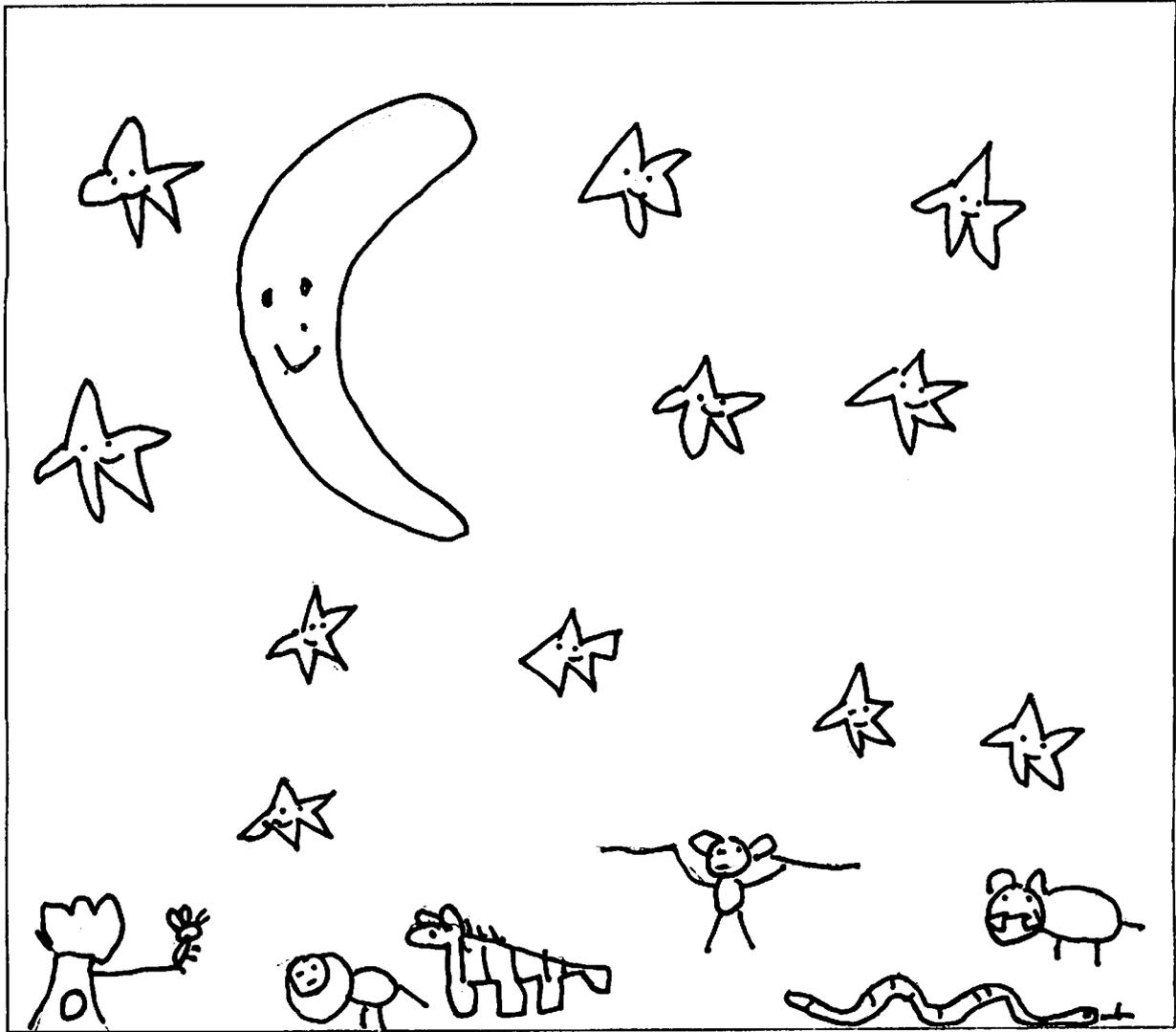


VILLAGE LIFE

OF BIBURY, ARLINGTON, ABLINGTON,
BARNESLEY AND WINSON



NOVEMBER 2020

VILLAGE LIFE

DATES FOR THE DIARY

ISSUE No 453

NOVEMBER

Sunday	1st	Ignite All Saints Halloween Light party, St Mary's Bibury	5-6.30pm
Monday	2nd	All Souls Holy Communion and remembrance of the Faithful Departed at St Mary's Bibury	6:15pm
Sunday	8th	Remembrance Sunday – various Acts of Remembrance and venues	
Saturday	5th	Advent Craft Fayre; St. Mary's Bibury	10.30am – 3.30pm
Wednesday	25th	Chin wag and tea in the chapel 2 -3pm all welcome, social distance in place	

DECEMBER

Saturday	5th	Chin wag Christmas Coffee morning and sale, Baptist Church	10.30am
Sunday	5th	Talk by Hope Price on Modern Day Angels, Baptist Church	

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
if you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster;
and treat those two impostors just the same;

Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, (from 'If'; Rudyard Kipling)

FROM THE PANEL - CHRISTMAS IS A-COMING

Next months issue will be our Christmas Issue and at present we do not have a suitable sketch for December. Why not have a go and do a drawing in black or blue ink about 15cm square to grace our front cover. Line drawings are preferred and colours and shading do not usually reproduce well with the Village Life technology. Please put your contributions into the Village Life folder at the Trout Farm or email them to biburyvillagelife@hotmail.com by November 20th together with your name and age if you are a child! There is no need to give your age if you are an adult! All are welcome!

We normally print our annual accounts in this months issue but because of covid we have suspended the charges for adverts and the postal copies until the new year. We have decided that we will now publish our accounts in January, when we send out bills for the new year.

COVER SKETCH

This lovely sketch of stars and animals was drawn by a 7 year old visitor, Jana Hana Sisniega to the Art Festival in the summer. As the nights are getting longer it was the most appropriate one for November and the starlit nights.

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 biburyvillagelife@hotmail.com by the 20th of the preceding month

COVID RULES

In the current very uncertain world it is difficult to keep track of what is and what is not allowed. There is extensive (and sometimes hard to follow) guidance on the www.gov.uk website. The following general guidance is taken from the advice for Medium risk areas, (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-medium>); which is what we appear to be at the time of printing); which says:

“Local COVID alert levels are sometimes called ‘tiers’ or known as a ‘local lockdown’.

In all areas of England, you should remember ‘**Hands. Face. Space**’:

- hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- face – wear a [face covering](#) in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)

This guidance is for people who are fit and well. There is separate guidance for households with a possible or confirmed coronavirus infection and people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to coronavirus

Meeting family and friends

When seeing friends and family you do not live with (or who are not part of your support bubble), you must not meet in a group of more than 6, indoors or outdoors. In England, this limit of 6 includes children of any age.

A ‘support bubble’ is where a household with one adult joins with another household. Households in that support bubble can still visit each other, stay overnight and visit public places together.

Meeting in larger groups is against the law apart from specific exceptions where people from different households can gather in groups larger than 6 people.

When meeting friends and family you should also follow ‘social distancing’ rules when you meet up; limit how many different people in total you see socially over any short period of time; and meet people outdoors where practical.”

There are a huge number of exceptions, qualifications and other ‘rules’ on the Gov.UK site. There is also some information on the Cotswold District Council site (<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/news-items/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice>) which has a lot of material about how Council services are affected. Reference should be made to the original sources as they should be more up to date than Village Life.

BIBURY, BARNSELY AND WINSON CHURCHES

Bibury Vicarage, Gloucestershire, GL7 5NT

Tim.hastie-smith@hotmail.com 01285 740301

Dear Friends,

Quite a number of 'one offs' this month so I would crave your indulgence if much of this letter reads as a series of notices.

November is never the easiest month to negotiate and COVID 19 has ensured that it will be harder than ever. As Thomas Hood, the early nineteenth century poet, publisher, poet and humourist wrote with painful perception:

*No sun – No moon!
No morn – no noon –
No dawn – no dusk – no proper time of day.*

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member –
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! –
November!*

But forewarned is forearmed so let us resolve to combat the November blues with random acts of kindness (like Kerry Mucklowe) and finding ways to bring joy to others. Just one example to get you started. Rinnie Roo Cook's wonderful painted stones have brought joy and hope to many. Her most recent series, focussing on mental health are brilliant. What can we each do to be light bringers this November?

So, now the notices.....

- **The *Ignite All Saints Halloween Light party* will take place on Sunday 1st November 5:00pm-6:30pm for all children at St Mary's Bibury**
- **All Souls Holy Communion and remembrance of the Faithful Departed will take place on Monday 2nd November 6:15pm at St Mary's Bibury**
- **Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday 8th November. The Salvation Army Band will be joining us for three acts of Remembrance. All of which will be outside to comply with Social distancing requirements. Our focus will be the 75th anniversaries of VE and VJ Days**
9:40am at Barnsley War Memorial. 15 minutes
10:15am at Ablington War Memorial. 15 minutes
10:50am in Bibury Churchyard. 25 minutes
- **After much consultation Service Times have been changed slightly from next month to allow services at both Bibury and Barnsley to be at the same time every week. 9:50am Barnsley, 11:05am Bibury. Winson will continue to have two services a month at 9:30am.**
- **Advent Fayre at St Mary's on Saturday 5th December. All Village organisations are invited to decorate a Christmas tree/window celebrating their activity! Big Prize!**

With every blessing and fond love

Tim

PS More details about any of the above from me.

Service Schedule	November 2020		
	Bibury	Barnsley	Winson
Sunday 1st All Saints Day	11.05am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:50am Morning Prayer	9:30am BCP Holy Communion <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>
Monday 2nd All Souls Day	6:15pm Holy Communion		
Sunday 8th Remembrance	10:50am Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard with the Salvation Army Band	9:40am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial with the Salvation Army Band	10:15am Act of Remembrance at Ablington War Memorial with the Salvation Army Band
Sunday 15th 2nd before Advent	11.05am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:50am Morning Prayer	9:30am BCP Holy Communion <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 22nd Last Sunday after Trinity	11.05am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:50am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	
Sunday 29th Advent Sunday	11.05am Common Worship Holy Communion (Said)	6:00pm Advent readings, Reflections and Music	
Sunday 6th December Advent 2	11.05am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:50am Morning Prayer	9:30am BCP Holy Communion <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>
Churchwardens Vicar	<i>Jackie Colburn</i> 01451 860212 <i>Revd Tim Hastie-Smith</i> 01285 740301	Elizabeth Gledhill 01285 740836	Lavinia Sidgwick 01285 720682

ARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

www.arlingtonbaptist.org.uk

Smart Phones are amazing pieces of technology although a bit like Marmite you either love them or hate them. You can do so many amazing things with one, you can talk to people and even see them from across the world, you can take photos, edit and store them, you can listen to your music collection or play games, you can even keep track of your kids as long as they have a tracker app. and have the phone with them, you can see where they are at all times.....

You can also give consent as an adult, for someone to track you..... so they know where you are at all times. The idea of someone watching over you could be daunting or reassuring depending on their character and motives.

God watches over us all the time, each and every one of us, he cares for us with tender love even when we think we are hidden away in a dark place he is there with us.....If you are in a Dark place right now feeling alone read this and be reassured, and if you utter the words “God please sit with me here, now, I need you, give me hope” believe/know he is there with you, have faith, surely its worth a try.....

Psalms 139 tells us

1. Lord, you have seen what is in my heart.

You know all about me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I get up.

You know what I’m thinking even though you are far away.

3 You know when I go out to work and when I come back home.

You know exactly how I live.

4 LORD, even before I speak a word, you know all about it. You are all around me, behind me and in front of me.

You hold me safe in your hand.

6 I’m amazed at how well you know me.

It’s more than I can understand.

7 How can I get away from your Spirit?

Where can I go to escape from you?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there.

If I lie down in the deepest parts of the earth, you are also there.

9 Suppose I were to rise with the sun in the east.

Suppose I travel to the west where it sinks into the ocean.

10 Your hand would always be there to guide me.

Your right hand would still be holding me close.

11 Suppose I were to say, “I’m sure the darkness will hide me. The light around me will become as dark as night.”

12 Even that darkness would not be dark to you. The night would shine like the day

Acknowledgement You tube channel Fuelcast Rev. Alisdair Longwill West of England Baptist Association

DATES AND EVENTS for NOVEMBER

Every Sunday @10.30am Lively and fun Worship, Big screen talk from Cirencester, Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in by Sunday 8th please.

Tuesday 17th Quiet service and Communion 2.30 -3pm

Wednesday 25th Chin wag and tea in the chapel 2 -3pm all welcome, social distance in place

December dates Sat. 5th Social distanced Chin wag Christmas Coffee morning and sale 10.30am

Sunday 5th Talk by Hope Price on Modern day Angels

Sunday 20th Candlelight service

BIBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Election Department at Cotswold District Council has advised that a sufficient number of residents have called for an election to fill the three vacancies on the Parish Council. Unfortunately, all elections have been suspended due to Covid 19 and it is unlikely that the election will take place prior to the 6th May 2021. In the meantime, the Council is still a legal body who will continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of the villages. The Council will nearer the time advertise the notices for candidates and the procedures to follow; please feel free to contact The Clerk if you require further information on becoming a Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council have been working with Gloucestershire Highways to improve highway safety, access and to manage visitors to the village. A copy of the Parking Restrictions Proposals can be found online - <https://www.biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

The new bench in The Square has now been installed and a plaque will be added shortly - to dedicate this to "IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELIZABETH JEAN MILES (Nee Griffin), 31.5.1936-20.12.2016 - Lived all her life at The Square".

If you would like information on providing a Memorial Bench, then please email the Clerk clerk@biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cotswold District Council are calling for Sites:-

Attention all land owners – Cotswold District Council is undertaking a further 'Call for Sites' to help with a variety of accommodation and community needs. We want to hear from anyone who can provide land or buildings for potential housing, renewable energy, commercial applications or which would be suitable for accommodating gypsies, travellers and showpeople. Anyone who has previously submitted sites to the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) should reconfirm their availability and inform the Council of any recent progress in bringing sites forward for development. The deadline for site submissions is **Friday 13 November 2020**. This is a routine update to our SHELAA and is not related to any proposed changes to the planning system. The SHELAA provides a broad-brush assessment of the development potential of sites across the District. Whilst the SHELAA is separate from the Local Plan site allocation process, it will be used as evidence to inform the update of the Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031. Anyone wishing to submit a site or building for potential development in Cotswold District can do so by completing a site submission form and providing a brief description of the proposal, details of site ownership and a map (preferably 1:1250 scale) with the site area outlined in red. Site submission forms are available to download from the Council's website (<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/SHELAAcallforsites>) or paper copies can be made available upon request. The Council encourages site submissions to be made in electronic format. Submissions can be made by e-mail to: Local.Plan@cotswold.gov.uk (email limit is 10 MB); or by post to Forward Planning, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX.

PARISH COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS FROM YOUR HOME !

The following information has been received from a contributor who says "We have a great opportunity to support the Parish Council, their number has been reduced to just 4 with 3 members having resigned. Meetings are being held via Zoom and the Clerk can send you the Zoom link on which to click just before the meeting begins and you will then be let in (do download the Zoom application ahead of this); it does mean you don't have to leave the warmth of your home to hear the discussions. The Clerk can be e-mailed on clerk@biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

CDC are not holding Elections at the moment because of Covid restrictions which means that our Council could run with reduced members through, at least, until March 2021 [May 2021 -see above – Ed].

For members of the public attending meetings 15 minutes are allocated for comment and an item can be included on the Agenda for the following meeting. The Clerk advises us that she will not Minute representations from the floor but I am sure that hearing from residents would help Councillors to represent the views of the community they seek to serve more precisely, it also means that if you stay for the remainder of the meeting you will get a good idea of the workings of your Council and when Elections are next raised I hope that more people will feel enthused to stand as representatives."

Note from the panel:

The Parish Council supports a comprehensive website <https://www.biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/> which seems to have had a makeover lately. This site is well worth a look as there are comprehensive online documents relating to Parish Council meetings including minutes and planning issues, a local directory, links to locally relevant sites, and even an archive of back copies of Village Life. There are several plans relating to proposed parking restrictions around Bibury: if you live anywhere in the village these may affect you.



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Have your say on developing a green economy

Cotswold District Council has launched a consultation on its Green Economic Growth Strategy.

The Strategy was approved for consultation by the Council's Cabinet at its October meeting and the authority is now seeking views from residents, businesses and other local groups on the priorities within it. It is designed to help the local economy recover from the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown and start to transform the Cotswold economy over the next four years as it builds on the Council's priority of "enabling a vibrant economy". It sets out a number of priorities including growing key sectors such as agritech, cyber/digital and green technologies. The Strategy is also committed to enabling town centres to thrive, supporting the visitor economy, improving infrastructure, boosting skills and training and attracting inward investment.

The consultation runs for four weeks until 17 November and can be found at:
<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/having-your-say/consultations/>

Bibury Church of England Primary School

Sharing a passion for excellence!

We are now working as one big bubble at Bibury Primary School. We are keeping everyone safe with lots of extra cleaning and handwashing and all the children have settled back into school life very well



A warm welcome to our new Reception children who are Violet, Nirvana and Fraser. We hope you enjoy your time here at Bibury School.

Thank you to Bibury Cricket Club who allow us to use their playing fields. It is such a wonderful space and we have been taking advantage of the good weather while we can! Mr Peters took the children for some distance running and cricket which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Rev Tim led our Harvest Festival in the church yard on Thursday morning. The children shared prayers and a poem giving thanks for nature and the harvest. Thank you to everyone who brought in donations of food for the food bank. We were joined by Karen Gray and her rescue hedgehog Queequeg. Karen has been nursing him back to health after discovering him tangled up in some wire. She explained what he likes to eat and we weighed him to see how much weight he had gained. He needs to weigh 600g before hibernating. Unfortunately, he still has 150g to put on and he was already looking very sleepy, but we know he is in safe hands!

This month we had our cookery day held at the Village Hall with The Kitchen Club. The theme was "A Very English Autumn" and the children cooked Chicken & Vegetable Casserole along with a classic Apple Crumble. Every child from Reception to Year 6 took part in every part of the process and there were some delicious aromas wafting from Village Hall. The children took portions of the meal home to share with their families and they also have a copy of the recipes if they feel like having another go. We are very proud of our budding chefs!

Suki Pascoe, Head Teacher '*Great Oaks from little acorns grow*' Bibury C of E Primary School * Tel: 01285 740268 * E-mail: admin@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk *for more information take a look at our website: www.bibury.gloucs.sch.uk or come and visit us.
Bibury PTA can be contacted directly on ptabibury@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk

BIBURY VILLAGE HALL

We had our first committee meeting for several months in at the end of October. We were in the main hall and took care to socially distance ourselves but it was lovely to be able to discuss events and plans face to face rather than trying to catch people over the phone or via email. Sadly the restrictions as to who can meet in numbers greater than 6 means that most events in the hall have to be cancelled or postponed. Educational events are one of the exceptions so we have some bookings from the school and a registered playgroup but most of our normal planned events and hirings are not able to take place – even the Christmas Fayre has had to be cancel or at least postponed until the hall can hold events with larger numbers.

At the moment we are hoping to hold our AGM in January as usual on Thursday 21st January in the Hall at 7.30pm but if the restrictions at the time make that impossible we shall hope that our representatives from the various organisations will continue until such time as we can hold an AGM.

We have had some provisional booking for next year but like so many things - all are dependent upon Government restrictions at the time. We are hoping to have our Open Gardens on Sunday 16th May as we were not able to hold them this year. Fortunately we were lucky to secure a government grant towards the loss of income for the hall but as our annual running costs are normally at least £6000 a year it will not last long. We miss being able to fulfill our role to provide a centre for activities in the village for people of all ages. Let us hope that with the warmer weather in the spring we shall be able to return to that role.

RURAL CINEMA

Sadly it has not been possible to restart the Rural Cinema scheme yet.

BIBURY AFC

A decent set of results in the last month for Bibury starting with a 1-1 Draw at home to Stonehouse: Archie Day with the Bibury goal. A week later Broadwell Amateurs visited with Bibury securing a great 5-2 win; again Archie with two goals and also Declan Keen with two goals and long serving midfielder Kanne Outram also scoring for Bibury. Next up was an away defeat at Abbeymead in Gloucester. The month ended with high flying Charfield visiting Bibury expecting to win but Bibury produced their best performance of the season so far; again two goals for Archie Day sealing the 2-0 win. Bibury currently sit in 5th place in the league.

November fixtures

7/11 away to Kings Stanley

14/11 home to Dursley Town

21/11 away to FC Lakeside

28/11 home to Staunton and Corse

BIBURY GARDEN CLUB

We had to cancel our October meeting, and it looks as if our November meeting will not be going ahead either. Does that mean we have given up gardening for the duration? No, not a bit of it. We have gone back into online lockdown mode, and there will be weekly bulletins from George Blackwell on planting bulbs for spring, and how to look after winter houseplants such as poinsettia and azaleas.

Those of us taking part in the Great Amaryllis Competition have already received our bulbs, and instructions on how to get them flowering at exactly the right moment.

I'm also growing hyacinths for the house, and normally I put them in hyacinth glasses full of water. The downside of this is that they tend to fall over when they are in full flower, so this year I am going to follow George's advice, which is to plant the bulbs individually in 9cm pots, then put them in a shady corner where they won't be disturbed and cover them with a layer of soil or mulch.

Then, when the flower buds are showing above the leaves, you can choose the best four or five to plant up in a bowl for the house and leave the ones that aren't so well developed for another week or so.

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

Victoria Summerley

ROUND AND ABOUT

Many will have heard of the sudden death from an on-going heart condition of Jim Webb of Arlington Corner. Jim and his wife Norma have been living in Bibury for several years and both were always willing helpers and enthusiastic attendees at most village functions. We send our heartfelt condolences to Norma and their children Jason and Lindsey and their families. Jim will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to Neil and Sue Harvey from The Pike who celebrate a Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Also congratulations to John Holford on his 50th birthday and to Reg Stringer who celebrates his 95th, which may make him Bibury's most senior senior.

As Covid 19 seems to be making a comeback, we seem to be heading for more lockdown and restrictions on our movements and social activity. We are lucky that we seem to have escaped the worst of the virus so far in spite of being a popular tourist destination. We are lucky in that we have a community that seems to work well at times of difficulty - there are people to call onto ask for help with shopping and perhaps we ought to be especially vigilant of our neighbours needs over the coming months. A smile & a chat either over the garden wall or over the phone can mean so much when we cannot get to see our family and friends from further afield.

So keep safe and healthy and remember to always remember Hands Face Space! - the new normal!

On the Move - We are told that Roger and Jenny Hedgeland are moving to Awkward Hill.

The Vass family, who were enthusiastic contributors to the Bibury Sunday lunch and cakemaking network during the lockdown, are moving to Winson. It's nice they won't be moving too far away.

Bibury Holiday Cottages, together with the antiques shop, have been bought by Chris Wright, founder of Chrysalis Records, who lives in Coln Rogers. Carol and Anthony Ridgway from the Village Stores have moved to Cirencester. The Ridgways ran the Village Stores and Post Office for many years before changing the stores to the bric-a-brac and china shop that Carol so long wanted. Carol and Anthony delivered the Village Life Magazine along the Cirencester road, almost since we started. We are very grateful for their long support for the magazine and wish them well in their new home.

Amongst those who have left the village are Sophie and Mark Fletcher from Arlington and their young sons. Mark and Sophie we believe have moved to Cheltenham to be nearer the boys

secondary school. In their place we welcome Craig Chapman and his fiancée to Long cottage. We hope both families will be very happy in their new homes.

A THANK YOU

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone for their kind word and cards following the sudden death of my husband Jim, a loving husband, father and granddad. The support we have had has meant so much to us all. Thank You

Norma Webb

HEAVENS ABOVE

Jupiter merges with Pluto around the 11th and this will bring success and great rewards for many. Mercury will join the mix as well making it a game changer for some. At the close of the month there will be a lunar eclipse in Gemini November 30th. This is a full moon eclipse heralding peace and joy.

NOVEMBER

No sunshine – lots of rain

No warm days – snow again!

No bugs or bees

No leaves on trees

You must remember

This is November

HANDYMAN

Barnsley Wold 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 07884180623 for a competitive quote or email ledgie1@hotmail.co.uk

Village hall history: The Bibury Reading Room

What we know today as Bibury Village Hall started out in 1878 as the Bibury Reading Room. This is the story.

-oOo-

There's a stone plaque on the Northern end of Bibury Village Hall that records the construction of the building in 1878 by Lord Sherborne. But it refers to 'church houses' rather than 'village hall'. Does it mean that people once lived in the village hall?

Well, sort of. The full story is more complicated.

The story before 1878 is not well documented, but it seems that the plot of land where the village hall stands today was occupied by some small cottages that were rented out to poorer families. They were not in good condition, so Lord Sherborne (the Rt. Hon. James Henry Legge Dutton, 3rd Baron Sherborne, who lived in Bibury Court) offered to replace them with a new building that would provide accommodation for four people plus a village reading room, all under one roof.

The Reading Room was a new idea for Bibury. In the late Victorian period reading rooms were popping up all over Britain, often financed through philanthropic donations, as education reforms made education more widely available. These public reading rooms fulfilled a valuable community role, as a place where people could meet, read books and the day's newspapers, and listen to talks.

Many villages in the area had reading rooms, including Coln St Aldwyns, Coln Rogers, Poulton, Eastleach, Hatherop, Barnsley, Winson and Quenington.

Bibury's Reading Room was completed in 1878. The reading room itself was in the centre, with a two-roomed cottage on the right, and two one-room tenements on the left, each with its own

doorway onto Church Road. We would probably call them apartments rather than tenements nowadays.

The new Reading Room proved to be a popular venue.

In December 1882 the Rector of Hatherop gave a talk on the transit of Venus across the disc of the sun. In June 1909 the room was used for a Coroner's Inquest.

Then as now there was interest in the history of Bibury, and in March 1910 a Mr Boswell Belcher, described as 'Bibury's historian', gave a talk on the subject.

Newspaper reports of the time reveal that the reading room soon became the focus for social events. There were regular whist matches, often against a team from Coln Reading Room. There was a rifle club, and regular shooting matches with teams from other villages.

The Bibury Reading Room also turns up described as the 'Reading Room and Young Men's Club', and 'Reading Room and Library'.

By the late 1920s there was a growing need for a larger venue that could accommodate dances and other bigger social gatherings. So the trustees launched a plan to double the size of Bibury's Reading Room and turn it into the Village Hall. The budget was just over £500.

After 52 years as a Reading Room, it re-opened as the Village Hall in August 1931. Still with a cottage and two tenements under the same roof. Still looking virtually unchanged when viewed from Church Road.

Roger Staton

A trustee of Bibury United Charities (the charity that looks after the Village Hall).

**St. Mary's Parish Church
Bibury
Will be holding a
Advent Craft Fayre
on
Saturday 5th December 2020
10.30am – 3.30pm

Come and enjoy the
Christmas spirit**

RBL POPPY APPEAL 2020



***PLEASE
GIVE
GENEROUSLY***