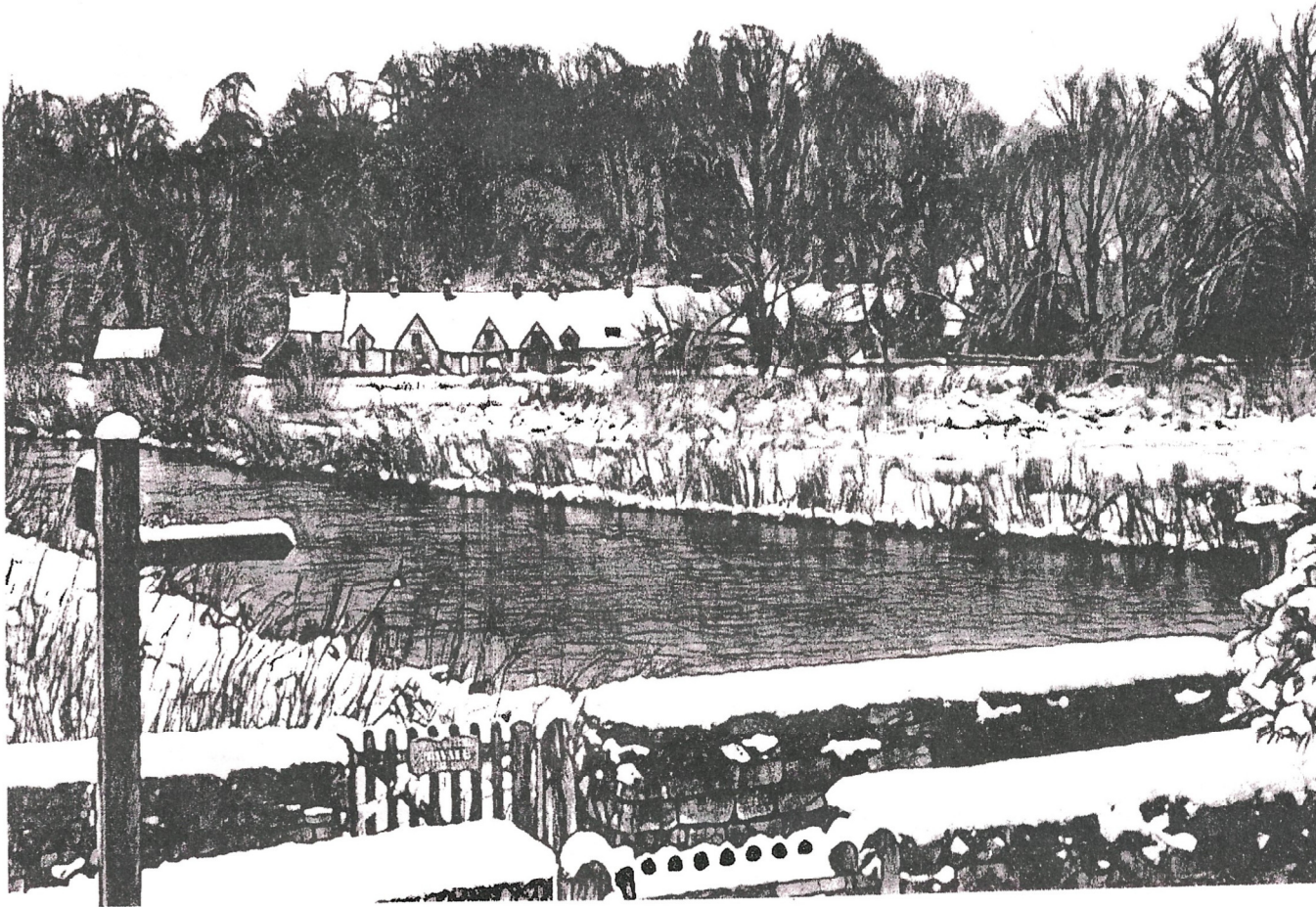


VILLAGE LIFE

OF BIBURY, ARLINGTON, ABLINGTON,
BARNESLEY AND WINSON



DECEMBER 2022

*A Merry Christmas to all our
readers.*

VILLAGE LIFE

DATES FOR THE DIARY

ISSUE 475

December 2022

Thursday	1 st	Craft Club in Bibury Village Hall – All welcome	2.00-4.00pm
Friday	2 nd	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop in Bibury School Hall	6.30pm
Saturday	3 rd	Christmas Coffee Moring in Arlington School Room	11am to 3pm
Tuesday	13 th	Bibury Parish Council Meeting in Village Hall	7.00pm
Wednesday	14 th	Free Community Lunch at Arlington Baptist Church – you need to book a place	12:30pm
“	“	Bibury Gardening Club Christmas Party in Village Hall	2.00pm
Thursday	15th	Early Deadline for January 2023 ‘Village Life’	12.00 noon
Friday	16 th	Feast on the Farm at Bibury Trout Farm	
Sunday	18 th	Candlelight Carols & Christingle, Arlington Baptist Church	3.30pm
Monday	19 th	Bingo at the Football Club	7.30pm

January 2023

Thursday	19 th	Bibury Village Hall AGM	2pm
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May 2023 Visit to the Holy Land 8-16 May 2023

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Like snowflakes, my Christmas memories gather and dance, each beautiful, unique and gone too soon.

COVER SKETCH

This picture of Arlington Row in the snow was sent to us some time ago. Let us hope that it is not a foretaste for the winter to come.

A CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

at

ARLINGTON SCHOOL ROOMS

December 3rd 11am to 3pm

**Christmas gifts, Mince pies, Homemade goodies
Please support!**

VILLAGE LIFE PANEL

Treasurer: Mr Roger King, 8 Pike Villas, The Pike, Arlington, Bibury	740510
Secretary: Mrs Wendy Challinor, Chestnut Grove, Arlington, Bibury	740021
Mr Chris Dunn, Four Winds, Ablington	740823
Mrs Sarah French, 11 Arlington Fields, Bibury	740698
Mr Brian Skarda, 4 Arlington Row, Bibury	740496
Mrs Sarah Smith, 7 Arlington Fields, Arlington	740214
Please Note: if you wish to put an article or advert in ‘Village Life’ magazine it should be sent to biburyvillagelife@hotmail.com	

BIBURY, BARNSELY AND WINSON CHURCHES

Bibury Vicarage, Gloucestershire, GL7 5NT

tim.hastie-smith@hotmail.com 01285 740301

Dear Friends,

Hands up who remembers the slogan, *it takes the waiting out of wanting*. A clue. Another slogan was: *Your flexible friend*. The Access card, of course, launched in 1972, but defunct by 1996.

I remember my grandmother lecturing me on the importance of waiting (It involved my uncle Nigel saving up for a bike over many months, just after the war.) This was either in response to the Access card advert, or possibly my cunning attempt to open a Christmas present early. Waiting was a moral imperative, it seemed. Better to travel in hope than to arrive, we are assured. But that is really about expectation management. Disappointment can too often lie at the end of the rainbow. This is not an easy lesson for a child (And adults struggle too) And the behaviourist might argue, cynically that this just another example of the human urge to create a narrative to justify the unavoidable. But unfortunately, my grandmother was right. Her Victorian wisdom was true. Waiting isn't just morally fortifying, it is also foundational to human flourishing (Check out the Stanford Marshmallow Experiment with four-year-olds, that assesses the ability to delay gratification, and the long-term outcome)

Waiting really is good for us. John Vanstone's spiritual classic *The Stature of Waiting*, describes this beautifully.

And as Christmas approaches the desire to rush to the big day, or, at the very least, spend time in doing things in preparation for the big day, can be hard to resist. But resist we should. And relish the period of waiting. Because the violet season of Advent (Bishops wear purple) is really a waiting season not a doing season. It is about making ourselves ready, rather than preparing the house or menu. Pious platitudes and unrealistic, I hear you cry as Christmas lists are worked through, fairy lights are put up in the rain, vicars photocopy yet another Christmas Carol Service order, nativity play costumes are dusted down, and worry about the family finances gnaws away below the surface. But wait. Learning to wait, and to allow the waiting to shape us might, just might, help. Help us to cope. Help us to be the people God made us to be.

The journey motif, at the heart of *The Seven Basic Plots*, should be the constant reminder that the journey, life, is what it is all about, and the destination is what gives shape and meaning to the journey. So waiting, and learning to wait well enriches both us, and those around us.

I guess that is why, for many, Christmas Eve, is preferred to Christmas Day itself. The excitement of Christmas Evening, the tangible and heart tingling anticipation can take us to the very peak of breathless joy. And amazingly, the best is still yet to come.

But with no destination, the journey loses purpose, and there can be no Christmas Eve excitement, because there is no Christmas. That is the aching agony of the atheist.

So, enjoy the wait, and if it is possible, replace activism with the stature of waiting by being and gently preparing yourself to both receive and give blessing.

Perhaps, a little inevitably (can something be a little inevitable?) I am offering a number of Advent books this year to help you to wait well. If you aren't a book reader, go listen to music, go for a walk or a run, have an afternoon snooze, but if you are, do ask. There is, I hope, something for everyone. Including Andrew Nunn's *Bethlehem Bound*, Nicholas Holtom's *Sleepers Awake*, The Archbishop of York's Advent book, about Climate Change, and Paula Gooder's *Phoebe*. Just ask. Happy Advent.

With every blessing

Tim

Church Services December 2022	Bibury	Barnsley	Winson
Sunday 4th December Advent 2 <i>Isaiah 11:1-10 Matthew 3:1-12</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:45am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:30am BCP Holy Communion <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 11th December Advent 3 <i>Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 11:2-11</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:45am BCP Holy Communion <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>	
Sunday 18th December Advent 4 <i>Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1:18-end</i>	9:30am Said BCP Holy Communion	11.00am Carol Service <i>Followed by mince pies and mulled wine</i>	6:00pm Carols by candlelight
Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve	4:00pm Crib Service and Lighting of the Christmas Trees 11:30pm Midnight Mass	5:30pm Christmas Evening Communion	
Sunday 25th December Christmas Day	11:00am Christmas Family Communion		9:30am Christmas Holy Communion
Sunday 1st January The Naming of Jesus <i>Numbers 6:22-end Luke 2: 15-21</i>	11:00am Coffee, Cake, and Carols A relaxed New Year's Day Morning		
Sunday 8th January Epiphany <i>Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>	9:30am BCP Holy Communion <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>	
Sunday 15th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany <i>Isaiah 49:1-7 John 1:29-42</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion <i>Modern language Holy Communion</i>		9:30am BCP Holy Communion <i>Traditional language Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 22nd January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany <i>Psalms 27:1-11 Isaiah 9:1-4 Matthew 4:12-23</i>	11.00am Morning Prayer	9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 29th January 4th Sunday of Epiphany	11.00am All age service <i>(Breakfast from 10:30)</i>		
Churchwardens Vicar	<i>Jackie Colburn 01451 860212</i> <i>Revd Tim Hastie-Smith 01285 740301</i>	<i>Dominic Spacie</i>	<i>Lavinia Sidgwick 01285 720682</i>

FOODBANK REFERRALS

Anyone needing short term help over the Christmas period with food and would like to request a Christmas foodbank parcel Arlington Baptist Church is a referral agency please email in confidence info@arlingtonbaptist.org.uk and we can arrange this with Cirencester foodbank. Although we can refer for an emergency box at most times the Christmas boxes need to be ordered by 12th December so they can be delivered to you as they are heavy.

Christmas in Bibury, Barnsley, Ablington, Winson and Arlington 2022

Monday 12th December

2:30pm Carols, Christmas Tea, and Festive Fun
With Hunters Home, Bibury School and Father Christmas at Bibury

Tuesday 13th December

6:00pm iSingPOP Christmas Concert
with Bibury School (Bibury)

Sunday 18th December

9:30am Said Holy Communion Bibury
11:00am Carol Service Barnsley
6:00pm Carol Service Winson

Thursday 22nd December

6:00pm: Beer and Carols on the Square with festive bonfire, led by the Salvation Army Band

Saturday 24th December

4:00pm: Crib Service and
Lighting of the Christmas Tree at Bibury
5:30pm: Christmas Eve Communion at Barnsley
11:30pm: Midnight Mass Bibury

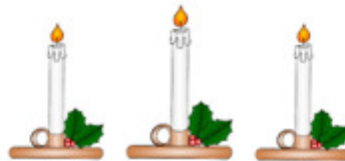
Sunday 25th December

9:30am Christmas Communion at Winson
11:00am Christmas Family Communion at Bibury



Arlington
Baptist Church

Carols Christingle by Candlelight



Sunday

18th December

3.30pm

*Beautiful traditional service
in a warm Chapel with
refreshments afterwards*

Start Christmas here!

www.arlingtonbaptist.org.uk



Wishing you a merry Christmas, may God shower you with new opportunities and lots of blessings. Please remember It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving!

The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in Bethlehem. He is Christ, the Lord.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.

Unwrap the Christmas gift God has given you today, invite Jesus into your life and discover your true purpose, it's life changing!

Saturday. December 3rd 11am-2pm Coffee morning Hot drinks, mince pies, Christmas gifts and produce raising money for Spurgeons Children`s homes at the Schoolrooms Arlington Baptist Church, a cosy warm space. All are welcome.

Wednesday December 14th 12.30pm Free Community Christmas Lunch there will be a festive raffle and Christmas quiz also chance for donations to Spurgeons Children`s homes. We need catering numbers please Debbie 740366 or Sharon 740679 Gillian 740404 Jean 740415 All welcome and if you are housebound and would like a free meal please contact us for delivery.

Sunday December 18th 3.30pm Candlelight Carols and Christingles (oranges with candles and sweets).

Festive refreshments and fun come and get into the Christmas spirit, the Chapel will be traditionally decorated and by candlelight the atmosphere is wonderful. Everyone welcome

Shoebox appeal Thankyou to everyone who sent a box or donated toys etc to the appeal we are pleased to say we have sent the boxes away and they are on their way to Children in war torn Ukraine.

The Alpha Course continues to run successfully on Monday evenings and due to its popularity it will be running again next year, so if you missed out and have questions about Christian faith this would be for you or even if you dont have questions but enjoy a debate or a nice meal with company this is for you too! Watch this space.

Services throughout Advent and beyond every Sunday at 10.30am



BIBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

A very special village school, serving Bibury and the surrounding villages.

Our second Term is in full swing, and children and teachers are very busy with the daily activities that form our intensive curriculum. Swimming lessons for the whole school began again in the second week of the term, with the children going to Cirencester Leisure Centre each week to improve their swimming skills. PE lessons this term are focusing on gymnastics for flexibility and balance, and dance for rhythm, expression in music and building the confidence to perform.

Our Key Stage 2 children took part in an exciting K'Nex Challenge co-ordinated by STEMworks, where the children had to design and build a working model of a recycling factory.

Our head boy and head girl, Raul and Louisa, represented Bibury C of E Primary School at Parliament Day in Gloucester Cathedral, where they met Dale Vince, owner of Ecotricity, and took part in debates on the environment with representatives from other schools across the county.

Our Acorns children visited Hunters Care Centre in Cirencester and joined the residents in watching a demonstration of birds of prey. It was wonderful to witness the interaction between the young children and the elderly residents, and both groups enjoyed the visit tremendously. The children will be visiting the centre again at the end of the month, to join in a session of Christmas crafts with the residents.

On Remembrance Sunday, our head boy and head girl took part in the service at the Barnsley memorial, and laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the school. Several of our children also participated in the very well-attended Remembrance Day service held at St Mary's Church in Bibury on the same day.

The Kitchen Club team came to visit the school again to work with the children in preparing and cooking a Diwali-themed meal, comprising a delicious "Festival of Colour" vegetarian curry and Coconut Ladoo sweets. To conclude the Diwali theme this term, our children participated in a Diwali Dance Workshop led by choreographer from West End in Schools, who taught them various dance movements on the theme of the Ramayana, the great Hindu epic about prince Rama and his wife Sita.

We have had lots of prospective parents come to visit the school, as they explore options for their young children who are starting Reception in September next year. The feedback has been very positive and we hope to have a lot of bright new faces starting with us in 2023! To assist parents in helping their young children make the transition from nursery to school, we have started "Little Acorns" Starting School sessions, which run every Monday afternoon until the end of the term. Children will join our Early Years pupils in play-based learning, to develop the skills needed for a successful start to school. If there is anyone that is interested in having their children join these fun and constructive sessions, please contact the school office for more information.

Suki Pascoe, Head Teacher Bibury C of E Primary School 01285 740268 admin@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk
www.bibury.gloucs.sch.uk or come and visit us. Bibury PTA can be contacted directly on ptabibury@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk

BIBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of 8th November 2022 - Apologies were received from Simon Brownless, Victoria Summerley & Ray Theodoulou.

There was 1 member of public present who raised a question as to what action had been taken regarding the river flooding following the detailed investigations previously undertaken. To obtain an update on actions in progress it was proposed that Flood Warden, Phil Challinor, be invited to the next Parish Council Meeting and he has agreed.

Lisa Spivey was happy road resurfacing is happening and, as this is a major road and in spite of council costs rising, she will try to ensure the most urgent repairs are tackled. She reported 331 people have applied to come from Ukraine to the Cotswolds and 266 have arrived so far. Full Council meeting last week regarding emergency planning for winter, dentistry & emergency services.

Other matters raised were:

- The Councillors agreed a 2% rise in the Clerk's salary for next year.
- There was concern about the brambles from Swan Hotel intruding.
- From Glebe House wall there was concern re. overhanging growth intruding on pavement.
- The poor road surface on Awkward Hill and Arlington Row
- The Football Club defibrillator cannot be accessed at night as the gate is locked.
- Overload parking at the Trout Farm: planning application for this will be discussed at our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 13th December 2022, 7pm in The Village Hall, Bibury.

Parking Traffic Regulation Order.

The Parish Council will consider their response to the 'Statutory Consultation' in their December meeting (to be held on Tuesday 13th December 2022). The details of which can be found online at <https://www.biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/bibury-nov-22.pdf?v=1668767423>

Some of the changes are a result of the feedback provided by the informal consultation, whilst others have been requested for safety reasons by Gloucestershire Highways and the Police.

Please note that there will be an opportunity for further comment with the formal Public Consultation which follow in the New Year.

BIBURY VILLAGE HALL

Our Christmas event was held on Saturday 19th November and saw the Hall beautifully decorated by Bev Morgan-Davis and Victoria Summerley. The Hall was full of interesting craft stalls and traditional stalls. Fine weather boosted the numbers of visitors and locals who had chances to buy to early Christmas presents and to sip mulled wine!

The committee is enormously grateful for all the support they received – especially from non- committee members Jean Stringer, who ran the raffle, and Jean and Adrian Wright who helped so willingly together with all the stall holders and their families and friends who helped. Thank you too to all those who donated items for the stalls or who came to buy! And enabled us to raise £772.54 for Hall funds

We have our AGM in January and as usual we will be asking all our regular users and organisations for representatives to serve on the new committee. The AGM will be in the afternoon at 2pm on Thursday 19th January 2023. So please come and give us your views.

CRAFT CLUB

Our last meeting for 2022 will be on Thursday 1st December at 2 pm when Bev Morgan-Davies will give us a chance to complete the bags she deigned and cut using her Cricut Machine that demonstrated in October. Wendy will demonstrate how to make some festive decorations for your pictures.

We will need to decide if we want to have a meeting in January or start again in February. So make a note in your diaries and give it some thought!

Remember we are happy to have people to just come for a chat

HEAVENS ABOVE

We start the month with Venus in Sagittarius and energy and sparks could fly! But then Capricorn and Mercury come into the mix – well stability starts. On the 8th there is a full moon and tongues must be careful!

HELP WANTED

Father Christmas needs new Reindeer
The Pack has now grown old
Dasher has arthritis
Comet hates the cold
Prancer's sick of staring
At Dancer's big behind
Cupid married Blitzen
And Donner's lost his mind
Dancer's mad at Vixen
For stepping on his toes
Vixen now's been thrown out
For laughing at Rudolph's nose.
So if you are a reindeer
We hope you will reply.
There's just one tricky bit
You must know how to fly!

WEDNESDAY CLUB

Only four people attended the November meeting but several more had emailed Wendy to give her their views about the future of the club. The numbers attending had gradually decreased from 18 to a more typical number of around 4-6. As a result it was reluctantly decided that there was not enough regular

support for the club to continue. Norma and Wendy would like to thank those people who came to support the group over the last two years.

It was hoped that some may consider dropping into the Craft Club for tea and a social chat where they will be warmly welcomed – even if they have no desire to be ‘crafty!’

Creating a horseracing venue fit for a (future) king

Starting in 1801 the horseracing world had to get used to a new name for what had for the previous 200 years or so been the Burford racecourse, located a few miles to the west of Burford, near the village of Aldsworth. It had become the Bibury racecourse.

Visitors to the track would have received another surprise. Instead of the old ‘out and back’ track, there was a new figure-of-eight circuit, with a brand new two-storey grandstand crowned by the three-feathers insignia of the Prince of Wales.

Behind the changes was the 1st Lord Sherborne, who had acquired large areas of former common downland in the area during the controversial Land Enclosures. It included part of what was then known as the Seven Downs – the flat-topped down to the east of Aldsworth village where the Burford races were run.

Sherborne’s new figure-of-eight shaped course covered an area of about 158 acres. The course was probably completed by 1799, because a detailed parish map of that date clearly shows the new course. It also appears on Ordnance Survey maps published in the early 1800s.

Why did Lord Sherborne feel the need to make these changes ? You might imagine that after 200 years it was time to modernise the course, and Sherborne certainly had the money to do that. But why change its name from the nationally-known Burford course to the Bibury course ?

To answer that, I need to introduce you to the Bibury Club.

Since the 1880s (and possibly earlier) a group of wealthy landowners who raced together at the annual Burford races had become accustomed to dining informally together afterwards, often as guests of former Cirencester MP Estcourt Cresswell, at Bibury Court. Because of this, they became known as the Bibury Club, even if there was no formally-constituted ‘club’ as such.

The club’s race events became a regular part of the annual Burford races, although the Bibury Club events were essentially private races, open only to club members and their guests. The races were ‘annually run on Burford Downs, the Wednesday and Thursday after the Craven meeting at Newmarket’ (*Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard*, 15 March 1884).

Into this informal group of racing friends came the 1st Lord Sherborne. He had a plan. He had the money and energy to make it happen. And had he some high-level contacts including the Prince of Wales (who later became the Prince Regent, and then King George IV).

The story is that in 1799 Sherborne invited the heir apparent, together with other members of the horseracing world’s aristocracy and gentry (all of them members of the Jockey Club) to attend a meeting he was planning on his new figure-of-eight racecourse. And to bring their horses.

Sherborne arranged the day so that his invited guests, together with a select group of local landed gentry, were positioned on one side of the course, while the local farmers and tradesmen were able to watch the racing from the other side.

At the dinner afterwards, most likely at Lord Sherborne’s family seat in the village of Sherborne, (although one press account written a century later put it in Bibury Court, Bibury), he proposed turning the Bibury Club into something new - an invitation-only racing club for gentlemen. The idea was well received. As the host, Lord Sherborne became club member number 1, and HRH became member number 2. HRH also accepted the role of club patron.

Whether this formalisation of the Bibury Club was done with the agreement and support of the pre-existing club members, or whether Lord Sherborne basically staged a takeover of the club, is not known.

Under Sherborne’s new plan for the club, there would be dinners in London and an annual meet in June on his new racecourse, which would from now on be called the Bibury Racecourse. These events would be for club members only, and (initially at least) for ‘gentlemen jockeys’. In other words, it was the owners who rode in the races.

The first time that Bibury Club races were mentioned in the *Racing Calendar* was 1801, so that is regarded as the official launch of the new circuit and its new name.

The Bibury Club quickly became the most exclusive horseracing club of its day. How could it fail, with the Prince Regent as patron ? Members included Royalty, aristocrats, statesmen and gentlemen. All wealthy men who could not only afford a stable of ‘running horses’, but were also keen to gamble heavily on the outcome of races.

It was ‘one of those exclusive bastions of privilege, restricted by invitation to nobles and gentlemen’, wrote Michael Tanner in his book *The Demon: The life of George Fordham*.

So over a period of a decade or so, horseracing on the Aldsworth site had changed beyond recognition. Lord Sherborne had taken one of Britain’s longest-established racing venues, laid down a completely new circuit on it, rebranded it as the Bibury course instead of the Burford course, organised the Bibury Club into an invitation-only club with the next king as patron, and created one of the premier events of the annual horseracing calendar.

He had basically hijacked the centuries-old Burford racecourse, and the Bibury Club, and reinvented them to suit his horseracing ambitions. What the burghers of Burford thought of this turn of events is not recorded.

As to what happened next, that will have to wait until the next (and perhaps final) chapter of the story.

© Roger Staton November 2022

Remember to use you old style Postage Stamps (those without a bar code) over Christmas and up to 31st January 2023.

Those you do not use over Christmas, can be exchanged using **Stamp Swap Out** scheme using a form from the Royal Mail website. royalmail.com

Note: Special Stamps with pictures on and Christmas Stamps without a barcode will continue to be valid and don't need to be swapped out

BIBURY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (RBL)

Not so very many years ago Bibury mustered a sufficient body of British Legion members on Remembrance Sunday to march from the Swan to Bibury Church accompanied by the Salvation Army band. Today, although the church congregation for the Bibury Remembrance Service remains one of the largest we see in the whole year, the number of people who feel they are actually associated with the RBL has dwindled to just two or three. Perhaps this is because the two world wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45 took place during the lifetimes of very few, if any, of us who are alive today and it now all seems rather remote.

However, our Remembrance isn't, and shouldn't be, just about those two World Wars. We remember and thank not just those who died in the two World Wars but also those who have served our country in so many conflicts since: Palestine, Malaysia, Dhofar, Aden, Northern Ireland, Falklands, Gulf Wars, Bosnia & Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and a number of other less well known engagements. Indeed, our country's armed forces have been on active service somewhere in the world in every year since 1945 and you may be surprised to know that the last year in which no servicemen died serving our country was 1968.

In short, the support of the Royal British Legion for all our servicemen, past and present, is as important now as it always was. The RBL helps all members of the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force, veterans and their families, all year round and every day. Sadly the current tragic war in Ukraine reminds us yet again how vital our defence is to all of us.

You don't need to have, or have had, any association with any branch of the armed forces to join or support the RBL- but we do need your help. Who knows, perhaps if enough of us join, we could once again stage that march, with the band, to the annual Remembrance Service! It would certainly impress all our tourist visitors for many of whom Remembrance Sunday seems to be irrelevant or forgotten.

If you are encouraged to join then do please contact the RBL membership helpline 0800 307 7773 or apply on line to self-service.britishlegion.org.uk and click on the "join today" button. If you were also able to let our wonderful Secretary, Oriel Mayne, know on 01285 740571 or at orielmayne@gmail.com that would help immensely. Thank you.

DUCK RACE :: BOXING DAY 11.15am
467433

Leslie Smith, Chairman, 07867

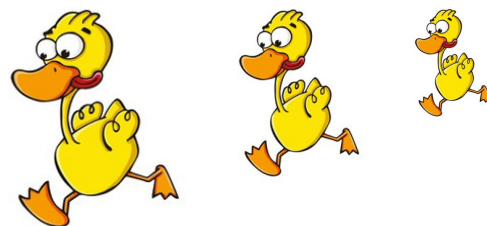
It's great news that the famous Bibury Cricket Club Duck Race will be back to its traditional slot in the annual calendar Boxing Day! Runners and riders – well, ducks – come under starters orders at 11.15am.

All ticket sales go to Charity with duck race tickets at £10 per duck. These can be bought in advance from Terry Day or from the Catherine Wheel, Bibury Trout Farm or Club Members as well as on the day. The winner of the Duck Race chooses a Charity to receive the donation which is typically around £1,500

CHARITY DUCK RACE BOXING DAY 11.15am

First prize £200, 12 bottles of champagne and race winner chooses a charity of their choice for proceeds.

Last duck home wins a giant plastic duck!
Grand Prize Giving takes place in February 2023.



BIBURY GARDENING CLUB

There's something very satisfying about knowledge and enthusiasm being passed down from generation to generation. Perhaps it's to do with a subconscious desire to pass on our biological inheritance: how many times have you seen parents scrutinise their children for evidence of a family trait or talent? Helen Picton is the third generation of Pictons to run Old Court Nurseries near Malvern and listening to her talk at the last garden club meeting, it was obvious that she has a huge pride in her family's achievements.

Nor has she been content to bask in their reflected glory. She herself has a degree in botany and her husband Ross, with whom she runs the business, is a former head gardener.

Old Court Nurseries specialise in asters, or Michaelmas daisies as they used to be known. Indeed, the genus name "aster" has been superseded by the sort of incomprehensible jumbles of Latin syllables that botanists delight in when they reclassify plants.

New York and New England asters have been renamed *Symphotrichum* (rolls off the tongue, doesn't it?) while the shade-tolerant *Aster divaricatus* is *Eurybia divaricata*. *Aster umbellatus* is now known as *Doellingeria umbellata*. Confused? Helen managed to make it all seem incredibly straightforward and logical.

Once the botany was out of the way, we were able to concentrate on the pictures. If you think asters come in lavender, with occasional forays into pink or white, the display at Old Court Nurseries in early autumn will leave you open-mouthed.

The flowers range from white through pale pink to vivid salmon-pink, magenta and plum, or take the purple route through pale lilac and lavender blue to intense violet.

The aster that bears Helen's own name – the New England aster 'Helen Picton' — is a beautiful rosy-purple that contrasts dramatically with the yellows and oranges of *rudbeckia* and *crococsmia*. Her father named it after her when she was a little girl.

Asters need more in the way of TLC than you might expect, especially if you have seen self-seeded naturalised ones growing on railway embankments. They like lots of sun, but also some moisture as they are shallow-rooting. Helen advised giving them a good mulch to help conserve moisture, but for Cotswolds gardens, she recommended the European asters, *Aster amellus* and *Aster x frikartii* which prefer a more alkaline soil with good winter drainage.

It seems odd to turn from the glorious colours of a late-summer border to the subject of the Christmas party, but that is in fact the theme of our next meeting. Where has the year gone?

Last year, we pioneered an afternoon event in the village hall, which was hailed as a great success. So we are repeating it this year, and I will be in touch with garden club members about what we need in the way of buffet contributions.

The party will take place on the normal second Wednesday of the month, which is Wednesday 14 December, at 2pm in the village hall. Members are very welcome to bring partners and/or friends at the £5 pay as you go rate but do let me know in advance because of seating and catering.

We have hyacinth bowls available in blue or white, which make ideal Christmas presents. They are £12 a bowl, so put your orders into George and you can pick them up at the party.

Victoria Summerley

I won a cup in one of the garden flowers categories at the Village Show this summer, and I was absolutely thrilled, because it was the first cup I have ever won in my life.

It was sent off to be engraved with my name and it now has pride of place in my living room.

I was admiring it the other day – I still can't quite believe I won it – and looking at all the names that precede mine. A'Bear, Cooper, Boucher, Mitchell, Kemp, Muir, Alderton, Challinor, Van Oss, Lipscombe, Blackwell.

They read like a miniature history of Bibury's gardeners and it made me feel very proud that I was following in a tradition of nurture and skill.

Gardens do not long survive the people who love them and look after them. New owners come along and make alterations, plant fashions change and everyone has their own idea of what a garden should be and what functions it should fulfil.

In my view it is entirely proper that gardens reflect their current owner's tastes. If an Englishman's home is his castle, then the garden should be his (or her) private paradise.

However, while the gardens may change over time, the horticultural accomplishments represented by the names on my cup live on as a legacy of inspiration. They are proof that with a bit of hard work and dedication, we can all make the world look more beautiful.

My cup was for one of the garden flowers categories. I have a large garden, but I'm not the sort of gardener who grows "show" flowers. This year's drought made gardening even more challenging, so I didn't really think I had a chance of winning anything, but scampered round the garden looking for things to enter more for the sake of doing my bit for a village event.

Indeed, one gardening club associate was genuinely shocked when my undersized sweet peas won a prize. "You never did!" was the phrase, I seem to recall.

So next year, I hope many more people will do what I did and just have a go. You never know, your name may join the roll of honour on the cup and become part of a tradition in "the most beautiful village in England".

Victoria Summerley

THE OLD MAN OF THE PIKE

Here we are at the end of another year and what a year. They do say "the older you get the years pass quicker" and that is true. When you are young a year is a larger part of your life and when you to my age a year is a very much smaller part of my life. What has this year brought us, a mild Winter and a very pleasant Spring full of colour to be followed by a hot dry Summer and then a mild and wetter Autumn. Other things going on, although Covid has been brought under control more and is not the killer it was at the start of the pandemic it is still with us, but thanks to vaccination we can get on with life easier. The country has undergone great pressures economically due to the pandemic and to the war in Ukraine which has made us all tighten our belts and will effect us for some time yet. We have also had Three Prime ministers in quick succession. But the most important news was that we lost Our Queen. We remember the day that a Princess went up a tree at night and came down in the morning as a Queen and she went on to serve us, the Country and the Commonwealth for seventy years and very well too. Good Save King Charles and long may he reign. Next Summer we have his Coronation to look forward too. Another event that happened this year was that I retired from "Village Life" panel, from being in at the very start of "V L" I thought it was about time to take a back seat more and use the garden seats that the readers of "VL" gave my wife Sue and Me when I tried to take a less active role about 14 years ago. I can honestly say that my time on the panel of "VL" leaves me with only Happy, Happy memories

After giving a brief resume of the year I intend to put pen to paper every so often on what is going on around us on things that I think are interesting. I hope that they may interest other people as well and if they do not please bear with me. One other thing I must ask is that if anybody and I mean anybody are suffering hardships due to the economic situation please let somebody know there is HELP out there. A trouble shared is a trouble halved.

As it is that time of year the only thing for me to do is wish the Panel of "VL" and All of you readers A Happy Christmas and A Prosperous and A Healthy New Year.

ROUND AND ABOUT

We begin by saying goodbye to one of our distributors. Norma Webb. who has moved from Garth Cottage on Arlington. to a new home in Blunsdon, to be nearer her daughter. Norma has been such an active member of the village. At various times she was WI President, an active member of the Craft Club and a keen supporter of any village event and created the last Harvest Supper Quiz. We wish her every happiness in her new home.

Into Garth Cottage have moved the Mather Family, Helen and Ed and their 3 young sons. It is lovely to have a family move in the village as permanent residents.

We are also delighted to welcome another new family into Arlington. Oliver and Christina Cully and son Arthur have moved into the Old Police Cottage. We hope both families will be happy not only with their new homes but living in our lovely village.

The weather of late has suddenly turned colder – back to the more normal range of temperatures for November. We do not yet know what December's weather will be and we can't help wishing for a White Christmas – if only for a few magical days. We shall have to wait and see!

From the Panel

We would like to thank Norma Webb for the many years she and her husband Jim, had actively supported this magazine by not only being the local distributor for Arlington Green and Bank, and also for taking the time to be one of our regular collators. Collating the magazine takes several hours and we shall miss her regular appearance on the collating rota. Any new volunteers?

We welcome Peter and Christa Wiggins from the Green to the distribution team We hope it did not take too much arm twisting from Norma to get them to join the team. Thank you!

And in addition :-

An apology from last month's collator – some of the pages were upside down.

And a Reminder to our Trade Directory advertisers to let us know of any changes to their adverts. Payment is due in January for 2023. We regret to announce that we shall be increasing our advertising rates for the Trade Directory to £5 a line for the year. It has remained at the old rate since we began in 1979. Since then our costs have increased enormously. Our rate for postal copies is likely to increase as well as the stamps alone are now £1 per postal copy.

And finally...

*May we take this opportunity to wish all our readers, contributors, collators, typists and distributors
A Very Happy Christmas!*

FROM FURTHER AFIELD

Northleach

Saturday December 3rd, Da Capo a cappella chamber choir sing a programme of Advent choral music in Northleach Church at 7pm. Tickets £15 (under 18s free) at ticketsource.co.uk/dacapo or at Northleach Post Office and Castles butcher.

Wednesday December 7th, Christmas Teatime Classics for violin and piano, Northleach Church at 3pm. Tickets £5 on door, mince pie and mulled wine £3. Jane Quelch



FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES
Serving Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages.
(Formerly League of Friends of Fairford Hospital)



News and Information from your Community Friends
SEASON'S GREETINGS

Charity we wish everyone well through the festive season and beyond. Please remember to look after our friends and neighbours and we hope you all have a peaceful festive season and New Year.

THANK YOU

The Trustees would like to express their gratitude to every individual, family, organisation or business that has supported us this year. Whether you attended an event, made a donation, volunteered or helped to raise awareness of what we do – THANK YOU.

100 CLUB – 2023

Join our 100 Club for 2023 to be in with the chance of winning a cash prize! If you are already a member and pay annually by cheque please forward your cheque for £12 to Jeff Dawson, Glen Lea, High Street, Meysey Hampton, GL7 5JW. If you would like to join please see our website (www.friendsoffairford.org.uk) or contact Kerry Simms on admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk / 01285 707300. Half of all the money raised each year is distributed in the prize funds, the remaining half is added to our charitable funds.

2023 CHARITY CALENDAR

The charity has partnered with local businesses and organisations to create a cheeky, 'Calendar Girls' style calendar for 2023, great for a gift! £15 each or £20 for two. Get in touch with Kerry to place your order (payable by bank transfer) on admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk or pick up a copy from one of our participating stockists.

COMING UP IN 2023

We are in the process of planning another busy calendar of events for 2023 so do keep an eye out on our website and social media for more information. If you would like to be first to know what's happening, you can join our mailing list by contacting admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk.

If you would like to make a donation you can do so online through our website www.friendsoffairford.org.uk or by sending cheques made out to 'Friends of Fairford' and posting to Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities Charity Shop, Lloyds Chambers, High Street, Lechlade, Glos GL7 3AE.

Information on what we do can be found on our website www.friendsoffairford.org.uk and the names of our existing team of trustees are listed on the Charity Commission's website.

Shelley Welsh, Chair Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities (Reg. Charity No. 1180059)

**CHRISTMAS TREES
FOR SALE !!**

WREATHS & DECORATIONS

Pop in to pick your tree:
Church Farm,
Barnsley,
GL7 5EF
@theTbarn

**Weekdays 12-4pm
Weekends 10am-4pm**

Or we can deliver:
eloise.dey@gmail.com
07717756935

Bibury Trout Farm –

KHARPP Ukraine appeal

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who kindly donated to the KHARPP Winter Donations Drive for Ukraine. We were completely overwhelmed by your generosity, so much so that we have had to arrange an extra van to deliver the goods. Thank you.

Christmas Feast On The Farm



Menu:

Smoked trout, pickled cucumber salad and toasted crostini

or

Goats cheese toast, red onion marmalade and toasted pine nuts

-

Christmas beef wellington, potato puree, roasted vegetables, served with a beef

or

Mushroom and stilton tart, rocket salad dressing

-

Chocolate fondant, vanilla and baileys sauce, raspberry dust



3 course meal, £50pp to include a drink on arrival, stocked bar
25% of proceeds to be donated to Crisis at Christmas



To book, please call 01285 740215 or email -
angus@biburytroutfarm.co.uk