



Tormarton Newsletter

February
2021

TORMARTON AND WEST LITTLETON NEWS

Diary

Mon	1 Feb	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting on zoom
Thur	4 Feb	7 pm	South Glos Council virtual meeting on their 'Local Plan' (see below)

Recyclable and Refuse Collection:

Recycling items and food bins are collected **every** week.

Black and green bins are collected **alternate** weeks.

For details on Recycling items to be put in each box/bag, check information on leaflets that have been left

Tormarton – Mondays

Bins: 8 & 22 Feb

B4465 towards Codrington – Fridays

Bins: 5 & 19 Feb, 5 March

West Littleton – Mondays or Tuesdays (depending on location in the village)

Bins: 1/2 & 15/16 Feb, 1/2 March

TORMARTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sun 21 Feb: 9 am Holy Communion Rev. Sally Wheeler

WEST LITTLETON CHURCH SERVICES

Sun 28 Feb 9 am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev. Sally Wheeler

Message from Rev. Sally Wheeler:

During this third lockdown, we are holding one church service per week within Benefice, offering prayer and worship in our sacred spaces on behalf of all. See the Cotswold Edge for more details. All our Benefice churches are open daily for personal prayer and reflection in this troubling time. Rev. Sally and Rev. Lynne can be contacted on these phone numbers if you would like to speak to them in confidence. Sally 01225 892180; Lynne 01249 446734

This month Tormarton and West Littleton will each host one simple church service (see above).

The Benefice Sunday Morning Worship continues via Zoom at 10.30 am: the zoom link can be found on the church website: www.marshfieldchurch.org (click on the 'Join Here'). It is good to see several faces from Tormarton regularly in our zoom services.

The national prayer for this time of pandemic:

“Keep us, good Lord under shadow of your mercy; Sustain and support the anxious;

Be with those who care for the sick and lift up all who are brought low,

That we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Madrigals in St. James' Church, West Littleton

The annual evening concert and supper with the University of Bristol Madrigal Ensemble will not take place this March due to the current situation. We are hoping that we might be able to hold a modified event in the summer after the university exams but it is too early to plan anything at this stage.

News From Tormarton PCC

Future of the Tormarton church building

Thank you to those of you who commented on the paper about the future of the Tormarton church building. Although the response was limited, the importance of the church was highlighted, and the need to improve the facilities within the church was supported by everyone who commented. However, the level of support overall was relatively subdued and passive. The PCC has decided therefore that rather than pursuing the major redevelopment project we should progress a more modest and less ambitious scheme - but do so in a way which we could expand over time. The details of this scheme still need to be developed and agreed, but our preliminary thoughts are likely to include improving the heating and lighting, rehusing the organ and replacing it with something more reliable, removing the south aisle pews, and introducing a simple hospitality area for gatherings. We may erect an outside toilet but it is unlikely that we will install one inside the church.

We will develop these ideas over the next few months and would very much welcome your thoughts and support. We will, of course, continue to keep you updated. If you would like to discuss or get involved please contact Rev. Sally Wheeler, Bruce Fynamore on 07831 441415 or bruce@finnamores.com, or any member of the PCC.

Celebration of Christmas by Candlelight - Thank you !

A HUGE thank you to Gilly Wells, Ashleigh Stevens, George Gent and Joanna Bowman for staging two evenings of a 'Celebration of Christmas by Candlelight'. Their selection of beautiful readings and music, all with a Christmas theme, was truly beautiful and a real highlight in Christmas week. We are blessed to have such wonderful talent in the village. Thank you!

The Lady Altrincham Tormarton Village Pond (LATVP)

The LATVP committee would like to thank everyone who has supported our 'Sponsor A Tree' scheme, either by sponsoring a tree/shrub or by donating. The response has been amazing! To date the scheme has raised £1,162.50 (incl. Gift Aid), which is an incredible result. We really appreciate the way the village has supported this initiative.

A Sponsorship Register giving details of the trees/shrubs that have been sponsored is available on the village website.

<http://tormarton.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LATVPT-Sponsorship-Register-28.12.20.pdf>

The funds raised will be used to move forward with plans to improve the site. A selection of small trees/shrubs have been ordered from Landcare Nurseries and will be planted as soon as Covid-19 restrictions and the weather allow, replacing the ash trees lost to ash die back disease.

The scheme remains open so if you haven't already done so you can still sponsor a tree/shrub or make a donation and help protect a wildlife haven at the centre of the Tormarton community.

For further details contact Stella Turner, email; stellaturner58@outlook.com, tel: 01454 218537 or mob: 07375 462779. Thank you!

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES from the Chairman

Firstly, on behalf of the members of the Parish Council and myself, I would like to wish everyone the very best for 2021 and hope that, despite a difficult start, it will prove to be an altogether better one than 2020!

Although it was a testing period in many ways, it was great to see the villages pull together and make Christmas special for so many of us who live in the parish. With wonderful socially distanced candlelight services taking place in both Tormarton and West Littleton, and an outdoor celebration on the 19th, it's fair to say that there were plenty of opportunities for us to reflect and enter the festive spirit. It takes the support of the whole community to make these types of occasion a success, and it goes without saying that we thank everyone that was involved. However, it's only right that we give special shout-outs to some of those who braved weather and helped make the season so special. To our wonderful carol singers (and elves) whose dulcet tones managed to raise enough to deliver a festive gift of £260 to children's charities in the UK and Yemen. Our three soloist singers, Gilly, Ashleigh, and Toby, who all managed to both lift our spirits and touch our heart strings when we needed it most. To Roy and Chris at the Major's Retreat for providing sustenance on a particularly damp night (personally I didn't even know mulled apple juice was a thing!). Finally, to the Badminton Estate for donating the tree, and of course Sally and the Benefice team who delivered such wonderful services that brought us all together. Thank you to everyone involved!

The New Year brings with it new challenges, and with none more pressing than the demands and restrictions put upon us by the Covid Pandemic. Where needed please use the community Whats App group for help and support, as well as keeping an eye on the village websites and Facebook page for useful updates and notices. The Whats App group in particular has proved a valuable method of support for those living in the parish that have needed to shield or isolate. If you would like help finding out how to connect to any of these resources then please give don't hesitate to give us a call on 07780 448922.

Lastly, as you may be aware, South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) are in the process of formulating a development plan for the county that will define where new homes are built, businesses are encouraged, and where transport links such as school buses are provided. Be in no doubt these plans will have an impact on our parish, either because they will be designed to promote development affecting our area or, equally as importantly, stand against it. This plan can deliver the things that we need the most, take away some of those that we value highly, or provide us some we weren't expecting, or worse never wanted in the first place. Their plan is called '**South Gloucestershire Local Plan 2020**' and on Thursday 4th February at 7 pm you will have the opportunity to find out what '**Local Plan 2020**' is all about and how SGC will go about producing it at a 'Virtual' pop up meeting they will be hosting. If you would like a link to join this meeting then please email our Parish Clerk Jack Turner at clerk@tormarton-pc.gov.uk for further details.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 1st February at 7.30 pm on zoom. As always everyone is welcome and joining details are available on the Parish Council's website: www.tormarton-pc.gov.uk

News From The Parish Hall Committee

The Hall Committee braved the weather in December to clear the car park of leaves and undertake a general tidy up around the hall. Thank you to all those who attended including husbands of committee members who gave up their Sunday morning to help with their "big toys" which made the task much easier. Ongoing maintenance works are regularly undertaken inside the hall.

Covid restrictions continue to deny the use of the hall to the public but the nursery is permitted to continue to operate subject to the business having a safe environment for staff and children. The portacabin will enable the staff to take their breaks away from the hall and will be screened as required by the planners.

Request for information on local businesses – Noreen Finnamore

To anyone just driving through Tormarton, it may seem like just a sleepy Cotswold village. However, as we know, behind the pretty gardens and lovely architecture, there is a surprising number of businesses and small enterprises beavering away even in these Covid times. Having just learnt about a small business that I had never heard of before (and would have gladly used if I had known), it occurred to me that we could usefully update the village website to advertise the businesses that are here, not only to show how commercially active the village is, but so that more of us can access and support local businesses where they exist. It is also in our interest to make sure that South Gloucestershire Council are aware of the diversity and extent of business activities within the village so that they continue to develop public services here such as broadband, transport etc.

With this in mind, and in liaison with Simon Stevens, Chairman of our Parish Council, I would like to propose that we create an up-to-date directory of Tormarton businesses which can be publicised on the village website. If you have a business or small enterprise which is run from Tormarton and you would like to publicise it, can you please send me a short summary of the business offering, business contact details and website address (if you have one). I will then collate this information and relay it to Simon to update the website and village data.

All information can be sent to me, Noreen Finnamore, email: home@thefinnamores.com

100 Club: Winners of the December draw were:- B.Berry (£50), A.Gent and A.Smith (£25 each), Tormarton CC, B.Finnamore, C.Norman, Patrick Gent and J.Worlock (£10 each).

Pilates Sessions are currently held via zoom at 6 pm every Monday evening.

Anyone interested in joining, who has already done some Pilates, can contact Sophie, email: sophiehthomson@hotmail.com, phone: 07786 653834. Cost: £5 per session.

PERSONAL

The funeral of **Helen Noblett** was held in Tormarton Church on 21st January. She was a renowned paediatrician, who had started her work in Australia before coming to the UK, finishing her long and distinguished career at Bristol Children's Hospital. She pioneered techniques named after her and used around the world today for treating rare conditions in babies which gave them and their families the hope of a long healthy life. Her colleagues held her in great respect and in Tormarton she played an active part in the village while she could. Sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Rota Volunteers, Tormarton Church

Church Flowers: 7 Feb: Mrs E. Scott-Martin 14 Feb: Mrs. J. Marshall 21/28 Feb: Lent no flowers

Church Cleaning: Mrs D. Elliott & Mrs J. Smart

This issue kindly sponsored by Peter Gent. Edited and copied by the Elliotts.

Items for the next issue to be given to Diana Elliott, St. Mary's House, Tel: 01454 218364,

not later than 24th February please. Please contact Diana if you would like to send information by email.