



CHARTERED SURVEYORS, VALUERS, AUCTIONEERS ESTATE AGENTS & LETTING AGENTS

Serving Oldland Common, Bitton, Upton Cheyney, Swineford & surrounding villages in the Bristol & Bath areas

FREE PRE-SALES ADVICE FROM PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED STAFF, UNRIVALLED LOCAL KNOWLEDGE & COMPETITIVE FEES

> 0117 986 3681 01225 400400

1 High Street, Keynsham & 489 Bath Road, Saltford

email: stephenmorris@daviesandway.com website: www.daviesandway.com







By instructing your local Fine & Country agent, your property will not only be marketed locally and regionally, but nationally and even internationally via Fine & Country's Head Office and Showroom located at one of the most prestigious addresses in the world – 121 Park Lane, Mayfair, London W1.

With over 40ft of window display on Park Lane, we not only reach a lucrative buyers' market other agents cannot, we also market all Fine & Country properties 24/7 through touchscreen technology, enabling customers to browse the details of Fine & Country properties from around the globe, even when the office is closed.

For more information on promoting your property in our Park Lane office or for a free valuation, please contact; Fine & Country, 36 Gay Street, Bath, Somerset BAT 2NT 01225 320032 | bath@fineandcountry.com





188 High Street Oldland Common Bristol BS30 900

Tel: 0117 932 3539



HRD Hardware

plumbing and electrical supplies pet foods paints tools gifts fabric dyes paraffin

20 Westcourt Drive, Oldland Common. tel: (0117) 932 3068

FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES:

Becky Feather

Editor

Phone: 0117 932 5037

Email: bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk
Website: www.stmarysbitton.org.uk







A family run business that's been growing since 1967.

www.fonthill-lakeside.com



BATH ROAD, BITTON. 0117 932 3110 OPEN MON-FRI 8.00-5.00 SAT 9.00-5.00 SUN 10.30-4.30











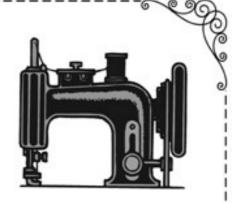


Parker's Sewing Services

Clothing alteration and repairs

Soft furnishings

Specialist projects and commissions undertaken



Telephone Lizzie: 0117 9326662 Mobile: 07837126945

Email:parkerssewingservices@yahoo.co.uk



Soot n Sweep

For all your chimney sweeping needs

All types of chimneys, flues & AGAs swept and cleaned



Contact Nick Wilcox 07983 215312 01179 492258

NACS qualified & certificates issued



S M Wilkins Electrical Services

- FREE QUOTES
- COMPETITIVE RATES
 - FULLY INSURED
- SIX-YEAR WARRANTY
- OVER 20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
- Testing & inspection
- Landlord certs (EICR)
- Fault finding/repairs
- Fuse board replacement
- Extra sockets/lights
- Cooker/shower installation
- Smoke alarms
- Security/outdoor lighting



Mobile: 0771 218 9118



Email: smwilkins.electricalservices@gmail.com





Absolutely Feet

Caring for your feet, in your own home.

Professional treatment of corns, callus, fungal infections, painful or thickened nails, diabetic foot care, nail trimming etc.

Joanne Nash MCFHP MAFHP
Insured & Registered Foot Health Professional

07881 530600 absolutelyfeet@hotmail.com

Hanney Welding Limited

For all your Welding & Fabrication requirements

Eastover Works, Golden Valley Lane, Bitton

Tel: 0117 932 2647

Email: martin@hanneywelding.co.uk

Want to advertise in Focal Point?
We can help with your artwork at no extra cost.
Give us a call on 0117 932 5037 to find out more

BRISTOL B530 6HJ

National strength, locally delivered.

Get moving to a brand new home



- Struggling to sell? We could be your buyer with Part Exchange!
- Or if a small deposit is holding you back, move with just a 5% deposit using Help to Buy'
- And get your Stamp Duty paid*



BITTON MILL BRISTOL BS30 6HJ

2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes from £264,995

01173 216 589 lindenhomes.co.uk/bittonmill





YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE OR OTHER DEST SECURED ON IT. Credit is secured against your home. Computer generated image and photograph show typical lander home. Interior may include optional upgrades or notion, an arbitish at additional cost. Single: to totake, Help to list yournal, Cardition and arotable on which depropries in Engined only. Eligible applicants will be offered an equity learn up to a maximum of 20% of the purchase price (based on the open market value). A pplicants are equived to found at least 80% of the purchase price by means of a conventional mortgage, savings/sport in view on equited. The equity learn is provided by the HCA and held as a second change. This offer is not available in conjunction with any other promotion. Full details will be provided on equaltyfart facturage in available on selected funders home only. We means the right to enhance to agree to Part Eachungs of your current home and we are under no obligation to give reasons why. Part Eachungs may not be as autibable inconjunction with any other offer. For fall forms and conditions apply. Paid as a cash lump sum alterance upon legal completion as the equivalent of Stamp Duty Land Tax changes. Not applicable to second home covernor or investor purchases. Price and details corructat time of opining to press.



JOIN US AL FRESCO IN THE FRESHFORD, OLD CROWN & CROSS GUNS GARDENS FOR OUR POP UP RESTAURANT EVENINGS: FEATURING BESPOKE SEASONAL MENUS PREPARED & COOKED BY OUR CHEFS USING A VARIETY OF OPEN FIRE COOKING METHODS.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS ONLY. WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS ON SELECT DATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

23RD MARCH - FRESHFORD 25TH APRIL - CROSS GUNS - VEGAN SPECIAL 23RD MAY - OLD CROWN 27TH JULY - FRESHFORD 19TH SEPTEMBER - CROSS GUNS 26TH OCTOBER - OLD CROWN



The Old Crown Inn

Kelston Bath BAI 9AQ 01225 423 032

info@oldcrownkelston.com www.oldcrownkelston.com





The inn at Freshford

The Hill
Bath
BA2 7WG
01225 722250
info@theinnatfreshford.com
www.theinnatfreshford.com

■ InnFreshford
 ■ In





Cross Guns Avoncliff

Bradford-on-Avon Wiltshire BAIS 2HB 01225 862 335 infe@crossgunsavoncliff.com

www.crossgunsavoncliff.com

f @ CrossGunsAvoncliff
CrossGunsAvoncliff

ROY PREDDY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

2 Cossham Street, Mangotsfield BS16 9EN (0117) 9562834

We are at your service 24 hours a day
We will help and guide you every step of the way
We will guide you through our choice of funeral plans
We can help and advise you choose a memorial
We are members of the National Association of Funeral Directors

Our other Bristol businesses can similarly help you -

Roy Preddy - Kingswood (0117) 9446051

TB & H Pendock - Hambrook (0117) 9566774

Stenner & Hill - Shirehampton (0117) 9823188

R. Davies & Son - Westbury-on-Trym (0117) 9628954

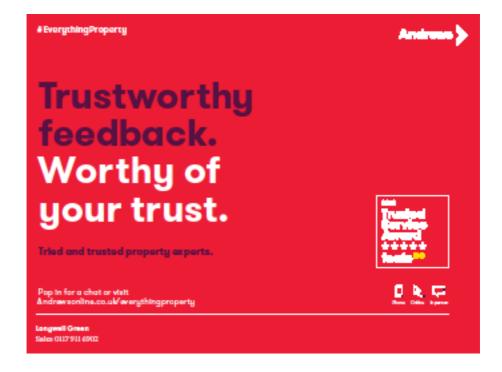
R. Davies & Son - Horfield (0117) 9424039

R. Davies & Son - Bishopsworth (0117) 9641133

Whitchurch FS - Whitchurch (01275) 833441



Part of Dignity Ltd, a British Company



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BITTON

PRESENTS

BITTON LOVES MUSIC

On

Saturday 12th May at 7.30 pm featuring

Jenny Harris - Flute

Natalie Morton - Piano

'Westerly Winds' - Wind Band

Jeremy Andrew - 'The Singing Vicar' and

The Bitton Community Choir

Refreshments will be available in the interval Tickets £5.00 from

Jenny Harris Tel. 07970 325927

USEFUL CONTACTS

Bitton AFC

(Western League Premier Division) www.pitchero.com/clubs/bittonafc

Bitton AFC Juniors

Contact: Dave Fletcher

Tel: 0117 932 2521

Email:

fletchandcarol@btinternet.com

Bitton Archers

Shoot at Bitton AFC 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

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

Bitton Ladies Football Club

Bitton Recreation Ground 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

Clerk: Sharon Robbins

Tel: 01454 868 102

Email: bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk

Bitton Parish History Group

www.bittonhistory.org.uk

Secretary: Mike Gates

Tel: 0117 932 8777

Email: mg122@btinternet.com

Bitton Pre-School

www.bittonpreschool.com/

Tel: 0117 932 6042

Email:

bittonpreschool@googlemail.com

Bitton Road Runners

Every Tuesday & Thursday - everyone welcome!

weicome:

www.bittonroadrunners.co,uk

Bitton Sports & Social Club

Tel: 0117 932 3222

(More overleaf)

USEFUL CONTACTS

Bitton Village Residents' Association

www.bvra.uk

Contact: Andrew Ward

Email: andrew@wardandrew.com

Bitton WI

Second Monday of the month at 7.3opm 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

Girl Guide HQ, Cherry Gardens

Guides, Brownies & Rainbows

Contact: Gill Boyes Tel: 0117 970 8056

Email: gill.boyes@blueyonder.co.uk

Kingswood MP: Chris Skidmore www.chrisskidmore.com Tel: 0117 908 1524 (Constituency) Tel: 0207 219 7094 (Westminster) Email: chris@chrisskidmore.com

Royal British Legion (Bitton & Oldland branch)

Contact: Jeff Dando Tel: 0117 932 2608

Email: jeffjeffdando@gmail.com

Scouts: 34th Kingswood/1st 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

South Gloucestershire councillor

for Bitton: Erica Williams

Tel: 0786 018 1215

Email:

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

St Mary's Church

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.freeserve.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

Churches & services



UPTON CHEYNEY URC

Elder: Muriel Williams Minister: Meryl White 0117 961 6843 0775 914 6645

Sunday services are at 3pm

May 6
May 13
May 20
May 27
Bible study led by Meryl White
Service led by Janet Hawkins
Meryl White
Service led by Steve Britton

There will be also be a coffee afternoon on Tuesday 22nd 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

David Bailey, Westover, Bath Road, Bitton 0117 932 8949 **Churchwardens:**

Barbara Merritt, 32 Bath Road, Bitton 0117 932 3926

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

Message from the minister

inally, it is spring, and the warm weather has put everyone in a more positive frame of mind. Almost overnight the trees are in leaf and the fruit trees are beginning to blossom. In short, life has begun again.

This of course is the `Easter message,' Jesus is doing something new, a new covenant in his blood that means we who have faith in



him can begin again. It is no coincidence that baptism was traditionally celebrated at Easter time with a real sense of beginning again and starting a new life with God.

Those in our churches who have been involved in mid-week study groups have by now come across Rowan Williams' little book about 'being disciples'. It begins with a new start as Jesus encourages two new disciples in John 1.36-39.

The next day John again was standing with his two disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where

are you staying?' ³⁹ He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

There is something of note in the way that Jesus encourages these disciples to follow him. There is no 'hard sell', no laying down of rules and regulations, no formula for evangelism and rather than focusing on himself, Jesus wants to know about the disciples. "What are you looking for?" he asks and then comes an invitation: "Come and see." This doesn't seem to be a great mission strategy, more of a personal exchange and an encouragement to follow and explore for themselves.

The Easter opportunity of faith is that we can begin again with God; is that we can work out what we are looking for in our lives; is that we can accept Jesus' generous invitation to come and see; is that, whatever you have done and where ever you have been, you can begin again with God.

What are you looking for? Come and see at a church near you.

Rev Jeremy Andrew

From the Parish Register

16 March

Funeral service of Robert Demmery

29 March

Funeral service of Michael Beavis

3 April

Thanksgiving service for the life of Gordon Grimster

Services at St Mary's in May

Sunday, May 6 8am: Holy Communion

10.30: Parish Communion

Thursday, May 10 7.30pm: Ascension Day ASCENSION DAY Communion at St Anne's

Church, Syston

Sunday, May 13 10.30am: Family Parade

Service, followed by lunch at

The Chocolate Quarter

Sunday, May 20 10.30am: Morning Worship

PENTECOST

Friday, May 25 9.30am: Celtic Communion,

followed by coffee and cakes

Sunday, May 27 8am: Holy Communion, followed by coffee and cakes

TRINITY SUNDAY followed by coffee and cakes 9.30am: Family Café Church

St Mary's flower rota

5 May Jean Hook & Ros Knight

12 May Stephanie Bailey19 May Janet Ballinger

26 May Wedding



St Mary's Matters

his Easter was very cold and damp but it cheered up for the Easter egg hunt in the church-yard and the church was brightened by the beautiful flowers.

Many thanks to Janet Ballinger and Jean Hook and Judith Butson and their team, not just for the flowers at festivals but throughout the year on the altar reredos



If you would like to help, contact Janet Ballinger on 932 4728. Janet and Jean also run a fascinating flower arranging club in the church hall— contact details are on page 13.

A new sound system has been installed in church. The old one was on its last legs and not compatible with new fittings and software. The new board will be future-proof. It does, however, resemble the flight deck of the Starship Enterprise so potential operators are having lessons. Another new addition is the organ keyboard, which is portable and can be played by a pianist. We found it very useful for traditional hymns at Palm Praise on Palm Sunday.

The jar collecting loose change for WaterAid as an extra to our usual giving raised £61 and four pence.

As can be seen from the Parish Register (page 17) we have been very busy with funerals and remembrance services. It is sad to say good bye to members of our church and community, but we must give thanks for their work and lives, and be glad that we have a beautiful building and churchyard in which to remember them

Barbara Merritt Churchwarden

Christian Aid Week - 13th to 19th May

hristian Aid is justly proud of its work in Haiti – rebuilding houses and livelihoods after the 2010 earthquake and the 2016 hurricane. It's the focus of this year's house-to-house envelopes.

OK, Haiti might seem to be a toxic word since the news about sexual misconduct amongst Oxfam staff. But Christian Aid does things differently. The charity does not send large numbers of aid workers to poor countries, but instead works through local partners – people who are from, and accountable to, the very communities they serve. (It does not make things perfect. In the last 10 years two members of staff have been dismissed, and two have been disciplined. None of these cases involved abuse of those they were serving.)

It would be very sad if the Oxfam debacle damaged the very people who desperately need aid. There's probably never been a more important time to support the Christian Aid house-to-house collection between 13th and 19th May. Please give generously.

Nicola Bennetts

Family Café Church

Sunday 27th May 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.

The May story is entitled 'The Kind Stranger!"

BEN STOCK AND THERE WAS MUSIC



Following sell-out performances in London, New York, across the UK and in the Far East, Ben is delighted to be back on home turf and present his acclaimed show "...... AND THERE WAS MUSIC".

This "sparkling and charming" (The Stage) performer celebrates his career and life through witty anecdotes and fabulous music by Jerry Herman, Noel Coward, Tom Lehrer, Meredith Wilson, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stephen Sondheim, Amanda McBroom & many more.

"An effortlessly eclectic evening of great songs"

Mark Shenton

St Mary's Church, Bitton Saturday 30 June at 7.30pm

Tickets £12 - available from bittontickets@gmail.com or 0117 932 4696

Gordon Grimster 9th June 1935 — 7th March 2018

ordon will always be remembered in Bitton for his wonderful, infectious laugh and warm, smiling manner. He will be greatly missed.

Gordon began his career by undertaking a horticultural apprentice with Billings at Longwell Green. This led to Gordon and his wife Angela starting their own business at Warmley, growing produce, keeping chickens, with turkeys at Christmas, all sold to the



public in the shop on the premises. They were at Tower Road for 43 years.

All through this time Gordon was a member of several Bristol Masonic Lodges, rising to Worshipful Master, and also a member of Kingswood Rotary Club, still attending regularly until the last few weeks. Over the years he was twice president of Kingswood Rotary.

Gordon and Angela 'retired' to Bitton and changed their allegiance to St Mary's Church - how fortunate were we! Gordon not only attended regularly but also took on the role of sidesman each month. He had the most amazing 'green fingers' and not only had a fabulous garden at Eastcroft in Golden Valley Lane, but managed the churchyard at St Mary's as Sexton for 12 years, looking after the administration and arranging burials, as well as putting in many hours to keep the churchyard looking good throughout the year.

Gordon was rightly proud of his family, two daughters, five grandchildren and a great-grandchild born last year.

Following his funeral service at St Mary's on April 3rd, Angela has asked me to express her sincere thanks to everyone: the 170 people who attended this service, the 50 who attended the service at Westerleigh, to Judith Butson for arranging the flowers, to the Rev Barry Grimster, a cousin, and to Andy Sims, from Kingswood Rotary, for their tributes to Gordon.

Angela also received over 150 cards and messages. All this not only reflecting Gordon's popularity, but also the many organisations he had been connected with throughout his life.

Angela wishes to thank her family for their unlimited support, especially James and Ben for their thoughts about their Granddad. A special thank you is extended to Ken Gibson for all his help with the organisation of the day, and for conducting the service with such thoughtfulness.

Ann Willis

There was a collection in memory of Gordon for St Mary's Churchyard Fund and St Peter's Hospice

Board games at St Mary's

Sunday 20th May from 2.30pm to 5pm will be the second afternoon of board games in St Mary's.

There are games to suit players of all ages. If you or your family have a favourite game, why not bring it along.

Cakes and drinks will be served to maintain our energy levels!

Come on your own or come as a family – everyone is welcome.

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE ARRIVES IN BITTON!

Taking advantage of the new performance area at St Mary's Church, we are delighted to welcome

THE RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY

from York, with their 2018 production

ROUGHSHOD DELIVERSATURDAY 9 JUNE AT 7.30PM

Tickets £10 (£7 ages 12-18) Box office 0117 932 6898

Join the five performers for an energetic, entertaining show about faith, hope and everything in between.

Mixing comedy, dramatic storytelling, spoken word and the personal stories of the actors themselves

Riding Lights Roughshod

deliver a show that asks

What happens when God intervenes in ordinary lives?

News from Upton Cheyney URC

nother month has passed in the life of our little chapel, writes Stuart Turner. Again we have been blessed with speakers willing to share their faith and help reinforce our sense of belonging to God.

We have had our annual review, where we look back at what has worked and what hasn't. We look for new ideas to bring the ethos of Upton Chapel to the local community. It seems amazing that it has been five years since the chapel came close to being closed. We have fought to keep it as an oasis of peace and prayer for the community. It touches many people in numerous ways.

However, we would like to reach further into the community and will soon be asking you all for input into how the chapel can evolve to serve more people. What can the chapel be for you? We would be grateful if you could set aside some time to seriously think about this and help to bring the chapel alive for everyone by providing ideas.

Our golden girl!

Siobhan-Marie O'Connor from Bitton won Gold at last month's Commonwealth Games in Australia and defended her 200m Individual Medley title.

The 22-year-old finished nearly two seconds ahead of her nearest rival to take victory in a time of two minutes 9.80 seconds. Siobhan-Marie also won bronze in both the Women's 4 x100m Freestyle Relay and the 4 x 200m Freestyle Relay.



She now has nine Commonwealth medals after winning six in Glasgow in 2014. At the 2016 Olympic Games she won silver in the 200m Individual Medley.

Remembering Joyce Lock MBE

oyce Lock, who devoted much of her life to The Meadows Primary School in Bitton, and received the MBE for her services to education, has died.

Born in 1933, Joyce married husband Derrick 21 years later, and became a part of The Meadows when her son Philip started school in 1970. She worked at the school from 1974 for several decades, as a crossing patrol warden and as a lunchbreak supervisor. Joyce spent the rest of her time in



Joyce with her MBE

school, voluntarily helping wherever she might be needed. She particularly enjoyed teaching small groups of children to sew, as well as supporting teachers in their classrooms.

Joyce was a key member of The Meadows' PTA. For nearly 40 years, she gave tirelessly of her time, attending meetings and events. At Christmas time she loved wrapping presents and books for the children and organising and preparing food for their parties.

Her MBE was announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2004. She was listed as a member of the PTA.

When Joyce was 70, school staff organised a 'This is your Life' style evening celebration. They presented her with a red book containing personal messages from past and present staff. One former headteacher, Avis Ball, said of Joyce: "Anyone connected with The Meadows, either as a parent, pupil, and member of staff or governor, will have been touched by Joyce's thoughtfulness and dedication."

Her funeral is on Tuesday 15th May at 11.45am at the main chapel at Westerleigh Crematorium. Everyone is welcome.

Spring is sprung

pring is here at last. The weather so far this year has been dark and wet; the sun only occasionally shining down, bringing gentle warmth to lighten our lives. Birds and



insects have struggled to survive as two late snowfalls shrouded our world in sub-zero temperatures for several days.

Along with many other beekeepers, I have been concerned about the effect of these extreme swings in temperature as come January, our honeybees start raising their new brood in the depths of their hives. But I don't like to look through my hives until the weather warms up as this would entail disrupting the hive and allowing cold air to enter the brood nest. However, today in the garden I am delighted to see light is golden as the sun breaks through the early morning mist, and the air feels soft and warm. It is also a delight to see the bees busily flying to and from their hive as early as 9am, as soon as the ambient air temperature reaches 12C.

I have a colony of bees living near my kitchen door; a swarm colonised this empty hive a few years ago and as they cause us no problem, I have allowed them to stay there so that when the bees are flying, I can see them easily. This morning I feel as if we are past the worst of winter. The blue tits and great tits are feeding on the bird food we put out in the garden for them and, as I watch, I see the bees flying past the birdfeeders to collect honey and pollen from nearby blossoms. I have seen the great tits foraging on the bees, then feeding them to their young who enjoy the honey contained in the bees' crops. It is amazing to watch this evolving relationship between insects, birds and flowers as the natural world bursts into spring.

Brenda Claxton

BITTON GARDENING CLUB

Invites you to our next meeting on

MONDAY 21ST May

in the

Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton Doors Open 7.15pm. Meeting Starts 7.30pm

Our speaker is

Timothy Walker

Among his many prestigious appointments, he has been Director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum. His illustrated talk is entitled

Bordering on Insanity

Timothy looks exclusively at herbaceous borders and covers the principles and practicalities to be adopted when trying to create a border that is interesting all year round. The talk concludes with a look at a collection of must-have plants

We are taking bookings for our garden visit to **Biddestone Manor, near Chippenham Wednesday 23 May at 2pm**

For more information email *b.hetzel@btinternet.com* or come along to the meeting

New members and guests always welcome

Bitton Village Residents Association Invites you to BITTON OPEN GARDENS on Sunday 10 June

Gardens will be open to view from noon to 5pm when we hope the sun will be shining. There will also be a plant stall and cream teas serving from 2pm in the garden at Church Farm.

Programmes with a list of 11 open gardens and a map will be available from the end of May at the village shop, the White Hart, the hairdressers and church, plus Fonthill Garden Centre,
The Swan at Swineford and The Upton.
We will also email the programme to you if you are on the BVRA mailing list.

For more information contact
Gabriel Frankcom on 932 6158
Email gabriel01.wood@gmail.com
or
Sue Murtagh on 932 6232

Email Sue.murtagh@btinternet.com

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND THE EVENT IS FREE

Guided footpath walk

The next footpath walk organised by Bitton and Hanham Abbots parish councils is on Sunday May 20th at 2.30pm, meeting at Wick Village Hall for a gentle climb through the Golden Valley Nature Reserve, Abson and Doynton. Walks are led by Clive Brett who can be contacted on 07434 869429.

Looking Back... to May 1973

In the magazine, there was an article about Spree 73, a big event coming up in London for Christians, promising "lifechanging fellowship, inspiration, challenge and training".

The Parish Register at St Mary's showed the funerals of Walter George Heming and Dennis Gilbert Crew.

There was an 'odd one out quiz': **1.** Ephesians, Galatians, Colossians, Revelation? **2.** Hermon, Carmel, Sinai, Joppa, Ararat? (Answers are at the foot of the page).

Also in this month in 1973: Topping the charts in the UK was Wizzard's See My Baby Jive

Next month: Bitton in June 1971

April's quiz answers

Last month's quiz gave you cryptic clues to High Street stores. We received quite a few alternative answers but not all were allowed - they are listed here if they have been. 1. New Look, 2. Starbucks, 3. Apple, 4. Habitat, 5. Poundstretcher, 6. Oxfam (femme), 7. Paperchase, 8. Top Shop, 9. French Connection, 10. Barclays (bark + lea), (Timberland), 11. McDonald's (as in 'had a farm' etc + Scottish name), 12. Tesco (Tess - of the D'Urbervilles = Thomas Hardy novel + abbreviated company), 13. Oasis, 14. White Stuff, 15. Costa, 16. Accessorize ('or' = alternative + eyes), (Inspecs), 17. Currys, 18. Specsavers, 19. Jigsaw, (Game), 20. Smiths.

This was quite a tricky one - there were lots of entries but only one team got all 20. Three runners-up managed to get 19 out of 20 - well done Pam & Jon Booth, Jan Wookey & Diane, and Ros & Charles Knight. But the prize this month goes to Alan & Sue Murtagh for getting 20/20.

Answers to 1973 quiz: 1. All are Epistles except Revelation; 2. All are mountains except Joppa



The May quiz

Here are cryptic clues to popular current TV shows - i.e. on normal terrestrial channels, not Sky, Netflix, etc, that have aired within the past year.

The deadline for entries (also adverts/copy) is May 15. Send to the Editor, 18 Church Road, Bitton, or email bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk

- 1. This Baby needs help
- 2. Spectacle on ancient track
- 3. Completely blunt
- 4. Leading food producer
- 5. Just join!
- 6. The only programme!
- 7. Dossier on Peru, for example?
- 8. Like Humpty?
- 9. ... of war, perhaps?
- 10. Ridicule magazine
- 11. Best equipment
- 12. Conceive grand plan
- 13. The meeting of two trees
- 14. Shun city life
- 15. Tightly controlled form of exercise
- 16. Astral body also unhappy
- 17. Like the Boat Race?
- 18. New to the job?
- 19. Green environment
- 20. Concludes with compass point

Name: Contact:

Bitton WI report

he coffee morning held at the new parish hall behind Redfield Edge Primary School was a very pleasant, sunny morning. The hall is lovely and has a car park; when the outside is finished, it will be really good.

Last month's walk was cancelled owning to the weather. The spring group meeting was held at Kingswood Community Centre hosted by Kingswood WI. The evening had a St Patrick's theme with a buffet supper. The entertainment was Irish

The speaker in April was Pam Pontin with her unique baskets, made with recycled cardboard. They were very colourful and attractive.

dancing and it was a very enjoyable evening.

Our meeting this month is on Monday 14th May when we will hear about a 'Passion for Pearls'. The flower club meets on Tuesday 22nd May. Both are at St Mary's Church Hall and all are welcome.

Jean Hook

Bitton Parish History Group

It's all change for our next meeting, writes Mike Gates, secretary of Bitton Parish History Group.

Carolyn Williams, who was going to talk on the subject of 'The River Ran Red', is unfortunately due to have an operation. So the meeting we had planned for 15th May will be replaced by a visit on 23rd May to Kingswood Heritage Museum at our usual time of 7pm for 7.30pm.

The museum is housed in William Champion's 18th century brass works at Warmley. It was here that he developed the first commercial production of zinc in Europe. We will have a short talk by Alan Bryant and then will be able to visit theiir fascinating displays about local industries and social history.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

ACCOUNTANTS GENERAL STORES
Norton Tax Shops Ltd (page 35) HRD Hardware (page 4)

BUILDERS HAIRDRESSING
Wilton Building Contractors (page 43) Just Kim (page 4)

CARE HOMES HOUSE BUILDERS
Collingwood (page 37) Linden Homes (page 9)

CHIMNEY SWEEPS MOTORING
Bristle Chimney (page 36) Bitton Motor Company (back page)
Soot n Sweep (page 6) MC Car Body (page 42)

CHIROPODIST OVEN CLEAING
Absolutely Feet (page 8) Pro-Oven Cleaning (page 41)

CHOCOLATES PLASTERERS
Nicola Eaton (page 326) Matt Bressington Plastering
(page 41)

COMPUTER SERVICES
David Harris (page 42)
POST OFFICE
Oldland Common Post Office & Mace

DECORATING (page 38)
Steve Painter Decorating Services

(page 37)
PUBS
Crown Inn (page 10)
EDUCATION
Bitton Pre-School (page 34)
PUBS
Crown Inn (page 40)

TAILORS
ELECTRICAL Parker's Sewing Services
SM Wilkins Electrical Services (page 6)

TIMBER
ESTATE AGENTS Bendrey Bros (page 39)
Andrews (page 11)

Davies & Way (page 2) VETS
Fine & Country (page 3) Highcroft (page 39)
Oldland House (page 7)

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Alderwick (page 38)
Roy Preddy (page 11)
WELDING
Hanney (page 34)

GARDEN CENTRES

(page 7)

Fonthill (page 5)



Bitton Pre-School

'Learning together, growing together'

PLACES ARE AVAILABLE NOW & FROM SEPTEMBER 2018

2 to 4 years
OFSTED Approved
Small and friendly group
Term time only
We have strong links with local schools

Please come along for a couple of free taster sessions!

Bitton Pre School
Bitton Sports & Social Club
Bath Road
Bitton
BS30 6HX



Email: bittonpreschool@googlemail.com **Website:** www.bittonpreschool.com

We're also on Facebook



Registered Charity No. 1162285



Are you.... Self Employed?

A Company Director?

A Landlord? An Investor?

Then we can help!

We offer: Accurate high quality work

Competitive fees
Up to date advice
Friendly qualified staff

Local offices in Keynsham & Kingswood

Help to reduce paperwork Help with 'Making Tax Digital'

Please call us on 0117 9860960 to arrange a free appointment.





Website: www.nortontaxshops.co.uk

Chimney Sweep

Based locally in Keynsham

Bristle Chimney

Professional chimney sweeping service

Fully trained and registered member of the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps



Ontact Hugh on on 0117 9868936 or 07824 508758



www.bristlesweep.co.uk

The Really Expensive ** Chocolate Company



Luxury Hand Made Chocolates

Wedding Favours Corporate Gifts

Chocolate Making Workshops & Children's Chocolate Parties

Talks and Demonstrations

Nicola Eaton: 6 Howard Walk, Bridgeyate, Bristol, BS30 5WE 07971 775682 Nicola@recc.co.uk www.recc.co.uk



Collingwood care home for the elderly

We have an extension with an additional seven luxury bedrooms, all with underfloor heating, large fitted wardrobes and en-suite shower rooms.

Make an appointment with Wendy or Julie and see them for yourselves!

78a Bath Road, Longwell Green Bristol BS30 9DG Tel: 0117 932 4527

Steve Painter Decorating Services

A family business for three generations offering professional exterior and interior painting and decorating services locally

- Traditionally trained
- Quality workmanship
- Paperhanging specialists
- Friendly and reliable
- Competitively priced
- No VAT added

Contact Steve on 07853 250035 or 0117 956 5190



E. C. Alderwick & Son Ltd Funeral Directors

Serving Bristol since 1945

Kingswood - 11 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8JX Tel: 0117 967 3609

Hanham - 71 High Street, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3DG Tel: 0117 935 3746

Oldland Common Post Office & Mace 171-173 High Street Tel: 0117 932 3159

oldlandpostoffice@btinternet.com

Open from 7am, seven days a week

FULL LOTTERY & SCRATCHCARDS
NEWSPAPERS, GROCERIES, PHOTOCOPYING,
CARDS & STATIONERY, OFF LICENCE,
DRY CLEANING SERVICE, FRUIT & VEG
NEW-STYLE MAIN POST OFFICE
FREE TO USE ATM



@oldlandpostoffice

@oldlandpo



www.oldlandpostoffice.co.uk

Bendrey Bros

Sawmill & Timber Retailer

- A family run Sawmill & Timber Merchant since 1880
- · Fencing and landscaping materials specialists
- Quality decking, framework & balustrades
- · Quality graded building timber in stock
- Huge range of landscaping sleepers
- · Timber path edging & raised beds
- · Garden and agricultural gates
- Quality wooden garden furniture & arches
 www.bendrevbros.co.uk 20117967

Opening Hours:

Week days: 8.00am -5.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am -12.00 noon

www.bendreybros.co.uk 🕿 0117 9674382 📳 🛗 🛱 Electronic Co.uk

The sawmills, Bath Road, Bridgeyate, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 5JW





WELCOME

We're
open all
day
from noon! The Upton is a traditional country inn serving great food. Our menu is constantly changing to keep things fresh and new.

We have something for everyone, from modest plates for smaller appetites to a special meal out at the weekend, plus our famous Carvery on Sundays.

We want to give you a warm welcome and hope very much that we'll see you soon.

We have something happening every day of the week. Horses and dogs welcome!

The Upton Inn **Brewery Hill Upton Cheyney BS30 6LY**

0117 9324489



www.uptoninn.com

For bookings and information



0117 932 4489

Matt Bressington Plastering Services Friendly & Reliable



All types of Plastering Rendering Pebble Dashing

Dry Lining

Coving

Fully Insured Over 25 years experience

Competitive Rates Free Quotations

Tel: 0117 9830108

Mobile: 07905 474 966

Email: matt_bressy@yahoo.co.uk



32 Coombes Way North Common **BS30 8YP**

Your LOCAL Oven cleaning specialist SHAUN THORNHILL is now trading as 'Pro Oven Cleaning'

OVENS O HOB'S O EXTRACTOR'S O MICROWAVE'S O AGA'S O BBQ'S



3 07401 820660

shaun.proovencleaning@gmail.com





www.pro-ovencleaning.co.uk

Pro Oven Cleaning



UNIT 4B

M.C.

Private & Insurance work undertaken

Welding to MOT standards

Loan Car available

(0117) 960 3286

M.C. auto repairs

UNIT 4D

MOT Testing (Class 7, Class 5, Class 4)
Servicing and Repairs
(0117) 947 7405

Kingsfield Lane, Longwell Green Bristol BS30 6DL REAR OF HOMEBASE

Problems or need advice with your PC?

Affordable, professional and personal service for small businesses and individuals

Technical support \sim Installation and set-up \sim Virus removal \sim PC optimisation \sim Advice on buying the right equipment and software \sim Tuition \sim Repairs



Call David Harris on 07974 286314 or email: DJACHARRIS@HOTMAIL.COM

Special rates for seniors

WILTON Building Contractors

- Design and Build
- Building Maintenance
- Renovation
- Refurbishment
- Roofing

K P Wilton & Son Ltd

11/12 Brighton Place, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1QY Tel: 0117 967 1207

E-mail: info@kpwilton.co.uk









Bitton Motor Company

Bath Road Bitton Bristol BS30 6HY



MOT Z Testing Centre



Cars Bought and Sold

Servicing Repairs Engine Tuning Welding Tyres Exhausts Cambelts

Telephone: (0117) 932 8686