

# BOURTON BROWSER



ISSUE NO 310

[www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk](http://www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk)

February 2025

## DIARY DATES

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bourton Panto Group present "Aladdin & Abanazar", **VH**, 7.30pm & 2.30pm. Tickets <https://bourtonpantogroup.com/box-office/> See page 5.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Mindsong, Sing 2 Remember **GMCC**, 10.30am & 2.30pm. 07764 212506 or 01451 821216.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sight Loss Advice Hub, **GMCC**, drop in 1-2pm, appointments, 2-4pm. Call 01242 221170, or email [info@insight-glos.org.uk](mailto:info@insight-glos.org.uk)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting, 7pm, **GMCC**.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Probus, 10am, **GMCC**, "The rise & fall of the English Country House" by John Hancock. See page 14.
- 11<sup>th</sup> WI, **VH**, 7pm, 'Chair Yoga'. See page 12.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Irene's Charity Knitting Circle, **WP**, 10am-12pm. See page 4.
- 12<sup>th</sup> u3a Scrabble Group, **GMCC**, 2-4pm. Details from 07341 094206. [peterdawson790@icloud.com](mailto:peterdawson790@icloud.com)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Horticultural Club. **BCH**, 7.30pm. Mandy Bradshaw, "Beyond the Garden Gate – Cotswold Gardens". See page 13.
- 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Bourton Community Day Club, 10.30am - 2.30pm, **MC**, GL54 2HE. 01608 652019.
- 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Dementia Friendly Cafe, **StLC**, 2-4pm, 07746 672726.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tayler & Fletcher, Fine Art, Vintage & Interiors auction, from 9.30am, **NCS**, GL54 2AR. 821666.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Rural Cinema, "The Critic", Ian

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

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER  
PARISH COUNCIL



Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson** drew attention to the government's English Devolution White Paper which contains proposals to move from the current two-tier county and district council to unitary councils. This will affect town and parish councils who may be given devolved powers if the proposals are taken forward in Gloucestershire. A decision is awaited from central government.

Cllr Hodgkinson was thanked for his support by providing a grant of £3,000 from the Build Back Better Youth Fund towards the Rye Crescent play area refurbishment project.

**District Councillor Len Wilkins (Bourton Vale)** – the report gave further details on the government's devolution proposals. Cllr Wilkins expressed concerns that the loss of district councils could lead to the needs of rural Gloucestershire communities being sidelined.

**District Councillor Jon Wareing (Bourton Village)** – data was requested from CDC on the use of the car charging points in the Rissington Road car park, especially overnight. Cllr Wareing is concerned that residents are not accessing this facility which was created for their benefit.

Cllr Wareing also highlighted how the proposed devolution could give the opportunity for the Parish Council to take on a wider role in the community.

**Coach Parking:** County Cllr Hodgkinson outlined proposals from Gloucestershire County Council Highways to create a temporary pick-up and drop-off point in Meadow Way, adjacent to Jubilee Lodge. This would involve pedestrians walking from Meadow Way into the village. The temporary arrangements would be implemented via an Experimental Traffic Order for an initial period of six months at no cost to the Parish Council. Parish Council were due to meet in late January to debate proposals to determine if they have the support of the Parish Council.

The longer-term option for coaches parking at the Cotswold School remains under consideration.

**Village Green Refresh:** Our contractors will be carrying out extensive re-turfing works on the Village Green at the end of January. This will be partly funded by the Tourist Levy to ensure the Village Green looks at its best for the forthcoming spring and summer seasons and can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

**Rye Crescent play area:** The refurbishment works are planned to take place following Spring half term which means that the facilities will be unavailable for a few weeks. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Continued on Page 2,  
column 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 questions, articles (max.300 words), adverts & event details to the team.

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The **DEADLINE** for Adverts & Articles for the **March** edition is **Noon on 15<sup>th</sup> February**

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**Continued from page 1 column 1**

Mckellen, Lesley Manville, C15, 1hr 41 mins, Thriller, **VH**, 2.30pm & 7.30pm. Refreshments £1. 2pm & 7pm, £4pp or £12 family of 4 on door.

18<sup>th</sup> Bourton Poetry Group, 7pm, The Willow, Contact Carol Groom for details: [c.groom187@yahoo.com](mailto:c.groom187@yahoo.com).

23<sup>rd</sup> Bourton Roadrunners 10k. Road closures in centre of village from 9am–approx. 11am. Details page 12.

23<sup>rd</sup> Farmers Market, **BLH** Car Park, GL54 2AR. 8.30am-12.30pm 07980 080073.

24<sup>th</sup> Probus 10am, **GMCC**. Talk by a local member. See page 14.

26<sup>th</sup> u3a, 'Comic Verse: Epigrams and Clerihews', by Mike Aggleton. **BLH**, 10am-12noon. See page 20. [www.u3asites.org.uk/bourton](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/bourton)

27<sup>th</sup> Book Club Bourton Book Club meeting, 7pm. The Old New Inn. [dpayne056@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dpayne056@hotmail.co.uk)

28<sup>th</sup> Fish & Chip Supper & Quiz, Jubilee Lodge, booking essential, 01451 823100 to reserve your place. See page 13.

**Regular Weekly Bourton Events**

Mon. "Old Sweats" Meeting, **BLH**, 10am–12 Noon, 07714 852364 [bourton.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:bourton.secretary@rbl.community)

Mon, Wed & Fri, Bourton Men in Sheds, 9.30am-12.30pm, Behind **RBL**, 01608 692811.

Mon. & Thurs. Stay Strong & Steady, **BLH**, 1-2.30pm. 07957 546067 [cotswoldactivehealth@gmail.com](mailto:cotswoldactivehealth@gmail.com)  
See page 18.

Mon. & Fri. Cotswold Yoga, **VH**, Mon 10-11am, Fri 5-6pm, 07490858775. See page 18.

Tue. Drop in Digital Help Group, **GMCC**, 10.30am-12.30pm. 07707 281803. See poster page

Tue. "Together on Tuesdays", soup lunch, **StLc**, 12-2pm.

Thurs. Flexercise, **BLH**, 10-11am. 01993 882350 [kathy.kirk@live.com](mailto:kathy.kirk@live.com)



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**Continued from page 1 column 2**

ience and ask that play area users and neighbours of the site bear with us whilst the work is carried out.

**Additional Parking Enforcement:** Additional hours have been arranged for the parking enforcement officers between March and the beginning of November. This is being part-funded by the Tourist Levy. Additional enforcement hours around Christmas and New Year are also being considered.

**Date of next meeting:** 7pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in the Windrush Room at the George Moore Community Centre.

A date for your diaries - the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March in the Windrush Room. This is a meeting of the parish and not a Parish Council meeting. We will take the opportunity to hear from local groups and organisations about their activities over the past year. Drinks and light refreshments will be available.

For further details and enquiries, please contact the Parish Council Clerk Sharon Henley by emailing [clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk) or visit the Parish Council website [www.bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk). Our schedule of meetings is available at [www.bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk/the-council/meeting-calendar/](http://www.bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk/the-council/meeting-calendar/)

**The Bourton Browser**  
is printed by Peter Dunford,  
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### Bourton Library

The George Moore Community Centre,  
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## Bourton Browser Team News

**Correction:** The Useful Telephone Number List, printed on page 20 of the January edition of the Browser, contained an error. Please note that the areas covered by our District Councillors were reversed. The correct information is:

**Bourton Village District Councillor,**  
Jon Wareing, 01451 820418.

**Bourton Vale District Councillor,**  
Len Wilkins, 07970 668849.

If you have kept the list for reference, please amend as above. The on-line copy has been amended. You can download and print a corrected copy at [www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk](http://www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk). It has also been pointed out that the word "Emergencies" was misspelt. We apologise for these errors and any confusion caused. Put it down to too much mulled wine!!!

**Annette Jervis:** We were sad to hear that Annette has passed away. She had been the Browser deliverer for Pegasus Court for many years. Our condolences go to her daughter, Aly Carlidge, and all Annette's family and friends. Aly kindly offered to deliver the round temporarily but now a new deliverer, Mike Clatworthy, has come forward. Welcome to the team Mike.

**Extra Relief Deliverers:** We can always use a few more volunteers. Our Relief Team fill in when one of our regular street deliverers are sick or on holiday. The deliveries usually take place during the last week of the month and vary in size from about 30-80 drops. If you could help us, please email us at [team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk](mailto:team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk) or call us on 01451 822431.

**Articles:** We welcome articles, letters, poems, etc (**maximum 300 words**) & photographs, from adults, children and local community groups on any subjects of local interest.

[team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk](mailto:team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk)

[www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk](http://www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk)

*The Bourton Browser Team*

## The Big Freeze at Bourton Rovers

The Christmas break was followed by a cold snap that had Bourton Rovers in a deep freeze – Even the astro turf was too icy for play, forcing the team to take an unwanted extended break. The Witney



team, eager to get back to action and catch up on a few games in hand, missed the most games, but here's hoping February will see them back to their winning ways!

On the flip side, our Hellenic team managed to squeeze in a match in early January, even after temperatures dropped to a frosty -4 the night before. But with Christmas turkey and chocolate to burn off, they were more than ready to get stuck in! With a top spot finish in their sights, there's no time to take their foot off the accelerator – and we're all hoping the weather gives them a break so they can keep pushing forward.

Our Vets' team must have been on Santa's good list this year, sporting a brand new kit courtesy of Matty Joynes Dry Stone Walling. We're sure this fresh look will give them that extra boost they need to get through the last of the winter months.

Off the pitch, things have quietened down a little after a lively December, as our committee members took a well-deserved breather. But there's a bittersweet moment as we bid farewell

to our General Manager, Mike. He's moving on to join the police force, and while we'll miss him at the clubhouse, he'll still be around assisting Jack with the U18s and helping out as a volunteer whenever he can. All the best, Mike – you'll always be part of the Rovers family!

**Catherine Williams**



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## OUT AND ABOUT in February

Mondays - Yoga for All, 9.30-10.30am, Pilates 10.35-11.30am, Wyck Rissington Village Hall. 07950 424037 Enquiries: [franyoga@rocketmail.com](mailto:franyoga@rocketmail.com)

Daily, Snowdrops at Painswick Rococo Garden, GL6 6TH. 10am-5pm. Tickets must be pre booked. 01452 813204 <https://www.rococogarden.org.uk/snowdrops/>

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Snowdrop Weekends, Colesbourne Park, Colesbourne, Cirencester, GL53 9NP. 01242 870264. 1-4pm, £10 adults, U16s free. Dogs on leads welcome. Refreshments provided by local charities. <https://www.colesbournegardens.org.uk/>

1<sup>st</sup> Rotary Quiz, Upper Rissington Village Hall, from 7pm, £15pp includes refreshments, teams of up to 6. Tickets from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) See page 18.

8<sup>th</sup> The Bookshop Band, Westcote Village Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £15 from Christine 07834 493637 or [westcote.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:westcote.bookings@gmail.com) See page 17.

12<sup>th</sup> Magic at The Lounge, Naunton Village hall, from 7pm, free entry, bar open, bangers to buy. See page 19.

16<sup>th</sup> Murder Most Wilde, by the Rain or Shine theatre company. Naunton village hall. Doors open 3pm. Performance 3.30pm. See poster page 18.

20<sup>th</sup> Memphis Rattlesnakes, fast-paced classic, quality rock and roll, Merry-mouth Inn, Stow Rd, Fifield, OX7 6HR. 01993 256620.

21<sup>st</sup> Rissingtons Local History Society, "Cleeve Hill: The Cotswold Health Resort" by David Aldred. Village Hall, Upper Rissington GL54 2QW. 2.30pm. Visitors Welcome £3.50 to include refreshments. Enquiries, Kate O'Brien 07815 606770 /[information.RLHS@gmail.com](mailto:information.RLHS@gmail.com)

### HIRE of HALLS

Baden Powell Hall [lettingsbph@gmail.com](mailto:lettingsbph@gmail.com)

Baptist Church Hall Tim Newstead 01451 821523

Bourton Cricket Clubhouse [jlthepavilion@gmail.com](mailto:jlthepavilion@gmail.com)

Bourton Farmers Market Miles Salmon 07980 080073

British Legion Hall Branch Office 01451 824303

Broadwell Village Hall Tracey Spragg

[broadwellvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:broadwellvillagehall@gmail.com)

Cotswold Hall, Northleach Jacques Astic 01451 860366

George Moore Community Centre Jo Herbert 01451820712

assistant.clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk

Lower Slaughter Village Hall [annclass@yahoo.com](mailto:annclass@yahoo.com)

St. Lawrence's Mrs Gill Willett 01451 821484

[familywillett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:familywillett@hotmail.co.uk)

Victoria Hall Lydia 07768722514

Wyck Rissington Village Hall Vicky Lathe 07584 188 200

[vhwyckriss@gmail.com](mailto:vhwyckriss@gmail.com)



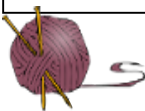
## FOR SALE / WANTED ITEMS



To advertise things such as Household items, Clothes, 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.** No commercial adverts accepted for this section.

### For Sale

Brown Leather Sofa, two chairs and stool.  
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### 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).

Last month was our most successful meeting, with a great turnout. Why not join us or just pop in with your knitting? Enjoy coffee/tea with biscuits. Everything we receive will be donated to worthy causes. The latest collection of hats and blankets is now on its way to Ukraine. Please note, there is no parking available at Willoughby Place, however we are 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 or 07764 699594**



I would like to thank everyone that left a message of love on my Sunflower Christmas tree. Thank you to the ladies at Chestnuts Fashion Fix for supporting my project. Our little Sunflowers of Love raised £85.18. **Carol Groom**



### Special Offer For Bourton Browser Readers!

Join us for our locally sourced Ploughman's Sharing board with two drinks for just £30! Choose from a glass of house wine, pint of beer/cider or a single spirit and mixer\*.

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## Events for 2025

Live BLUES & Rock n Roll

20th Feb - Memphis Rattlesnakes (RnR)

20th Mar - David Sinclair Four (Blues)

10th Apr - Nigel Bagge Band (B/RnB)

Opening times in February:-

Friday, Saturday & Sundays from Noon

Check website for details

Scan QR for Events



[www.cotswoldmerrymouth.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldmerrymouth.co.uk) - 01993 256620

[cotswoldmerrymouthltd@gmail.com](mailto:cotswoldmerrymouthltd@gmail.com) - OX7 6HR

## Bourton Panto Group

Our huge thanks go to everyone who has bought tickets to come and watch Aladdin and Abanazar. We hope you enjoy watching the show as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

By the time you are reading this, it's show week, and all systems go at The Victoria Hall! Before we know it, the curtains will be drawn, make up wiped off, props collected from the wings, costumes zipped away, and chairs stacked up for another year. We still have some tickets remaining and trust me when I say you don't want to miss out!

I hope you can join us in congratulating every member of the cast on a fabulous show, all the hard work is done, and they should be very proud. As well as those on stage, there's a whole team of people working behind the scenes to make it all happen that you, the audience, don't see. From our front of house team, musicians, sound/lighting technicians, hair/make-up artists, backstage crew, choreographer, costume/scenery/prop designers to most importantly, the person there would be no show without, director Clodagh Ogden.

Without giving too much away, a happy ending means that by the end of the week the cast and crew will be able to enjoy a well-deserved rest.

We are always open to welcome new members, as long as you're age 10 or over and bring a positive attitude then we'd love to have you! If you're interested in joining Bourton Panto Group, please get in touch on our Facebook or Instagram pages @bourtonpantogroup or email us [bourtonpantogroup@outlook.com](mailto:bourtonpantogroup@outlook.com).

The generosity we receive from the community is crucial in allowing our group to continue, therefore we thank everyone for your continued support!

We look forwards to seeing you all this week. Please, enjoy the show!

Emily Franks

BOURTON  
PANTO GROUP  
PRESENTS

# ALADDIN AND ABANAZAR

A TRADITIONAL PANTOMIME WRITTEN BY JACK SHAW

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North Cotswolds Rotary

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Date  
February  
25, 2025**



northcotswoldsrotary.org  
Registered Charity no: 1033739

North Cotswolds  
**Rotary**

### Calling all Local Small Charities and Community Organisations

- Do you work with or know of a local community organization or charity that would benefit from a £500 grant?
- Do you know of planned community projects which would benefit from extra funding?
- Why not apply for, or tell them about, our Rotary Helping Hand project and encourage them to apply?

Email [originsteve@hotmail.com](mailto:originsteve@hotmail.com) or use the URL: <https://www.northcotswoldsrotary.org/helpinghand>

The closing date for initial applications is 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

## Unitary Authorities and Devolution

A major shake-up of local government is on the cards and I wanted to share the detail with you.

Just before Xmas the Government issued a White Paper proposing 'devolution' and 'unitary authorities' across England. In Gloucestershire we are currently the only area within the West of England to have 'two tier' councils i.e. a county council responsible for certain things like roads and social care and a district council responsible for things like bin collections and planning. Under those are parish/town councils who look after functions in their area like village greens, playgrounds and cemeteries.

The Government has proposed that all parts of England will move to 'unitary' councils – one council carrying out all the functions which our current county and district councils do. This would happen by 2028 latest.

It would mean that the current county and district councils are abolished and are replaced with a unitary authority. At the time of writing there are two options for this being mooted:

- a county wide Gloucestershire unitary council
- two unitary councils: East Gloucestershire and West Gloucestershire.

The benefit of one Gloucestershire-wide council is that it is simpler, you have less staff and less councillors but it is more remote from people and very big. A smaller unitary council would be closer to people but would need to divide services between it and the other one in our county.

At present things are moving very quickly and so it is not clear exactly what will happen.

The most important thing is that any new council is efficient, sufficiently close to residents and has simple and easy to understand structures so that we can all deal with it as easily as possible when we need to.

Do let me know if you have any questions – I'll update you further as things become clearer.

**Cllr Paul Hodgkinson**

(GCC, Bourton and Northleach Division)

[paul.hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

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Bourton on the Water



## Message from the Church

This month we are excited to be hosting The Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda in East Africa. They will be performing songs from their album, "Better Days – There is Hope." The 3-month tour, launching in the UK in London, presents the story of orphaned and abandoned African children who have received the love and care needed to help them rise above their circumstances, ready to be effective in the world as they become Africa's future leaders.

Since 1994 the choir has travelled extensively performing for, among others, our late Queen Elizabeth and the President of the USA.

The production is vibrant and colourful, taking you on an emotional journey as the children sing, dance, and share their personal stories of restoration and hope.

Watoto is a family made up of people from all over the world working together to ensure the forgotten have a place to

belong. In 1984, in a time of civil war, Watoto planted a local church in Kampala, Uganda to speak hope and life to the nation.

Since then, Watoto has rescued thousands of orphaned and abandoned babies and children, placing them in loving families, giving them hope and a chance at a better future.

As our own nation faces challenging times it is inspiring to see and hear what can be accomplished when people come together with a vision to love and help those who have lost hope.

Hosted by Bourton Baptist, Watoto warmly invite you to their performances at the Royal British Legion on Friday 7th Feb at 7pm and Saturday 8th Feb at 3pm. Tickets are available at Eventbrite or call Sue Woodley on 07828781246. Entry is free but donations are welcome.

**Rev Sue Woodley**



admin@bourtonparishchurch.co.uk  
www.bourtonparishchurch.co.uk

**All are welcome every Sunday at 11am**

**Remember – church is open 10am-4pm and heated every day - all welcome.**

**Regular Services:** Wednesday 10am - Midweek Holy Communion followed by coffee

Sunday 8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion – 9th and 23rd

Sunday 6pm Holy Communion with traditional hymns – 2nd

**Breakfast Church - Saturday 8th Feb - 9am start – everyone welcome**

**Together on Tuesdays – Lunch Club 12-2pm – all welcome**

**TOAST**—for primary children and carers on Tuesdays 3.15pm in term time

**BumbleBeez** (parent and child group) every Thursday 9-11am

**St James, Clapton:** 9:30am - Morning Worship Feb 2nd and BCP Holy Communion on Feb 16th



### 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 10.30am All Welcome**

**Wavemakers Children's Ministry**

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.

A light lunch is served at 12.30pm and refreshments are available through the day.

Everyone is welcome - just drop in and stay as long as you like.

**Watoto Children's** Choir from Uganda will be performing their "Better Days - There is Hope" concert at the Royal British Legion

on 7th and 8th Feb. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind musical experience - it will inspire and encourage you, your friends, and family. Contact the church for more info on how to get your free tickets. [www.bourtonbaptist.co.uk](http://www.bourtonbaptist.co.uk)

## Roman Catholic Parish of

### Our Lady & St. Kenelm,

#### Stow on the Wold

stow-bourtoncatholic.net

Fr. Stephen Lambert 07836 384932

Email:

stephen.lambert@cliftondiocese.com

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

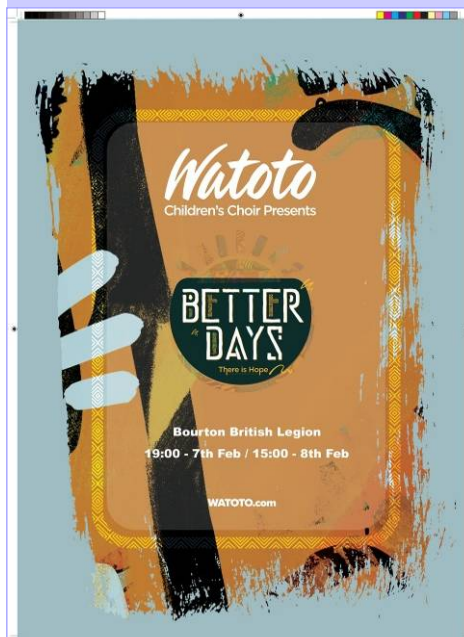
**Weekday Masses: At 9 am every day** (No Mass Sat. mornings). Mass on Tues. takes place at St. Lawrence's at 9 am.

*During February please check weekday Masses with Parish website*

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

There is a First Holy Communion course for children aged (approx) 7 upwards starting in March. Please email Fr. Stephen if you have a child who would like to join the course, or who wishes to be confirmed

**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

## For The Younger Generations

### The Cotswold Youth Theatre

On a crisp Sunday evening in December, the beautiful Victoria Hall came alive with the sound of carols being sung around the



tree outside. Inside, our Junior Youth Theatre and brand-new Shining Stars group took to the stage to present their



'Christmas Goes Wrong' showcase. This fun-filled performance featured a collection of Christmas tales—Scrooge, Elves and the Shoemaker, Rudolph, and The Nutcracker—all re-imagined by the young performers in the hilarious style of Mischief Theatre's 'Goes Wrong' series. It was a fantastic evening with a



wonderfully supportive audience and brilliant performances from everyone involved. It was a good reminder to all to embrace mistakes and have fun!



Just before the Christmas holidays, we received some incredible news: all our senior and junior members who entered their LAMDA exams passed with Merit or higher, and a third achieved Distinction! These prestigious exams, awarded by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, are part of the qualification framework, meaning those who completed Grade 4 have earned a Level 2 qualification—equivalent to a GCSE. Even better, we're now an official LAMDA examination centre! This means we can host future exams right here in Bourton. The next round is already booked for July and open to all our members. For more information on the groups we run contact

[sarah@cotswoldyouththeatre.co.uk](mailto:sarah@cotswoldyouththeatre.co.uk)

**Sarah Dowie**





## Local Groups and Organisations for the YOUNGER GENERATION

Baby Gymnastics 0–18months	Caroline (Cotswold Clubhouse) 263130
Beavers	Stephanie Lewis 07308 144397 1stbourtonbeavers@gmail.com
Bourton Primary School	820458
Bourton Road Runners Juniors	Chris Hartley/Richard Buffton 0772 0509894 brjuniors@gmail.com
Bourton Rovers Youth (U10 Upwards) -	Catherine Williams 07889 694545
Bourton Rovers Youth (U9 & below) -	Amy Wright 07876 458571
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
Bumblebeez babies & pre-school tots	Pat Taylor 07518 457652
Cafe Tots	Sue Woodley 07828 781246

Children's Jujitsu	Andy or Hayley 07951 587398
Cubs	Nick Hawke 07788 406728 1stbourtoncubs@gmail.com
Hockey	Rhys Davies 07817 108970
Little Hurricanes (Babies & Toddlers)	littlehurricanes@hotmail.com
Pre-School	Lisa Sorley 07950 048066
Pre-School Gymnastics	Caroline 263130
Recreational Gymnastics	Caroline 263130
Scouts	Phil 1stbourtonscouts@gmail.com
Squirrels	Emily 1stbourtonsquirrels@gmail.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
Youth Theatre	Sarah Dowie sarah@cotswoldyouththeatre.co.uk



**THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL**

### '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 12% in the country. Our 'Progress 8' score, a measure of how much each student has improved since leaving primary school, at 0.48, showed that each qualification achieved by our Year 11s was, on average, half a grade better in each subject than those achieved by students nationally. These results show what can be accomplished by a great school, with fantastic students and teachers, and supportive families.

### New year, new career?

Would you like to find out more about a career in teaching? The Cotswold School offer secondary teacher training placements, working in collaboration with the Gloucestershire Initial Teacher Education Programme (GITEP) and the University of Bristol. If you would like to see a school in action



The Cotswold  
Teacher Training  
Partnership

and get to know more about the day-to-day job, we are delighted to be able to offer teacher taster days. For further information, please contact Ben Edwards

bedwards@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

[www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk/teacher-training/](http://www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk/teacher-training/)

### The Cotswold School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

One of the many ways in which our school community make a difference to The Cotswold School is by becoming an active member of our fantastic PTA, whose fundraising benefits all of our students. In 2023/24, the PTA raised over £25,000 through a number of events including; Christmas Raffle, car parking and our car boot sale. Events rely on donations from local businesses and individuals – we are extremely grateful to everyone who has kindly donated raffle prizes, cakes and their time towards our fundraising efforts.

**Will Morgan,**

**Headteacher**

[www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk/latest-news/](http://www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk/latest-news/)



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## Bourton Rovers Youth Roll on Spring!

As we trudged through the freezing January temperatures, our committee members and coaches worked so hard to get as many games and training sessions on as possible. But even the toughest players and coaches couldn't beat the -4 temperatures in early January, which meant our youngsters were treated to an extended Christmas break (thanks, cold snap!). The freezing weather even got the better of the astro turf, putting a temporary halt to all things football.

Despite the setback January still brought excitement for our youth teams! With league re-jigs for many age groups, there's a fresh sense of enthusiasm as teams look to improve their last league positions or in some cases prove themselves winners all over again. And, as we head toward the semi-finals, the buzz of cup games heats up. Could Bourton Rovers make another trip to Cheltenham Town for the finals? We'll see!

Training continues indoors and on the astro turf until the clocks change, but it's no secret that it's a costly commitment for the club. While the debate for a winter break in grassroots football rages on, surely the FA must find it hard to ignore the fact that January and February often bring cancellations and frozen pitches. Would a January/February break make sense? It would give well needed time to rest the pitches (and our players' frozen feet). After all, postponed league games often end up stretching way into April, sometimes even May anyway!

So as a new month begins, here's to hoping February brings kinder weather and plenty of football for our youngsters. With March just around the corner, we're all looking forward to packing away those gloves and scarves. Hang in there, youth players – Spring is on its way.

**Catherine Williams**




# BOURTON YOUTH CLUB

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

**JUNIORS: 18:00-19:30 (SCHOOL YRS 3-6)**  
**SENIORS: 19:30-21:00 (SCHOOL YRS 7+)**





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Children are able to attend for the whole session or just part of the session if they attend another club before or after Youth Club. Children are welcome on a weekly, bi-Weekly or adhoc basis should the youth club clash with any other clubs!

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### Bourton Gymnastic Club

#### **A New Home for Gymnastics in Our Community**

We're thrilled to announce the opening of Bourton Gymnastic Club, a warm and welcoming space for gymnastics lovers of all ages, right here in Bourton-on-the-Water. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive, from tiny tumblers to adults. Our story began last summer with the sudden closure of the local gym club, leaving hundreds of children without their beloved gymnastics home.



#### **New Beginnings**

Determined to keep the spirit of gymnastics alive, we worked tirelessly to create Bourton Gymnastic Club, reopening in November at the same familiar location: Unit 20b, Bourton Industrial Park, Bourton-on-the-Water, GL54 2HQ. Behind Bourton Gymnastic Club there's a highly experienced leadership team that has been running the award-winning Carterton Gymnastic Club. We're proud to offer classes designed to inspire joy and confidence, no matter the experience level.

For adults, our fun and flexible pay-as-you-go classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings provide a chance to stay active, meet new friends, and achieve personal goals. Our new Head Coach is passionate about developing the discipline of Freestyle - something totally new for the area.

#### **Plans for Growth**

As we grow, we are in need of new members. If you are enthusiastic about being involved in the community, we would love to hear from you - we need help to build all the areas of the club. Bourton Gymnastic Club is more than just a place to train - it is a place to connect, celebrate, and grow together.

Stay updated on classes, events, and opportunities by visiting [bourtongymnastics.co.uk](http://bourtongymnastics.co.uk) or following us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bourtongym>. We can't wait to welcome you through our doors!

**Andreea Florea**

## BOURTON GYMNASTIC CLUB

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### Bourton 10K, Sunday 23rd February

Bourton Roadrunners hosts its annual 10k road race at 9.30am on Sunday 23rd February. We're always very grateful to Bourton residents for their patience and tolerance around the disruption this causes.

This year we're expecting around 700 runners, so we can expect increased traffic before and after the race. We'll encourage runners to use the main car parks in the village. We'll do our best to discourage people from using residential parking or the leisure centre.

We have permission to close the roads in the inner village loop (Victoria Street, Letch Lane and Sherborne Street) and the High Street from 9.00am to 11.00am. The Rissington Road will be closed from 9.30am to 10.30am (eastbound) and from 09.50am until about 11.00am (westbound).

We'd be extremely grateful if people could avoid driving at these times especially the route from Landsdowne to the Rissington Road. If you do need to leave the village, please follow the instructions of one of the many marshals who'll do their best to help.

For those wanting to watch the race we'd recommend walking along the Rissington Road for a longer, uninterrupted view. The middle of the High Street, where the race starts and finishes, can get very congested and we need to keep the route clear for finishers from about 10.00am to 10.45am.

Once again, our 10K is sponsored by Highbridge Jewellers and this year we're supporting a number of different charities including the Midlands Air Ambulance, North Cotswold Foodbank, CALM (Children Achieving Lifelong Movement) and Gloucestershire Young Carers. We're hoping to have representatives from our charities on the day so please come along and find out a bit more about the work they do. If you have any questions about this year's Bourton 10K, please email bourtonroadrunners@gmail.com or leave a message on our Facebook page.

Ian Tolf's

Bourton Roadrunners



### Bourton WI



A thought provoking meeting this month.

The speakers were Andrea and Sarah from CALM - Children Achieving Lifelong Movement. CALM helps children who have suffered strokes or have cerebral palsy or, in fact, any affliction that limits their movement to improve that movement.

The children in Bourton and surrounding areas attend physiotherapy sessions at a local gym led by trained professionals twice a week. We watched a video of the progress made by some of the children and their determination and enjoyment was humbling, as was the dedication of the staff at the gym.

After the talk and cups of tea, this year's shortlisted WI Resolutions were read out and voted for.

This year the subjects were:

- Let's talk about incontinence
- Join the repair revolution
- Eliminate the sending of medication packaging to landfill
- Bystanders can be lifesavers - the use of public defibrillators

Bourton WI voted for Bystanders can be lifesavers.

Next month we will be doing Chair Yoga which sounds interesting!??????????

June Renshaw

### Nativity Display at Rose Cottage, Sherborne Street

Thank you to all who donated to our local charity ArtUplift, £551.21 was raised.

Patients are referred to the group by a health professional for a variety of reasons such as discharge from hospital, recovery from ill health, mental health challenges, social isolation, bereavement, long-term chronic pain and those who may be living with or moving on from cancer. ArtUplift is held at the British Legion Hall weekly term time. Previously funded by Moore Friends, which has now been wound up, ArtUplift is without funding beyond March 2025. Examples of Art work and more information can be seen on the display board at Moore Health Centre waiting room and framed Art work in the George Moore Centre.

Many thanks, Carol & Alan Pountney





**Bourton Vale  
Horticultural Society  
Your friendly garden club**

It may be cold but it's so exciting to see the first sign of spring with green shoots of bulbs and the fat buds of hellebores emerging from frozen soil.

We had a good turnout for our January meeting despite the cold. This was our AGM which we whistled through before our speaker, Vanessa Berridge, took us on a very interesting journey of influential gardeners over the last 400 years, which showed the changing styles and the influence of politics on garden design.

Our competition for a flowering shrub arrangement was won by Antoinette Green, who also shared first place with Marie Russell and Lu Webb, for the 2024 competition winner.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February starting as usual at 7.30 at the Baptist Church Hall in Bourton, when our speaker will be Mandy Bradshaw who will be talking about "Beyond the Garden Gate – Cotswold Gardens". The competition will be a small display of single/double snowdrops.

Stay positive, spring is just around the corner.

**Sheila Thorpe,**  
**07973 391741,**  
**sheila@bobbelfarm.co.uk**



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**Closing Date—29/01/2025**

**Jubilee Lodge introduces  
Fish and Chip Feast!**

Come along and join us at Jubilee Lodge for delicious fish and chips and a fun quiz!

We love having members of the wider community come and visit us, which is why we've chosen to start running this fun event which is open to all our lovely neighbours. On the last Friday of each month, our talented team of chefs will be working their magic, rustling up a delicious meal to get everyone ready to put their quizzing knowledge to the test.

Booking is essential, so if you'd like to come along and join in the fun, give us a call on 01451 823100 to reserve your place.

At Jubilee Lodge Care Home, we also offer a day care service, available Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm, with lots of brilliant activities on offer, as well as the chance to chat and meet new people, all in a supportive and welcoming environment. Give our team a call to find out more about the opportunities available and to book your place.

Alternatively, if you're looking for more support but not full residential care, our team would love to chat to you about our respite stays.

**Rhiannon Freeman-Gray**

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## Bourton Probus Club



On January 13th we had a very informative and interesting talk on Rudyard Kipling. He is always, in most people's minds, associated with India and the Raj, but in fact, he only spent a short while there. He was sent to a school in England when he was 5, where he was badly treated and rescued by his Aunt, who was married to the painter Edward Burne-Jones. He returned to India and at the age of 16 and became an editor of a local newspaper and began publishing short stories. He left India at the age of 24, via a world tour. In London he had several short stories and poems published and met Carrie, an American, whom he married. They lived in Vermont for a while, where the Jungle Book was written, but came back to England when he was 31, finally settling in Rottingdean near to the Burne-Jones family and later, Bateman's, now a National Trust property. He was very famous by now and lived a comfortable life, writing stories and poems and buying expensive cars until his death at the age of 72. Two of his children died, but his widowed wife and daughter lived on for many years looking after all his works.

Bourton Probus club is designed for retired men and women who enjoy interesting talks and various social events. If you would like to come and meet us do please come to one of our meetings (advertised on the diary pages) or contact our secretary, Kevin Hick on 01451860435. **Roger Harris**

### First stop, the Chemist

We have been asked by the NHS to seek help at the chemist if a health problem is not an emergency. I took that advice, as for two weeks I could not get rid of a hacking cough. Older people often take the tough option "Oh that will go away", but it didn't. The dispenser impressed me by first asking "What are you taking?" Armed with that information he knew what to prescribe. He said that the mucus must be cleared from my chest and prescribed cough mixture to be taken four times a day. Within four days my cough eased and then slowly went away, but it left me with no energy for about a month. As I was at the chemist I also asked if I could have a flu jab and that was given.

One morning recently I woke up not able to lift my arm, making it very difficult to dress. I paid another visit to the chemist and saw the same dispenser, again he checked what medication I was taking and then diagnosed that I had an inflammation of a muscle under my shoulder blade. He prescribed a cream to use twice a day for a week and all now seems well. I have since thanked the dispenser for all his help and advice. Next time you are under the weather try making your first stop the chemist. They certainly helped me without contacting a GP.

**Mollie Wise**

## Kate's Home Nursing



**Kate's Home Nursing**  
A Special Kind of Palliative Care

As we begin 2025, we reflect on how Kate's Home Nursing supported our community in 2024 and share plans for the year ahead. A special thanks to the Bourton Browser for giving us regular space to keep you updated.

### Welcome Helen Makaritis



We are thrilled to welcome Helen Makaritis as our new CEO. With over nine years leading Campden Home Nursing, Helen brings invaluable experience. She said, "I'm excited to join such a well-loved local charity and look forward to contributing to its continued success."

### What We Achieved in 2024

In 2024, we provided over 6,323 hospice-at-home nursing hours (700 shifts) and supported 60 patients through our bereavement services. We also hosted monthly bereavement cafés, with around 20 attendees each session.

Like many other charities and hospices across the UK, we are experiencing increased expenditure to provide our care. We need to raise of £600,000 to provide our hospice at home services FREE of charge to the local community. Last year, we did not cover these costs. Read on to find out how you help us. We really appreciate your continued support.

### How You Can Help in 2025

Our services are entirely free to the local community, but we need to raise £600,000 to cover our costs. Your support makes this possible. Here's how you can help:

- **Donate:** Every pound makes a difference. Please visit [www.kateshomenursing.org](http://www.kateshomenursing.org) or call: 01451 820444.
- **Fundraise:** Organize an event like a Bake Off or marathon to support us.
- **Volunteer:** We're always looking for volunteers for events or office help.
- **Join us at upcoming events:**

1 August 2025: Golf Day at The Wychwood Golf Club

September 2025: Kate's Car Rally. More details and events to follow soon.

### Thank You

We're incredibly grateful for the support from our community, donors, volunteers, trustees, and local businesses. Thank you for making our work possible.

For more information, call: 01451 820444/07841 025909 or email [info@kateshomenursing.org](mailto:info@kateshomenursing.org).

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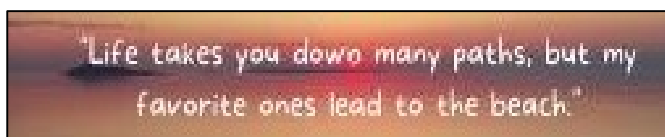
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## Why Booking Your Holiday Early Can Save You Money – And How a Travel Agent Can Help



Booking your holiday early isn't just about planning ahead – it's the best way to get the best deal! Many people don't realise that flight prices work on *dynamic pricing*. In short, the more seats an airline sells, the higher the price can climb. So, the earlier you book, the more likely you are to snag a good price before it rises. So, if you haven't already secured your next trip, now really is the time to book!

For long-haul flights, airlines often release flights 11 months in advance, while low-cost airlines are already offering flights as part of their packages for 2026! By booking early, you secure the best prices, and with a travel agent, you can take advantage of additional benefits too. Travel agents can *hold* flights for you, so you don't have to worry about losing a great deal while we help you finalise the rest of your trip. Plus, booking through an agent means you can keep everything bundled as a package holiday, offering more protection, a low deposit, and the chance to spread out payments.

Think about it – when buying a house, you rely on an estate agent's expertise. Why shouldn't the same go for holidays? A travel agent can help you navigate the often-complicated world of bookings, using their experience to find the best options and make your travel planning stress-free.

So, whether you're dreaming of a relaxing beach break or an exciting long-haul adventure, booking early and with the help of your local travel agent could be the smartest way to make sure you get the holiday you've always wanted at a price you can afford. Happy holidays await – and the sooner you book, the better the deal!

**Catherine Williams**

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## Cotswold Friends



Welcome to **Cotswold Friends**, where community is at the heart of everything we do! Whether you've recently moved to the area or you're already part of our wonderful network, we're here to remind you of the many ways we can help—and to warmly welcome you to get involved.

### Supporting You in Your Daily Life

**Community Transport:** Struggling to get around? Our amazing team of volunteer drivers can take you where you need to go—doctor's appointments, the shops, or even just a catch-up with friends. We've even got wheelchair-accessible vehicles to ensure everyone is included.

**Befriending Service:** Feeling lonely? You're not alone. Our friendly volunteers are here for a chat over the phone or a visit, offering companionship and a listening ear.

**Carer Support:** Caring for someone can be tough. That's why we provide support and helpful advice to make life a little easier for full-time carers.

**Independence Support:** Need renewed confidence or a hand with everyday tasks? From errands to light chores, we're here to help you stay happy and independent in your own home.

### Building a Stronger Community

**Social Activities:** Join one of our many groups to meet new friends and have some fun! Whether it's Lunch Clubs, Men in Sheds, Community Singing, or Knit and Natter, there's something for everyone.

**Hospital Support:** If you need help getting to and from hospital appointments or support after a stay, we're here to make things a little easier.

**Young Friends Programme:** We love connecting generations! Our Young Friends Programme brings together local school students and older residents, building friendships that make a real difference.

Cotswold Friends is all about creating a caring, connected community. If you're new to the area—or just want to know more—give us a call at 01608 651415 or visit [cotswold-friends.org](http://cotswold-friends.org). Let's make life better together!



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Web [www.cotswoldstove.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldstove.co.uk)



### Bourton Roadrunners

This week saw the **Gloucestershire AAA County Awards** evening, held at the Civic Suite in Gloucester. Two members from Bourton Roadrunners were honoured for their performances in the 2024 Gloucestershire County Road Race Series, with Darren Long winning the gold medal in the Male Vet 50 category, while Liz Hucup won silver in the Female Vet 70 category.

Bourton's Jaq Underwood started her 2025 season this weekend with a multi-terrain event, hosted by Thornbury Running Club. The worryingly titled **Riverbank Rollick** was held over trails, bridle paths, fields, woodlands, through a stream and along a riverbank! This 9.6 mile challenge was certainly not for the faint-hearted, but Jaq completed the race in a very respectable time of one hour, 56 minutes and 53 seconds.

Despite parkrun not being a race, and several events not taking place this weekend due to poor weather conditions, two Bourton Roadrunners took their positive attitude to **Cirencester parkrun**, where they both achieved new personal best times. Kevin Goodwill finished first man over 35, and fifth overall, in a time of 19:50, while Rebecca Townsend was second woman overall in a time of 21:55.



Darren Long and Liz Hucup receiving their awards at the Gloucestershire AAA County Awards evening



As usual, club members were noted at the following **parkrun** events this weekend:

**Chipping Norton School:** Helena Dobbs - 26:15 (SW20/2), Matt



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Price - 27:51(VM35/2), Jenny Evanson - 37:14.

**Cirencester:** Kevin Goodwill - 19:50 (VM35/1 and 5<sup>th</sup> overall), Rebecca Townsend - 21:55 (SW20/1, 2<sup>nd</sup> woman overall and PB), Tony Goodwill - 26:26, Louise Hamilton-Smith - 30:03 (course PB), John Gibson - 30:16 (VM70/3), Lee Smith - 30:17, Linda Edwards - 35:59, Liz Hucup - 35:59 (VW70/2).

**King George V Playing Field, Cheltenham:** Chris Dry 28:58 (VM60/2)

**Leamington:** Susan Hunt - 27:57,

**Trelai Park, Cardiff:** Jaq Underwood - 26:51 (VW55/2).

**University Parks, Oxford:** Gary Holton - 31:01

**Louise, Gillian and John**



Headspace would like to sincerely thank Neil Teague of Teague Trees, a local tree surgery business, for his fantastic fundraising effort over the festive season. Neil collected and recycled Christmas trees from local households, raising an impressive £450 to support Headspace's vital mental health services for young people and families in the North Cotswolds.

Neil's initiative not only provided residents with an eco-friendly way to dispose of their trees but also raised awareness of the importance of mental health support in the community. His contribution comes at a time when demand for Headspace's services is growing.

We are so grateful to Neil for his ongoing support and for coming up with such a practical way to raise funds. This money will directly help provide counselling and mental health support to local young people.

Neil has been a long-time supporter of Headspace, and his efforts show how community members can get involved and make a real difference.

"It was great to see so many people come together to support a local cause," Neil said. "I'm glad I could help Headspace continue its important work."

Thank you again to Neil Teague for your generosity and community spirit. Your efforts are making a meaningful difference. If you would like to find out more about Headspace or help through fundraising, volunteering, or donations, please contact me.

Best regards, Paul Heming  
CEO – Headspace.



**GRCC**



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### THE BOOKSHOP BAND

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Their latest album was recorded and produced by none other than rock legend Pete Townsend of The Who.

Tickets £15. from Christine 07834 493 637 or westcote.bookings@gmail.com



### Bourton Resident Selected as National Finalist in Ambassador Cruise Line's "Great British Grandparent 2024" Competition!

We are thrilled to announce that Frances Burton has been selected as a national finalist in Ambassador Cruise Line's search for the "Great British Grandparent 2024." Frances was deservedly nominated for this prestigious accolade, which celebrates the unsung heroes of the UK—grandparents who selflessly offer time, support, and love to their families.



Ambassador Cruise Line's judges were deeply moved by the nomination, highlighting Frances' unwavering dedication as a grandparent and her exceptional community spirit. She is not only an incredible support to her family but also a well-known volunteer in Bourton, making a significant impact through her tireless work collecting and sorting donations for Ukraine, and loading lorries with much-needed supplies.

Frances' recognition as a national finalist reflects the true essence of what it means to be a "Great British Grandparent" – someone who gives generously of their time, offers emotional support, and plays an invaluable role in their community.

As part of the competition, Frances will be celebrated alongside other inspiring finalists from across the UK. Her family are incredibly proud of Frances and all that she has done for her nearest & dearest and the wider community.

A huge congratulations to Frances for this well-deserved recognition. Her kindness, dedication, and volunteer work make her a true role model, and we wish her the best of luck in the next stage of the competition. The winner will receive a cruise for two as a prize and I'm sure, like us, you all wish her the best of luck! Bourton is lucky to have such a remarkable individual in our midst.

**Catherine Williams**

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## The Best Thing in Life

Once more comes the happy time  
When we celebrate Saint Valentine,  
Who already has in his sights  
A special couple he'd love to unite:  
As he sends an arrow from his bow  
Towards those who've yet to know  
The power under which they'll be cast  
And, when true, will deepen and last.  
While those who've seen it all before,  
Still relish it all the more,  
For Valentine's Day enables them to affirm  
What all lovers know and learn -  
Two hearts in love is rather nice  
And, perhaps, the Best Thing in Life.

Hugh O'Connell

## CHAOS 2025 production Kipps – The New Half a Sixpence Musical

Following last year's tremendous success with Evita, this year Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society (CHAOS) are performing Kipps – The New Half a Sixpence Musical in April at Chipping Norton Theatre. Many of last year's cast have returned to build on their success. The part of Kipps is being shared by Paul Cox and Alfie Arnold, who is making his debut with the society. Other principals include Lucy Bibby playing Ann, Sophie Bell taking the part of Helen Walsingham, Tim Widdows returning as James Walsingham and Bethan Jenkins as Mrs Walsingham. Bryan Jones is making his CHAOS debut as Chitterlow, alongside many other familiar faces. Catrin Russ is our outstanding musical director and Fiona Bates our dynamic choreographer.

The show, a light-hearted tale of a draper's assistant who inherits a fortune, was originally a vehicle for Tommy Steele who filmed part of it at Blenheim

Palace. It was adapted for a new production in 2016 at Chichester. Well-known songs include Flash Bang Wallop, If the rain's got to fall, Half a Sixpence and Money to Burn. Rehearsals are going extremely well and we are performing in the Theatre on Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7-30pm, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7-30pm and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 2-30pm and 7-30pm. Evening performance tickets are £19-50 and matinee £17-50. Box office: 01608 642350.

[www.chippingnortontheatre.com](http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com)

CHAOS is grateful for the support of Chipping Norton Town Council.

## Spring will Appear

From the sodden ground  
Snowdrop peeking can be found .  
Maybe a Daffodil or two  
Popping out to greet you .  
Many birds pecking through the ground  
To see if the odd worm can be found.  
All the signs to spring is on its way  
So many changes face each day.

Carol Groom

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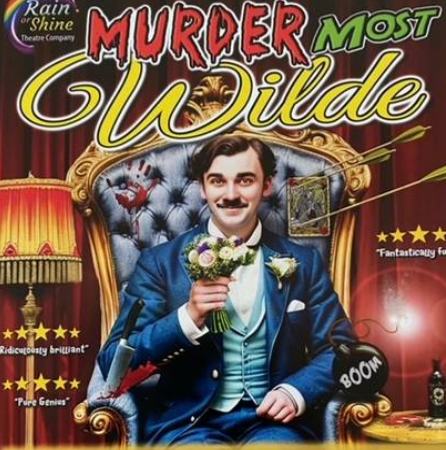
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or 01451 850586 \* Bar & Light refreshments \* Doors open at 3pm  
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**QUIZ NIGHT**



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At the Upper Risingstons Village Hall, bar opens at 7.00.  
Tickets: £15 each, can be purchased online on TicketSource:  
Groups of up to 6, pre-booking only.

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## Guided Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens



Details of the walks available are described on the website (below). **Please check walk details carefully on the website, including whether booking is necessary. Additional walks may be published on the website.**

<https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk>

**Ford to Cutsdean and a visit to Jackdaw's Castle – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Moderate 3hr 5.5ml.** A circular walk from Ford to Cutsdean. We then carry on to join the Diamond Way and back through Jackdaw's Castle, one of the finest training facilities in British jump racing. Please bring drink/snack. Start: 10.00am Layby opposite The Plough Inn, Ford, GL54 5RU. OS Map ref: SP 089 294. W3W: votes.something.splint

**Wild Wintry Wolds – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Moderate 3hr 5ml.** A return to explore the fields and woods above Stanton, searching for wintering birds. The route will depend on what we find but is approximately 4 - 6 miles in length. There are some steep slopes and paths will be muddy so wear appropriate footwear! Please bring a snack and a drink. Binoculars are essential! Start: 10.00am Stanton village car park, WR12 7NE. OS Map ref: SP 067 344. W3W: eternally.master.corporate

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. EASY - Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. STRENUOUS – may be rough underfoot & ascents and descents may be steep. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, others not allowed. Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation & improvement work.



### COMBE MILL, BLENHEIM PALACE SAWMILLS, COMBE, OXON, OX29 8ET

**Our First 'IN STEAM EVENT' at Combe Mill is Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025.** Themed 'STEM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)– 'Change & Adapt'. Browse the Gift Shop and Tombola. Tea Room also open. Accompanied by our usual MARKET STALLS.

Combe Mill in its day was the workshop for Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode. Combe Mill is a Late 19th Century Grade 11 listed Watermill with Steam Beam Engine, Restored Waterwheel, Line Shafting, Collection of Towers Clocks, Barn Engines with all machinery running as used in its day.

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**Admission:** Adults £9.00, Concessions £7.50, CHILDREN now FREE. Dogs most welcomed. Free Parking. Ask about Gift Aid.

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**OPEN WEDNESDAY'S FROM 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

for self-guided tours, with volunteers on hand to talk about Combe Mill and its history. Call by to our Riverside Tea Room, light refreshments available.

**Admission:-** Adults £5.00, Concessions & Children £4.00

**Open:-** 10.30am to 3.30pm.

**Contact: - Combe Mill Society, 01993 358694.**

**[www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org)**

## LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS for amendments, [team@bourtonbrosver.co.uk](mailto:team@bourtonbrosver.co.uk) 01451 822431

Archery Club	GRArcheryClub@gmail.com
Badminton Club	clclare@gmail.com
Bell Ringers, BOW	Stephanie Hemming 01451 810996
Bell Ringers, Gt Ris	Sheila Jesson, 01451 820395
Bourton Road Runners	Nicky Patterson <a href="mailto:Brr.clubsec@gmail.com">Brr.clubsec@gmail.com</a> .
Bourton Rovers Chairman	Liam Williams 07769 216528
Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Kevin Langley 07375 033609
Bourton Vale Tennis Club	<a href="http://www.bourtontennisclub.org">www.bourtontennisclub.org</a>
Brass & Silver Bands	Stephanie Hemming 01451 810996
Community Day Club	Support Service team 01608 652019
Cotswold Friends	01608 651415
	<a href="http://www.cotswoldsfriends.org">www.cotswoldsfriends.org</a>
Cotswold Yoga	Nazuna Yeo 07490858775
Dementia Friendly Café	Kathy Chesters 07746 672726
Fitness League	Kathy Kirk 01993 882350
Gardening Club	Sheila Thorpe 07973391741
Glos. Advanced Motorists	Rod Harrison. 01451 821605
Hockey Club	<a href="mailto:admin@bashc.co.uk">admin@bashc.co.uk</a>
Jubilee Lodge	01451 823100
McTimoney Practitioner	Tina Hamer 07884 312559
Men in Sheds	01608 692811
Moreton Bowls Club	Brenda Dix 01451 821020
North Cotswold Arts Association	Jeni Smith 078506 50763
North Cotswold Gymnastics Club	Caroline Gill 01451 263130
OPEN 4U	Barbara Newstead 01451 824225
Panto Group	Angela Layton 01451 821344.
Probus Club	Kevin Hick 01451 860435
Rotary Club Nth Cotswolds	Steve Whincup 07488 365908
Royal British Legion Bourton	Bill McKenzie 01451 824303
Rural Cinema	Mollie Wise 01451 822365
Scottish Dancing Group	Christine Bucknall 01993 830760
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Short Led Walks	Carol Price 01451 810305
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	<a href="mailto:cotswoldactivehealth@gmail.com">cotswoldactivehealth@gmail.com</a>
Stow Textile Group	Julie Smith 01608 651006
T'ai Chi	Valerie Ward 07779 746346
u3a Bourton & District	<a href="http://www.bourton.u3asite.uk">www.bourton.u3asite.uk</a>
Village Warden	Steve Cotton 07729 114833
Volunteer Help Centre	01608 651415
WI	Pat Taylor 07518 457 652
Windrush Carers Support Group	Barbara Newstead 01451 821523
4 Shires Swimming Club	Jo Shaw <a href="mailto:membership@4ssc.uk.uk">membership@4ssc.uk.uk</a>

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 Upper Slaughter, GL54 2JJ



## Bourton On-line Village Diary

To see what's going on in Bourton for this, and future months, use the QR code or go to: [www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk](http://www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk)

If you are planning a **Bourton** based event, email the details to: [team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk](mailto:team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk) We will add them to the on-line village diary and include them in the "Diary Dates" column in the relevant month's Browser. Events welcome for dates throughout 2025.

The on-line diary is a useful tool that can prevent major events clashing, so check it before scheduling your event! Remember we can only put events in if you tell us about them!

*The Bourton Browser Team*

### Rates and Dates for advertising in the *BOURTON BROWSER*

Full details:

[www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk](http://www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk)

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. Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> of preceding month.

To enquire about booking, email [team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk](mailto:team@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 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.

**Ray Dodd, Advertising Manager**

### ABOUT THE *BOURTON BROWSER*

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.



**Bourton & District**

## Probably the largest club in Bourton (260 members)!!

If you have ceased working full time or raising a family and are interested in *any* of the following, why don't you look us up?

Groups highlighted in yellow are actively seeking new members

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Archaeology</b>                     | <b>Ballroom Dancing</b>              |
| <b>Reading Books</b>                   | <b>Playing Bridge</b>                |
| <b>Country Dancing</b>                 | <b>Singing</b>                       |
|  | <b>Chatting and Drinking Coffee</b>  |
| <b>Watching Interesting Films</b>      | <b>French Conversation</b>           |
| <b>Table Tennis</b>                    | <b>Indoor Curling</b>                |
| <b>History</b>                         | <b>Mahjong</b>                       |
|  | <b>Mexican Trains!!</b>              |
| <b>Nature walks and Talks</b>          | <b>Reading Plays</b>                 |
| <b>Reading and Writing Poetry</b>      | <b>Quizzes</b>                       |
| <b>Playing the Recorder or Ukelele</b> |                                      |
| <b>Playing Scrabble</b>                | <b>Playing Skittles (in a pub!!)</b> |
|  | <b>Walking</b>                       |
| <b>Eating Sunday Lunch!</b>            | <b>Walking Basketball</b>            |

Our next General Meeting is on Wednesday 26th February 2025, in the Royal British Legion Hall in Bourton-on-the-Water, from 10am to 12 noon when we will be entertained by Mike Aggleton with Comic Verse: Epigrams and Clerihews!!

Everyone welcome!

**Or look us up on: [www.bourton.u3asite.uk](http://www.bourton.u3asite.uk)**

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STATION ROAD, BOURTON ON THE WATER, GL54 2AA  
Tel: 01451 820277

Email: [bourton@kendallanddaves.co.uk](mailto:bourton@kendallanddaves.co.uk)  
[www.kendallanddaves.co.uk](http://www.kendallanddaves.co.uk)

Offices also at: Stow on the Wold, Burford and Moreton in Marsh



## W. J. Wright

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**Rachael Pickard**  
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