



Tormarton & West Littleton Newsletter

April
2024

Diary

Mon 8 April 8.00 pm Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
Mon 15 April 8.30 pm Playing Field 100 Club draw at the Compass

Advance Notice

Tues 7 May 7.00pm Tormarton Church Council Annual Meeting APCM
Mon 13 May 8.00 pm Village Hall AGM

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: 1 & 15 April

Old Hundred Lane – Wednesdays

Bins: 10 & 24 April

B4465 towards Codrington – Fridays (location)

Bins: 12 & 26 April

West Littleton – Mondays or Tuesdays (depending on location)

Bins: April 8/9 & 22/23

TORMARTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sun 7 April 10.30 am All ages morning service followed by light refreshments Rev. Sharon
Sun 21 April 9.00 am Morning Service with communion Rev. Sally Wheeler

WEST LITTLETON CHURCH SERVICES

Sun 14 April 10.30 am Mattins Aurea Hart
Sun 28 April 9 am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev. Sally with Mike Strathdee

MESSAGE FROM REV. SALLY

Firstly I'd like to wish everyone a joyful Easter!

Also I would like to thank the Rev Lynne Godfrey who is leaving to take up a role as Associate Minister in St Peter's, Chippenham with Lacock and Bowden Hill; we wish her well and are so grateful for her ministry amongst us over nearly seven years. There will be an afternoon 'thank you' tea after Easter – date to be arranged.

A PLEA FOR HELP in TORMARTON

Our beautiful, historic, Grade I listed church is open 24/7 and attracts many visitors, walkers, holiday makers and those researching their family history. The visitors regularly comment about how clean and well-loved the church is and their donations help to keep this church open for all to enjoy.

Our band of volunteer church cleaners is gradually reducing as people move away or are no longer able to help so we are urgently seeking some new recruits. Two volunteers are allocated just one month per year and it usually involves just a few hours work during that month.

So please can you offer to help maintain this lovely community asset and contact Heather Gent on 218223.

WEST LITTLETON MADRIGALS - 15th March

The traditional West Littleton Concert given by the University of Bristol Madrigal Ensemble, followed by a lovely supper at the Fine Cheese Company premises was much enjoyed and was a great success raising over £1000 for St James's Church.

BILL ABELL

Sadly February saw the passing of Bill Abell, a well-known member of the Tormarton community. Bill was born in September 1940 and spent his childhood years moving around Herefordshire and Gloucestershire with his father's work as a shepherd. He left home at 16 and started work on a farm where unfortunately he lost the sight of his left eye. He then moved into the building trade, starting as a hod carrier and eventually setting up his own shopfitting business.

Bill met Marianne in 1961, they married in June 1962 and set up home in Yate. In 1977, Bill and Marianne purchased a piece of land in Tormarton to fulfil Bill's dream of building his own house and the family moved in 3-years later. He subsequently moved from shopfitting to house building.

Bill and Marianne embraced their new life in the village and Bill volunteered his many skills including laying the tarmac in the village hall car park and digging the trenches needed to supply the services to the playing field pavilion. On a lighter note, at Christmas, dressed as an elf, with friend and neighbour Stuart Aylott as Santa Claus, they would entertain the children at daughter Monique's Nursery at the Village Hall.

In 2022, Bill and Marianne celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary, a really special occasion that Bill thoroughly enjoyed.

Marianne and the family would like to thank everyone that went to visit Bill in hospital and for the lovely cards and kind words that they have received.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES from the Chairman

Happy Easter, and best wishes for the first holiday period of the year. Hopefully the weather will play fair, and we will get at least a day or two of rain free fun over the Bank Holiday weekend.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter we have a new clerk, Richard, who is going through the hand-over period with our outgoing clerk Jack Turner. I would like you to join me in welcoming Richard Cole to the Parish team.

Richard lives just down the road in Chipping Sodbury, and has worked as a Chief Accountant and Financial Controller for various organisation throughout his career. An active member of the Lions Club, and treasurer for a large cat rescue charity, Richard is a keen fund raiser, and I am sure that he will be bringing some useful ideas for the management of both our existing community projects and new ones which we are yet to discover. Richard is excited to start meeting you all over the coming weeks and months ahead, both at Parish Council Meetings and Parish events.

It was fabulous to see so many of you at the recent Neighbourhood Plan meeting and even better to get so many ideas for what topics the steering group should be concentrating on as they start to develop the plan. There is already a fledgling webpage where information will be shared going forwards, and of course they will be updating everyone through this newsletter as and when more information needs to be shared with those living in the Parish.

Finally, I would like to pass on the Parish Council's deepest condolences to Marianne Abell whose husband Bill recently passed away. Bill was a much loved and popular member of our local community and I know that he will be deeply missed by all of us.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.00pm in the village hall on Monday 8th April. As always, participation from residents is greatly encouraged and welcomed, either in person or by writing with your questions or comments to Richard, the Parish Clerk via email at clerk@tormarton-pc.gov.uk.

A useful reporting link to South Glos Council

It is easy and quick to report fly tipping, broken signposts, potholes etc to South Glos Council using the link <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/report/>

VILLAGE HALL news from Stewart Waters

The AGM for the Parish Hall will be held on Monday 13th May at 8.00pm in the Hall. Anybody is welcome to attend and if there is any question that you would like to put to the committee then please do let me know. Email: Stewart.waters@david-james.co.uk

A deep clean has been organised in the main hall and will be conducted over the Easter weekend.

Hall Bookings

The Hall continues to be available in the evenings and at weekends for any function and the Rotowasher which is used to clean the floor in the hall is available to hire and can be used to clean carpets.

Please contact Sophie email: sophiehthomson@hotmail.com, phone: 07786 653834 for hall bookings and to arrange to use the cleaner.

Pilates Sessions continue on zoom starting at 7 pm every Monday evening. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Sophie, email: sophiehthomson@hotmail.com phone: 07786 653834

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.

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.

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:

April 2 – 5 miles moderate walk around Colerne starting at the Fox & Hounds

April 13 – 11 miles strenuous circuit of Bath, hills and views, starting at Odd Down Park and Ride

April 14 – 9.5 miles strenuous circuit of Bath, canals, railways and history, meet at Batheaston Car Park

April 16 – 5 miles moderate walk around Box, starting from Box Recreation Ground Car Park

April 27 – 4.5 miles easy walk into Cloud Hill woods near Marshfield with a walker skilled in recognising different Bird Song. **9 AM** start from Marshfield Layby.

All walks led 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.

Our local footpath warden is Bev Hope-Bell who can be contacted for any issues with local paths bevhopebell@btinternet.com

Contact Details for our Local Community Police

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

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

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)

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.

NATURE NOTES

Did you know that regularly cut grass contains very few wildflowers and has a low biodiversity value with few pollinating insects or other wildlife benefiting from this habitat.

Since the 1970s there has been a 50% decline in insects due to habitat loss, climate change, disease and use of pesticides.

What can we do to help?

- consider leaving some areas of grass to grow and allow any flowers within it to bloom and seed before mowing or strimming and removing the cut grass.
- reduce or eliminate the use of insecticides and slug pellets.
- leave an untidy and undisturbed corner in your garden for insects and hedgehogs to hide.
- provide a source of fresh water for birds and hedgehogs especially in dry weather

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.

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: 7/14 April – Mrs. J. Clark; 21/28 April Mrs J Bishop

Church Cleaning: Mrs. G. Bant

Items for the next issue to be sent to newsletter@tormarton.org no later than 24th April please.