



Tormarton & West Littleton Newsletter

February
2024

Diary

Mon	5 Feb	10.00-12.00	Free Coffee Morning at The Compass, all welcome, no need to book
Mon	5 Feb	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Hall Committee Room
Mon	12 Feb	8.30 pm	100 Club draw at The Compass Inn
Wed	14 Feb	12 noon onwards	Soup lunch at Grange Farm - see below
Mon	19 Feb	10.00-12.00	Free Coffee Morning at The Compass, all welcome, no need to book

Advance Diary

Fri 15 Mar 7.30 pm Bristol University Madrigal Society will be performing at St James's Church, West Littleton followed by supper – more details in the March issue

Recyclable & 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 the South Glos website

Tormarton – Mondays

Bins: 5 & 19 Feb

Old Hundred Lane – Wednesdays

Bins: 31 Jan, 14 & 28 Feb

B4465 towards Codrington – Fridays

Bins: 2 & 16 Feb, 1 March

West Littleton – Mondays or Tuesdays (depending on location)

Bins: 29/30 Jan, 12/13 Feb & 26/27 Feb

TORMARTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sun 4 Feb: 10.30 am All Ages Morning Service Mike Stratheed
followed by light refreshments

Sun 18 Feb: 9 am Morning Service with Holy Communion Rev. Sally Wheeler

WEST LITTLETON CHURCH SERVICES

Sun 11 Feb: 10.30 am Matins (BCP) Rev Sharon Roberts

Sun 25 Feb 9 am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev. Sally Wheeler

MESSAGE from REV SALLY on behalf of the Church wardens at Tormarton and West Littleton:
Stewart Waters, Richard Lawrence, David Adams and Becky Derry-Evans

Christmas in our two Villages

All the Christmas services were well supported at both Tormarton and West Littleton and we were able to make generous contributions to the work of the Community of the Sisters of the Church in an area of need in Bristol. The Sisters thank you all.

We saw a good number of children at the West Littleton Carols and Christingle and in Tormarton the Children's Christmas party in the Village Hall brought our younger families together. Thank you to 'Father Christmas and his friends' for dropping in, and to Stewart for overseeing the arrangements for the party along with the Hall Committee.

Tormarton Church Improvements

When you come into church now you will see that some work has been completed. The new floor in the South Aisle has been laid and heaters installed which provided a welcome and warm gathering space after the Carol Service. This area will be available for community use, e.g. for coffee mornings, toddler groups, book clubs etc. A servery area is being constructed and will be fitted next month enabling hot drinks and food to be served in Church as part of this upgrade.

Thank you to all who have already given to help us with this or made pledges. As all this work needs to be done to the highest standard as befits a Grade 1 listed building, we need to raise more funding for the project. We are nearly there but to finish off the project properly we will need additional funds. If anyone has fundraising ideas or would like to help with a gift or with some of the project works please contact Stewart Waters on 07775 648484

Thank you and prayers from both Church communities for a good year ahead in our villages.

Lent Soup Lunch at Grange Farm 12 noon Wed 14 Feb

Heather Gent has offered to organise a Lent Soup lunch at Grange Farm on Ash Wednesday February 14th. All are welcome and donations will go towards the new hospitality area in Tormarton Church.

Carol Singing in Tormarton

This year our small band of singers was again joined by members of the Bowman family and we had a lovely evening as we visited homes on the high street and along Marshfield Road. Our thanks to all of you that treated us with wine and refreshments and to those that contributed to the wonderful collection of £260 to be split between The Children's Society and Medicins Sans Frontieres which supports people affected by war in Ukraine, Gaza, Syria and the Sudan.

This was my twentieth year of organising the Carol Singing and in that time we have raised nearly £4000 for charities home and abroad, so now it is time for a new family to take forward this special community evening. Please contact Janet Wells or Heather Gent if you would like more information.

CHARLES ELLIOTT

Charles Elliott lived for some 36 years in Tormarton where he ran a successful business with Diana from St Mary's House. He was much loved both in the village and in the wider community where, as a natural sportsman, he played golf and tennis with consummate skill. For many years he served as Churchwarden of St Mary Magdalene where he gave his time generously to the care of the Church and Churchyard, and he especially ensured that the life of the Church continued smoothly during times of interregnum.

Charles was friend to many and was very involved in village life. He was a kind, family man and great fun. A loyal friend for many years encompassing school runs, Bath rugby, International rugby and memorable lunches and dinners. He will be much missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Diana and Emma, Louise and Kate at this very sad time.

There is a Thanksgiving service for Charles on Thursday, 8 February at 1.30 p.m. at St Mark's Church, Staplefield, West Sussex. This will be recorded and shown at The Compass on Monday, 12 February at 3 p.m. There will be refreshments and a light buffet provided. Everyone is welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL - NOTES from the Chairperson Simon Stevens

With the festive season a fading memory, and the evenings slowly, but surely, getting lighter, it's time to wish everyone 'Happy New Year' and look forward to all that 2024 has in store for those living in our beautiful Parish.

Throughout 2023 the community groups in our villages provided residents with a whole host of activities, events, and the continued provision and maintenance of amenities. The church in Tormarton has completed the first stage of its ambition to create a new meeting space for local people. In the absence of the pub, Rupert and the team at The Compass have kindly and generously provided the Parish with a valuable focal point, hosting various village meetings, and putting on a number of fabulous events, with the Village Summer Fair, Coronation, and Christmas parties being a great success. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank everyone involved in all of these groups and organisations for all their work in 2023, and for making the Parish a better place to live.

With so much bad news and heartache, of both global and national proportions, it's even more important that we try and hold on even tighter to the little wins and good news stories that we all make locally on a day-to-day basis.

On the subject of good news, I am pleased to announce that the budget for Council Tax Precept for the Parish has been approved by the members of the Parish Council, and that in the light of the current 'Cost of living Crisis', we will be reducing the Parish precept for the tax year 2024/25. This means that the average household in the Parish of Tormarton will see a decrease of just over 10% in the Parish Precept element of their council tax bills for that period. Sadly, or maybe thankfully, we aren't in control of the South Gloucestershire Councils budget, but I suspect that the overall bills for Council Tax for those living in South Gloucestershire may rise!

Thank you to those of you who attended SGC's Local Plan presentation at The Compass Inn on the 16th January, the impressive attendance certainly reflected the gravity that topics like wind farms and other planning matters hold with our local residents. The consultation deadline has now been extended until the 16th of February, so you still have time to visit <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/new-local-plan/> to make your opinion heard.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the first meeting of the steering group for the Parish's 'Neighbourhood Plan' took place on Wednesday 24th January, and that they have started to put together a strategy to move the plan forwards. More on this as things start to develop.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at the village hall on Monday 5th February 2024 at 6:30pm. As always, the members of the Parish Council members will welcome your attendance and contributions in person on the night. However, please remember that you can also submit comments and questions electronically by emailing our Clerk Jack at clerk@tormarton-pc.gov.uk.

South Gloucestershire Council funding available to help with the Cost of Living Crisis

There are cards on the village noticeboards to highlight the additional support available from SGC this winter.

PARISH HALL NEWS from Stewart Waters

The Hall is available for hire outside of nursery hours (8am to 6pm weekdays) for any activities including parties, badminton or any other social gathering and the Rotowasher which is used to clean the floor in the hall is available to hire, this can also be used to clean carpets.

Please contact Sophie email: sophiehthomson@hotmail.com, phone: 07786 653834 for all enquiries.

You could save a life! - DEFIBRILLATORS

We have TWO AED (Automated Electronic Defibrillators) available locally, one by the entrance to the Village Hall in Tormarton and one near the village noticeboard in West Littleton.

NO training is necessary to use them BUT they are the best way to save someone's life if they have gone into cardiac arrest - and time is of the essence.

If you think that someone has had a cardiac arrest (that is they are not obviously breathing or responding to you) you should:

- 1) Dial 999 and shout for help
- 2) Start doing CPR - the 999 operator will talk you through this, you DON'T need to breathe into anyone's mouth, just do chest compressions.
- 3) Send someone to get a defibrillator if you can. These do not need any specialist training to use. They talk you through how to use them and will only deliver a shock if the onboard computer thinks it's appropriate.

Using a defibrillator fast after a cardiac arrest saves lives

The Defibrillator case **DOES NOT need a code** – just twist the cover to remove and access.

Badminton Club

The Badminton club plays every Tuesday at the Tormarton Parish Hall from 7 - 9 pm.

New members of all ages and experience are most welcome to join us.

Please contact Heather Gent on 218223 for any further information.

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.

Playing Field 100 Club:

Lucky Winners in the Christmas Draw were -

M.Seymour-Williams (£50), Tormarton Cricket Club and A.Gent (£25 each), P.Leppard, R.Orme, M.Abell, M.Spruels, M.Knight, and Heritage Reserves (£10 each).

The next draw will be held at The Compass Inn on 12th February 2024 at 8.30pm.

There are several 23/24 memberships still due. Would you please pay your usual collector or contact Pam Davis at Glebe Cottage (01454 218301). Thank you for your continued support for the playing field facilities.

New members are always welcome.

GUIDED WALKS in the COTSWOLDS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE – previously known as the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Every month the Cotswold Voluntary wardens issue a list of Guided circular walks in the Southern Cotswolds.

This month they include:

Feb 6 – 5 mile walk around Colerne

Feb 20 – 5 mile walk around Box

Feb 22 – 4.5 mile Snowdrop and Aconites walk from Hunters Hall , Kingscote

Feb 24 – 10 mile from Cold Ashton village hall following sections of the Cotswold and Monarch's Way.

Feb 28 – 6 miles from Swainswick Layby around Charmy Down, Holts and Short Woods.

All walks by the Voluntary Wardens are FREE OF CHARGE however donations are welcome and help the wardens to take care of the countryside.

For full details of the walks available visit: <http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/guided-walks> OR check the village notice boards.

Contact Details for our Local Community Police

Bianca Rotariu – PCSO9061 Email: 9061@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Emma Sheppard – PCSO 7315 Email: 7315@avonandsomerset.police.uk

The Police have asked that residents report all incidents, as if they don't know about an issue how can they do anything about it.

WESTlink – ‘on demand’ bus service

WESTlink is the ‘on demand’ bus service which operates in our area. It runs without a fixed timetable or route and can be booked 'on demand' by users through an app or by phone 0117 457 8561.

To find out more about the service visit <https://travelwest.info/westlink/> or download the WESTlink App to your mobile device.

Green Community Travel (GCT)

Are you stuck at home with difficult access to doctors, hospitals and shops or even just to see friends? Or do you fancy an outing to the pub or to a garden centre?

Green community transport provides affordable and accessible transport from your door.

More information about the service and about becoming a volunteer driver is available at www.greencommunitytravel.co.uk or telephone 01454 228706.

Would you like your newsletter via email?

We are gradually replacing the printed newsletter with a regular email with printed copies for those households not on email. If you would like to receive future copy via email, please email newsletter@tormarton.org with your name, first line of address and email address

Tormarton Community WhatsApp group

The group has been set up by Noreen Finnamore to facilitate the sharing of important information relevant to the people of Tormarton. All are welcome and encouraged to join. This is important as we move to new ways of distributing the information available in the newsletter.

To join the group please send an email to Noreen at home@thefinnamores.com giving details of your name, mobile number and the first line of your address.

Rota Volunteers, Tormarton Church

Church Flowers: 4 Feb - Liz Scott Martin 11 Feb – Joan Marshall Feb 18 onwards No flowers for lent

Church Cleaning: Maria Spyt and Jane Smart

The village newsletter is kindly printed by Simon Stevens. Thank you Simon.

Items for the next issue to be sent to newsletter@tormarton.org no later than 20th February please.