
THE

Bourton BUGLE

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

SPRING 2021



- Services resume at St Lawrences
- Open Gardens in July
- Community Speed Watch
- Bourton House Gardens – not so knotted
- Covid testing in the Cotswolds
- And more!



Welcome to the spring edition of The Bugle. As I write, the flag at St Lawrence is flying at half-mast to mark the death of HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh and there is unseasonal snow in the garden. This and our cover shot reminds me of these lines from Robert Frost's 'Stopping at Woods on a Snowy Evening' written two years after Prince Philip was born:

‘But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep’

May we keep our own promises half as faithfully as he kept his.

In the meantime, I wish you a safe and joyful journey out of the woods.

Ailsa Vigrass

ST LAWRENCE’S CHURCH

Following the latest Covid 19 lockdown at the beginning of the year it was decided that we would suspend services in church to keep everyone as safe as possible and to hold all services on Zoom until things improved.



With the gradual easing of restrictions, it was decided that services would be resumed in church every other week with other services being held by Zoom. It was therefore wonderful to hold our first service back in church on Easter Sunday. We are still not allowed to sing in church but at the end of the Easter morning service we all went outside and sang ‘Thine be the Glory’ with the doors open and accompanied by Henry Betts who played the organ as loudly as possible!

We hope to return to a normal pattern of services as soon as circumstances allow, but in the meantime our planned services to the end of May are:

Sunday 18th April - **Easter 3**
11:15am Holy Communion (CW)
Please wear a mask

Sunday 25th April - **Easter 4**
9:30am Zoom Service
(see details below for the link)

Sunday 2nd May
Easter 5
6pm Evening Prayer
Please wear a mask

Sunday 9th May - **Easter 6**
9:30am Zoom Service
(see details below for the link)

Sunday 16th May - **Easter 7**
11:15am Holy Communion (CW)
Please wear a mask

Sunday 23rd May - **Pentecost**
9:30am Zoom Service
(see details below for the link)

Sunday 30th May - **Trinity Sunday**
11:15am Holy Communion (CW)
Please wear a mask

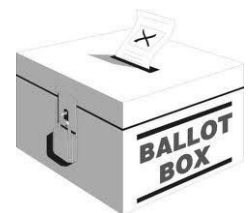
It would be wonderful if you would like to join us for our Zoom services. These are held with the other churches in the Vale and Cotswold Edge Team and the link can be found at **<https://www.vace.church/digital-church>**

Philip Gee

PARISH COUNCIL

Local Elections

Everyone on the electoral register should have received their polling cards in the post in time for the local elections on May 6th.





If you this is not the case, please contact
Cotswold District Council:
elections@cotswold.gov.uk

Defibrillator Update

The defibrillator at the Old School was out of action during the very cold weather we experienced in February/March due to the battery in the defibrillator reacting to the cold temperatures. The cabinet it is stored in has a heating element and should have kept it at a temperature above zero degrees, however it turned out that the cabinet was faulty and the heating element and the insulation failed. To resolve this and avoid a repetition we have now installed a new cabinet which is of a much better design. The defibrillator is now charged and fully working. (The defibrillator cabinet at Fenhill is of a different design and so should not have this problem).



There has been damage to several kerbs/verges by the bin lorries as they manoeuvre past parked cars, these will be reinstated in the next few weeks.

Community Speedwatch

We are delighted that Camilla Chandler has started to organize the village Speedwatch program. (more details later in this copy of the Bugle).

New Trees Offer

The County Council has felled over 3,000 ash



trees due to the spread of ash dieback in the region. It is anticipated that the final number will be 30,000, however their target is to plant 3.5 million trees over the next 10 years. With this in mind, in the autumn they will be offering Parish Councils free trees to plant which will include our Community Orchard and private gardens. If you would like to be included, please email the clerk and we will be in touch in the planting season.

Highways

Cllr Stowe is still pursuing Highways on our behalf to change the junction at the Blockley turning from a 'give way' to a 'stop' junction following several accidents where motorists have ended up hitting the wall and the signposts.



Cllr Stowe is also assisting us to install traffic measuring equipment at three locations, to help provide data that will support any recommendations for traffic calming actions. The equipment will be rubber strips across the road with data capture boxes at the kerbside. The locations suggested are at the top of the village near the Blockley turning, at the pinch-point in the middle of the village and near to the Fenhill Close junction.

The potholes around the manholes up near the Longborough turning have been reported to Highways, as has the poor state of Back Lane.

Annual Parish Meeting Postponed

This meeting has been postponed until the summer, when Covid-19 restrictions will hopefully have been lifted and it will be safer for us to meet. It will be an opportunity for new and long standing residents to catch up on all the village activities, including updates from the Old School Hall, Community Orchard, Help in Need Charity and the Educational Trust.

Meetings for 2021

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held via Zoom on May 4th at 6.30pm (All members of the public are welcome to attend, please contact the clerk for an invitation). It is expected that the following meetings will be held in the Old School Hall at 6.30pm on July 20th, September 21st, October 26th and December 7th.



Councillors

The Parish Councillors are Andy Vigrass (Chairman), Liz Bowden (Vice Chairman), Louise Davis, Angela Hay, Anna Stanley, Tom Martin & Mark Norton. The Clerk to the Parish Council is Alexia Monroe.

Phone & Email



The phone number for contacting the clerk: **07594-169499**



The clerk's email address is **clerk@bourtononthehill.co.uk**

Alexia Monroe / Andy Vigrass

postponed from March 2020, and coffee mornings. We realise that there are a number of new residents in the village, who unfortunately we have not had the chance to meet and make welcome.

Rural Cinema evenings are expected to resume in September.

We will have a **Village Open Gardens** in conjunction with Bourton House on Sunday 11th July, with teas in the Old School Hall. If you are happy to open your garden to the public that day or help in any way, please contact Anne Robertson on 01386 701564 or email **anne.robertson@gmail.com**



THE OLD SCHOOL



Sadly, due to Covid 19 restrictions the Old School Hall has had to remain closed since March 2020.

General maintenance has continued, including renewal of the emergency lighting and fire alarm systems. Refurbishment of the kitchen has been completed. The roof has been repaired, although we are still waiting for further work on the chimney. Over the next few weeks, the floors in the main and back halls will be sanded and revarnished prior to re-opening.

The hall will be open for the first time in over a year on Thursday 6th May as the Polling Station for elections for Councillors and Police & Crime Commissioner. There will be a one-way system and other measures to keep everyone safe. You are encouraged to bring your own pen or pencil to mark the ballot papers.

We are planning to resume indoor events when all Covid restrictions are lifted. These will include a Cheese and Wine event,

The committee for the Old School Hall comprises:

Anne Robertson, Chair, Philip Gee, Vice Chair, Catherine Firth, Treasurer, Sandra Gee, Secretary and Pat Freeman, Sophie Le Métais and Anne-Gaelle Lacondemine.

As always, we would be delighted to welcome other members willing to help organise events, assist with fundraising and help maintain the Old School as our village hall. Please contact any of the current committee.

We hope to see you all again in person soon.

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



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

A team of villagers has set up a new **Community Speed Watch** group in conjunction with Gloucestershire Police & local enforcement teams.



The campaign will monitor speed & traffic-related issues throughout Bourton-in-the-Hill in order to:

- **Raise awareness** of the high speeds passing through the village in both directions.
- **Provide data** to support efforts to lobby Gloucestershire Highways to improve road safety in the village.
- **Reduce vehicle speeds**, motoring offences & anti-social driving, thereby improving quality of life.

The new team was trained to use a radar gun by local police on Maundy Thursday and has completed 4 days of observations so far. In spite of the inevitable reduction in speed prompted by a group of high-vis jackets stationed in full view by the roadside (!!)

the data collected already demonstrates the scale of the issue in Bourton, with 40% of vehicles passing through the village at illegal speeds. We intend to run regular checks going forward and would love to expand this by investing in 1 or more radar guns to enable simultaneous checks at multiple points in the village.

Ways you can help:

- **Volunteer** to join the CSW team: we have 9 committed members encompassing dog-walkers, young families, those in full-time work and retired villagers. No experience or fixed time commitments necessary!

- **Contribute** to the purchase of an independent set of radar guns for the operation – these cost c. £170 each. Buying our own set will remove reliance on sharing with police and/or other local speed watch teams and increase the scope of the data gathered.
- **Communicate** any day-to-day incidents that you witness; express your support for the campaign so we can build a greater picture of the impact of dangerous driving on the community.

For all enquiries, please contact:
Camilla Chandler Hillside GL56 9AH
Camillachandler2018@gmail.com

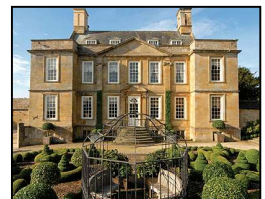
Camilla Chandler

BOURTON COMMUNITY GARDENS

Please contact Tom Dixon on **BourtonCGA@gmail.com** to learn more or get involved.

Tom & Elisabeth Dixon

BOURTON HOUSE GARDEN



Spring is officially here and with that comes the opening of Bourton House Garden for our 2021 season!

Gates opened at 10am on Tuesday 6th April and from there on in we are open Tuesdays through to Fridays (excluding Bank Holidays), 10am to 5pm. Admission for the start of the April is just £5 (standard admission is £8 per person) with under 16's free. For more information please do see our website: **<https://www.bourtonhouse.com/visitor-info/>**



One rather large difference that returning visitors will see is; following box blight damage despite spray/treatment; the decision was made to cut back the Knot Garden...



It was a difficult decision to make and heartbreaking for the team to do after years of tending to it but we will keep everything crossed that it will grow back stronger!

We also said farewell to Gareth after 9 years... we will miss his smile and sense of humour but wish him all the best for his retirement.



But we also say a formal welcome to Sandra - she has been helping out over the last few months getting to know the Garden but she will now be full time.



We also hope to be able to welcome you to the Garden this year; whether it be on a 'normal day', our NGS day in August (Sunday 15th) or hopefully for a village event in at the end of summer....

Best wishes,

*Roelof & Cheryl Quintus
and the Garden team*



HORSE & GROOM

From the 17th May we are welcoming up to 30 people from mixed households in our garden area (outdoors) and up to six people from multiple households or up to 12 people from two households in our pub, dining room and bedrooms.



include the GP surgeries, social services, P3, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and the school liaison workers especially at Stow, St David's and Chipping Campden.

We trust that we will continue to be a welcoming and compassionate place for people to find help. If you would like any more information or suggested items to be donated, please visit:

www.northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk

Alexia Monroe

Lead volunteer in Moreton & Trustee of the NCFB

alexia@monroebrothers.co.uk

FOODBANK APPEAL

This has been an incredibly challenging year and the North Cotswold Foodbank has seen an increase in the numbers of people needing emergency help as well as extraordinary acts of generosity and kindness. The difference this year has been that we have seen clients who up until recently had run successful businesses especially in the hospitality sector which have had to remain closed and also very sadly more broken relationships due to the pressures of lockdown.

In good news the new outlet opening at Stow Baptist Church is set for April 21st. They have a good number of volunteers and Stow Rugby Club are getting involved too. In Moreton, the generous financial donations have helped us give out fresh bread from Bourton on the Water bakers and meat/veg vouchers for Walkers Butchers on the High Street. This helps us improve the quality of our food parcels as the quality of meat/protein in tins isn't brilliant.

Again because of generous donations we have been able to provide for a Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) advisor in Bourton on the Water and Winchcombe to extend their hours. She has already helped so many more clients which is very encouraging.

We are continuing to maintain good working relationship with our referral agencies as they give out vouchers to those in need. These

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Covid -19 update

Extract from update to parish clerks, dated 9th April 2021.

On Monday 5 April, the Government confirmed plans for easing restrictions across England from 12 April. Outdoor pubs, shops, gyms and hairdressers can reopen. Outdoor gatherings must still be limited to 6 people or 2 households, and you must not socialise indoors with anyone you do not live with or have not formed a support bubble with.

Everyone in England without symptoms will be able to get twice weekly rapid Covid-19 tests from Friday 9 April Community Collect points have opened at all four of GCC's community testing centres to complement on site testing. Government has also launched Pharmacy Collect, which pharmacies will be joining over the coming weeks. To find your nearest testing or collection site, visit the NHS website.



Local Mobile Testing Sites

- North RFC, Stoke Orchard Road, Bishops Cleeve, GL52 7DG (Tuesday-Wednesday)
- Stow RFC, Oddington Road, Stow on the Wold, GL54 1JJ (Wednesday)
- University of Gloucestershire, Entrance 3, Park Campus, The Park, Cheltenham, GL50 2RH (Saturday-Sunday)
- Lower Lode Depot, Lower Lode Lane, Tewkesbury, GL20 5TT (Thursday - Monday)

Permanent Testing Site Location

- Cheltenham Long Term Stay High Street Car Park, Cheltenham, GL50 4AL

Community Testing Sites - Lateral Flow Device (LFD)

- Cirencester, Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Road, Cirencester, GL7 6JS
- Tewkesbury, The Link Youth Support Centre, Link Road, Tewkesbury, GL20 5JQ

You can book a test for one of these sites if you do not have any COVID-19 symptoms.

LFD Home Test Collection

As of 9th April, anyone can collect LFD kits for use at home from any of the locations listed, including some pharmacies.

Gloucestershire Covid-19 Statistics

In week 14 (Monday 29 March – Sunday 4 April) there were 63 confirmed cases of COVID19. Of these:

- 14 were in Gloucester
- 12 were in Cheltenham
- 10 were in Tewkesbury
- 10 were in Cotswold
- 9 were in Stroud
- 8 were in Forest of Dean

* Please note these figures are provisional and subject to change.

(source: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/> as at 16:00 07/04/2021)

The rate of cases in the last 7 days per 100,000 is 12.4 in Gloucestershire, 18.5 in the South West, and 36.1 in England.

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Extract from update to parish clerks, dated 6th April 2021:



Leisure centres across the district are set to reopen from Monday 12 April, after receiving the Government's go-ahead for Step 2 of the roadmap.

Everyone Active's leisure centres in Cirencester, Bourton-on-the-Water and Chipping Campden in partnership with Cotswold District Council, will reopen their doors following a three-month closure due to the coronavirus pandemic.

For further information visit:
www.everyoneactive.com

THE NEXT ISSUE

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



Ailsa Vigrass
amvigrass@gmail.com

(or post items to me using the link on Bugle page on the new village website)