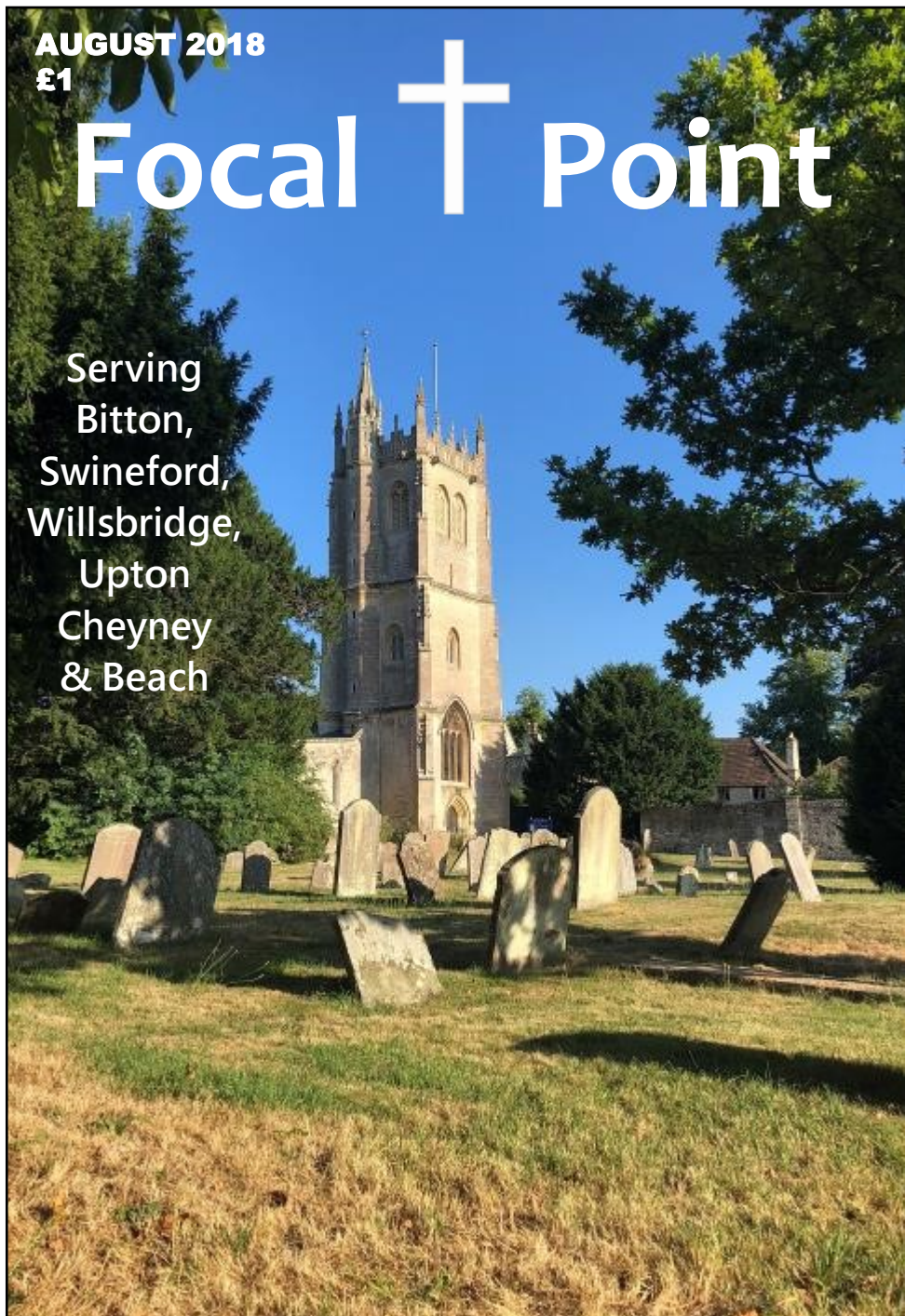


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**Becky Feather**

**Editor**

**Phone: 0117 932 5037**

**Email: [bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk](mailto:bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk)**

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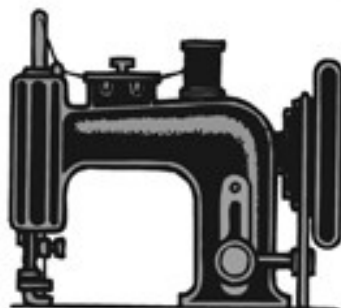


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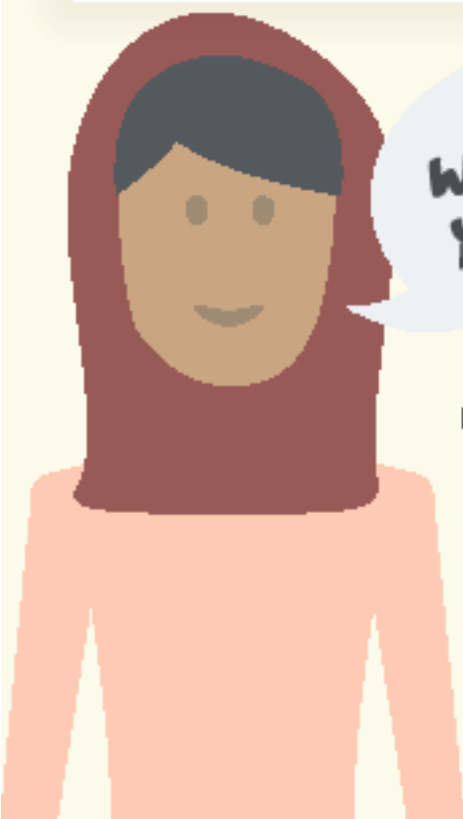
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## USEFUL CONTACTS

### **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)

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

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(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)

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#### **Girl Guide HQ, Cherry Gardens**

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#### **Kingswood MP:** Chris Skidmore

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#### **Royal British Legion**

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**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

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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:**

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#### **The Meadows Primary School**

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#### **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**

- August 5** Bible study led by Meryl White  
**August 12** No service as we're joining Thornbury Church for the day  
**August 19** Service led by Meryl White  
**August 26** Service led by Janet Donnelly

*Our coffee afternoon will be held on Tuesday August 21 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:**

Pete Midgley  
30 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge  
0117 932 6898

Jacqui Harris  
29 St Anne's Drive, Wick  
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## **Message from the lay minister**

**Y**ou only have to say the word 'August' and my mind pictures seaside holidays. It all goes back 70 years when the highlight of our family year saw us heading for Woolacombe, the Scilly Isles or the Isle of Arran.

The whole family together, no school or work and lots of swimming. Pretty cold it was too in the pre-wet suit era.

The excited anticipation lasted right through my working life. Coming home from the office on a Friday evening in May saying '12 weeks tomorrow we will be on the way to Arran' was greeted with some amusement by the rest of the family.

So what's so special about holidays? You can glimpse the origin in Genesis, right at the beginning of the Bible, where God 'blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day' when creation was complete and he stopped working. And God urged his people to follow suit in the fourth of his 10 Commandments where the seventh day is to be a day of rest with no work.

And today people of many faiths set aside Holy Days – the root of the word holidays - for refreshment, whether in worship or recreation or family time in the space freed from work and the everyday routine of other days.

In Bitton at our fete on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September we will be remembering 'Shooting the Meadows'. This special holiday



marked the day in late summer when villagers were allowed to drive their livestock to spend the winter on the common land. It was an occasion celebrated with much revelry.

Everyone has their own time and place for holidays. They needn't be distant or costly. Indeed in World War Two, with no petrol and a hard-pressed rail network, Holidays at Home were encouraged and enjoyed.

And in September the Rev Susie Bishop is following that plan by offering a Holiday at Home Week for the benefice based in Warmley. Look out for details. All will be welcome.

Holidays do provide a change of pace and a time to think what God may be hoping that we will aim for in the year ahead.

Whatever your plans my best wishes for a very happy holiday.

**Ken Gibson**

**The Bitton Community Choir**  
will be starting again on  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September  
and then on the second and fourth  
Friday of each month.  
More details in September's *Focal Point*.

## **Event to be rearranged**

The Gilbert & Sullivan event scheduled for July 28th at St Mary's had to be cancelled and will hopefully take place in October or early next year.

## Family Café Church Sunday 26 August 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.

This month we will be finding out how  
Zacchaeus found his way to Jesus

### From the parish register

**23rd June**

*Wedding*

Peter Sugden  
& Ellie Littlewood

**7th July**

*Wedding*

Steven Stinchcombe  
& Emma Kane

### St Mary's flower rota

**4 August**

**11 August**

**18 August**

**25 August**

Janet Ballinger

Ann Willis

Anne Carrington

Jean Hook & Ros Knight



### CREAM TEAS AT ST MARY'S

Throughout August, Cream Teas will be served on Sundays in St Mary's from 3pm to 5pm. Invite your friends to wander around one of South Gloucestershire's very few Grade I listed buildings.

## Services at St Mary's in August

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Sunday, August 5  | 10.30: Parish Communion                                   |
| Sunday, August 12 | 8am: Holy Communion<br>10.30am: Family Service            |
| Sunday, August 19 | 10.30am: Morning Worship                                  |
| Friday, August 24 | 9.30am: Celtic Communion,<br>followed by coffee and cakes |
| Sunday, August 26 | 8am: Holy Communion<br>9.30am: Family Café Church         |

## Holiday at Home

Following the success of last year's Holiday at Home the planning has started for this year's benefice holiday.

We look forward to another five days of Holiday at Home activities and fun from 17th to 21st September.

The programme has yet to be finalised but as requested, will be made available prior to the event, and as soon as we have confirmed bookings for speakers, etc.

Once again we are planning a day trip out with a shared picnic for everyone. There will be musical medleys, games, quizzes, craft and art sessions that proved really popular last year, along with new speakers and demonstrations.

Plus some yet-to-be-revealed new activities that should put a smile on everyone's faces! All those in their vintage years are welcome.

And if you would like to volunteer to help we would love to

hear from you. There are limited places available (25) and you can come for individual days or the whole week.

First booked, first in! For more information call Rev Susie Bishop on 01179 798 371 (please leave your name and number on the answerphone and I will get back to you). Or email [revsusiebishop.uk@gmail.com](mailto:revsusiebishop.uk@gmail.com)

Happy holidays here we come!

Rev Susie Bishop

## St Mary's Matters

**T**he weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June saw the first ever visit to St Mary's of Roughshod, the travelling arm of the Riding Lights Theatre Company, a Christian company based in York.

Roughshod travel around the country performing in prisons, churches, in the street, in fact just about anywhere they can find enough space.

Fifty-four tickets were sold, and along with bar takings, St Mary's was able to make a generous donation to the work of Riding Lights, as well as making a small amount of money for the church. The event allowed us to make effective use of the new space at the front of the church.

They kindly performed again at the family service on the Sunday morning.

In contrast, Ben Stock's performance on 30<sup>th</sup> June gave us light-hearted entertainment in the space at the back of the church. This was well attended and a great success. Many thanks to Nicola Bennetts and her team for arranging this.

Pete Midgley  
Churchwarden

*See reviews, page 22*

**O**ur beautiful churchyard is busier than you might think.

In July we welcomed the Reception class from The Meadows Primary School. Richard Humphrey talked about what we do in church and later the children explored the churchyard and its ancient tombstones.

We also welcome people with a special interest in ancestors and history.

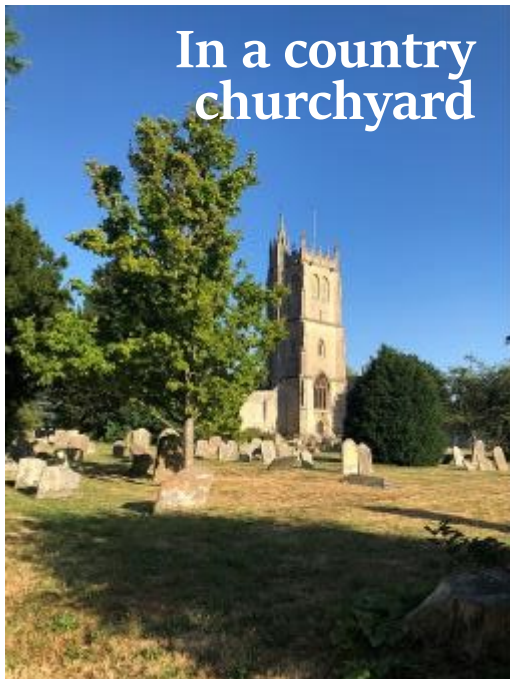
Many thanks are due to Jonathan Griffiths, David Bailey and the Grimster family who have tidied and mowed the Garden of Remembrance. Also Jill and Ken Gibson have been busy tidying the compost heap.

Gordon Grimster, who spent so much time and effort supporting God's Acre, arranged for half the donations at his funeral to be given to the churchyard fund. We are grateful to all who gave in his memory.

We are also grateful to those who give every month through direct debit. But there is always a shortfall and Jacqui and I are asking for your contribution. Please make out cheques to St Mary's Bitton Churchyard Fund and ask if you would like a Gift Aid form.

Our churchyard is a place set apart from the rush of the world. You know the old saying, sometimes I sits and thinks and sometimes I just sits. This is the place to do it.

**Barbara Merritt**



## Summer entertainment

**J**une began with Roughshod and ended with *And There Was Music*, writes Nicola Bennetts.

Roughshod is the current show created by five members of the Riding Lights Travelling Theatre Company – five young actors with a very few props and a lot of energy.

A couple of screens did service as walls, doorways and notice boards; metal stools became cages, coffins and percussion instruments, whilst a few hats created a cast of different characters.

They segued from satire to straight storytelling and from music to mime in a series of sketches with songs, fast-paced dialogue and silent tableaux, often funny and sometimes very moving.

But could they, an evangelical Christian group, deliver an overtly religious message at the same time as entertaining us? Well, yes, they carried it off with panache, making us laugh, pause for thought and laugh again.

One of the most affecting pieces was their dramatic rendering of a true story about an unprovoked attack on an Amish community. The audience was silent and still as the actors showed how the Amish people sought no revenge, instead offering friendship to their attackers.

Andrew, Jared, Martha, Esther and Bethia gave us a memorable evening at the beginning of June and Ben Stock gave us another at the end of the month with *And There Was Music*.

Ben has performed in theatres and nightclubs from New York to Kuala Lumpur as well as venues all over the UK. He's used to audiences 3,000 strong, as well as more intimate gatherings, but cabaret in a church was a first for him.

The new space at the west end was ideal for the social event and Ben made the most of the acoustics, filling the

church with the sound of his voice.

Sometimes accompanying himself on the keyboard, and sometimes working with Harry, his pianist, Ben wowed Bitton with his mix of songs from the shows interspersed with anecdotes about his theatrical career.

With local roots – he grew up in Wick – he established a warm rapport with the audience who were delighted when he promised to return one day.

In the meantime many bought copies of his CD as a reminder of a wonderful evening.



**Ben Stock**

### Bible Yarns

Knitted displays of Bible stories that were shown at local churches including St Mary's last autumn are all grouped together in an exhibition at Bristol Cathedral from 1st to 20th August.

### News from Upton Cheyney URC

**U**pton Chapel hosted another happy wedding, this time it was Sophie and Dave. It was definitely not a 'close shave' for anyone as most of the wedding party, both men and women, sported beards (some real and some not so real).

Even our minister, Meryl, joined in the fun with a fetching, even magnificent, hirsute full set. I presume it was false. However, come to think of it, I haven't seen her for a while as  
*(Continued overleaf)*

## Focal Point, August 2018

---

*(From the previous page)*  
she's been on holiday, so it might have been real (only teasing, Meryl).

We continue to enjoy a wide variety of excellent sermons, delivered by Ken Gibson, Chris Perkins and Margaret White. We are also delighted to hear that Ben Searle is planning to come and lead a service after several years.

The coffee afternoon was a little different. Lots of people enjoying tea, cake and a chat when a group from Fosse Way School

joined us. They were walking from Tormarton towards Weston and camping as they went. One had hurt his ankle so we invited them in for refreshments whilst they waited for him to be picked up. Everyone loved the resulting unexpected conversations.

Thank you to the Focal Point Committee for a generous donation of £200 towards a project of our choice. We will be deciding which one to invest in at our next meeting and I will feed back in the next article.

Finally a milestone. We have our formal certificate of listed building consent and can start work on the internal disabled toilet and heating. We have selected the contractor and work will then finally start.

Can we get a warm chapel for the winter do you think?



**Meryl - with a beard!**

**Stuart Turner**





## Roadworks update

Work started in early July on a major drainage and flood protection project on the A4175 Cherry Garden Road and A431 Bath Road in Bitton.

The scheme is estimated to take up to three months. So far the work has involved temporary traffic lights at times and South Glos Council anticipates that during the latter part of August, different sections of these roads will need to be closed at different times in order to carry out the works safely.

While road closures are in place, diversion routes will be signed. Access for residents and businesses in Cherry Garden Road and Bath Road will be maintained.

Several trees which were causing root ingress damage to the drainage pipes have been removed. The work has been done in close liaison with the council's own arboricultural team and none of the trees were subject to protection orders.

## Open-air theatre

Join Chapterhouse Theatre at the Avon Valley Railway for an open-air performance of Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* on Wednesday 15th August.

Gates open at 5.45pm and the performance starts 6.45pm, concluding around 9pm. You can buy tickets on the Avon Valley Railway website or call 0117 932 5538.

## Photo competition winners

Bitton Parish Council held a competition for photos of interest taken in the parish and was delighted with the standard of entries.

A presentation to the winners was held on 10th July where Cllr Jane Allinson (*centre*) presented a framed



copy of their photo and a voucher to the winners. First was Debbie Wright (*right*) with her view of the River Avon. Second place went to Alison Rigby (*left*) for her picture of Kelston Roundhill in the snow. Third place went to Scott Salter for his image of Avon Valley Railway's Riverside Station (*below*).

Although we can only reproduce the pictures in black and white in our print edition, we're sure you'll agree they are all stunning.

**3rd**



# Focal Point, August 2018

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## **Man prosecuted over waste dumped in Bitton**

A man from Wick has been ordered to pay a £230 fine and £300 in court costs after pleading guilty to failing to make sure waste from his property was properly disposed of.

Richard Short, 38, of Naishcombe Hill, was prosecuted by South

Gloucestershire Council's environmental protection team after a member of the public reported four bags of household waste, including bottles and tins, fly tipped in Church Road, Bitton.

Evidence from the waste led back to Mr Short who confirmed that the waste belonged to him.

Whilst claiming that he had paid for it to be removed, the court was satisfied that he had failed in his duty of care to dispose of the waste properly.

South Gloucestershire Council's Cabinet Member for Communities and Tourism, Cllr Paul Hughes, said: "We have a 100% record of securing successful prosecutions for this type of offence, so if you allow your rubbish to be fly tipped by failing to ensure it is correctly removed in South Glos, you can expect to be caught and prosecuted."

Residents are advised to only give their rubbish to an Environment Agency registered waste carrier.

Unwanted goods and household or garden waste can all be disposed of at no cost via the council's Sort It centres.





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## Bitton WI report

**A**fter the minutes were read by Lesley Brain at our July meeting, Ann Coales thanked Georgina Bond and her team for organising the June meeting.

She then introduced the evening speaker, James Adington, who gave us the history of blue glass. The first evidence of man-made glass was made over 4,000 years ago, small glass beads. Then 2,000 years later the Egyptians made tubes by pulling the hot glass. The Romans made honey pots by blowing, they were the first people to bring it to Britain.

At that time we were making fake Roman coins in the Mendips, that is why they came in the first place. We were only able to make green glass, and then in 1672 George Ravenscroft added lead and white glass was made. Bristol Blue glass was made popular by Isaac Jacobs. It went out of fashion but was brought back in 1988 by James Adlington.



The next day we went on a group outing to Knebworth House in Hertfordshire, home of the Litton family for over 500 years. As the house appears at the end of a long driveway, it looks like a Gothic castle. It is well known for rock concerts and filming, *The Shooting Party* being one of them.

Walking around the lovely grounds we came upon the dinosaur trail in the wilderness garden with 72 life-size dinosaurs and prehistoric creatures grazing among the shrubbery. My favourites were the mammoths. It was a lovely day out and well worth a visit.

We don't have a meeting in August so our next one will be on Monday 10th September. The Flower Club meets on the third Tuesday in the month.

**Jean Hook**

## **Free summer playscheme**

Bitton Parish Council's successful summer playscheme for primary-aged children is back at its usual venue, Cherry Garden Primary School.

It is taking place on weekdays from 10am to noon for the first three weeks of the school holidays.

It is free and there is no need to register in advance.

## **July's quiz answers**

The answers to July's quiz are as follows. Some alternatives were allowed and they are in brackets. (*Please note that a couple of entries were disallowed because the answers did not match the number of dashes given for letters*).

**1.** Marlon Brando, **2.** Clint Eastwood, **3.** Marlene Dietrich (Michael Dennison), **4.** Steve McQueen, **5.** Grace Kelly, **6.** Dustin Hoffman, **7.** Katharine Hepburn, **8.** Meryl Streep, **9.** Jack Nicholson, **10.** Ingrid Bergman, **11.** Denzel Washington, **12.** Judy Garland (John Gielgud, John Goodman), **13.** Anthony Hopkins, **14.** Joan Crawford, **15.** Michael Caine, **16.** Cate Blanchett, **17.** George Clooney, **18.** Elizabeth Taylor, **19.** James Stewart (Jason Statham), **20.** Julia Roberts.

Well done to Jon & Pam Booth, Jan Wookey & Diane, Sheila Read, Carolyn Russell, Alan Murtagh, Pam & Jon Heyes, Margaret & Bryan Garlick, the Perrett family, and Jenny & David Harris. The winner in the draw was Carolyn Russell.

Now turn the page for this month's quiz.



## **The August quiz**

This month we give you cryptic clues to more well-known birds. The deadline for entries (also adverts/copy) is **15th August**. Send to The Editor, 18 Church Road, Bitton, Bristol BS30 6HH or email *bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk*

1. Thievin'
2. Back shake
3. Precious peak
4. Con
5. Interest
6. Out of breath
7. Almond opening
8. Australian victim?
9. Colourful plaything
10. Musician on the beach?
11. Charmer
12. Circuit for fairy appendage?
13. Icy revolution
14. Cutting-edge police
15. Cavalier container?
16. Lowly worker acquires the eighth
17. Rock speak
18. Insect trap
19. Like Roger and Titty?
20. Soap

**Name:**

**Contact:**



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