

Newsletter December 2023

Our local MP Siobhan Ballie will be holding a surgery session at the Parish Centre on Friday 15th December from 10am until 1pm. Siobhan would love to see you if you want to raise a concern or just talk to her about local or national matters, no matter is too big or small. The surgery will be on a drop in, first come first served basis; there will be seating available for those waiting and the venue is on the ground floor.

Grant Awards – It is that time of year again! If you are a local organisation in need of funding towards a project, you may be eligible for a small grant from the Parish Council. The deadline for applications is 31st January 2024. Grant rules and the application form are available from the Parish Centre or via our website.

Play Rangers – Despite the wet weather Play Rangers ran a successful event on The Old Common on Thursday 2nd November. We hope everyone who braved the weather enjoyed themselves despite getting a bit wet!

John Taylor's Foundation - The John Taylor's Foundation is a local charity that issues small grants to students going on to Higher Education (excluding A Levels) or those undertaking apprenticeships to assist with the cost of books, tools or equipment. If you are aged under 25, and live in the Ancient Parish of Bisley (the area includes all of the civil parish of Bisley with Lypiatt, including Eastcombe and Oakridge, most of Bussage and part of Chalford), please apply in writing to The Trustees at john Taylors foundation@gmail.com stating your full name, age, address, university course or employer. The Trustees of the John Taylor's Foundation meet twice a year in March and September when applications will be considered.

Frith Wood tree work – Due to the squirrel damage we mentioned in an earlier newsletter, remedial work to 12 trees which border the public right of way which runs alongside the PC owned section of the wood is being carried out by our Arboriculturist week commencing 11th December. Officers at Stroud District Council have visited the site and at the time of writing planning permission is due to be granted. The footpath bordering the wood which runs from Tangle wood Way to The Frith will be closed for the duration of the works.

Footpath Volunteers - Not yet yellow and looking ahead - In November we said we hoped to paint the metal entrance barriers to the Bussage and France Lynch playgrounds yellow to aid visibility, but it depended on the weather. The weather won! We'll have to wait until it's warmer and drier. Revisiting a couple of themes from past issues of the EBB Newsletter: first, if you know of work you think the Volunteers could usefully do on Parish footpaths or walls, let us know by contacting the Chalford Parish Office. We'll do our best to fix or improve things. Second, we're always ready to welcome new Volunteers to our Thursday morning sessions. You don't have to be available regularly, and you don't need to be super-fit – if you can use a spade you're probably going to be OK. And Volunteers get a flapjack at 11.00 am (that's another theme!). Again, contact the Chalford Parish Office (01453 887204) if you think you might like to join us, or want to find out more.

A reminder to **dog owners**, please pick up after your pets and deposit dog poo bags in a bin. Thank you.

A polite request to refrain from parking on the verges; the wet weather makes them very susceptible to damage and it takes a long time for the grass to recover.

Friday Lunch Club – Do come along and join the lunch club at the Frith Youth Centre every Friday 12 – 2pm. A lovely home-made soup, bread, cheese and biscuits, tea, coffee and cake all await you! This is a lovely social event, and it is a great way to meet new people. A few more volunteers are still needed to help out as the club has become so popular! If you would like to get involved then please get in touch.

We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas; we are sending our best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2024.

Our contact details are Chalford Parish Centre, 50 Gerald's Way, Chalford, Stroud, G16 8FJ.
(01453) 887204 info@chalford-glos.gov.uk Please contact us if you have any questions,
concerns or suggestions.