

**January News from your Village Agent**  
**Gill Cannon 07776 245767**



I would like to introduce myself as your new village agent. I would also, at this point, like to mark the wonderful work done by Lou Kemp over the last 10 years since the village agent scheme was piloted in Gloucestershire. Since that time the scope of the scheme has extended from the original 96 parishes to well over 200 parishes and the model of working with communities has been taken up from the original kernel, started here in Gloucestershire, to a nationwide service bringing together all kinds of organisations to provide a complete solution directly to people in their own homes. We aim to help people to remain in their own homes, living independent lives, preventing unnecessary hospital admissions whilst working hard to eradicate rural isolation forging strong supportive communities for those over 50 in need of support.

It is this group of people that I am privileged to join and I am looking forward to working with communities and

directly with individuals to make living in our wonderful countryside pleasant whatever age or capability.

I live in Eastcombe in the parish of Bisley-with-Lypiatt. I am married and a Mum and Grandma. After a lengthy career in the law and then in senior management in the charity sector I am keen to use my knowledge and skills to continue to bring people and organisations together. I would reiterate that village and community agents bridge the gap between local communities and statutory and voluntary organisations able to offer support. The amount of help available is incredible but I know from my experiences with my own father difficult to negotiate or to find.

If you are a local group who can provide support to a vulnerable person – shopping, company etc I would like to hear from you too. It is important that we link those in need with those that are ready and willing to assist.

I am here to help.

Just a thought as the weather turns colder and we light fires and candles to lighten the dark nights. Are you happy that your fire prevention is as good as it should be? If you have any concerns the Fire Service is happy to advise and we have an excellent relationship with our local fire crews.

The Village Agent scheme is county wide, helping over 50's with information and support. Please call me to arrange a home visit or email me and I will be in touch [gannon@villageagent.grcc.org.uk](mailto:gannon@villageagent.grcc.org.uk). 07776 245767