



# Tormarton Newsletter

May  
2020

## TORMARTON AND WEST LITTLETON NEWS

### Diary

Mon	4 May	6.45 pm	Parish Council Annual Meeting, via Zoom (see below)
Fri	8 May	2.50/3 pm	VE 'Celebration' in Tormarton High Street and on zoom (see below)
All Sundays:		10.30 am	Marshfield Benefice Church Service on zoom

### Recyclable & Refuse Collection:

**South Glos Council has now advised that garden waste collections will resume from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Black and green bins, recyclables and food waste will all be collected fortnightly.**

*The collection days in the coming month are:*

**Tormarton** – Monday 4 & 18 May, 1 June      **B4465 towards Codrington** – Friday 1, 15 & 29 May  
**West Littleton** – Mondays or Tuesdays (depending on location in the village) 11/12 & 25/26 May

For further details on this, the recycling service, and subscriptions for the garden waste go to:  
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling-changes-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19/>

### Message from Rev. Sally Wheeler, Benefice Vicar.

I hope you are all keeping well, and staying strong in the unusual circumstances we face together.

During this time of restrictions some of the familiar ways of contact with each other have had to be put on-hold. **This month there will be no Cotswold Edge Magazine** as there are so few events in the Benefice to report on! A weekly Benefice news-sheet has been mailed out to those for whom I have contact details; if you would like to receive this, please let me know via email: [marshfield.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:marshfield.benefice@gmail.com) or by phone: 01225 892180

Marshfield Church website is being used as a Benefice website at present, and you can find articles and resources by going to: <https://marshfieldchurch.org/> There are also some service orders you can use or personal prayer at home which are in the churches' inner porches should you wish to pick one up.

While the churches are closed for services, we have had success with hosting **a zoom service for the Benefice every Sunday at 10.30 am**. This can be easily accessed by using the Marshfield Church website (<https://marshfieldchurch.org/>) under the heading 'A Sunday Service with a Difference. (You may wish to download and print the service sheet beforehand from the website. If you are finding it difficult to connect, then try this zoom help link for further information: <https://support.zoom.us>)

Pastoral contact is not physically possible at the moment but phone contact is on offer should you wish to ask for prayer for someone, or your own situation, or should you just wish to talk:

Rev. Sally: 01225 892180

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## **Tormarton Village Pond**

A recent inspection by arboricultural consultants of the area adjacent to the village pond has confirmed that all the Ash trees in the area have Ash dieback disease. Ash dieback affects the vascular system of the tree preventing it from drawing up water so usually results in death. Unfortunately there is currently no cure or remedial measures to combat the disease.

Due to the public access to the area around the pond and the close proximity of some of the trees to the road and footpath it has been recommended that the trees are felled completely or reduced to 4 metre monoliths as soon as possible before they become unstable and pose a risk to people and property.

The Village Pond Committee has obtained quotes from a number of tree surgeons to carry out the necessary work and has been shocked to discover that at least £6k will be required, almost twice the amount that the committee currently has in its bank accounts! So the committee is urgently looking at a number of ways to raise the additional funding. We hope to be able give more details of how you can help in the next edition of the newsletter, in the meantime if you have any ideas please contact Stella Turner (email; stellaturner58@outlook.com; phone: 01454 218537; mobile: 07375 462779).

## **Tormarton Community WhatsApp Group**

I am delighted to tell you that there is now a Tormarton Community WhatsApp group to make it even easier for us all to give and receive the information or help we need during this difficult period. The more people who are on the group, the more effective it will be, so I would encourage everyone who has access to WhatsApp to consider downloading the link below. It is restricted to Tormarton residents and is not for circulating Covid videos, etc - there are plenty of other groups for that at the moment. It has so far been used to ask for help with shopping, offer help, give alerts for when online shopping slots appear and so on. It is connecting neighbours who have not met before, which is very encouraging. Hopefully, it will mean that no-one has to leave the village just because they are short of milk or a single ingredient for a recipe! It will also make it faster and easier to circulate useful information on a wide variety of issues relating to our small community.

For those of you who are shielding, please don't be afraid to use the App to ask for help, no matter how big or small– groceries, prescription collection, bag of sugar, help with zoom, WhatsApp etc. Those of us who are able to go out are happy and eager to help. Even if you are not shielding, with the shops and garden centres closed, you may find you need something that your neighbours can supply; vegetable seeds, equipment, business amenities. As the weeks go on, you may have a surplus crop of rhubarb, too many eggs, etc which you may want to offer. There is a lot of potential for this means of village communication to be useful long after this pandemic is over.

I obviously do not have the mobile numbers for everyone in the village (!) so please feel free to pass this message and the link below to anyone in Tormarton who has a mobile phone. All you need to do is to download WhatsApp to your phone (if you do not have it already). Then enter the following code into your browser (e.g. the bar at the top of your phone's internet page). It will take you to a simple form which just requires your name, number and first line of address - this is to ensure the chat is secure. I will then add you to the group within 48 hours. Any problems, give me a call on 218236.

[bit.ly/3bDqtgv](https://bit.ly/3bDqtgv) (Case sensitive)

Thank you and keep safe.

Noreen Finnermore

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES from the Chairman**

I would first like to thank Noreen Finnamore and the members of the Tormarton and West Littleton Community groups for the work they have done to make sure residents in the parish have had the support they've needed through this time of self isolation and social shielding. The work of the volunteers really does pay testament to the strong community spirit that exists here.

In line with other Parish and Town Councils who have been encouraged to take part and support the **'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3 pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> May**, from the safety of their own homes by standing up and raising a glass of refreshment of their choice and undertake the following 'Toast' – "To those who gave so much, we thank you", we intend (weather permitting) to acknowledge this special occasion in the following way:

At approximately 2.50 pm Ashleigh Stevens will start the proceedings by paying tribute to the forces sweet heart and national treasure Dame Vera Lynn by singing one of her classic songs on the High Street.

At 2.59 pm Stewart Waters will sound an original wartime air raid siren for one minute, following which you will be asked to raise your glasses and join the nation's toast. Ashleigh will then round the proceedings off with a rendition of Dame Vera's most iconic song 'We'll Meet Again', which I know will have added poignance in this difficult time of isolation. Residents are encouraged to come to their front doors and garden gates to sing along with Ashleigh and mark the occasion with the community spirit it deserves, whilst obviously respecting the existing social distancing rules. To allow parishioners in West Littleton to join in with this special occasion, and also other residents who may not be able to see or hear the proceedings, we are intending to broadcast the event live by Zoom and joining details will be available on the Parish website [www.tormarton.org](http://www.tormarton.org) from 1<sup>st</sup> May onwards. You never know, if we keep our fingers crossed then maybe the event will coincide with some relaxation of travel restrictions!

Following local government guidelines the Annual Meeting of Tormarton Parish Council will take place virtually on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 6.45 pm** for which a full agenda and joining instructions can be found on the Parish Councils website at [www.tormarton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.tormarton-pc.gov.uk)

### **Hugh Barraclough**

It is with sadness that we report that Hugh Barraclough died on 15<sup>th</sup> April, peacefully in his sleep. A small service, attended by his sons, was held in Tormarton churchyard on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Hugh, and his wife Carol, had come to live in Tormarton in the early 1970s. He served for a number of years on Tormarton Parochial Church Council where his legal knowledge was invaluable and his writing skills came to the fore in crafting village pantomimes. Many will remember the skill with which Carol organised the catering for Church fundraisers. Hugh also offered sound and ground breaking legal advice to the Parish Council about its ownership and control of properties and village organisations for which it is responsible.

Hugh was a quiet man who enjoyed the company of friends and family. One of his great loves was walking and since his diagnosis of cancer in August last year he had continued to enjoy daily country walks with his frisky black labrador, Sophie.

Hugh's last public appearance in Tormarton was probably as Judge Dread in the 2018 Tormarton Pantomime. It was a role he clearly relished and one in which he had the final word. Hugh faced his final illness with great stoicism. He is survived by three sons and ten grandchildren and we send them our sincere condolences.

*This message from Simon, Ian and Richard: "We felt extremely touched and supported by the presence of villagers, friends (and some very well-behaved dogs!) who lined the way from Lapdown Barn to the church. It was a lovely moment of togetherness and regard. The service was quiet and intimate, with readings from John 14 and Wordsworth's 'Intimations of Immortality' and colourful and fresh with flowers, chosen from the locality that morning. It was a gentle, natural and peaceful close to Dad's life in the village."*

**Another goodbye:**

**Margaret Hurcom** died last week; her funeral service will take place in Tormarton churchyard on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Born Margaret Sharp in Tormarton, she married Victor “Vic” Hurcom in the 1950s. The Hurcoms and Sharps are old Tormarton families. She lived in No. 9 Marshfield Road which was amalgamated with No. 10 in the 1960s. Margaret worked part time in various Tormarton properties including The Compass. Vic and Margaret had 3 sons, Andrew, Richard and Melvin, who all have families and live and work in the area. She lived as a widow in Tormarton for a few years before moving to Yate to be near her family. Sincere condolences to her family and friends.

**100 Club**: draws have been postponed until further notice.

**Pilates** sessions are currently held via zoom at 6 pm every Monday evenings. Anyone interested in joining, who has already done some pilates, can contact Sophie, email: [sophiehthomson@hotmail.com](mailto:sophiehthomson@hotmail.com), phone: 07786 653834. Cost: £5 per session.

**Rota Volunteers, Tormarton Church**

No flowers or cleaning while the church is closed.

Mowing Rota: 3 May – John Saunders; 10/17 May – Stewart Waters; 24/31 May TBA

This issue kindly sponsored by Jane Smart. Edited and copied by the Elliotts.

Items for the next issue to be given to Diana Elliott, St. Mary’s House, Tel: 01454 218364, or email: [diana.elliott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:diana.elliott@hotmail.co.uk), not later than 27<sup>th</sup> May please.