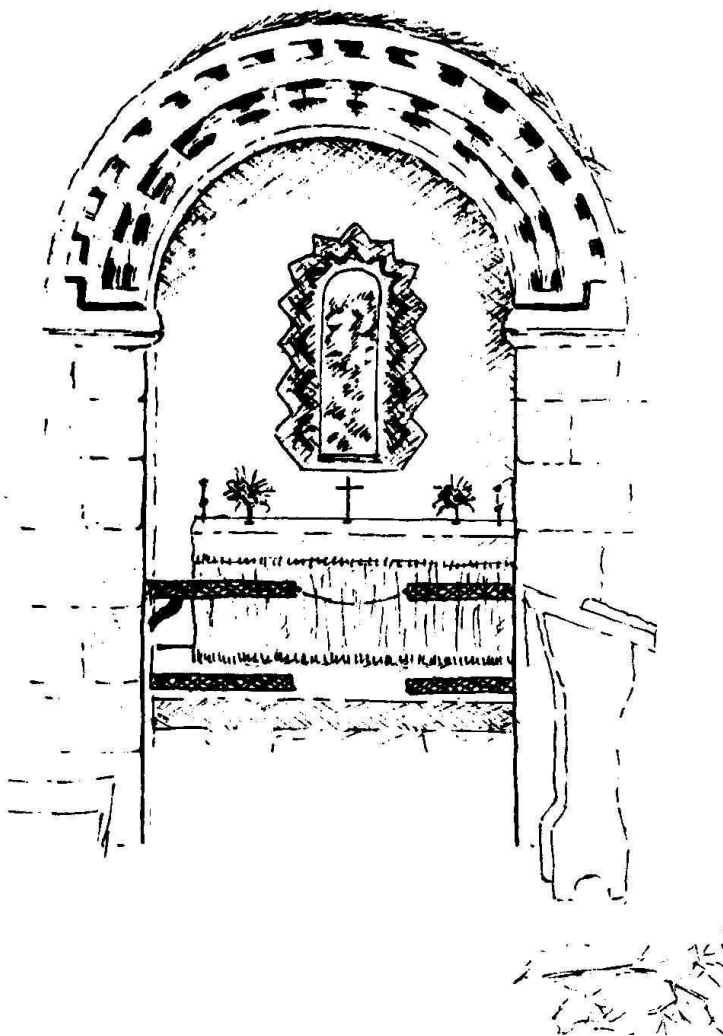


THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



St Osmund's, Tarlton

June/July 2026

REV STEVE BULLOCK (DAY OFF FRIDAY)

PRIEST IN CHARGE

revstevebullock@gmail.com

07535 488409

REV PEPITA WALKER

760211

READERS

Liz Collins

07774 104990/770698

Karen Czapiewski

07917 367405/770255

YOUTH MINISTER

Karen (Kaz) Van Namen

07949 111509

COATES

Church Warden:

Nigel Pollock

770881

Treasurer PCC

Bob Merrill

07866 972385

SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL

Church Wardens:

ST LUKE'S

Elizabeth Twinch

762897

John Thorogood

762861

Flowers

Pam Thorogood

762861

ST KENELM'S

Mark Hamer

760715

Rotas

Elizabeth Twinch

762897

Treasurer PCC

Charles Houldsworth

760300

RODMARTON AND TARLTON (Chapel of Ease)

Church Wardens

RODMARTON

Richard Marlowe

770401

Philippa Herbert

07974 422272

TARLTON (Chapel Warden)

Jasper Biddulph

770230

Secretary PCC

Jane Marlowe

770401

Treasurer PCC

Simon Biddulph

841462

The Thameshead Benefice

St. Matthew, Coates: All Saints, Kemble: St. Michael and All Angels, Poole Keynes: St. Kenelm, Sapperton with St. Luke, Frampton Mansell: St. Peter, Rodmarton with St. Osmund, Tarlton: All Saints, Somerford Keynes with All Saints, Shorncliffe

FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

7 June First Sunday of Trinity

9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers
10.00	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Sapperton	Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Said Morning Prayer & The Big Lunch
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer

14 June Second Sunday of Trinity

10.00	Kemble	Benefice Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer

21 June Third Sunday of Trinity

9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
10.00	Kemble	SOURCE service (all age worship)
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion

28 June Fourth Sunday of Trinity

11.00	Rodmarton	Combined Benefice Patronal Holy Communion
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5 July Fifth Sunday of Trinity

9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer with Baptism
10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer

DEAR FRIENDS

God has a wonderful way of leading us into unexpected places when we allow him to, doesn't he? Certainly, this has been my experience. I was only due to be supporting this Benefice until Christmas 2025, but during my time last year supporting the parishes of the Benefice, I had a real sense that this is where I should be ministering. An interview was arranged and others also felt that sense of call, and so I am so pleased to be here among you permanently as your new Priest in Charge. Thank you for making me, and my wife Linda, so welcome.

"What now?" people ask me. I respond by saying that we are in a season of praying, listening to God, and thinking about the way ahead for our parishes and our Benefice. We are doing this through a visioning process that I've invited church representatives (via their PCCs) to be part of. We are considering what we feel the local church does well, what we want to be known for, and what we might like to do moving forward. This is a large task, but it is so important to understand where we are now and plot a course ahead—not only for local parishes, but as a community of God's people across our wider benefice. I'm keen to hear as many voices as possible, so if you would like to engage, please either contact me and send me your thoughts or I can send you a questionnaire to guide you; or have a word with me the next time you see me, and have your say in person. Please do feel free to take part in this process as we seek to discern the way forward for the church in the area.

One significant event already in the diary is Sunday 6 December 2026. This is when Bishop Rachel will be in the Benefice and leading a confirmation service.

Confirmation is a Church of England service where candidates affirm for themselves baptismal vows which were made by others when they were younger—or, for those not baptised, it offers an opportunity to publicly affirm their faith, be baptised, and then confirmed. It is open to young people and adults. Some classes will run beforehand so that everyone is well prepared.

Please do let me know if you, or others, are interested in



COUCH TO 5K

- All genders & ages welcome.
- Designed especially for beginners.
- Whatsapp group for support.
- A great way to end your week!

Fitness * Friendship * Fun
8 week programme £20

**Meet outside The Tavern Inn,
Kemble, GL7 6AX**

**Starting Friday 29th May
6:00pm - 6:45pm**

Head to our website for more information and to book now.

For more information contact
karen.vannamen@sportily.org.uk

sportily.org.uk

sportily
PLAY SPORTS. TALK LIFE

The poster features a green and blue background with yellow chevrons in the top right. It includes illustrations of a pink and purple running shoe, a purple running shoe, and a black silhouette of a person running. The text is in white and yellow, providing details about the Couch to 5K program, including its duration, cost, meeting location, and start date.

confirmation. Also, if you would like to join a future group to explore the Christian faith, or have some refresher sessions, I'm sure we will be organising these for the autumn as well.

I look forward to meeting you soon as I travel around the villages.

God Bless

Rev Dr Steve Bullock

[PS For those of us who maybe don't know what a benefice is, here is the definition. *A benefice in the Church of England is an ecclesiastical area or "living" consisting of one or more parishes served by a single parish priest (often called an incumbent).*] ed.

HIDDEN HARDSHIP EXHIBITION

Cirencester Ashcroft Church & Centre are pleased to announce that we are hosting an exhibition called '*Hidden Hardship*' based on research by Dr Stephanie Denning of Coventry University. The exhibition features several panels highlighting findings from the research and illustrated by Beth Waters.



Dr Denning's research aim is to understand the experiences of people in hardship in the rural North Cotswolds. Research into hardship has tended to focus more on urban areas than rural areas. This is a problem because we cannot assume that what happens in urban areas is the case in rural areas

The exhibition will run from **Saturday 13 June to Friday 19 June 2026**, and will be open to the public without charge between **12 noon and 2pm each day**. It will coincide with the 2026 South Cotswolds Foodbank Food Poverty report launch on Wednesday 17 June, and a special act of worship on Sunday 14 June. Resources are available at the exhibition or can be obtained from the *Hidden Hardship* website (<https://hiddenhardship.coventry.ac.uk/>) and include:

- Hidden Hardship Short Storybook;
- Hidden Hardship briefing and full report for Policymakers and Community Leaders;
- Hidden Hardship Devotional Study Guide.

We hope that the Exhibition will provide a timely and informative stimulus to policy makers and agencies across the Cotswolds, as well as those who share a concern for addressing the many hidden needs across our communities.

For further information please contact Andy Rickell, Chair of Trustees of Cirencester Ashcroft Church at andyrickell@sky.com.



Thameshead
Ladies
Connection
#TLC

Come & Join us
ALL WELCOME
Pimms & Strawberry treats

Summer Charity Soirée

Tuesday 16 June 2026

19:15 to 21:00

Hosted by Jill Kingston

Venue: Kemble House, Kemble,
Cirencester GL7 6AD

Contact: Toto Walls 07989 301120
Aileen Shaw 07807 199602
Julie Allen 07704 892029

**All proceeds go to
Signpost Cirencester**

CASH OR CARD DONATIONS WELCOME

*Anne Linstrum and
The Alpha Trio*

*will entertain us with
a*

**MUSICAL VARIETY
CONCERT**

RSVP to Aileen, Toto,
Lucinda or Julie

www.cirencester-signpost.org.uk



SERVICE AND COFFEE

We hold a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month. The next ones will be on **Tuesday 2 June and 7 July** at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell. The service will start at 11am with coffee and a natter at 11.30am. We would love to see you for either or both. Want to know more?

Need a lift? Phone Pepita or Paul on 760211





LETTERS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH IN PART OF THE ZERO HOUR PROJECT
 4-7 JULY | 10AM – 4PM DAILY
 ST JOHN BAPTIST, CIRENCESTER

PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION
LETTERS
from the
GLOBAL SOUTH

FREE ENTRY ALL WELCOME

Letters and artwork from **children on the frontline** of the climate and nature crisis — their stories, their world and **what we can do to help.**



4-7 JULY | 10AM – 4PM DAILY | ST JOHN BAPTIST, CIRENCESTER

STRONG MUMS

Join us for a supportive session for mums after having a baby, focused on rebuilding fitness, prioritising wellbeing and learning simple games and activities to enjoy with your children at home.

Children are welcome too.

Wednesday 3rd June

10:00am - 11:00am

Kids Stuff Area, The Old Department Store, Cirencester, GL7 2NX

To find out more and book, head to our website.



For more information contact karen.vannamen@sportily.org.uk
sportily.org.uk



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Visit us at 37a Market Street, Cirencester, GL7 2NX

THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE by William Butler Yeats

Richard and I were amazed and impressed when the Archimandrite of the Metropolitan Cathedral of St Gregory Palamas in Thessaloniki quoted Yeats to us. Here is a flavour of the poet, for summer days:

*I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.*

*And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.*

*I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.*

Jane Marlowe

DISCOVER A HIDDEN GEM IN THE COTSWOLDS



Sapperton Church of England Primary School

SAPPERTON PRESCHOOL

THE PERFECT PLACE FOR 3-4 YEAR OLDS

- ✓ Experienced Teacher-led EYFS staff
- ✓ Play-based learning within a nurturing small group
- ✓ Beautiful village setting, surrounded by woods and Cotswold countryside
- ✓ 8am - 6pm - 5 days a week, less than 10 minutes from Cirencester
- ✓ Government funding available alongside very reasonable hourly rates.
- ✓ Nurturing children to develop confidence and independence ready for school.



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Sapperton, Nr Cirencester
GL7 6LQ

Get in touch to book a visit and meet our experienced and passionate staff.

To nurture faith, to inspire success

FRAMPTON MANSELL VILLAGE HALL

Morning Coffee Break



Thurs 11 JUNE 2026 10am - 12pm

TAKE A BREAK AND ENJOY A CUP OF FRESH GROUND COFFEE OR TEA
MEET FRIENDS & MAKE FRIENDS
COME FOR A MATTER, BRING YOUR CRAFTING PROJECT OR
MAYBE EXPLORE OUR NEW PUZZLE LIBRARY!
MAKE USE OF OUR FREE HIGH-SPEED FIBRE INTERNET SPONSORED BY GIGACLEAR
ALL WELCOME... INC. WELL BEHAVED DOGS!



www.framptonmansell.uk

NEWS FROM COATES

Coates Village Hall

Thursday 11 June doors open at 7pm screening at 7.30pm.



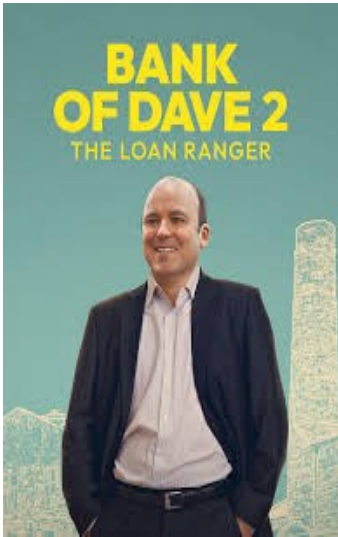
Members are given a choice of films for the next

two months to vote for and the film with the most votes is screened at the following month.

Annual membership is £40, guest's tickets £5 on the night.

Cast including Rory Kinnear, Hugh Bonneville, Dermot O'Leary, Ella Bruccoleri, Alison Hammond, Jo Hartley and many more in the continuing adventures from a real life story of northern enterprise battling against the system

More information please contact Simon Large at simon.large@sky.com 07714 220558



Coffee, Cake & Chat



“Delicious sweet & savoury home-bakes, proper coffee & a selection of teas at this community event”

Gluten-free & decaf options available.

10.30am - 12pm Tuesday 16 June and 21 July

3rd Tuesday of every month @ Coates Hall

Choice of 2 home bakes & bottomless tea/
coffee £5

Bottomless tea/coffee £2

Well behaved dogs welcome.

Contact us 07794 678 928 / 01285 770 596



The Village Club - Coates
North Swindon Big Band Saturday 27 June 6 - 8pm

NORTH SWINDON BIG BAND



The Village Club will be hosting the North Swindon Big Band (NSBB) at the Village Hall.

NSBB is a much sought after Swindon Big Band that plays regularly at a range of venues both locally and in the wider community.

Coates residents and friends are welcome to come and enjoy a feast of Jazz and Swing music with a collection of well-known vocal and instrumental numbers.

More information :

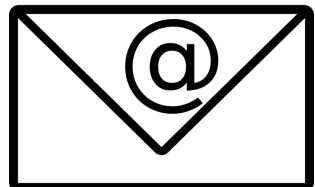
NSBB David Hide davidhide@hotmail.co.uk

NSBB Liz Allen lizallen@hotmail.co.uk

www.northswindonbigband.co.uk

GET YOUR WATERSHED BY EMAIL

If you would like to receive a copy of the parish magazine by email I am very happy to add you to my mailing .This may not replace your delivered copy but you would get it earlier and with some colour! Just let me know by email at watershedmag@gmail.com



The Village Club

— COATES —

Everyone Is Welcome!

The bar is open 8pm to 11pm, Friday and Saturday.
Keep an eye on the Village newsletter and Facebook page for last minute event details. Email coatesvillageclub@gmail.com for more information or to join the mailing list

Monthly Quiz

Friday 5th June - bar opening at 6:30pm, with quiz starting 7/7:30pm

FIFA World Cup

Due to the timings of the England matches, the bar won't be opening during weekdays. The bar will be open as usual on the weekend matches.

Swing Band and Cocktail evening

Saturday 27th June - 6:00pm onwards
Come and enjoy a feast of jazz and swing music, as well as a variety of delicious cocktails!

Big Village Quiz

Saturday 18th July - 6:30pm onwards
Quiz starts at 7pm. £2 per person. Teams of up to six, or we can add you to a team.
Book with bob.allen@hotmail.co.uk

NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW

It is often said that friends are the family we choose. But that does not mean that family are not friends also. Friendships are important to our wellbeing because, as humans, we are social beings and dependent on each other. True friendships are life sustaining because they are built on reciprocal love. As stated in Proverbs 27:9 “Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy.” Although some people are shy and too timid to seek new friends, I’ve never found a shy person who seeks loneliness. It costs little to offer friendship – just some of our time – but the benefits are mutually rewarding both to the giver and recipient.

Loneliness is a growing scourge of an increasingly competitive society in which success is measured largely by financial wealth or status. Inequality of opportunity and the excessive wealth of a few is forcing more people into lonely isolation. There is considerable historical evidence showing that growing poverty, combined with wealth inequality and “elite over-production” – where too many people compete for too few top jobs or positions in society – tends to result in societal collapse in the absence of determined action to avert it. Sadly, poverty is often associated with loneliness, but competitive ambitions ignore this. According to an analysis by the Equality Trust, the UK’s richest 50 families have more wealth than 50% of the population which amounts to roughly 34 million people and that the number of billionaires in the UK has grown sharply, from 15 in 1990 to 165 in 2024.

A recent government backed Community Life Survey (2024 - 25) on loneliness and support networks found that a shocking 7% of people (approximately 3.1 million people in England) reported they felt lonely often or always, and that this was highest amongst young adults (10% of 16 - 24 years of age). Furthermore, adults from the never worked and long-term unemployed were at greatest risk (15%). These are disturbing and shameful figures. When this finding is seen in the context of another report in 2025 from King’s College, London on the effects of increasing wealth disparity in society, where the conclusion was that wealth inequality risks triggering 'societal collapse' within the next decade; we can’t deny that there is a major need for improving societal cohesion through friendships.

Friendship is not a utilitarian activity; it only exists and persists in the presence of emotions that are felt and expressed. And chief amongst

those emotions is love and empathy. In today's technological revolution many people are already reverting to using social media and artificial intelligence sources as hopeful means of 'friendships' where direct human contact is missing. But these will never replace true friendships where a shared smile and laugh speak louder than words. The rise of artificial intelligence is a threat to the importance of friendships and the richness of humanity. If we are to avert a growing crisis of loneliness, we need to act now and accept our responsibility for making friends.

While those who live in country villages can consider themselves fortunate that loneliness was found to be significantly less in rural than urban areas, to reduce the unhealthy increasing loneliness in society we all need to reach out to others who are less privileged than ourselves. We need to remember that friendships are enriched by personal face-to-face conversations. Let us recall St Paul's message to the Colossians (3:12), "Put on then compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other." In offering friendship to someone where you think you will not find love, be prepared to take love and there you will find love.

Adrian R. Hill

STRONGER SOUTH COTSWOLDS

Stronger South Cotswolds is a platform designed to help local organisations, groups and projects connect more easily, share what they are doing, and identify opportunities to collaborate. Our aim is to support and strengthen existing community networks by helping to "join the dots" between them.



The initiative is non-political, open to all, and focused on people, place, and practical community action. It is powered by local people and supported by Roz in her role as the local MP. The initiative is primarily aimed at organisations, groups, and projects based within the South Cotswolds constituency and working to support local communities. However, organisations based outside the constituency are welcome as long as their work actively serves communities within the South Cotswolds.

Our launch event, on **Saturday 6 June at 2pm in Cirencester Baptist Church**, will be a great opportunity to connect, share, and be inspired by others who are passionate about the South Cotswolds community, and to learn more about Stronger South Cotswolds. Find out more information and book your place on Eventbrite.

Sapperton Primary School Presents

COTSWOLD

HIGHLAND GAMES AND DOG SHOW

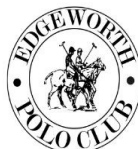
SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026

AT EDGEWORTH POLO CLUB

FROM 1 - 4PM



- HIGHLAND GAMES
- DOG SHOW
- FUN DOG AGILITY
- BAR & BBQ
- SILENT AUCTION
- MULTI- PRIZE RAFFLE
- POLO GAMES
- CLIMBING WALL
- OBSTACLE COURSE
- BOUNCY CASTLE
- STANDS, STALLS & ENTERTAINMENT
- FACE PAINTING
- CAKE STALL



TAKE PART IN A RAINBOW RUN IN AID OF LONGFIELD COMMUNITY HOSPICE

Longfield Community Hospice is delighted to announce the return of its vibrant Run the Rainbow event on Saturday 4 July 2026, from 11am to 3pm at Frampton Court. This colourful 5k challenge invites participants of all ages to run, walk, or skip their way through an unforgettable experience, while raising vital funds to support local patients and families.

The fun begins with music and a lively warm-up. Then participants will journey through a series of exciting colour stations featuring powder paint, foam, and inflatable obstacles, transforming into a human kaleidoscope by the finish line!

The registration fee includes entry to the event, sunglasses, a pouch of powdered paint, and a medal upon completion. With refreshments, music, and post-run celebrations, Run the Rainbow promises a joyful day for all.

Tickets: £15 adults, From £10 children, £45 family To book, visit www.longfield.org.uk/event-run-the-rainbow

JOIN A COMMUNITY WALK FOR A GREAT CAUSE AND STAY FOR SOME FAMILY FUN

Longfield Community Hospice invites us to a heartwarming day of community spirit and support at its annual Walk for Longfield event on Saturday 13 June 2026, from 10am to 4pm,

Set in the picturesque Minchinhampton countryside, this family-friendly sponsored walk welcomes participants of all ages to come together in celebration, remembrance, and solidarity. Dogs on leads are also welcome.

Supporters can choose from a range of walking routes, making it accessible for everyone - whether walking in honour of loved ones or simply enjoying the outdoors.

The event will raise vital funds for Longfield Community Hospice while showcasing its important work within our community. The ticket price includes a Longfield T-shirt, plus a drink and a serving of strawberries and cream to enjoy afterwards.

Tickets: £15 Adults, £10 Children (4-16 years), £40 family. **To book,** visit longfield.org.uk/event-walk-for-longfield-press

After your walk, why not come along to the **Longfield Summer Fete 13 June 10-4pm** for delicious food, live music and shopping? The fete is open to everyone - you don't have to join our walk beforehand. **No need to book and entry is free.**

VILLAGE INVESTMENT DRIVES COMMUNITY

Thanks to a grant from the National Lottery, Frampton Mansell residents are excited by their new playground equipment. After being awarded GRCC Runner up in the Gloucestershire Village of the year award in 2025, residents in Frampton Mansell were keen to do more to improve community and inclusivity within the village. Unlike many other rural communities, Frampton Mansell has a growing younger generation, and as with many rural communities, there is often little for youngsters to do locally. Residents got together and came up with a plan for new play equipment at the village playground, which is a focal point for youngsters of all ages to get together and spend time.

Having benchmarked suppliers by connecting with other local projects – a special thanks to South Cerney Primary school, who provided great insight – Creative Play, the provider of the equipment, came up with a plan to install new swings and an adventure climbing trail, in just 2 weeks, minimising the disruption to the play area. The installation was completed in March, with the grand opening taking place coincident with the Village Hall AGM on 18 April. Melanie Henry, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, who officially opened the new play area said ‘We live in a beautiful village with a really strong community. We are always looking for ways to engage all demographics, in the village and the surrounding areas. This new play equipment is yet another way of bringing people together, and we are very grateful to the National Lottery, and its players, for their support’.



NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON

RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON & HAZLETON NEWS AND EVENTS

June services at St Peter's, Rodmarton & St Osmund's, Tarlton are listed at the front of the Watershed, but please note especially:

28 June, 11am St Peter's Patronal Festival benefice Holy Communion at Rodmarton, led by Rev Canon John Swanton.

This will be the only service in the parish that day. There will be no 8am BCP Holy Communion at St Osmund's Tarlton, nor Evensong at Rodmarton on 28 June.

BIG SUMMER LUNCH

Sunday 7 June, Rodmarton Village Hall 12 noon- 4 pm Please join us for a delicious Summer Lunch, with festivities, food and friends. Pimm's and Wine Bar, Big Pudding and Cake Auction, Floral Table Decoration Competition, Fun Dog Show and Agility Course, Tug of War and traditional Children's Games. For enquiries and tickets: 07974 422272 or 07896 311924.

FOODBANK COLLECTION POINTS in both Rodmarton and Tarlton churches. Donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

THE FRIENDS OF RODMARTON SCHOOL
INVITE YOU TO


*An evening of
Ink and
Florals*

HOSTED BY
RODMARTON SCHOOL'S
HEAD OF ART - MRS JONES

7-9PM, MONDAY 8TH JUNE
RODMARTON VILLAGE HALL
£20 PER PERSON

TO INCLUDE ALL MATERIALS AND A GLASS OF PROSECCO ON ARRIVAL

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE: EMILY - 07974910458



Summer
**SUN
DAY**

RODMARTON · PRIMARY
SCHOOL

SUNDAY 5TH JULY 2026

RODMARTON VILLAGE HALL
12PM-3PM

COTSWOLD WAGYU BBQ BURGERS
REFRESHMENTS

**FUN FOR
ALL THE
FAMILY!**

WINSTONES ICE CREAM
PONY RIDES
INFLATABLES

**FREE
ENTRY!**

GLITTER FACE PAINTS AND STALLS
TOMBOLA
PUPIL PERFORMANCES
STAFF ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE!

BRITISH ICE CREAM
Winstones
COTSWOLD ICE CREAM
ESTABLISHED 1958

Cotswold Wagyu
PREMIUM BEEF

FOR MORE INFORMATION: EMILY: 07974 910 458



We're delighted to begin this month's update with a fantastic photograph from the Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Govilon in April. The pupils are still riding high on the memories of their adventure, where smiles, fresh air and fun were in plentiful supply.

May brought another fascinating career talk as part of our ongoing series of parent visits. Henry visited to share insights into his work as a shipping broker, explaining how he helps negotiate the movement of cargo around the world. The pupils were intrigued to learn that more than 80% of the world's goods still travel by sea. There was certainly plenty to keep everyone on board – not least the discovery that, yes, there are still pirates!

Oak Class were also out and about on a Geography field trip to Stroud, exploring a range of important local environmental and social issues. The visit gave pupils the opportunity to observe and discuss examples of anti-social behaviour, encouraging thoughtful reflection on how people's actions can shape the communities in which we live.

We were delighted to hear that six pupils from the school had their entries included in the audio-visual presentation for the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year 2026 competition. A fantastic achievement and a wonderful snapshot of the creativity on display – well done to all who took part.

May also marked SATs week for our Year 6 pupils. We were incredibly proud of the determination, resilience and positive attitude they showed throughout. Once the tests were complete, the children enjoyed a well-earned trip to Pizza Express – a chance to relax, celebrate and savour a very well-deserved slice of success.

Sports Day also took place this month and, as always, it was one of the highlights of the summer term. It was a brilliant occasion, full of energy, encouragement and a healthy dose of competition, as pupils put their best foot forward and cheered one another on. With races, teamwork and plenty of determined effort, it was a joyful event that brought the whole school community together.

As we head into June, we hope everyone made the most of the end of term break. We're now back for Term 6, refreshed and ready to make the most of the weeks ahead, with our sights set on blue skies, bright days and plenty of sunshine-fuelled learning!



OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON

GARDENING TIPS FOR JUNE

The month for beautiful Roses, with so many characteristics, height, flower size, colour, or historical significance. Not to mention of course those with delightful perfumes. Like many other plants these have emotional or memory associations of family and friends, who grew these in their gardens or gave us rooted cuttings of favourites. I like to visit gardens, open to the public this month, with abundant roses making up for lack of planting space in my garden just to be able to appreciate a fine variety in bloom grown well by another gardener.

Hard pruning and feeding earlier in the year now pay dividends in blooms. Roses are very hungry for nutrients, especially nitrogen, home grown nettle feed is excellent. Give additional feeds every week now until late summer. Keeping the roots cool and moist is key, either grow with soil shading herbaceous or a thick mulch of homemade compost or alternatively untreated landscape bark mulch. Bare earth around roses is too drying in hot weather.

If you haven't already planted out tender vegetables, now is the time for outdoor tomatoes, courgettes, squashes, Mini Cucumbers, French Beans and sweetcorn. Some years we seem to experience days of cool northeast wind, so the remedy is to erect temporary wind breaks with canes supporting well placed mesh/netting (readily available from garden centres and online), which can also be used to shade in heatwaves.

Make additional sowings of salad leaves, water thoroughly as required to grow quickly for small leaf harvests, suitable for growing in large pots.

This is our make-or-break year for Box Moth; we have an invasion this year and my box hedges have been ravaged. Will our resident garden birds discover this abundant food source? The caterpillars hide very quickly if they detect close movement; in hot weather the caterpillars keep still to blend with foliage and also spin silky webs to hide. My hopes are on the Blue Tits; they have large broods of hungry chicks. We also have a host of birds and bats for catching flying adult Box Moths.

There are certainly less slugs and snails now, due to the dry spring weather. Plant thoughtfully with drought resistant annual flowers and keep in mind the number of pots that can be practical to water if a hose pipe ban comes into force.

OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

Many colour forms of tender Aeoniums were seen at The Malvern Spring Show; these make good outside pot plants and indoor windowsill plants during winter, easy to grow and root cuttings.

Strawberries and Loganberries have had a flying start. With early flowers and set fruit, jam making is likely this month. Once the flowers set fruit, rows of strawberries are protected with fine mesh low tunnels during ripening. When the plants have finished fruiting, I give all some plant food and a tidy up; useful runners are encouraged to replace older plants.

Enjoy your summer garden as much as possible, tending, sitting out, harvesting fresh vegetables with plenty of summer colour.

Sally Oates

GREY ON GREY...

Stratocumulus cloud is the bane of many an outdoor person, not just entomologists like me, whose insects shut up shop the moment the wretched stuff blots out the sun. My old geography master seriously loathed it: he'd been in the RAF during the last war, as a weather forecaster tasked with spotting cloud breaks over The Ruhr. I was the only pupil he ever had who showed any interest weather, and its forecasting, because of its influence over my beloved butterflies. He would be pleased to learn that I have progressed to loathe stratocumulus cloud far more than him. I regard it as a crime against humanity.

I'm not alone, our love of the coast is not so much due to the calming influence of the sea, which is often more cloud-grey than azure blue, but because stratocumulus cloud breaks up along the coastline. Yes, people retire to the seaside and go on holiday there primarily to avoid stratocumulus cloud. We are psychologically unhinged by it. Without it, we can bask in the glory of the sun.

This spring was progressing into perfection, until May's second week when the wind turned northwards, ushering in clear nights with late frosts that threatened many an early sowing, but did some good by killing off the first flush of bracken croziers; these nights were followed by blood red dawns that were so cold that the dawn chorus was stinted; then, by 9am ragged clouds had begun to stream across, and by late morning the day was lost – until late afternoon when the wretched stuff cleared, for another night too cool for bats or moths.

OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

No, this is unacceptable, and we cannot even blame the government. It is not just the vibrant contentment of the insect hum that is lost, for stratocumulus cloud cover even stops birdsong, reducing many a garden blackbird, who should be averring atop of a shimmering lilac, or whatever, to a ragged wreck huddling leeward in a hedge.

My case rests, and as for a 30 degree Celsius heatwave – bring it on!
Matthew Oates

KEMBLE AND DISTRICT RBL WOMEN'S SECTION

Most people think the branch Standards only appear at the annual Remembrance services in November. Over the years the local branch Standards have paraded sometimes over twenty times during the year. These include funerals/ memorial events/ raising of the flag at Council offices for armed forces week etc. travelling well outside the local area. A sense of pride is carried to knowing that whatever is being marked or honoured the Standard Bearers are representing this part of Gloucestershire.

Pat Ayres Chair & Secretary Women's Section

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WORTH FIGHTING FOR by Roz Savage (South Cotswolds MP)

June is a generous month in this part of the Cotswolds. The lanes between Coates and Rodmarton are at their best right now; the meadows full of colour, the hedgerows loud with insects, the light lasting long into the evening. It's a particular corner of South Cotswolds that I never take for granted when I'm in Westminster wishing I were back here. It's also a good moment to take stock of what's been happening and what I've been working on across the area.

Flooding has been one of the most consistent issues I've heard about since I was elected, and the villages in this part of the constituency know it well. The pattern here is familiar; fields saturating after prolonged rain, brooks breaking their banks, water finding its way into gardens and onto roads with nowhere left to go. I've been taking those concerns directly to the relevant agencies, pressing for investment and concrete plans rather than reassurances. I will keep pushing to make sure it moves from paper into action.

The broader picture matters too. The capacity of fields to absorb rainfall, the state of drainage and sewage infrastructure, the decisions made about land use and development; all of it feeds into whether villages like these floods. I've been pressing Thames Water and the Government on accountability and investment, and that work continues.

This part of South Cotswolds also sits at one of the most quietly remarkable spots in England. The field at Thames Head, just outside Coates, is where the Thames begins its journey to the sea - the source of one of the most famous rivers on the planet, tucked away at the end of a lane. And at Rodmarton, the Manor's Arts and Crafts gardens are at their finest in June, the result of generations of careful, purposeful tending. These aren't incidental details. They're a reminder of what's at stake, and why the decisions made about this landscape - about water, development, and nature - matter so much.

I came into politics from a career spent raising the alarm about what we stand to lose if we don't take better care of the natural world. Representing communities like these makes that feel less abstract. The thing worth protecting isn't a statistic; it's our community.

Beyond flooding and the environment, my regular surgeries will continue across the constituency. My team is always on hand for casework, whether that's NHS concerns, planning issues, or anything else affecting daily life in villages like Coates and Rodmarton. The best way to reach us is via my contact details below.

Warm wishes, Roz

ARTICLES BY ROZ SAVAGE MP

Our MP for South Cotswolds, Roz Savage, covers most of the area of our parishes. I have received a few comments about her articles not being appropriate for a parish magazine. However, I consider the Watershed not just a parish magazine but also a community magazine. As such the articles written by Roz are not intended to be political, but rather a report on what she has been doing as our MP. Don't forget, She represents everyone in the constituency not just those who voted for her.

If you would like to comment on the articles by all means do write to me at watershedmag@gmail.com. I will take into account everyone's views and I would like to hear from both those who like her articles as well as those who don't think they are appropriate.

Bob Merrill - Editor



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KEMBLE AND EWEN WI

This month June, Kemble and Ewen members will be joining with Avening and Tetbury for our annual group meeting which Avening will host on 18 June. We will however have an extra meeting on Thursday 25 June which the speaker is to be confirmed. Lovely cakes and hot drinks are served and a raffle is held.

Pat Secretary 770385 ayrescares50@gmail.com

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

ADVERTISING IN THE WATERSHED

If you wish to advertise in our parish magazine please e-mail Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. Advert a third of a page cost £17 for a single issue or £68 for 6 months. Adverts half a page cost £25 for a single issue or £100 for 6 months. The magazine is published 10 times every year; July/August and December/January are joint editions.

Copy for next month's magazine to be with me by the 12th of the preceding month.



CLOSING DATE FOR THE MAGAZINE

Contributions should be sent by e-mail to the Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. The editor reserves the right to edit any articles. **Articles should be submitted by the 12th of the preceding month for inclusion in the next month's issue.**

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If you would like to receive a copy of the parish magazine by email I am very happy to add you to my mailing. This may not replace your delivered copy but you would get it earlier and with some colour! Just let me know by email at watershedmag@gmail.com



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Watershed Treasurer	Janet Loines	841578

COATES

Coates Parish Council Chair	Robbie Whitfield	07872 027100
Coates Parish Council Clerk	Alan Moorcroft	641375
Coates Village Club secretary	Pete Marsh	07976 795276)
Coates Tree Warden	Simon Large	07714 220558
Coates Village Hall	Bookings	07818 192587
Coates Neighbourhood Watch	John Dobson	07808 095553
Coates Snow Warden	Peter Tugwell	770314/07860 718209

FRAMPTON MANSELL

Frampton Mansell Village Hall	Bookings	07710 878987
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RODMARTON

Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Chair	Paul Drake	rpcchair@outlook.com
Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Clerk	Roz Morton	clerk@rodmartonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Rodmarton School	Matthew Smith	841284
Rodmarton Village Hall	Jasper Biddulph	770230

SAPPERTON

Parish Council Chair	Sarah Osborn Smith	07836 512538
Sapperton and FM PC Clerk	Barbara (Babs) Maloney	07958 116 794
Sapperton Snow Warden	Mark Franklin	760226
Sapperton Village Hall	Bookings	07771 006848
Sapperton School Head	Helen Cooper	760325

OTHERS

Watershed RDA	Kathy Mottershead	07979 853907
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COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Ermin Ward	Julia Judd	07853 383874 julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk
Kemble Ward	Mike McKeown	07785 362573 mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk
GCC Councillor	Ian Watson	07830 867356
Member of Parliament	Roz Savage MBE	01285 300555 Email: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
Cirencester Hospital		0300 421 6200
Police non emergency (24hrs)		101

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

Tuesday 2	11am	Service and Coffee at Frampton Mansell
Friday 5	7 for 7.30pm	Monthly Quiz in Coates Village Hall
Saturday 6	11 - 4pm	Cotswold Highland Games & Dog Show
Sunday 7	12-4pm	Big Summer Lunch Rodmarton
Monday 8	7 - 9pm	An Evening of Ink and Florals Rodmarton Village Hall
Thursday 11	7.30pm	Coates Cinema Club Bank of Dave 2
Saturday 13		Hidden Hardship Exhibition in Ashcroft Centre until 19 June
Tuesday 16	10.30am	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates
Tuesday 16	7.15pm	Thameshead Ladies Connection
Thursday 18		Kemble & Ewen WI
Thursday 25		Kemble & Ewen WI
Saturday 27	6 - 8pm	North Swindon Big Band with cocktails!

JULY

Sunday 5	12 - 3pm	Summer Sunday Rodmarton Village Hall
Saturday 18	6.30pm	Big Village Quiz Coates Village Hall