

## Village Agent News March 2016

### Change of Village Agent

24/03/2016

After 9 years as your Village and Community Agent, I have decided that the time is right to hand over to someone else. I will continue to work for the Charity, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, but as from the 31st of March I will no longer be your Village Agent. However, I am pleased to be able to tell you that your new Village Agent is Sarah Davies. Sarah is contactable on 07810 630254 (which is the same number as currently used). I would like to say how much I have enjoyed helping the over 50's in my parishes and I have found the work very rewarding. I've made some very good friends and have lots of fond memories. Kind regards Hilary

### Riser Recliner Loan Service

24/03/2016

The Gloucester Furniture Recycling Project (FRP) work with your occupational therapist to offer a personal service to find the right chair for you from our range of styles and sizes. Before being delivered to you, all chairs are electrically safety tested and professionally cleaned. FRP's riser recliner loan service is a convenient cost effective solution for people who are: • Recovering from medical treatment • Individuals receiving palliative care • Those with disabilities and mobility problems If you are interested in hiring a riser recliner, call or email FRP for further information Tel: 01452 524333  
[www.frbglos.org.uk](http://www.frbglos.org.uk) [risers@frbglos.org.uk](mailto:risers@frbglos.org.uk)

### Blue Badge Application Scam

24/03/2016

BLUE BADGE APPLICATION SCAM Gloucestershire County Council is warning of scam websites that are charging people to apply for a Blue Badge. A blue badge is available to disabled people to allow them free parking and access to services and facilities. It can be applied for free of charge through the Gloucestershire County Council website. There is a charge of £10 if a badge is issued. Some Gloucestershire residents have reported being caught out by unscrupulous websites that are charging fees of around £50 for processing people's applications. These sites carry out the same simple application process that applicants can do themselves via the local authority or GOV.UK and are in no way affiliated to the blue badge scheme. Eddie Coventry, head of Gloucestershire trading standards service, said: "Please ensure that you use the official website." You can find out if you're eligible, and apply for a blue badge, by visiting [gloucestershire.gov.uk/bluebadge](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk/bluebadge), or [gov.uk/apply-blue-badge](http://gov.uk/apply-blue-badge) or by calling the Adult Social Care Helpdesk for information on 01452 426868. FFI concerning consumer rights,  
<http://glos.tradingstandards.uk/consumer.htm> &  
<http://glos.tradingstandards.uk/scams.htm>

### Picture Scam

24/03/2016

Conmen operating in the Forest visit houses claiming to be deaf. They try to

persuade householders to buy a picture claiming to have painted it themselves and charging £15 or so. The 'paintings' are, in fact, cheap prints costing about £1, thereby making a nice profit. The police recently released a picture in the "Forester" of one of them caught on CCTV. The message is do not to buy at the door from cold callers.

CCTV. The message is do not to buy at the door from cold callers.

### **If you don't have central heating.....**

24/03/2016

grant funding of up to £4,000 per property is available to eligible clients. The scheme helps those who do not currently have a central heating system and those who have storage heaters which heat less than 50% of the rooms. (Only certain rooms are counted.) The scheme is open to those who own or privately rent their homes and will need to meet certain criteria. Eligibility will be based on your income, savings, housing costs and fuel bills, or the benefits you receive. Please have these details available when you call or, if you are unsure, Warm & Well advisors will be happy to send out further information. Free home energy advice visits and grants for cavity wall and loft insulation are also available. Insulation grants are subject to a survey. For more information or to find out if you're eligible or for general energy efficiency advice, Tel: 0800 500 3076, Email: [warmandwell@severnwye.org.uk](mailto:warmandwell@severnwye.org.uk) The Warm & Well advice line is managed by Severn Wye Energy Agency, a charity (no.1083812) and not-for-profit company. Ref: CHF1

### **Help carers to increase their State Pension**

24/03/2016

National Insurance credits are available to help people fill gaps in their record in order to increase their State Pension. Carer's Credit is for people of working age who deliver 20 – 35 hours of care per week and don't get either Carer's Allowance or child benefit for a child under 12. For further information and an application form visit [www.gov.uk/carers-credit](http://www.gov.uk/carers-credit)

### **Gardening Tip**

24/03/2016

If you are a gardener whose fingers are not as nimble as they used to be, rather than buying packets of vegetable seeds, buy seed tapes. Seed tapes enable you to lay the tape along the seed bed and the vegetable plants require no thinning at a later date.

## **EVENT**

**Remembering Sport at Kingsholm 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 12.15 – 1.45 pm The Lion's Den, near the Shed, Kingsholm Stadium**

**Come along to the men's 50+ group in Kingsholm. Talk about watching/playing/supporting sport with other men from around the country.**

**Refreshments available**

**Parking available in the main car park.**

**To register your interest and for more information, please contact Julie Pritchard at GRCC on 01452 528491 email: [juliep@grcc.org.uk](mailto:juliep@grcc.org.uk)**