

# Focal Point

£1

August 2019



Serving Bitton, Swineford, Willsbridge,  
Upton Cheney & Beach

# KNOWLEDGE. INTEGRITY. RESULTS.

When it comes to moving home, you need professionals who are trained and trustworthy, with in-depth local knowledge and the technology and connections to market your property.

As exclusive Members of The Guild of Property Professionals we can meet your needs and clearly stand apart from the competition in both sales and lettings.

**Contact us for a free confidential marketing appraisal**

## DAVIES & WAY

CHARTERED SURVEYORS • ESTATE AGENTS

# SOLD

SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

## 0117 9863681

daviesandway.com

### Keynsham Office

1 High Street, Keynsham  
Bristol, BS31 1DP  
0117 9863681

keynsham@daviesandway.com

### Saltford Office

489 Bath Road, Saltford  
Bristol, BS31 3BA  
01225 400400

saltford@daviesandway.com

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



# Your property in Park Lane

Showcase your property to the  
lucrative London market



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 BA1 2NT  
01225 320032 | [bath@fineandcountry.com](mailto:bath@fineandcountry.com)



# KIM

*Unisex Hairdressing with  
Beauty Room & Solarium*

*188 High Street  
Oldland Common  
Bristol  
BS30 9QQ*

*Tel: 0117 932 3539*



## HRD Hardware

**New owners Jim & Janette  
look forward to welcoming you**

Plumbing & electrical supplies  
pet foods - paints - tools - gifts  
fabric dyes - paraffin

**20 Westcourt Drive, Oldland Common  
Tel: 0117 932 3068**



**Mark Walker Dip GD (Inst GD)**  
*Garden designer, horticulturalist  
and landscaper*

**07886 185853**  
[woodcuttersgarden.com](http://woodcuttersgarden.com)

*Sustainable gardening  
Chemical free*

# Focal Point

**August 2019**

## **Cover photograph:**

*Bitton Photographic Competition winners 2019 (see page 23-25)*

To advertise in Focal Point please contact the editor.

## **FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES**

**Editor: Jim Heavens**

**Phone: 0117 932 5376**

**Email:**

[jimheavens@outlook.com](mailto:jimheavens@outlook.com)

**Website:**

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

*Deadline for the September magazine is 15 August 2019*

## **In this month's Focal Point:**

- Page 6      **Annual Church Fête-**  
*Looking forward to the fête on 7 September.*
- Page 8      Songs of Praise at the White Hart
- Page 12     *Ken Gibson* It's Your Move—A booklet for those starting senior school.
- Page 20     Corrie Verduyn visits St Mary's
- Page 22     Fête Photographic Competition
- Page 23     *Cover story*  
**Bitton Parish Council Photographic Competition Winners**
- Page 26     *Bitton Profile :* Andrew Ward, Chairman of BVRA
- Page 30     History Group—Talk on Sir Bernard Lovell
- Page 35     **WI News**
- Page 36     ***The Seymour Cloth*** One of St Mary's Treasures
- Page 39     Monthly Quiz
- Page 45     Last Word

**Church Services and information pages 13 to 15**

**Focal Point, August 2019**

**Saturday 7 September 2019 at 1.30pm**

# St Mary's Church Fête



Would your summer be entirely complete without the annual Church Fête? It's coming soon, as usual on the first Saturday in September. Last year was truly memorable as we basked in glorious sunshine and while we can't guarantee good weather, we can promise a fun afternoon for all.

This year we are opening the gates earlier at 1.30pm to allow people to get a drink or something to eat before the opening pageant at 2.15.

As always, the aim of the fête committee is to deliver a traditional fête that is relaxed and bring the village together. There will be all the usual stalls, the dog show, a licensed bar and barbeque and, if it good weather a special Pimm's Tent. Also, for young and old there will be a **Punch & Judy Show**.

## **CAN YOU HELP AT THE FÊTE?**

**There are so many ways you can assist both before after and during the fête – even for just an hour or so. There's the heavy gang to set up and dismantle the tents on the Friday and after the fête closes, programme sellers and stall helpers.**

**If you are able to spare some of your time please contact Ann Willis 431-0270 or Ken Gibson 932-2122.**

## Focal Point, August 2019

---

The church will be open serving teas and cakes and providing the opportunity to look round this ancient building. So too will Church Farm, where there will be the opportunity to enjoy a delicious cream tea and listen to the *world renowned Jazzbeans*. Music on the field will be provided by Oldland Brass.

As always, the fête will only be over once the **Egg Throwing Competition** is complete and the **Raffle** called.

***Also this year we are holding a photographic competition—see page 22 for details.***

In advance of the fête donations are needed for all of the stalls,. Please give generously (contact details below)

Books	<i>Sarah Heavens</i>	0117 932 5376
White elephant	<i>Nicola Bennetts</i>	0117 932 4696
Nearly Nu (clothes)	<i>Annette Vowles</i>	0117 932 6352
Bottles	<i>Sarah Craddock</i>	0117 932 8644
Raffle & Tombola	<i>Ann Willis</i>	0117 431 0270
Cakes & Jams	<i>Janet Ballinger</i>	0117 932 4728
Plants	<i>Jean Hook</i>	0117 932 8693

### **Don't miss the raffle for a princely hamper**

Raffle tickets for the annual summer draw are now on sale. This year's first prize will be a special Fortnum and Mason Hamper packed with Highgrove foods and wine. Many other prizes will be awarded to the lucky winners. The raffle will, as usual, be drawn during the St Mary's Fête on 7 September.

Tickets, priced 50p each are available from Barbara Merritt 932 3926

## *Songs of Praise at the White Hart*

A warm, summer Sunday in the late afternoon, your favourite tippie in your local pub garden and *Songs of Praise*. What could be better?

An unusual but highly successful event in the garden of the White Hart took place on 7th July, when customers of the White Hart were treated to a musical afternoon in the company of Oldland Brass Band, the Church Music Group and members of Sta Mary's choir with a programme of hymns old and new.

The weather could not have been better and the inclusion of a number of old favourites among the selection of hymns meant that those in good voice were able to sing along, particularly with the final hymn. The afternoon ended with prayers led by the Vicar, Jeremy Andrew, who thanked the White Hart's landlords, Jamie and Jemma Smith for hosting the event.



**Above—The choir and Music Group**

A collection was made in support of the Defibrillator Appeal which is raising money for a defibrillator to be housed at the White Hart and for people to be trained to use it. The appeal was launched following the death of a customer of the White Hart from a heart attack as reported in July's Focal Point.



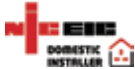
**Left—The garden was full for Songs of Praise.**



# 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](mailto:smwilkins.electricalservices@gmail.com)

A small and friendly practice providing  
the very best care for animals and their owners

## OLDLAND HOUSE Veterinary Surgery

Stephen Pullan, BVSc, MRCVS  
103 High Street, Oldland Common, Bristol  
Monday-Friday 8am-7.30pm: Saturday 10-12am  
Tel: 0117 932 3100

THE OLD CROWN INN

FISH, CHIPS AND A PINT

*Fish & Chip*  
**FRIDAYS**

FOR JUST £12

T&Cs APPLY

THE OLD CROWN INN  
Kelston  
Bath  
BA1 9AQ  
01225 423 032  
info@oldcrownkelston.com  
www.oldcrownkelston.com

OldCrownKelston

UNWIND WITH

**PROSECCO**  
*Tuesday*

HALF PRICE BY THE BOTTLE

# **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*

## **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](mailto:matt_bressy@yahoo.co.uk)



**FONTHILL**  
garden centre



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

[www.fonthill-lakeside.com](http://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



# Churches & services



## UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church



**Sunday services are at 3pm**

### **Services in August:**

Sunday 4th - Service led by John Creech

Sunday 11th - Service led by Steve Britton

Sunday 18th - Service led by Chris Perkins

Sunday 25th - Bible Study led by Steve Britton

In addition our coffee afternoon will be at 2pm on Tuesday 27th August



## ST MARY'S CHURCH, BITTON

**Vicar:**

Rev Jeremy Andrew  
The Vicarage, Warmley  
0117 967 2724

**Ordained minister:**

Rev Richard Humphrey  
Splinters  
Kenilworth Drive  
Willsbridge  
0117 949 0502

### Services at St Mary's in August

**Sunday 4 August**

**TRINITY VII**

10.30am Parish Communion

**Sunday 11 August**

**TRINITY VIII**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Service

*(No second Sunday lunch this month)*

**Sunday 18 August**

**TRINITY IX**

10.30am Morning Worship

**Friday 23 August**

9.30am Celtic Communion

*Followed by coffee and cakes*

**Sunday 25 August**

**TRINITY X**

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Café Church

### CREAM TEAS

*Throughout August, Cream Teas will be served in St Mary's from 3 to 5 pm each Sunday. This is a relaxed opportunity to invite your friends to wander around one of South Gloucestershire's very few Grade I Listed buildings.*



**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  
**0117 937 4706**

## St Mary's flower rota

3	August	Wedding
10	August	Nicola Bennetts
17	August	Janet Ballinger
24	August	Janet Ballinger
31	August	Ros Knight & Jean Hook

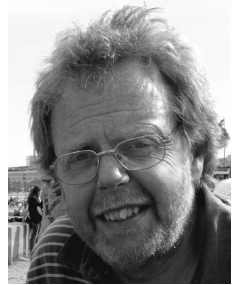
## From the Register

**2nd July Funeral Florence Brewer**



## St Mary's Matters

I hope you will agree that the Songs of Praise in the White Hart garden was a great success. The weather, as for any event in this country, could have let us down, but thankfully it behaved itself perfectly. It was lovely to see around one hundred and fifty people ranging in age from babe-in-arms to over eighty years old enjoying the atmosphere with many joining in the singing.



**Pete Midgley**

The Oldland Brass were tuneful as ever and led us in singing some traditional hymns, while the St Mary's music group played some more contemporary and up-beat songs. Many thanks to both. Thanks too to Jeremy for his role as MC. Particular thanks go to James and Jemma for hosting the event and providing the barbecue and the PA system. Although this was not strictly a fund raising event they were taking donations towards buying a portable defibrillator and I hope they managed to raise a significant amount of money. This was another lovely event bringing the church into the community and I hope it can be repeated.

Eating together is always a good way of getting to know people and I'm aware of two other occasions recently which have been successful in this regard. On the last Sunday in June there was a joint benefice service at St Mary's and there was a good number of people (about 20) stayed for a bring and share lunch after the service. Lunch on the second Sunday in June after the Family Parade service was a barbecue to raise money for the Scout funds and a lovely opportunity to chat in the sunshine. Almost every month there is a lunch arranged on the second Sunday after the family service. Anyone is welcome. Details are on the St Mary's services page of the magazine as well as on the church website.

The church will continue to be open during the day over the summer so please take the opportunity to look in, or join us at one of our services.



## News from Upton Cheyney URC

The last month has been a hot one in more ways than just the sun!

Firstly, we had our annual exchange visit with Oldland URC. We joined them for a special anniversary service. They had an acapella choir of four ladies who were more like the Andrews Sisters than the Andrews Sisters. With songs such as "Don't sit under the apple tree with anyone else but me" we were transported back to the 40's. They were accompanied by a piano and flute who also played at our coffee afternoon. What a lovely back ground.



**Stuart Turner**

For many years we have kept saying we should visit the New Rooms in Broadmead. For many years we have kept putting it off for one reason or another. So on one very hot and sunny day we decided to bite the bullet and visit. After the compulsory coffee and cake we first went into the chapel. A guide approached us and asked where we were from. "Upton Cheyney," I replied. "Wow!" the guide said, "please go and see my husband upstairs." It turns out his father had been the minister at Upton Chapel in the 1960s. And more, his parents had been great friends with the parents of our very own Muriel. What a lovely and surprising coincidence. And there's more. We were pointed into one room in the museum especially. There was a copy from John Cennick's diary. It detailed his preaching in Upton and the resulting riots. Thanks goodness its a little quieter these days.

Finally, one of our preachers showed us pictures of a wolf, a lamb, a scorpion and a snake. The first question for all of you is which one of them is the odd one out. The second question is a little harder, apart from all being living beings what is common about them? The answer is they all appear in one chapter of St Luke's gospel. Can you spot which one?

### ***Could you be a Scout Leader?***

*If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a Scout or Beaver Leader, David Harris ,would be delighted to hear from you as without new leaders it may be difficult for the group to continue in September.*

Contact [djacharris@hotmail.com](mailto:djacharris@hotmail.com)

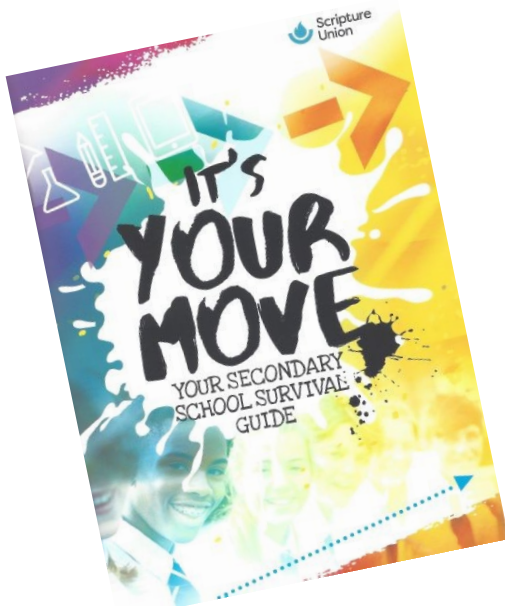


**Message from a Lay Minister**

# 'It's your move!'

What does this phrase bring to mind? A catchy slogan for an estate agent? Or a chess player encouraging a slow opponent to get on with the game?

For the 24 members of Year 6 at the Meadows Bitton the words took on a special meaning in July. A packed Leavers' Service in St Mary's marked the end of their years at the Meadows just as leavers at St Barnabas Warmley and at Cadbury Heath and at other schools across the Benefice were marking the end of their time at primary school.



*The 80 page book is packed with practical advice and assurance for young people moving from primary to secondary school*

At the Bitton service, St Mary's presented each leaver with a small book entitled

**'It's your move! – Your guide to moving to Secondary School'.**

It is full of practical tips designed to lessen the stress of a big moment in their lives bearing in mind that many are going on from a school which they have attended for more than half a lifetime. From being one of the leaders in their primary school they are about to start over again as one of the youngest in a large secondary school.

We wish them all the best as they join their new schools in September.

Big moves are a feature of life and are acknowledged by the experts to be stressful. Whether it's a house move or a job search, a wedding or a birth, an illness or a bereavement these are times when a major change in life leaves us looking for the genuine support of family and friends.

Such support does not have to be a big deal. Jesus said that even offering someone a cup cold of water could do the job (Matthew 10 verse 42). It is just the fact that we have been sensitive to their need of the moment and then done or said something to let them know that we care.

What might be our equivalent to offering a cup of cold water? Maybe a card can be a real encouragement to someone facing a critical event in life. Maybe it will be taking the time to have a real chat rather than simply accepting their traditional response to our 'How are you?' of 'I'm fine'. We just need to let them know that we want to be alongside them.

***It's up to us or, as you might say, 'It's our move!'***

Ken Gibson

# **Dates for your diary**

<b>Saturday 7 September</b>	<b>Annual Church Fête</b>
<b>Saturday 21 September</b>	<b>Comedy Evening</b>
<b>Sunday 13 October</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b>
<b>Saturday 19 October</b>	<b>Adrian Snell– musical evening</b>
<b>Sunday 22 December</b>	<b>Advent Carol Service</b>

**During August, Cream Teas will be served each Sunday in the church between 3 and 5 pm**

### The charities we support



## Corrie Verduyn visits St Mary's

Following last month's *Focal Point* report on the work of Church Mission Society (CMS) in Uganda, it was a special treat on Sunday 14 July when Corrie Verduyn herself, visited St Mary's and gave a talk about her work as a missionary in Uganda at the family parade service. St Mary's is one of a number of churches that supported Corrie's work as a gynaecologist with the CMS and this last visit to St Mary's came at the end of her 7 years in Uganda for her to say thank you for the support the church has given.

### ***We Treat, Jesus Heals.***

Her time in Uganda was spent at Kiwoko hospital, in a rural area about 70 miles from the Ugandan capital, Kampala. The motto of the hospital is *We treat, Jesus heals*, and the message is one of taking small steps. The motto is posted in many parts of the hospital as are marks of footsteps to reinforce a message of steps on a journey.

"Life is a journey, said Corrie. In Uganda that journey was one "through Christ and for the development of the hospital."

So, what has happened in the past 7 years? A great deal it seems; though Corrie was keen to emphasise that it was very much a team, effort and not all down to her. Deliveries of babies have increased from 2000 to

3000 each year, and there are now 7 properly trained midwives on duty whereas when Corrie arrived there were only 2 or 3 and not necessarily with full midwifery skills.

All this has meant that the reputation of the hospital has grown and now people come from more distant places. Getting to the hospital is not easy with few tarmacked roads. For emergencies the position can be extremely difficult. The hospital has an ambulance, but this is used just for transferring patients between medical facilities. Others may have to travel in the motorbike ambulance sidecar, which while rudimentary is clearly better than not getting to the hospital at all



### **The motorcycle sidecar ambulance and rider**

*Picture by Corrie Verduyn for CMS*

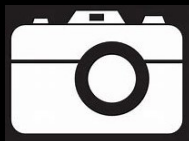
Corrie has now returned to the UK permanently and retired from medicine, but she remains very hopeful for the hospital. The hospital is planning to build a new operating theatre, for which money is available, although not yet for all the ancillary services. There is also a new director and a new gynaecologist, both, for the first time, Ugandans, which is how Corrie feels it should be. She has great confidence in both.

### ***God has not finished with me yet***

As for herself and her book on her life's journey, Corrie is looking forward to the next chapter— one that is entitled *God has not finished with me yet* although she has no idea of the contents or where her life might lead. She takes her lead from Psalm 138.8:

***The LORD will work out his plans for my life— for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever. Don't abandon me, for you made me.***

# Fête Photography Competition



**You don't have to wait until next year's competition (see opposite) as this year's fête seeks budding photographers (or those who just like to take the odd snap) for a fête special.**

It has never been easier to take a photograph. Most of us now walk round with a mobile phone in our pocket or bag, ready in an instant to record a moment. So if you are just a snapper or someone who takes photography more seriously, here is a competition just for you.

This year's annual fête, will include a photographic competition, open to all and like most of the fête competitions it is intended to be fun and inclusive. How you take the picture, doesn't matter, but it must be your own work and have been taken within the past two years..

The entry fee is £1 per picture. The photograph must be printed and be a maximum size of 200mmx200mm. Entries should, if possible, be supplied in a sealed envelope, and must have attached your name, address, contact number and when the photo was taken. Entries should be received by 6pm on 6 September at the church (further details to follow). There are six categories: for which prizes will be given for the best photo:

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Happy         | 4. Architecture       |
| 2. Bitton Scenes | 5. Animals / Wildlife |
| 3. Mad Moment    | 6. Food               |

There will be a junior section for those under 16 (entry fee 50p), but all entries on these themes will be welcome in colour or black and white.

**So what are you waiting for?**

# **Cover Story**

## **Bitton Photographic Competition**



*Picture Sarah Jones*

Bitton Parish Council has held a photographic competition for pictures of local interest that were taken within the Parish. Entrants could submit up to 5 pictures and the closing date of the competition was Friday 14th June.

Councillors were delighted with the standard of entries received and found the selection very difficult. The final three were selected by the Parish Council's Environment Committee.

A presentation to the winners was held before the Full Parish Council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July where Councillor Erica Williams presented a framed copy photograph and a voucher to the winners.

Congratulations go to 1<sup>st</sup> prize to Liam Tata (not pictured), 2<sup>nd</sup> prize to Lisa Thevarajah (right) and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize to Alison Wride (left). All three wining entries are published overleaf.

## Focal Point, August 2019

---



*Liam Tata*



*Alison Wride*



## **The winning photographs**

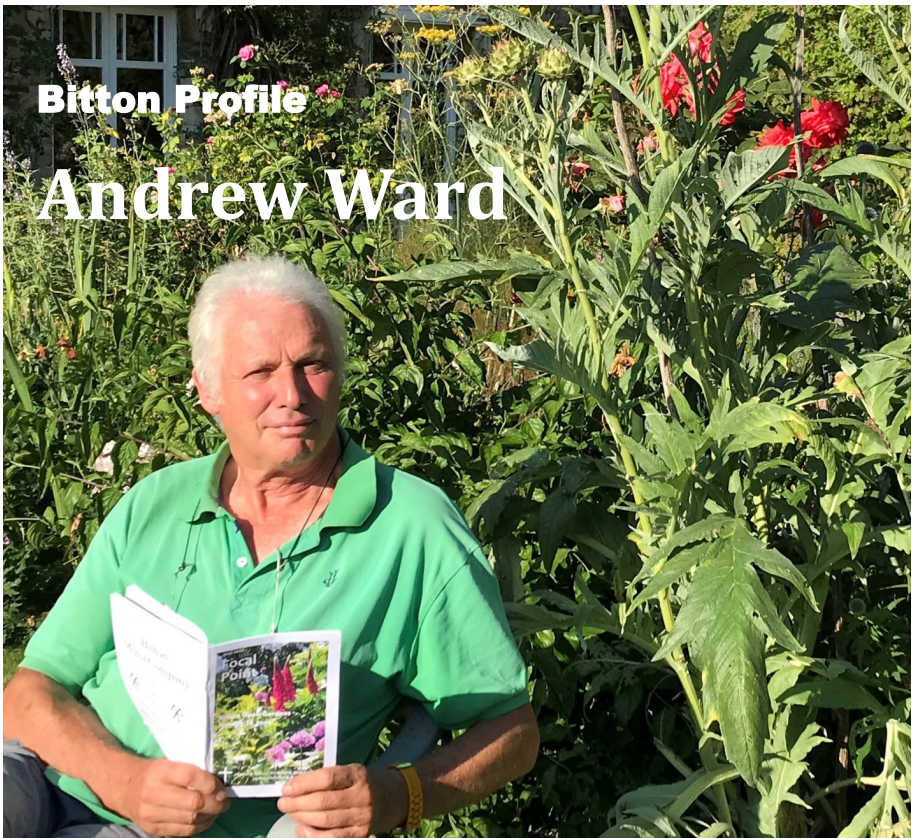
*Top left*— 1st prize Liam Tata *Winter Scene*

*Below*—2nd prize Lisa Thevarajah *River on the Morning Run*

*Bottom left*— 3rd prize Alison Wride *Winter Walk with a Friend*



*Lisa Thevarajah*



**Andrew Ward, is chairman of Bitton Village Residents' Association.  
Sarah Heavens went to talk to him about living in Bitton and the BVRA.**

Andrew and his wife Kate moved to Bitton from London in 1984. Andrew worked for IBM in Bristol and the children went to school in Bath so Bitton was exactly half-way and perfectly positioned for the family. They bought their house from Tony King Smith, brother of Dick, who had swapped houses with Margaret Wilcox, who lived in Bitton Hill House. "The house is lovely," says Andrew "We think it was built by the first Canon Ellacombe for his daughter in 1834 and is full of surprises, like strange fireplaces which may have come from other houses. We have been very happy here and love the village."

"When I retired about 15 years ago, we joined Bitton Village Residents' Association as I wanted to contribute to village life. The BVRA was founded by Marlene and Chris Gallop and was set up principally to liaise with Councils concerning planning and other matters of importance to the village. and to help 'Make Bitton even Better' for all the residents and be a non-political, non-religious, non-profit making organisation."

“I joined at the same time as Bridgit Hetzel; I wanted to help raise the profile of the organisation and Bridgit want to help set up more social events, including the Cinema Club and helped start the Gardening Club. Mike Gates and Stephanie Bailey set up the History Group, which is slightly larger than the village, in Bitton Parish. All three groups have been really successful and are very popular.”

### ***Making Bitton Even Better***

Andrew listed several projects which he feels have really made a difference to the village:

- Raising funds and persuading the Council to put in a total of £70,000 to revamp Aubrey Meads play area, an idea from George Friend.
- The BVRA has put in a lot of work on the development of the Bitton Mill site and have succeeded in making it much more characterful than was initially planned. They have also been involved in plans to make a community space to replace the temporary sales office. “We intend to put up a shelter or meeting place there, which Linden Homes will help us with”.
- Now they are working on providing better signs to the village, to provide a sense of pride in where we live; the Bitton owl in the Glebe field is an example of this.
- Alan Murtaugh and the BVRA have battled against the noise and light pollution from Avon Valley Farm which has made a big difference to the residents in Church Road.
- A further recent concern has been parking, particularly of vans on the corner of the High Street and Church Road.

Other activity has been focused on making Bitton a pleasant place to live to celebrate success and bring the community together

- The Snowdrop drop at the bottom of Brewery Hill now marks the start of the village and litter-picking is now an annual event.
- We celebrated the achievements of Siobhan-Marie with a presentation evening.
- Social events such as the Summer barn dance organised by Jo Saville, have been greatly enjoyed, with 150 people having a brilliant time at Manor Farm this July.”

They have a website, [bvra.uk](http://bvra.uk) which records the minutes but most communication is on our Facebook page *Bitton Village*, with 663 followers and which anyone can use to communicate to the village.

“If anyone wants to help with the Facebook page or website, we would be very grateful,” said Andrew.

*Continued overleaf*

### *New Focus*

Andrew is also keen to support church development and how it can be used as a community space.

“The Church and members of the community have organised some fantastic events there, but I feel there is more that can be done to help this develop.”

### *Next Meeting*

The BVRA is actively seeking new committee members. **The next meeting is Thursday 5th September at 7.30 and the AGM is on Thursday 10th October at 7.30 at the Church Hall.**

“Anyone who is a resident of the village can attend the meetings and everyone is really welcome. If anyone wants to set up a specific project, we are very keen to help them.”

# No ride or stride... but your money is still welcome

Both our churches St Mary's and the Upton Cheyney Chapel are historically important and welcome visitors from around the world, and we all enjoy visiting this country's historic churches.

One of the organisations that support old churches is the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, GHCT, who have helped us in the past.

Every year in September the GHCT have a sponsored Ride and Stride when participants journey between churches to raise funds, ( cake is often involved). Coming the weekend after the St Mary's fête, the number who are able or have the time to take part have declined and we have been unable to find enough volunteers this year, but we would still like to raise money for this good cause. Could you contribute? If so , please contact Barbara Merritt 9323926

**BITTON GARDENING CLUB**

Invites you to  
**Our next meeting**  
on  
**MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> August**

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

Our speaker at this meeting is

**Timothy Walker**  
of  
**Oxford University**

The title of her illustrated talk is

**In the Not-so-Bleak Midwinter**

You will remember his informative and entertaining talk last year,  
called *Bordering on Insanity*

This talk looks at the opportunities for bringing winter  
interest  
to your garden.

**We will also be taking booking for our next Garden Visit**  
on

**Thursday 19 September**

The visit is to the American Museum Claverton Bath  
Optional Morning Visit to the Museum then  
2pm Afternoon Guided Tour of the recently landscaped  
gardens  
with Head Gardener Andy Cannell

For more information  
contact Bridget Hetzel - [b.hetzel@btinternet.com](mailto:b.hetzel@btinternet.com) or  
just come along to the meeting

**New members and guests always welcome**

**Sir Bernard Lovell**

**History Group remembers scientist as Jodrell Bank gains World Heritage Status**

“For anyone who wasn’t able to make it to the June meeting of the Bitton History Group on Sir Bernard Lovell, I need to report what an enjoyable evening it was” writes Mike Gates. “We were very fortunate that Ray Lowe travelled down from Cheshire to share with us many of the insights as to the character of Sir Bernard and his accomplishments.”



**Sir Bernard as a boy in Oldland Common**

*Picture courtesy Ray Lowe*

The meeting included a fascinating discussion about his connection to Oldland Common. Norma Cradock related how, many years after he had been knighted, he returned to Oldland Common Methodist Church in West Street and when being seen at the organ someone said ‘Look. It’s young Bernard.’ Despite his knighthood and achievements, they still recognized the boy from Oldland Common Council School.

**Jodrell Bank**

Fifty years ago, Sir Bernard was something of a TV personality as he commented on the Moon landings on the BBC. For those who have been watching the recent commemorations would have learned, sadly the BBC decided to wipe all the tapes of their live transmissions including those of



The Lovell Telescope at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire—now Britain's 32nd UNESCO World Heritage site

*Picture: Shutterstock*

Sir Bernard. The commemorations, however, may also have played a part in the announcement that Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire, where Sir Bernard built his radio telescope (now named after him) has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List, the UK's 32nd.

The Lovell Telescope is the world's third largest steerable radio telescope. Completed in 1957, the dish was the largest of its kind anywhere in the world until 1973 and was the catalyst for the construction of many other large scale satellite dishes.

The Lovell Telescope's first act was to track the Soviet Union's Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite. Today, Jodrell operates the UK's national e-MERLIN radio telescope and hosts the global headquarters of the Square Kilometre Array, a radio telescope project that will build the world's largest telescope, comprised of a network of instruments sited in South Africa and Australia. The site has evidence of every stage of the history of radio astronomy, from its emergence as a new science in the 1940s through to the present day and stands as a testament of the work of the boy from Oldland Common.



# St Mary's Family Café Church

**Fourth  
Sunday of  
the  
month at  
9.30 am**

An informal café style event with time to relax and music from keyboard and flute aimed at families with primary and pre-school children. A Bible story is followed by a craft session and refreshments are available throughout.



**Join us on  
Sunday 25  
August at  
9.30 am**



## **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



7.30 pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September

**An Evening of Stand-Up Comedy  
headlined by**

**Harriet Beveridge**



Funny Women Award semi-finalist  
Bath Comedy Award Judge  
Three solo runs at the Edinburgh Fringe  
'Fresh and relaxed . . . hilarious' – Fringe Review

Tickets £10. Ring 9324696 or email

[bittontickets@gmail.com](mailto:bittontickets@gmail.com)

# Bendrey Bros

TIMBER RETAILER SINCE 1890

Your local stockist of:

- Fencing Materials
- Graded Building Timber
- Timber & Composite Decking
- Sleepers & Landscaping products
- Gates - Residential & Agricultural
- Trade & D.I.Y. welcome
- Fast Local Delivery Service, or collect from our yard

**Opening Hours:**

Monday - Friday:  
8.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday Morning:  
9.00am - 12.00

**www.bendreybros.co.uk** ☎ **0117 9674382**

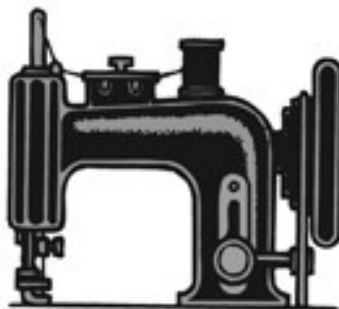
The Sawmills, Bath Road, Bridgeway, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 5JW

## 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

## News from Bitton WI

Sheila Read had very kindly invited the W.I. to have our 80th birthday party in her garden, all was arranged, but the weather was not agreeable so we had it in the Church Hall instead. The committee made an array of delicious sandwiches, cakes and pastries. We had a very cheerful and enjoyable afternoon and it was lovely to see former members.

President Ann Coles started the July meeting by thanking the committee for their help with the 80th party and adding what an enjoyable afternoon it had been. She then introduced the evening speaker ,Trevor Carter, *Story Teller of the Year*. It turned out he was a poet and entertained us with his stories made into poetry.

**Our next meeting on 12th August is a trip to St. Fagan's Cardiff.**

*Jean Hook*



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The house-to-house collection raised £1,384.75. Very many thanks to the hard-working collectors and very many thanks to the 154 generous people who put money in their envelopes.

Thanks too to those who were out when the envelopes were collected but who took the trouble to deliver their gift to the collector or to me (and it's never too late to send in your envelope so, if you've still got one tucked behind a teapot, do let me have it).

Finally thank you to those who completed the gift aid slip of the envelopes.

Nicola Bennetts

# Seymour Cloth goes to the conservators

One of the treasures of St Mary's Church was recently examined by conservators. The Seymour altar cloth has been kept in the church vestry for many years and is no longer in use, but has been displayed in the church on special occasions in the past.

The blue square of woollen cloth, bears the date November 17th 1663, although it is not thought to be quite as old as that but refers to the date of the death of the man it commemorates, Sir John Seymour, one of a number of men of that name who were landowners in Bitton for many hundreds of years and lived at the Grange.



The cloth was examined by Textile Conservation Ltd in Bristol in May for the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The cloth, which measures 188cm wide by 176cm long is made of three pieces of dark blue weave wool and embroidered with silk threads. A sunburst with the motif HIS (the Christogram) is in the centre of the cloth and what the conservators describe as a "bird (?)" over a crown motif is in each corner. The cloth bears the words :*THE GIFT OF COLONEL JOHN SEYMOUR TO THE CHURCH OF BITTON IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR THE COMMUNION TABLE IN REMEMBERENCE OF HIS DEAR GRANDFATHER JOHN SEYMOUR WHO DYED & WAS INTERRED IN YE MIDDLE OF THIS HOLY SQUARE'*.

## Focal Point, August 2019

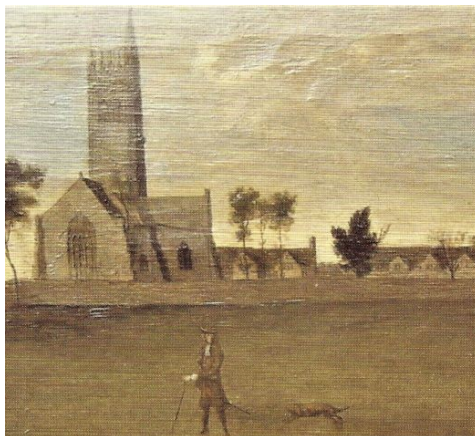
---

Conservators recommended that the surface of the cloth should be cleaned with low powered suction with removal of surface stains,. They suggested that some additional work to fill small holes and restitching of vulnerable areas should be undertaken.

Unfortunately the cost of tis work at over £1000 was felt by the PCC to be inappropriate for church funds at present, but that if a donor could be found to support the cost this could then be take forward. In the meantime, the cloth has been re-rolled in acid free paper which should protect it from further wear.

### The Seymours of Bitton

Both Seymours connected to the cloth were significant historical figures. Sir John Seymour who died in 1663 was MP for Gloucestershire and sat in the Short Parliament, until 1648,when he was excluded under Pride’s Purge during which those MPs least loyal to Cromwell’s New Model Army were barred from Parliament, leaving the way open for a republic.



Detail from the painting attributed to Col. John Seymour and dated 1690 which hangs in St Mary’s Church. It is not known whether the principal figure with hound is that of Col Seymour, himself.

His grandson, Col John Seymour, was born in Bitton in 1649. In 1704 he was appointed Governor of the colony of Maryland, dying in office in 1709 and is buried in Annapolis.

The “bird” that conservators identified in the corners of the cloth is more likely to be a phoenix and detail shows it rinsing (as in mythology) from the fire as a symbol of re-birth. This classical myth was re-used by Christians to symbolise resurrection. In the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, when the cloth was embroidered it carried the additional symbolism of the restoration of the monarchy and was adopted, particularly by politicians to denote their support of the monarchy and its rebirth again following the Glorious Revolution and the ascendancy of William of Orange.



Detail from the cloth of the phoenix rising



# 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

## July's quiz answers

1. Sides on a 50 Pence Coin; 2. Months of the Year; 3. Oceans of the World; 4. Football Teams in the Premier League; 5. Cities in Wales; 6. Sides of a Heptagon; 7. Coins of the Realm; 8. Countries of the World; 9. Lines in a Sonnet; 10. Lakes in the Lake District; 11. Wives of Henry the Eighth; 12. Books of the New Testament; 13. Feet in a Mile; 15. Gills in a Pint; 15. Pews in St Mary's Church; 16. Fluid Ounces in a Pint; 17. Rings on the Olympic Flag; 18. Ounces in a Pound; 19. Strings on a Mandolin; 20. Seats in the House of Commons.

### Correct Entries

Correct entries were received from : Alan & Sue Murtagh, Martin & Bridget Hetzel, the Kesterton Family, Bryan Garlick, Mary Younie, Pearl & Debbie Evans, Sandra Lippiatt , and Penny Scudamore.

This months winner is Penny Scudamore

# The August Quiz

This months quiz is on famous Horticulturists / Gardeners  
e.g. A T 4, 8 is Alan Titmarsh

1. B F 3, 9
2. C J 7, 6
3. D G 8, 5
4. D P 3, 7
5. D R 6, 7
6. G C 6, 6
7. G H 5, 8
8. G J 8, 6
9. H D 5, 6
10. H W 5, 4
11. J C 5, 6
12. J B 5, 4
13. K W 3, 6
14. K W 3, 5
15. L B 8, 5
16. M D 5, 3
17. P T 5, 7
18. R L F 5, 4, 3
19. R B M 7, 5, 4
20. V S-W 4, 9-4

Name:

Contact:

Please send your answers to Carolyn  
Russell at Martin House, Church Road,  
Bitton (the yellow house) or email  
mrscrussell@icloud.com by 16 August.



Based in Keynsham

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

Contact Hugh on 0117 9868936  
or 07824 508758  
[www.bristlesweep.co.uk](http://www.bristlesweep.co.uk)



**Robert Pearce** has over 40 years' experience  
plumbing in the local area



**RJ PEARCE PLUMBING**  
PLUMBING INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS

Available for  
general plumbing  
and repairs

Tel: 07814 607974

Email: [robsuep@btinternet.com](mailto:robsuep@btinternet.com)

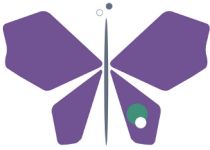
## *Hanney Welding Limited*

For all your Welding & Fabrication  
requirements

Eastover Works, Golden Valley Lane, Bitton

Tel: 0117 932 2647





collingwood  
care home for the elderly

“Home from home”

Our new bedrooms have underfloor heating, large fitted wardrobes and en-suite shower rooms

Make an appointment with Wendy or Lizzy and they will be delighted to show you round

Collingwood Care Home  
78A, Bath Road  
Longwell Green  
BS30 9DG

0117 932 4527

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



*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



**k1 klearance**  
Quick call and its gone!

Nathan Ugoji  
Rubbish & Removals  
07468 382 143

Bristol, Bath  
& surrounding  
areas

Environment  
Agency  
licensed

## ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

### ACCOUNTANTS

Norton Tax Shops Ltd (page 47)

### BUILDERS

Wilton Building Contractors (page 44)

### CARE HOMES

Collingwood (page 41)

### CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Bristle Chimney (page 40)  
Soot n Sweep (page 38)

### CHIROPODIST

Absolutely Feet (page 32)

### DECORATING

Steve Painter Decorating Services (page 46)

### ELECTRICAL

SM Wilkins Electrical Services (page 9)

### ESTATE AGENTS

Davies & Way (page 2)  
Fine & Country—Homes of Bath (page 3)

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Alderwick (page 42)  
Roy Preddy (page 11)

### GARDEN CENTRES

Fonthill (page 6)

### GARDENERS

Mark Walker (page 12)

### GENERAL STORES

HRD Hardware (page 4)

### HAIRDRESSING

Just Kim (page 4)

### MOTORING

Bitton Motor Company (back page)  
MC Auto Repairs (page 46)

### PLASTERERS

Matt Bressington Plastering (page 11)

### PLUMBING

RJ Pearce Plumbing (page 40)

### PUBS

Crown Inn (page 10)

### TAILORS

Parker's Sewing Services (page 34)

### TIMBER

Bendrey Bros (page 34)

### VETS

Oldland House (page 9)

### WASTE REMOVAL

K1 Klearance (page 42)

### WELDING

Hanney (page 40)



- 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

**Email:** [info@kpwilton.co.uk](mailto:info@kpwilton.co.uk)



# The last word

What makes a village? Perhaps too often when the English village is mentioned, pictures come to mind of a row of thatched cottages with hollyhocks and a village pond; a small pub and the church; a calm quiet place where little happens and nothing changes. It sounds idyllic and there are plenty of places where people go out of their way to ensure that is how things are and remain. Actually, what makes a village, is its people and how they live and get on with each other.



Bitton is not a chocolate box top type of village, though it has some very nice houses including some new ones with new residents and it has a vibrant community. Next month, the annual church fête (weather permitting) will attract many people. It is a chance to catch up, to see old friends and acquaintances and enjoy a really local day out. But a village community does not exist just on one day each year but needs to be active all year round. Some, like those in the Bitton Residents Association (see page 26) are organising to do something to make Bitton better all year round. The various offshoots from the BVRA in the gardening club (page 8), the history group and Flicks in the Sticks (soon to return for the winter season) all help to engage that sense of community, belonging and hopefully, welcome, to new residents. Singing hymns on a Sunday evening in a pub, is clearly breaking boundaries that people would normally place between a place of worship and somewhere they might go for a drink.

We are fortunate to enjoy the legacy of those who started many of these community activities at a time when in many parts of the country a sense of any type of community is breaking down, physically in higher levels of violence and drug abuse and metaphorically in the disrespect that seems increasingly to be given to people's views that we do not agree with. The importance of Christ's message that people must seek to love one another is as much about ling together as it is about seeking to break down boundaries between people. If we are to prosper as a community, having such activities that enable people to come together provides the means to build a common life that is better and more fulfilling.

*Jim Heavens*

## **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**

## **M.C AUTO REPAIRS**

- ★MOTs ★SERVICING**
- ★CLASSES 4 + 5 + 7**
- ★REPAIRS ★WELDING**
- ★BODYWORK**

**Telephone: 0117 947 7405**

**Unit 4d Kingsfield Lane**

**Longwell Green, Bristol BS30 6DL**

# **NORTON TAX SHOPS LTD**

**ACCOUNTANTS & TAX SPECIALISTS**

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](http://www.nortontaxshops.co.uk)**

# Bitton Motor Company

Bath Road Bitton  
Bristol BS30 6HY



MOT  
Testing Centre



Cars Bought and Sold

Servicing Repairs Engine Tuning  
Welding Tyres Exhausts Cam belts

Telephone: (0117) 932 8686