with a motorcycle driven by Frederick Charles Francis, of Siddington.

She was heading for the Bibury Reading Room, which eight years later would become the village hall. He was coming round the bend down the hill from Burford.

We know all this because Mr. Francis launched a court case blaming Miss Plumbe for the collision and seeking £47 compensation for the financial losses and personal injuries he claimed he had suffered as a result.

He accused Miss Plumbe of driving 'in a reckless and dangerous manner, and at a speed that was excessive, and on the wrong side of the road, and that she did not keep a lookout, and gave no warning of approach, and took no proper steps to check the speed or draw up or avoid a collision'.

One slightly odd thing about the legal action is that it was taken against John Plumbe, the owner of the car, rather than Christine Plumbe, the driver.

The court proceedings at Northleach County Court in front of Judge Macpherson were reported in fascinating detail by the *Cheltenham Chronicle* on 26 May 1923 (page 5). There is too much to include, but here is a summary.

The facts of the case were that Miss Plumbe continued straight on into Church Street (or turned right, depending how you look at it) and hit Mr Francis 'broadside on' as he was coming round the bend. This was not a high-speed accident. Miss Plumbe was travelling at about 4mph. The collision knocked Mr Francis off his motorcycle and (he claimed) he was thrown four or five yards.

The newspaper report does not give the make of car or motorcycle, but we are told that the car was right-hand drive, and Miss Plumbe had been driving for six years.

Mr Francis was described as a 'traveller' (presumably what would be called a commercial traveller in more recent times). He claimed that the accident happened because as Miss Plumbe approached the junction, she had been distracted by waving to Mr Arkell, who ran a grocer's shop near the corner.

Mr Francis stated that the motorcycle was 'damaged beyond repair' and that he had sustained injuries to his knee and calf that kept him off work for over three weeks. He claimed compensation for the damage to his motorcycle, the leg injuries he suffered, tears to his trousers and loss of wages. However, the judge noted that he had refused to be medically examined or have his motorcycle inspected since the accident.

Witnesses were called, including Mr Arkell the grocer, and Ethel Smith of Ablington, who had been standing by his shop. A Bibury motor mechanic called Mr Chesman testified that the motorcycle was worth only £7-£10 – less than half of what Mr Francis claimed.

Having listened to lawyers and witnesses, his honour decided that the collision was entirely Mr Francis's fault, and judged in favour of the defendant, with costs.

*Roger Staton, A trustee of Bibury United Charities (the charity that looks after the Village Hall)*

## **BIBURY GARDEN CLUB**

The results of our photo competition, and the awarding of prizes to our winners, took the place of a proper meeting in November.

Former photographic stylist and Bibury resident Glynis Cox very kindly agreed to judge the entries and the winners were as follows:

- First prize, Val Smith, for a picture of her white clematis, taken in April. Glynis particularly liked the way the flowers seemed to glow in the sunshine.
- Second prize, Angela Alderton, for another clematis picture. This was C. 'H F Young', a lovely plant with large mauve flowers that fade to lavender.
- Third prize, Halina Tipper, for a fabulously colourful summer container planted with begonias, geraniums and pinks.
- Highly commended, Rosalyn Hawkins, for her photograph of wallflowers and perennial cornflowers.

Many thanks to everyone who took part – it was lovely to see all the gardens.

As we go to press, it looks as if we won't be able to have our Christmas social in the Catherine Wheel or indeed anywhere else. George Blackwell and I were planning to run a garden club plant stall at the Bibury Advent Craft Fayre, which is taking place, fingers crossed, in St Mary's church on 5 December.

However, if the event is cancelled, we will be able to offer holly wreaths, bowls of hyacinth bulbs, cyclamen and even Christmas trees in pots for sale to garden club members, so keep an eye on your email inbox for more details. They'll make great Christmas presents!

There isn't a January meeting of the garden club, but we're hoping to get started again, either virtually or in person, in February, on Wednesday 10th. In the meantime, I would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a Covid-free New Year.

We are always delighted to welcome new members, and guests. Please contact Victoria Summerley [v.summerley@hotmail.com](mailto:v.summerley@hotmail.com) or Jenny Lawrenson [e.lawrenson171@btinternet.com](mailto:e.lawrenson171@btinternet.com)

## **ROUND AND ABOUT**

The weather of late has been somewhat depressing. Winter is approaching and the dark lengthening nights make each day seem even more dark and short, but the solstice is only a few weeks away and then hopefully things will seem much better and lighter!

We were sorry to hear that our Vicar Tim has tested positive for Covid and is self-isolating. We wish him mild symptoms and a speedy return to full health. Les Norris has had another fall and brief stay in hospital. It is the time for falls with wet leaves, damp pavements and frosty morning all contributing to the potential risk so we should all take extra care. Nick Trudgian of Lark Hill, Ablington, is recovering at home from surgery. We wish them all a speedy recovery!

A warm welcome to the Miles family; Daniel and Helen with their daughters Olivia and Jessica.

The shutdown has resulted in a much quieter village but like many we miss some of the hustle and bustle and certainly miss the number of pre-Christmas events that normally take place. So this seems a good opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to the Trout Farm, Post Office and Catherine Wheel for keeping going during lock down and supplying our daily needs. Welcome too to the new Cotswold Café located at the Football Club. Best wishes in your venture!

It is likely to be a very unusual Christmas for all of us much quieter than normal and with fewer social events but we will no doubt appreciate a more normal Christmas next year all the more!