

55UE NO 300

www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk

April 2024

DIARY DATES

- Mondays, "Old Sweats" Meeting, **BLH**, 10am—12 Noon, 07714 852364 <u>bour-</u> ton.secretary@rbl.community
- Mondays & Thursdays, Stay Strong & Steady (falls prevention exercises), **BLH**, 1-2.30pm. cotswoldactivehealth@gmail.com See page 13.
- Mondays & Fridays, Bourton Men in Sheds, 9.30am-12.30pm, Behind **RBL**, 01608 692811.
- Tuesdays, "Together on Tuesdays", Soup lunch. 12-2pm, **StLC.**
- Thursdays Flexercise, **BLH**, 10-11am. 01993 882350 kathy.kirk@live.com
- 1st, 15th & 29th Mindsong, Sing 2 Remember **GMCC**, 10.30am & 2.30pm. 07764 212506 or 01451 821216.
- 3rd Parish Council Meeting, **GMCC**, 7pm.
- ^{4th} Brighter Bourton Meeting, **BLH**, 6.30-8.30pm, Youth & Wellbeing Committee. All welcome, see page 14.
- 6th-7th Gift Fair, **VH**, 10am-5pm, 07832 195427.
- 8th Probus, "Birds and Tigers of the Raj" by Arthur Ball, 10am, GMCC. See page 12.
- 9th WI, VH, 7pm. See page 12.
- 10th Irene's Charity Knitting Circle, **WP**, 10am-12pm. See page 11.
- 10th & 24th Bourton Community Day Club, 10.30am - 2.30pm, **MC**, GL54 2HE. 01608 652019.
- 10th Horticultural Society, Plant & seed swap & Gardeners' Question Time. 7.30pm, BCH. See page 13.
- 11^{th} Bourton Lunch Club, CCP, GL54

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**

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council Notes

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th March 2024.

District Councillor Jon Wareing (Bourton Village) reported that Cotswold District Council had created a working group on sewage, which was in crisis in the district. The licence extension application from Hawkstone Brewery had been withdrawn following concerns raised about potential noise pollution.

District Councillor Len Wilkins (Bourton Vale) had no further updates to add to Jon's report.

The Police urged residents to continue with security measures as there were still instances of break-ins.

Parish Council matters

Coach and Public Safety: The meeting was attended by a large number of residents and local business owners who put forward their points of view in the Public Session. Council approved the following proposals:

- 1. In the absence of any managed provision for coach parking, and in the interests of the health and safety of residents and visitors, and to improve traffic flow for all, Parish Council accepts the need to act without further delay to restrict coaches from central routes in Bourton-on-the-Water, by way of Traffic Regulation Order(s).
- 2. Restrictions will not include public service buses including school transport, the Robin, Community Connexions and other existing regular transport to be agreed, for example Harrington House, sports and social clubs for example sporting teams travel, Guiding and Scouting trips, and so on.
- 3. Restrictions will apply
 - 3.1 from the northwest, from A429 Fosseway
 - into Lansdowne and High Street
 - into Station Road.

Entry onto Bourton Industrial Park from the Fosseway will not be restricted.

- 3.2 from the southeast, from Rissington Road entry into Bourton-on-the-Water from Little Rissington (possibly including restriction along Leasow Lane towards Great Rissington). This would benefit from agreement and cooperation with Upper Rissington Parish Council (URPC), Little Rissington Parish Council (LRPC) and Great Rissington Parish Council (GRPC).
- 3.3 from the northeast, from Kingfisher Road to Meadow Way Roundabout, down Meadow Way / Bourton Link past Cotswold Clubhouse, Colletts buildout, and to the junction with Station Road at Jubilee Lodge.
- 3.4 from the southwest, from Lankett Lane junction with the "Steeps" (Bourton Hill), not affecting the existing highway access from A429 White-

Cont. p 2, cols 2 & 3

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 <u>questions</u>, articles (max.300 words), adverts & event details to the team.

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The DEADLINE for Adverts & Articles for the May edition is Noon on 15th April



April

Fields full of bleating sheep Watching their lambs gaily leap. Flowers bursting into bloom Fragrances to fill a room. Easter eggs to break and share Given with love to those we care. April's showers far and few Not enough to spoil the view.

Carol Groom

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continued from Page 1, column 2.

shoots Hill towards Sherborne and Clapton-on-the-Hill. This would benefit from agreement and cooperation with CotHPC and Sherborne Parish Council.

4. Council tasks Highways Committee:

- 4.1 to consider, and to recommend to April Parish Council given the urgency, the best way forward to achieve the above without compromising the urgently required signage and yellow lining TROs aimed at reducing volumes of visitor parking on residential streets, and long-desired TRO actions to improve the bus stop area outside the public conveniences next to the Cook Shop on the High Street.
- 4.2 to consider, and recommend to April Parish Council, whether to use permanent or emergency TROs, or a combination of both, given the urgency of the need to manage coach movements and noting the higher total costs associated with temporary TROs.
- 4.3 to invite County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson and a Highways representative to attend Parish Council Highways Committee meeting for this item, to expedite progress.

Highways Committee will review the proposals at their meeting on 25th March and make recommendations to the 3rd April Parish Council meeting.

Relaunch of Youth Club: Stow Active Sports will be providing weekly Youth Club sessions in term times and school holidays at the Baden Powell Hall. This will start with an open afternoon from



2-4pm on Wednesday 3rd April and the first evening session will be on Wednesday 10th April starting at 6pm. All are invited to the introductory session on 3rd April to find out the details.

Grant from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Resilient Communities Fund: The Parish Council has been awarded funding of £10,000 which will be used to install back-up infrastructure to allow for a generator hook up at the George Moore Community Centre in the event of a major power outage.

Additional Parking Enforcement Hours were approved from 18th March to 3rd November. The provision has been extended this year to cover a longer season and has received 50% funding from CDC's Tourist Levy.

Brighter Bourton: A reminder that this will be held on Thursday 4th April from 6.30-8.30pm at the Royal British Legion Hall. Please see separate article for further details.

Memorial Repairs will be carried out at the Cemetery and St Lawrence churchyard week commencing 15th April. The Baptist Church have informed us that the contractor will also be carrying out memorial inspections at the adjacent Baptist Cemetery during this week.

Next Meeting Date: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at in the Windrush Room at The George Moore Community Centre. All residents are welcome.

Sharon Henley, Clerk/RFO 01451 820712 clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk www.bourtononthewaterpc.org.uk

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Bourton Browser Team News

Happy Easter: We wish all our readers a very Happy Easter, let's hope for some sunshine for us all to enjoy!

300th Issue: Well done to everybody who is, or has been, part of the production or delivery team! The Browser started in 1999, and despite everything the village has faced since then, (not least a global pandemic), the magazine has been printed every month. Quite an achievement!

Relief Bourton Browser Deliverers: Thanks to those who volunteered to become relief deliverers. More volunteers are always welcome, if you think you could help out occasionally please either contact David Tebbutt, Distribution Manager, on 01451 821098 or email at the address below.

Events: If you are planning any let us know as soon as possible, we can advertise them in "Diary Dates" and the on-line village diary, <u>www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk</u> It is well worth checking the village on-line diary when scheduling events to avoid clashing with other 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 <u>one article, per community</u> group, per issue.

team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk The Bourton Browser Team

Howard Crook

My husband died on 28th February after a long illness. I've been over-

whelmed by messages of sympathy from local people who loved him and enjoyed his company. Thank you everyone.

You are all welcome to join us in a Meeting of Thanksgiving at 11 o'clock on Saturday, 20th April, in the Burford Quaker Meeting House. (OX18 4SJ). It is a short distance from the free car park.

Megan Crook



High Bridge Jewellers



DIAMOND April's Birthstone

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www.cotswoldfinejewellery.co.uk

Opening Times: 10.00am-5.00pm, Monday - Sunday.



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 semiretired 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-onthe-Water** and are ideal for prospective new members to sound us out.

Our next meeting is on

Wednesday 24th April 2024, from 10am to 12 noon,



Richard Churchley, a historian and a musician, will take us on a journey through A Century of Popular Songs singing familiar songs and putting them in their context with the emphasis on fun as he encourages the audience to join in the choruses!!

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

OUT AND ABOUT in April

- Mondays, Yoga for All, 9.30-10.30am, Pilates 10.35-11.30am, Wyck Rissington Village Hall. 07950 424037 Enquiries: franyoga@rocketmail.com
- Daily Lambing & Kidding, Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power, GL54 5F. 01451 850307. www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk
- Daily- Icons of British Fashion, Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, OX20 1UL, 10am-4pm www.blenheimpalace.com .01993 810530.
- Daily until -7th Join the Big Batsford Bunny Hunt! The Easter Bunny's helpers have escaped & they're hopping around Batsford Arboretum. Find them to win a prize! £3 per child, plus Arboretum admission fee. Visit www.batsarb.co.uk for details.
- Daily until 7th Easter Craft activities , Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway, Toddington, GL54 5DT. www.gwsr.com or 01242 621405.
- Daily until 7th 'Cracked It!' Easter Egg Hunt at Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, GL54 5LP. 10am-5pm. sudeleycastle.co.uk
- 6th-7th Orchard St Food & Craft Market, St Ann Way, Gloucester Quays, GL1 5SH. 01452 338933.
- 11th Jazz & Funk Night with the Hugh Turner Quartet, Merrymouth Inn, Stow Rd, OX7 6HR , 7-11.30pm. Tickets £14.50. www.cotswoldsmerrymouth.co.uk
- 13th Village Market at Great Rissington, Great Rissington Club, 10am-noon. 01451 822285.
- 13th "A Night at the Opera" with London Festival Opera -Northleach Church, 7.30pm. Tickets £20/ £25, <u>northleachevents.co.uk</u>
- 14th Indoor Car Boot Sale, Upper Rissington Village Hall, Free entry, 9am-12pm, dvevents21@gmail.com sellers: bookings from £5. See page 14.
- 18th Music Bingo, The Cotswold Hall, Northleach, 7pm for 7.30pm start, bar & raffle. £10pp includes refreshments. Tickets from www.cotswoldsradio.com
- 19th-21st Bibury Literary Festival, details & tickets www.biburyfestivals.com
- 21st Combe Mill `In Steam` *Military Vehicles*`, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Long Hanborough. OX298ET. www.combemill.org. 01993 358694.
- 25th-27th The Wychwood Players', "Arsenic and Old Lace". The New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood, OX7 6BQ, www.wychwoodplayers.com Tickets £12+ booking fee. See page 11.

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🚧 FOR SALE / WANTED ITEMS 🚧

To advertise items 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 High Chair, (no tray), £5. 01451 822645	For Sale Magimix Food Processer, hardly used, £40. 07881 962842.
For Sale Hand Push Cylinder Lawn Mower, 38cm cut. £15. 01451 821200.	For Sale Ladies Bike, Raleigh Pioneer, needs new inner tubes, £25. 01451 821200.
For Sale Caldene navy riding jacket, 34". Shires Equestrian Show jacket, 36". £25 each. 01451 798527	For Sale Lightweight folding wheel- chair, attendant brakes, self- propelled mag wheels, black. UNUSED. £50. 01451 810447
For Sale Hardly used bread maker & other functions with instruc- tion booklet. Great condition. £25. 0777 926 1840.	For Sale Eurohike Rucksack Wilderness 55. Very Good Condition. £15. 01451 822645
For Sale Dark brown leather jacket, size medium-large, very good condition, as new. £50. 01451 798527.	For Sale Curtains 1 pair 66" x 90", 1 pair 66" x 54," gold pattern & same sizes silver/grey pattern. £10 per set. 07881 962842.
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Reflections on Coming to Terms with the Loss of Coach Parking Provision in our Village

- A District Councillor Perspective

The Parish Council has taken the decision to seek to extend the existing restriction on coaches entering the main centre of the Village due to the lack of any managed provision for coaches to park. This decision was taken in the interests of the health and safety of residents and visitors, and to improve traffic flow for all. Our infrastructure can't deal with the numbers of modern coaches that typically arrive in peak season.

The incident at the CO-OP petrol station where a pump was partially knocked over by a coach is a chilling illustration of the potential risk of allowing coaches into Bourton without any management.

For more than 18 months, a Stakeholder group of the local Councils, Cotswold District Council (CDC), Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and our Parish Council), the Police, the Cotswold School, Bourton Business Network and Bourton Vale Car Parking (BVCP) has been meeting and working hard to find a solution to BVCP's decision to stop coach parking provision. No single option was ultimately workable on grounds of affordability, practicality and impact on safety. A table of options that have been considered is included in a longer version of this article online at: <u>https://www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk/category/coach-parking/</u>

It saddens me to think that some businesses may suffer because of the loss of the 5% of visitors to the village who come by coach. It also saddens me that some people who don't have a car, or who are unable to drive, are left with the options of minibus or a combination of rail and bus to visit Bourton. Getting the balance right for the whole community clearly means taking uncomfortable decisions.

What Happens Next?

The Highways Committee of the Parish Council will now work out how best to enact a new Traffic Regulation Order in conjunction with GCC Highways. The Police and GCC Highways are working out how best to manage the situation on the ground until any new restriction comes into force.

Looking to the future, how would it be to see greater emphasis on tourism in the North Cotswolds by Rail to maximise the use of Moreton-in-Marsh station and generate greater demand for the local buses? More demand could lead to greater frequency and a more usable local service for residents – a positive outcome to reduce car trips all round. I think we'd all like to see less cars in Bourton!

Ultimately, looking further ahead, might we see located off the Northleach roundabout on the A40 the kind of park and



ride scheme, that we see around Oxford and Cheltenham, to serve visitors to the rural communities of the North Cotswolds? I'm pushing these suggestions for consideration for inclusion in the Local Plan.

Debate, Not Hate

Finally, I want to extend my thanks to my fellow District Councillor for Bourton Vale, Cllr Len Wilkins, who has been totally supportive of taking a whole community perspective to this issue.

The abuse that many of my fellow local Councillors have been receiving as a consequence of the coach parking issue is really sickening. There is simply no place for this kind of extreme and intolerant behaviour. It's okay to have an opinion. It's okay to disagree with someone's opinion. It's not okay to humiliate or abuse them because they don't think the same way you do.

If you have any considered and constructive suggestions on how to more effectively and harmoniously manage the visitors who come to enjoy the beautiful part of the world we live in, please do let me know.

Jon Wareing, District Councillor, Bourton Village Ward

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FILM NIGHT IN UPPER RISSINGTON TO SUPPORT THE ERADICATION OF POLIO

Rotary, as part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, has been working for 35 years to rid the world from polio for ever. Since its inception polio cases have been reduced by 99.9% and is now only endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is essential that we continue this work to keep other countries polio-free. If we stopped immunising children today it is estimated that within 10 years as many as 200,000 children could be paralysed by this disease. A polio vaccine costs just 15p.

To support the polio eradication programme North Cotswolds Rotary is organising a special showing of the film 'Breathe' at Upper Rissington Village Hall on Saturday 13th April. The film will start at 7:30pm with the bar open from 6:30pm. Tickets are only £10.

Breathe is a story about living every breath as though it's your last. Robin Cavendish (Andrew Garfield) has his whole life ahead of him when he is paralysed by polio whilst in Africa in 1958. Contrary to all advice, Robin's wife Diana (Claire Foy) brings him home from hospital where her devotion and witty determination transcends his disability. Against the odds, Robin's illness gave him new purpose - fighting tirelessly for the rights of disabled people and his pioneering work had a huge impact on mobility and access for the disabled.

Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk (type in 'breathe rotary') or click on the QR code. Steve Smith





For the past 20 years, since April 2004, films have been shown, once a month at The Victoria Hall. Cotswold District Council (CDC) initially provided all the equipment, which was passed around the villages. Gradually, most halls brought their own equipment but for years Bourton had to rely on the CDC equipment, bumping it up and down the stairs and in and out of cars, which was not an easy job! Thankfully, we now have sole use of the CDC equipment, storing it at the hall.

Back in 2004, I put an article in the Bourton Browser asking 'have you ever fancied being a projectionist?' John Gaden and Ray Dodd volunteered and Susan Dodd also joined the team. The four of us organised the schedule, pricing etc. On the opening night we showed "Love Actually", we had a full house (113), and had to turn 15 people away!

The films we show come straight from

the box office. To date, we have shown 193. Apart from the covid years, we have only cancelled 3 times, due to snow or heating problems. Providing we have a good title and cast, we continue to get a healthy audience. We still charge the original price of £3 per person or £10 for a family of 4. In 2008 we started matinees, the first film shown was "Mamma Mia". Matinees are very popular, especially in the winter months.

We make a small profit, which under CDC rules, must be given back to the community. Our first donation was to the Victoria Hall to purchase and fit a screen. £2,500 was donated towards fitting out the café at the Community Centre. £1,500 was donated to the 2012 village Jubilee Celebrations. We have also made donations to the Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Friday Club and mature groups.

I have now stepped back from most duties but still like to be involved with putting out posters and welcoming the evening audiences. I am delighted that Denease Robinson has taken over from me; she is very keen and manages everything smoothly. Thank you also to the new team of projectionists and refreshment volunteers.

If you have not experienced Rural Cinema, give us a try. It's on the third Monday of the month, at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, tea/coffee, £1 a cup before the performances. See 'Dairy Dates' for details or the poster on Hartwell's door. This month the film will be "One Life", with Anthony Hopkins & Helena Bonham Carter, on 15th April. Thank you to so many for your support over the years. I have enjoyed your company.

Mollie Wise







Message from the Church

By the time you read this, we may already have celebrated Easter. How did we all keep this festival? No doubt in many different ways. Some will have gone on holiday, taking advantage of the extra non-working days. Others will have stayed at home, enjoying time (and Easter eggs!) with their families and friends. Watching or participating in sport will have been top of the list for many. Some will have gone to Church, but probably quite a small percentage of each town and village in the Cotswolds. Easter, like Christmas, may also have been quite a trial for those who are lonely, ill or who are experiencing difficult times with their family. Of one thing I can be reasonably certain. Most people will have given some thought to how they would spend the holiday period, and made a plan.

Benjamin Franklin, the famous 18th century U.S statesman said: *'In this world nothing can be said to be certain except* death and taxes.' What sort of plan or thought have we put into thinking about our own departure from this world? Hopefully we have made a Will. But how much thought have we given to the prospect that we will meet God? The Easter Festival celebrates the rising from the dead of Jesus Christ on the third day after his execution. The New Testament is full of detail about this event and so many throughout history have given their lives as martyrs rather than deny the truth of the Risen Christ. If it was all a lie, Christianity could never have survived. All of us think about death. If we have not enquired into the truths of the Christian faith and the possibility of our own resurrection, is it not high time we did so?

Happy Easter from Fr. Stephen



admin@bourtonparishchurch.co.uk St Lawrence www.bourtonparishchurch.co.uk ourton on the Water 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 **Regular services:** Holy Communion - every Wednesday @ 10:00am not 3rd April 8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion – 14th and 28th April **Special Services** Easter Hymns & Readings at 11am on the 7th April St George's Day Service with Scouts at 11am on the 21st April Breakfast Church - Saturday 13th April- 9am start Together on Tuesdays Lunch - every Tuesday 12pm - 2pm BumbleBeez (parent and child group) - every Thursday 9-11am St James, Clapton-on-the-Hill 21st April- BCP Holy Communion **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 Open4U Open every Thursday from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm in the Church Hall, with a range of activities and time to chat. A light lunch is served and refreshments are available through the day. Everyone is welcome – just drop in and stay as long as you like. Cafe' Tots Every Wednesday from 9.15 - 11.30am A group for parents, carers and tots to enjoy time together. Refreshments are served and there are lots of fun things for your children to enjoy. All welcome See our website for this month's diary and more details of all our activities www.bourtonbaptist.co.uk 7

Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady & St. Kenelm, Stow on the Wold Parish website: stow-bourtoncatholic.net Fr. Stephen Lambert 07836 38493

Email: Ste-

hen.lambert@cliftondiocese.com

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.

Please check parish website for any last minute changes

The priest welcomes all enquiries about the Christian faith, and Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings, Funerals, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Blessing of houses etc.

Solemnity of the Annunciation. This is usually celebrated on March 25th, but this year, because that day is the Monday of Holy Week, the Feast day has been transferred to **Monday 8th April**. Sung Mass at 6 pm at Stow

Fr. Stephen

QUAKERS

The Religious Society of Friends Every Sunday 11am at The Friends Meeting House, Pytt Lane, Burford Enquiries welcome Myra Ford 01451 810484. To request a free info pack, email: outreach@quaker.org.uk



- e bolle@leceltree
- . 0333 23 41168

For The Younger Generations

Bourton Primary Academy

The school year is flying by so quickly at the moment, by the time this goes to print we will already be on our Easter holidays! March was a very busy month for us, but the children had so much fun! We had a very exciting week of science workshops, poetry workshops and World Book Day. The science workshops consisted of looking at friction and forces in the theme of circus skills! The children (and staff) had a brilliant time in every workshop! On our poetry day every class created their own verse with actions and came together at the end of the day to put them together and perform in front of the rest of the school!

In March we held a gymnastics competition for Year 3 and 4. Schools from around our cluster came to compete in a floor routine and the vault. The judge was an official gymnastics judge and was very impressed with the level of gymnastics, the behaviour, and the respect of the audience when watching the other competitors from all schools in the cluster. We were pleased with the results our teams received. One of our teams came 1st overall and we also had several children placed individually. We were the only school that entered a complete boys team and they did very well.

At the end of the Spring Term we celebrated the end of an era with Mr Jones' retirement. We are all incredibly grateful for the support that he has given every pupil, parent and staff member over the last 18.5 years. Mr Jones would like to thank everyone for their kind words and wishes, he was very touched at how many people reached out to wish him well into his retirement.

Tori Gainford, Deputy Headteacher

Bourton Vale Tennis Club

Memberships for the 2024 season are officially open. Our year runs from April to March so now is the best time to sign up and get use of the courts for the full year. Membership fees are incredibly good value, just £30 (reduced to £20 if taking coaching) for a child for the whole year! We also have parent and child, adult, and family membership packages available. We welcome players of all ages, young and old, all abilities, from complete beginner, rusty returner, stalwart senior or Wimbledon warrior! And we are lucky to have two incredible coaches offering lessons for both adults and juniors, individual and groups.

We have fun, social competitions throughout the year, a singles box league, regular club nights, club tournaments and Gloucestershire doubles league tennis. We also have a growing social calendar so if you're wanting to get active and make new friends, check out our website at <u>www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/</u> <u>BourtonValeLawnTennisClub</u> for more information and to sign up.

We would love to see more children taking up the sport. Tennis is great for hand-eye coordination, getting fit, developing a competitive spirit, sportsmanship, and etiquette. Juniors can also take advantage of free club nights on Thursdays (starting after Easter hols) 17:00-18:00.

So, what are you waiting for? Get active, get social, get into tennis in Bourton! Looking forward to seeing you on court in 2024!



Oxbridge Offers for Cotswold School Students

Six students from The Cotswold School have received offers to study at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

Mr White, Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Head at The Cotswold School, said: "I am delighted for these students; a testament to a phenomenal amount of hard work and deep interest in their subject area, and the great support given to them by their teachers, other staff, Cotswold School alumni – who help every year with practice interviews – and their families."

The school's support for applicants is thorough and challenging with encouragement established back in Key Stage 3 and 4 as part of our Aspire programme. The six who received offers from Oxford and Cambridge are eager to embark on degrees in subjects including Mathematics, Law, Spanish and Russian, and German and Russian.

It has been wonderful to see so many applications for university, Art Foundation courses, degree apprenticeships, apprenticeships or employment. As well as the Oxbridge offers, many students have received university offers and are on track to achieve the requirements, including: Archaeology at The University of Edinburgh; English Language and Linguistics at the University of Southampton; Liberal Arts at the University of Leeds; History at the University of Liverpool and Film Studies at the University of Warwick.

If you have experience of the Oxbridge application process and would be willing to help support our students, please contact pwhite@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

The Cotswold School Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Students in our CCF recently visited RAF Benson for an Air Experience Flight. Cadets were issued with flight suits and undertook emergency training drills before taking to the skies, with some students operating the controls and flying.

Exam Invigilators

We are seeking to recruit reliable and confident people to join our team of Examination Invigilators. For more information visit www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk/recruitment

Alex Peyton

Local Groups and Organisations for the YOUNGER GENERATION

Baby Gymnastics 0–18months Beavers

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	07876458571	
Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Lucy Gillespie	07949 227128	
	craiglucygillespie@yahoo.com		
B'n Vale Equestrian Centre	Leanne Launchbury	821101	
Bourton Vale Tennis Club	Kingsley Harris	07879 644218	
	www.bourtontennisclub.org		
Brownies	Steph	07941 502222	
Bumblebeez babies & pre-school tots	Rowena King	821282	
Cafe Tots	Sue Woodley	07828 781246	
Children's Jujitsu	Andy or Hayley	07951 587398	

Stephanie Lewis

Caroline (Cotswold Clubhouse) 263130

07308 144397

Bourton Rovers Youth Team

On a cold Saturday morning in March our Bourton Rovers U10 Blues welcomed their opponents to Rissington Road. Our young players walked out proudly in front of the largest crowd of the season to play in the semi-final of the Cheltenham league Jon Sykes Cup to give it their all for a place in the final.

34 teams from all around the Cheltenham area began their cup journey back in early October and 22 weeks of cold, wet, early mornings later our football loving Bourton Blues bagged themselves a well-deserved spot in the final. Such a fantastic achievement for our local village club, they are the first Bourton youth team to reach a cup final and we wish them every success when they head off to play their final game at "Completely -Suzuki Stadium", Cheltenham Town FC on April 27th.

Proud coach Scott Buckley could not take the smile off his face all weekend, bursting with pride, not only from his team's success, but also by the way his team have conducted themselves throughout this season. Scott, supported by his coaching team Dean & Danny have a fantastic balanced approach to grassroots coaching that emphasises player development, teamwork and sportsmanship on the pitch, which really shines

CubsNick Hawke 1stbourtoncubs@gmail.comGuidesSteph07941 502222HockeyRhys Davies07817 108970Little Hurricanes (Babies & Toddlers)littlehurricanes@hotmail.comPre-SchoolLisa Sorley07950 048066Pre-School GymnasticsCaroline263130RainbowsSteph07941 502222Recreational GymnasticsCaroline263130ScoutsPhil1stbourtonsquirrels@gmail.comSquirrelsEmilystbourtonsquirrels@gmail.com4Shires SwimmingJo Shawmembership@4ssc.uk.ukTaekwon-doLee Chapman01285 640500The Cotswold SchoolKynda Hicks07867 121122			
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Taekwon-doLee Chapman01285 640500The Cotswold School820554	Squirrels	Emily	stbourtonsquirrels@gmail.com
The Cotswold School 820554	4Shires Swimming	Jo Shaw	membership@4ssc.uk.uk
	Taekwon-do	Lee Chapman	01285 640500
Youth Club Lynda Hicks 07867 121122	The Cotswold School		820554
	Youth Club	Lynda Hicks	07867 121122

through when these boys are on the pitch.

A big shout out to Cotswold Farmhouse Furniture who sponsor this young team -, support from local businesses is invaluable to non-profit clubs like ours and we are truly thankful for your support. So huge congratulations to this wonderful group of players, we can't wait to cheer you on from the stands, Bourton scarves aloft!

U10 Bourton Blues Squad

Bailey	Max	Harr
Oakley	Jack	Fred

rison Vinnie Idie Elliot Teddy



Zena the Barber and Hairstylist.



Cosy little salon based at the George Moore Community Centre. Bookings available online. www.zenathebarber.com



Bourton on the Water Cubs

James received a salute from the cub pack and a big round of applause from watching parents as he received the Chief Scout Silver award from Akela recently. This badge recognises the activities James has taken part in during his two and a half years with the pack. To achieve this, the highest standard award a cub can achieve, James has completed the 7 challenge badges and exceeded the minimum of 6 activity badges – gaining a whopping 13 badges. He is showing no sign of slowing down as he looks to start the transition to our new Scout Troop soon.

James has taken part in outdoors and adventurous activities including archery, caving, rock climbing, camping, several hikes and demonstrated a number of practical skills. He has also participated in community projects planting wildflowers, litter picking and cleaning the Baden Powell Hall and learnt about other cultures and religions.

If your children would like to see what Scouting is all about and try out some activities, please get in touch with a leader of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts as listed on the contacts page. If you would like to volunteer as an adult – sharing a skill with young people or helping adults or the group we'd be more than happy to welcome you to the wonderfully passionate world of Scouting. Well done James, we hope you have a long and enjoyable adventure in Scouting. **Nick Hawke**



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@bourtononthewaterpc.gov.uk St. Lawrence's Mrs Gill Willett 01451 821484 familywillett@hotmail.co.uk 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 Wychwood Players' next production will be the funny black comedy "Arsenic and Old Lace" by Joseph Kesselring.

It tells the story of Mortimer Brewster who is newly engaged and visits his two seemingly charming and gentle aunts. He discovers that they are in the habit of killing off a series of their unfortunate lodgers. Mortimer must decide if he can help his aunts and protect his finacee whilst also keeping himself sane

Performances are on 25^{th} , 26^{th} & 27^{th} April at 7.30pm. The venue is The New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood, OX7 6BQ, Tickets £12+ booking fee. Www.wychwoodplayers.com



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This month, meet Izzy Weatherall who presents a monthly show: "The Entrepreneurial Edge".

Izzy is passionate about supporting independent businesses with their growth and visibility. She has lived in the Cotswolds for 21 years and loves the community of independent business owners and the amazing outdoors that the Cotswold has to offer.

Broadcast live on the last Tuesday of the month at 12 noon, The Entrepreneurial Edge features the people who run incredible independent businesses around the Cotswolds, providing some top tips from the best in their industry.

Alongside this, Izzy is also a long-distance swimmer and has completed many challenges including Lake Windermere (7hrs 30mins), Ullswater and Coniston Water 2-Way.

If you've got a passion you'd like to share, get in touch with Cotswolds Radio. You can send us a message via the app or email at <u>contact@cotswoldsradio.com</u>.

Cotswolds Radio is a community radio station run entirely by volunteers of all ages – from under 8 to over 80. We broadcast over 30 shows from our studio at The Old Prison in Northleach covering a host of topics – all kinds of music, gardening, beauty, chat, local news and history, culture and the arts, sports and of course our popular daily Breakfast Show.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY NORTH COTSWOLDS

To keep you up to date we are now running cafes at Bourton and Stow.

Bourton: St Lawrence's Church, 2pm to 4pm. Second and fourth Friday's.

Stow: Baptist Church Rooms, 2pm to 4pm. First and third Friday's.

20 people are regularly coming along so please come and join us. There are different activities each session or just come and have a chat. There is information about dementia available for you as well. We would like to thank the CO-OP. for providing teas coffee etc and we are also looking for volunteers to help us on the day. Contact details are in the Local Groups column on page 15.

It has been a privilege to meet some of our village residents and hope that what we are doing is helping them along.

Dementia Friendly Team





säfe

1 Cotswold Business Park Range Road, Witney OX29 0YB



MOORE FRIENDS

Spring has sprung or has it ?! At our recent meeting we agreed to keep funding key projects in Bourton - Men in Sheds, Artuplift, Primary School and others. Of course, we finish in October 2024, when our funds will have been used up. It will be sad to see, what was the old League of Friends, finish. Our last AGM will be June 19th at the Community Centre. I always think it is great to have his name attached to the Centre, which was the old Cottage Hospital. I should know - my office was upstairs!

Reminder - ring the MIU at Moreton Hospital before you go to check if it is open. Don't waste a journey. Call 0345 659 8770. **Bill Wragge, Trustee**.

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.

Please note, there is no parking available at Willoughby Place, however, we are very happy to collect anyone who needs a lift within Bourton. Just give us a call.

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





Friday the 8th of March INSPIRING WOMEN

was International Women's Day and so it was quite fitting that Bourton's WI were to have as guest speaker for March, Julie Mitchell, to speak about extraordinary women in her family.

Julie spoke passionately about her Great Aunt, Elsie Bell, who, along with her husband, daughter and son, became part of The Belgian Resistance! They selflessly helped secure the escape of over 700 RAF and Allied aircrew before succumbing to capture by the SS.

Elsie and her young daughter survived the horror of German prisons and concentration camps before being released in the last days of the war.

Although the content was at times quite emotionally upsetting, Julie captured the groups hearts and her story evoked strong memories.

It was a very special experience listening to Julie's personal story and very appropriate as the WI motto is 'Inspiring Women- then and now'!

You can read more about courageous Elsie and her story in this book.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm (come a bit earlier for a chat and cup of tea) in Victoria Hall.



For more information, please contact Pat Taylor (President) on 07518 457 652





Panto Group

Plip, plip, plop Come on everyone! The response is



"little April showers", sung of course! Crikey, we've had enough of the March ones, haven't we?! I don't think we need any more right now.

Anyway, down to business. BPG is "resting" at the moment. This is the term used when an actor isn't working. However, the team on our Committee IS still active and preparing for the next item on the list of planned events. This is The Spring Fete. We're booked to be on the village green on Monday 6th May with our selection of stalls, including jigsaws, 'Hook a Duck', books and more! Come along, support us as we raise the necessary funds to stage our next production for you.

I have favourite shows, expect you do too. What genre of music floats YOUR boat? (Talking of "floating", I forgot to mention that our ducks will be taking to the river on fete day too!). Do you play an instrument and fancy being part of our group to enhance our performances with music? Our Director for the pantomime, Clodagh, would love to hear from you.

Do you have desires to paint large bold canvases? We can help and Clodagh would be delighted to hear from you!

> Her email address is: clodaghogden91@gmail.com

Is there anyone out there who has a flair for clothes/costume sewing and design? I can help with that one! Contact me! Ann 01451 820917.

We're a team who are passionate about



live theatre and we would be delighted to welcome others who would be interested in helping us create future performances. So MANY skills are required to cast, produce, direct and choreograph a pantomime, that there are plenty of opportunities for you to be involved with this great hobby.

Ann Chapman

Bourton Probus

We had a very interesting meeting on 12th February when



David Aldred gave us a talk on Hailes Abbey and the mystery of the Holy Blood. A fascinating look at the history of the Abbey and whether the artifice was indeed the Holy Blood. Fascinating story. If you have never been to Hailes Abbey, well worth a visit - it is on the way to Winchcombe if you are not sure. On 26th February, our member Irene Birt, told us about her experiences as a nurse in a hospital in Zambia. By NHS standards, absolutely horrendous. She gave us an explicit insight into the hazards of a rural hospital in a still relatively underdeveloped country at the time. She also showed us some very interesting examples of local workmanship. An absorbing and interesting session.

Probus is designed for retired business or professional men and women, although anyone who is retired is welcome to join us. We have two talks a month and in addition various social events. If you are interested in joining us, then either come to one of our meetings and meet us or contact our secretary Kevin Hick, on 01451 860435.

Roger Harris

Bourton Rovers



As we head towards the end of the season our Hellenic team are going strong with some

good recent wins against Gloucester City and Shipston Excelsior. It's great to see such a young squad of local players excelling each week and enjoying playing for our village club.

At the other end of the age scale Bourton Rovers Veterans played their first match of the season in March, albeit at a slower pace than our Hellenic youngsters, it was a great game to watch! Playing under the lights, goals from Steve Hartley, Mark Payne and Adam Webley led them to victory and a great opportunity for previous players to prove that "they still have it!". Our Vets training (over 35's) takes place each Monday at 6:30pm – New players always welcome.

The anticipated arrival of our new goals finally arrived in March, a full set of goals for each of our age groups at the club. A huge thank you to Clark Construction Group for their generous contribution, helping us fund a big expense for our club during such a tough financial climate.

Exciting times off the pitch too at Bourton Rovers as our live music events continue to entertain members and nonmembers every Saturday night. It's great to see so many locals getting to know our club and committee each weekend, if you haven't been down yet – Why not? Come on down and say hello – If dancing and singing is not your thing then there are plenty of games to watch, darts tournaments, live sports on the big screen, or just relax on our new sofa with a coffee from our new machine – Our new bar manager Mike will give you a warm welcome (he also makes an awesome latte!)



Spring is officially here and so is our packed events schedule!

Catherine Williams

Come Share Your Talent at Jubilee Lodge!

Our care home has been embarking on a virtual world tour and recently 'stopped off' in India. Residents



and staff enjoyed learning about traditions and enjoyed a performance from our team member, Baljinder, who danced to a song whose title translates as "I am shy, but I love to dance".

Do you have a talent you'd love to showcase? Are you passionate about your culture and eager to share it with others? We invite you to join us at Jubilee Lodge! Perhaps you're a magician or a singer, maybe a comedian or a dancer – whatever your skill or party trick, we would love to hear from you.

We're looking for volunteers from the community to entertain and educate our residents with their talents.

Of course, if you have the time, you're more than welcome to make volunteering a regular commitment rather than a one-off performance. Our residents are always delighted to welcome the community into our home at Jubilee Lodge.

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with our home manager

Rebecca, on 01451 823100.

BOURTON VALE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Your friendly garden club

We enjoyed a very interesting and entertaining talk from Malcolm Moodie at our March meeting. Malcolm has been growing orchids for 40 years and spent many years as Chairman and Show Secretary for the Solihull Orchid Society. He is now their president as well as being a member of the RHS Orchid Committee. Malcolm took us on a journey from Singapore to Borneo showing us excellent photographs of the most exotic orchids along with getting up close and personal with crocodiles, snakes, monkeys, orangutangs, bats and bugs.

Congratulations to Lu Webb for winning first prize with a very pretty arrangement of spring flowers.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 10th April. Starting as usual at 7.30 pm in the Baptist Church Hall in Bourton when we will have a Plant and Seed Swap and GQT (Gardeners Question Time) so if you've got any nagging horticultural problems bring them along. Also, if you have any small garden items you wish to sell bring them too (if too big bring a photograph). The evening will end with a raffle and refreshments.

The competition will be one stem of narcissi or daffodil.

Members are reminded that our outing this year will be to Oxleaze Farm at Filkins and we will be taking names and money (£15) at the April meeting.

Visitors are always welcome and we look forward to seeing some new faces.

Sheila Thorpe

07973 391741, sheila@bobblefarm.co.uk



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sitter/house sitter with over 20 years of experience. I am an American woman currently living in Europe and planning to visit the Cotswolds this year. I would like to combine my love for animals and travel by finding a pet sitting/house sitting position in the area. I offer my services at no charge in exchange for accommodation.

If you reside in the area, please contact me if you are looking for someone to help with your pet and household needs. I would be happy to provide loving care for your pets, tend your gardens, and other home maintenance necessities while you are away. References upon request. I can be reached via

Whatsapp: 0049 15 152 165 689 Email address: angieym1998@gmail.com

Spring Swallows

Though thousands of miles afar, They return from South Africa. A phenomenal flight to plot To this one particular, tiny spot -A flash of dark blue and white, A most rewarding, thankful sight. Along with his long-forked tail, Revealing it's the returning male. In the roof of the old barn. He knows he's safe from harm. She'll appear soon enough, too, Surviving all to arrive on cue. They'll see this summer through, When wisely raising chicks anew; And remember their Cotswold home. Long after they've faraway flown. **Hugh O'Connell** >





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RNLI

200 Scroll Relay Connecting RNLI Communities You are invited to join us for a coffee morning At The Victoria Hall Bourton-on-the-Water Thursday 2nd May 2024 10am until 12noon.



As a North Cotswold Branch of the RNLI we are joining in with the National celebrations marking 200 years of Saving Lives at Sea by signing a Connecting Communities Scroll on Thursday 2nd May at the Victoria Hall Bourton-on-the-Water. We would like to invite all our supporters and volunteers to join us for a Coffee Morning with RNLI souvenirs, homemade cakes, a raffle and an opportunity to speak to our Community Presenter, Anthony Gerrard, from 10am to 12noon.

The scroll was first signed in Westminster Abbey on the 4th March 2024 and is touring the UK in an electric vehicle.

We will be holding our AGM again this year in the Windrush Room at The George Moore Community Centre on Monday 22nd April from 2-4pm. You are welcome to join us, or please email me at northcotswoldrnli@gmail.com if you would like to know what our plans are for this Bicentenary Year, or if you are able to offer an hour or two of your time helping our fundraising crew in the North Cotswold and Cirencester area.

We hope to do some Bric a Brac Sales in Moore Road, which are always very popular but weather dependant. We have an 'Open Garden' at The Old Vicarage Bledington on Sunday 23rd June from 11am to 5pm. Duck Racing with Bric a Brac and Tombola all day on the Village Green on Saturday 6th July.

Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Julia Stevenson





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4 Shires Swimming Club

Bourton Library

The George Moore Community Centre, Moore Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, GL54 2AZ. 01451 820964 <u>Opening Hours</u> Tues 10am-1pm, Wed 2-5pm, Fri 10am-1pm & 2-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm. Friendly staff & volunteers. Internet access, Advert Printing & Photocopying. www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries Emily Sutton-Redford 07823 429150

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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.

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Ray Dodd, Advertising Manager

The Bourton Browser is printed by Peter Dunford, 01608 658104, petedunf@aol.com



Ed Banks of Birchfield Harriers entertained the residents of Bourton-on-the-Water this weekend at the **Bourton 10K** road race, leading the field of over 640 runners home in a time of 31 minutes and 32 seconds. No stranger to Bourton, the 2020 race winner led from the start, despite strong challenges from Andy Lawrence (31:41 - Strat-



ford upon Avon) and the 2023 winner Richard De Camps (31:53 - Gloucester AC). An equally stunning performance was provided by Gemma Kersey of Basildon AC, the winning woman, who delivered a quality time of 34 minutes and 28 seconds. Becki Timmings of B.R.A.T. held-off a strong challenge from Ella Burfitt of Cheltenham & County Harriers to claim second place by two seconds over Ella.

Bourton Roadrunners had 14 members taking part, with Danny Hannig claiming the bragging-rights, with a fine time of 35 minutes and 43 seconds. He was followed by an in-form Peter Carrick (38:00) and Darren Long (38:15). Eva Shoemark was Bourton's first woman (40:32), managing to stay ahead of mum Niamh (41:56).

Other Bourton runners included Kevin Goodwill (42:50), Claire Cox (44:40), Maxine Emes (45:49), Alfie Blanco (47:03), Jonathon Cook (49:49), Barry O'Leary (49:57), Basia Legierska (51:31), Noelle Morgan (55:37) and Claire Carroll (59:55).

On the same day Bourton's Melissa Samuel joined over 17000 other runners at the **London Winter Run 10K**, taking in the major sites around the capital. For Melissa, who joined the club recently through its Couch-to-5K programme, this was her first 10K race, which she completed in a time of 1 hour, 29 minutes and 43 seconds. Certainly a day to remember.

No weekend would be complete without *parkrun* and Bourton members were present at the following locations: *Chasewater:* Susan Hunt - 27:16 (VW55/1). *Cheltenham Pittville Park:* Chris Dry - 28:28. *Harkerville, South Africa:* Gillian James -34:01 (VW50/2). *Lydiard:* Linda Edwards – 30:16. *Newport, South Wales:* Jaq Underwater - 24:55 (VW55/1). *Oxford:* Edward Hare - 19:00 (JM11/1). *Tetbury Goods Shed:* Kate Price - 32:39. *University Parks:* Sharon Rees - 35:38, Lorna Shawcross -35:39 (VW60/3). Louise Hamilton-Smith and Gillian Carrick





KENDALL

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