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Weather Watch

By Jonathan Powell

Everydayweather.co.uk

Forecast: Essentially dry with pleasant spells of sunshine. Light winds.

Thursday Dry, sunny spells. Day 15C/59F Night 3C/37F in Parkend. Light north-easterly.

Friday Dry, sunny spells. Day 15C/59F Night 3C/37F in Solomon's Tump. Light easterly.

Saturday Dry, sunny spells. Day 15C/59F Night 4C/39F in Stroat. Light north-easterly.

Sunday Dry, sunny spells. Day 16C/61F Night 4C/39F in Kings Caple. Light north-easterly.

Monday Dry, cloudy. Day 16C/61F Night 6C/43F in Hardwicke. Light north-easterly.

Tuesday Dry, cloudy. Day 16C/61F Night 7C/45F in Boxbush. Light north-easterly.

Wednesday Showers. Day 15C/59F Night 7C/45F in Newnham. Light north-easterly.

Chemists' Rota

A pharmacy is open between 10am and 2pm on Sunday, April 25 at: The Co-operative Pharmacy, Dockham Road, Cinderford (01594 822131)

If it is necessary that you have an URGENT (as written by your doctor) prescription dispensed when no pharmacies are open, you should contact your GP or the police who will be able to help you.

News

Polling stations prepare for elections

As the local elections approach on May 6, Forest of Dean District Council is preparing to make sure all the polling stations available for those who wish to vote in person are safe and Covid secure.

Voting in person will be different this year with voters encouraged to bring

their own masks and pen or pencil on the day.

Some polling stations have had to change due to some usual polling locations being unsuitable during the pandemic and so voters are being urged to check their poll cards to make sure they know where their polling station

is.

Residents are also being encouraged to make sure they are registered to vote, and if they want to, have applied for proxy voting ahead of the rapidly approaching deadline.

Residents can register to vote through the Government website which

takes only five minutes to complete.

To be able to vote by proxy applications must be received by 5pm on Tuesday April 27.

Andrew Knott, Returning Officer for Forest of Dean District said: "We are taking all the steps needed to make sure voters this year

are safe at the polling stations and feel comfortable voting in person.

"As a final reminder I would urge everyone wanting to vote to make sure they are registered ahead of the required deadlines so that they have the chance to have their say in this year's local elections."

Council to honour local Korean War soldiers

by Jake Chown

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FOREST of Dean District Council is set to honour local soldiers who fought at the Battle of Imjin during the Korean War with a special memorial this year.

The council pledged to support a series of actions, proposed by an independent group through the chairman's office, during a full council meeting last Thursday (April 15) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the battle this October.

The proposed actions include the creation of a lasting memorial, such as a tablet, picture photograph or exhibition, to increase awareness of the Forest's contribution to the events and the eventual repatriation of Forest veterans in 1953.

The Battle of Imjin, which was fought in April 1951, was a defensive battle in which a UN peace keeping force that included the first battalion Gloucestershire Regiment fought against the North Korean and Chinese Armies.

While the forces were heavily outnumbered, they held up the Chinese army sufficiently to allow UN forces to regroup and prevent the fall of Seoul.

The battalion was awarded the US Presidential Citation, while Colonel Carne was awarded the Victoria Cross and several other soldiers were decorated for their gallantry and actions.

The majority of the battalion that weren't killed during the battle spent the next two years in a prisoner of war camp being interrogated, tortured and resisting political indoctrination.

South Korea has regarded the battle as a key event in safeguarding democracy in the country and has expressed a debt of gratitude to the UK and Gloucestershire, home of the regiment, on numerous occasions.

Several of the national service-



Roll call of survivors of the Gloucestershire Regiment after the Battle of Imjin River, 1951

men in the 'Glosters' battalion came from the Forest of Dean and two were in 'A Company', which continuously engaged in the most ferocious part of the battle.

In addition to the memorial, a concert will be performed by The Forest of Dean Orchestra on October 23 to commemorate the battle.

The concert will be supported by Foresters' Forest Landscape Partnership and will include the premiere of a specially commissioned composition from Lydbrook composer Liz Lane.

The council was also asked to seek funding from local industry to help with the memorial and to possibly support a bursary scheme to take a group of Forest children to South Korea.

Peter Williams, who presented the report on behalf of council chairman James Bevan, said that the action would be the first time that the council has 'formally acknowledged the sacrifices made' by the Forest of Dean's Imjin veterans.

Cllr Nick Evans, who is the coun-

cil's armed forces champion, said: "I think that it is right and fitting as a council that we recognise the sacrifice that was made by residents of Gloucestershire, and in particular Forest residents, in the past, and how their endeavours have safeguarded freedom and democracy in Korea, and also helped to establish the United Nations as a global force for good in upholding rights and establishing international order."

"I think it's right that we do our bit to make sure that Korea isn't a forgotten war, as it is often described, and that we help support events that have been organised by others as well as create something of our own that could recognise and create an enduring legacy."

Members were urged to contact Cllr Bevan and Cllr Evans with their own ideas on how to mark the anniversary and to highlight any businesses or individuals that may like to support the council's action.

Cllr Helen Molyneux added: "When I was a little girl my father used to make us listen to the news,

and at that time it was all about the Korean War."

"The battle of the Imjin river was something that my father talked to us about as we sat around the dinner table."

"When I drive into Gloucester now and I see the sign for the Imjin battalion headquarters (Imjin Barracks), I wonder how many people know what the Battle of Imjin was all about."

"I would like very much for all of us to support this, these were young men who gave their lives and as it says in the papers, lots of them suffered both physical and physiological problems when they returned, not dissimilar to what is happening today, when many return from battles that are still going on, unfortunately, all over the world."

"I would like to express my thanks to those who gave their lives during the Korean War, my sympathies to their families, and to encourage all councillors please to support this motion."

Statue is the spirit of the Forest

Continues from Front Page

Working with metal is also a part of Coleford's heritage, from its history right through to current times, from the metallurgist Robert Mushet (1811-1891), to the many engineering compa-

nies based here today."

Mayor of Coleford, Councillor Nick Penny said: "We are extremely happy with the finished sculpture which looks majestic in its new home. This has been a great example of what can be achieved without leaving

the towns boundary, with the

artists living in Coalway, fabrication by PJ Engineering in Milkwall, and of course most importantly the design having been selected by the residents of Coleford.

We are extremely grateful to everyone involved with this project and would like to pay a special thanks to Complete Utilities for their kind gesture to the community of donating the concrete base that the sculpture stands on, to Diane

and Phil for their ongoing commitment to delivering this striking addition to the Coleford landscape and of course to Paul, Ben and the team at PJ Engineering for their collaboration, patience and dedication throughout the fabrication process."