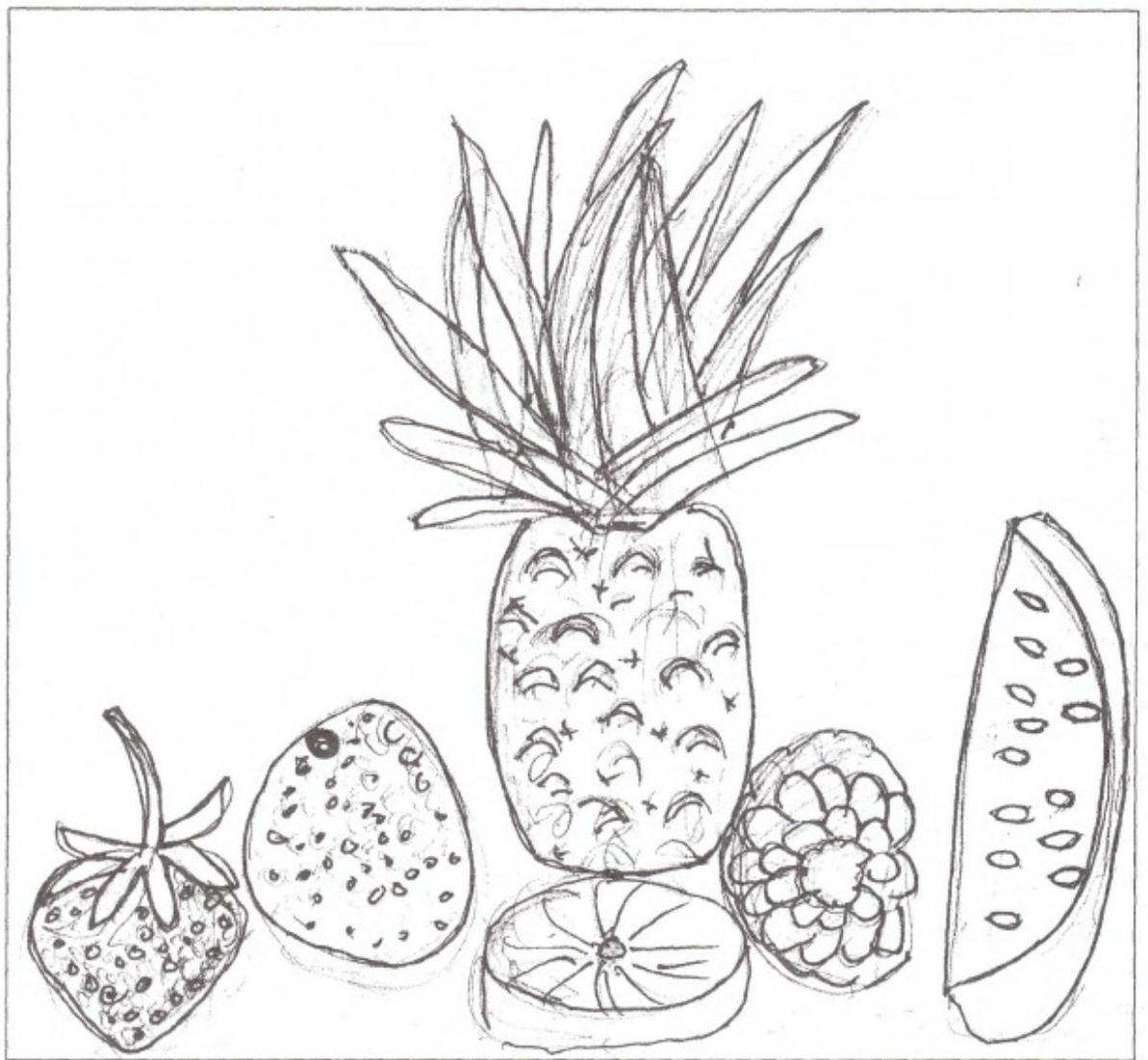


# VILLAGE LIFE

OF BIBURY, ARLINGTON, ABLINGTON,  
BARNESLEY AND WINSON



JUNE 2020

## VILLAGE LIFE

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

ISSUE No. 449

#### June

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Deadline for July/August double issue of Village life 12 noon

#### July

#### August – hopefully!

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Bibury Flower and Art Festival 10 am to 5 pm

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Deadline for Septembers Village life 12 noon

#### **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.

#### **VE day Celebrations – a report by Michelle Holt**

On Friday 8th May 2020, the 75th anniversary of VE Day, the residents of Bibury and Arlington celebrated the day, amidst the national lockdown, with a Stay at Home Street Party. Local residents had picnics on their front lawns or doorsteps alongside their neighbours and many people decorated the fronts of their houses with bunting and flags.

A traditional afternoon tea was made and delivered to the elderly residents in the village who lived alone. This delightfully presented box of afternoon tea was kindly funded by the Bibury Cricket Club and inside it also contained a commemorative VE Day tea towel that was kindly donated by the Bibury Football Club. The recipients were all surprised and delighted by this gift and many elderly folk sat outside for the first time in weeks and happily reminisced VE day with their neighbours.

In the morning a pop up shop was organised outside St Mary's Church selling fresh homemade cakes donated by village residents and they were all sold raising over £600 for the Royal British Legion.

It was truly a joyous day and it was just the tonic that some people needed to lift their spirits. So many pockets of houses around the villages really embraced the event and it made a welcome change to what has been a very difficult time for so many. Albeit very different events, but the link between today's pandemic and the troubles and loss felt 75 years ago did not go unnoticed by many. The British spirit of carrying on in the face of adversity still lives on thankfully.

Hopefully in August we will be able to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VJ Day more fully. Whilst the Parish Council were not willing to support this event they have indicated that they will support some form of VJ celebrations.

*Various other reports about the day are found elsewhere in the magazine.*

## **COVER SKETCH**

This lovely drawing of a fruit was drawn by Olivia Grace Norman who was 9 years old at the time she entered the drawing and won first prize at last year's Bibury Show.

## **BIBURY WITH WINSON & BARNESLEY CHURCHES**

Bibury Vicarage, Gloucestershire, GL7 5NT Tim.hastie-smith@hotmail.com  
01285 740301 June 2020

Dear Friends,

It's not the despair, I can take the despair. It's the hope I can't stand, declares Headmaster, Brian Stimpson, played by John Cleese, in the delightful film, Clockwise. One of the many challenges of our present situation is the uncertainty. If someone could definitively state when this would all be over, we would happily put up with almost anything. But uncertainty 'sucks' and that is the reality. It is also very wearying. Draining us of energy. And that is where the problem of hope comes in. We seize on to every glimmer of hope, and when that is dashed away, the disappointment is almost physical.

Some years ago, I came across the writings of Admiral Jim Stockdale. Stockdale was an American naval pilot, who was captured during the Vietnam war. The highest-ranking prisoner of war, he was repeatedly tortured during his seven-year captivity. During this time, he developed a means of coping with his hell that has come to be known as the Stockdale paradox. The main gist is that you must balance realism with optimism, reflecting that the unrealistic optimists ('We'll be home by Christmas') fell into utter despair when their over rosy hopes were dashed. As he puts it:

You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end – which you can never afford to lose – with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.

And, perhaps most pertinently for our current situation, he observes, that in paradox we often find some of the greatest bits of wisdom. But the difficulty in understanding paradox comes from fact that when its heard as a maxim in some kind of verbal form, it is contradictory and not intuitively grasped. He goes on paradoxes are best understood through experience.

An inspiring example.

This month the Easter season comes to an end, as we reach Pentecost, the church's 'birthday' when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That Easter is over will be shown by the removal of the Easter garden. That Pentecost has come will be shown by the installation of a new prayer tree at Bibury and the gift a small white scented candle in the porches of all three of our churches on Sunday 31st May. The candles are white because Pentecost is also known as Whit Sunday (White Sunday) as it was a day when, traditionally people were confirmed in white confirmation robes. It is a candle so that the flame might remind you of the tongues of fire that symbolise the power of the Spirit. And they are scented, so that the presence of the Spirit may pervade your room/life. Do come and collect a candle as our gift to you, and feel free to take one as a gift for a neighbour.

Do please continue to leave prayer requests in the porch at Bibury. I check them every day and bring everything before God as I pray for the whole community. Do email if you prefer.

Once again, thank you to everyone who is doing so much for the community: The Parish Council, The Baptist Church, the VE Day team, and so many individuals who are engaging in extraordinary, persistent acts of love and kindness

With every blessing Tim

PS In your prayer do please remember the family and friends of Michael Sanfdalls of Quarry Bungalows who died this month, and the family and friends of John Edwards who was buried at Bibury this month.

### **ARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

<https://www.facebook.com/arlingtonbaptistchurchbibury>  
[abcarlington2015@gmail.com](mailto:abcarlington2015@gmail.com)

Paint stripping internal brick walls is not my idea of fun on a summers day, as the world goes by outside, albeit slowly, we are still in lockdown as I write, this is where I find myself but it is strangely satisfying.

The far wall of the schoolrooms at the Chapel is made of very old red brick which is beautifully weathered externally but inside has been painted over the years with several layers of all types of paint which is bubbling on the internal walls and causing deterioration of the red brick.

After meetings with surveyors and architects it was decided the paint had to come off as it was sealing in the damp and causing the bricks to rot.

If you think about it, we as humans start as a baby, a new pure building material, as we age we too gather layers of "stuff", some layers are attractive like new paint but as we go through life we gather so many layers that we too begin to change inside and a rot sets in, or the layers hide what is really going on inside.

God didn't intend us to carry all this rot around with us, he did intend that these layers would gather but he gave us a way to strip them away and become refreshed again and reveal the beautiful creation inside all of us.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

So today can I invite you to peel away those layers forgive those you have buried in your heart unforgiven, call that family member you fell out with, smile at a stranger and say hello, ask God to forgive you and be free of those layers that keep in the rot.

You too can be restored back to a near perfect self.

Have you seen the Blessing UK on YOUTUBE?

If not here is the link for you to enjoy, it is for you and me, our community and our country and is fantastic. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl3mNj5U>

If you enjoy this Cirencester have a great version too but there are some lovely versions from Children and other countries for example Zimbabwe if you search.

### **SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE**

Since the current government regulations mean we cannot meet together in person, we have joined Cirencester gatherings online! <https://www.cirencester-baptist.org/online-church>

All are welcome to join Cirencester Baptist Church at 10.30am Sunday mornings for a family friendly service with loads going on, a fun hour with a positive message and participation.

## **NEW WEBSITE**

We have a new and exciting website in development where we will have community pages and info from all activities and Churches in our villages – this will be launched during the summer and anyone who would like to submit community news or events please let us know via facebook for the time being

**VOLUNTEERS WELCOME TO HELP PAINTSTRIPPING THE INSIDE OF THE HALL AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH ,WHICH IS BEING RENOVATED INTO A COMMUNITY KITCHEN AND SPACE– COME AND HELP SOCIAL DISTANCING IN PRACTISE NO MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE OR YOUR OWN TIME TO BE THERE IN A VERY VENTILLATED LARGE SPACE , ALL TOOLS PROVIDED OR BRING YOUR OWN. IF YOU CAN SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO IT WOULD BE MUCH APPRIECIATED. CONTACTS ABOVE.**

## **AN APOLOGY FROM THE PANEL**

Dear All,

It might be worth putting in next Village Life that the School notice Board was not vandalised as reported in 'Round and About' but succumbed to old age, rot, and the wind in mid March, when it was literally blown to pieces!

Having cleared the pieces up I can confirm that there were no vandals, which I hope other members of the community will find reassuring!

Every blessing

Tim Hastie-Smith

(Oops we are sorry for the error – that is what comes from reading the local papers on line! – Wendy C)

## **THE STORY OF THE SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE IN AMERICA**

Hello from Mark & Jane Stanga in Arlington, Virginia! During the pandemic, we wanted to share the story of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, held each spring here in the Washington, D.C. area.

Spelling bees (in which contestants receive increasingly difficult words to spell and only advance if they spell them correctly) probably began among school children in the U.S. in the 1850s. Many Americans have had fond (or not-so-fond) memories of participating in primary school spelling bees, which can be either individual or team competitions.

Since most languages have more predictable and less challenging spelling systems than English, spelling bees are common primarily in English-speaking countries. Although there were spelling bees in Britain in the 1870s, they have never been as popular in the U.K. as in America. The Times began a national U.K. spelling bee in 2009 in which over 1000 school teams participated, but it only continued for two years.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee began in 1925 in Louisville, Kentucky. Participants cannot be over fourteen as of August 31 before the competition, and previous winners cannot compete

again. The National Spelling Bee encourages participants to increase their vocabularies, and to deepen their knowledge of the English language. To reach the final competition, participants must prepare intensively, often for years, and they first must win local and regional qualifying competitions. An example of a recent winning word is “eleemosynary,” a word evolved from Greek and Latin which means “relating to or dependent on charity.”

The National Spelling Bee has become an American popular culture institution. In 1994, the cable sports network ESPN began to broadcast the final competition, earning the spelling bee equal billing with the most popular American sports. The Academy Award-nominated 2002 documentary film “Spellbound” followed eight competitors through the 1999 competition.

The National Spelling Bee contestants are now so well-prepared that in 2018 the judges declared eight winners because repeated rounds of exceptionally difficult words failed to eliminate anybody else. This year the National Spelling Bee has been cancelled for the first time since 1945 due to the coronavirus, but we eagerly anticipate the return of this beloved rite of spring in America as soon as we have turned the corner with the pandemic.

We look forward to seeing all of our friends in the village whenever we are able to return. In the meantime, we hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

### **THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH**

Always laugh when you can – it is cheap medicine

Always smile – no one needs a smile more than he who has none to give.

### **LETTERS TO THE PANEL**

#### **1. Dog fouling in the churchyard**

Dear Village Life Panel

Following on from the note about dog fouling in last month’s edition we would like to request that all dog owners clear up any mess that their pets leave in the churchyard at St Mary’s Parish Church, Bibury. We would also like to request that all dogs are on a lead when entering the churchyard and are not allowed to ‘roam free’.

Over the past 12 months or so we have noticed a higher incidence of dog fouling. The sight of dog mess in the churchyard is particularly distressing to the bereaved as well as grossly disrespectful to the deceased. It also presents a health hazard to the schoolchildren at Bibury Primary School and most unpleasant for the churchyard maintenance team (i.e. Chris Blackwell, Alison James and myself) who look after the churchyard and care for the roses. It is simply not acceptable to allow your dog to foul what is a sacred place in the heart of our beautiful village and it is also illegal for the owner to not then pick up and deposit the faeces in one of the special dog waste bins provided in the village centre.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.  
Malcolm James

(From the Panel – several of whom have dogs! We cannot but agree. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets – especially in public areas and definitely in the churchyard.)

## 2. BLISS LAND

I thought to write in after experiencing such gratitude for village life over the past couple of months Not only coming to meet more villagers but the absence of its coaches 🙏

We are all extremely lucky and fortunate enough to be living in Bibury anyway, but the joy that this quiet time has brought to many of us has been total bliss. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could stop coaches 'period'.

The village isn't very big and if we were to petition for no more coaches ,, ,, , who would be up for that?

Cars. and the odd mini bus would bring more than enough tourists to support the Trout Farm and Nic-nacs from the Post Office.

Maybe us villagers could come to buy more produce from our village shops in support of their trade 🙏❤️🙏

I look forward to hearing others opinions

Charlotta Lucking

## THE OLD MAN OF THE PIKE

Well I had a senior moment last month and pressed the wrong button on the computer and sent the previous months article. Sorry about that so this month I will try to press the right button this time and not make the same mistake twice.

Things have not changed much over the last month, still locked down but getting ready to be eased off soon, I hope. The weather has stayed dry and warm suiting the garden with plants grow well but the weeds even better. It does the mind good but the back not so good, in small doses I can just about manage and the radishes and lettuces are tasting great. With the prospects of more produce to follow and the mind set at ease. The end of last month swifts were spotted in Bibury but up here at The Pike the swallows and martins are slow to appear. Red kites and buzzards are making their daily visits in fair numbers and we are seeing young garden birds around, far less magpies this year. One thing I saw the other day was a family of mistle thrushes all together in the top of our trees, five youngsters and their parents. All these type of things do make you feel that much better in these trying times.

It was a shame that V E Day went by with us in lock down so we never got around to see every-bodies efforts. The Pike did have a fair bit of Red, White and Blue flying in the wind, still we could possible have a good old knees up at a later date. I do hope that things are good for you and you are coping with lock-down and things will look a lot better next month.

## A COLLECTION OF REPORTS ABOUT THE VE CELEBRATIONS LAST MONTH

### **75TH. ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY ---MAY 8th.2020. – The Square**

It was the most beautiful day to celebrate this remarkable occasion. Bunting was heavily featured around "The Square" and around the Church and it's neighbours, Her Majesty herself appearing (lifesize) in the doorway of Sherborne Barn !

The planned "Street Party" and other events sadly were unable to take place, however the organisers undeterred requested we sit in our gardens between 3pm and 5pm, enjoy tea and chat to our neighbours, where possible.

My Union Jack was fluttering from an upstairs window in the welcome breeze, I (as requested) was wearing red, white and blue, when to my surprise Michelle Holt appeared with a beribboned box containing afternoon tea for one. Everything was beautifully presented, delicate sandwiches, scone with jam and cream, small sausage roll, fairy cake complete with Union Jack (small) a VE Day tea towel and napkin, and even an Earl Grey teabag, fabulous. All sponsored by The Cricket Club and The Football Club, I send my thanks to the sponsors and importantly the ladies who produced the delicious tea.

We are all so fortunate to live in not only a beautiful location, but to be part of a very caring community.

Angela Alderton,  
Garden Cottage.

### **75th Anniversary Celebrations in Arlington Row. Friday 8th May 2020**

In the new quietness of the lockdown those of us living in Arlington Row decided to join in the celebrations. At three o'clock we arrived outside of our own front doors with bunting, tables, chairs, beverages and various delectable edibles.

We all tried to keep our distance but laughter, stories and good conversation quickly encouraged us to group – socially distancing – of course!

We raised our glasses to all those who saved this country in so many ways.

It was a perfect afternoon. Even the Police joined us and if you look on the police Twitter website there is the picture to prove it!!

We sat out until a cool wind picked up at about 7pm. We had all enjoyed our get-together, one person saying it was the first time in 27 years that they had sat outside their front door.

It was a great day and something for the children to remember

### **75th Anniversary Celebrations Arlington Farm Lane pulls out all the stops**

The residents of Arlington Farm Lane and their dogs turned out in force for the VE Day celebrations. Kick-off was at 3.30pm to give everyone a chance to listen to Mr Churchill and the Queen.

Bunting, Union Jacks, red, white and blue lanterns, streamers, and World War II themed memorabilia greeted the arrivals as they set up their 'socially distanced' tables on different plots around the end of the cul-de-sac. Glenn Miller provided the background music, courtesy of Roger from Tump Hill.

Wendy from Chestnut Grove supplied table decorations for everyone - red and white roses and bluebells - and husband Phil echoed the theme looking natty in red shirt, blue trousers and sparkling white shoes. James, Diane, Katie and Danijel from Arlington Farmhouse definitely had the best-dressed table, with silver tea service, vintage china and a homemade afternoon tea worthy of Fortnum and Mason.

Nick and Pam from Carters Close rocked the 'dig for victory' allotment vibe, bringing their table and chairs and refreshments in a wheelbarrow. The Birtwistles, Andrew, Andrea, Michael and Rory, drew envious glances as they lounged on their



rattan furniture. Michael's girlfriend Claire added a welcome New Zealand touch to the proceedings.

And, last but not least, the Pudding Hill Barn clan - Marcus, Karen, Natasha and Harry - arrived in style on a Land Rover festooned with flags and complete with wicker hamper and a Union Jack trunk.

The weather was glorious, the conversation flowed (or was that the champagne) and a good time was had by all.

*Angela, baby boomer, Tump Hill*

## **ROUND AND ABOUT**

The June issue of Village life is normally full of reports of the village events that happened in May – Open Gardens, Barnsley Festival, Village teas and reports of various sporting events but this year it is different with the lockdown – so the reports of the various local VE Celebrations ‘stay at home teas’ are a welcome sign that our community is still working. And a big thank you to all the organisers and to the Cricket and Football Club for remembering those living alone and delivering them a delightful afternoon tea in a box!

We are sorry to have to report on two deaths during the last month. The first was of Michael (Mike) Sandalls from the Quarry bungalows. Mike was a familiar sight around the village, working around the village, collecting contributions for the Cricket Club and Football Fetes. Mike lived in various places around the village but sadly died alone at the Quarry bungalows where because of the lockdown his body laid undiscovered for a few days.

The second was John Edwards, husband to the Pam. Jon grew up in the village before marrying Pam and They used to live at Lower Field Farm cottage for many years. John and Pam then moved to live near Betty's Grave. John for many years was the local window cleaner and was often seen around the village before he retired several years ago. We send our condolences to their families.

Hopefully the lockdown will begin to be lifted in stages as we return to a more normal life – already there are more visitors to the village – a mixed blessing we have enjoyed having the village to ourselves but we realise that our local businesses, shops and hostelrys that provide local employment depend on the tourists. Perhaps they will be less in number and wouldn't it be lovely if the large coaches did not return!

## **From the Panel**

This is our third issue made during the Coronavirus pandemic which has affected our lives in so many ways. Like so many organisations we are not meeting in person and our normal way of working has been reduced to doing everything by email! We are however grateful that some organisations are still sending us something to print and we are still getting some news from

around the village. If we have missed some special event of yours, a significant birthday, some special achievement etc please let us know.

Needless to say, we are very grateful to the Trout Farm for still allowing us to duplicate some copies for distribution around the village and the Post Office Trout Farm and church for letting put some paper copies for collection and to those who have distributed the electronic version widely round the village.

With no Bibury Show this year - we will need some Front Cover Sketches to see us through the coming months. Any offers?

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### **From further afield.**

#### **Age UK Gloucestershire Community Support**

During Covid19 we have adapted our support and we want to let local communities know that we are here to help. We have a variety of resources that we are keen to share with the communities.

- a. We have an information and advice line where anyone (older people and their families) with an issue can call and get free advice – 01452 422660
- b. We have set up a Freephone line if any older person is feeling lonely and wants a chat with one of our staff or volunteers – 0800 298 0579
- c. We are also running an online social group which older people can join, get and share info and ideas on staying occupied, there are quizzes and discussion groups. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gloucestershirespringboard>
- d. We are promoting a campaign to Greet Your Street at 11am to get neighbours socializing on their doorsteps; we have posters that we can send out for households to show they are involved.
  - e. There is also a lot of advice and information on our website: [www.ageukgloucestershire.org.uk](http://www.ageukgloucestershire.org.uk)

Please Remember

## **Bibury Flower and Art Festival 2020**

**14th, 15th & 16th August 10am – 5.00pm daily**

**To all flower arrangers and artists**

We are still hopeful that we will hold our Annual Festival Of Flower Arrangement, Crafts and Art work despite Coronovirus19

The Theme for Flower Arrangements this year will be: This Wonderful World of..... ,

Contact either: Wendy Challinor on 01285 740021

Or Jill Skarda on 01285 740496