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Story, page 30**



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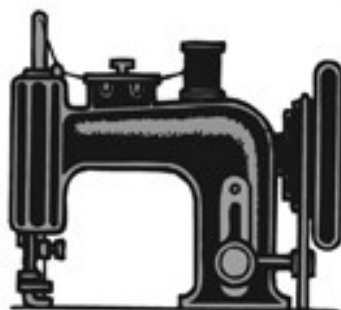


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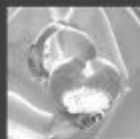


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## USEFUL CONTACTS

### **Bitton AFC**

(Western League Premier Division)  
[www.pitchero.com/clubs/bittonafc](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/bittonafc)

### **Bitton AFC Juniors**

**Contact:** Dave Fletcher  
**Tel:** 0117 932 2521  
**Email:**  
[fletchandcarol@btinternet.com](mailto:fletchandcarol@btinternet.com)

### **Bitton Archers**

Shoot at Bitton AFC  
[www.bittonarchers.com](http://www.bittonarchers.com)

### **Bitton Bellringers**

Practice night Mondays  
**Tower captain:** Sue Jay  
**Tel:** 0117 932 2424

### **Bitton Combined Charities**

**Contact:** Ken Gibson  
**Tel:** 0117 932 2122

### **Bitton Community Choir**

**Contact:** Nicola Bennetts  
**Tel:** 0117 932 4696

### **Bitton Cricket Club**

Bitton Recreation Ground  
3 Saturday senior teams, 1 Sunday senior team and 5 youth teams  
[bitton.play-cricket.com](http://bitton.play-cricket.com)

**Chairman:** Tim Dyer  
**Tel:** 0117 985 9139

### **Bitton Flower Arranging Club**

3rd Tuesday afternoon of the month at St Mary's Church Hall  
**Contact:** Janet Ballinger  
**Tel:** 0117 932 4728

### **Bitton Gardening Club**

St Mary's Church Hall, 3rd Monday in the month (plus garden visits)  
**Email:** [b.hetzel@btinternet.com](mailto:b.hetzel@btinternet.com)

### **Bitton Ladies Football Club**

Bitton Recreation Ground  
[bittonlfc.weebly.com/](http://bittonlfc.weebly.com/)

### **Bitton Lunch Club**

Last Thursday of each month  
**Contact:** Jill Gibson  
**Tel:** 0117 932 2122

### **Bitton Parish Council**

[www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk)  
**Clerk:** Sharon Robbins  
**Tel:** 01454 868 102  
**Email:** [bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **Bitton Parish History Group**

[www.bittonhistory.org.uk](http://www.bittonhistory.org.uk)  
**Secretary:** Mike Gates  
**Tel:** 0117 932 8777  
**Email:** [mg122@btinternet.com](mailto:mg122@btinternet.com)

### **Bitton Pre-School**

[www.bittonpreschool.com/](http://www.bittonpreschool.com/)  
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### **Bitton Road Runners**

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[www.bittonroadrunners.co.uk](http://www.bittonroadrunners.co.uk)

### **Bitton Sports & Social Club**

**Tel:** 0117 932 3222

(More overleaf)

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Bitton Village Residents' Association**

[www.bvra.uk](http://www.bvra.uk)

**Contact:** Andrew Ward

**Email:** [andrew@wardandrew.com](mailto:andrew@wardandrew.com)

**Bitton WI**

Second Monday of the month at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall

**Tel:** 0117 932 2059

**Flicks in the Sticks**

Free film nights in St Mary's Church Hall on the 3rd Friday of the month, September to April (not December)

**Email:** [b.hetzel@btinternet.com](mailto:b.hetzel@btinternet.com)

**Girl Guide HQ, Cherry Gardens**

Guides, Brownies & Rainbows

**Contact:** Gill Boyes

**Tel:** 0117 970 8056

**Email:** [gill.boyes@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gill.boyes@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Kingswood MP:** Chris Skidmore

[www.chrisskidmore.com](http://www.chrisskidmore.com)

**Tel:** 0117 908 1524 (Constituency)

**Tel:** 0207 219 7094 (Westminster)

**Email:** [chris@chrisskidmore.com](mailto:chris@chrisskidmore.com)

**Royal British Legion**

**(Bitton & Oldland branch)**

**Contact:** Jeff Dando

**Tel:** 0117 932 2608

**Email:** [jeffjeffdando@gmail.com](mailto:jeffjeffdando@gmail.com)

**Scouts:** 34<sup>th</sup> Kingswood/1<sup>st</sup> St Mary's

Beavers meet Monday evenings at

St Mary's Church Hall. Cubs &

Scouts Thursday evenings at

The Meadows Primary School

**Contact:** David Harris

**Tel:** 0117 932 7755

**Email:** [djaharris@hotmail.com](mailto:djaharris@hotmail.com)

**South Gloucestershire councillor for Bitton:** Erica Williams

**Tel:** 0786 018 1215

**Email:**

[erica.williams@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:erica.williams@southglos.gov.uk)

**St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group**

(Wednesday mornings at St Mary's Church Hall)

**Contact:** Ali Smith

**Email:** [alismith241@gmail.com](mailto:alismith241@gmail.com)

**St Mary's Church**

[www.stmarysbitton.org.uk/](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk/)

**Vicar:** Rev Jeremy Andrew

**Tel:** 0117 967 2724

**Curate:** Rev Anika Gardiner

**Tel:** 0117 932 5305

**Churchwardens:**

Barbara Merritt

**Tel:** 0117 932 3926

Jacqui Harris

**Tel:** 0117 937 4706

**St Mary's Church Hall**

**Bookings secretary:** Jill Gibson

**Tel:** 0117 932 2122

**Email:**

[kenandjill@gibsonuk.freemove.co.uk](mailto:kenandjill@gibsonuk.freemove.co.uk)

**The Meadows Primary School**

**Tel:** 0117 932 2203

**Upton Cheyney URC**

**Minister:** Rev Meryl White

**Tel:** 0775 914 6645

**Email:** [Meryl.white@btinternet.com](mailto:Meryl.white@btinternet.com)

## **Churches & services**



### **UPTON CHEYNEY URC**

**Elder:** Muriel Williams  
**0117 961 6843**

**Minister:** Meryl White  
**0775 914 6645**

**Sunday services are at 3pm**

<b>March 4</b>	Service led by Janet Donnelly
<b>March 11</b>	Mothering Sunday service led by Meryl White
<b>March 18</b>	Service led by Meryl White
<b>March 25</b>	Service led by Jenny Clarke

*There will be a coffee afternoon on Tuesday March 27 at 2pm*

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH**

**Vicar:**  
Rev Jeremy Andrew  
The Vicarage, Warmley  
**0117 967 2724**

**Ordained minister:**  
Rev Richard Humphrey  
Splinters  
Kenilworth Drive  
Willsbridge  
**0117 949 0502**  
*Continued overleaf*



**Lay ministers:**

Ken Gibson, 8 Church Road,  
Bitton  
0117 932 2122

**Churchwardens:**

Barbara Merritt,  
32 Bath Road, Bitton  
0117 932 3926

David Bailey, Westover,  
Bath Road, Bitton  
0117 932 8949

Jacqui Harris,  
29 St Anne's Drive, Wick  
0117 937 4706

## Message from the Assistant Curate

**A**s I type this article, I am reminded that spring is on its way - slowly but surely, *writes Anika Gardner.*

If you are out and about you might have seen snowdrops, crocuses and other flowers. Yes, it has been a bit bleak, wet and cold - but spring is coming.

While technically spring doesn't start until later on in March, I think it is fair to welcome spring early.

A couple of years ago, British Gas commissioned a survey about spring cleaning.

On average, house-proud Britons will spend 11 hours scrubbing, mopping and vacuuming their homes in time for spring. Around 70% of people will have an intensive tidy-up at the beginning of March - good news if you want to burn some calories: a deep clean burns 660 calories.

Householders will spend an average of 42 minutes vacuuming burning 136 calories (don't be too excited about that - that is only about three chocolate biscuits).

The annual spring clean is a tradition which has been around for centuries. And some researchers have traced potential origins to the Jewish practice of thoroughly cleaning the home



Anika Gardner



in preparation for Passover, the celebration of the Israelites' liberation from slavery and their Exodus from Egypt. Feel free to do some more research and let me know what you find out.

As well as giving our home a good clean and maybe declutter it, it is also a good time to have a look at our personal lives and see if anything needs decluttering or a deep clean. And you might be right in the middle of it as some people decide that Lent is a good time to re-focus, look at our spiritual well-being and tidy up our lives a bit, ready for Easter.

If you are already doing that, great - keep going. If not, maybe you could think about a spring clean. This could be looking at internal aspects, do a spiritual health check ,i.e. reading the Bible, praying, etc., or it could be an actual decluttering in order to help us focus.

I am reminded of the parable in Luke 12:31-21 where a rich farmer has run out of room for all his crops. So he tears down his barns in order to build bigger ones, to store in all his grain and goods. Verse 21 is a harsh warning about storing up treasure for ourselves and not being rich towards God. It also reminds me of Matthew 6:21 which is part of the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent: *Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

It is so easy to get sucked into the cycle of storing up things. We live in a society that bombards us constantly with the message that we need more, more of this and that. Consumerism is everywhere. It shapes the way we eat, shop, rest, think, love and believe. We can't escape it. The popular belief is that life should be lived to the max; by contrast, Jesus modelled a life of joyful limitation: free to do and free not to do. Joy in enough.

A couple of years ago, I read the book 'Consumer Detox' by Mark Powley and I might read it again this year. It is a really good but challenging read about all the stuff in our lives and  
*(Continued overleaf)*

encouraging us to look at a healthy rhythm of life, not being sucked into the consumer cycle and in turn living our lives more intentionally. (You can borrow this book if you'd like to).

Towards the end of that book is a poem that I would like to share with you all.

**The Promise of Life**

Because life is a gift, we live thankfully,  
Savour what we have,  
Pray for what we need.

No longer hurried, distracted, or worried,  
We'll walk through each moment with God.

Because everything is a gift, we live with open hands,  
Tread lightly on the earth,  
Share freely our homes and our things.

No longer restlessly chasing identity,  
We'll be known by our love, not our logos.

Because giving is a gift, we live generously,  
Give ourselves deeply to family and community,  
Give joyfully to those in need.

No longer caught in the consumer dream,  
We'll invest in the kingdom of love.

*www.breathenetwork.org*

**From the Parish Register**

**Baptism**

28 January

Elliot Edward Daniel Goodwin

## Services at St Mary's in March

**Sunday, March 4**

**10.30:** Parish Communion

**Sunday, March 11**

**8am:** Holy Communion  
**10.30am:** Family Parade Service  
for Mothering Sunday followed  
by lunch at Avon Valley Railway

**Sunday, March 18**

**10.30am:** Morning Worship

**Friday, March 23**

**9.30am:** Celtic Communion,  
followed by coffee and cakes

**Sunday, March 25**  
**PALM SUNDAY**

**8am:** Holy Communion  
**9.30am:** Family Café Church -  
'The Story of the Great Parade'  
**10.30am:** Palm Sunday Praise

**Thursday, March 29**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**7.30pm:** Communion of the Last  
Supper in church, followed  
by a time of vigil

**Friday, March 30**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**

**2pm:** The Last Hour

## St Mary's Matters

**W**e will be busy during Lent with Lent groups around the parish, with filling the Jar of Change in church for WaterAid, and starting the churchyard tidying and clearing on Saturday 3rd March at 10am.

Mothering Sunday is on 11th March, when we have the Scout Parade and Family Service, and we will be able to celebrate mothers and carers and give flowers. After the service the Scouts will be selling cakes for Scout funds.

Palm Sunday, 25th March, will be especially busy. There is Family Café Church at 9.30am with bacon sandwiches and fresh fruit breakfasts, when the Palm Sunday story will be told informally with crafts and games. Then at 10.30am there will be Palm Sunday Praise, a short service with the traditional hymns which we all associate with the day. Sorry to have two services but we couldn't think of a way to combine the different forms so we look forward to seeing you at one or the other or both.



It is so easy to skip from Palm Sunday to Easter Day and not to think and ponder upon the sorrowful events between. The Maundy Thursday evening service, which tells of the events of the Last Supper, will take place in St Mary's on 29th March at 7.30pm and on Good Friday (30th March), we commemorate the last hour of Jesus' suffering on the Cross at 2pm.

On Easter Sunday, 1st April, there will be an early Communion service at 8am to welcome the day, and at 10.30am an Easter Celebration Communion Service will be followed by an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard. We are aiming to avoid this being too lengthy a service so that families can enjoy it together.

The space at the back of the church gives us much more room for Family Café Church and also baptism services. We all really enjoyed the Burns Supper which saw 70 people seated at tables with tartan decorations and yielded a welcome £660 for church funds. At the time of writing we are looking forward to the jazz concert which will be another new experience.

For several years now the church has been open by day during the summer months and this is to happen again from 25th March. A rota of people take a week each unlocking and locking the church and if this is something you might be willing to do, Pete Midgley on 932 6898 will be glad to provide details of what is involved

**Barbara Merritt  
Churchwarden**

## **Family Café Church**

**Sunday 25th March at 9.30am**

**A relaxed and informal service on each fourth Sunday.**

**It is aimed at families with primary school and pre-school aged children although everyone is very welcome. There is a café feel to it with refreshments available throughout.**

**In March we will be celebrating Palm Sunday and although there is no procession around the village this year, Family Café Church will be followed by Palm Praise when we will be able to join in the traditional Palm Sunday songs and hymns.**

## **Fred Gumisiriza: a lay reader in Uganda**

**O**ne of the things the Deanery Uganda Link Committee does is to support training for a lay reader in each of our three Link Dioceses. Many parishes rely wholly on a lay reader for ministry, and readers commonly have more than one large parish to serve, and maybe only a bicycle for travel.

In autumn 2017, we received an account from Fred Gumisiriza about life as a lay reader in Ruwenzori Diocese, Uganda.

Here are some of the issues he raises. Please pray!

- Poverty – lay readers often lack money to buy essentials for their families, and have no savings to cope with emergencies, such as sickness. Although they should receive payment from the Church, in practice they receive perhaps a quarter of the income they should.
- Lay readers really want to serve God better. Training and education is the key to this. Pray for more educational opportunities, and that lay readers will be able to be released from their Church duties and family responsibilities to attend.
- Energy for travel and to attend meetings, conduct services, do pastoral visiting and preach the Good News.
- Somewhere to stay, and food, etc. when away from home working in different areas of large parishes
- Success in income generation and diversification projects to reduce reliance on subsistence agriculture for both lay readers and the whole population.
- Homes in which lay readers and their families can live.

Praise God for the commitment and joyful self-sacrifice demonstrated by Fred and all lay readers. Fred says that he is inspired by Jesus, the great teacher who faced the same

hardships. He speaks of God as his “helper, provider, doctor, adviser, teacher and even comfort so that I am never too tired to serve Him”.

Fred and others are totally committed to preaching the Gospel because that is what they are called to do, and they refuse to be discouraged or prevented by tiredness.

My thanks to the churches of our benefice for their annual support of Fred and many others in Uganda through the Link.

**Ken Gibson**  
**Benefice Uganda Link Representative**

## News from Upton Cheyney URC

**W**e will be soon in spring with winter behind us once more. With the slightly warmer weather, we can move back into the chapel from the schoolroom for the services, although for a while we will still look forward to the welcoming fire in the school room afterwards for tea and coffee.



The new music system has been ‘interesting’ but most people are now experts in Bluetooth and playlists - well, Muriel and Joan are. Joy and Joan have been at it again, raising more renovation funds from a table top sale in Oldland. Graham has sorted repairs to the stairs allowing us to safely use the upstairs rooms again. So even in the winter, when many plants appear dormant outside, there has been much activity inside the chapel. Our thoughts and prayers at this time are with John Short who is having an extended period in hospital.

*(Continued overleaf)*

With spring comes Lent and the Bible study sessions on Tuesday afternoons in conjunction with St Mary's. They continue to prove popular with people from many local churches. And then on to Easter. Traditionally we join the congregation at Wick on Good Friday and this year will be no exception. It's so interesting to meet up with friends again.

Then on Easter Saturday we will be holding a coffee morning with crafts available for children and young people. So if you have some free time, come along, bring your children and your grandchildren and meet others from the local villages.

Finally a quick word on our renovation plan. The Synod (who do the listed building work) appear to have all the paperwork, plans and photos that they need. Now the local planners also seem to have everything they want as well. All is therefore quiet on this front for a while. In the meantime Graham is now starting to beaver away with getting quotes so that we can start work as soon as everyone says yes.

**Stuart Turner**

## **BITTON GARDENING CLUB**

will be hosting a

### **Willow Weaving Workshop**

on

**MONDAY 19th March**

**at 6pm**

Because of the limited number of places,  
this will be a members-only meeting.  
For more information contact Bridget Hetzel on  
[b.hetzel@btinternet.com](mailto:b.hetzel@btinternet.com)

**New members are always welcome**



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Thank you to everyone who joined the Bitton Village Residents' Association's annual spring clean last month

## **Bitton Parish History Group**

The next History Group meeting, on Thursday 8th March, will be about the local buildings that help to bring back memories of earlier times, *writes Mike Gates*.

St Mary's Church will host the Show & Tell meeting at the normal time of 7pm for 7.30pm. In the meantime, please look through your old photos and bring along early (around 7pm) so that we can scan the photos to show on the screen.

Local pubs, shops, churches, houses, farms, workplaces and village scenes often reflect changes that have taken place and past memories.

Entrance will be free, with any small donation gratefully received. Everyone is welcome. The group will also briefly hold its AGM. If you are interested in contributing some time to be on the committee to help organise events, let the chair Stephanie Bailey know on 932 8949.



The next guided footpath walk jointly organised by Bitton and Hanham Abbots parish councils is on Sunday 18th March.

Meeting at 2.30pm at Swineford Picnic Area, this will be an enjoyable climb to Upton Cheyney, North Stoke and Prospect Stile. This is very hilly and will include the option to climb Kelston Round Hill, *pictured*.

To find out more contact Clive Brett on 0117 3295183, 0743 486 9429 or email [clive@brett.org.uk](mailto:clive@brett.org.uk)

## **Concert with afternoon tea**

There will be a concert at Hanham United Reformed Church in Tabernacle Road on Saturday 24th March at 3pm. Jenny Harris will be playing the flute, with Natalie Morton on the piano and Roger Greenhalgh on bass.

Entrance is free and there will be afternoon tea. There will be a retiring collection to raise money for the Bristol Heart Institute Appeal at Bristol Royal Infirmary.

# February

Wet and damp.  
Cold and shivery.  
The monotonous weather  
Continues.

Except.

Yesterday was the exception.  
Yesterday the sun  
Shone bright  
In the blue sky.

Birds began to welcome spring.  
Carouselling a new year.  
A lilting song  
Filled the cold clear air,  
Bringing joy  
To my heart.

A sky lark sings.  
Clear and loud.  
Whilst flying  
Straight  
Across my path.

Its tiny body  
Filled with energy  
Calling, calling,  
As it flies.

The mahonia bush  
Flooded with blossoms.  
Fills the air  
With its glorious scent.

It can only be Spring.  
Welcomed by all  
As the dismal days of winter  
Lift their heads,  
Allowing the earth  
To breathe once again.

***Brenda Claxton***

## Bitton WI report

**A**s usual there was a warm welcome from president Ann Coales at the new time of 7.30pm, *writes Jean Hook*. Ann told us of forthcoming events and one you can all come to on Thursday March 15th to see the new parish hall at the rear of Redfield Edge School in Oldland from 10am to noon. There is a car park and there will be home-made cakes!

The speaker was Andy Workman. He worked as a traffic PC for 32 years and the upsetting scenes took their toll. He re-trained as a clinical hypnotherapist and psychotherapist. He explained how the brain works, starting with depression; apparently we all have it at times. The part I liked was that we say men can't multi-task but apparently no one can - it's just that woman are quicker than men. Andy has written a book, *Cavemen & Polar Bears*.

The next meeting is on Monday March 12th when we will hear from the Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company. The Flower Club meeting is on Tuesday 20th at 2pm at the same venue - Bitton Church Hall. All are welcome.

### *Looking Back...to March 1973*

In this month in 1973, Mrs Richards wrote about Bitton's AS-NU shop in the parish magazine: "Business continues to be good and we are most grateful to our customers, some of whom return to see us regularly. We have sent £390 to the church since last May. We asked for 10% of the money to go to outside charities of our choosing."

***Also in this month in 1973:*** The pilot episode of the sitcom *Open All Hours* was broadcast on BBC2

***Next month: Bitton in April 1995***

## **Foodbank success**

Linden Homes opened a series of new food bank collection points, including at their new Bitton Mill development, in December and January to help those in need.

They invited schools, businesses and residents to get involved in collecting non-perishable food after the festive period. The food has been passed to Keynsham Foodbank which provides emergency supplies and assistance to local people who are referred to them in crisis.

Sue Scholfield, sales and marketing director for Linden Homes, said: "There is often a drive to help charities in the run-up to Christmas and so we wanted to offer some additional support afterwards. We also thought people may have some spare items to donate after Boxing Day and have the time to do so.

"We'd like to thank everyone who helped and as it was a successful initiative, I can definitely see us doing it again."

## **The February quiz answers**

Last month's quiz gave you clues to musical instruments. Here are the answers (with alternatives that were allowed):

**1.** Accord-ion, **2.** Kettle Drum, **3.** Bagpipe, **4.** Cornet, **5.** Piccolo, **6.** Banjo (Jo March in Little Women), **7.** Lute, **8.** Mandolin (Man-dole-in), **9.** Triangle (as in Bermuda; also Double Bass & Alphorn), **10.** Piano (= italian word for storey of building), **11.** Marimba (ma-rim-ba), **12.** Castanets, **13.** Lyre, **14.** Cymbals, **15.** Oboe (Oh bow), **16.** Saxophone, **17.** Trumpet, **18.** Harp (Harpsichord), **19.** French Horn, **20.** Harmonica (Monica and Ross Geller in 'Friends').

There were lots of entries but only three teams them all correct: Jenny & Peter Harris, Alan & Sue Murtagh, and the Perrett/Godwin team. Winning the prize are the Harris family.

## The March quiz

This month's quiz gives you first letters of well-known British novelists, including classic and contemporary, crime, etc.

Please note the deadline for entries, new adverts and copy is now the 15th of the month - send to the Editor, 18 Church Road, Bitton, BS30 6HH or email Becky Feather at *bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk*

1. E - - - - - W - - - - -
2. K - - - - - I - - - - - - -
3. A - - - - - C - - - - - - - -
4. E - - - - - B - - - - -
5. M - - - - - A - - - -
6. H - - - - - M - - - - -
7. K - - F - - - - - - -
8. I - - - M - - - - - - -
9. W - - - - - B - - - - -
10. H - - - - - F - - - - - - -
11. F - - - - - - - F - - - - - - -
12. W - - - - - G - - - - - - -
13. Z - - - - - S - - - - -
14. N - - - H - - - - - - -
15. J - - - G - - - - - - - - -
16. D - - - - - L - - - - - - -
17. A - - - - - T - - - - - - -
18. I - - - B - - - - -
19. D - - - - - A - - - - -
20. G - - - - - O - - - - -

**Name:**

**Contact:**

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there will be time to chat with friends.**

**Admission FREE**



## ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

### ACCOUNTANTS

Norton Tax Shops Ltd (page 35)

### BUILDERS

Wilton Building Contractors (page 43)

### CARE HOMES

Collingwood (page 37)

### CHARITY

Royal British Legion (page 8)

### CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Bristle Chimney (page 36)

Soot n Sweep (page 6)

### CHIROPODIST

Absolutely Feet (page 9)

### CHOCOLATES

Nicola Eaton (page 326)

### COMPUTER SERVICES

David Harris (page 42)

### DECORATING

Steve Painter Decorating Services  
(page 37)

### ELECTRICAL

SM Wilkins Electrical Services  
(page 7)

### ESTATE AGENTS

Andrews (page 11)

Davies & Way (page 2)

Fine & Country (page 3)

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Alderwick (page 38)

Roy Preddy (page 11)

### GARDEN CENTRES

Fonthill (page 5)

### GARDENING

Avon Valley Landscapes (Page 9)

### GENERAL STORES

HRD Hardware (page 4)

### GIFTS

Engraved Glass Hearts (page 8)

### HAIRDRESSING

Just Kim (page 4)

### HEATING

Combi-Heat (page 34)

### MOTORING

Bitton Motor Company (back page)

MC Car Body (page 42)

### OVEN CLEANING

Pro-Oven Cleaning (page 41)

### PLASTERERS

Matt Bressington Plastering  
(page 41)

### POST OFFICE

Oldland Common Post Office & Mace  
(page 38)

### PUBS

Crown Inn (page 10)

The Upton Inn (page 40)

### TAILORS

Parker's Sewing Services  
(page 6)

### TIMBER

Bendrey Bros (page 39)

### VETS

Highcroft (page 39)

Oldland House (page 7)

### WELDING

Hanney (page 34)

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