

BOURTON BROWSER



ISSUE NO. 323

www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk

March 2026

DIARY DATES

- 2nd, 16th & 30th Mindsong, Sing 2 Remember **GMCC**, 10.30am & 2.30pm. 07764 212506 or 01451 821216.
- 2nd -7th British Pie Week at the Old New Inn. Special menu. See advert page 3.
- 4th Sight Loss Advice Hub, **GMCC**, drop in 1-2pm, join social group 2-4pm. Call 01242 221170, or email info@insight-glos.org.uk
- 4th Parish Council Meeting, 7pm, **GMCC**. All Welcome.
- 9th Probus, 10am, **GMCC**, "The Sinking of the Suevic" by Gaden Bartholomew. Open meeting. See page 12.
- 10th WI, **VH**, 7pm. 'Air Ambulance'. See page 2.
- 11th Charity Knitting Circle, **WP**, 10am-12pm. See page 5.
- 11th & 25th Bourton Community Day Club, 10.30am - 2.30pm, **MC**, GL54 2HE. 01608 652019.
- 11th u3a Scrabble, **GMCC**. 2-4pm. 07341 094206. peterdawson790@icloud.com
- 11th Horticultural Club, **BCH**, 7.30pm, Vanessa Berridge talking about 'Kiftsgate'. See page 12.
- 13th & 27th Dementia Friendly Cafe, **StLC**, 2-4pm, 07746 672726. See page 12.
- 15th Mother's Day, special menu at the Old New Inn, See advert page 3.
- 16th Rural Cinema, Downton Abbey - The Grand Finale, Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery, 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 News

News from the Parish Council – March 2026

There was no full Parish Council meeting in February but here is an overview of the many projects that have been progressed over the month:

Additional Coach Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO): At an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 9th February it was agreed to put forward a request to Gloucestershire County Council Highways to introduce an Experimental Traffic Regulation order (ETRO) to restrict coach access **from the Fosseyway onto Station Road, Rissington Road and The Steeps but to allow turning right from Meadow Way onto Station Road to the Fosseyway.** We await feedback on this request.

In mid-February, GCC Highways met with the Parish Council and other stakeholders to gather feedback on the **ETRO relating to coach pick-up and drop-off arrangements at Meadow Way.** The scheme was reviewed at the three-month point from implementation, and a further review is scheduled for May, marking six months of the trial. Coach operators will be reminded of the coach drop off arrangements for the coming season. The Police have advised that they will operate a zero-tolerance policy to infringement of the existing village centre TRO in the High Street. Please continue to send positive and negative feedback on the Meadow Way ETRO to the email address troconsultation@gloucestershire.gov.uk as this is a statutory process.

Initial discussions have taken place on a Gloucestershire County Council-led project to run a **Rural Mobility Pilot.** This project aims to support the local community, improve safety and reduce congestion caused by high visitor demand. It is early stage, but if the project goes ahead this could mark a turning point in how we understand and plan for visitor and traffic patterns in the village.

Gloucestershire Highways are also working with Parish Council to progress **bus interchange improvements** in the village centre, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Our grounds maintenance contractor has completed the Tourist Levy funded **re-turfing and re-seeding of the Village Green** in time for the spring season. The Village Green railings will be removed at the end of March by which time we hope the grass will have started to become established.

Live Streaming of meetings: We are eagerly anticipating the installation of a new audio-visual system for use in our meeting rooms. This will enable Parish Council meetings to be live-streamed so they can be attended on-line by members of the public. Joining instructions will be added to agendas once the system is in place.

In addition to the above, we will be installing **acoustic panels** in the Windrush Room to improve the experience of meeting attendees. This was funded by Gloucestershire County Council's Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund, as

Continued on page 2, column 2

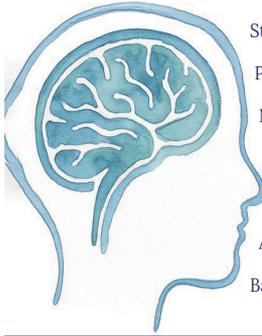
The *Bourton Browser* is run by volunteers & delivered monthly FREE to every household in the Village.

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 15th March**

Cotswold Neuro Rehab



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Neuropathies
Brain Injury
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www.cotswoldneurorehab.com
for more information or support with your recovery, please email martha@cotswoldneurorehab.com



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Continued from page 1 column 1

- 7.30pm. See page 13.
20th Police Point, **GMCC**, 10-11am.
www.gloucestershire.police.uk
23rd Probus, 10am, **GMCC**, "I met Rasputin's Killer" by Maria Marsha. See page 12.
25th u3a, **BLH**, 10am-12noon, £2pp. Alan Rogers MBE, 'His life & work Warwickshire Police Force'. See page 3. www.bourton.u3asite.uk.
25th Annual Parish Meeting, **GMCC**, 7pm. All welcome.
26th Book Club Bourton Book Club meeting, 7pm. The Old New Inn. csandles75@gmail.com
28th-29th Gift Fair, **VC**, 10am-5pm. All welcome. Details 07832 195427.
29th Farmers Market, **BLH** Car Park, GL54 2AR. 8.30am-12.30pm 07980 080073.
29th Clocks go forward 1 hour.

Regular Weekly Bourton Events

- Mon. "Old Sweats" Meeting, **BLH**, 10am—12 Noon, 07714 852364
bourton.secretary@rbl.community
Mon & 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
Mon. & Fri. Cotswold Yoga, **VH**, Mon 10-11am, Fri 5-6pm, 07490858775.
Tue. Drop in Digital Help Group, **GMCC**, 10.30am-12.30pm. 07707 281803.
Tues. "Together on Tuesdays", soup lunch, **StLc**, 12-2pm.
Thurs. Flexercise, **BLH**, 10-11am. 01993 882350 kathy.kirk@live.com

Continued from page 1, column 2

supported by County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, for which we are extremely grateful.

At a recent meeting, the Parish Council approved plans by **Bourton Road Runners for the Bourton Mile event** on 8th May 2026.

A vacant plot is available at the **Springvale allotments site** so please contact Joanna Herbert, Assistant Clerk at assistant.clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk if you would like to take this on for the coming season.

There is free **defibrillator awareness training** by the South Western Ambulance Service at 6.30pm on 24th March at Upper Rissington Village Hall. Please email hurricaneclosemanco@gmail.com to book.

Next Council Meeting
7pm, Wednesday 4th March 2026
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Windrush Room,
George Moore Community Centre
7pm, Wednesday 25th March 2026
Annual Parish Meeting

Windrush Room, George Moore Community Centre This is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting of the parish when all are welcome to attend to hear updates on the year's activities from local groups and organisations and the Parish Council. Refreshments will be available.

Full meeting calendar:
www.bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk/the-council/meeting-calendar
Contact Clerk: Sharon Henley
clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk
01451 820712

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Bourton WI

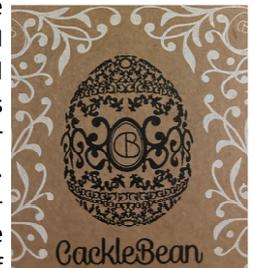
Bourton WI were entertained by BUGS on Tuesday. No, not creepy crawlies, the Bourton Ukulele Group led by Myra.

The group played their ukuleles and WI members sang along.

After being entertained we had to work and we were all instructed in basic ukulele finger positions, not easy!

But we all managed to strum.

Earlier in the month several WI members visited CackleBean Eggs for a guided tour around the farm. We were introduced to the hens and some of



them reminded me of the characters in Chicken Run. You could just imagine them discussing us amongst themselves! Paddy, the owner, is very passionate about his egg production and the welfare of his hens.

We left the farm and some of us went for lunch before going home.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Victoria Hall, new members always welcome.

The next speaker will be from the Air Ambulance.

For more information contact the President Victoria Jackson on 075496 40492.

June Renshaw

**Bourton Residents' Voice:
Now Is the Time to Shape Bourton's Future**

Bourton Residents' Voice welcomes the Parish Council's decision to seek a trial of coach access restrictions into Station Road via the Fosseyway, Rissington Road and The Steeps through an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order. This reflects what many people in the village have been saying for a long time – that traffic pressures need to be better managed if Bourton is to remain a thriving community.

The strong turnout at our public meeting last November showed how much local knowledge and commitment exists across the village. Residents spoke clearly and constructively about the realities of congestion, safety concerns and the wider pressures created by very high visitor numbers. It demonstrated that when residents come together, their voices carry real weight.

But this is only the beginning. A trial scheme will provide useful evidence, but longer-term solutions will depend on continued community involvement. Decisions about the future of Bourton should not happen around residents – they must happen with residents.

Bourton is first and foremost a community where people live and work. Tourism will always be part of the picture, but it must be managed in a way that is sustainable for residents, services and the village environment. Achieving that will require ideas, participation and constructive challenge from across the community.

We are therefore encouraging residents not to sit back and assume the work is done. Please get involved. Attend meetings. Share your experiences. Put forward solutions. Support initiatives that aim to create a sustainable future for the village.

Real change happens when communities stay engaged. The momentum is there – now is the time to build on it together.

Bourton Residents' Voice Steering Group
bourtonresidentsvoice@gmail.com

*Probably the largest club in the area
(Approximately 300 members)!!*

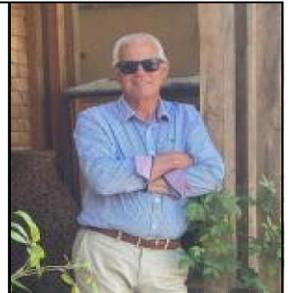
Have you recently retired and / or moved to the area? Are you looking for new friends? Are you interested in *any* of the following?

We neither require nor give any qualifications

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

**Our next General Meeting,
held in the
Royal British Legion Hall in
Bourton-on-the-Water, is on
Wednesday 25th March 2026
from 10am to 12 noon**

We're pleased to welcome
Alan Rogers, MBE,
as our guest speaker
who focusses on his, often
humorous, life and work within
Warwickshire Police over his 33
year career.



**Everyone welcome
(Entry £2)**

For more details on all these topics, please go to:

www.bourton.u3asite.uk

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Make your Bank Holiday the best one yet at The Old New Inn!

🍷 Special Wine Dinner 🍷

Join us on Thursday 2nd April for an incredible evening of wine and food. Our chefs have put together a wonderful 4 course menu, and Neil from Oxford Wines has perfectly paired a wine for you to enjoy with each course, all for just £60 per person. Booking required, more information on can be found on our website.

🎸 Bank Holiday Sunday Sessions Are Back 🎸

Our live music sessions kick off on Sunday 5th April this year. We're welcoming the amazing acoustic sounds of Josh Brown. Enjoy a great atmosphere, live music and street food. No booking required, more details can be found on our website.

01451 820467
enquiries@theoldnewinn.co.uk
www.theoldnewinn.co.uk/events-and-offers

More Info 

OUT AND ABOUT in March

Mondays - Northleach Bridge Club, Cotswold Hall, Northleach, 7:15pm. Contact northleachbridgeclub@gmail.com

10th-13th Cheltenham Festival Horse Racing, GL50 4SH
www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/cheltenham-festival/

12th Gary Fletcher Band (Blues), Merrymouth Inn, Stow Rd, OX7 6HR. www.cotswoldmerrymouth.co.uk 01993 256620. See advert at foot of column.

14th First Village Market of the year, Great Rissington Club. 10am till noon. Do come & join us, enjoy our bacon baps & coffee, visit all our usual stalls. Looking forward to seeing you. Jackie Palmer, 01451 822285.

14th-15th Mother's Day at Chedworth Roman Villa, NT, Yanworth, Chedworth, GL54 3LJ. Learn about the lives of Roman women, including hair, beauty & fashion.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/

14th-15th Mother's Day at Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, GL54 5LP. Entry includes short talks on Katherine Parr & on 15th mothers will receive free posy & cupcake.
www.sudeleycastle.co.uk/

14th-15th 'Mums go free at Cotswolds Farm Park' (with paying child or adult, must pre-book on-line). Guiting Power, GL54 5FL. 01451 850307. www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

15th 'In Steam' Event, Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, OX29 8ET. Revamped 'tinkering area' Tea Room, & BBQ. 10.30am-4pm. Dogs welcome. Free parking. Adults £9.50, Concessions £8.50, Children Free. 01993 358694. www.combemill.org See page 17.

20th Rissingtons Local History Society, "Bletchley Park and the Enigma Machine" by John McCormack. 7.30pm, Village Hall, Upper Rissington GL54 2QW. Visitors Welcome £3.50 to include refreshments. Enquiries, Kate O'Brien 07815 606770 /information.RLHS@gmail.com

27th Live Music from Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell, Westcote Village Hall, 7.30pm, High energy folk duo, vocals, fiddle, guitar and foot percussion! Tickets £16 from 07834 493637 or westcote.bookings@gmail.com

28th-12th April 'Mosaic Madness', Chedworth Roman Villa, NT, Yanworth, Chedworth, GL54 3LJ. A series of activities focused on the art and design of Roman mosaics, & Easter Egg Trail. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

28th-12th April 'Easter on the Farm, Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power, GL54 5FL. See the new born lambs & goat kids & take part in Easter Egg Hunt. 01451 850307.
www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk



FOR SALE / WANTED ITEMS



To advertise items such as Household items, Toys, Garden Equipment etc, complete the contact form on the "Get in Touch" tab.

The advert should be no more than 15 words. It must be received **before 12 noon on the 15th of the month.**

No commercial adverts accepted for this section.

For Sale

Apex Lite Motor Scooter
Very Good Condition.
£200.00
07591 234450

For Sale

Britax Romer kids car seat.
v clean;
£10. 07850 700076.
Email images
/more info on request

Item Sold

The Charity Knitting Circle

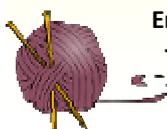
The Charity Knitting Circle will still be meeting at Willoughby Place, Bourton-on-the-Water on the second Wednesday each month from 10am until Noon.

Come along and enjoy a cup of Coffee/Tea and Biscuits.

Knitted items still needed for charities, Peter will pick things up from Willoughby Place.

Email: peterdboxall@gmail.com.

Thank you, Irene and Peter



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Cotswold Blues Club

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Live Events for 2026

All Welcome

12th Mar - Gary Fletcher Band (Blues)

21st May - Teed Up (Blues)

11th June - Guy Tortora Band

17th Sept - Cadillac Kings (R&R/Blues)

17th Sept - The Bluescasters (Blues)

15th Oct - Split Whiskers (Blues)

26th Nov - Cadillac Kings (R&R/Blues)

Tickets £12.50 online £15 on door

Doors open 6pm for Food & Drink, music starts at 7.30pm

★ 17th Dec - Christmas Party ★

with The Backbone Blues Band

Why not book our beautiful venue for your party, anniversary or function

Licensed Bar - Seats 70-100

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See website for details & booking

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Bourton Browser Team News

Bourton Browser Tea Party 2026: If you are one of our deliverers, please save the date, 11th May. You will receive an invitation with your April Bourton Browsers (at the end of March).

Thank you: We would like to say a big thank you to Maxine Rhodes, who has been one of our deliverers in 'the Birds' area. Maxine has retired due to other personal commitments.

New Deliverer Needed: We are looking for a volunteer to deliver 54 copies of the Bourton Browser in 'the Birds' area, (Warbler Drive, Blackbird Close, Magpie Place, Osprey Close and some on Skylark and Swallow Roads). You don't have to live in one of these roads to volunteer. The delivery usually takes place in the last week of the month. If you can help or would like more information, please see email address below or call 01451 822431.

Articles: We welcome articles, letters, poems, etc (**maximum 300 words**) & photographs, from adults, children, local community groups and businesses 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, see below.



If you are planning a **Bourton based** event, email the details to: 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.

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

www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk

The Bourton Browser Team

Bourton Roadrunners

In between the rain this weekend a few hardy Bourton Roadrunners found themselves an event that didn't succumb to the weather and travelled to Exeter on Saturday for the **Exeter Half Marathon**. Due to water-logging on part of the planned course, an eleventh-hour modification was required to provide the full 13.1 distance, leading to participants being taken along the Exeter Ship Canal over a three-lap course. This didn't distract the 500-plus runners from the task in hand, experiencing sunshine, downpours and rainbows; all part of the fun.



Louise, Lisa and Jaq at Exeter Half Marathon;

It was Jaq Underwood who led the Bourton trio home in a time of one hour, 46 minutes and 18 seconds. She was followed by in-form Lisa Braid in 1:51:33. Louise Colwyn, running with a friend, enjoyed the experience in 2:25:34.

Meanwhile, also running on Saturday, Bourton Roadrunner, Kevin Goodwill, was part of the Cheltenham & County Harriers' team that took part in this weekend's **Birmingham Cross Country League** race at Plock Court, Gloucester. Despite the wet conditions, Kevin completed the 6.4 mile course in a time of 49 minutes and 8 seconds, finishing 131st, but helping the team secure promotion to Division One for next season.

Kevin Goodwill at Birmingham Cross Country League.



Of course no weekend would be complete without a **Parkrun**, and this weekend Bourton Roadrunners found few events that survived the rain and joined in at the following venues:

Chipping Norton School: Rebecca Townsend - 23:40 (1st Female and SW25/1), Louise Townsend - 32:25.

Pittville Park, Cheltenham: Chris Dry - 31:40.

Seven Fields, Swindon: Liz Hulcup - 29:57 (VW70/1), Linda Edwards - 30:39 (VW60/2).

Louise, Gillian and John

Gloucestershire Writers Network

COMPETITION

2026

Theme

ISLANDS

Opens 1 Jan 2026
Closes 31 May 2026

Prizes! Winners read at the
Times & Sunday Times
Cheltenham Literature
Festival

Information



Photo by Ahmed Yaaniu on Unsplash



Help Us Celebrate 30 Years of Kate's Home Nursing

This year marks a very special milestone for Kate's Home Nursing, as we celebrate 30 years of providing registered nursing hospice care at home across the North Cotswolds. For three decades, our dedicated team has supported patients and their families at the end of their lives, helping people remain at home, surrounded by those who are important to them.

To celebrate our 30th anniversary year, we have an exciting programme of fundraising events planned throughout 2026, and we would love our communities to be involved.

Our events begin with a Lent Lunch on Friday 27th March. Then, our much-loved Charity Golf Day takes place on Friday 26th June, with a Texas Scramble competition, great food, prizes, and an auction. We have some corporate sponsorship opportunities available for this day, so we urge local companies to get in touch if they would like to sponsor a hole for £100. In return, we can offer visibility on the day and promotion on our social media platforms.

Later in the year, we look forward to Nauntonbury on Saturday 18th July, as well as further events, which we are still in the planning, as well as our popular Carol Concert on Friday 11th December. Watch this space for more information.

To make these events a success, we are looking for volunteers to help support us. Whether you can spare a few hours to assist on a stall, help with set-up, serve refreshments, or support event organisation, your time would make a real difference. If you would like to volunteer and help us celebrate this special year, we would love to hear from you. Please email info@kateshomenursing.org or call us on: office: 01451 820444, mob: 07841 025909.

Together, we can ensure Kate's Home Nursing continues nursing for local people at home for many years to come.

Texas Scramble

Shotgun start from 2pm
Open to ladies and gentlemen in any combination
(max handicap - gentlemen 24 ladies 30)

THE WYCHWOOD GOLF CLUB
FRIDAY 26th JUNE 2026

In support of your local charity

KATE'S HOME NURSING

MANY GREAT PRIZES AND EXCITING CHARITY AUCTION

Entry fee £300 per team of 4 players
to include bacon roll & coffee on arrival, halfway house with refreshing Pimms and a 2 course meal

For an entry form please
contact Mike Pender Tel: 07775085431
Email: mike.pender@kateshomenursing.org
www.kateshomenursing.org (registered charity no: 1203159)

March to Nature

Snowdrops bobbing above the sodden ground,
Often in little clumps can be found.

Bleating Ewes huddled in pastures green,
Not long till their babies will be seen.

Trees slowly gathering their summer wear,
Bright and cheerful colours everywhere.

Carol Groom

STONES

Traditional handcarved sandblasted memorials

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petershaw@stonesmemorials.com
www.stonesmemorials.co.uk
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Open six days a week Mon-Fri 9am-6pm Sat 9am-5pm Sun Closed	Open six days a week Mon-Fri 9am-6pm Sat 9am-12:30pm Sun Closed

Visit our website: www.badhampharmacy.co.uk
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07712539913
joe@bennettpestcontrol.com

Message from the Church

Though the Paralympics are yet to begin, the Winter Olympics are in full flow. What an opening ceremony! So clever, colourful, polished and moving. Besides seeing all the country teams coming through the arch excited and happy, my favourite part was the speech given by the IOC President, Kirsty Coventry. She included: "In Africa, where I'm from, we have a word: ubuntu. It means: I am because we are."

"I see this spirit most clearly at the Olympic Games. Where athletes from every corner of our world compete fiercely – but also respect, support and inspire one another. They remind us that we are all connected, that our strength comes from how we treat each other, and that the best of humanity is found in courage, compassion and kindness."

Quakers hold dear to 'that of God in everyone', which leads us to know ourselves and others as part of the whole. I first met the word 'ubuntu' two years ago when the Friends (Quaker) World

Committee on Consultation World Plenary Meeting was hosted in South Africa and on line. About 500 Quakers from 53 countries attended, surrounded by worship and fellowship. The theme of this meeting was 'Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another'.

Not only in sport and religion is ubuntu being talked about, but in industry, too. A friend recently showed me a Harvard Business School newsletter from the Advanced Management Programme. The word the group had chosen to characterise itself was "ubuntu" emphasising the interconnectedness of people that's equally relevant to today's open source software.

The concept of harmony, chosen for the Olympic Games opening ceremony, purposefully conveys a universal message of peace, unity and dialogue – timely and vital in the uncertain times of today's world politics.

Myra Ford



The Benefice of Bourton with Clapton & The Rissingtons
For Pews News with info—www.bourtonparishchurch.co.uk
Email: admin@bourtonparishchurch.co.uk

All welcome on Sundays - 11am service every week

Remember – church is open and heated every day - just drop in!

Regular services: Wed. 10am - Midweek Holy Communion followed by coffee
Sun. 8am BCP Holy Communion – 8th and 22nd
Sun. 6pm Holy Communion with traditional hymns – 1st
Sun. 15th at 6pm - Contemplative Prayer - all welcome

**ALL WELCOME to a Service for Mothering Sunday on 15th March at 11am
AND on Palm Sunday - 29th March, also at 11am**

Breakfast Church - Sat. 14th March - 9am start – everyone welcome

Together on Tuesdays – Lunch Club 12-1.30pm every week – all welcome

TOAST - for primary children and carers at 3.15pm on alternate Tuesdays

BumbleBeez (parent and child group) every Thursday 9.30-11.30am

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

Morning Worship on March 1st and BCP Holy Communion on March 15th

Revd Hannah Allen 01451 822918



The Water Church/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

Communion Sunday 22nd 10.30 am

Wavemakers Children's Ministry 2nd and 4th Sundays

29th March 10.30am **Palm Sunday Service**

Cafe' Tots Every Wednesday 9.15 - 11.15am—Closed on Wednesday 4th March

Open4U Every Thursday from 10 until 4pm in the church hall

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

Our minister is also available for informal chats and prayer

Network 828 Saturday 21st March 7pm at The British Legion

Alpha Every Saturday 6pm Meal - Video - Conversation - Childcare offered

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Fr. Stephen Lambert 07836 384932

stephen.lambert@cliftondiocese.com

SERVICES MARCH and early APRIL

WEEK END MASSES: Saturday evening: Vigil Mass 6 pm. Sunday morning: 9 am Sung Mass.

WEEKDAY MASSES: At 9 am every day (no Mass Saturday mornings). Mass on Tuesdays usually takes place at St. Lawrence's Anglican Church, Bourton at 9 am. (Check with website).

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

Additional LENT, HOLY WEEK, & EASTER

Every Wednesday in Lent, (except 25th March): Stations of the Cross at 6 pm.

Wed. 25th March: Solemnity of the Annunciation, Sung Mass 6 pm. Holy Thursday 2nd April: Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30 pm, followed by watch.

Good Friday 3rd April: Good Friday Liturgy, 3 pm. Holy Saturday 4th April: Blessing of Easter Baskets, 12.30 pm; Lighting of New Fire, Easter Vigil Liturgy and First Mass of Easter, 9 pm. Easter Day 5th April Sung Mass 10.30 am

Fr. Stephen

Westcote Methodist Church

An active Fellowship meeting weekly for Sunday Worship at 11.am. Also meeting Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm in term time for Bible Study, testimonies and teas for local charities.

For more details contact Tony Gibson, **01993 830699** or

tony.cotswoldview-guesthouse.co.uk

Our website is updated monthly,

westcotemethodists.co.uk

Tony Gibson

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 SCHOOL

Oxbridge Results

We are delighted to announce that seven of our Year 13 students are currently holding offers from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, a record achievement in the 38-year history of The Cotswold School. This success reflects the students' commitment and ability, alongside the dedication and expertise of staff who have supported them. We are grateful for the encouragement of families, alumni and professionals, who gave their time to offer guidance and practice interviews.

The Addams Family

Our recent production of *The Addams Family* was a resounding success, playing to three completely sold-out performances. The atmosphere in the hall was electric, with strong support from both the school community and the wider public. The production showcased an impressive level of creativity, confidence and professionalism, with students excelling both on stage and behind the scenes.



Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to our Year 9 football team on an outstanding 3-2 comeback victory against Millfield School in the National Cup. After falling 2-0 behind early on, the boys showed superb resilience and determination to secure a deserved win and progress to the quarter-final. We are also incredibly proud of our Year 11 netball team for reaching the final six of the Sisters n Sport National Netball U16 Vase for Schools (South) competition, earning their place among the top schools in the region.

PTA Bingo Night

We look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming PTA Bingo Night on Friday 20th March, which promises to be an enjoyable evening for all.

The Cotswold School Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea will take place on Wednesday 25th March 2026, 12:00-14:00 in the hall. Free tickets for local senior citizens and carers can be booked by Wednesday 18th March by contacting **01451 820554** or Reception@thecotswoldschool.co.uk.

Keep up to date with our school news:

www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk

Will Morgan
Headteacher

Bourton Primary Academy

We have had an incredibly busy few weeks at Bourton Primary Academy from sporting events to musical enrichment to art provision. Our wonderful choir headed off to Birmingham for the Young Voices event. They took part in the biggest single children's choir in the world and loved every minute of it!



In early February, some of our Year 5/6 children were very fortunate to be invited to The Cotswold School to watch the dress rehearsal of their musical 'The Addams Family'. They were amazed by the performance and could not stop talking about it when they returned to school. We would like to thank The Cotswold School for inviting us and offering our children the opportunity to see such a wonderful show, which I am sure has inspired many to keep acting, singing and playing their instruments. The rest of Year 5/6 went to Farmor's school for a cross country event. We took 40 children to compete against the schools in our cluster and an incredible 10 children have made it through to the area finals. Well done to all who took part.

We have been very fortunate to have had Cotswold Arts Through School (CATS) from Kingham Lodge in again to do a portrait painting workshop with the children from Year 1 to Year 6. They really enjoyed being able to paint a peer or their



teacher in this session!

We are looking forward to World Book Day in March. The children will be given the opportunity to take part in reading events in the day as well as a book fair in the afternoon. We have also challenged all of the children to create a book inspired cake or bake to be judged as well.

Tori Gainford

Deputy Head

Local Groups and Organisations for the YOUNGER GENERATION

Beavers	Stephanie Lewis 1stbourtonbeavers@gmail.com	07308 144397	Cafe Tots	Sue Woodley	07828 781246
Bourton Gymnastics	Tom Eden Bourtongymnastics.co.uk	01451 870778	Children's Jujitsu	Andy or Hayley	07951 587398
Bourton Primary School		820458	Cubs	Nick Hawke 1stbourtoncubs@gmail.com	07788 406728
Bourton Road Runners Juniors	Chris Hartley/Richard Buffton brjuniors@gmail.com	0772 0509894	Hockey	Rhys Davies	07817 108970
Bourton Rovers Youth (U10 Upwards) -	Catherine Williams	07889 694545	Little Hurricanes (Babies & Toddlers)	littlehurricanes@hotmail.com	
Bourton Rovers Youth (U9 & below) -	Amy Wright	07876 458571	Moreton in Marsh Young Farmers Club	Wilf Harrison	07821 152744
Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Lucy Gillespie craiglucygillespie@yahoo.com	07949 227128	Pre-School	Lisa Sorley	07950 048066
B'n Vale Equestrian Centre	Leanne Launchbury	821101	Scouts	Phil	1stbourtonscouts@gmail.com
Bourton Vale Tennis Club	Kingsley Harris www.bourtontennisclub.org	07879 644218	Squirrels	Emily	1stbourtonsquirrels@gmail.com
Bumblebeez babies & pre-school tots	Pat Taylor	07518 457652	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	

**BOURTON
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Bourton Youth Club

Bourton Youth Club runs every Wednesday at The Baden Powell Hall and is open to children in school years 3-11. The junior Session (School years 3-6) runs at 18:00-19:30 and the seniors (School years 7-11) runs 19:00-20:30.

Bourton Youth Club offers children the opportunity to take part in a variety of sports and fun activities on a weekly basis. Bourton Youth Club provides a safe and supportive environment where children can stay active, learn new skills, and make new friends.

Each week, participants enjoy a mix of Sports & Activities. Sessions are structured to be inclusive and suitable for all ability levels, encouraging every child to get involved and try something new.

Bourton Youth Club offers a welcoming space where everyone can participate, grow, and have fun. If your child requires additional support to attend Bourton Youth Club please email, bourtonyouthclub@gmail.com.

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ART
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Hello everyone, and happy March!

The past couple of months have been an exciting and busy time as **Sparkhouse Creatives** has taken shape, and we're delighted to share some wonderful updates with you.

A huge thank you to our Supporters

We want to say a **massive thank you to the 90+ backers** who generously donated to our fundraising campaign. Your belief in Sparkhouse Creatives has helped turn a vision into reality.

A big shout-out and heartfelt thank you also goes to our **local businesses/organisations** who supported us throughout the campaign - Sunfixings, Friends of Swell School, Old New Inn, Elender properties, Boho House and MG Systems 2015 Ltd. Your encouragement and generosity mean so much to us and to the young people.

We are also incredibly grateful to the **Cotswold District Council** for their support and commitment to creating positive opportunities within our community.

Because of your collective support, we reached our fundraising goal. This funding is already **making a real difference** - helping us deliver high-quality arts opportunities, accessible alternative provision, funded spaces, and new creative pathways for children and young people.

Sparkhouse Alternative Provision

At Sparkhouse children are at the centre of what we do. We make room for creativity and the arts to build spaces for self-

expression, resilience and growth in the young people we work with. We are privileged to be the place where we can make a difference.

A place where young people feel safe, build relationships, be creative and heard.

Our new-launched initiative has grown out of this objective, with a desire to provide local, affordable alternative provision rooted in the North Cotswold Community.

<https://www.cotswoldyouththeatre.co.uk/sparkhouse-alternative-provision>

Upcoming: Spring Into Arts Holiday Camp

We're super excited to announce our **Spring Into Arts Holiday Camp**, running at the start of the Easter holidays:

March 30th, March 31st & April 1st

9:00am – 3:00pm

Victoria Hall, Bourton-on-the-Water

Following the success of our Summer and Autumn Arts Camps, we can't wait to bring another inspiring experience to life. This three-day camp will celebrate spring through creativity, exploration, and self-expression, with a wide range of structured and hands-on art activities designed to keep children engaged and inspired.

A variety of creative activities

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The perfect way to spend the Easter break



Bookings are now open – book now to secure your place.

Visit: <https://the-cotswold-youth-theatre.classforkids.io/camp/81> or Scan the QR Code

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Bourton Vale Tennis Club

As we gear up for another exciting tennis season, Bourton Vale Lawn Tennis Club is preparing to welcome players of all ages and abilities. 2026 membership officially starts in April, with fees offering incredible value for juniors and adults. 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 of the year. New LED lights were installed in 2025 to improve our players' experience.

We have a modern club house with excellent facilities which members are welcome to use.

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 League doubles 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 at your local Bourton club? More details can be found on our website:

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BourtonValeLawnTennisClub

Our coaching team is led by Kingsley Harris and supported by Clare Bell, offering both individual and group lessons for juniors and adults. Whether you're a total beginner or looking to refine your game, they can help you achieve your tennis goals.

Looking forward to seeing you on the court in 2026

**Jacky Harding
Club Treasurer**



**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.**

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

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. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, others not allowed.

Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work.

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Bourton Probus Club



On 26th January, John Fraser gave us a talk on a boat Journey from Moscow to St Petersburg. He started by showing photographs around the Kremlin and some of the cathedrals in central Moscow, as well as the amazing underground system. We saw pictures of rural life on the way to St Petersburg, as well as some elegant Churches and buildings in the various cities on the journey. In St Petersburg we saw the beautiful buildings. If you think we are overrun with tourists in Bourton, how would you fancy queuing for 6 hours to access some of the palaces? Many cathedrals and churches have been converted into museums, which means you have to pay to see them! Photographs are not allowed in many of the monuments.

On 9th February, Paul Barnett told us about Henry Hooke and Rorke's Drift. In the film Zulu he was portrayed as a drunken layabout, but in fact he was a very brave soldier, who did not drink (he was a member of the temperance society). He was also unique in that he received his VC personally while still at Rorke's Drift. The film said the defenders were South Wales Regiment of Foot, which did not exist then; it was the 2nd Warwickshire Regiment. He compared the actual battle with the film, concentrating on the main characters who obtained a VC, which made for a fascinating talk.

Bourton Probus Club is for retired men and women who are interested in stimulating talks and social visits. We are currently re-launching Probus with a different emphasis to present. If you would like to see and hear what we are doing, come to one of our meetings, as advertised on the diary page. The meeting on 9th March is an open meeting, so please come along.

Roger Harris

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAFE

We are looking at possible future trips to the Wildlife Park and the Sharpness Canal, when the weather improves.

Dates for the next meetings are 2nd and 4th Fridays at 2pm St Lawrence's, i.e. 13th and the 27th March, when we will have the Ukulele Band to entertain us.

Look forward to welcoming you again. Bill Wragge

Bourton Vale Horticultural Society your friendly garden club

Wet, wet and more wet. When will it end? I'm writing this in the middle of February with floods everywhere. The pond is higher than it has ever been and many parts of the garden are underwater. But the snowdrops are flowering and the hellebores just coming into their best. So spring must be on its way.

Our February speaker was Will Scott, who has a background in historic buildings and entertained, educated and impressed us with his knowledge of walled gardens, as well as throwing in a few useful tips and humorous anecdotes. With his wife Julia they bought the walled garden in the middle of Worcester which was derelict and overgrown and 30 years on have created a beautiful, totally organic, wildlife friendly restored garden, which is open to the public. Persia was the influence for walled gardens and in the 16th century wealthy people wanted enclosed gardens for security but also because the walled garden created a micro climate which enabled them to grow exotic plants and fruit in this country.

One of Will's tips was if you plant a wisteria, train it along a fence along a path at nose height so you can enjoy the flowers and their scent. Quinces – so hard, impossible to peel or core so grate them and then use to make liqueurs.

Another piece of advice was don't try to grow fan trained fruit trees. They will never work as they just want to grow "up".

The competition of a small display of snowdrops was won by Antoinette Green.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 11th March at the usual time of 7.30 pm when our speaker will be Vanessa Berridge talking about Kiftsgate.

The competition will be a single daffodil.

Sheila Thorpe

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sheila@bobblefarm.co.uk



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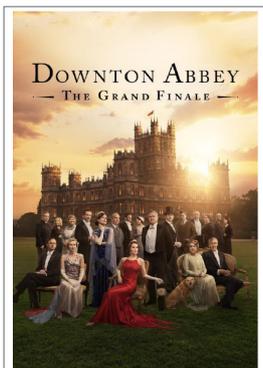
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A Step Towards Managing Traffic Pressures in Bourton

Many residents will now be aware that Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council has voted to ask Gloucestershire County Council Highways to introduce an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). This would restrict coach access into Station Road from the Fosseyway, Rissington Road and The Steeps.

I welcome the clear majority support for this step. Concerns about the impact of coach traffic – on safety, congestion and everyday quality of life – have been building since coach parking was stopped in the Station Road car park, and it is right that we are now moving from discussion to action.

I would also like to recognise the positive influence of Bourton Residents' Voice. The public meeting last November, where around 100 residents spoke directly to county and district leaders, made a real difference. It helped ensure local experiences and frustrations were properly understood by decision-makers.

There is also now much greater confidence that any restrictions can be enforced properly, including through the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology.

That said, this is only one part of the bigger picture. The pressure on Bourton comes from overall visitor numbers, not just coaches. Large volumes of cars create similar challenges for roads, infrastructure and day-to-day village life.

Bourton is often called the Venice of the Cotswolds. But the experience of places like Venice shows what can happen if visitor numbers grow beyond what a historic community can realistically sustain. Our aim must be to shape tourism so it works alongside local life, rather than gradually pushing it aside.

CLLr Jon Wareing
Bourton Village Ward

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North Cotswolds Rotary

Ukraine Lifeline Appeal

It was the 4th anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February and this brutal war continues. Back in 2022, Two North Cotswolds Rotarians, Lorraine and Greg Staniek, immediately set up Project Lifeline to help the people affected. Their rapid response meant that within 8 days of the war breaking out they had collected enough donations of food, clothing, medicine and more to fill an articulated lorry bound for Poland and our Club continues to support this important work.



Over the last 4 years £170,000 has been raised by Lifeline and 70 more lorries full of aid have been dispatched to the region. In addition, we've supplied 4 ambulances, hospital and smaller generators and other vital humanitarian support.

Despite the reporting of peace talks, the situation on the ground is as bad as ever. With energy infrastructure being targeted Ukrainians are facing minus 20-degree temperatures without mains electricity. So, our focus now is to purchase generators.

If you can help, please use the Donate button on our website: www.northcotswoldsrotary.org

Children's Clothes Bank

NCR aims to directly address the needs of our community. In 2025 North Cotswolds Rotary (NCR) initiated its Children's Clothes Bank (CCB) project supported by volunteers, donors and commercial partners like Charella Gardens.

The CCB helps families in need, especially those facing financial hardships who may struggle to afford clothes for their growing children.

The CCB is becoming a crucial resource, helping to reduce the financial burden on families that can't afford new or even second-hand clothes. The CCB ensures children have access to basic clothing. Furthermore, the initiative is reducing the environmental impact of textiles waste by keeping clothing out of landfills and giving it a second useful life.

If you have a question about the CCB or would like to access it, please contact us through our website: www.northcotswoldsrotary.org

John Barber



Wychwood Players

Wychwood Players' Spring 2026 production will be "The Un-friend", a contemporary comedy by Steven Moffat.

Peter and Debbie befriend Elsa: a lusty, Trump-loving widow from Denver, USA. She's less than woke but kind of wonderful. They agree to stay in touch. When Elsa invites herself to visit them, Peter and Debbie look her up online and too late, learn the truth about Elsa. First performed at Chichester in 2022, it transferred to the West End in 2023.

Performances will be held at the New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood OX7 6BQ at 7.30pm from Thursday 30th April to Saturday 2nd May 2026. Tickets will be available from our website: www.wychwoodplayers.com from March.

Chirps from the Perch

Valentines may be over, but love is still in the air at Birdland

Valentine's Day may have fluttered by, but here at Birdland romance is only just taking flight. As we edge closer to spring, we're beginning to see the first signs of breeding season, with courtship displays, nest building and even a few early eggs already keeping us busy.

Some of our early nesters have made a head start. The vibrant **Red-crested Turaco**, colourful **Rainbow Lorikeet** and ever-watchful **Red Junglefowl** are already sitting tight on eggs — a sure sign that the breeding season is well underway.

Our much-loved **Humboldt Penguin** colony, who celebrated a very successful year, last year, with three chicks, are once again strengthening their pair bonds. Keepers have spotted plenty of nest box investigating and affectionate interactions, and we're hopeful that eggs will follow in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, our **King Penguin** group have been turning up the volume. Calling, elegant posturing and even the exchange of a little regurgitated dinner are all part of their courtship ritual. Unlike many penguins, Kings do not pair for life and instead spend around a month bonding each season. With two young females introduced last year, we are hopeful for the first King Penguin egg in the UK since 2020.

Out on the nest island, our **Greater Flamingo** flock are beginning their flamboyant displays, with multiple birds already standing proudly on their mounds.

Our **Southern Ground Hornbill** pair have already laid, though the egg was sadly broken. They remain very proactive in the nest box, which is encouraging to see.

It is also the perfect season to play matchmaker. A new male **Indian Scops Owl** has arrived to join our female, while a female **Eastern Crested Guineafowl** has recently paired with our male. We are also seeking partners for our **Madagascar Teal** and **Pekin Robin**, while our **Military Macaw** and **White-cheeked Turaco** will head to other collections as part of breeding programmes. So why not head down to see us this Easter and do your very own "Egg" hunt.



Can you find all the eggs this Easter?

Birdland EGG Hunt

28 March - 12 April

www.birdland.co.uk

01451 820480



Casual Staff Wanted – Motor Museum

We're looking for friendly, reliable people to help serve ice creams, coffees, and light refreshments at our Motor Museum.

Cleaner Wanted – Motor Museum Cottage

Mondays & Fridays, 10am–3pm.

General cleaning, beds, and upkeep.

Must be reliable and work independently.

Interested?

Contact museum@cotswoldmotormuseum.co.uk to apply.

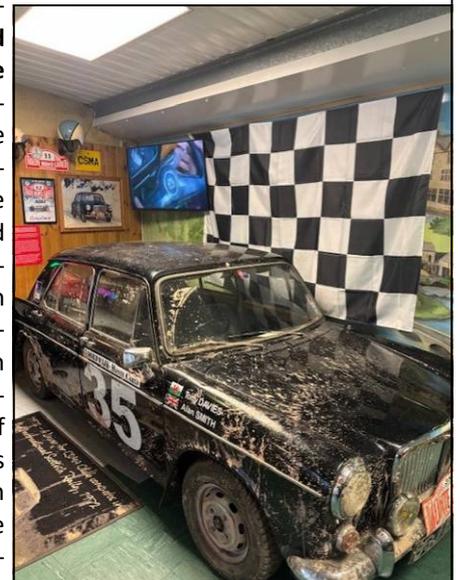
The Motor Museum Reopens with Fresh Energy and Exciting New Displays

The Motor Museum is delighted to announce that its doors are once again open, and the team could not be happier to welcome visitors back. After a period of quiet restoration and behind-the-scenes work, the museum is buzzing with life, conversation, and the unmistakable enthusiasm that only our visitors can bring. That energy has breathed new life into the building, and it's wonderful to see the galleries filled with curiosity and excitement once more.

One of the standout attractions drawing attention is the brand-new **Brum display**, which has already become a firm favourite. Guests of all ages have been sharing glowing comments about the exhibit, celebrating both the nostalgia and the craftsmanship behind this beloved little car. It's clear that Brum still has the power to charm.

But the reopening is only the beginning. There is still plenty of work happening across the museum, and visitors can expect a steady stream of improvements over the coming months. New displays are in development, fresh stories are being uncovered, and—most exciting of all—another new car will soon be joining the collection. It's an evolving space, and we encourage everyone to keep an eye out for updates.

Among the latest additions is a **revamped display featuring the MG rally car**, generously donated to the museum by its co-pilot. This remarkable vehicle has a proud and fascinating history: it competed in the Monte Carlo Challenge in the 1990s, an event created to recapture the spirit of the legendary 1960s rallies. Setting off from Bristol in 1995, the MG covered an impressive 2,500 km—



around 1,553 miles—over the course of just five days. Its arrival adds a thrilling chapter to the museum's growing celebration of motorsport heritage.

The Motor Museum is back, thriving, and ready for the next chapter. Come and be part of it.



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**Come and join our trustees,
says North Cotswold Foodbank**



North Cotswold Foodbank is looking for two new volunteer trustees to join its board.

If you have experience in fundraising, or social media marketing, the charity wants to hear from you.

North Cotswold Foodbank provides more than 1,700 emergency food parcels every year from its seven outlets in Bishop’s Cleeve, Bourton, Moreton, Stow, Chipping Campden and Winchcombe.

Trustee Lucye Deacon said: “We’re a committed and forward-thinking team and we’re keen to ensure we have the right skills between us to forge our way forward.

“If you’d like to join us – and we’re a very friendly bunch - we can promise an opportunity to make a direct impact in supporting people in crisis.

“We may live in the Cotswolds, but that

doesn’t mean hardship is non-existent – it’s on our doorstep.”

Trustee meetings are held quarterly, and shorter Zoom meetings take place monthly. The time commitment for each role is around 12 hours per month.

Anyone interested should contact lucye@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk by February 28.

For more info, check the News page at www.northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk or click links to the role descriptions:

- [Fundraising Trustee](#)
- [Marketing/Social Media Trustee](#)



We have had a very busy start to the year with two major events. In mid-January we celebrated our seventh Birthday. Through the years we have created our own unique style of club working hard identifying local issues and helping our community. Susan, our chairman, reviewed the previous year’s activities and then went on to present the Brian Honess Community Award. This is presented annually to someone, nominated from within the Rissingtons, who has “made a difference”. This year

the winner was Don and Margaret Bowie for their work in gathering and classifying large amounts of historical material donated to the Rissington Local History Society. This comprises documents, photographs and films relating to the history of The Rissingtons. These resources have been consulted by researchers locally, nationally, and internationally and utilised by a project at the Rissington School. Interest has been expressed by the local Government Archive, Gloucestershire Hub. The runner up this year was Wayne Fisher who has been a leader in local village life for the past fifteen years.

The end of the month saw the annual Rotary Quiz Night held in the Upper Rissington village hall. It was not supported as well as we would have hoped but regardless, we all had a great evening. Supported by an excellent visual display, the questions set by Cheryl Elliott proved to be very challenging for some. As the Quizmaster I had all the answers; had I not, I would have been found to be seriously lacking. The “red lorry, yellow lorry” team eventually claimed the first prize ... well done. *North Cotswold Community Awareness* benefited by £600.

...and so we go forward into Springtime. I will be back next month to tell you what we are doing!

Andrew Mitchell

£1 million investment supports exciting new



Age-Friendly Cotswolds project

We're really pleased to announce that Cotswold Friends is part of a new **Age-Friendly Cotswolds project**, a three-year initiative bringing together local charities to make life better for older people across the Cotswolds.

This initiative has been made possible thanks to the generous support of **The Summerfield Charitable Trust**, whose £1 million investment is enabling Age-Friendly Cotswolds to take shape. The commitment reflects a shared belief in the importance of listening to older people, strengthening communities, and investing in long-term, locally led change that will help people age well across the Cotswolds.

At Cotswold Friends, we see every day how important it is for people to feel connected and supported, and able to stay independent in their own communities. As we get older, things like rural isolation, limited transport, digital barriers and fewer local services can make everyday life harder — especially in our many villages and smaller towns.

CEO Jo Hammond said: "We are really excited to be a part of this new project, which focuses on working alongside older people, listening and learning

from their experiences, and ensuring they are involved and influential in shaping local life. From improving health and wellbeing, to encouraging social connection and community participation, this initiative recognises older people as a real strength in our communities and values their contribution, something that is really important to Cotswold Friends."



As one of the four partner charities, we're proud to be working alongside **The Churn Project, Age UK Gloucestershire and Tetbury Area Youth & Community Trust**, bringing together our shared knowledge and experience as we develop this work together.

As the project get going, we'll be spreading the word locally, sharing opportunities to get involved, and amplifying the voices of older people across the Cotswolds. We'll also share updates from our partner charities, to show how the project is developing. This is just the beginning, and we're excited to be part of something that puts older people at the heart of shaping the places where they live.



COMBE MILL, BLENHEIM PALACE SAW-MILLS, COMBE, OXON, OX29 8ET

Sun 15th March 2026. Themed `Mill in Steam`, our First `In Steam Event` at Combe Mill.

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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, with all machinery running as used in its day. Make a poker in our Dual Blacksmiths' Forge, and much more.

Admission: Adults £9.50, Concessions £8.50, CHILDREN now FREE. Dogs most welcomed. Free Parking.

Ask about Gift Aid. **Open:** 10.30am-4.30pm .

Open Wednesday's from 15TH March 2026,

for self-guided tours, with volunteers on hand to talk about Combe Mill and its history.

Admission: Adults £6, Concessions £5, Children FREE. **Open:-** 10.30am- 3.30pm

Contact: Combe Mill Society, 01993 358694. | www.combemill.org



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Headspace in Numbers: Growing Demand for Youth Mental Health Support

Demand for mental health and wellbeing support for young people in the North Cotswolds continues to rise, and our newly released 2025 Headspace Impact Report shows just how vital local, community-based services have become.

Behind every statistic is a young person who needed somewhere safe to turn — and a community that helped make that support possible.

2025 at a Glance

During 2025, Headspace supported young people across the North Cotswolds through counselling, wellbeing activities and mentoring:

- 378 hours of one-to-one counselling, supporting 21 young people
- 142 wellbeing sessions, totalling 284 hours, supporting 39 young people
- 202 hours of mentoring, supporting 33 young people through regular one-to-one relationships
- Over 20 trained frontline volunteers, with more mentors currently completing training

These services supported young people facing anxiety, low mood, school pressures, family challenges, neurodiversity

and the effects of rural isolation.

Current Demand for Support

Alongside this impact, our current referral data highlights the ongoing pressure on services.

At present, Headspace is working with or responding to referrals for 150 young people across the North Cotswolds:

- 35 young people are actively receiving support
- 38 are currently on a waiting list
- 27 referrals have been withdrawn, often due to changing circumstances or difficulties accessing support

The highest levels of demand continue to be for mentoring and wellbeing services, reflecting the need for early intervention and consistent, relationship-based support.

Why These Numbers Matter

Long NHS waiting lists and limited rural provision mean many young people are left without timely mental health support. Headspace exists to bridge that gap — offering early help in calm, trusted environments before challenges escalate.

The creation of Unit 7, our dedicated wellbeing classroom, has already strengthened our ability to deliver consistent, high-quality support and expand group work, mentoring and early-intervention programmes for young people who may struggle in busy or

clinical settings.

Read the Full 2025 Impact Report

This article provides a snapshot of our work. The full 2025 Headspace Impact Report is available on our website.

Visit www.myheadspace.org.uk to read the full report and learn more about how community support is helping young people across the North Cotswolds feel listened to, valued and supported.

Paul Heming, CEO -
paul.heming@myheadspace.org.uk /
07748 965227

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Theatre group dancers tap in to local support

Chippy's amateur theatre group CHAOS is gearing up for its upcoming production of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* after overcoming an unexpected hurdle – finding somewhere for its tap dance rehearsals.



The classic musical hits the stage at Chipping Norton Theatre from Thursday May 7 to Saturday May 9. The show's famous for its lively dance routines, toe-tapping songs and brilliantly funny script.

But while enthusiasm among the cast has been high, securing a rehearsal space where they could practice for a tap-dancing routine proved more challenging than anticipated.

"Tap shoes and polished floors don't always mix," said CHAOS choreographer Fiona Bates. "Lots of venues, quite understandably, worry about the damage we might do – so we couldn't do any tapping in our usual rehearsal room.

"Even though we're all quite light-footed, it took lots of phone calls and creative problem-solving to find somewhere that could accommodate us."

The breakthrough came when Glyme Hall community centre, just across the road from CHAOS's regular rehearsal venue in Burford Road, stepped forward to offer space where tap practice could finally begin.

CHAOS will use a grant of £100 from the local Co-op store to help pay for the room.

"For many of the cast, this is their first time learning tap," said Fiona. "We've just had our first session – and it was great to see everyone rising to the challenge."

Anything Goes is set aboard a transatlantic cruise ship and features songs including *I Get a Kick Out of You*, *You're the Top* and the title number, *Anything Goes*.

The production team hopes local audiences will come along to support the show and the volunteers behind it.

"Amateur theatre relies so much on community goodwill," Fiona added. "From rehearsal spaces to audiences in the seats, we couldn't do it without local support."

Anything Goes runs from Thursday May 7 to Saturday May 9 at Chipping Norton Theatre. Tickets are available from the theatre box office by calling 01608 642350.

Thanks You

A big thank you to everyone who collected their used postage stamps for me. Three big envelopes have been filled and sent off to RNIB.

Pam Clifford

LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS For amendments email: team@bourtonbrosver.co.uk or call 01451 822431

Archery Club	GRArcheryClub@gmail.com	
Badminton Club	clclare@gmail.com	
Bell Ringers, BOW	Stephanie Hemming	01451 810996
Bell Ringers, Gt Ris	Andrew Fleming	07711 867280
Bourton Book Club	csandles75@gmail.com	
Bourton Chase Residents Association	bourtonchase@gmail.com	07881 371187
Bourton Road Runners	Nicky Patterson	Brr.clubsec@gmail.com
Bourton Rovers Chairman	Liam Williams	07769 216528
Bourton Sustainability Network	bourtonSnetwork@gmail.com	07881 371187
Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Philip Colmer	07730608815
Bourton Vale Tennis Club	www.bourtontennisclub.org	
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Jubilee Lodge		01451 823100
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Men in Sheds	Keith	01451 831886

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Moreton in Marsh Young Farmers	Wilf Harrison	07821 152744
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North Cotswold Gymnastics Club	Caroline Gill	01451 263130
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Ray Dodd, Advertising Manager

Bourton Panto Group

Now that the curtain has fallen and the glitter has settled, we're still buzzing from our wonderful production of *Beauty and the Beast* at the end of January.

What a magical week it was. We performed to a full auditorium every night, with waiting lists of people still hoping to squeeze in. That level of support from our community means the world to us. Our audiences brought huge laughs, enthusiastic boos (oh yes they did!) and the warmest applause. The atmosphere each night was electric — pure pantomime magic.

Productions like this are built on dedication long before the curtain rises, and we want to celebrate every single person who helped turn months of rehearsals into something truly special. To our wonderful cast — your energy, talent and teamwork shone in every scene. From laugh-out-loud comedy to those heroic quick changes, you filled the stage with warmth, sparkle and smiles.

Behind the scenes, an incredible team kept everything running smoothly. Our back-stage crew worked tirelessly to move scenery, manage props and ensure every entrance happened at just the right moment. Thank you to our front of house team for welcoming audiences with smiles, our talented make-up artists and costume creators, and to our lighting, sound and music legends for bringing the whole show to life.

Pantomime is about community, teamwork and joy — and this production had it in abundance. We are so proud of what we achieved together and so grateful for the incredible support we received.

Until next time... oh yes there will be a next time! **Emily Franks and Clodagh Ogden**



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