

THE **Bourton** **BUGLE**

LOCAL NEWS, VIEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL

WINTER 2021



Credit: The Bourton House elves

- Christmas Church Services
- Old School Christmas Party
- Horse & Groom Christmas Quiz
- Bourton House News
- 20mph zones
- Our phone box
- And more!



Welcome to the Winter Edition. As you can see from the cover, Father Christmas is on his way, so I hope you've been good (or at least not caught out). I also hope that the festive period gives you a chance to unwind and relax, spending time doing what you love. And if the situation allows, I hope you are able to spend time with friends and family. Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and hope for a brighter 2022.

Ailsa Vigrass

ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Upcoming Services At St. Lawrence & The (Delayed) Arrival Of Mains Water.



For reasons that are still not entirely clear, the connection of mains water to the church at the beginning of September did not happen. A real 'shaggy dog story'! Anyway, a new date was fixed and the connection finally made on 2nd/3rd November.

It is great to be able to use the new sinks in the vestry and at the back of the church. We 'celebrated' the arrival of water by serving tea and coffee after the Remembrance Sunday service and it was lovely that most people stayed to enjoy a hot drink and to chat. It was particularly good to welcome six members of the family of Charles Hawtin, a village resident who died during World War II.

We are now in the church season of Advent and Christmas is fast approaching. Our upcoming services are

Sunday 5th December

Second Sunday of Advent
6pm Advent Carols & Readings

Sunday 12th December

Third Sunday of Advent
11:15am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th December

Fourth Sunday of Advent
11:15am Holy Communion

Friday 24th December

Christmas Eve
6:00pm Carol Service
followed by mulled wine & mince pies.
11:30pm Midnight Mass at Blockley

Christmas Day

9:30am Holy Communion at Blockley

NB – There will be no services on Boxing Day

It would be wonderful if you could join us for any of the above services. We very much look forward to welcoming you.

Philip Gee

PARISH COUNCIL

At our September meeting with many sincere thanks we bid farewell to Alexia Monroe, our long-serving clerk. She has done a great job of looking after us all in Bourton.

We are delighted to welcome Kevin O'Donoghue as our new clerk, who started with us on the 1st of October. He is also the clerk for Willersey Council and has much experience to draw on from there in dealing with the same individuals and departments at Gloucestershire Council and Cotswold District Council. Kevin has just found us a new auditor and is on the case sorting out our annual review of regulatory documents.

In September Tom Dixon was co-opted onto the Parish Council. He has done fantastic work on the Allotment & Community Orchard's



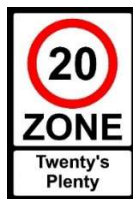
scheme, so we look forward to him bringing his enthusiasm & experience to the Parish Council.

Highways

As reported in previous issues of The Bugle we are pursuing Highways, via our County Councillor, to improve the signage at the Blockley turning and to reduce the speed limit in the middle of the village to 20mph. The recent traffic survey showed that speeding over the limit is more evident at the lower end of the village near Fenhill Close, so we await the analysis / recommendations on any suitable actions to address this.



Interestingly, Cotswold District Council is now calling on the County Council to make 20mph the default speed limit for villages and towns across the Cotswolds in a bid to improve road safety in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix.



Cllr Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, says that this scheme is overwhelmingly supported by residents in the Cotswolds and has the full support of the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership. Cllr Forde has said that “The simple fact is that if you hit a pedestrian, they have a much greater chance of surviving if your speed is lower. The risk of a fatal injury when hitting a pedestrian at 40mph is 90 per cent and reduces to 2.5 per cent when driving at 20mph. That’s why we are calling on Gloucestershire County Council, as the Local Highways Authority, to consult the county’s District Councils, Parish Councils and communities to identify all the roads which should adopt a 20mph speed limit no later than 30 April 2025’.

The ‘20mph is Plenty’ motion was put forward to Cotswold District Council’s

meeting on 22 September 2021 and received unanimous approval from Councillors.

Arguments in support of the introduction of 20mph include an analysis that rolling it out county-wide would involve be a one-off cost of £2.3m and that it would produce a saving of £480k p.a. medical and ambulance costs for the GCC and an expected annual total benefit of £5.7m p.a., all through a 20% reduction in casualties in existing 30mph areas. Gloucestershire County Council will be considering a motion to introduce 20mph speed limits.

We have registered our interest in this campaign and will provide updates when there is any progress to report. Please also see the update from the Bourton Community Speedwatch team later in this edition.

Tree-bilee

Gloucestershire County Council have offered each parish two oak trees to celebrate the platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen which will fall on the 4th June 2022. After discussion with Bourton House, Roelof Quintus has kindly agreed to the placing of the two trees in the field opposite Bourton House near the Bourton House car park.

Councillors

The Parish Councillors are Andy Vigrass (Chairman), Liz Bowden (Vice Chairman), Angela Hay, Anna Stanley, Tom Dixon, Tom Martin & Mark Norton. The Clerk to the Parish Council is Kevin O’Donoghue.

Phone & Email



The phone number for contacting the clerk: 01386 854830



The clerk’s email address is clerk@bourtononthehill.co.uk

Kevin O’Donoghue & Andy Vigrass



THE OLD SCHOOL



We are very happy to report that the Old School is back in business. We have a number of regular bookings including the Toddler Group on Monday mornings, a children's drama group which meets Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Tai Chi and Yoga on Saturday mornings. The Bridge Club is back all day Wednesday and Scottish Dancing on the second and fourth Friday mornings in the month.

Village Christmas Party



There will be a village Christmas Party on Friday 10th December at the Old School, 6.30 for 7.00pm. Tickets are £10.00 to include a glass of mulled wine and supper. Children under 16- £5.00. There will be the usual raffle, carols and the 'Call My Bluff' game, which was very popular at the last Christmas party in 2019.

Places will be limited to 36, so book early by contacting Anne Robertson on 01386 701564 or email anne.robertson1304@gmail.com.

Return of Rural Cinema

We have recently shown two films, "The Father", in September and "Dream Horse" at the end of October. Both had audiences of about 20 people. On Saturday 27th November we showed the film Nomadland, which won the 2021 Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actress.

Hall Rental

If you would like to hire the hall the current rate is £8 per hour for residents in the village and £10 per hour for non-residents. Contact Sandra Gee 01386 701385.

Changes in the committee

After many years of stalwart service, including time as Chair of the Old School Hall Committee, Pat Freeman has resigned following her move to Blockley. We are extremely grateful to Pat and her husband Jerry for all they have done to keep the Old School going over many years. We welcome Nicky Peebles to the Committee and are grateful to her for coming forward to help.



Dates for 2022

- **Village Open Gardens** - Saturday 2nd July
 - **Autumn Fete and Craft Fair** at Bourton House Garden - Saturday 1st October
- Further information to follow.

*Anne Robertson
Tel. 701564*



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

Representatives from the BotH speedwatch team met with PC Westmacott in the summer. We learned that as a result of the initial speedwatch campaign, around 70 of the worst speeders were sent letters by the police who also made a couple of house visits to repeat offenders. Of course, no points or fines could be handed out as the speed-gun used by the group is not approved by the Home Office. It had been suggested by Stow Police that speedwatch groups could use a camera that would result in enforcements if the members of the team were properly trained and willing to appear in court. I stated that I would be willing to do both, but we have since been told by Stow Police that they are unwilling to commit resources to this proposal. Frankly, this is disappointing: if there were regular checks conducted in BotH resulting in enforcements, traffic speed would soon be reduced ensuring a safer and healthier environment for all.



Several other methods aimed at reducing the speed of traffic through BotH were discussed; the police suggested that we should start with the creation of a new speed limit of 20mph throughout BotH. The police said they would support such an application made to Gloucestershire Highways.

Finally, if anyone has a dashcam fitted in their car and can film instances of dangerous driving in the village, could you please send a copy of this footage to:

adrian@laserenissima.co.uk

Thank you!

Adrian & Camilla Chandler

HORSE & GROOM

Horse and Groom Christmas Quiz



We are holding our Christmas quiz night on Friday the 12th of December, starting around 6pm. We have some fantastic prizes such as a £50 bar tab, a Hook Norton brewery tour and a bottle of wine for the runner-up.

We will also be giving a free glass of mulled wine to everyone who wears a Christmas jumper.

*Shaun
The Horse & Groom Team
Tel. 700413*

EDUCATIONAL TRUST



The Trust likes to give every child in the village who is under 18 a small gift at Christmas to help with their education. But - we need to know who they are! If you think that your child might be missing from our list, please could you let us know so that we can include them. Thank you. If you'd like to know more about us, please see the village website.

*Catherine Firth (Chair of Trustees)
catherinefirth54@gmail.com
Tel. 700939*



BOURTON HOUSE GARDENS

Well, that's a wrap for our 2021 season! Sadly, our gates are now closed until next year but we are so relieved that we managed to stay fully open and largely unaffected by Covid compared to last year. And, whilst our overseas visitors haven't returned to pre-covid numbers we are extremely grateful that our very-welcome local customers and holiday-makers have made up for it.

During the last week of October the gardening team started lifting all the tender plants that we overwinter indoors. It took two weeks to get all the plants in but everything is nicely tucked up now.

Then it was on to the box. Just as last year the wet weather enabled blight to spread rapidly through the knot garden, so it spread this year through the parterre at the front. You could almost see the blight spreading as you watched. Sadly, but also with some excitement of what was to come next, we dug the box in both areas out. Quite a task!



So what will replace all the box? We are very excited and will reveal all in due course! Do follow us on Facebook or Instagram for more information or why not subscribe to our monthly newsletter (see website for details).

You may have noticed that our front wall has been extensively repointed over the last few



weeks and is looking superb now, ready to survive another 100 years or so!

Talking of walls, it would be remiss of us not to mention that Roelof has also been busy repairing and rebuilding the dry stone wall around the field walk. It's been quite a project over the past few years and is looking really good.



Not bad for someone who has never been taught the art of dry-stone walling!

That just leaves us to wish you a very merry Christmas from everyone at Bourton House.

*Rachel
Bourton House Administrator*



Postscript:

A reading suggestion for the Christmas break: 'A Net for Small Fishes' by Lucy Jago (published in June). This centres around the true story of the poisoning of courtier Thomas Overbury in 1615. Overbury was raised at Bourton House (the Tudor version of it).



Editor

Since setting up this page I've received a few contributions from villagers. If you have any other photos for sharing, please get in touch.

*Andy Vigrass
avigrass@gmail.com*

OUR HUMBLE RED PHONE BOX

As many of you will know, there is a red phone box in Rectory Lane, and is unusual because it actually has a phone in it! Sometimes you see bemused walkers inspecting it, and especially (pre Covid) visitors from the Far East.



But it has more of a secret than many of us realise. The red telephone box was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (1880-1960). A leading architect, Scott is famous not only for his telephone boxes, his achievements also include producing the winning design for Liverpool Cathedral and overseeing the rebuilding work required at the Houses of Parliament after the Second World War.

Scott's design of the K2 cast iron telephone kiosk won the Post Office sponsored competition in 1924. The red K2 telephone box was introduced to the streets of London in 1926. It was used solely in the capital and only a few were erected elsewhere. The K2 box was heavy and expensive to produce, so he produced an updated K6 design in 1935. The box in Rectory Lane is of the K6 design, it is in a Conservation Area and is listed as Grade II. So, it is rare and special.

PHOTO ARCHIVE

Here's a shot of the main road during the rush hour in the 1900's...



Over the past few years I've been collecting old postcards with photos of Bourton and following requests to share them, have added a section to our village website with their images.

These photos can be found at www.bourtononthehill.co.uk, under the link 'Photo Archive' - I hope you enjoy looking at them.



You may have read about the review that British Telecom is doing of phone boxes in rural areas, with a view to decommissioning those that are used infrequently or not at all. Given that the mobile signal is sometimes non-existent where the box is, if it were removed there might be no way that someone could make a phone call. The message is “use it or lose it”. Whilst it does not take coins, you can use a credit or debit card, so if you are passing it you might think about making a quick call (say to The Speaking Clock on 123) so it does not register as being unused.

*Richard Hemmings
with help from the websites:
“The Story of the phone box”
“The Phoney Box”*

Postscript:

BT offered the kiosk to the Parish Council a few years ago for £1. The offer was declined because as the phone box is listed it means that BT are not only obliged to retain it in situ, but responsible for its upkeep.

Editor

NORTH COTSWOLD FOODBANK

Last week we had our annual pre-Christmas collection at Tesco.



Christmas is one our busiest times and we provide hampers to give our clients something special to help with what can be a very difficult financial time for many families. Just to give you an idea of the Tesco collections, we had items weighing 1119kg donated by the customers at Bishops Cleeve and 832kg were donated by the customers at Stow. We also received £500 in cash from the cash buckets.

This all helps us to continue to offer clients a voucher for the Cotswold Veg Box Company so that they can have fresh fruit and vegetables and

a meat voucher for Walkers the butchers on the High Street. By providing better quality and fresh food we can fulfil one our aims which is to improve the nutritional value of our food parcels.

The Congregational Church in Oxford Street have resumed serving teas and coffees, so although we are not totally back to pre-Covid times, we are able to spend more time with our clients when appropriate.

If you know of anyone who is struggling financially and would benefit from a food parcel, for contact details please see the green leaflet on the village noticeboards, contact either the Citizens Advice Bureau, P3, the GPs, the school liaison officer or Cotswold District Council.

*Alexia Monroe
Trustee and Lead volunteer, Moreton*

THE NEXT ISSUE

.. is due out in March.

Items for inclusion should be submitted by early March to: -



*Ailsa Vigrass
amvigrass@gmail.com*