GALMINGTON & COMEYTROWE NEWS

No.602 FEBRUARY 2019

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News from the Pews

Does your heart sing with joy at the approach of February? Probably not.

February fill-dyke is the runt of the calendar often with bad weather: Christmas and New Year in the past and Easter some way ahead. Not an exciting month with one red-letter day of chocolates and roses, cards and poems of love. No romantic could forget Valentine's Day.

The day is linked to a Saint Valentine around whom romantic stories gathered. The poet Chaucer wrote in the 14th Century of this as a day when birds chose their mates, and more generally this is close to the start of spring bringing new life in nature. It was, however, in the 18th century that St. Valentine's Day became widespread as the day for declarations of love.

Love, however, is not a matter for just one day with wine and gifts and the replaying of that old Beatle's number, "All you need is love…love…love is all you need".
Love encompasses many aspects of life such as love between parent and child, between couples growing old together, an individual's love of art, nature and of his/her own country; and love across boundaries of race, creed or nation. So many aspects.

When Jesus was asked to name the most important commandment, the key word in his reply was LOVE. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all they heart" and "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Mark chapter 12, verses 28-31). And the story of the Good Samaritan spells out that everyone is our neighbour.

So- let us enjoy the roses and chocolates on February 14th, but be positive in loving words and acts throughout the other 364 days of the year, and next year as well.
Easter is not that far ahead now, and in that story we have a striking example of God's love for men and women seen in the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross.
Robin Brumby (a member of St. Michael's Church).

Just in case you don't get the March *Galmington and Comeytrowe News* early enough: St. Michael's Church would like to invite everyone to a Pancake Party on March 5th –Shrove Tuesday. Especially if you live alone and it seems too much trouble to make pancakes mixture for one, please do join us.
Our "celebrity chef" will be preparing pancakes for anyone who would like to come, and there may even be some entertainment or a quiz! The cost will be £5 each and the pancakes will keep going until the mixture is all gone! No tickets necessary, but it would help if you let us know if you would like to come so that we have some idea of how many to cater for!
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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Hogmanay
2. Rosh Hashanah
3. France
4. Abraham Lincoln
5. U2
6. Watergate
7. Florida
8. Times Square
9. Sunday
10. Above the letter i.
(a tittle or titulus is the dot above the i)
11. Venice
12. Iris
13. Cat
14. Water
15. North by North-West
16 Dennis Lillee

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Comeytrowe Park.

For those of you who have yet to visit Comeytrowe Park you are in for quite a surprise! The park is a small haven of peace, running along the edge of Comeytrowe Road. There are no formal flower beds but come in early Spring and enjoy the display of daffodils and snowdrops or arrive later and walk under the cherry blossom, or even later in the summer and help yourself to the fruit! Children are particularly welcome and as you will see we have a range of equipment for the under 8s as well as a multi use hard court area.

The park is managed by Taunton and West Somerset Council but we are the Friends of Comeytrowe Park and work closely with the council to take care of and enhance the park. Let us tell you a little more about the Friends Group and the park:

Position.

The park is situated at the top of College Way next to Stone Close TA1 4YG. Other pedestrian entrances are in Pope Close, Barrington Close and Comeytrowe Road.

Purpose of the Group.

The group was set up to help keep the park in good order for all. We work with Comeytrowe Parish Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Taunton Bat Group and local volunteers.

Achievements.

Over the last four years:

We have replaced the swings,

Put in a Pod swing, a Rotowin roundabout and a Cabin climbing frame.

A new fence has been erected to enclose the play area.

Built a Bug Hotel with local school and playgroup children

The hedge along Comeytrowe Road is now properly laid.

Planted 3,500 bulbs and 13 sponsored trees.

The Parish Council have supplied a Notice Board.

Taunton Bat group supplied and fitted 12 Bat boxes.

Events.

This year sees the return of our Summer Picnic and Halloween Event, details to follow.

Local Councillors.

We have been very grateful for the support and help of our Parish Councillors, TDBC Councillors and our Somerset County Councillor. They have made a great deal of things happen in and around the park. Our latest success was preventing excessive vehicle use in the park that was damaging the grass. Two bollards are now in place on the Pope Close green together with signs on the main park gate.

Volunteers

We are starting a small volunteer group that meets once a month for an hour on a weekday, we would love you to join us! First meeting is on Tue 5th Feb at 2pm when we will clear the leaves in the hard court area. All welcome.

We look forward to seeing you in the park in the near future, let us know if you have any ideas for developments at friends.park14@gmail.com and please report any problems to the parks@tauntondeane.gov or your local Councillors, details are on the Notice board.

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Party bookings are welcomed.
Our cafe is open to the general public.
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We are still working to improve the facilities and hope to have our dance studios open by the beginning of March.
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WALKER ART GROUP

The Walker Art Group has been pleased to welcome some new members during the Autumn Term. There is a wide variety of different styles and we all gain from watching and enjoying the progress of each others work.

We are always happy to welcome a few more new members. So, if you are someone who would like to join an informal, untutored art group, please think about coming along to join us in **THE WALKER ROOM, COMEYTROWE COMMUNITY CENTRE, FROM 2 - 4 PM, ON TUESDAY AFTERNOONS.**

We work in a relaxed atmosphere. It is just a case of coming along with your preferred art materials and an idea to get started.

The new term starts on Tuesday, 8 January 2019.

Our charge is currently £20 per half-term. If you are interested and want to chat beforehand, please ring Lynne on 01823 277388.

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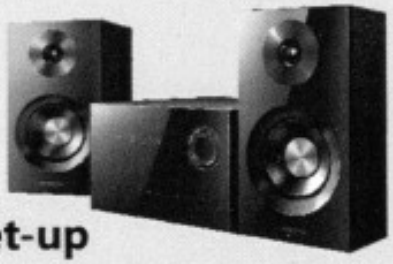

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THE MARCH 2019 ISSUE
Published on: Friday 1st March
Copy must be with the Editor by Friday 15th February 2018
Editor: Mrs. P. M. Ryan, 12 Berwick Close. Tel: 288474
Distribution: Mr. S. & Mrs. J. Rudd, 7 Comeytrowe Rise. Tel: 252604
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