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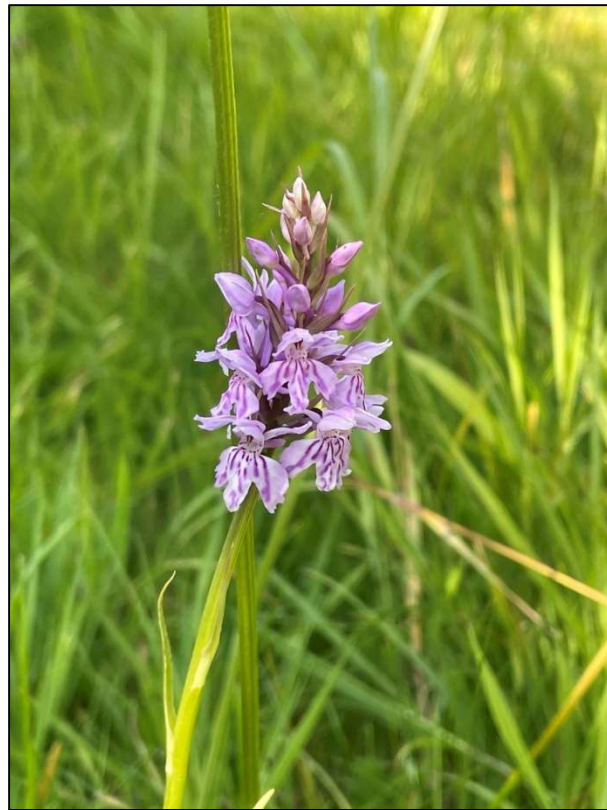
# Bourton BUGLE

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

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## SUMMER 2023



*Common spotted orchid, St Lawrence's churchyard,  
Sophie Wilson*

- Open Gardens – fund raising result
- Green initiative at St Lawrence
- The Coronation tree planting
- And more!





Welcome to the Summer Bugle; thank you to all the contributors that have made this edition a good read.

*Ailsa Vigrass*

## ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

### **Forthcoming Services at St. Lawrence**



At long last, work on the construction of the toilet outside the southwest corner of the church building has begun. We very much hope that it will be completed by the time the next edition of The Bugle is published.

Our services over the coming weeks are listed below. We would be very pleased to welcome you on all or any of the following dates:

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July, **Trinity 6**, 11:15am  
Holy Communion  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, **Trinity 7**, 11:15am  
Holy Communion  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July, **Trinity 8**, 4pm  
Songs of Praise  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August, **Trinity 9**, 6pm  
Evening Prayer  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August, **Trinity 10**, 11:15am  
Holy Communion  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August, **Trinity 11**, 11:15am  
Holy Communion  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August, **Trinity 12**, 11:15am  
Holy Communion  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, **Trinity 13**, 6pm  
Evening Prayer  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, **Trinity 14**, 11:15am  
Holy Communion  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September, **Trinity 15**, 11:15am  
Holy Communion  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September, **Trinity 16**, 11:15am  
Holy Communion

We very much look forward to welcoming you.

*Philip Gee*

## **Changes in the churchyard**

The care and maintenance of our churchyard is the responsibility of the Parish Church Council which has taken a different direction this year for both financial and ecological reasons. We are actively supporting the *Ecochurch* movement whilst aiming to preserve a beautiful place for people to be comfortable visiting. A recent survey identified over 50 plant species growing in the church grounds including our first orchid.

In order to support biodiversity and encourage wildlife we have restricted grass cutting to:

- the grass at the front of the church
- paths between the graves to the benches at the back
- strips along the edges of the tarmac paths
- a central path in the lower churchyard
- the area where ashes are buried.

This will continue for a few more weeks.

Earlier this month, on Sunday the 9th July, five volunteers gathered to do the summer strim and rake so the churchyard is looking quite different now but there is still some lady's bedstraw to be seen and a small area in the lower churchyard has been left untouched to provide a refuge for wildlife whose habitat has been disturbed. Aside from the regular mowing of the paths and specific areas of grass, it will be left to grow again until late autumn when another strim will be done. We shall look forward to watching how things grow again.

Our vicar, Dana, is managing the strimming of Paupers Piece as she has a beekeeper's suit so we can leave the bees to work there in peace!

If you would be willing to share the work and help look after this precious part of the village in this way, please let Naomi Morris know as soon as possible, preferably by 24th July, and



your name can be added to the new rota which will start in August.

Naomi can be contacted on [morrises32a@btinternet.com](mailto:morris32a@btinternet.com) or telephone 01386 853742. Many hands make light work so the more volunteers we have the better – you may only be asked to mow once if we have a good response. There is a church petrol mower and volunteers can mow any time in their allotted week when it is convenient for them.

*Naomi Morris*

### **Field notes from the churchyard**

Here we are, already at the height of Summer. It seems the wheel of the year turns forever faster! But to me, this season came bearing some very special gifts indeed as I have taken great pleasure in watching our very own churchyard come to life with flowers, insects and animals. As a result of dedicated no-mow areas, there has been an abundance of colour, delicate scents and gentle humming. A delightful busyiness filling the air. Discovering the very first common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) near one of the paths is not unlike uncovering an Easter egg. It stirs the inner child within us although I do wonder what can really beat chocolate.



As part of the *EcoChurch* effort, a survey was conducted earlier this June. Over 50 species of

wildflowers were identified, along with some notable insects spotted that day. Yarrow, quacking grass, hoary plantain, self-heal, fox-and-cubs are just some of my favourites and stealing the show this year was Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*). This beautiful honey-scented plant was once used to stuff mattresses or as a strewing herb on floors. Lady's bedstraw was also used to curdle milk, giving the cheese a distinctive yellow colouring. Although its traditional healing properties have been mostly forgotten, it is still recommended by herbalists to alleviate skin problems such as psoriasis, or urinary conditions. In my home country, France, it was once a well-known remedy for epilepsy.

I cannot but marvel at the wealth of folklore, beauty and wellbeing wildflowers have to offer. Often unpolluted, churchyards play a special role in providing a sanctuary for biodiversity and I am so happy that our church can contribute, even just a little, and be part of a greater haven for wildlife.

The survey will be made available on the church website:

[www.bourtononthehillchurch.org.uk](http://www.bourtononthehillchurch.org.uk)

*Sophie Wilson.*



## **PARISH COUNCIL**

### **New Councillors**

At the AGM on the 16th May Andy Vigrass was re-elected Chairman and Liz Bowden re-elected as Vice-Chair. Tom Dixon and Tom Martin retired ahead of the election. Mark Norton has resigned since the election. We are very grateful to all three of them for their significant contributions to the PC over the years. At the election the existing councillors stood for re-election along with two new councillors, so we welcomed Adrian Chandler and Chris Priest who have now joined the Council.

### **Highways**

It is taking longer than hoped to get the Community Speedwatch

Cameras installed. We are still awaiting delivery of the cameras by Gloucestershire Highways.

These cameras have had a significant effect on the levels of speeding in villages where they've already been installed. They take photos of the rear of vehicles breaking the speed limit for a definable threshold and these details will be stored on a secure server provided by the company supplying the camera. A percentage of the offenders will be passed to the police who will then issue letters to the offenders. The Parish Council will have to pay for each letter sent out, so we will have to manage this cost carefully to a set limited budget each month.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

At the Annual Parish Meeting on the 16th May there was a good attendance and the following points were discussed:

#### **Precept**

It was suggested that the Parish Council precept be increased to enable funding of more village activities and/or projects to include a greater number of speed camera letters. A comparison was made to Blockley PC's precept which is understood to be higher per household. (*The precept is the annual funding for the Parish Council and is raised directly from all our Community Charge bills*). No figure was discussed.

#### **Speed Cameras**

The Community Speed Watch camera initiative was well received. Gaining additional funding for letters to offenders was discussed, including by Crowd Funding and increasing the precept.

#### **Parish Council Vision**

It was asked what the PC's objectives are for the next four years.

#### **Village Cohesion**

There were concerns that The Horse and Groom public house may close in the near future. There has been reduced attendance at Old School events. Concern was expressed about the low number of allotment rentals and about general levels of apathy and disengagement across the village.

#### **Old School**

The Old School is currently effectively funded by a small core of regular users but is an asset for the whole community. To help fund the Old School one idea mentioned was for the Parish Council to increase the precept and these additional funds to be allocated to the Old School.







### **Parish Council Communication**

The importance of communication in countering apathy was highlighted.

### **Church/Glebe Field**

Reverend Delap offered the field to the parish on behalf of the PCC and advised that grants are available to fund landscaping and play equipment. It was estimated that there are 34 children in the village (i.e., those under the age of 18). Longborough's playground which serves a similar sized population was referenced.

### **St Lawrence's Clock and Path**

Concern was expressed that the Parish Council's contribution had been reduced last year and a request was made to increase the contribution to at least its original value. It was suggested that the Parish Council should contribute to the clock & path upkeep as they are regarded as village amenities. The small congregation and regular contributors mean that PCC finances are currently very low.

### **Potholes**

Gloucestershire County Council plans to fill all major potholes in the county by mid-July. The worst potholes in the Batsford Road are to be included.

### **Councillors**

The Parish Councillors are Andy Vigrass (Chairman), Liz Bowden (Vice Chairman), Michael Neil, Anna Stanley, Adrian Chandler and Chris Priest. 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](mailto:clerk@bourtononthehill.co.uk)

*Kevin O'Donoghue & Andy Vigrass*

### **THE OLD SCHOOL**



The Old School Village Hall remains under-utilised. There is a regular Toddler group on Monday mornings, Bridge Club on Wednesdays and Scottish dancing twice a month. We are keen to attract new hirers, whether for one off events or regular sessions.

We delivered questionnaires to every household in the village asking for ideas and suggestions for improving use of the hall but were disappointed to receive only 18 replies. We will be looking at all the ideas suggested to see what can realistically be achieved in the future.

WiFi will be installed by Gigaclear on 21st July and we hope this will encourage more people to use the hall.

Following the Annual General Meeting in March we are delighted to welcome Leah Blackman-Hart to the committee. She will be a great asset with her enthusiasm and technical expertise.

### **Coronation celebrations**

The committee put up Union Jack bunting around the village and leading up to the Coronation Wood, where the Coronation picnic was enjoyed on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> May.

After torrential rain we enjoyed perfect weather and the children made a great effort in planting the commemorative tree, a native crab apple.



June. Audience numbers are generally in the 30's with many coming from neighbouring villages.

Our film on the 29th July will be 'A Man Called Otto'. Tickets are £4.00 on the door. Doors open at 6.30pm and the film starts at 7.15pm. Hot dogs and a donations bar are available.

There will be no film in August, so the next film after that date will be on the 30th September.



### **Open Gardens Sunday 4th June.**

This was a very successful event. We were blessed with a beautiful, sunny day and 248 visitors enjoyed viewing 5 village gardens as well as the Community Orchard and Bourton House Garden. A special feature this year was the Arts and Crafts garden at Porch House which was celebrating its Centenary. An exhibition of photographs and maps showed the development of the garden. *[see article on below for more information, Ed].*

Teas and cakes were served in the Old School Hall and a total of £2,600 was raised which will help with maintaining the hall. Thank you to all who opened their gardens, baked cakes and helped in the tearoom or car park. A great community effort.



*Photos:  
Anna Stanley*

### **Paintings of Bourton on the Hill**

A number of original paintings of various sites in Bourton on the Hill have, very kindly, been donated to the Old School Hall. These are by the artists, Roy Kraty, Alfred Grenfell Haigh, James Priddey and Lawrence Young and date from 1889 to the 1970s. It is our intention to have a Silent Auction for these paintings at a coffee morning sometime in the Autumn. Please watch out for notices about this and come along to see them.

*Anne Robertson  
(on behalf of the Old School Hall Committee)*

### **Rural Cinema**

The cinema has continued operating on the last Saturday evening in the month. After showing 'The Lost King' in March, we had 'The Banshees of Inisherin' in April, 'Living' in May and most recently, the delightful film 'Mrs Harris goes to Paris' in



## **AN ARTS & CRAFTS GARDEN IN BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL - 1923-2023**

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the garden design at Porch House in the heart of Bourton. The garden was designed by the eminent Arts & Crafts architect Charles Edward Bateman, who has Grade I & II\* listed buildings to his name, and who is on Historic England's shortlist of Arts & Crafts architects when considering new listings. The garden design was perfectly in tune not only with his own Arts & Crafts enthusiasm, but also with the prevailing fashion for such gardens from the late nineteenth century through to a few years after the First World War. Designed in 1923, and proudly shown to Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society members by Bateman in 1924, it represents one of the later examples of this garden style, particularly at a domestic scale; such gardens, both in construction and in maintenance, require substantial manual labour, and after the loss of so many lives in the First World War labour was scarce and consequently far more expensive.

C E Bateman came from a line of Bateman architects based in Birmingham, with an office in the city centre. One strand of work brought him to the North Cotswolds, and he has, for example, an extensive portfolio of works in Broadway. During the nineteenth century his father had been commissioned for a number of new charity-based buildings by Revd. Samuel Wilson Warneford, Rector of Bourton-on-the-Hill [1810-1856]. It is almost certainly this connection which motivated C E Bateman to purchase Ivydene [now Porch House] in Bourton-on-the-Hill directly adjoining the churchyard, and with Warneford's impressive memorial tomb within 2 metres of its sitting room. As well as making alterations to the house, he prioritised the design and laying out of the garden. It was his retirement home from this time through to his death there in 1947.

There are no records of how the garden site appeared prior to Bateman purchasing the property, but what we do know is that there was a separate two storey, four room, dwelling on its eastern edge called Ivy Cottage, the main house retaining its Victorian name, Ivydene, at that time. Bateman pulled down three quarters of that building to create the current single room garden studio with pyramid roof. He then reused the stone from the demolished sections to create the current terracing, walls, and ornamental arches.

We are fortunate in having copies of his original garden design plans, including some planting details, and from these plans we know he considered at least two main options. The main question appears to have been whether to have the ornamental central pond as either a circular or square feature, deciding eventually on the latter.

The garden retains its essential design elements, but some aspects have been simplified and minor alterations made to keep maintenance to a manageable level.



*Allen & Catherine Firth*





## **BOURTON HOUSE GARDEN**



We are enjoying some beautiful weather at the moment. The Tulips flowered late and long, and after a late start, this is turning out to be a fantastic year for roses of all kinds. We've just deadheaded the first flush of flowers on our repeat-flowering shrub roses around the garden and have given the plants their second feed of the season. When doing the same in your garden, make sure to cut the faded flower head off cleanly, slanting away from a bud. A rose forms on a new shoot, so look out for the new tender growth which will form in the leaf axils and flower later in the season.

We were delighted to host an Art Exhibition in the Tithe Barn recently. 'Just Four Contemporary Artists' are a collaborative group of three painters: Jenny Hill-Norton, Anthea Stilwell, Jo Ellis and sculptor and furniture maker Craig Narramore. They are joined by + two fellow artists Jane Martin and John Mackinlay.

This exhibition of recent work shows the vitality and range of subject matter and media they explore, creating a vibrant exhibition.

"There is a collective energy when we are together and our work is created for the sheer pleasure of painting" says Jenny who co-founded the



*Rose 'Pearl Drift'*

group with Anthea. This creative collaboration has made them brave and free to take risks which is releasing for them and produces exciting results. Their work is individual and expressive but connected by the vitality and energy linking the group. Their subject matter ranges from gardens, flowers, still life, figures, landscapes and seascapes created in a variety of media, including: oils, acrylics, watercolours and collage with charcoal drawings and studies on show as well.

If you didn't get a chance to view the exhibition in June, please pop along and see us. The Art will be hanging in the Tithe Barn until August now and is a colourful addition to our lovely space. All pieces are available for sale with a percentage of the proceeds donated to 'Wellchild'.

### **NGS OPEN DAY**

We will once again be opening the garden for the NGS Charity this summer on Sunday 20th August 2023. This is one of the only opportunities to visit the garden at the weekend and support a very worthwhile cause. Carolyn will also be opening our Tithe Barn café, so please come along and support us. The garden is open Tuesday – Friday 10am until 5pm through until the end of October. The Tithe Barn café and gift shop will close at the end of September, but there is still plenty of time to pop in and enjoy some of Carolyn and her team's delicious homemade treats.

Best wishes from all at Bourton House Garden

*Julie, Bourton House Gardens*



## **THE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

Do you have young friends or neighbours in the village who might not know about the Trust? This is village money to spend on school uniform, sports stuff, clubs and other activities, and we want to use it!



Please see our page on the village website:  
<https://bourtononthehill.co.uk/educational-trust/>

*Dr. Catherine Firth*  
*Chair of Trustees*  
[catherinefirth54@gmail.com](mailto:catherinefirth54@gmail.com)

## **NORTH COTSWOLD FOODBANK**

It has been a rewarding and challenging few months at the Foodbank with the six outlets around the region becoming busier than ever.



Our yearly figures speak for themselves. Emergency Food parcels provided in 2022/23 were 1568, effectively double the number of 764 from the previous year. In like manner the people fed saw the same doubling from 2263 to 4683 and just under half of these were children. Later in July a Citizen Advice Bureau advisor will be working alongside us in the Congregational Church in Moreton every Tuesday. Joanne will be there to talk to clients, advising on benefit, housing and debt issues. She will assist them to work towards solutions so they will no longer need emergency help at the Foodbank.

It is sometimes said very glibly that a charity can be 'blessed' but it does feel like that at North Cotswold Foodbank. For example, our delivery van needed unexpected repairs costing £2,000. On the day we received the bad news, we received an unexpected call from a local company and a private individual giving us a

donation of exactly that amount. So often amazing 'co-incidences' happen. A big thank you for these, to our regular donors, to everyone who has given us even one tin or packet in the last 11 years, to our 115 plus volunteers and to our very committed staff.

We are called to 'love our neighbour as ourselves' and the North Cotswold Foodbank is here to help everyone in need and struggling in these challenging times. Please visit our website [www.northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk) or you can contact us on 07879 375562 or by email at [info@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)

*Alexia Monroe*  
*Chairman of the NCFB Trustees and*  
*supervisor of the Moreton Outlet*

## **THE NEXT ISSUE**

.. is due out in early November. Items for inclusion should be submitted to me by late



October. Please either email me at the email address below or post items using the link on The Bugle page on [www.bourtononthehill.co.uk](http://www.bourtononthehill.co.uk).

*Ailsa Vigrass*  
[amvigrass@gmail.com](mailto:amvigrass@gmail.com)