

VILLAGE LIFE

OF BIBURY, ARLINGTON, ABLINGTON,
BARNESLEY AND WINSON



JANUARY 2024

A Happy and Healthy New Year to
all our readers.

VILLAGE LIFE

DATES FOR THE DIARY

ISSUE NO: 487

JANUARY 2024

Friday 5 th	Cotswold Chippy at the Football Club	5.30 to 7.30pm
Thursday 11 th	Rural Cinema – The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry	7.00 for 7.30pm
Wednesday 17 th	Community Lunch, Baptist Church, Arlington	12.30pm
Friday 19 th	NO Cotswold Chippy	
Thursday 18 th	Village Hall Management Committee AGM	2.30pm
Wednesday 24 th	Craft Club, Village Hall	2.00 pm

FEBRUARY 2024

Tuesday 13 th	Bibury Parish Council, Village Hall	7pm
Wednesday 14 th	Gardening Club	
Wednesday 28 th	Craft Club	2pm

MARCH

Friday 8 th	Bibury Amateur Dramatic Society (BADS), Village Hall	
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VILLAGE LIFE PANEL

Treasurer: Mr Roger King, 8 Pike Villas, The Pike, Arlington, Bibury	740510
Secretary: Mrs Wendy Challinor, Chestnut Grove, Arlington, Bibury	740021
Mrs Sarah French, 11 Arlington Fields, Bibury	740698
Mr Brian Skarda, 4 Arlington Row, Bibury	07980 426801

Please Note: if you wish to put an article or advert in 'Village Life' magazine it should be sent to biburyvillagelife@hotmail.com by 12 noon on our deadline(normally the 20th of month for the following months issue.

ABLINGTON PLANNING

Residents will remember the planning application to develop the land between Stonebank and Hinton Cottage, Ablington, which was refused by CDC Planners a year ago. The subsequent Appeal was dismissed on 6th September due to the dangerous access to this site.

The developers have now submitted a new application for very similar work, under reference 23/03772/FUL. The cut-off date for comments and objections is 10th January 2024, although we will try to get this extended.

There were an unprecedented number of objections to the original planning application, and I am asking you to please find time to look at this new application on the CDC's website, and email your objections to the CDC planning office as soon as possible. Many thanks,

Jenny A'Bear, Stonebank, Ablington.

Bibury Vicarage, Gloucestershire, GL7 5NT

Tim.hastie-smith@hotmail.com

Dear Friends,

So the tally for 2023 was 210 books. Get a life, I hear you cry, as you line up with my lovely wife to pose the question, why do you need another book? You've got a book. Why not put a moratorium on buying more books until you have read the (over 250) books sitting beside the bed? A wholly understandable sentiment. But there is so much I know nothing about, and as the ballon expands, so the frontiers of my ignorance increase. (Put *Que sais-je?* – What do I know? on my headstone)

There were some extraordinary highlights, some literary, some mind expanding/blowing, some simply inspirational and indulgent. But I am going to limit myself to books that were either given to me, or recommended to me, and which I would therefore not have read, but for the enriching influence of friends. If I needed a reminder as to the simple truth that we belong together, and need each other, and are better together, this year's gems are it. Without you, my friends, I would be even more narrow, crabbed, ignorant, self-serving, self justifying, arrogant and prejudiced than I already am. Thank you for inviting me to step out of my box. So, among this year's highlights....

The Golden Mole and, indeed everything, by Katherine Rundell (Thank you, Johnny)

Surrender By Bono (Thank you, Richard)

HhhH by Laurent Bint (Thank you, Lloyd)

A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter M Miller jnr (Thank you, Guy)

Surrender to Love by David Benner (Thank you, Sara)

On the Road by Jack Kerouac (Thank you, Alice)

My Promised Land By Ari Shavat (Thank you, Gareth)

Dear Zealots by Amos Oz (Thank you, Edward)

Austerlitz by WG Sebald (Thank you, James)

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin (Thank you, Sandra)

The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben (Thank you, Scilla)

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Thank you, Chris)

From the Holy Mountain by William Dalrymple (Thank you, Dana)

Thunderclap by Laura Cumming (Thank you, Charles)

Politics, Poverty and Belief by Frank Field (Thank you, Frank)

The Coming Wave by Mustafa Suleyman (Thank you, George)

The books of Daniel Silva (Thank you, Andy)

The Venetian Crime series by Philip Gwynne Jones (Thank you, Frances)

The Enigma of Reason by Judea Pearl and Dana Mackenzie (Thank you, Geoff and Sue)

And finally, to start the year.....

I quote others to better explain myself Michel de Montaigne

Writing is, in the end, the oddest of anomalies; an intimate letter to a stranger Siddharth Pico Raghavan Iyer

You are never lonely with a book Marlene Dietrich. *One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things* St Augustine. *If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need* Cicero

The whole object of a travel is not to set foot on a foreign land; it is at last to set foot on one's own country as a foreign land GK Chesterton. *Man's real home is not a house but the Road and... life itself is a journey to be walked on foot* Bruce Chatwin

It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end Ursula K Le Guin (cf Homer: *The journey is the thing*). *We are our choices* Jean Paul Sartre

If you want the present to be different from the past, study the past Baruch de Spinoza. *Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see* Mark Twain

Wi New name for historic Bibury charity

With every blessing

Tim **BIBURY CHURCHES**

Church Services January 2024	Bibury	Barnsley	Winson
Sunday 7th January Epiphany <i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i> <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion	9:30am Common Worship Holy Communion	9:30am BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 14th January Epiphany 2 <i>1 Samuel 3:1-10</i> <i>John 1:43-end</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion	9:30am BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 21st January Epiphany 3 <i>Genesis 14:17-20</i> <i>John 2:1-11</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion		9:30am BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 28th January Epiphany 4 <i>Deuteronomy 18:15-20</i> <i>Psalms 111</i> <i>Mark 1:21-28</i>	11.00am Morning Prayer	9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 5th February 2nd before Lent <i>Proverbs 8:1,22-31</i> <i>John 1:1-14</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion	9:30am Common Worship Holy Communion	9:30am BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 11th February Sunday next before Lent <i>2 Kings 2:1-12</i> <i>Mark 9:2-9</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion	9:30am BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 18th February Lent 1 <i>Genesis 9:8-17</i> <i>Mark 1:9-15</i>	11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion		9:30am BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 25th February Lent 2 <i>Romans 4:13-end</i> <i>Psalms 22:23-end</i> <i>Mark 8:31-end</i>	11.00am Morning Prayer	9:30am Morning Prayer	
Churchwardens Vicar	<i>Jackie Colburn</i> <i>01451 860212</i> <i>Revd Tim Hastie-Smith</i> <i>01285 740301</i>	<i>Dominic Spacie</i>	<i>Lavinia Sidgwick</i> <i>01285 720682</i>

Happy New Year everyone

December was a busy month for us here on Arlington Green not only were the Carol Service and Festive Community Lunch a huge success and great fun, but also a lot of local groups were making use of the Old Schoolrooms whilst the Village hall was being decorated, we welcomed the Parish Council, Gardening club, School PTA Children Christmas Party and a Pilates class, it was wonderful to witness how alive the community is, if you wish to be part of it there are plenty of opportunities.

At the festive community lunch we welcomed locals from our rural community as well as ex residents and friends joining us from Chedworth, Ready Token and Ampney Crucis, going by the noise on the day it was enjoyed by all. We thank Victoria for playing carols for the sing-a-long also the kitchen team, raffle prize donators and the food sponsors Bibury Trout Farm, Coln Valley Cabs and various generous individuals, the donation pot on the day made a healthy amount for local charities.

In a small village such as ours it is important for everyone to work together, in Psalm 133:1 it says "How good and pleasant it is when Gods people live together in unity" There is a lot of discord in our world today but we can make a difference on a local level by living and working together in unity and on this note a Murder mystery In the village hall presented by Bibury Amateur Dramatic society, or simply BADS as they have been known before, headed up by a team from the Baptist church is a good opportunity for the community to get together for a night of unity entertainment and food especially much needed in the early spring. See the poster in Village life.

If anyone has interest in helping with this Murder Mystery Supper evening on Friday March 8th whether it be acting, catering, scenery, waitressing, making costumes etc please be in touch info@arlingtonbaptist.org.uk we welcome enthusiastic helpers of all abilities, ages, shapes and sizes.

Services for January

Every Sunday @ 10.30am Contemporary worship

Home group bible study and prayer meet weekly info@arlingtonbaptist.org.uk

Events

Community Lunches all ages welcome January 17th and February 20th 12.30pm in The Old Schoolrooms - home delivery available please ask Debbie 740366

"Murder on the circuit" a BADS Murder mystery supper Friday March 8th in Bibury village hall tickets available by request 07974785437 or on our website also Information about the Church and hire of the Old Schoolrooms www.arlingtonbaptist.org.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

'Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of Happiness – and just be Happy!'

COVER SKETCH

The drawing of the Bibury Duck Race was drawn by Jill Skarda and was one of the price winners in the Bibury Show last year. Although the duck race takes place on Boxing day we thought it was an appropriate memory of what is now last years event.

FROM THE PANEL

The Panel would like to thank all our Contributors, Typists, Collators & Distributors for their work during the past year to make this Publication possible. We also welcome Tom Page as a contributor from Barnsley & we would welcome anyone from Bibury or Ablington to join us too!

As you are all aware we dependent upon donations to help fund the free delivery of the magazine to each household within the parishes of Bibury, Barnsley and Winson so we are very grateful for the donation of £250 from the proceeds of Barnsley Festival last year. **Thank you Barnsley!**

POSTAL COPIES OF VILLAGE LIFE Please note that as the result of rising costs of postage and paper these will now be £15 as of January 2024. If you would prefer to receive an email copy please let us know.

NEW NAME FOR HISTORIC BIBURY CHARITY

Bibury United Charities, founded in 1898, has announced that with immediate effect it has adopted a new working name. From now on it will be known as Bibury Village Hall Trust. This change has been made with the approval of the Charity Commission.

Bibury United Charities will continue to be the charity's official registered name, but for everyday purposes it will use the new working name of Bibury Village Hall Trust.

The work of the charity will continue as before – administering three historic trust funds. The largest two finance village hall repairs and maintenance. The third is a small local welfare trust dating back to the 1700s.

The New Moon in January is on the 11th of the Month and is in Capricorn, so for some there will be issues with joints feeling achey! But by the time we get to the Full Moon on the 25th things 7 health will lighten up as the Moon is in Leo, which is the Summer Sign – so think positive! This Moon is called the Wolf Moon and is a bright a one as it's located on the Earth's opposite side to the Sun, so that it faces Earth and it's illuminated by the Sun's rays! It was named a Wolf Moon, as it was believed you could hear wolves howling more at this time, due to being hungry during the Winter months. Happy New Year!

BIBURY VILLAGE HALL

Bibury Village Hall Management Committee is holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on Thursday 18th January. All villagers are welcome, so come along to meet the hard-working committee and to check out our newly decorated premises.

This has been a particularly busy year for the committee. We kicked off in April with an entertaining music concert from Graffiti Classics, followed in May by the hugely successful Coronation Party and the annual Australian Gardeners' visit. Both of which were 'blessed' by heavy rain, but it didn't dampen the spirit of those taking part.

This year's Bibury Show in July was particularly well supported by Bibury School with a wonderful display of paintings, handmade cards, and animals made from fruits and vegetables. September's Harvest Supper proved magical, and November's Christmas Fair was popular with villagers and tourists alike. And our regular monthly Rural Cinema attracted a loyal following. Then, just as the

Committee was drawing breath, the interior redecoration of the Village Hall took place in December.

The hall continues to be a popular venue for hire – hosting everything from Parish Council meetings to Craft Club, Gardening Club, Pilates Classes, Craft and Antiques Fairs, family events and, most recently, a 2-day fashion shoot. If you or any organisation are looking for a suitable venue (complete with stage and AV system) get in touch by contacting our Treasurer on 850649 or emailing suearnold400@gmail.com.

In the meantime, we hope to see you at **our AGM on Thursday, 18th January**.

NEWS FROM BARNESLEY

My name is Tom Page and I will be the new representative from Barnsley. Hopefully to be accepted onto the panel of the Village Life!

To start off, I thought I would write a short poem about January to set the mood.

January's breath, crisp and cold,
A winter tale, both young and old.
Frost-kissed morns and skies of grey,
A quiet start to the year's ballet.
Branches bare, a whispered hush,
Nature sleeps in a tranquil crush.
Snowflakes dance in a soft ballet,
Blanketing the world in shades of grey.
Resolutions, a fresh, hopeful start,
A canvas white, a work of art.
January, a month to dream,
In its chilly embrace, we gleam.
So, let the days unfold and chime,
In January's rhythm, a waltzing rhyme.
A new beginning, a pristine page,
In winter's grasp, we find our stage.

In the heart of our cosy village, where community spirit thrives, the local village hall has become a hub of health and happiness. This winter, residents are lacing up their sneakers and embracing the beat as the village hall introduces an invigorating dance fitness class.

Every week, the hall transforms into a vibrant dance floor, pulsating with energy and laughter. Residents of all ages come together to groove, shimmy, and break a sweat in a fun-filled, supportive environment. The dance fitness class has quickly become a favourite among locals, fostering physical wellness and camaraderie.

Led by a dynamic and enthusiastic instructor, the classes cater to various fitness levels, ensuring that everyone feels comfortable and engaged. Keeping things fresh and exciting.

What sets this dance fitness class apart is its inclusive atmosphere. The village hall has created an environment where residents feel welcome, regardless of their age. If you're interested, please contact: - Tania by email at tania.dance.fitness@gmail.com. The classes are every Thursday from 6 pm to 7 pm, and it costs £5 a session. Pay as you go.

After a substantial donation from the village festival, the village hall will now be getting new tables and chairs and WIFI installed. This is apart from the freshly installed heating system.

Next month we will have news about the coronation oak that has been beautifully restored, news on newcomers and people who have left the village.

BIBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the meeting held on Tuesday 12th December 2023

The meeting was held in the Baptist Church Hall because of the redecoration of the Village Hall

There were no members of the public present to hear the following discussed:

District Councillor David Fowles notified that: Parking - a review and update of the Council's Parking Strategy to better reflect the changing needs of service users will take place. Planning - Under the government's criteria for designation, a planning department must decide over 70% of its planning applications on time in order to avoid being placed into special measures. In April this year CDC was under this and was warned therefore of being at risk. The levelling up secretary gave the authority until June 2023 to "demonstrate improved performance". Polling Districts - Cotswold District Council is required to undertake a review of all polling districts and places every 5 years. The next one is due to be completed by 31 January 2025. However, given the imminent changes to Parliamentary constituency boundaries, and the upcoming Police and Crime Commissioner election in May 2024, it has been agreed that the review should be carried out as soon as possible so that polling districts and places are approved ahead of those elections and reflect the new constituency boundaries.

Highways Report: It had been notified to GCC Highways that the electronic speed sign coming into Bibury from the direction of Aldsworth is not working. This is now obsolete and so GCC are looking at the cost to replace. The wall repair alongside Awkward Hill is taking longer to complete than anticipated, due to issues arising, so that completion in February 2024 is now expected. Whilst it is planned to have an Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera installed on the B4425 coming into Arlington this has been slow to progress and the Clerk will chase this up.

The Arlington Row scheme for reducing run-off in rainy conditions, from Awkward Hill, has raised the question of gulley clearing which would be required at regular intervals. Whilst GCC Highways have insufficient resource to achieve this and require public liability insurance to be in place; someone locally has been approached who meets the criteria and can undertake the work. Whilst Highways still indicate that they have liability concerns the Parish Council concluded that the need for regular drain / gulley clearing is a village priority and we strongly wish to progress this opportunity so that this will be taken up with Highways.

It was noted that Andrew Burford (who is engaging with the Bibury Parking Working Group) has been promoted to be Parking Manager for GCC and so has more powers to support resolution of the parking / traffic issues we face, also that he is proposing to use Bibury / Cotswolds to pilot a new approach to patrol hours allocation.

Finance: A proposal was submitted by the Clerk and discussion held to approve the budget and set the Precept (amount paid via Council Tax to fund the Parish) for the Financial Year 2024 / 2025. It was noted that estimated expenditure in 2023 / 2024 is below budget (estimated - £18,112 versus budget £19,545). For 2024 / 2025 the budget is reasonably aligned with the current financial year whilst an amount of £2,500 is included for Traffic Initiatives which could include

additional enforcement. The proposed Precept for 2024 / 2025 is £18,695, a 2% increase on the previous financial year, which was approved.

Planning Applications: Two plans before us were supported by the Parish Council: Forge Cottage, Arlington Green, Arlington and tree works at Church House and the Church, Bibury.

Other: Post box – the Clerk will chase repair / replacement of the damaged post box outside Glebe House. It was positively noted that work is underway at the William Morris Tea-rooms and Post Office.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th February 2024 at the Village Hall (no Meeting in January)

BIBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

In December, our children have been very busy in preparation for their Christmas Nativity. The children were so excited to show off their singing and acting skills. Our school and North Cerney came together for the play to perform to parents and carers.

We've had a fantastic visit from Digibus – an IT charity based in Cheltenham. The children tried out a virtual reality headset. They were travelling on a rollercoaster through a dinosaur park! They programmed robots to walk, dance and move in different ways. They made a website page for a cafe and programmed another robot to speak. The children were thrilled to explore all the activities and were impeccably behaved throughout.

Acorns Class Early Years have been busy learning Phase 3 sounds in phonics and using these to write short captions in their daily writing sessions. In Maths we have been learning how to subitise (recognising dot patterns up to 5), order numbers, make different representations of number and find one more and one less. In foundation lessons, we have been learning about where our food comes from including a visit to the Trout Farm shop to see what was for sale.

Oaks Class Since the start of term, Oaks and Mighty Oaks have been looking at the Maya Civilisation. They have explored the world of the Maya, specifically where they were located and what the climate is like, their religion (how they worship and the types of Gods the Mayas prayed to) and Maya architectural achievements. Eventually, Oaks and Mighty will go onto study the possible reasons why the Maya city states declined after 900 AD and debate whether they think the Maya should be remembered today as a significant culture.

Mighty Oaks Class In science: we have begun a unit of work on materials, which continues next term. This has included exploring the properties of materials – the children tried to sell various things to the rest of the class by stating their properties and potential uses; experimenting with expanding air, and recognizing how to use insulating properties to keep things hot and cold; determining the factors that help solutes to dissolve in water.

Forest School It was very soggy at forest school this month. A small amount of digging created some slushy puddles to jump in! Lots of running and jumping in big puddles. Then quiet reflection time, before we returned to school.

The children, staff and school community would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Suki Pascoe, Head Teacher

Bibury C of E Primary School Tel: 01285 740268 E-mail: admin@bibury.gloucs.sch.uk For more information take a look at our website:

www.bibury.gloucs.sch.uk or come and visit us.

Rural Cinema: Thursday, 11th January, Bibury Village Hall

And the film is ... The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

Think of a typical road movie. You are probably imagining someone young and rebellious behind the wheel of an open-top car crossing the wide-open spaces of the United States. In this very British road movie, the journey from Devon to Berwick-on-Tweed is less glamorous but no less epic. It is the story of Harold Fry, played by Jim Broadbent, an unremarkable man who sets off on a remarkable 450-mile walk from to see a dying friend.

Based on Rachel Joyce's 2012 bestselling novel of the same name, this deceptively low-key movie is a tale of quiet heroism and self-discovery. More heart and soul than burning rubber, it shows that a film about someone walking doesn't have to be pedestrian.

What the critics said:

- "This politely unassuming little film builds into a wrenching examination of grief, guilt and eventual closure." Guardian
- "The lead performances are terrific." Daily Express
- "Broadbent is a wonder, so real and sincere it doesn't feel like acting. He can do in a single reaction shot what might otherwise take 20 script pages, and Penelope Wilton equals him." *'The Spectator'*
- , "The Film is a very English Odessey" *Financial Times*

Doors Open 7pm Film starts 7.30pm

Special announcement:

Guide Dogs' volunteers Sue and Paul are pleased to announce the arrival of 9 healthy pups. Yellow Labrador Carys produced 5 girls and 4 boys, they are a lovely mix of colours ranging from very blonde to rich fox red

Carys met boyfriend Harris, a light golden coloured Golden Retriever, at Guide Dogs' National Breeding Centre in Leamington Spa. Carys' father Perry, and his father Mariner, are black Labs. Mariner came to the UK as part of Guide Dogs of America breeding program gene exchange.

A big thank you to Guide Dogs for their fantastic support enabling Carys to bring up her pups at home. Katy, our GDs puppy midwife, visited weekly leading up to the birth and until the pups left us at nearly 8 weeks of age. We wish all the pups the very best as they start their placements and training within Guide Dogs.

Thank you also to our friends and family who helped to raise £250 by taking part in our "Guess how many puppies" competition. The winner, Chris, donated his prize to the fund total. Thank you also to George for organising a huge collection of old newspapers for the pups' spending.

This is Carys' second litter and she is now retiring from Guide Dogs to become our pet dog. Well done Carys.

BIBURY CRAFT CLUB

The summer seemed a long way back when the craft club met in November, but to our surprise and delight, the flowers we gathered for pressing back in July had turned out really well.

We were using the dried flowers to make bookmarks, labels and gift tags, employing a laminator to fix the flowers between the sheets. The simplest design was a vellum bookmark, where you arranged the flowers on the bookmark, then put it through the laminator. Punch a hole in the top, put a tassel through and you're done!

It was interesting to see how the flowers turned out. Flowers with intense dark colours such as blue hardy geraniums, kept their colour really well, as did violas. Cosmos, on the other hand, lost all their colour, as did the pale pink hardy geraniums. Foliage also dried well, including artemisia, maple leaves and the flowerets that make up the huge pompom flowers of Hydrangea 'Annabelle'.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 24 January at 2pm in the village hall. Our guest will be Jenny Lawrenson, who is an expert miniaturist. Jenny's dolls' houses will really inspire you – she makes everything herself, from intricate marquetry furniture to tiled floors to minuscule tapestry carpets.

If you'd like to be included on the mailing list, please drop us an email at biburycraftclub@gmail.com

Beverley Morgan-Davies

BIBURY GARDENING CLUB

We ended 2023 with our Christmas party, held at the Baptist Church schoolroom, and featuring Christmas games and the annual quiz.

There is no meeting in January, but in February we begin the gardening year again with a meeting in the village hall on Wednesday 14 February at 7.15pm. Yes, I know, it's Valentine's Day, but who cares about overpriced roses when snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are poking their heads through the soil?

February is the meeting at which we take annual subscriptions, so if you want to join the club, this is a good time to do it.

You don't have to be an expert gardener to join. You don't even have to have a garden – you just need to share an enthusiasm for plants and flowers.

Our programme consists of talks by a guest speaker in the village hall in spring and autumn, and garden visits in May, June, July and August.

Our annual subscription in 2024 will remain at £25. This should come as a relief to those of you who – like me – received insurance renewal quotes last month that seemed to be an exercise in extravagant humour rather than based on reality.

If you are interested, drop me an email at v.summerley@hotmail.com.

Victoria Summerley

THE OLD MAN OF THE PIKE

I thought as it was the beginning of a new year I would send in an article after more than a year's absence. Life has been a little fraught this last year, but it is now settling down to a manageable level. It seems that if you try and keep doing what you used to do, you just fail and this can be frustrating!

Even though I have not been putting pen to paper I have not going around with my eyes closed. I have been noting that in and around my garden I have seen more raptors visiting. Everyday we have visits from a kestrel that takes advantage of the electricity pole to survey the area, a sparrowhawk is seen flying though at high speed but not as yet with a kill. It must be as the number of smaller birds has gone down on the bird feeders. We also have our regular visits of buzzards and red kites quartering the patch and sometimes landing in the trees. We have had the odd hedgehog or two in the garden, I hope they did not find too many slugs and snails about, any less is a benefit. I am always on the look-out for the unusual and I hope one day I will see it.

I have not been able to do as much gardening as I would have liked to do but I have managed to produce some vegetables. This year again I planted some Runner French Beans, I planted some the year before but because of the drought and heat they did not do that well, so I tried again this year and I was well pleased. Not quite as well as the normal Runner Beans but well worth the effort and a change of flavour. I do like to try different things now and again.

During this this last year our family has increased by two with new great grand children bringing us more pleasure, joy and fun. Time to go now so may I wish you all "All The Best For Twenty-four now..

TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK – JANUARY 2024

It's been a difficult time for Residents in Arlington Row, as Awkward Hill was closed at the end of September, pending re-building the wall outside Rosemary Cottage - now in progress. With no access to their Parking area at the end of the Row, Residents have had to navigate, often in the dark, along the Row to their homes. The National Trust provided limited lighting outside No1 – currently empty, but with difficulties trying to park during the day on The Street, we all look forward to completion of the wall, and renewed access to the Row hopefully by February. We have been given to understand that the National Trust will start work on No 1, Arlington Row to convert it to a Holiday Let early in the New Year.

Meanwhile, the Visitors continue to come, in unabated numbers and pass The Row on their way around the Village, often asking why they can't get up Awkward Hill & how to get to the Trout Farm. In December, of course, there were the usual enquiries about the Duck Race from Visitors, and how it works. I gave my usual response, which was that 'we collect about 2000 ducks up by the Trout Farm, and release them into the river to race to the Pedestrian Bridge beside Arlington Row'. The winning duck numbers get a prize' Asked just how we manage to get all these ducks together at one time (by those who think they're wild), we explain patiently that most of them are plastic!. It then seems to dawn on them, often slowly, the reality of the fact that all of them are not of the feathered variety...

Arlington was looking quite festive before Christmas, despite a lot of construction work going on on both sides of the River. The River has remained at a useful level, and wildlife has flourished. A 'Photo Shoot' took place along Arlington Row in early December over two days & apart from a little disruption to Residents, a useful donation of £750 was given to the Parish Council. I was hoping to be asked to be an 'extra', but unfortunately they didn't need my services..

A Happy & Healthy New Year to all in 2024! Brian Skarda

WINTER HELP

When the snow is deep & drifted,
and the air is full of sleet,
I wonder how the birdies
find food that they can eat?

I like to scatter crumbs outdoors
to feed the happy throng,
and listen to their thanks
By bursting into song!

If everyone would spread some crumbs,
upon the pure white snow,
The birds will not go hungry,
when colds winds begin to blow!

ROUND & ABOUT

We welcome John Diamond & Jen Bowman to 15, The Street, which used to be The Gallery. They have recently moved to Bibury from London and hope to get involved with Village Activities as soon as practical. We wish them a long & happy stay in Bibury.

It was good to see so many social events taking place in the Village in December. Many thanks to the Baptist Church for arranging a wonderful Christmas Community Lunch. At the time of writing we are looking forward the Christmas Carol service and carollers going round the village.,

Finally, we congratulate Sylvia King on her 80th Birthday! Sylvia was born and grew up in Bibury and has many memories of Bibury, including reminding us that that he Gallery was formerly own by the Portlocks!,

As always we would welcome any contribution for Village Life from our readers – especially if, like the John and Jen, you have recently moved into the area so we can welcomed you formerly to the village. or if you have memories of the area that might be of interest to fellow residents. – like the one below.

Letters To the Editorial Team.

I would be grateful if you could pass on my appreciation to Roger Staton who studies the archives of Bibury, for his complimentary mention of my great-grandfather , James Arkell, who owned the Village shop in 1882. He also had the coal 'franchise' and collected the supply from a depot near Fossebridge (I believe).

One of his daughters, Emma, married Arthur Garlick , also a Bibury resident, and my father, Albert, was born on 6th December 1907 in Arlington Row. There were 3 boys eventually, James, Albert and Aubrey. I never knew my grandmother, Emma, as she died some years before I was born. Sincere wishes for 2024 to Village Life magazine and long may it continue.

Brenda M. Davies (née Garlick)

(From the Panel. Thank you Brenda for your reminiscences of Bibury Past. Those 'older' Panel members remember your father sending in some of his memories which we were happy to print).



RURAL CINEMA

Bibury Village Hall – Thursday, 11th January

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

Drama, Cert:12A, Run time 1hr 50min.

Starring: Jim Broadbent, Penelope Wilton

Screenplay: Rachel Joyce. Directed by: Hettie Macdonald.

Doors open 7.00pm Film starts 7.30pm Tickets on the door

Come early to catch up with friends and enjoy a drink before the film begins