

BOURTON BROWSER

ISSUE NO 296

www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk



December 2023

DIARY DATES

Mondays, "Old Sweats" Meeting, **BLH**, 10am—12 Noon, 07714 852364 bourton.secretary@rbl.community

Mondays & Fridays, Bourton Men in Sheds, 9.30am-12.30pm, Behind **RBL**, 01608 692811.

Thursdays Flexercise, **BLH**, 10-11am. 01993 882350 kathy.kirk@live.com

1st Christmas Lights Switch on. Carols from 4.10pm, The Green. Santa arrives 4.30pm to switch on Christmas Tree lights. Shops open late.

1st Panto Group Christmas Quiz, 7pm for 7.30pm. **VH**. £20 for table of four. Raffle, drinks & nibbles. To reserve your table call 01451 820080. See pages 5 & 11.

1st-3rd Christmas Gift Fair, **VH**, Handbags, Jewellery, Collectables, Children's Books & Toys, Greetings Cards, Stationery. 07832 195427.

4th & 18th Mindsong, Sing 2 Remember Sessions, **GMCC**, 10.30am. 07764 212506 or 01451 821216. See p.3.

5th & 12th "Together on Tuesdays", Soup lunch. 12-2pm, **StLC**. (Restarts 16th Jan).

6th Parish Council Meeting, **GMCC**, 7pm.

7th Probus Christmas lunch, 12 noon, Sherborne Arms. See page 2.

8th Friendly Memory Cafe, **StLC**, 2-4pm, 07746 672726. See page 15.

9th Tayler & Fletcher, Monthly Auction, **NCS**, GL54 2AR. 821666.

9th Christmas Charity Band Concert, Cotswold School, 7.30pm, £13 in

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council Notes

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting on 1st November 2023.

The Police report highlighted the need for home security with the darker winter nights. Crime prevention items are available to purchase at Stow Police Station.

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson advised that, in common with councils across the country, Gloucestershire County Council's finances are under pressure and some difficult decisions will be required this financial year.

District Councillor Jon Wareing also highlighted finances, with Cotswold District Council's budget being under tremendous pressure. Green bin costs are not being met by charges, so composting is being encouraged.

District Councillor Len Wilkins reported that Publica had been set up in 2017 by Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean, West Oxfordshire District Council and Cheltenham Borough Council to out-source services and reduce costs. However, CDC plan to stop using Publica, except for some services, and all other functions will revert to CDC.

Rye Crescent Play Area: The land transfer from Cotswold District Council to the Parish Council is now complete and the Working Group continues to progress plans for new play equipment on the site.

Village Green: Re-seeding and re-turfing will be carried out by our contractors to maintain the appearance of the grass and this work will be funded by the Tourist Levy.

Christmas Tree & Lights: The switching on of the Christmas lights will be held on the Village Green at 4.30pm on Friday 1st December. There will be carol singing by Bourton Primary School pupils and a visit from Father Christmas. All residents are welcome to attend. In addition, local businesses will remain open for late night shopping on that evening.

Coach Parking: The provision for coach parking at Bourton Vale Parking will cease on 31st December. The Parish Council continues to work with local businesses and stakeholders, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council to agree on a plan for future provision. Several options have been investigated to date, but none have had agreement by all parties concerned.

Committee Clerk: We would like to welcome Vanessa Oliveri as a permanent addition to our team as from 6th November. Vanessa will work 12 hours per week to support the Youth and Wellbeing, Village Environment and Highways Committees.

The Parish Council would like to wish all residents and business owners a very happy Christmas and New Year. The Parish Office will be closed from 1pm on Friday 22nd December until 10am on Tuesday 2nd January.

Next Meeting Date: 7pm on Wednesday 6th Dec 2023 in the Windrush Room at the George Moore Community Centre. Please note that the January Parish Council Meeting date has been changed to 7pm on Monday 8th January 2024. All residents are welcome to attend our meetings.

Sharon Henley, Clerk/RFO Tel: 01451 820712;

clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk www.bourtononthewaterpc.org.uk

Continued on page 2, column 1

Baptist Church Hall = **BCH**
British Legion Hall = **BLH**
Cricket Club Pavilion = **CCP**
George Moore Community Centre = **GMCC**
Jubilee Lodge = **JL** Market Close = **MC**
North Cotswold Sale Room = **NCS**
St Lawrence Church = **StLC**
Victoria Hall = **VH** Willoughby Place = **WP**

The *Bourton Browser* is run by volunteers & delivered monthly FREE to every household in the Village.

Go to the "Get in Touch" tab and then complete the contact form to send questions, articles (max.300 words), adverts & event details to the team.

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The **DEADLINE** for Adverts & Articles for the January edition is **Noon on 15th December**

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Continued from page 1 column 1

advance, £14 door, accompanied u15s free. See pages 5 & 16.

9th ABBAHOLICS Concert, **BLH**, 7.30pm, £10. 07850 163109.

9th-10th Gift & Craft Fair, **VH**, 10am-5pm, accessories, soaps, up-cycled gifts, stationery, wood turning.

10th St Lawrence's Church Carol Service, The Green, 6pm.

11th Probus, 10am, **GMCC**. Paul Barnett, "The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster" See column 3.

12th Police Point open, **GMCC**, 10-11am, PCSO John Allen

www.gloucestershire.police.uk

12th WI, **VH**, 7pm.

13th Irene's Charity Knitting Circle, **WP**, 10am-12pm. See page 6.

13th u3a, 10am-12pm, **BLH**, www.u3asites.org.uk/bourton Nigel Thompson, "A Brief History of Popular Music." See page 3.

13th & 27th Bourton Community Day Club, 10.30am - 2.30pm, **MC**, GL54 2HE. 01608 652019.

13th Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, **BCH**. "Preserving the harvest – Far beyond Jams and Chutneys" by Kelvin Alvitis. See page 12.

14th Bourton Lunch Club, **CCP**, GL54 2AY. 12Noon, 01608 692811.

17th Farmers Market, **BLH** Car Park, GL54 2AR. 8.30am-12.30pm. 07986 085599.

28th Bourton Book Club, 7pm, Duke of Wellington Pub. Details from dpayne056@hotmail.co.uk

31st New Year Party, live music "Two Beetles & Kayleigh". 7pm, fireworks at midnight. Bouton Rovers Football club, See page 12.

Bourton Browser Team News

Happy Christmas: Seasonal Greeting to all our readers and grateful thanks to everyone who makes the Browser possible. We are particularly grateful to our Distributors and Street Deliverers, who go out in all weathers to ensure your copy arrives safely. Also many thanks to our proofreaders, contributors, advertisers and printers. Next year the Browser will be 25 years old! A considerable achievement for a village magazine run entirely by volunteers.

Events: If you are planning any **events for 2024**, let us know as soon as possible, we can advertise them in "Diary Dates" and the on-line village diary, www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk It is well worth checking the village on-line diary when scheduling events to avoid clashing with over village events!

Articles: We welcome articles (maximum 300 words) & photographs, from adults, children and local community groups on any subjects of local interest. We only have room for one article, per community group, per issue.

Email team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk

The Bourton Browser Team

Christmas & New Year Bin Collections

Food waste only will be collected on **Thursday 28th December** (instead of Tuesday 26th).

Refuse, recycling & food waste collection will be on **Wednesday 3rd January** (instead of Tuesday 2nd January) but there will be **no garden waste collection** on that day.

Cotswold District Council



Bourton Probus Club



Our 2 meetings in October were very much travel related.

On 9th October we heard from Chris O'Grady about his travels round the south-west path, travelling to a point on the path, walking for the day and then hitch hiking back to his car, fortunately always successfully. On 23rd, Tom Constant alarmed us describing his hair raising trips for his hi- rec work. Most of us travel in Europe without such problems!

Bourton Probus Club is designed for retired professional and business men and women, although we welcome anyone who is retired. We have regular talks and social events, and so if you are interested do come to one of our meetings advertised on the diary list and meet with us. **Roger Harris**

Great Rissington Christmas Tree Festival

At St John's Church

SATURDAY, 9th DECEMBER

10.00am – 6.00pm

SUNDAY, 10th DECEMBER

12pm – 6pm

(following our Christingle service)

Tea, coffee & cake available both days and on Saturday soup lunches

Christingle making on Saturday morning – all ages are welcome to help!

A prize will be awarded for the best tree (as voted by the visitors)

Trees kindly supplied
by Phipp Feeds

Admission free,
donations welcome

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BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER INFORMATION CENTRE

It is with great sadness and regret that we have to advise that this Information Centre will be closing permanently on 30th December 2023.

As the Grant Funding received from Cotswold District Council has now been withdrawn, we are unable to financially sustain this service as it currently exists.

We have been here for over 23 years, the last 17 years as a private company and have managed to survive all that has been thrown at us until now.

We have had the privilege of working with amazing volunteers over the years, from our directors to the dozens of wonderful people who helped manage and support the day-to-day information service that we have provided.

It has been a pleasure to help, guide and advise hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world as well as the many local residents who have used our services. It has been hard work at times, but ultimately it has been fun!

Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

Best wishes

Jackie, Wendy & Veronica.

A great loss to the village. You will be sadly missed. Editor's comment.

High Bridge Jewellers



Tanzanite & Turquoise December's Birthstones

Turquoise is among the oldest known gemstones. It adorned the necks of Egyptian Pharaohs and the ceremonial dress of early native Americans. Thought to protect and bring the wearer good luck. **Tanzanite** is an exotic velvety blue with overtones of purple, it is one of a kind, only found in the foothills of Kilimanjaro; making it rarer than Diamonds.

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Time to spare? Looking for new friends? Seeking a new challenge? Why not try your local u3a?

The u3a is open to all retired and semi-retired people. Currently with over 25 special interest groups, there is something of interest for everyone. Group activities are spread throughout the week between our local communities in Bourton, Stow, Moreton, and The Rissingtons etc.

Monthly meetings are held on Wednesday mornings at **the Royal British Legion Hall in Bourton-on-the-Water** and are ideal for prospective new members to sound us out.

Our December meeting is on **Wednesday 13th December 2023, from 10am to 12 noon**. Our guest speaker, **Nigel Thompson**, entertains us with **A Brief History of Popular Music - the Renaissance of Swing**

Please come along, enjoy a tea/coffee, and see what we have to offer.

We will be very pleased to see you.

Or look us up on:
u3asites.org.uk/bourton



Men in Sheds

Bourton Men in Sheds

would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Thanks to all who bought items from us during the year and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.

We have bird nesting boxes and hedgehog boxes as well as planters. Great Christmas presents!

Kindling in large bags at £5. Also, large bags of off cuts at £2 per bag.

Dave Birch



Sing 2 Remember – Mindsong Bourton Group

Due to the popularity of our morning sessions of Sing 2 Remember, we are now at full capacity and so have started an afternoon group, still in the Windrush Room, at the George Moore Community Centre, on the first and third Mondays of every month, and, where there is one, on a fifth Monday.

Afternoon sessions start at 2.30pm and after a good sing song, we finish up with a cuppa and some cake!

You don't have to be a Pavarotti just enjoy singing in good friendly company!

Anyone wishing to join our relaxed group should contact **Janne Bishop**,
01451 821216 / 07764 212506

OUT AND ABOUT in December

Until 24th, The Flight Before Christmas, The Control Tower, Cotswold Airport, Cirencester, GL7 6BA. 9am-8pm. interactive workshops & engaging family activities.

Until 30th Spectacle of Light, Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, GL54 5LP. Tickets [01242 705 555](tel:01242705555) or <https://www.everymantheatre.org.uk/sudeley/>

Until 1st Jan. Fairy Tale Christmas & Market (market until 17th Dec). Illuminated trail & Sleeping Beauty. Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, OX20 1UL, www.blenheimpalace.com or call 01993 810530. Booking essential.

Until 6th Jan. Winter Glow, Three Counties Showground Malvern, Santa's Grotto, ice skating, fairground, Christmas market, light trails. <https://winterglow.co.uk/>

Until 7th Jan. Mother Goose Panto, Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, GL50 1HQ. www.everymantheatre.org.uk

Until 7th Jan. Big Batsford Elf Hunt! Batsford Arboretum. Find the elves to win a prize! £3 per child, plus Arboretum admission fee. Visit www.batsarb.co.uk for details.

1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th-17th, 19th-23rd Enchanted Christmas, Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, GL8 8QS. Illuminated trail. 4-9.30pm. www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/enchanted-christmas

1st-3rd, 8th-10th, 15th-17th, 20th-23rd Illuminate Trail, Cotswolds Farm Park, GL54 5FL. www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

2nd Bingo Night, Sherborne Village Hall, Sherborne, GL54 3DH. Eyes down 7pm. Great prizes bonus flyer & raffle.

2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th & 17th Santa's magical grotto at Batsford Arboretum! Visit www.batsarb.co.uk for details & to book.

2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 20th-23rd December Santa Express, GWR Steam, GL54 5LD. <https://www.gwsr.com/>

3rd Combe Mill Christmas Fayre, gifts, BBQ, tearoom, raffle. 11am-4pm, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Long Hanborough. OX298ET. www.combemill.org. 01993 358694. See p8.

6th-10th, 13th-17th, A 1960s Christmas, Chastleton House (National Trust), Chastleton, GL56 0SU. 01608 674355.

7th-10th Stow Christmas Tree Festival, 10am-5pm, St Edwards Church, Stow on the Wold.

8th-9th Winchcombe Christmas Market & Festival, GL54 5LH. 10am-8pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun, 01242 602999

8th-10th Witney Christmas Market, Shopping Centre, OX28 6GW.

9th-10th Christmas Tree Festival, St John's Church, Great Rissington, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12pm-6pm. Refreshments, free entry. See page 2.

14th-23rd Cheltenham Christmas Arts & Craft Market, The Promenade, GL50 9SA. 01608 652662. 10am-5pm.

15th Kate's Home Nursing Carol Concert, St Edwards Church, Stow on the Wold, 6.30pm. Ticket £15, gabrielleku-bale@hotmail.com See page 15.

Batsford
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Celebrate Christmas at Batsford with magical winter walks, festive food, unique gifts, decorations, and our huge range of Christmas trees.



www.batsarb.co.uk



FOR SALE / WANTED ITEMS



To advertise items such as Household items, Toys, Garden Equipment etc, complete the contact form on the "Get in Touch" tab. The advert should be no more than 15 words. It must be received **before 12 noon on the 15th of the month.** No commercial adverts accepted for this section.

For Sale

Amazon Echo - Alexa
HiFi speaker 2nd Gen
Sandstone fabric
Original Box as new
£45. 821391.

For Sale

TV, 32 inch screen
plus stand
and remote control.
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mattress.
In good working order.
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For Sale

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Kineticco Water Softener.
£20.
821391.

For Sale

Sonos Playbar for TV & Audio
Streaming. Works with latest
Sonos 2 App.
£200. 821391.

For Sale

Slim Digital Bedside Clock/
Alarm, Mirror Surface
USB/Battery powered
Large Numbers 12/24Hrs
£5. 821391.

For Sale

Ninja Dual Zone Air Fryer.
New unused.
£150.00.
821748.

For Sale

5 rung aluminium steps £20
Step and extension ladder .
Extends to 9ft - 275cms.
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I am available from 02/10/23.

I have excellent references and have worked with the local Drs and nurses, who I can also inform you of their experience of working with me.

Please call me, Lisa, with any enquiries on:

07368 183628

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North Cotswolds Rotary

Christmas Charity Band Concert Saturday 9th December Carols and Festive Tunes

Only a few days to go before the Waterloo Band and Bugles of the 7th Rifles return to the stage at the Cotswold School. As well as enjoying the Band's Christmas programme, there will be a fully licensed bar, a free mince pie at the interval and a raffle with prizes that include Christmas hampers. Come along and enjoy the warm atmosphere and festive spirit. Accompanied children under 15 are free and you'll be helping raise funds for the Royal British Legion and Rotary Charities. Tickets are available from:

<http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rotary-club-of-the-north-cotswolds>



- make a donation by using the QR code
- donate a ready prepared shoebox. Boxes typically contain things such as sweets, socks, toys, toothbrush, puzzles or jigsaws, art sets, notebooks. colouring books, crayons, the list goes on. Label for: Babies, Toddlers, Pre-school, Juniors, Teenagers and Ladies/Gentlemen

- donate items suitable for the shoeboxes – this could be multipacks of crayons that could be used to fill multiple boxes.

For enquiries, or to find your nearest drop-off point or help make up the boxes email Lorraine at: contact@northcotswoldsrotary.org

If you'd like to learn more about what North Cotswolds Rotary does visit www.northcotswoldsrotary.org or follow us on Facebook @RotaryClubOfTheNorthCotswolds. We're always looking to welcome new members. **John Barber**



Scan to donate

"walk-in" day of ticket sales at the George Moore Community Hub on Friday 12th January, for those without online access.....and late sales!

The matinée is back! It does make for a very enjoyable, but busy, week for us with two shows on Saturday and take down on the Sunday, returning the venue to its customary village hall status, but without an end there's not another beginning!

We strive to provide a traditionally festive and colourful performance for you in what can be a difficult time of the year for those who don't care for the short days. With the many and hugely varied tasks undertaken in our hobby, there is the opportunity to be part of this group of enthusiasts without having to actually "perform", although we are always ready to welcome those wishing to try "treading the boards"! From the moment the title is chosen and a director begins plans, the magic begins! Come, join us and support your local theatre group! See you soon.

Ann Chapman

Bourton Panto Group

**DON'T FORGET! Bourton
Panto Quiz Night
on Friday 1st December!**



Hope you've all booked your tables for this fun evening of Christmas related questions with our own Emma! The entrance fee is £20 for a table of four. There will be a raffle, drinks available and complimentary nibbles at each table.

Now: The time has come (how many of you have mentally added, "the walrus said"?!) to buy your **Pantomime tickets!** Our members and patrons have already had the opportunity to secure their seats for **Little Red Riding Hood**, now the website is ready to accept your orders too. Prices have not increased from last year and stay at £10 for the raised seats and £9 for those on the flat. Contact Margaret on 07791 917684. There will be a



Ukraine Christmas Shoeboxes Appeal

As the war with Russia continues to rage, the people of Ukraine need your help. Last year we sent 300 Christmas Shoeboxes to refugee children sheltering in Southern Poland and to an orphanage in Ukraine itself. This year we aim to send 1000 boxes; each one specifically designed for babies, children, expectant mothers, and adults with the aim of giving them a reason to smile this Christmas.

You can help in one of 3 ways:



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joe@bennettpestcontrol.com

Bourton WI

I still think of myself as a "Newbie", a Newbie in my personal context is simply someone who is new to living in Bourton. This November sees me celebrating my 4th year of moving to Bourton. I moved from Kent where I lived for many years in a sprawling neighbourhood filled with row upon row of indistinguishable homes, and life was frenetic.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Arriving in Bourton in that cold November I can remember feeling rather apprehensive and thinking, have I done the right thing moving here, how on earth do I make friends and settle in a totally new environment. After some research, I came upon the Bourton Browser and noticed a small column advertising the Bourton-on-the-Water WI. Summoning up a large amount of courage I took a chance and went along to a meeting. Let's face it, there are very few of us that wouldn't be nervous

about joining a new group of people for the first time, I know I certainly was! But I needn't have worried, the ladies were fantastic, extremely friendly and very happy that I had decided to go and see what they were all about. Within a very short space of time, I had made some fantastic friends and settled into living in Bourton and I can honestly say joining the Bourton WI was a very important part of my new journey.

If my story resonates with you, or even if you have lived in the Village for many years, why not come along and see what we are all about, because, you can never have too many friends.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Victoria Hall. For more information, please contact Pat Taylor (President) on 07518 457 652.

Vanessa Yamin

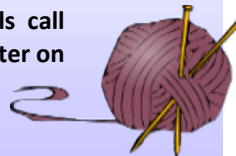
Irene's Charity Knitting Circle

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.00am until 12.00pm at Willoughby Place, Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, (opposite the Co-op Filling station).

Why not join us or just pop-in with your knitting?? Enjoy a coffee/tea with biscuits. Everything we receive will be donated to very worthy causes.

We have been asked by The John Radcliffe Maternity and The Great Western Hospital Maternity for knitted beanie hats for Premature and Newborn Babies. We can collect, give us a call.

**For further details call
either Irene or Peter on
01451 824175.**



Getting Connected. Digital Technology Course for Older People



How to apply

Our Autumn course to help older people with a very basic level of skill, learn how to use their computers and smart-phones is now underway. If you are interested in attending the next course starting early in the new year, please get in contact in the way described. We can place you on our waiting list to be contacted by phone later in the year.

Each course, for eight people, is led by a Trainer, supported by a team of volunteers and organised and coordinated by a Manager. It takes place on Tuesday mornings in Bourton-on-the-Water, over twelve weeks and is free to attend.

If you wish to express an interest in attending, please do the following:

- Write a note, giving your name, age (over 55), address, phone number (and email address if you have one).
- Describe briefly your current level of skill (if any) with digital technology and the brand name of your device(s) (Apple, Samsung, etc).
- Describe what help you'd like.
- Place the note in an envelope addressed to "Getting Connected". Deliver to the Parish Council office at the Community Centre in Moore Road, BOTW. If closed, use their letter box at the side.



**Cleo Carruthers
Course Manager.**

Christmas Posting Dates

For details of last posting dates, please go to: <https://www.royalmail.com/christmas/last-posting-dates>



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Hawthorne Court, Bourton Industrial Park,
Bourton-on-the-Water, GL54 2HQ



Message from the Church

December is a time of lights: Christmas lights, fairy lights, candle lights, shining out in the dark of the long night time hours, which of course also let us enjoy the starlight and the moonlight of the night skies. Winter is a time of real contrast between light and dark.

Our lives too, can feel like a real contrast between light and dark – joys and sorrow, love and hate, peace and fear. And just as we long for the warmth of a light glowing in the darkness of the night, we also long for the lights of love, joy, peace and hope to shine brighter in our own lives and our world. It has felt this year that there are so many people, places and situations which need peace and hope.

As Christians we celebrate God's promise of love coming into the world at Christmas; God's very presence born into the midst of our broken and beautiful world, shining light into its darkness. That love was born in Jesus 2000 years ago, but is reborn in every time

and in every place where love is shared and peace is made. As we know, these are not always easy tasks; to live in love and peace takes commitment and courage. To hold onto hope in an uncertain world can be a radical step. Yet the story of Christ's birth reminds us that love can and does grow in all places even, and perhaps especially, in the unlikely ones, and that God is always present even in the darkest nights.

So my Christmas wish for you is that you may find light in the darkness this season, whether that be in the joy of the love of family and friends and shared celebrations, or if life is difficult for you right now my prayer for you is that you may find light in a kind word or listening ear and someone to walk beside you on your journey.

May God's peace and blessing be on you all this Advent and Christmas.

Rev. Rowena

Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.

*The Bereavement
Journey*
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films
and discussion
for anyone bereaved anytime

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- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Running soon:

St Lawrence, BOTW
Weekly from 16th January
9:45 for 10:00 - 12:00
followed by optional soup
lunch
To sign up contact:
revhannah@protonmail.com
01451 542004

Suggested donation: £30



The Rev'd Rowena King
revrowena@gmail.com
01451 821282
www.bourtonparishchurch.co.uk

Join our main Sunday service at 11am each week

*Remember – our church is open and heated every day - do feel free to use it as a warm space.
You are always welcome.*

Christmas Services

- **Christingle Breakfast Church** - Sat 9th Dec - 9am start – everyone welcome
- **Carols on the Green** – 6pm 10th Dec – Dress up warm for an outdoor sing!
- **Carols in the Church** – 6pm 17th Dec
- **Crib Service** – 4pm 24th Dec (come dressed up as a character from the story!)
- **Midnight in Bethlehem - Christmas Eve Communion** – 9pm 24th Dec
- **Christmas Morning Communion** - 11am 25th Dec

Together on Tuesdays – Lunch Club 12-2pm - Dec 5th and 12th – restarts Jan 16th.

BumbleBeez (parent and child group) Thursday 9-11am - 7th and 14th Dec only.

St James Clapton-on-the-Hill: 3rd Dec 9:30am Holy Communion, Mon 18th Dec 6:00pm Carols Service, 25th Dec 9:30am Christmas Holy Communion

Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady & St. Kenelm, Stow on the Wold

Parish website:

stow-bourtoncatholic.net

Fr. Stephen Lambert 07836 38493

Email: sulharcomb@aol.com

The refurbishment of our church is expected to be completed in time for Advent Sunday 3rd December and all weekday and weekend Masses will be as normal from 2nd December.

Usual Schedule: Weekend Masses: Sat. evening: Vigil Mass 6 pm. Sun. morning: 9 am Sung Mass.

Weekday Masses: At 9 am every day (No Mass Sat. mornings). Mass on Tues. takes place at St. Lawrence's at 9 am.

CHRISTMAS: Saturday 16th December: Ecumenical Carol Service with tableau 4 pm, Chastleton Church GL56 0SU followed by drinks at Chastleton House (National Trust).

Monday 18th: Sacrament of Reconciliation 6 pm.

Sunday 24th (Christmas Eve) Candlelit Vigil Mass with tableau by children of the parish 6 pm; Midnight Mass 10 pm.

Christmas Day: Sung Mass 10.30 am.

Fr. Stephen



Bourton Baptist Church

Minister: Rev Sue Woodley

Manse: 01451 820055

Mobile: 07828 781246

Church Office: 01451 824225

E-mail: minister@bourtonbaptist.co.uk

Sunday Morning Service - 10:30 am

We gather for worship every Sunday morning so do come and join us, everyone is welcome. Communion is usually celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of each month

Christmas Events

- Coffee Morning Saturday 9th December 10 am - 12pm
- Christmas Messy Church Sunday 10th December 3pm - 5pm
- Cafe Tots Christmas Party Wednesday 13th December from 9.15am
- Christingle Service Sunday 17th December @ 10.30am
- Carols by Candlelight Sunday 17th December @ 6pm
- Christmas Eve Service Sunday 24th December @ 10.30am
- Christmas Celebration Monday 25th December @ 10.30am

QUAKERS

The Religious Society of Friends
Every Sunday 11am
at The Friends Meeting House,
Pytt Lane, Burford
Enquiries welcome Howard Crook
01451 810447.

To request a free info pack,
email: outreach@quaker.org.uk

For The Younger Generations

We have signed the

**NO CHILD
LEFT BEHIND**

Community Agreement

This means we...

- work hand in hand with families
- understand the effects of poverty and trauma
- ensure we are compassionate and strengths-based

...so that no child is left behind.



Bourton Youth Club

Youth Club meets on Fridays from 6pm till 7:30 in term time at the Baden Powell Hall (next to Bourton Landrovers). Youth club is for ages 8 to year 6.

Years 7-13 are able to drop in and access support between 7:30 and 9pm at the Youth Hub which is held also at The Baden Powell Hall. Young people can talk to our youth workers about whatever is on their minds and we can signpost to services where appropriate. We also have some hot snacks perfect for warming up on a cold winter's evening.

So far this term the Youth Club have been enjoying activities such as sports, face painting and a halloween party.

Coming up we will be having lots of Christmas themed activities in the run up to the end of term.

Youth club will be having a break over Christmas so there will be no sessions on 29th Dec or 5th Jan. We will return on 12th Jan.

The youth work in Bourton provided by Inspire to Aspire is funded by Bourton on The Water Parish Council.

Gemma Hall

MSc HRM BA(hons) Childhood and Youth Studies

BOURTON

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A safe, warm space for teenagers.

Support, advice, mentoring, games, help with homework, food.

£1 suggested donation to help pay for food and activities

Baden Powell Hall
Y7 - Y13, 7.30pm - 9pm
Every Friday in term time.

INSPIRE TO
ASPIRE

Bourton Primary Academy

November has continued to be a busy month in our school calendar, we have started Christmas preparations for our nativity and carol concert performances before the end of the Autumn Term. Our KS1 children and Upper KS2 children are learning all about space. KS1 have had a visit from the Wonderdome planetarium to offer an immersive experience, whereas the Upper KS2 children have been to the National Space Centre in Leicester. Our Lower KS2 children's topic is called Home Sweet Home and they have taken a trip to Tudor World in Stratford to compare houses. We have also had parents' evenings in school and continue to find these a positive and useful experience.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Wreath making workshop, all of these events help to raise funds for many projects across the school. We are also hosting our School Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December 5-8pm in our school hall. Anyone is welcome, whether you have a child at the school or not, plenty of stalls and games to be enjoyed by all!

Our KS2 children have been very active with the indoor school hall athletics. There have been events at The Cotswold School, Cirencester and here in our own school hall over the last few



weeks. The children have all taken part in trials to work out which event they are strongest at and that is the event they have competed in against many other schools in the county. We are pleased to say that the behaviour of the children was brilliant and for the first time ever they came 1st for our area in the event at Cirencester.

Tori Gainford, Deputy Headteacher

Combe Mill CHRISTMAS FAYRE SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxon. OX29 8ET

Annual Christmas Fayre, 11.00am to 4.00pm. Don't miss out, come along and bring the children. 'Listen to a story with Santa' get a present, browse the CHRISTMAS FAYRE STALLS for a Christmas gift, enjoy a BBQ, Mulled Wine & Chestnuts. Tea Room Open, Raffle with fantastic prizes, Tombola and Gift Shop. Combe mill's blacksmiths will be in the Forge to make pokers, with VIEWING ONLY in the Mill, no machinery operating. Blacksmiths items on sale, made by our very own blacksmiths, make a very popular gift for Christmas.

Free Entry & Car Parking. Dog on Leads most welcome. Tea room will be open, BBQ, Gift Shop and Tombola.

Combe Mill a late 19th Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode. Ever thought of volunteering at Combe Mill? Come to an event when you will see what you have an interest in and can join the 'Team'.

Local Groups and Organisations for the YOUNGER GENERATION

Baby Gymnastics 0-18months	Caroline (Cotswold Clubhouse) 263130
Beavers	Stephanie Lewis 07308144397
	1stbourtonbeavers@gmail.com
Bourton Primary School	820458
Bourton Road Runners Juniors	Richard Buffton 831733 / 824379
Bourton Rovers Youth (U10 Upwards) -	Catherine Williams 07889 694545
Bourton Rovers Youth (U9 & below) -	Amy Wright 07876 458571
Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Lucy Gillespie 07949227128
	craiglucygillespie@yahoo.com
B'n Vale Equestrian Centre	Leanne Launchbury 821101
Bourton Vale Tennis Club	Kingsley Harris 07879 644218
	www.bourtontennisclub.org
Brownies	Steph 07941502222
Bumblebeez babies & pre-school tots	Rowena King 821282
Children's Jujitsu	Andy or Hayley 07951587398
Cubs	Nick Hawke 07788 406728

Guides	1stbourtoncubs@gmail.com
Hockey	Steph 07941502222
Little Hurricanes (Babies & Toddlers)	Tracy Dixon 07813187933
Pre-School	littlehurricanes@hotmail.com
Pre-School Gymnastics	Lisa Sorley 07950 048066
Rainbows	Caroline 263130
Recreational Gymnastics	Steph 07941502222
Scouts	Caroline 263130
	Ricky Campbell 810977
	richard.campbell600@ntlworld.com
4Shires Swimming	Jo Shaw membership@4ssc.uk.uk
Taekwon-do	Lee Chapman 01285 640500
The Cotswold School	820554
Youth Club	Lynda Hicks 07867 121122



THE
COTSWOLD
SCHOOL

As we approach Christmas, The Cotswold School has a lot to celebrate.

'Progress 8' Score

We are extremely proud to announce that the exam results of our Year 11 students in the summer were in the top 8% in the country. Our 'Progress 8' score, a measure of how much each student has improved since leaving primary school, at 0.68, showed that each qualification achieved by our Year 11s was, on average, over two thirds of a grade higher than those achieved by students nationally. As one of the top-performing schools in the county, our results exceeded those of many grammar and independent schools. This is particularly pleasing as Year 11s of all abilities contributed to the success revealed by these measures, not just those achieving grades 8 and 9. These results show what can be accomplished by a great school, with fantastic students and teachers, and supportive families.

Astro Fundraising

We are delighted to announce that, via the Cotswold Community Fund, Cotswold District Council has confirmed its generous pledge of £10,000 towards the replacement of our Astroturf carpet with a new 2G sand-filled turf.

Thank you to everyone who has pledged and donated, raising

£4,000 towards our £10,000 match funding milestone. In order to unlock the Cotswold Community Fund pledge, fundraising will continue until 31 March 2024 via www.spacehive.com/save-our-astro.

Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

Congratulations to Year 12 student Blake, who has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

Christmas Activities

Many families will be attending our Christmas Concert at Christ Church in Cheltenham and our Christmas Bonanza, a night of music and Christmas cheer. Visit our website to find out more about the Christmas Macrame Workshop, 14 December.

Sixth Form Applications

Following the recent Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 students and their families, applications are now live on our website.

Enjoy the festive season!

www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk



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Bourton Rovers Football Club

As the challenging winter weather is now upon us our youth training schedule moves onto all weather surfaces to avoid water logged pitches and rapidly dropping temperatures but the inevitable postponed games and training sessions still, undoubtedly, lay ahead. As we head towards the Christmas break, a few highlights of the youth season so far have been...

Our brand new U6's team! Every single player along with their coaches have settled in well, its wonderful to see them playing with a smile on their face and enjoying the very start of their grass roots football.

On the other end of the scale, this is the first season we have been able to feed youth players into our adults' team, with many of our U17s stepping up to the challenge. Training has been altered to enable this age group to not only train as a youth team but to have an extra opportunity to train alongside the adult teams too, a progression we look forward to seeing season after season.

Our U10s, who due to demand, split into two teams recently, really hit the ground running, with both teams storming through the county cup, ultimately to face each other for a place in the semi's! Good luck U10s!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our fantastic youth coaches who give up so much of their time for our young players – Their passion and dedication really is something to be admired, training and playing games in the winter really is a testing time and every single season they rise to the challenge!

As a non-profit club we are always looking for help and sponsorship. If you think you or your business, can help us support these young teams in any way on their football journey, please do get in touch.

Catherine Williams



HIRE of HALLS

Baden Powell Hall

lettingsbph@gmail.com

Baptist Church Hall

Tim Newstead 01451 821523

Bourton Cricket Clubhouse

Lourenza Hargreaves 07375 033609

jlthepavilion@gmail.com

British Legion Hall Branch Office

01451 824303

Community Centre

Jo Herbert 01451820712

assistant.clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk

St. Lawrence's

Rev. Rowena King 01451 821282

Victoria Hall

Tony 07879 415073

Wyck Rissington Village Hall

Vicky Lathe 07584 188 200

vhwyckriss@gmail.com

Cotswold Hall, Northleach

Jacques Astic 01451 860366

Bourton Farmers Market

Jaye Whalley 07986 085599

The Christmas Star

Come with one or come with all,
This is the time to make a call:
Where a cold, dark winter night
Makes a Xmas tree shine so bright.
Look at the Xmas tree in the river,
Its glistening colours, all a-quiver,
When the wind blows through,
Shaking its lights right on cue.
And those who look even higher
Than steeple, tower or spire,
Searching so long and so far
For that very special shining star.
Hugh O'Connell



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RNLI North Cotswold Branch 

We have had another busy year fundraising for the RNLI. We welcomed Anthony Gerrard, our new community presenter in Gloucestershire, to our North Cotswold Branch Committee. He has been raising awareness and giving talks to community groups including the North Cotswold Rotary Club, Guiting Power Cheery Club, The Rissington's WI and Windrush Carers. He also gave a presentation at the Lifford hall in Broadway with a crew member from Torbay Lifeboat. It was a very interesting and informative talk including a virtual tour of the Torbay Lifeboat.

If you would like to request a talk please contact Anthony (anthony.gerrard724@btinternet.com)

Did you know? You can 'Launch a Memory' to celebrate someone you love by adding their name to a special lifeboat.

2024 is the RNLI's 200th anniversary. Why not sign up your choir to sing to save lives?

Or let us know if you would like to help fundraise in the Cotswold Area.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and thank you for your support in 2023.

Julia Stevenson
northcotswoldrnli@gmail.com

BOURTON PANTO GROUP

We're looking for

- **Dedicated dramatists** amateur or professional
- **Creative costumiers** - able to make the weird and wacky
- **Passionate painters** - large OR small scale on cloths or flats
- **"Crafty" carpenters** - design & build folding scenery & props (for the back-stage space we DON'T have!)
- **Hardy helpers** - fund raisers extraordinaire, able to work cheerfully in all weathers!
- **Friendly Front of House** - to greet our fabulous audiences and take orders for interval drinks and ices
- **Possible producers** - assistant to the Director.
- **Capable choreographers** no Busby Berkeley routines just simple movement - preferably in time!
- **Marvellous musicians** - singers AND instrumentalists

TO JOIN OUR TEAM OF ENTHUSIASTS AND FINALLY - FOR NOW

Have you ever successfully herded cats? If so, you could try your hand at directing!!! (Guidance available)

bourtonpantogroup@hotmail.co.uk

CONTACT: Margaret: 07791 917684

Or Ann: 01451 820917

We look forward to welcoming you to this rewarding hobby!



Insight Gloucestershire

Insight Gloucestershire is your local charity working across Gloucestershire to support people living with sight loss. Their Community Sight Loss team are available to help you adjust to living with sight loss, and to give you the support and tools you need to live your life the way you want to.

They offer support at either their Cheltenham Resource Centre or at monthly hubs across the region where you can receive information and guidance from their trained Sight Loss Advisors on living well with sight loss, remaining independent and getting the most from life. They also offer demonstration and training on a range of useful resources.

Your nearest local Sight Loss Advice Hub is held at:

- The George Moore Community Centre, Salmonsbury Room, Bourton-on-the-Water, GL54 2AZ.
- On the first Wednesday of each month, starting from 3rd January 2024, from 1pm-4pm.
- Call **01242 221170** for further information.

They welcome volunteers to help with the hubs, so if you have time to spare and would like to be a friendly face at one of their hubs, call or apply to volunteering@insight-glos.org.uk

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**Bourton Vale
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Garden Club**



Despite a rather wintery evening, we had an excellent turnout on 8th November for a fascinating and entertaining talk from Dr Michael Jones entitled "Mistletoe: Fact, Myth and Legend – an amazing plant, with a very interesting botany. Although we only have one variety of mistletoe in this country, there are hundreds of other different types of this parasitic plant all over the world! Congratulations to Sally Gummary for winning the competition for the best *Seed Head Arrangement*.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13th December starting at 7.30 pm in the Baptist Church Hall in Bourton, when we will be offering a mulled beverage, mince pies and sausage rolls following a talk entitled "Preserving the harvest – Far beyond Jams and Chutneys" by Kelvin Alvisis who runs An English Farmstead - definitely "The Good Life" in action. Enter our competition which this month is a *Christmas Arrangement with Candle and Evergreens* and you might win one of our lovely plant prizes! With a modest annual membership fee of £15 or £3 per visit, new members and visitors are always most welcome! With refreshments served at the end of every meeting, it is an ideal opportunity to talk to fellow gardeners and share one's gardening experiences.

Sandra Mitchell – Secretary BVHS
Mobile: 07840 898472
Email: sandra@rissington.uk

Bourton Rovers Football Club

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Live Music - 9pm / Glass Of Prosecco - 11.45pm / Fireworks - 12.05am

TWO BEATLES

KAYLEIGH
Vocal Entertainer

DOORS OPEN 7pm

Tickets Available From The Club Beforehand
"Members £10 / Non-Members £20"
Limited Space Available

THE LITTLE SHACK
(Burgers, Etc)
Open 7 - 10pm

Bourton Rovers



Winter brings our most challenging months, with the cold, wet weather really starting to set in, more games are postponed due to a water logged/frozen pitch. The arrival of our brand-new tractor has been a god send so far and with a fully trained grounds team – A requisite of the tractor grant given to us – "Spiking" is definitely the word of the month at the club! (For those not in the know a roller is dragged across the pitch, stabbing the ground to create multiple tiny holes to increase drainage, aeration and boost the delivery of nutrition to the roots helping the grass grow faster and stronger.) amazing what you learn at committee meetings! Despite some postponed games, our teams are doing well! Bourton Rovers Hellenic team are sitting pretty mid table with plenty of games in hand. Both Harry Burrell and Rex Chiles are within the league's top scorers with 11 goals between them.

Our Witney league team's success and progression in the cup has kept their league games played at less than half of the other teams in their league so they have some games to catch up! With a possible 15 points available to them, when they do catch up they could be within touching distance of the league leaders! So a great start all round for the 2023/24 season.

Our social club is also thriving, a successful Halloween disco for the local youngsters, some fantastic live singers, some impressive (and some interesting!) Karaoke, plus our usual darts competitions have kept us all busy this Autumn. December sees us welcome the festive season with a live singer on the 9th December, a fantastic 80's band on the 16th December, Christmas disco on

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the 23rd December and a New Years Eve Party to remember in the offing too!

**Cotswolds ticket offices
to stay open**

There was a proposal during the summer from the rail operators to close all ticket offices in stations. This would have meant closures at places like Kingham, Moreton and Kemble. I know a lot of local people use these stations and people have told me that they value the ticket offices rather than relying on ticket machines (when they work) and online purchasing.

Now, there has been a change of heart and I'm glad to say all rail ticket offices are to stay open. Thanks to all those who signed my petition on this and for the many conversations with residents I've had which underlined how important this is for those who find the internet more challenging or who simply want to speak to a member of staff about ticketing, prices and train times.

Councillors are meeting with Great Western Railway this month to discuss all local train services after I called for this at a recent council meeting.

If you want to feedback anything on our Cotswolds rail services, please let me know.

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson
paul.hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Christmas Time

In the river stands our tree,
Shinning bright for all to see.
Buildings festooned with lights,
As darkness falls they shine bright.
Shops filled with stocking fillings galore,
Excited shopper ready to explore.
Christmas is here.
Houses filled with Christmas cheer.

Carol Groom

Bourton Roadrunners

This week saw further members from Bourton Roadrunners' most recent couch-to-5k program graduating to **parkrun**, this time it was at **Chipping Norton School**. They were accompanied by members of the club's run leadership team, together with a blend of regular and newer members. They were grateful for the vastly improved weather conditions, which enabled everyone to have an enjoyable experience. Leading the club home over the 5Km course were two of our younger members, with Dougal Hamilton-Smith holding-on for second place overall in 20 minutes and 7 seconds (1st JM15-17), closely chased by in-form Edward Hare, who was 4th overall, in 20 minutes and 13 seconds (1st JM11-14). Despite not being a race, it is always exciting to see individuals running to their full potential.

The beauty of parkrun is that everyone is able to perform at their own level, with many testing the boundaries of their current abilities whilst still enjoying the social experience. This was evidenced by results of all of our participants this week: Graham Lane – 26:25 (MV65/1 and a course PB), Lorna Shawcross – 27:11 (LV60/1), Liz Hulcup – 27:39 (LV70/1), Sharon Rees – 32:54, Raymond Webster – 34:06 (course PB), Ian Tolfts – 34:07, Maria Hall – 34:14 (LV35/3), Steph Holton – 34:15, Donna Robinson – 35:34, Patrick Smith – 37:28 (course PB), Becky McQuillan – 38:14, Joanne Welch – 40:06, Lynn Hudson – 40:06 (LV65/2), Julie Smith – 41:44 (course PB), Giles Canning – 41:45, Samantha Mellor – 43:16, Louise Hamilton-Smith – 43:16, Margaret Hollamby – 43:45 (LV65/3), John Conway – 43:45 (MV65/3), Margaret Skelding – 45:37 (LV70/2) and Melissa Samuel – 46:34.

Cotswold Friends

Cotswold Friends would like to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our clients, volunteers, funders and supporters. Our volunteer-led services support older and vulnerable people who may be lonely or isolated. Christmas can be a difficult time, so if we can help you or someone you know, please do get in touch on Tel: 01608 651415.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the charity in so many ways throughout the year – it is very much appreciated. **Best wishes from all at Cotswold Friends.**



This month we're introducing Jonathan Jowitt (aka JJ) who presents Rare & Unheard every Tuesday at 6pm. Not to be confused with our Bearded Grower, this JJ hails from Yorkshire and has lived in the Cotswolds for 15 years.

On Rare & Unheard, you can expect to hear something different: songs and artists you may have forgotten about or maybe never discovered. And for those songs you do know, JJ digs up alternative versions by other artists – or a version performed by the original songwriter. As ever, if you miss the live show, there's a repeat: on air Wednesday at 3pm or anytime on Catch Up on the Cotswolds Radio app.

JJ has been fortunate to have worked in the music and creative industries his whole career and some fun facts include:

****He once won an ITV talent show...a prize to anyone who can guess the cor-**

rect show – send your guess to contact@cotswoldsradio.com **

****He once spent 30 minutes in Kylie Minogue's hotel bedroom... for an interview****

****He's proud of being from Yorkshire...but secretly admits it's warmer and we get better weather in the Cotswolds****

If you have a hidden musical gem to share, get in touch. Send JJ a message via the app or email at contact@cotswoldsradio.com.

Terry Wright

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Terry Wright aged 90 after a short illness.

He was born at Bourton in June 1933, and lived here all his life, except for his 3 years national service in the RAF. The family lived in Lansdowne cottages, behind the Mousetrap inn. He was the son of Frank & Ethel, brother of Sylvia and Patricia, whose children Chris, Jeremy, Sue and Rob, he is survived by.

The funeral will take place at Cheltenham crematorium at 1pm on Monday 4th December. All will be welcome. Family flowers only please, donations are welcome for the Royal British Legion.

Rob Gabbott



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The Cotswold Pottery

John & Jude Jelfs on celebrating 50 years in Bourton-on-the-Water.

When we came to Bourton-on-the-Water in January 1973 to start our pottery, Clapton Row was very different to how it is today. Although there were (and still are) many pretty cottages, it was also an industrial area. Broadlands Court was a farm machinery/ Land Rover garage; what is now Victoria Terrace was a carpentry workshop; and our pottery was literally an old shack on a builders' yard which had belonged to Birdland (now Chardwar Gardens). The roof leaked so badly we had to put buckets out to catch the water when it rained!



We started with what we had - some basic equipment, and lots of enthusiasm. Fresh out of art school and pretty naive, we had no idea that Bourton was a busy tourist area. When the spring came, to our amazement people found us, and began buying our pots!

Gradually we got established, supplying shops and galleries over the UK and overseas, as well as selling direct from the showroom.

We rebuilt the Pottery in 1990, and continued doing what we love - playing with clay. The work continues to evolve. John's pots are mainly thrown on the wheel, and fired to stoneware tempera-

ture. He has exhibited widely, including at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Jude makes mainly hand-built pieces, currently being exhibited in the USA.

When we first started in 1973, apparently our neighbours thought we'd be gone in six months. But 50 years later, we are still here. Although many things have changed, we are basically still doing what we have always done: making studio pottery entirely by hand in this beautiful village. So here's to the next 50 years! **John & Jude Jelfs**

COTSWOLD POTTERY

Hand-made studio pottery
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Merrymouth Inn

It is now just over 2 years since we renovated the Merrymouth Inn from a derelict building into a functioning community hub. We are proud to announce the next step in the project to bring the 'real pub experience' back to the Cotswolds. Following on from some quality Blues Bands and first-class acoustic artists in playing The Merrymouth in September and October, we have Californian 'Guy Tortora & his band' visiting on 23rd November and the fabulous local band Fields Apart. We take a break from the music in December but are back in the new year with a serious line-up of quality blues and live music. All details and online ticket sales will be published on our website soon.

Besides the music and our growth as a quality live events venue, thriving Sunday Lunch and home cooked food offerings, we will be making major strides forward with our affordable quality food and drink with the launch of our Carvery Roasts - coming soon. So why pay more for locally sourced food and drink? We will also be bringing back some of the old pub games and teams: Darts, Pool and Aunt Sally in the Summer along with learn to paint groups and many other activities starting now. Watch the website or join our loyalty scheme for discounts, meal deals and exclusive access.

Feel free to drop in or check out www.cotswoldmerrymouth.co.uk or Tel. 01993 256620 for a warm welcome. We have always been family, dog and walker friendly so everyone is welcome. Best wishes, Wendy, Andrew, Charlie and the team. (See advert below).



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LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Numbers without area code are all 01451 (amendments 01451 822431)

Archery Club	GRArcheryClub@gmail.com	
Badminton Club	clclare@gmail.com	
Bell Ringers, BOW	Stephanie Hemming	810996
Bell Ringers, Gt Ris	Sheila Jesson,	820395
B'n Road Runners	Margaret Hollamby	01451 822645
Bourton Rovers Chairman	Liam Williams	07803 908950
Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Lourenza Hargreaves	07375 033609
Bourton Vale Tennis Club	www.bourtontennisclub.org	
Brass & Silver Bands	Stephanie Hemming	810996
Bridge Club, Northleach	Tim Morris	01285 750288
Community Group Club	Bridget/Lorna	01608 652019
Fitness League	Kathy Kirk	01993 882350
Gardening Club	Sandra Mitchell	07840 898472
Glos. Advanced Motorists	Rod Harrison.	821605
History Society	Sue Roberts	822230
Jubilee Lodge		01451 823100
Lunch Club (B'n Vale Cricket Club)	Sam	01608 692811
Men in Sheds	Keith	01451 831886
Moore Friends	Sandra Morgan	07840 898472
Moreton Bowls Club	Brenda Dix	821020
North Cotswold Arts Association	Alexa Buffery	07999589387
North Cotswold Gymnastics Club	Caroline Gill	01451 263130
OPEN 4U		824225
Panto Group	Jan Close	831911
Pilates	Robert Cox	07500 188445
Probus Club	Kevin Hick	868435
Rotary Club Nth Cotswolds	Steve Whincup	07488 365908
Royal British Legion Bourton	Bill McKenzie	824303
Rural Cinema	Mollie Wise	822365
Scottish Dancing Group	Christine Bucknall	01993 830760
	Bucknallce@gmail.com	
Short Led Walks	Carol Price	810305
Stow Textile Group	Julie Smith	01608 651006
T'ai Chi	Valerie Ward	07779 746346
u3a Bourton & District	Group Mobile	07783 235320
Village Warden	Steve Cotton	07729 114833
Volunteer Help Centre		01608 651415
WI	Pat Taylor	07518 457 652
Windrush Carers Support Group	Barbara Newstead	821523
4 Shires Swimming Club	Jo Shaw	membership@4ssc.uk.uk



Christmas has arrived again - how fast this year has gone.

The air now full of winter chill, and the quiet is filled with song.
Shops glitter with décor and lights, and markets filled with treats;
Time to stock up on special things – but not too many sweets.

Cards are bought and written out – ready to be sent;
The last time our postie worked this hard, was when greetings went
out for Lent.

Putting up the ones received – in order of their shape
Hoping they will stay in place by using Cellotape.

Presents are wrapped and stashed away, until the sleighbells sound.
Restless sleep while we wait – for Santa to come around.
To see what lies beneath the tree, or even on the bed
Maybe books for us to read, or a bobble hat for our head!

Friends call up to wish us well, and some come to the door
Invite them in to celebrate - share some drinks and more
We offer up some festive fayre and hope they will partake
Christmas roasted Turkey, and finish with some cake.

Pots all washed and wrapping stowed, we retire from our seat.
Crashing in the comfy chair, sleepy with the heat.
We open up the nibbles – bought for us to share -
Talking of festivities gone, and how they do compare.

End of the day is nearing, and it's time to go to bed.
Our pillows are calling out to us to rest our weary head.
We climb into our comfy beds and pull up the counterpane
Only 12 months to wait and we do it all again!

Sue Hewitt



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Dementia Friendly Cafe

Our third Dementia Friendly Cafe was a great
success, well attended and Kathy put on
some great, low-key, sit-down exercises
which caused a few laughs.



There will only be one cafe in December this will be Friday 8th
Dec 2023, 2pm to 4pm in St Lawrence's Church, we will be
joined by pupils of Bourton primary school who will be singing
carols. £1 each to cover refreshments. **Lynda Hicks**



Kate's Home Nursing

Christmas Carol Service

St Edward's Church
Stow-on-the-Wold
Friday 15th December
6:30pm

**Tickets: £15 from Borzoi Bookshop
(Stow-on-the-Wold) or from Gabrielle Kubale
(gabriellekubale@hotmail.com)**

Bourton Library

The George Moore Community Centre,
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All articles received will be printed wherever possible in the magazine & on the website, however we reserve the right not to print anonymous letters or anything of a defamatory or controversial nature.

We have a limit of 300 words per article. If your contact details appear in the Bourton Browser they will be on our website copy. If you do not want this to happen, tell us. Unless we hear from you, we will assume consent.

The views of contributors to the Bourton Browser may not necessarily be those of the Editor, nor can the Bourton Browser accept any responsibilities in connection with any companies or organisations mentioned.

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6 x 9 cm per mth £33, per 3 mths £70, per 6 mths £135, per 12 mths £250. 9 x 12 cm per mth £66, per 3 mths £140, per 6 mths £260, per 12 mths £500. See page 1 for deadline.

For full details & to book team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk or go to www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk State size required & attach advert as a jpeg or pdf. I will confirm **if** space is available or you may call 01451 822431 to discuss. Advertising spaces are very limited, early booking & prompt payment is essential. **Delivery**—We print 2300 copies & aim to deliver to every house in Bourton-on-the-Water & Clapton-on-the-Hill.

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