
THE

Bourton BUGLE

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

WINTER 2023



Photo: Bourton House, Julie

- Dates for the Christmas Carol concert and party
- New village websites
- New Parish Councillors
- Foodbank Christmas Appeal
- And more...!



'No man is an island, entire of itself.'

No one, especially the editor of a newsletter, is self-sufficient and in my last edition as such I'd like to thank the dedicated contributors who have put fingers to keyboard, giving their time and energy to tell us 'What's occurring' in our community. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone reading this who feels they might like to contribute to a future edition for the first time to 'feel the fear and do it anyway' – new voices are especially welcome.

There are also those villagers whose actions speak louder than words: who ensure St Lawrence's clock keeps time, arrange the church flowers, unlock and clean the Old School hall, distribute flyers and wash up at community events - all unsung acts for the benefit of us all. My predecessor, Sir Peter Herbert, understood the value of this service more than most and with his example in mind I pass the baton into the capable hands of Anna Stanley and Alice Sorby of The Parish Council who will be sounding The Bugle for us going forward.

*With best wishes,
Ailsa Vigrass*

ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

**Services At St. Lawrence
For November &
December, 2023**



Sunday 12th November

Remembrance Sunday 10.50am
Remembrance Service followed by laying of a poppy wreath at the war memorial in the churchyard.

Sunday 19th November

Second Sunday before Advent
11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 26th November

Christ the King
11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 3rd December

Advent
6pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Sunday 10th December

Second Sunday in Advent
11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 17th December

Third Sunday in Advent
11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 24th December

Christmas Eve
6pm Carol Service followed by mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies.
11.00pm Midnight Mass at Blockley

Monday 25th December

Christmas Day
9:30am Holy Communion at Blockley

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

As anticipated in the last edition of the Bugle, our new toilet has been completed!

Philip Gee

PARISH COUNCIL

Village Survey & Information Booklet

In October the PC hand-delivered a Bourton-on-the-Hill village information booklet alongside the first village survey for over 10 years to more than 150 households; some of



those households being part of the broader Both electoral catchment, whilst being situated outside the main village e.g. Troopers Lodge and beyond. We were delighted with a response rate of over 45% for the main village residents and will be publishing initial results of the survey before Christmas on the new website www.bourtononthehill.org.uk (see below). Thank you once again to all those who took time to complete the survey. The PC are only able to represent your views by hearing your feedback.

We hope you all received and enjoyed reading through the Village Information Booklet. It's amazing just how much goes on in our relatively small parish. Thanks go to everyone who contributed to its creation; we hope you find it a valuable resource. If you did not receive one please email clerk@bourtononthehill.org.uk with your address details and we will ensure one is delivered to you.

Community Speed Watch

Members of the PC met with representatives of GCC Highways and Community Speed Watch project in September. We reinforced once again the importance to the village of addressing the issue of speeding vehicles. As a result, posts for mounting community speed watch cameras at both ends of the village will be erected pre-Christmas, with the aim of getting the cameras installed, tested, and into action early in the New Year.



New Website

Access www.bourtononthehill.org.uk via the QR code on this page. We're pleased to announce that the new website is now live!

Government regulations now require every Parish Council website to be fully accessible and compliant. Sadly, it wasn't possible to revamp the old site to meet all the new

requirements, so we decided to start afresh using Netwise, a website service geared for parishes like ours. Fortunately, we've been able to maintain the community feel of the old site whilst refreshing and updating the content to be topical and relevant. We hope you continue to find it a useful and easy to navigate tool. Initial feedback has been really positive, so thank you for your comments. Within the Directory section we have created a Services page to share and support businesses within the village. If you have a business not yet included, please get in touch with your details so that you can be added.

Refurbished Notice Board

The commemorative noticeboard opposite the Quarry petrol station, dating back to Charles and Diana's wedding, was starting to show its age. In need of some TLC, part of the wooden frame and the front glazing have been replaced. Thanks to Luke James, a new backboard has also been fitted. The noticeboard is now not only fully functioning again, but greatly improved – you no longer require a hammer to push in the drawing pins, always a bonus!

And finally

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Ailsa Vigrass for fourteen years of editing, producing and distributing the Bourton Bugle. Her publications have always been entertaining and informative; her dedication and skill will be greatly missed. If

you would be interested in taking over the editorial role, please get in touch with Kevin for further details.

Chris Priest, PC Chair

clerk@bourtononthehill.org.uk

Kevin O'Donoghue (Clerk)



REFLECTIONS OF A NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Reflections from a new parish councillor.

When I first heard the Parish Council was looking for new councillors I wasn't really sure either what being a councillor involved or even what a Parish Council did if I'm being honest! What I did know was that I had been made to feel really welcome in Bourton and part of the community even though me, my partner and our dog have only lived here for just under three years. I felt like I was ready to contribute a bit more, I'd attended various events such as litter picks and village celebrations and was always made to feel really welcome. So I looked into the role of Parish Councils and decided to take the plunge!

I learnt that Parish Councils are responsible for local matters like looking after community spaces and are statutory consultees on planning applications, they are there to represent the views and issues faced by the whole village. I was co-opted onto the council as there were vacancies but generally Parish Councillors are elected every four years. All the Councillors in Bourton bring different perspectives and areas of expertise, at the moment we are focused on the village questionnaire which many of you have just completed, speeding in the village and making sure our website is the best it can be. I offered to be the lead Councillor for planning so I attended a forum in Moreton where I heard from the leader of Cotswold District Council (Councillor Joe Harris) and the Council's planning officer. I learnt lots about how to make sure we can effectively represent the community in responding to applications.

Before our meeting on **Tues 12th December** we are having a 'meet and greet' with the Councillors session (drinks will be available!), please do come along and say hello. The 'meet

and greet' will be at 6.30pm and the meeting starts at 7pm (you are welcome to stay for the meeting but don't feel you have to). There are still vacancies on the Council, and we would be more than happy to talk through the role of a Councillor and what it involves – we're a welcoming bunch so don't be shy!

Alice Sorby

THE OLD SCHOOL

What a lot has happened since the last edition of the Bugle in the summer.



WiFi

WiFi was installed by Gigaclear on 21st July and is already proving enormously useful. For those using the hall the Password is clearly displayed near the router on the piano.

Logo

We now have our own logo, displayed on all our posters and flyers.

Website

We also have a brand new website: bourtononthehilloldschool.co.uk. Check it out and find out all the events planned in the next few months.

Thanks to Anne-Gaelle Lacondemine and Leah Blackman-Hart for all their hard work facilitating these changes and bringing us up to date.

Coffee Mornings

Our questionnaire earlier this year revealed that a number of village residents find it difficult to get to events in the evening, so we decided to try a monthly coffee morning held on the Saturday before Rural cinema.

On 23rd September we had our first coffee



morning along with a Silent Auction of paintings of Bourton on the Hill, kindly donated by a village resident. While numbers were modest, those who came loved the opportunity to sit and chat while drinking coffee and enjoying croissants, pastries and cakes.

Our second coffee morning on 21st October was even more successful, word had gone around! We had pancakes as well as pastries and cakes and 50 people enjoyed getting together. There were children's activities for two energetic small boys. We even had some walkers who saw the sign and dropped in for refreshments.

The November coffee morning will be on Saturday 18th when, in addition to pastries and cakes we will have a small stall selling knitted goods and DVDs from films shown previously.

There will be no coffee morning in December as we have a number of other events but they will resume in January.

Rural Cinema

Rural cinema continues on the last Saturday of the month. After a break in August we showed the film "What's Love Got To Do With It?" with Lily James in September to an audience of over 50. The audience for the October film, "Empire of Light", with Olivia Coleman and Colin Firth was lower, competing with the Rugby World Cup Final and a very wet evening. On 25th November the film will be "Where the Crawdads Sing". Doors open at 6.30pm and the film starts at 7.15pm. Tickets on the door are £5 and hot dogs and a donation bar are available.

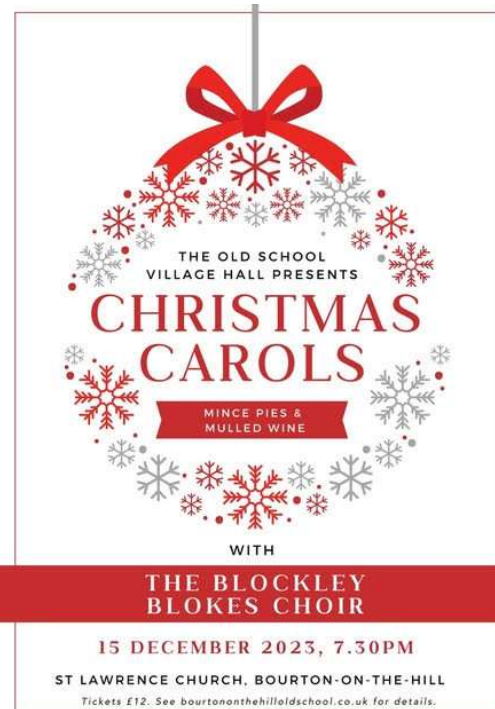


Christmas

December events start with two Christmas Wreath Making workshops with Jane Sked on

Friday 8th December at 5pm and Saturday 9th December at 10am. Places must be booked and cost £55. All materials and refreshments are provided and at the end you will have your own beautiful wreath to take home. See posters and flyers for full details.

On Friday 15th December at 7.30pm there will be a concert in St Lawrence Church with the Blockley Blokes Choir. Tickets are £12 to include mulled wine and mince pies.



The Village Christmas Party will take place in the Old School Hall **on Saturday 16th December at 6.30pm.** Tickets £15 to include a festive meal, welcoming drink and entertainment. Again, see the flyers and posters and please book your place.

Hall Bookings

We have regular bookings for Toddler group on Monday mornings, Bridge on Wednesday afternoons and U3A Scottish dancing on Friday mornings, also occasional bookings for ballroom dancing and yoga, as well as parties, rehearsals and meetings. Hall hire is £10 per hour for village residents



and £12 per hour for non residents. To book the hall please see the website or contact Sandra Gee on 01386 701385 or Anne Robertson on 01386 701564.

Parking in the Old School car park.

The car park at the Old School is a private car park for use by those who rent the hall, but the Old School Committee are happy for it to be used by village residents when the hall is not in use. There is a new noticeboard attached to the wall of the store room with details of all booked events each month. At a recent meeting to discuss parking it was requested that those parking check that there is no booked event and park considerately so as not to block the way through the car park. Although the Old School Committee have no jurisdiction for parking on the road, it was requested that cars do not park in front of the access to the disabled ramp when the hall is in use. We have a number of hall users who need mobility aids and scooters and they have great difficulty manoeuvring these around a parked car. Please be considerate of others. Thank you.

Anne Robertson

(on behalf of the Old School Hall Committee)

THE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Educational Trust is there for all residents under the age of 25. The Trust provides non-means tested grants to young people in the village for educational activities or school uniform etc. At Christmas the Trust usually provides a small gift of money to all residents age 0-18. If you have children or young people and are new to the village, please contact us (see bourtononthehill.org.uk/educational-trust). We'd hate to miss someone!



Dr. Catherine Firth

Chair of Trustees

catherinefirth54@gmail.com

BOURTON HOUSE GARDEN



Well that's it for our 2023 season!

We've had another challenging summer. This year below average temperatures and a lot of rain!! But once again the team embraced the challenges, and the garden has looked superb all summer long. Following the sad loss of the box hedging, the parterre has been redesigned and replanted with slow growing yew and is



establishing itself nicely, and the replacement Hydrangea "Strong Annabelle" is going from strength to strength in Lovers' Lane.





We ran two very successful Willow weaving workshops this year, and we will be running another in 2024. The date has been set for Monday 22nd April 2024 and will take place in our beautiful Tith Barn. We will have two sessions, one making Swallows and one for Bird Houses. The courses are fun and refreshments and all materials are included. If you would like further information, or to book a place, please contact Julie at info@bourtonhouse.com



All that remains is for us to thank you for your continued support of Bourton House Garden this year. We know that many of you are Friends of the garden and visit us regularly and we will look forward to seeing you all once we re-open in the Spring on **TUESDAY 2ND APRIL 2024**. On behalf of Roelof, Cheryl and the whole team we wish you a Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year.

Best wishes from all at Bourton House Garden

Julie, Bourton House Gardens

**NORTH COTSWOLD
FOODBANK**



This time of year sees our donations increase dramatically with over 50 harvest donations so far, from schools, churches and many local societies. This year we have received 3080 Kg of food, toiletries, household products and pet food. We want to thank everyone whatever the size of their donation, from the one tin or packet to regular standing orders; we could not run the foodbank without you. Thank you. At the Moreton outlet held in the Congregational Church in Oxford Street every

Tuesday, we are benefiting from a regular Citizen Advice Bureau adviser, Jo who is there to help our clients with debt, housing, benefits and many other issues. She is helping to transform the lives of our clients, to hopefully not needing to use a foodbank in the future.

Christmas and the school holidays are some of our busiest times, to help boost our supplies, we are joining in the nationwide Trussell Trust collections at Tesco stores around the country. Here in the North Cotswolds we are collecting donations at Stow and Bishops Cleeve on **Thursday 30th November to Saturday 2nd December**. These extra donations help us to prepare Christmas hampers to give to our clients, to help ease the often burdensome cost of Christmas.

The number of emergency parcels provided from April to September 2023 was 758, an increase of nearly 26% on the same period last year. Over 2,000 people benefitted from a food parcel in 2023, an increase of 12% from the 1,800 people in 2022.

There are two new volunteering opportunities available as we look to expand our work in the community, please see www.northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk for further details.

*Alexia Monroe
Chairman of the NCFB Trustees and lead
volunteer of the Moreton Outlet*

THE NEXT ISSUE

.. will be edited by Anna Stanley and Alice Sorby in 2024. Further details to be advised.

