



# The **Bitton Parish Council**

**Covering:** Bitton | Oldland Common | North Common | Upton Cheyney  
Swineford | Beach and part of Willsbridge (south of the A431)

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

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## **Torrance Close** *playground*

**T**he new and improved **Torrance Close** play area in North Common was opened in September after a refurbishment by the South Gloucestershire Council StreetCare Open Spaces team.

An original rocking horse, one of only three remaining in South Gloucestershire, has been given a new lease of life thanks to local children who helped with its colourful redesign.

Now named **Torrance**, the horse was painted by a local artist. The park also features a new basket swing, wooden tractor, slide and climbing apparatus as well as borders which have been planted with shrubs and flowers.

**Enjoy!**



Newsletter



## How to **contact** the **Council**

**B**itton Parish Council is always pleased to hear the views of local residents on any matter of interest or concern. You may contact the Council in a number of ways:

- ▶ **Via our website:** [www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk)
- ▶ **Via the Clerk:** Mrs Sharon Robbins, 4 Hencliffe Way, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3TH  
01454 868102 | [bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk)
- ▶ **Via Councillors:** A list of Councillors and their contact details is shown on all parish council notice boards or is available from the Clerk.

## Council meetings

**T**he full Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except August).

- ▶ The **Planning Committee** meets every **three weeks** on a **Monday**.
- ▶ The **Environment and Leisure Committee** meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of **January, April, June, September** and **November**.
- ▶ The **Finance and Youth Committees** meet **as required**.

All meetings start at **7.30pm** and are held at **North Common Village Hall** unless otherwise stated. Full details of the meetings including agendas are posted on parish notice boards and on the Council's website 5 days in advance.

A diary of meeting dates is listed on the website. All meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend. An opportunity is always given to speak to Councillors about any matter of interest or concern to you.

## New digital photo competition

**B**itton Parish Council announces a brand new photographic competition.

Entries are invited of photographs taken within the parish but photographers need not live in the parish. You can enter by sending your photographs to Sarah Jones, the Council's Leisure Officer at [sarahjonesbpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahjonesbpc@hotmail.co.uk) Please include your full name, postal address and a contact telephone number plus details of where and when the photo was taken. You may enter up to 5 photographs. Please note that by entering the competition you are agreeing that Bitton Parish Council has the right to use any photo for publicity purposes including on its website and in its newsletter.

The closing date for the competition is **Friday 15th June**. Winners will be presented with their award at the start of the July 10th full council meeting. Each will receive a framed copy of their winning photograph plus a photo printing voucher. The competition is open to anyone over 18.

The winning photograph will be displayed in the new Community & Youth building.

## Creative Arts Competition 2018

**E**ach year Bitton Parish Council organises its **Creative Arts Competition for young people aged up to 18 years old**.

There are categories for pictures, models, handwriting, short stories, poems and computer generated design. Prizes are awarded in 4 age classes. Why not enter? The entry form will be available from 1 February on our website at [www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk) or from the Council's Leisure Officer, Sarah Jones, 21 Oakleigh Gardens, Oldland Common BS30 6RJ. Tel: **07757 796155**.



# Cadbury Heath Library

School Road, Cadbury Heath BS30 8EN

Email: [cadburyheath.library@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:cadburyheath.library@southglos.gov.uk)

Website: [www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries)

Like us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/sgloslibraries](http://www.facebook.com/sgloslibraries)

Follow us on Twitter: [@southgloslibs](https://twitter.com/southgloslibs)

## Staffed hours

**Tuesday, Thursday & Friday** 10am – 5pm

**Saturday** 9:30am – 12:30pm



## Open Access Inductions

**Book now to register.**

Giving you access to the library

for more hours every day. The Open Access system enables registered members (who have received the induction) access to the library outside of staffed opening hours. When the library is available during Open Access times you will be able to:

- ▶ scan your Active Leisure and Library card and use your PIN to enter the library
- ▶ connect to our free wifi
- ▶ use a computer and print
- ▶ access online e-resources
- ▶ issue, return, renew items and pay charges using the self-service kiosks
- ▶ collect reserved items
- ▶ read books and newspapers

For more information or to book an induction please visit [www.southglos.gov.uk/openaccess](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/openaccess) or speak to a member of staff. \*Free registration, terms and conditions apply, please see our website for details.

## Be part of Region of Readers

**New group launched at Cadbury Heath Library.**

Our new group is a place to relax and make new friends. You can just drop in, sit down and enjoy listening to a great short story or poem – there's no pressure to talk or read.

**Every Tuesday at Cadbury Heath Library**

10.30am – 12.00pm

For more information contact Samantha Weaver

[samanthaweaver@thereader.org.uk](mailto:samanthaweaver@thereader.org.uk)

## Regular Events at Cadbury Heath Library

### TUESDAYS

10.30am - 12.00pm

**Shared Reading Group**

### THURSDAYS

10.00am - 12.00pm

**Coffee morning – drop in for coffee and chat (held weekly)**

### FRIDAYS

10.30am - 11.00am

**Storytime/rhymetime (alternating weeks)**

10.30am - 11.30am

**Come and join our lively discussion group as well as enjoying a cuppa and biscuits (last Friday of the month)**

### SATURDAYS

10.30am-11.30am

**Chatterbooks – fun reading group for 7-11yr olds (one Saturday per month)**

10.00am -12.00pm

**Craft group – do you enjoy crafting? Like Knit & Natter but not just knitting! (fortnightly)**

For more details please visit:

[www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries/cadbury-heath-library](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries/cadbury-heath-library)

or speak to a member of staff.





## Footpath walks

**T**he New Year brings a fresh programme of guided footpath walks. Join Clive Brett on a Sunday afternoon for some enjoyable exercise (nothing too strenuous) and good company. For further details contact Clive on 01173295183 / 07434869429 or [clive@brett.org.uk](mailto:clive@brett.org.uk)

### WALK 1

**Sunday February 18th at 2.30pm**

Meeting by McBrida factory, Francis Way Bridgegate.

**SAT NAV BS30 5JW**

Golden Valley, Beach, Upton Cheyney. This is a hilly walk.

### WALK 2

**Sunday March 18th at 2.30pm**

Meeting at Swineford Picnic Area.

**SAT NAV BS30 6LN** gets close, then follow the signs.

Please do not park in the pub car park.

Climb to Upton Cheyney, North Stoke, Prospect Stile.

This is very hilly. Option to include Kelston Round Hill (Kelston Tump).

### WALK 3

**Sunday April 15th at 2.30pm**

Meeting at the Chequers Inn car park, Ferry Road, Hanham Mills.

**SAT NAV BS15 3NU**

A riverside and woodland walk to Conham, optional climb to Panorama Walk.

### WALK 4

**Sunday May 20th at 2.30pm**

Meeting at Wick Village Hall,

**SAT NAV BS30 5RG**

A climb through Golden Valley Nature Reserve, Abson and Doynton.

### WALK 5

**Sunday June 24th at 2.30pm**

Meeting in the car park by Keynsham Lock.

**SAT NAV BS31 2DD**

Londonderry Farm and riverside towards Hanham.



# Allotments

**D**o you enjoy eating fresh produce, knowing where it has come from and how it has been grown? Do you enjoy gardening or are you looking for a way to take a bit more exercise?

**Ever considered having an allotment to achieve all this and more?**



Bitton Parish Council has allotments sites behind North Street and at Redfield Hill, Oldland Common. In total there are nearly 100 plots. At the present time there are a few plots becoming vacant. If you would be interested in having an allotment – or perhaps finding out a bit more about allotment gardening – then contact the Council’s Leisure Officer, Sarah Jones:

Email: [sarahjonesbpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahjonesbpc@hotmail.co.uk)

Tel: **07757 796155**

Rents for 2018 are set at £20 for a whole plot or £14 for a half plot.

# Easter playscheme

**O**nce again Bitton Parish Council will be organising a playscheme for children aged 5 – 11 years during the school Easter holidays. A wide variety of both indoor and outdoor activities will be available (weather permitting).

It will be held at Cherry Garden Primary School, Cherry Garden Lane, Bitton on Monday to Wednesday 26 – 28 March and Wednesday to Friday 4 – 6 April. Each session runs from 10am until 12 noon. There is no need to register in advance and it is free! Letters will go home to parents a couple of weeks in advance from all primary schools in the parish. Details will also be available on the website and from the Clerk to the Council (see contact details on page 2).

# Consideration for all road users

**W**e all hear about incidents of road rage these days. Such behaviour is unacceptable. Consideration should be given to all road users by all road users.

Bitton Parish Councillors are regularly approached by horse riders, especially those who use the lanes around Upton Cheyney and Beach. They say that cars are often driven too fast and too close to horses so risking the horse reacting and it, the rider and possibly the car driver being injured. So please follow the advice given in the Highway Code. When passing animals drive slowly, give them plenty of room and be prepared to stop. Do not scare animals by revving or accelerating quickly once past them. Keep speeds down, especially on country roads or around bends.

Equally horse riders must act responsibly, being aware of other traffic and acting with consideration and patience. Riders are often in charge of large animals which must be kept under proper control at all times. As with car drivers, do not be tempted to use a mobile phone which is a distraction and allows less control of the horse.

Although our roads are becoming more crowded there should still be room for all. Please, treat others as you would hope others will treat you.





## Community and youth building

**Our new Community and Youth building was formally opened on 23 September by George Hankins, a local young man who plays cricket professionally for Gloucestershire County Cricket Club. He is a rising star, having represented England at U19 level.**

The building is situated at High Street, Oldland Common, to the rear of Redfield Edge Primary School. The Council uses it for its meetings (all of which are open to the public to attend and raise matters of interest or concern directly with Councillors). It is also available for hire to community groups for their sessions, meetings, one-off needs, etc (sorry – no parties). For bookings please contact the Clerk (details on page 2).

**Why not come along and see for yourself what goes on there.**

### NEW TRACKS YOUTH CLUB

**Held on Wednesday and Friday evenings 7 – 9.30pm** including during school holidays for young people aged 11- 19 years old. Lots to do while socialising with friends in a warm, safe environment. The programme of activities is agreed with young people and regularly includes cooking sessions, arts and crafts, sports, photography, dance, etc. Our staff are qualified and experienced in youth work. New members are always welcome, as are adult volunteers

who would like to be part of this and support our young people.

Follow us on Facebook at New Tracks Youth Club.

### LEGS, BUMS AND TUMS

**Held on Monday evenings 6.30 – 7.30pm.** Feel the need for some toning and shaping? Legs, bums and tums is all about getting the lower body strong and flexible. We need to make sure that all the vital muscle groups and tissues are in good working order to help us maintain an upright stance. We work for 30 seconds per exercise with a 10 second break in between. You will zap calories, tone your muscles, become more flexible and improve your cardio output. You will work to your own ability with encouragement to try a little more. This class is suitable for ladies and gents from the age of 16 years. Suitable for all levels of fitness.

Please contact Caroline on **07946 201923**

Email [caraqu3@aol.com](mailto:caraqu3@aol.com)

### HEATHER'S CRAFTS

**Held 10 – 11am on Saturday mornings (dates to be notified).** Come along and join Heather and learn new craft skills. She will teach you how. During sessions she will demonstrate and talk you through the stages of making beautiful crafts whilst you try your hand at making them. She has been teaching on cruise liners for



the last couple of years so has plenty of experience with all age groups and levels of experience. Price of sessions will vary according to the materials used. Sessions will be held once or twice a month according to demand. NB: for over 18s only please. The next session is on Saturday 13 January, 10 – 11am.

Contact Heather to book a place on **0788 414 1717**  
Email [heather.tatton.ht@googlemail.com](mailto:heather.tatton.ht@googlemail.com)  
or Facebook at hecrafts.

### FRIENDSHIP AND EXERCISE

**Held on Wednesday mornings 10 – 11.30am.** Aimed at our older residents, these exercises can be done either standing or sitting, according to your preference. Each session involve 45 minutes of gentle exercise aimed at retaining core body strength and exercising joints and muscles followed by a tea break and then 30 minutes of something fun – skittles, indoor curling, etc. This offers an opportunity for gentle bending and stretching. Sessions are run by Spencer Davies, a fully qualified trainer who specialises in this type of activity. He runs successful Friendship & Exercise sessions in other areas too. Please contact Spencer on **07825 155954**.

### CIRCUIT CLASSES

**Returning in the New Year on Thursday evenings 7 – 8pm.** Whether you are just starting out on your fitness journey or if you work out regularly and are looking to try something different this friendly circuits class could be for you. Jane Rogers uses High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) principles which will get you fitter, quicker. She alternates short intense exercises with recovery breaks in between – and you choose what level you want to work at. For details of her classes please contact Jane on **0775 123 7049**  
Email [jrcomms@outlook.com](mailto:jrcomms@outlook.com)

### ZUMBA

**Held on Friday mornings 10 – 11am.** A down-to-earth, fun fitness class suitable for all ages, shapes, sizes and fitness levels. Please contact Lucy Bevan on **07403 247764**  
Email [lzfitness@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lzfitness@hotmail.co.uk)  
or Facebook at Lucy Zumba.

## Warmley Forest Skate Park

**The site of the Warmley Forest Skate Park is leased jointly by Bitton, Oldland and Siston Parish Councils. The original equipment was very well used and, over time, wore out. The attached photo shows the little that is left. It is badly in need of a revamp, but this will cost a lot of money.**

The 3 parish councils are working together to try to achieve this. We have approached firms who can design and build a new skate park for us. We are looking to mould it out of concrete this time around: it is quieter in use, far more durable, harder to damage, easier to repair and therefore longer-lasting. We have set up the Warmley Forest Skate Park Group with the intention of applying to grant funders for help with raising the not inconsiderable sum required to pay for the project.

**But we need your help!** All grant funders look to see what level of support there is within the community for each project. If we are to stand any chance of success then we must show both that skaters, bikers, scooters, etc will use it and that the wider community sees it as a valuable facility for its young people (although a good number of users are in the not-so-young-anymore category!). The Warmley Forest Skate Park Group has called a public meeting on Wednesday 10 January at 5pm at the Scout Hut next to the skate park (in case the weather is bad). Please come along and support us. If you are unable to be there in person please email us showing your support to [stephen.skidmore@live.co.uk](mailto:stephen.skidmore@live.co.uk).  
**Thank you in advance for your help.**





## Bitton LED Street Lighting

**In order to meet national spending targets, as well as reduce carbon footprint under European Legislation, South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) needs to make significant financial savings and reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the coming years.**

Like many local authorities, SGC are introducing LED (Light Emitting Diode) street light technology to help reduce energy costs and cut carbon emissions. SGC will be replacing all 29,500 street lights with LED units between the years 2014 - 2024.

### When?

SGC will be replacing the street lighting in Bitton between April 2018 and July 2018.

### What will change?

- ▶ Light pollution will be considerably less - Less light spills into the sky and into gardens, meaning driveways and doors don't get illuminated and Skyglow is reduced.
- ▶ LED lights use less energy - When implemented; the LED street lighting will reduce SGC's total street lighting energy, and carbon emissions by about 70%.
- ▶ LED lights reduce maintenance costs - LED units last longer and require less maintenance through their life.
- ▶ LED lights can easily be controlled - This means SGC will be able to dim lights at appropriate times, to help reduce energy costs.
- ▶ Changes to Lighting Columns - SGC proposes using existing lighting column positions where possible. Additional lighting columns may be installed or existing columns may be removed as part of the LED replacement to improve illumination or replace old stock. This will happen prior to LED replacement and neighbouring residents will be notified.
- ▶ All LED lanterns installed since April 2017 will be all-night operation - Bitton Parish has been reviewed and will operate according to SGC's street lighting policy. Street lighting shall be all-night operation.

- ▶ May cause minor disruption - StreetCare will be carrying out the work and should only cause minor disruption during the replacements. If you get the chance please approach the StreetCare operatives with any questions or request a feedback card to submit your experience.

Please visit SGC's website for further information:  
[www.southglos.gov.uk/LED](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/LED)

## Flood wardens for Swineford

**The small community at Swineford suffers regularly when the River Avon and Piple Brook overflow their banks, sometimes resulting in the closure of the A431. Thankfully no one has been hurt but people might be stranded and properties flooded.**

Bitton Parish Council was approached recently by Groundwork, an organisation which is running a Communities Prepared project funded through the Big Lottery. It provides free community flood warden training for communities that want to prepare for instances of flooding. Residents of Swineford will, in the event of flooding, be totally occupied in looking after their own families and property. So we are looking for volunteers who could go to the village at short notice and help out local residents and the emergency services. It would not involve any dangerous activities or getting into deep water. It might be helping to direct traffic, sandbagging properties, helping with communications, etc. Do you feel you might be able to help in this way? If so, in the first instance please contact the Clerk (contact details on page 2). Full training, appropriate clothing, etc will be provided free of charge.