

# BOURTON BROWSER

ISSUE NO 311

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

March 2025



## DIARY DATES

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Gift Fair, **VH**, 10am-5pm. All welcome.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</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**, "Hearing Dogs for Deaf People" by Merleen Watson. See page 16.
- 11<sup>th</sup> WI, **VH**, 7pm, See page 14.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Irene's Charity Knitting Circle, **WP**, 10am-12pm. See page 12.
- 12<sup>th</sup> u3a Scrabble, **GMCC**. 2-4pm. 7341 094206. [peterdawson790@icloud.com](mailto:peterdawson790@icloud.com)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Horticultural Club. **BCH**, 7.30pm. Ian Sadler, "Formative, Restrictive or Renovation Pruning". See page 12.
- 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>-15<sup>th</sup> Tayler & Fletcher, Fine Art, Vintage & Interiors auction, from 9.30am, **NCS**, GL54 2AR. 821666.
- 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Dementia Friendly Cafe, **StLC**, 2-4pm, 07746 672726. See page 18.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Rural Cinema, 'Small Things Like These'. Drama. C12. 1hr 37mins. Emma Watson, Michelle Fairly, Cillian Murphy. **VH**, 2.30pm &

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 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Police update:** The mobile police station will be at the Co-Op from 10am to 2pm on 8<sup>th</sup> April. The current team for Bourton comprises PCSO John Allen, PC Frank Ward and new Sergeant Philippa Moore.

**County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson** reported that Gloucestershire will not be in the super-fast phase of moving to a unitary authority council, it will be in the second phase. The new council is expected to take effect in around 2028.

Ambulance response times in Bourton are very poor and Councillor Hodgkinson is going to meet with ambulance staff to discuss a possible solution.

**District Councillor Len Wilkins (Bourton Vale):** Government updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) were outlined, including greater emphasis on social rent, affordable housing, climate change and renewable energy. Residents are urged to continue to report missed bin collections, both to CDC and Cllr Wilkins.

**District Councillor Jon Wareing (Bourton Village):** CDC's budget for 2025-26 was to be approved on 6<sup>th</sup> February with a recommended increase of £5 for a Band D property. The report highlighted concerns about rising costs and timetable changes at the Leisure Centre. A study is investigating strategic growth proposals for Moreton which are part of the Local Plan and Cllr Wareing asked that traffic mobility along the Fosse Way and sewage infrastructure are also considered.

**Coach Parking, pick-up and drop-off:** The Parish Council endorsed a temporary coach parking solution by a majority vote. The scheme will require formal approval by senior officers at GCC Highways before implementation, with a potential launch date by Easter 2025.

Under this temporary arrangement, coaches will be permitted to pick up and drop off passengers in a designated on-street parking bay on Meadow Way, near the junction with Station Road. Visitors will then walk into the village via The Avenue (adjacent to the Cotswold School) and continue to the High Street.

Councillor Hodgkinson emphasised that this is a temporary measure, supported by both himself, Bourton Business Network and the Cotswold School, to ease congestion while a long-term solution is developed. The preferred permanent arrangement remains the establishment of coach parking, pick-up, and drop-off facilities at the Cotswold School.

This scheme will be funded by Gloucestershire County Council and therefore will not result in a direct cost to the parish.

**Rye Crescent play area:** A reminder that refurbishment works are planned with an anticipated start date of week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> March, but this is weather dependent. We have arranged with Gloucestershire County Council Highways for a small area of the highway in Rye

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

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

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**Continued from page 1 column 1**

7.30pm. Refreshments £1. 2pm & 7pm, £4pp or £12 family of 4 on door.

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

24<sup>th</sup> Probus 10am, **GMCC**. Talk by a local member. See page 16.

26<sup>th</sup> u3a, **BLH**, 10am-12noon. Christine Green, "her life as a graphic designer at the BBC". See page 6. [www.bourton.u3asite.uk](http://www.bourton.u3asite.uk)

26<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting, **GMCC**, 7pm. See 3rd column.

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> Blood donor Sessions, **BLH**, 13:10-16:00 and 16:50-18:45.

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

30<sup>th</sup> Clocks go forward one hour, British Summer Time begins.

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

**Bourton Library**

**The George Moore Community Centre,**  
**Moore Road, Bourton-on-the-Water,**  
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**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**, Keith 01451 831886.

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)

**Continued from page 1 column 2**

Crescent (usually used as parking bays), to be closed during the construction phase. This is to enable contractor access and deliveries to site. We apologise for any inconvenience to neighbours and users of the site during works which are expected to take around three weeks.

**VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May and VJ Day 15<sup>th</sup> August 80-year anniversary:** Members of the Parish Council will be forming a working group to plan small commemorative events in the village on these dates.

**GCC Highways Consultation on the Traffic Regulation Order for the A429 and A436 Traffic Calming Scheme:** The Parish Council raised concerns about the proposals to install bollards without a speed reduction and suggested to GCC

that a 40mph speed limit should be put in place from the top of Whiteshoots Hill and on through Slaughter Pike.

**New Parish Councillor sought:** There is a vacancy on the Parish Council following the resignation of Councillor Andy Caley. If Cotswold District Council does not receive a request for an election by 20<sup>th</sup> February, the vacancy will be advertised with a view to the Parish Council co-opting a new member at the 2<sup>nd</sup> April meeting. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like more information on becoming a Parish Councillor and how you can help your local community.

**Cemetery Memorials:** The Parish Council is seeking to locate owners or family members of some memorials at the cemetery for which we have no record. Please see article page 3.

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

A reminder of the **Annual Parish Meeting** 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 and all are welcome.

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/)



## Memorials at Bourton-on-the-Water Cemetery

The Parish Council is seeking to locate owners or family members of some memorials at the cemetery for which we have no record. If you have any information or believe a memorial may belong to your family, please contact the Parish Council on 01451 820712 or [assistant.clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:assistant.clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk)

### Details of memorials with unknown owners

Name/s listed on memorial	Date/s of death
Hilda BARNES	2.4.1989
Albert & Janet BOSTOCK	13.4.1984 & 14.7.1988
Daniel & Maureen BYRNE	14.11.1996 & 17.3.2007
Muriel CARR	28.10.1999
Donald COE	8.3.1989
Ernest & Laura COOPER	22.11.1986 & 9.4.2006
Lillianne COOPER	2.11.2000
John CRERAR	16.8.1982
Mark DAVIES	5.2.1987
Alan DICKSON	4.2.1983
Edith FORD	11.1.1971
Gerald & Alice GOODWIN	18.9.1986 & 11.1.1999
Sarah & Walter HARKNESS	27.12.1995 & 5.10.1998
Norah HINCKLEY	20.1.2001
Ernest & Mary HOVARD	17.5.1985 & 5.9.2003
Kathleen JOYNES	28.10.1987
Keith & Kathleen LAMPLUGH	4.11.1968 & 14.1.1971
Terence LEWIN	8.8.1989
Beatrice MARKEY	9.2.1979
Harry & Mona MARTIN	29.4.1983 & 8.4.1999
Catherine MEAD	2.6.1986
Florence & John MILLS	8.12.1979 & 13.10.1988
Francis & Mary MURRAY	19.10.1989 & 28.8.1993
Joan & Douglas ORCHARD	18.2.1992 & 6.3.1996
Gladys PARROTT	30.9.1993
Pamela PELOW	4.2.1984
William & Margery RACHAEL	17.5.1971 & 4.1.1983
Ivor & Kathleen SIMPSON	21.8.1984 & 4.5.1999
Stanley & Brenda TAYLOR	14.5.1975 & 23.1.1980
Bobbie & Lennard WILLIAMS	7.6.1973 & 1.11.1990
Cyril & Marjorie WILLIAMS	30.10.1985 & 10.4.1986
Arthur & Ida WOOD	27.9.1988 & 25.5.2001

## Bourton Browser Team News

**Increase in advertising rates:** After holding our commercial advertising rates for 2 and a half years, we are increasing them by a small amount to keep pace with rising costs. For details see page 20 or go to the advertising page on our website. We continue to offer excellent value for money, with attractive rates for those who advertise for longer periods. Those advertisers who have paid for a period in advance will not be affected until they renew. We generally print adverts for local community groups and charities for free.

**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.

**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 our website below. 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!



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

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

*The Bourton Browser Team*

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## OUT AND ABOUT in March

- 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, Live Lambing, Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power, GL54 5FL. 01451 850307 [www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk).
- 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Cirencester Wedding Show, Kings Head Hotel, 24 Market Place, Cirencester, GL7 2NR. 11am-4pm. 01285 700900.
- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> "Nature & Solitude", Claudia Clare, international ceramic artist, exhibits her work, 10am-6pm. The Old Prison, Northleach, GL54 3JH. 07591 252045. [www.northleachevents.co.uk/](http://www.northleachevents.co.uk/)
- 7<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Chipping Norton Music Festival, details & programme [www.cnmf.org.uk](http://www.cnmf.org.uk) 07875 454094.
- 8<sup>th</sup> The Village Market starts again in Great Rissington at Great Rissington Club, 10am-noon. Looking forward to seeing some of you there. Jackie Palmer 01451 822285.
- 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham National Hunt Festival, Cheltenham Racecourse, GL50 4SH. [www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/cheltenham-festival/](http://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/cheltenham-festival/)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Multistory Theatre Company presents, Last Dance Saloon, Westcote Village Hall, 7.30pm, Suitable for adults and age 14+. Tickets £15 from 07834 493637 or [westcote.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:westcote.bookings@gmail.com) See page 18.
- 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Cirencester Spring Market, GL7 2PP. A unique street market with a festival feel. Street food, artisan groceries, together with ethically traded & handmade arts, crafts, clothing, jewellery and accessories in an eclectic mix. 9am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun. 01285 655646.
- 16<sup>th</sup> "In Steam Event", 'Change & Adapt' supporting the British Science Week. Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, OX29 8ET. 10.30am to 4.30pm Adults £9, Concessions £7.50, Children Free. Dogs welcome. Free Parking. Combe Mill Society, 01993 358694. [www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org). See page 15.
- 20<sup>th</sup> David Sinclair Four, Blues & Americana, Merrymouth Inn, Stow Rd, Fifield, OX7 6HR, 01993 256620. See advert below.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Rissingtons Local History Society, "Tolkien and the Cotswolds, the shaping of Middle Earth" by Andy Meller. Village Hall, Upper Rissington GL54 2QW. Visitors welcome £3.50 to include refreshments. For enquiries, Kate O'Brien 07815 606770 /[information.RLHS@gmail.com](mailto:information.RLHS@gmail.com)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Kathleen Ferrier 'Whattalife!' Northleach Church, 7pm. Tickets at [norhtleachevents.co.uk](http://norhtleachevents.co.uk)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day Carvery, Merrymouth Inn, Stow Rd, Fifield, OX7 6HR, 01993 256620. See the advert below.


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### Events for 2025

**Live Music**

20th Mar - David Sinclair Four (Blues)

4th April - Stone Soup (Rock/Metal)

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

15th May - Teed Up (Blues)

March open: Wed to Sun 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



## FOR SALE / WANTED ITEMS



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

### For Sale

Kid's red, Forme Cubley light alloy (6.6kgs), 16in wheel bike. Excellent order inc tyres, brakes. Image/details call. £80 ono; 07850700076

### For Sale

Mothercare Swing Cot + mattress. Excellent condition, hardly used at grandparents. Image/details call. £25; 07850700076

### Free To Collector

Kingsize Hypnos Zip/Link Bed. Base, mattress & headboard. Will split into 2 small singles. VGC. 07702 045115.

### For Sale

Electric Golf Trolley, Trolley Bag, Lithium Battery & charger. £150. 07721 436164

### For Sale

Shopperider Deluxe Mobility Scooter, new batteries, rain-cover, basket. £400, or sensible offer. 07857 332560.

### Free

Conservatory furniture, Two Seater Settee and two chairs. 07857 332560

### For Sale

Four Wheeled walker and three wheeled walker. £10 each. 07857 332560

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Glass fronted Television Cabinet. 01451 810990

### For Sale

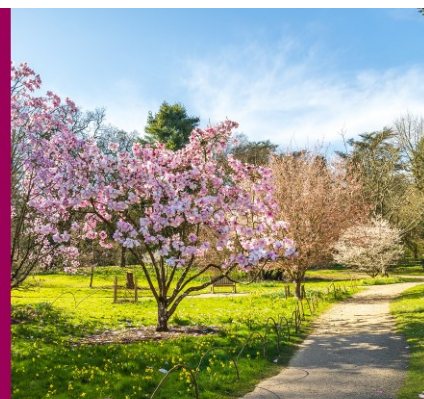
Electric Wheelchair, "Pride Nobility I go fold". Brought for £2000. Almost new, with all paperwork. £1000. 07873 892859

## Aladdin and Abanazer

Panto is all about laughs, surprise and watching the story unfold. Bourton Panto Group have been treading the boards since the 1981 production of Dick Whittington. This year the new director introduced some new faces to join the cast and there was a change of dame, eastern costume and scenery, along with an amazing magic carpet ride. This gave the well-attended audiences a great evening. Thank you. **Jane Davis**

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## Coach Parking

At the Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> February the Council voted to accept the proposal by GCC Highways to implement an Experimental TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) in Meadow Way, adjacent to Jubilee Lodge Care Home, to facilitate the drop-off and pick-up of visitors arriving by coach in two coach bays, in 10-minute slots, between the hours of 09:00 and 16:00.

An affirmative decision in support of the proposal, by a majority of 5 for, to 3 votes against (Cllrs Davis, Wareing and Wilkins) with 1 abstention, was taken despite there being:

- No guarantees about the enforcement provisions that, according to Dan Tiffney from GCC Highways, are essential to make the Experimental TRO work.
- An assurance that the pilot TRO can be stopped at any point in the event that it is too disruptive, but there being no mechanism for doing so because there are:
  - No clear criteria for evaluation of whether it is working well or disastrously,
  - No specified means of determining whether it is adding to, what is acknowledged by those advocating the proposal as, an already heavily congested part of the traffic infrastructure of Bourton at the end of the school day.
- No consideration for the views and feelings of the management, residents and families of residents of Jubilee Lodge (which in case you were unaware, provides individualised dementia, nursing, intermediate and respite care for up to 74 residents.)
- No consideration on the potential negative impact on safety of coach loads of visitors occupying an already busy stretch of pavement used by schoolchildren and parents, often with buggies, at the end of the school day.

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Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March

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- A dependence on coach drivers complying with signage instructions, despite ample evidence suggesting these instructions are likely to be disregarded.
- A preparedness to gamble on the risk of increased congestion causing economic harm to the industrial estate.

Coach parking has been one of the most weighty, time consuming and divisive topics in front of Council in the last few years. One might think therefore that it would merit a thoroughly comprehensive and considered thought process before moving to a vote. Residents, quite justifiably, should have expectations of a high level of scrutiny and debate on issues demanding leadership in the community on their behalf.

In our view, the lack of diligence in scrutinising the proposal and failure to obtain clarity on the above points, prior to a vote, was not only mysterious and surprising, but meant that it was impossible to give it our confident support.

An unfortunate consequence of the way this decision unfolded is to give encouragement to those who perceive Bourton Parish Council to always roll over in the face of tourism business interests.

As holders of public office, we should be open and objective, taking decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. It is in the spirit of openness that we take this opportunity to shine a light on legitimate concerns that remain unaddressed.

The jubilant tones struck in some of the media coverage trumpeting a solution to "coach-parking hell" following the vote, seem both ill-judged and premature. Simply moving the pinch-point of unbearable visitor coach congestion to another unsuitable location in the village is not a solution. It manifestly does not address the root cause of the problem and there is no assurance that it even addresses the symptoms. But it will involve GCC spending public monies at a time when council budgets are under enormous pressure.

It bears repeating. Bourton does not have the road infrastructure to cope with the excessive volumes of visitor vehicles (coaches and cars) that we experience throughout the year. A park and walk solution on the periphery of the village, off the Fosse, is the only practical workaround to address this (unless miraculously fewer visitors decide to descend on Bourton).

Such a solution would have the distinct advantage of permitting residents to park in the village centre on the occasions when they wish to use their local services and shops in a way we can only dream of as things stand. Who knows? Were this to happen, we might also see a few more shops retailing things that local people want to buy!

**Bourton Vale Ward Cllr Len Wilkins (Con)  
& Bourton Village Ward Cllr Jon Wareing (Lib Dem)**

## Coach parking – news at last

The village has had no designated coach parking since early last year after Bourton Vale car park decided to end coaches parking in it. This led to a summer of frustration for residents as some coaches dropped off passengers in unsafe locations.

Now a solution has come together which will give coaches a specific drop off and pick up point away from the village centre plus a longer term solution centred on the Cotswold School.

In February, Bourton Parish Council voted to back a Gloucestershire Highways proposal which will see coaches use a new drop off and pick up bay on Meadow Way between 9am and 4pm where there are spaces for 5 cars to park currently.

Having worked with Gloucestershire Highways, Bourton Business Network, Pulhams Coaches and the Parish Council over the last few months I'm delighted that we have finally reached a solution which will start solving the frustrations everyone has felt on this thorny issue.

Under the proposal, which Highways have designed, coaches will not enter the main village but will enter via the A429 at the Industrial Estate and drop off and pick up passengers for 10 minutes maximum on Meadow Way. After this they turn right onto Station Road, back to the industrial estate and will park at Pulhams coaches site. This means that coaches will not cause traffic issues in the bus stop outside the Cotswold School nor around the centre of Bourton or the Rissington Road. This scheme will be piloted by Highways for 6 months and should start in the Spring to cover this year's tourist season. It will be reviewed regularly within the trial period.

There will be signage for tourists to follow to get to the village via The Avenue and for coaches to follow too.

Longer term, the Cotswold School is looking at ways to improve its own parking on site, create better sports pitches and enable coaches to park too which will then provide a permanent coach parking solution. I'm actively supporting the School in achieving that.

**Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, (GCC, Bourton and Northleach)**

*Editor's note: We received articles on the coach parking situation, from both CDC & GCC councillors, as well as details in the Parish Council's notes. We took the decision to publish all of them to give readers a full range of view points.*



**Probably the largest club in Bourton  
(270 members and growing)!!**

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 underlined are actively seeking new members)

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

We are also looking to set up 2 new groups: **Watercolour Painting** and **General Crafting** (could be sewing, crocheting, cross stitch, charcoal drawing, quilting, toy making etc). If you have an interest, or even some expertise, in these topics, please contact: Rob Gorton on [rvjgorton@gmail.com](mailto:rvjgorton@gmail.com)

### Working for Auntie!

Our upcoming General Meeting, held in the Royal British Legion Hall in Bourton-on-the-Water from 10am to 12 noon is on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, when we will be entertained by Christine Green describing her life as a graphic designer at the BBC. Everyone welcome

**For more details on all these topics, please go to go :  
[www.bourton.u3asite.uk](http://www.bourton.u3asite.uk)**

**Denise Ogden** We are sad to announce the death of Denise Ogden, who passed away on Sunday, 2nd February, 2025. She will be forever missed by her loving daughters, son in laws, grandchildren and siblings. Any donations to the Alzheimer's Society or Kate's Home Nursing in her name would be greatly appreciated instead of flowers. Thank you. **Elizabeth Campero**

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[www.stonesmemorials.co.uk](http://www.stonesmemorials.co.uk)  
Bourton on the Water



## Message from the Church

1st March is Saint David's day, the Patron Saint of Wales. Saint David was a monk who lived in the 6th century. He travelled throughout Wales preaching and teaching people about God, and was highly thought of for his kindness, compassion, faithfulness, simple living and hard work. It is fitting that remembering Saint David comes in March when Spring determinedly bursts forth with the simple beauty of daffodils and spring flowers pronouncing God's eternal promise of hope.

The most well known of Saint David's words were those he preached the week before he died, "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do." Those words, spoken so many years ago can speak to us today. In a suffering world, we are reminded of the power and importance of doing the little things. We may question what we can do to make a difference, but

the little things such as kindness, gentleness, compassion, care for the natural world and care for one another are ways we can shine God's inextinguishable light and love, even in the darkest of places.

This month we enter the 40 day season of Lent. This is the time in the church calendar when we prepare our hearts for Easter morning and the promise of hope the resurrection of Jesus Christ brings to our lives and the world. As we prepare, maybe by giving things up or by taking things up, we might reflect upon the little yet powerful things we can do to share with others something of God's loving kindness for us all. As we do the little things, or in Welsh, Gwnewch y pethau bychain, may our community blossom and bloom with signs of God's love alive among us.

**Rev. Hannah  
St. Lawrence's Church.**

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

**Ash Wednesday Services: 10am in Bourton, 7pm in Clapton**

**ALL WELCOME to Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday on 30th March at 11am**

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

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

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

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

**St James, Clapton-on-the-Hill - 9.30am:**

Morning Worship on March 2nd and BCP Holy Communion on March 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 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 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 See our website for this month's diary and more details of all our activities—[www.bourtonbaptist.co.uk](http://www.bourtonbaptist.co.uk)

## Living with Loss - Bereavement Tea

*All welcome for tea, cake and conversation*

at St Lawrence,  
Bourton-on-the-Water  
3.00-4.30pm  
2nd March  
1st June  
7th September  
7th December



Just come along  
or for more  
information:  
Rev.Hannah Allen  
01451 542004  
revhannah  
@protonmail.com

2025

*With all our communities:  
Bourton-on-the-Water with Clapton and The Rissingtons*

## 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.

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

Every Friday at 6 pm Stations of the Cross followed by silent prayer and Adoration.

Wed. 19th March, Solemnity of St. Joseph, Mass 7.30 p.m. Tue. 25th March Solemnity of the Annunciation Sung Mass 6 pm. **Holy Thursday** 17th April: 7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watch. **Good Friday** 18th April 3 pm Liturgy. **Holy Saturday** 19th April 9 pm Lighting of New Fire, Easter Vigil Liturgy and First Mass of Easter. **Easter Day** 20th April 10.30 am Sung Mass.

**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

### **Bourton Vale Lawn Tennis Club**

As we gear up for another exciting tennis season, Bourton Tennis Club is making preparations to welcome players of all ages and abilities. Whether you're a seasoned player or picking up a racket for the first time, our club has something for everyone!

We are proud to have two fantastic floodlit hard courts available for members to use every day. Our 2025 memberships officially start in April, and with fees still offering incredible value—just £35 for juniors (4-17 years old) or £25 if taking coaching—it's the perfect time to get involved!

Our club welcomes players of all levels, from beginners to competitive players, and we run a variety of events throughout the year, including fun social competitions, a singles box league, regular club nights, and Gloucestershire doubles league matches. We also have a lively social calendar, so if you're looking to stay active and meet new people, why not give tennis a go? More details can be found on our website: [www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BourtonValeLawnTennisClub](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BourtonValeLawnTennisClub).

In October, we hosted our Junior Club Championship. After a wet start, the sun finally came out, and players were split into two groups. Harper Roffey triumphed in the younger age bracket, while Will Bell claimed the upper age group title and the BVLTC 2024 Junior Club Champion trophy. Will continued his winning streak recently, securing victory at an U12 Grade 4 tournament in Northampton. Not to be outdone, his mum, Clare Bell, also made headlines by winning an ITF World Tour Masters 400 Over 40s event!

Clare, alongside Kingsley Harris, is part of our coaching team, offering both individual and group lessons for juniors and adults. Whether you're a total beginner or looking to refine your game, come along and give it a go.

**Looking forward to seeing you on court in 2025!**

**Alex Peyton**



Will  
Bell



**THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL**

The Cotswold School has had a great start to 2025 - thank you to our whole school community for your ongoing support.

### **Community and Charities Pupil Leadership Group**

As part of our Community and Charities Pupil Leadership Group, students spent an enjoyable afternoon with the residents of Jubilee Lodge in Bourton - chatting, playing games, jigsaws, reading poetry, and performing magic. Many thanks to the staff and residents for welcoming students into their home.

### **The Cotswold Classic Regional Robotics Competition**

What a fabulous day! The Cotswold School recently hosted 'The Cotswold Classic Regional Robotics Competition'. TCS Explosions and TCS Dark Nights took part, alongside eight other schools. We are extremely proud of all of the students who took part in the competition, and congratulations to TCS Dark Knights who were named overall champions on the day. The team now go through to the national robotics championships in Telford. Many thanks to the judges from the Bugatti Trust.

### **Year 11 Interviews**

Practice interviews are a fantastic opportunity for students to experience what a real interview would be like in terms of format and questions, whilst helping to develop interview strategies, improving communication skills, and building confidence. Many thanks to our volunteers who helped Year 11s practise interview technique.

### **Sixth Form Success**

We are delighted to report that the average point score for A Level students (2024) in their best three subjects, places The Cotswold School in the top 4% of schools in the country.

Three current students from The Cotswold School have received offers to study at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, as well as two offers for our alumni. Students are eager to embark on degrees in subjects including Engineering, English, Modern Languages, History, and an MSC in Conservation and Biodiversity Management.

**'Will Morgan,**

**Headteacher,**

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

### **WATOTO**

I just wanted to say a very big thank you to all who helped us to host the Watoto Children's choir. The British Legion for accommodating us, Shalom for the gifts to the children, Pulhams for providing parking for their coach, Co-op for providing fruit, The Old Manse for help with accommodation, Cotswold School for allowing the coach to use their turn in, our PCSO and community warden for help with the arrangements and Birdland for giving the children an opportunity to see penguins! An amazing time was had by all but it couldn't have happened without you. We raised £2,254.16 for Ugandan orphans.

**Rev. Sue Woodley, Bourton Baptist Church**





### Bourton Primary Academy

February has been another busy month for us at The Primary School. We have continued to have a jam-packed sporting calendar with Cross Country, the Dance Festival, Bench Ball and an intra-school Gymnastics competition. We took over 70 children to the cross-country event at Far Peak in Northleach on a cold and dreary February morning. We are very proud of all of the children for running the longer distances and 20 children placed in the top 10 for their year group, so are through to the next round. Our dance for the Festival at Cheltenham Town Hall had the theme of 'A step back in time' and has been inspired by 'The Greatest Showman'. We were delighted to take a couple of teams to a bench ball event for Year 1 and 2. It is not often this age group have the opportunity to take part in sporting events. Our Year 3 and 4 children took part in a gymnastics competition in school where they had to remember a floor routine and take part in a vault. We are continually proud of all of the children who take part in sporting events, they follow our CARE statement wherever we are.

When this goes to print our choir will have been to Young Voices and performed as part of a huge choir. They have been practising the songs and actions for months and are eagerly awaiting their chance to perform alongside many other schools and musicians. We will have started the new half term with a whole school performance of Treasure Island from a travelling theatre group and are getting ready for one of our favourite days in the school year – World Book Day. We love being able to offer enriching experiences for the children that they can take part in alongside their peers.

**Tori Gainford, Deputy Headteacher**

### 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 Laundbury 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

### Gloucestershire Writers' Network Competition 2025

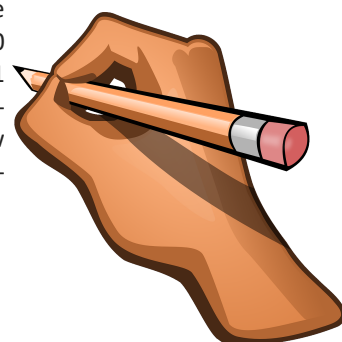
**Supported by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival* on the theme of *Edges***

Do you write poetry or prose? Would you like to read your work at *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival* in October? The 2025 Gloucestershire Writers' Network Competition is now open for all writers of poetry and prose aged 16 and over, who live, work or study in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. This year our theme is Edges.

There are two prizes of £200 for the best poem (up to 50 lines) and for the best piece of prose (up to 750 words) and six runner-up prizes. The winners and runners-up will be invited to read at the Gloucestershire Writers' Network Prize Winners event at the Festival this October. Their work will be published in our competition anthology including that of the Highly Commended.

This year we have introduced a new prize of £50 for the best poem in the 16 – 18 category. Entrants' work will also be entered into the main category. The prize-winning poet will have the chance to read at the Festival too.

This year's theme is *Edges* which you can explore as widely as you like. The judges are Kate Potts for poetry and Jamila Gavin for prose. It costs £3.50 for one entry, £6.00 for two and £8.00 for three. The closing date is 31 May 2025. For further information, including tips about 'How to get started', go to our website [www.gloswriters.org.uk](http://www.gloswriters.org.uk)



## Cotswold Youth Theatre

### What's On This Term?

This time of year is a little quieter at **Cotswold Youth Theatre**, with all our groups deep in rehearsals for their exciting **Summer Productions and LAMDA exams**. So, what better time to give you a recap of the fantastic drama groups we currently offer and share a few highlights from past performances? Enjoy!

#### Youth Theatre Groups

##### **Shooting Stars** (Ages 7-8)

Mondays, 3:15 – 4:00 PM – Bourton Primary School

*New class starting after half term!* These budding performers will be bringing **Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*** to life this summer. **Limited spaces available!**

##### **Bright Stars** (Ages 4-7) – *For our Home-Ed Community*

Tuesdays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | The Victoria Hall

A creative mix of **arts, crafts, song, and role-play**, guided by a theme chosen by the children each week. **Limited spaces available!**

##### **Shining Stars** (Ages 8-9)

Tuesdays, 3:15 – 4:00 PM | Bourton Primary School

This fantastic group is **rehearsing *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*** for their Summer production and working towards their **first LAMDA exams**. *Currently full – waiting list only.*

##### **Star Chasers** (Ages 10-12)

Wednesdays, 5:00 – 6:00 PM | Bourton Primary School

Rehearsing a specially commissioned **Macbeth performance** for summer, alongside their **LAMDA exams**. *Currently full – waiting list only.*

##### **Stage Masters** (Ages 13-16)

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM | Bourton Primary School

Our senior group is preparing **'After Juliet'**, a play exploring

what happens after Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. We hope to perform **outdoors this summer – watch this space for ticket info!** Members are also working towards **LAMDA Shakespeare, devising, and acting exams**. *Currently full – waiting list only.*

**Starstruck Crew** (Ages 10-17) – *For our Home-Ed Community*  
Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM | The Victoria Hall

This incredible group is devising their own play, **'Finding the Meaning'**, to be performed in Bourton and at the Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival in May. Members are also working towards their Silver Arts Award and LAMDA Acting & Public Speaking exams. Limited availability!

#### **New Classes Starting in March!**

**Longworth Village Hall** – *For our Home-Ed Community*

**Spotlight Squad, Cosmic Crew, and Twinkle Troupe** (Ages 4-17) – *Now open for booking!*

#### **Want to Get Involved?**

For more details or to **book a taster session**, visit [www.cotswoldyouththeatre.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldyouththeatre.co.uk) or scan the QR code to jump straight to our booking page.

The 'Not So Youth' Drama & Theatre Group – A Fun, Friendly Space for Adults!

Looking for a relaxed, welcoming space to explore drama without the pressure of performing? Whether you're a theatre lover, curious about acting, or just fancy a creative midweek break, our 'Not So Youth' Drama & Theatre Group is for you!  
Wednesdays, 12:30 – 1:30 PM

Victoria Hall. Pay-what-you-can (includes tea & homemade cake!)

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

or call **07944 558732**

**Sarah Dowie**



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TEA & CAKE

STARTING 26TH FEBRUARY

EVERY WEDNESDAY 12.30 - 1.30PM

VICTORIA HALL BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER

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## Photos from Cotswold Youth Theatre Recent Productions



Zena the Barber and Hairstylist.



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

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



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### Bourton Vale Horticultural Society Your friendly garden club

Well it hasn't got any better has it? Dull, grey, wet, cold – but spring is really trying with snowdrops shooting up everywhere and hellebores putting on a lovely show and even a few primroses appearing.

Our speaker at our February meeting was Mandy Bradshaw a journalist for many years writing articles for Cotswold Life on Cotswold Gardens. Her topic for us was "Through the Garden Gate – Cotswold Gardens" and, Mandy who is also a photographer, supported her excellent talk with some beautiful slides.

She introduced us to many gardens, some well-known and some new to us. From Highnam Court with 40 acres and 3 lakes to a small semi-detached house in Cirencester where the owner had over 400 day lilies. In between we visited the formal gardens of Stowell Park to informal planting at Astall Manor designed by the Bannermans who also worked at Highgrove. The Walled Garden in Worcester had been abandoned for 50 years but is now a famous herb garden planted on the Victorian footprint. In Evesham, Harolds Hardy Plants a nursery and garden was created by two sisters (a teacher and a nurse) from an acre of wasteland. There were also gardens created around some businesses – Reed Training Company in Long Compton, and hotels - Barnsley House (now The Pig hotel) and Whately Manor nr Westonbirt and even a Wildlife Park at Burford where the planting often matched the homeland of the animals, so lots of tropical plants.

Our competition for a small display of snowdrops was won by Sue Davis.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 starting as usual at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church Hall in Bourton when our speaker will be Ian Sadler talking about Formative, Restrictive or Renovation Pruning. The competition will be "Flowers in my Garden".



Happy Gardening  
**Sheila Thorpe,**  
07973 391741,

[sheila@bobblefarm.co.uk](mailto:sheila@bobblefarm.co.uk)



### Yvonne Finch - dearly beloved wife, mother, granny and great granny

I would like to send my sincere thanks and gratitude for the many touching cards I received, your prayers, and to everyone who attended Yvonne's funeral on Monday 3rd February at the Baptist Church to celebrate her life with me and my family.

It was a beautiful service, compassionately conducted by Sue Woodley, minister, and was befitting to my darling wife of almost sixty five years. A huge thank you to you Sue, and to everyone else in the Church family for their help.

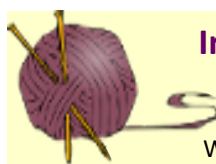
My gratitude also goes to Julie L, Julie D and Zenta for their outstanding care to Yvonne in her later life.

I would like to thank W J Wright, Funeral Directors, for their kind, respectful and professional manner throughout, it was greatly appreciated.

Donations from Yvonne's funeral are due to be split between the UK Sepsis Trust and Bourton Baptist Church. Thank you to all of you who have kindly given.

I am extremely grateful to you all for your support and kindness shown to me and my family.

Thank you. **John Finch**



### 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





## Conigers Footpath Gets a Much-Needed Upgrade



The Conigers footpath has recently been improved with crushed stone to tackle muddy sections. Nine large bags of stone, purchased by the Parish Council, were transported from Pock Hill Lane across the field to the footpath, using Hacklings' Telehandler at no charge.

In January, on two mornings, a team of Cotswold Voluntary Wardens from Bourton, along with volunteers from Broadway and a Parish Council representative, spent several hours barrowing and spreading the stone over the worst muddy stretches. The effort has made the path more accessible, and it is hoped to add more stone in future as weather and funding allow.

This community initiative shows how local collaboration can make a real difference in maintaining public spaces. A big thank you to all those involved.

**Andy Roberts**

## Bourton Rovers

### Sunnier times ahead!



With Spring just around the corner, it's time for a collective sigh of relief – the long, cold nights are behind us, and the final stretch of the season is ahead! For the Witney team, there's still more action to come, as their season will carry on into late March, while the Hellenic league winds down.

Looking back on the winter months, it's clear how much our dedicated committee does to keep things running smoothly. As we've lost a few members recently and our team is already stretched thin, we're reaching out to our local community for support!

Can you spare a bit of time to help your local football club? We're on the lookout for volunteers in a few areas:

- **Maintenance** – Simple tasks like fixing things, painting, and keeping everything in tip-top shape.
- **Football Secretary** – Keeping in touch with the league, registering players, and dealing with queries.
- **Club Admin** – From taking meeting minutes to managing insurance documents and planning events, there's plenty to get involved with.
- **Hospitality** – After each game (Hellenic, Witney league, or U18s), we need to provide food. If you can help out for a couple of hours on a Saturday or Tuesday, we'd be grateful!

There are plenty more roles our small committee takes on, and we could really use some extra hands. Even just an hour a week would be a huge help. If you're interested in getting involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Let's keep Bourton Rovers a thriving hub for football lovers of all ages!

Call me! Your Club needs you! **Catherine 07889 694545**



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## Online Charity Auction Make your Bid

This year is the 60th anniversary of North Cotswolds Rotary. Since 1965 we have been serving the local community. Part of our year of celebrations, is an online auction held between 5th and 21st April 2025. We hope you will consider contributing lots for this special occasion; and we encourage you to get online and put those bids in for the numerous exciting prizes we will have on offer. At the time of writing, a couple of examples of the lots are a week's rental of a studio apartment on the beautiful Caribbean island of Saint Maarten and a morning on the gallops of Richard Phillip's racing stables in Adlestrop with a tour of the stables and refreshments and breakfast for 4 people. By the time the auction opens there will be a wide selection of amazing lots to choose from.

Over the years, Rotary has undertaken numerous projects and innovations and raising thousands of pounds to help with local and international initiatives. Funds from this auction will, once again, benefit our local charities and organisations through our Helping Hand grants.

The Helping Hand project, is a small grants scheme set-up by North Cotswolds Rotary which allows local organisations to bid for grants up to £500, to enable them to develop projects which otherwise they could not afford.

Any donations of prizes/lots should be sent to [kevan12taylor@gmail.com](mailto:kevan12taylor@gmail.com). Any bids should be made on <https://galabid.com/eastercharityauction> between 5th and 21st April 2025. So go on, get involved, make a bid and see what you can win!

**John Barber**



## Easter Charity Auction

**Place your bid at**  
<https://galabid.com/eastercharityauction>  
**Opens: April 5th 2025**  
**Until: April 21st 2025**  
**BIDDING CLOSSES AT 23:55**

*PRIZES TO BE BID FOR INCLUDE:*  
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**HELPING HAND**  
**COMMUNITY GRANTS**

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## Bourton-on-the-Water WI



Members of Bourton WI stretched and bent as teacher Fran Kirk eased us into the gentle art of Chair Yoga.

Everyone felt quite chilled and relaxed at the end of the session and we were ready to celebrate the 90th birthday of member Jean who was sporting a tiara and a sash in keeping with her elevated status. President Victoria produced a cake plus "a few" candles and a bottle of Prosecco to finish off the evening in style for Jean.

**June Renshaw**



## 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](mailto: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  
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## Have You Ever Considered a Tour?

### Here's Why It Might Be the Perfect Trip for You!

Choosing the right type of travel can make all the difference in your experience, and one benefit is that tours will save you a lot (and I mean, a lot!) of time researching your destination. A tour will have your transport, accommodation, some of your sightseeing, and even restaurants lined up for you – So definitely one to consider! Whether you prefer the exclusivity of a private tour, the camaraderie of a group, or the balance of a small group tour, each option has its own benefits.

**Private Tours** For travellers who want flexibility and a personalised experience, private tours are the way to go. You'll have a guide dedicated to just you (or your travel companions), allowing for a customised itinerary and the ability to travel at your own pace. These are perfect for special occasions, families, or those with specific interests. However, they tend to be the most expensive option!

**Group Tours** Group tours are great for those who enjoy meeting new people and want a structured, hassle-free experience. These tours usually follow a set itinerary with a larger number of travellers, often making them the most budget-friendly option.

**Small Group Tours** If you're looking for something in between, small group tours are a fantastic choice. Typically limited to around 10–15 people, offering a more intimate experience while still benefiting from the ease of a guided tour. You'll get to explore with like-minded travellers, enjoy more unique accommodations, and have greater access to off-the-beaten-path experiences.

Finding the right tour can be overwhelming! A good travel agent can help match you with the perfect experience based on your travel style, budget, and interests, ensuring a trip that's both seamless and memorable - Adventure Awaits! **Catherine**



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Our First 'IN STEAM EVENT' at Combe Mill, Sun 16th March 2025. Themed 'Change & Adapt', supporting the British Science Week. See how technology has changed with a display of items from the 1950s to 2025.

Do you remember? Can you keep up? Where is it going? There has been a rapid explosion in some aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, examples of games, communication, electronics, music, domestic appliances, phones, medicine, and more will be on display.

Bring the children along to enjoy the revamped 'tinkering area', lots to do and see.

Browse the Gift Shop, BBQ and Tea Room also open. Accompanied by Spring Market Stalls.

Combe Mill is a Late 19th Century Grade 11 listed Watermill, which in its day, was the workshop for Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode. With Steam Beam Engine, Restored Waterwheel, Line Shafting, Collection of Towers Clocks, and all machinery running as used in its day. Make a poker in our Dual Blacksmiths' Forge and much more.

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

**Open:** 10.30am to 4.30pm

**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. Tea room also open drop in for a cuppa and piece of cake. **Admission:-** Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, Children FREE. **Open:-** 10.30am to 3.30pm

Contact:- Combe Mill Society, 01993 358694.

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

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**COTSWOLDS RADIO**  
BORN TO BE HERD

### It's Cotswolds Radio's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

It's hard to believe it's been five years since we first went on air from a humble cellar setup, with the simple aim of keeping our community connected and entertained during lockdown. Since then, Cotswolds Radio has grown into a vibrant station that broadcasts over 30 live shows from our dedicated studio at The Old Prison, supports more than 45 volunteer presenters, and is committed to making a difference in the Cotswolds.

We're really proud of our diversity of programming and local interest. We start every weekday with a lively Breakfast Show, with different hosts each day and we're building up our Drivetime shows. We broadcast a wide range of music shows – whether you're into Soul and Ska, Rock, Blues, Jazz, Indie, Britpop, Prog, Americana, The 80s or really enjoy a Party Mix – you should find music you'll enjoy curated by enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenters. We also champion new and local musicians with our live music show "Live in the Lockup". If you're more into talk radio, we cater for all kinds of interests: Saturday Sports Desk; Culture Club for theatre, books, films and art from the Cotswolds and further afield; Beauty and Holistics; Living a Colourful Life interiors; Cotswolds Tastes featuring local food; Afternoon Live; Cotswolds Women; Business Forum; the Money Show; Community Action Waves; Let's Talk Love and more.

We're always looking for new ideas, so if you have an interest you'd like to share get in touch – maybe you're into gardening, local history, fitness or travel. You might like to be a guest on one of our shows or present a show yourself. We provide full training and lots of encouragement.

Pictured here are just a few of our volunteers, including our founders Richard and Keith Blundell. We're a friendly bunch so if you'd like to join us you can message using our app, WhatsApp on 07824 368947 or email [contact@cotswoldsradio.com](mailto:contact@cotswoldsradio.com).



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### Bourton Probus Club

At our AGM on 27th January, our current committee was re-elected en bloc, with Ian Leppingwell remaining as Chair. For several members this was going to be their last year on the committee and an appeal was made for new volunteers.



On 10th February we had a talk on "The Rise, Fall, and Rise of the English Country House" by John Hancock. He started in Tudor times, with the dissolution of the monasteries and gifts of houses made by the monks, and then moved to the Golden Age in the 18th and 20th centuries until 1914. He gave us examples of several days visiting, with favourite games, shooting, parties and walks. During the 1st world war many country houses were used as hospitals and convalescent homes. After the war several hundred country houses were pulled down or had major parts destroyed, representing a major fall. Again during the 2nd world war country houses were used as hospitals and some had other uses, such as Bletchley Park and the Enigma code. Some were used as luxurious prisoner of war residences for senior German captives (where they were spied on for any relevant war information!). After the 2nd world war many became hotels and conference centres, or apartments. Some were saved by films and television, notably Highclere Castle used in 'Downton Abbey'. All in all, a fascinating and well received talk.

Bourton Probus Club is designed for retired men and women who are interested in a variety of talks and social events. If you are interested in joining us, either come to one of our meetings as advertised on the diary pages, or contact our secretary Kevin Hick on 01451860435.

**Roger Harris**



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## Bourton Roadrunners

One of the highlights of this weekend for Bourton Roadrunners was the **club's four-stage relay race**, starting and finishing at the beautiful village of Condicote in the north Cotswolds.



Alex Pye at the club relay, Condicote



John Conway at the club relay, Condicote

There were 50 members organised into 13 teams, with each runner covering two one-mile loops around the surrounding countryside. Whilst the event was held as part of the club's own competition series, with times translating into points, the wider aim was to provide an event to enable runners of all abilities to race alongside and support each other. Members were also keen to support the **Cotswold Food Bank** by donating items of need, and the response was outstanding.

Whilst there were many notable performances, including Alex Pye having the fastest overall time of 11 minutes and two seconds, and Steph Lane the fastest lady in 11:32, each and every runner added something special to the mix. John Conway, who

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joined the club through its couch-to-5k program, gave a true-grit performance, acknowledging the support on his way round. As did new member Dorcas Guillebaud, running in her first club event. And there was still an opportunity for the father and son rivalry between Dougal Hamilton-Smith (11:58) and his father Craig (12:09), with youth just having the edge in the final sprint for the line.

The day before, Kevin Goodwill had also run in the **Birmingham League Cross Country** at Wolverhampton. Kevin was impressed by the sheer quality of the field and said that the course was "crazy tough", but he was still pleased with his time of 45 minutes and 22 seconds for this demanding 6.1 mile race.

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## Spring's Treasures

Spring brings its green gold rush  
On every tree, hedge, plant and bush.  
Heralded by no finer pearl earring  
Than snow drops on first appearing.  
Nor can jewels sully the sight  
Of crocuses purple, yellow and white;  
What rarer gold in the ground  
Than where daffodils are found?  
And what emeralds compare  
With buds bursting out everywhere?  
Or the cut, clarity and colour  
Of tulips in perfect, peerless splendour.  
And before the sun, the river responds,  
Twinkling and darting in diamonds.  
Best of all, whenever we see  
Spring's treasures, they're offered free.  
Hugh O'Connell

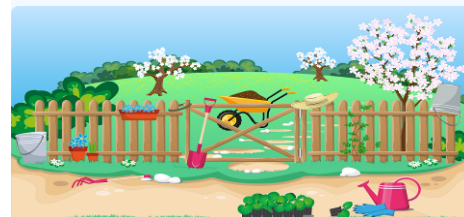
## Multistory Theatre Company presents LAST DANCE SALOON

Westcote Village Hall, Friday  
14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

Two people of a certain age meet at a dance retreat in Buenos Aires. Their passion smoulders, this was meant to be. But one has work and family ties in South America, the other in North Devon. They settle into a long-distance relationship, fuelled by regular tango sessions in Argentina that include unexpected flights of the imagination. And then one of them weighs the ecological consequences ....  
Suitable for adults and age 14+  
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Lighter nights draw in  
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Carol Groom



## Dementia Friendly Cafe

Well the new year is certainly motoring ! The daffs are showing as we look at plans for outings later this year.

On Valentine's day we had a competition for songs and films with LOVE in the title and we laughed at how many we could remember. We have speakers coming about safety in the home and keeping healthy. Do come and join us on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at St Lawrence's and feel supported with a chat and a coffee.

Bill Wragge

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Please call me, Lisa,  
with any enquiries on:  
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## LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

for amendments, team@bourtonbrower.co.uk 01451 822431

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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	www.bourtontennisclub.org	
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OPEN 4U	Barbara Newstead	01451 824225
Panto Group	Angela Layton	01451 821344.
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Royal British Legion Bourton	Bill McKenzie	01451 824303
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Scottish Dancing Group	Christine Bucknall	01993 830760
	Bucknallce@gmail.com	
Short Led Walks	Carol Price	01451 810305
Stay strong & Steady	Cally Maxwell	07957 546 067
	cotswoldactivehealth@gmail.com	
Stow Textile Group	Julie Smith	01608 651006
T'ai Chi	Valerie Ward	07779 746346
u3a Bourton & District	www.bourton.u3asite.uk	
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	membership@4ssc.uk.uk



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### The Bourton Brower

is printed by Peter Dunford,

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

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**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  
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anything of a defamatory or controver-  
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We have a limit of 300 words per arti-  
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If your contact details appear in the  
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## Bourton Panto Group

SO many "thank you's"! First of all,  
thank you to Emily who wrote last  
month's article, taking a job off my list at a very busy  
moment! Next "Thank you" to ALL those who sup-  
ported BPG by coming to the Victoria Hall at the end  
of January to see our pantomime, "Aladdin and Aba-  
nazer". We are delighted with the positive and gen-  
erous responses from our audiences over the five  
performances, which encourages us to bring you an-  
other.....Oh yes it does!

Thank you to our cast and all those behind the  
scenes, but also to the small army of volunteers who  
turn up when asked, to help people to their seats, sell  
programmes, take drinks orders, offer raffle tickets,  
make refreshments for cast and crew, apply copious amounts of make up to the play-  
ers and so on! Then when the  
curtain falls on the last night,  
"thank you" extends to a "take  
down gang" of numerous gents,  
some of whom had been part of  
the final audience, who swiftly  
return the auditorium to a village  
hall!



Ladders are utilised on stage to  
remove sound cables and the  
lighting desk is stashed away until  
required again. Downstairs, cos-  
tumes are sorted and bagged  
ready for laundering and wigs set aside to be washed  
and re-coiffured! Next week the Committee get to-  
gether for the usual monthly meeting and the panto-  
mime will be discussed briefly before the cogs start  
whirring, various scripts read and one chosen. Whoever  
directs can then begin their journey towards a new pro-  
duction! In the meantime, the group will prepare to  
raise funds throughout the summer to stage the next  
show. Fancy being part of this village institution? Con-  
tact us via our website, by email, Facebook, or even by  
good old fashioned telephone! Chairperson: Angela  
01451 821344

**Ann Chapman**



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