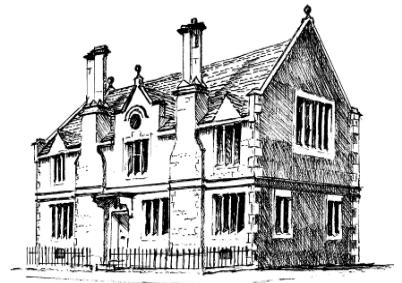


BOURTON

BROWSER

ISSUE NO.324

www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk



April 2026

DIARY DATES

- 1st Sight Loss Advice Hub, **GMCC**, drop in 1-2pm, join social group 2-4pm. Call 01242 221170, or email info@insight-glos.org.uk
- 1st-12th 'Find the Eggs at Birdland', Rissington Rd. 01451 820480 www.birdland.co.uk See page 15.
- 1st-13th Easter Egg Trail, Cotswolds Motoring Museum, High St. See p. 13.
- 6th & 20th Mindsong, Sing 2 Remember **GMCC**, 10.30am & 2.30pm. 07764 212506 or 01451 821216.
- 8th Charity Knitting Circle, **WP**, 10am-12pm. See page 2.
- 8th & 22nd Bourton Community Day Club, 10.30am - 2.30pm, **MC**, GL54 2HE. 01608 652019.
- 8th u3a Scrabble, **GMCC**. 2-4pm. 07341 094206. peterdawson790@icloud.com
- 8th Horticultural Club, **BCH**, 7.30pm, 'GQT & plant, seed & equipment swap'. See page 5.
- 10th & 24th Dementia Friendly Cafe, **StLC**, 2-4pm, 07746 672726. See page 5.
- 11th Parish Councillor Surgery, **GMCC**, 10am-12noon. See page 2.
- 13th Probus, 10am, **GMCC**, 'The Windsor Fire' by Fraser Gunn. (Please note this will be our final meeting). See page 6.
- 14th WI, **VH**, 7pm. Talk by a retired Midwife. See page 6.
- 16th Parish Councillor Surgery, **GMCC**, 2-4pm. See page 2.
- 20th Rural Cinema, 'A Big Bold Beautiful

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 – April 2026
Updates from March Council Business



Meadow Way Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) & Coach Management

The three-month review of the Meadow Way ETRO took place in February, with a further review scheduled for May. Residents should continue submitting feedback to GCC via the email address highwayconsult@gloucestershire.gov.uk. We have been advised by GCC Highways that the previously advised email address troconsultation@gloucestershire.gov.uk is still active but the 'highway consult' email is the preferred method for feedback on the Meadow Way ETRO.

Councillors met with GCC's Parking Manager and County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson to discuss broader parking issues. The forthcoming Visitor Traffic Management Survey may be delivered by a GCC-approved contractor, with the Rural Mobility Pilot also feeding into this work.

Representatives from Little and Great Rissington Parish Councils attended the meeting to highlight the need for inclusion in any future ETRO to prevent displaced coach traffic.

Village Green Railings & Spring Works

Following resident correspondence, Council resolved that the new turf requires extra time to establish, and the railings will now be removed on 1st May 2026.

Tourist Levy Projects

Council reviewed progress on Tourist Levy-funded works, including play area surfacing, rubber mulch installation, and drainage improvements at Jubilee Orchard. Bourton Residents' Voice have been invited to propose new projects for 2026-27.

Rural Mobility Pilot

Gloucestershire County Council has secured funding from the Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body and the River Severn Partnership Advanced Wireless Innovation Region which will be complemented by match funding from GCC's Digital and Economic Development Teams. This will be used to create a pilot scheme to support local communities, improve safety and reduce congestion caused by high visitor demand.

The funding will enable the installation of smart traffic sensors and develop a real-time digital dashboard, helping us to better understand travel patterns and respond proactively. The Parish Council supported Bourton's inclusion and expressed willingness to part-fund an extra camera on Rissington Road as an addition to the three cameras which will be provided by the project funding.

Christmas Tree in the river for 2026

We are already planning for this year's display. Please could any businesses who would like to donate to the Christmas tree contact the Clerk.

Continued on Page 2, columns. 2 – 3

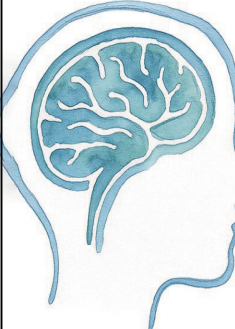
The *Bourton Browser* is run by volunteers & delivered monthly FREE to every household in the Village.

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 **May** edition is **Noon on 15th April 2026**


Cotswold Neuro Rehab



- Stroke Rehabilitation
- Parkinsons Disease
- Neuropathies
- Brain Injury
- Multiple sclerosis
- Ataxia
- Balance difficulties

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www.cotswoldneurorehab.com
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Continued from page 1 column 1

Journey', VC, 2.30pm & 7.30pm. See page 12.

22nd u3a, BLH, 10am-12noon, £2pp. 'Working on the North Sea oil rigs' by Philip Caine. See page 3. www.bourton.u3asite.uk.

25th RNLI AGM, 2-4pm, GMCC. See page 14.

25th – 26th Gift Fair, VC, 10am-5pm. All welcome. Details 07832 195427.

26th Farmers Market, BLH Car Park, GL54 2AR. 8.30am-12.30pm. 07980 080073.

28th or 29th RNLI, (Weather permitting), Bric a Brac Sale, Moore Road. See page 14.

30th Police Point, GMCC, 10-11am. www.gloucestershire.police.uk

30th Book Club Bourton Book Club meeting, 7pm. The Old New Inn. csandles75@gmail.com

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

Local Government Reorganisation Consultation

Council supported the option of a single unitary authority for Gloucestershire, prioritising cost efficiency and safeguarding neighbourhood-level structures.

Resident Permit Parking in Gloucestershire

The Parish Council continues to receive correspondence regarding potential resident permit parking schemes for Bourton-on-the-Water and remains in contact with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the responsible Highways authority. Their Permit Parking Feasibility Policy is available online <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/tufbglan/gloucestershire-county-council-permit-parking-feasibility-policy.pdf>. Please direct queries to GCC.

Thames Water

updated that high groundwater levels have prevented the final part of the wastewater infrastructure updates at their Rissington Road site. They plan to return in May with anticipated completion during summer 2026. No further road closures are planned but two-way traffic lights will be required.

Updates from Your Councillors

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

Cllr Hodgkinson highlighted GCC's £700m budget, substantial investment in pothole repairs and speed limit reductions, and ongoing issues with sewage affecting Rissington Road properties.

District Councillor Len Wilkins

Cllr Wilkins reported CDC's budget being set for 2026–27, with a Band D Council Tax charge of £2,467, and noted the continued high workload of the Planning Department.

Councillor Surgeries

The Parish Council will introduce monthly Councillor Surgeries beginning April as follows:

10-12 noon on Saturday 11th April
2-4pm on Thursday 16th April

Both sessions will be held in the Salmons-bury Room at the George Moore Community Centre. Please come along to meet your councillors and discuss village matters.

Next Meetings

7pm, Wednesday 6th May 2026 – Annual Parish Council Meeting
Windrush Room, George Moore Community Centre

Full meeting calendar:
www.bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk/the-council/meeting-calendar

Contact

Clerk: Sharon Henley
clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk
01451 820712

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

****Special offer: Half price membership until October 2026!****

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 (Social) Bridge Country Dancing
- (solos) Chatting & Drinking Coffee
- Watching Interesting Films
- French Conversation Table Tennis Indoor Kurling
- 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 22nd April 2026 from 10am to 12 noon

We're pleased to welcome Philip Caine, as our guest speaker who speaks about his time working on the North Sea oil rigs, and in Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Russia, Iraq and Dubai.



Everyone Welcome (Entry £2)

For more details on all these topics, please go to: www.bourton.u3asite.uk

NEW GERMAN SPEAKING GROUP IN BOURTON

Bourton and District u3a are in the process of setting up a new German Conversation Group. We are hoping to accommodate a range of abilities, but not complete beginners. Details to be finalized, but probably meeting twice per month in the Bourton area. If you have an ambition to improve your German speaking skills, please contact rvjgorton@gmail.com

Rob Gorton,

u3a Group Support

(The u3a is an organisation for retired or semi retired people that runs a wide range of activity groups. See the full list in previous column.)

Bourton Browser Team News

Bourton Browser Tea Party 2026: If you are one of our deliverers, you should have received an invitation along with your batch of Browsers this month. Please do make sure that you RSVP as soon as possible.

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 the address below. 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!

The Bourton Browser Team

team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk

www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk

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THE OLD NEW INN

Come and try our new Spring menu!

We've launched our delicious new seasonal menu that celebrates all things Spring when it comes to food!

We've bought back our famous Mac & Cheese, created new homemade pies and put together some drool worthy desserts.

A great way to kick off Spring with some amazing food in a fantastic atmosphere.

Be sure to book a table in advance!

T: 01451 820467

E: enquiries@theoldnewinn.co.uk

View Menus

OUT AND ABOUT in April

- Mondays - Northleach Bridge Club, Cotswold Hall, Northleach, 7:15pm. Contact northleachbridgeclub@gmail.com
- 1st-12th 'Mosaic Madness', Chedworth Roman Villa, NT, Yanworth, Chedworth, GL54 3LJ. Activities focused on Roman mosaics, & Easter Egg Trail. www.nationaltrust.org.uk
- 1st-12th 'Easter on the Farm, Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power, GL54 5FL. Lambs & goat kids. Take part in Easter Egg Hunt. 01451 850307. www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk
- 1st - 12th Easter Adventures, Sudeley Castle. Follow the golden eggs to 'Hunt the Hare', 'Hot Cross Bun Pardons'. Family fun. Winchcombe, GL54 5LP www.sudeleycastle.co.uk/
- 1st - 19th 'The Big Batsford Bunny Hunt', Batsford Arboretum, 9.30-5pm, Find the bunnies and win a prize! £3 per child (plus normal entry fees, children must be accompanied by an adult). Booking recommended. Batsford, GL56 9AT. 01386 701441. www.batsarb.com See column 2.
- 3rd- 6th Easter 'Eggstravaganza', The Walled Garden, Blenheim Palace. range of family activities including fairground, circus performers, exotic animals, wicker egg trail etc. OX20 1UL. www.blenheimpalace.com or 01993 810530.
- 3rd- 6th 'Brick Building Weekend', Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway, travel on a train (kids go FREE), brick building activities at Toddington and Winchcombe Stations. gwsr.com/whats-on/bricks-bricks-and-more-bricks/
- 11th Village Market, Great Rissington Club. 10am till noon. Looking forward to seeing you. Jackie Palmer, 01451 822285.
- 11th-12th Vintage Weekend, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway, step back in time, vintage vehicles, music, re-enactors, stalls and displays. gwsr.com
- 11th Curry Evening, Naunton Village hall, from 7.30pm. £20pp. Choice of curries with poppadoms, rice & chutney. 07887 553571. nauntontickets@outlook.com See page 17.
- 12th Rare Plant Fair and Open Garden, in aid of the Cobalt Medical Charity, The Old Rectory Quenington, GL7 5BN. £8 entry, Cash Only, 11am-4pm, homemade cakes at Pool-side Café. www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/event/61799/
- 14th Nigel Bagge Band, Cotswolds Blues Clue, Merry-mouth, Stow Rd, OX7 6HR. www.cotswoldmerrymouth.co.uk 01993 256620. See advert page 5.
- 17th Rissingtons Local History Society, 10.45, Visit to Bletchley Park - home of Britain's WW2 Breakers. Details from Kate O'Brien 07815 606770 / information.RLHS@gmail.com.
- 17th Nicola Mills presents, Opera for the People, 7.30pm, Westcote Village Hall, Down-to-earth tales, popular opera & songs from the shows. Chosen by you, the audience! £16, westcote.bookings@gmail.com or 07834 493637.
- 18th- 19th Spring Festival, Cirencester Market Place, stalls, entertainment & food. Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm.
- 19th 'In Steam' Event, Military Vehicles, Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, OX29 8ET. Tea Room, & BBQ. 10.30am-4pm. Dogs welcome. Free parking. 01993 358694. www.combemill.org See page 16.
- 24th Maxell Quartet, Northleach Church, GL54 3HG. Springtime tapestry of Celtic sounds. Doors open 6pm, concert 6.30pm. www.cotswoldfestivalmusic.co.uk .
- 29th- 4th May, Cheltenham Jazz Festival, Montpellier Gardens, GL50 1UZ. cheltenhamfestivals.org/festivals/jazz-festival
- 30th-2nd May, Wychwood Players' "The Unfriend", a contemporary comedy. New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood OX7 6BQ, 7.30pm. Tickets www.wychwoodplayers.com See poster page 17.



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. I

t must be received **before 12 noon on the 15th of the month.**

No commercial adverts accepted for this section.

For Sale

Qualcast corded lawnmower
with grass box.
Good condition.
£40,
01451 820917

Free

Conifer Tree
Getting too big for pot,
needs planting
01451 821080

For Sale

Headboard 5 ft,
Wooden slatted,
£10
01451 821080

For Sale

G Tech Cordless Strimmer,
Good working Order.
£15
01451 821080

For Sale

Karcher Pressure Washer,
Good working Order,
£20
01451 821080

For Sale Ferex (Aldi) compact Pressure Washer, Model HPC1500. Pressure 70bar, pump rate 5.51mm. Garage kept. Used only 4-5 times. £20. 07368 431102

For Sale

Outdoor 3 Person Swing.
Steel free-standing swing
with cushions, excellent condition,
Photos available.
£40. 07368 431102

Free to Collect

Large Fridge Freezer.
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07854 579209

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North Cotswolds Rotary

Ukraine Lifeline Easter Appeal

In recent years North Cotswolds Rotary (NCR) has tried to bring some cheer to orphans in Ukraine at Easter by collaborating with Ukrainian Rotary clubs to purchase some treats for them. We work with Kyiv, Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Odesa and Sumy Rotary Clubs who use our donations to buy appropriate items locally and deliver them to the children.

Being in a war-torn country is hard enough so we really want to support these children with no family at Easter time and let them know we are thinking of them and hopefully to raise a smile too.

We will be celebrating Easter on Sunday 5th April as we follow the Gregorian calendar. However, Ukraine's religious calendar is the ancient Julian calendar so they will be celebrating on Sunday 12th giving us longer to raise funds and make the purchases.

If you can help, please use the Donate button on our website:

www.northcotswoldsrotary.org

or email contact@northcotswoldsrotary.org and we will send you bank details for your donation.

Many thanks and a happy Easter to you and yours from all of us at North Cotswolds Rotary. **John Barber**



Lorraine Thomas

27th March 1956-27th January 2026

Lorraine had lived in the village since 1975 and would, most recently, be remembered as a dental receptionist at Riverside dental practice.

Lorraine's family would like to thank everyone for the wonderful sympathy messages that encapsulated Lorraine's life and spirit. All the donations received have been sent to the Alzheimer's Society to aid their vital research. A special thank you to Northleach Court Care Home for their exceptional care and kindness during Lorraine's four-year stay. Also to WJ Wright and Stone Memorials for their kindness and attention to detail. And finally, to Bethany at B.V. Cricket Club for looking after Lorraine's family and friends as celebrated Lorraine's life with lots of happy memories of a lovely soul, gone too soon.

Owen Thomas



Cotswold Blues Club

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Live Events for 2026

All Welcome

14th April - Nigel Bagge 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

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cotswoldmerrymouthltd@gmail.com - OX7 6HR

Bourton Vale Horticultural Society

Your friendly garden club

At last spring has arrived. Daffodils are fantastic this year and the blossom is falling like confetti.

Our March speaker was Vanessa Berridge who gave us a very interesting talk on the development of Kiftsgate garden through three generations of female gardeners. The house is built at the top of a steep slope and Heather Moir designed the garden in 1919 and employed a team of Italians to create the mediterranean terraces. Heather's daughter took over in the 1950s and Heather's granddaughter Anne Chambers picked up the mantle in the late 1980s. Anne created a modern water garden which is 5' deep and a cool green space and quite different to the rest of the garden. The spoil from the pond was used to make a wildflower mound. The yellow border still contains plants from the 3 generations. The garden is now a business and open to the public for 6 months of the year. 86% of the plants they sell they grow themselves. Amazingly there is only one full time and one junior gardener (as well as Anne and her husband) to maintain the 4.5 acres.

The competition of a single daffodil was won by Sue Davis.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 8th April (not the 14th as shown on note given out at March meeting) and will be GQT and plant swop plus tools and garden equipment, so please get splitting and potting. The competition is a single flower from a bulb.

Our outing this year is to Kingham Lodge on the 13th May. The cost is £12. Please bring cash as we cannot accept cheques to the April meeting. More details will be available at the meeting.

Enjoy the sunshine
Sheila Thorpe
07973 391741
sheila@bobblefarm.co.uk



Dementia Friendly Cafe

Happy Easter to everyone. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2 - 4pm, at St Lawrence's Church.

We are looking at visits this year to the Motor Museum and the Wildlife Park.

We hope to join a group again on the Sharpness canal.

Remember, we have the Ukulele Band coming on the 27th March, which will be fun.

See you soon
Bill Wragge

BOURTON RESIDENTS' VOICE



Bourton Residents Voice has been encouraged by positive developments as local officials and stakeholders involve us in conversations and developments on the issues that matter most to residents.

This includes parking, coach activity (TRO), accessibility, village green issues and working towards a more sustainable model of tourism.

We know that preserving and improving the wellbeing, character, and day-to-day liveability of our village requires ongoing attention and collaboration between residents and local decision-makers. And we must maintain momentum.

Please follow our Facebook page or subscribe to our mailing list by emailing:

bourtonresidentsvoice@gmail.com

As a new initiative, we are particularly keen to hear from residents who would like to actively help shape the group's future priorities and ensure that the voices of those who live here remain at the very heart of local action.

Finally, thanks again to Box Bush for hosting an early morning coffee meeting- date of the next meeting to follow.

**Bourton Residents Voice
Steering Group**

Bourton WI **theWI** INSPIRING WOMEN

This month Bourton WI welcomed Steve, a volunteer speaker with the Great Western Air Ambulance Service.

These air ambulances literally bring the hospital to the patient, the doctors and paramedics dealing with everything from delivering a baby to performing open heart surgery! Wow!

The service costs £4 million pounds per year to run. Those of us who bought the gorgeous teddies or key rings or put money into the collection box are helping a little!!

The service also runs cars. Only 1/4 of patients need the helicopter, 3/4 go by car or ambulance.

A group of us went to the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham to see Mid-somer Murders - The Killings at Badgers Drift. As a MM fan, I had to go didn't I!! We also had our first Coffee and Lunch at a local hostelry which was very popular!

Next month the speaker will be a retired midwife.

We meet every 2nd Tuesday in the Victoria Hall at 7pm. New members are always welcomed.

For more information contact Pat Taylor (President) on 07518457652.

**June
Renshaw**



Bourton Probus Club



At our meeting on 23rd February, Ginny Davis gave us another very interesting talk entitled "From the Pillory to the Prison Cell". She highlighted the various punishments in the late middle ages, and how all punishments were spectator events!

On 9th April Gadan Bartholomew told us about the remarkable rescue from the wreck of the White Star Line SS Suevic. All passengers were rescued from the wreck just off the lizard in Cornwall by the RNLi with absolutely no loss of life. A remarkable performance by lifeboats from 4 stations. He also pointed out the amazing reconstruction of the stern of the boat with a new bow made specifically by Harland and Wolff in Belfast. The ship was converted to a Norwegian whaling boat when it was finally taken out of service and was scuttled off the coast of Sweden during WW2.

The Bourton Probus Club will cease to exist after the first meeting of April. At the moment the plan is to become a social club meeting every 2 weeks, but other attempts are being made in an effort to revive the club at a later date. Any change will be reported in the Browser.

Roger Harris

(Editor's Note, it is always sad to hear of a group having to close. We hope that the new social club is able to form and look forward to receiving updates.)

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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

April, a month which this year begins in Holy Week, where Christians journey through events leading up to Jesus' death and on to his rising from the dead on Easter Sunday! It is a journey full of human emotion: fear, denial, betrayal, grief, injustice, suffering, love, forgiveness, joy and hope.

In a time when much feels fragile and threatens despair, Holy Week and Easter bring us back to the enduring message that suffering is not the end of the story; that as we persevere through the hard times, we are offered God's comfort and love, promising there will again come a brighter dawn.


The Psalms is a book of songs found in the centre of the bible. They express the longings, fears, hopes, regrets of the human heart through the ups and downs of life. It is amazing how these ancient

songs, the earliest of which dates back to around 1400 BC, continue to be as relevant today as ever offering comfort and language of lament and sorrow in the toughest of times.

Psalm 23 is one of the most well loved of our psalms today, it begins, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want, he makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still water, he restores my soul....." This image of rest and peace is easy to picture on a sunny Spring morning. It is an image we can hold close to our hearts in times less serene, hearing in it the promise of God's eternal love, death shattering love goes with us.

You are so welcome to come and share in the journey of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. We begin on Palm Sunday in the car park behind St Lawrence at 10:50 on Palm Sunday 29th March.

Blessings, Rev Hannah



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

Look out for details of a concert by Chedworth Silver Band on 11th April in Church

Regular services: Wed. 10am - Midweek Holy Communion 15th, 22nd, 29th only
Sun. 8am BCP Holy Communion – 26th only
Sun. 6pm Contemplative Prayer 19th see poster

EASTER SERVICES **Maundy Thursday (2nd April)** 7pm Remembering the Last Supper
Good Friday (3rd) 9.30am for 10am Good Friday Special (Family Friendly, all ages together)
10.45am Walk of Witness from St Lawrence->Baptist Church & 2.00pm Last Hour at the Cross
Easter Sunday (5th) 11am Easter Communion (NO 6pm today)
12th April Benefice Service of Holy Communion at 11am
NO Breakfast Church in April
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 : 6am Dawn Service at the barn on Easter Day, plus Easter Holy Communion @9.30am in St James—BCP Holy Communion 19th 9.30am

Rev. 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

Palm Sunday 29th March - Family Service 10.30am
Maundy Thursday - Communion 7pm
Good Friday—Service 10am, followed by the walk of witness from St Lawrence
Refreshments at The Water Church
Easter Saturday—Experience Easter - Prayer Stations, Craft, Refreshments
Easter Sunday—Communion 10am. Easter Celebration 11am
Sunday Morning Service 10.30am **Communion** Sunday 19th 10.30 am
Wavemakers Children's Ministry 2nd and 4th Sundays
Cafe' Tots Every Wednesday 9.15 - 11.15am. Closed Wednesday 8th
Open4U Every Thursday from 10 until 4pm in the church hall
Our minister is also available for informal chats and prayer
Network 828 Saturday 18th April 7pm at The British Legion

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

stow-bourtoncatholic.net
Fr. Stephen Lambert 07836 384932
stephen.lambert@cliftondiocese.com

SERVICES in 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.

HOLY WEEK, and EASTER services:

Holy (Maundy) 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;

Saturday evening 4th April: 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



St Lawrence
Bourton-on-the-Water

Christian Contemplative Prayer



Join us for a time of peace, silent meditation and prayer.

We welcome all seekers – meditators and non-meditators, to experience God in silence, worship and fellowship.

All welcome
3rd Sunday Evening
at 6pm

Contact: Rev Hannah Allen revhannah@protonmail.com

QUAKERS

The Religious Society of Friends
Every Sunday 11am
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Pytts Lane, Burford, OX18 4SJ.
Enquiries welcome Myra Ford
01451 810484.
To request a free info pack,
email: outreach@quaker.org.uk



THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL

U14s Football Victory

We are delighted to share that our U14s football team have reached the semi-finals of the National Cup after an outstanding quarter-final victory and a huge win against Millfield School in the previous round. It was a composed and determined team performance that demonstrated the squad's resilience and teamwork. This achievement sees the team progress to the final 4 from an original field of 568 teams. Our thanks also go to Cirencester Town for the use of their facilities and to Pulhams for providing transport.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

This term, our Duke of Edinburgh training programme has been in full swing, with nearly 200 students attending consecutive Saturday training sessions to prepare for their expeditions. The Gold Practice Expedition will take place in Brecon in April, while the Silver Practice Expedition is set for later in the month in Oxford. Following the Silver Practice, students will compete for a prize awarded during the qualifying expedition. These experiences not only develop outdoor skills and teamwork but also foster resilience, independence, and achievement.

TCS Robotics Teams Shine at National Finals



We are proud to celebrate the success of the robotics teams at the National Robotics Championships finals, our biggest representation yet. Four student teams qualified for this event, showcasing skill, creativity and teamwork in building, programming and driving competitive robots. Our younger teams, TCS Army and TCS VEXtreme, achieved exceptional results as the top two comprehensive-school teams in the country, with TCS Army finishing an impressive fifth out of over 300 UK teams. A special thank you goes to all of our sponsors, particularly The Bugatti Trust.

If you have a business and are interested in sponsoring a department, please email marketing@thecotswoldschool.co.uk.

Keep up to date with our school news:

www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk

Will Morgan

Headteacher

Bourton Primary Academy

What a month March has been! One of the highlights was our incredible World Book Day celebration. We went for a slightly different theme this year and asked anyone who wanted to take part to create a cake or cakes in the theme of books. Some children recreated book covers, some children recreated characters and some children chose their favourite part of a story to recreate in cake form! We were blown away by the number of entries we had and it was very difficult to choose winners! In the end we narrowed it down to some class winners and some overall phase winners! See some of the winning entries below! The cakes were then sold in the biggest cake sale we have ever done and raised a remarkable £500!



March has also seen some amazing sporting events; tag rugby for Year 3/4 and 5/6, dodgeball for Year 5 and gymnastics competitions for all children from Year 1 to Year 6. The younger children were given a routine to learn and practice, whereas the older children had to create their own routines incorporating rolls, jumps and balances. They all also needed to jump on a springboard. Part of the gymnastic competitions is to watch your peers and be a respectful audience. We were very impressed with the level of performances and how patiently all of the children watched their classmates. We also entered 4 teams into a gymnastics competition against Northleach and Stow Primary schools and were very pleased to walk away with several certificates

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break and we are looking forward to an action-packed summer term of school trips, a residential visit, sports day and many other exciting things!

Tori Gainford, Deputy Head

Local Groups and Organisations for the YOUNGER GENERATION

Beavers	Stephanie Lewis 1stbourtonbeavers@gmail.com	07308 144397	Café 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 457652Cafe	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

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19:00-20:30 - SENIORS

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**BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER
PARISH COUNCIL**

Concert at St Lawrence Church

Friday, 1st May, at 7 pm

Featuring Charlie Green, singer & musician

Charlie was first seen on Britains Got Talent in 2008 when he was just 10 years old

From there he was offered recording contracts and went on to make a career of singing and acting,

He has toured extensively in America including with the Osmonds particularly Donny and Jimmy,

He currently attends the Salvation Army in Droitwich where he is involved in their worship music programme.

There will be a mix of secular and Christian songs , something for everyone

Tickets £10 in aid of Christian Aid and can be obtained from:-

Sheila Owen 01451 821867 or Janet Turnbull 01451 822037
or on the door."

Janet Turnbull

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Coming to Bourton-in-the-Water in May 2026!

The Absolute Gospel Company is a group of Christians drawn from a number of churches in the Tonbridge and surrounding towns and villages in Kent. Our aim is to present Biblical truth in an entertaining, encouraging and challenging way. Our Company's musical productions involve choral and solo singing, dance, drama, narration and audio-visual elements.



We have been writing and producing high quality musicals for over 40 years. These have been performed in the local area, further afield and in Israel, the United States and New Zealand. Two of our musicals have been awarded an international media award. Some of our musicals have been featured on television and radio. We have seen hundreds of people perform in the various casts that have been made up for each musical.

The Book of Life is our 30th and latest musical. It asks the question: 'Is your name written in the Book of Life?' We aim to share what the Bible says about this important question and to bring

people by the conviction of the Holy Spirit to a place where they can confidently answer: 'Yes, it is!' or 'I want it to be.' This is presented in an entertaining, creative and challenging way using the elements mentioned in our opening paragraph. The production lasts for two hours including an interval.

We strongly believe that this is a message 'for such a time as this' with so much uncertainty and instability in the world.

Save the Date!

Dates: Friday 29th May at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 30th May at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Bourton Baptist Church (The River Church)

Cost: Free! Watch out for further information and how to obtain tickets.

For further information about The Absolute Gospel Company please visit www.absolutegospel.org.uk



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The Cotswold Youth Theatre

Cotswold Youth Theatre's First Residential A Traitors Adventure!

In February, Cotswold Youth Theatre took 11 members of our senior groups from Bourton and Chipping Campden on our very first residential trip - and what a weekend it was!

We headed down to Dartmouth in Devon, staying at the beautiful Badgers Holt, a wedding venue set right by the River Dart and surrounded by the stunning Devon tors. The whole trip was themed around the popular TV show Traitors, which we recreated as a live game across the three days.

The young people helped organise and run their own challenges - everything from treasure hunts to singing contests - and there were plenty of lively round-table discussions where players voted, argued their cases, formed alliances and occasionally betrayed each other (all in the spirit of the game, of course!).

When we weren't plotting who might be a traitor, there was lots of time spent laughing together around the pool table and table football, dancing and sharing big banquet-style meals.



At the end of the three days, the final traitors were revealed - with a traitor actually winning the game to everyone's amazement!

It was such a fun and special few days, and a lovely chance to spend time together and connect with such an amazing group of young people. We're already hoping this will become an annual event for Cotswold Youth Theatre.

News & Updates

We're delighted to share that Sparkhouse Creatives has been awarded £5,000 from the Gloucestershire Commissioning Trust. This funding will support three months of community art projects led by our Art Director, Jenny Moss. Over the coming months, Jenny will be working with local schools and community groups to create new artwork together. We're hoping the pieces created through these workshops will come together as part of an exhibition at a local art festival in Autumn 2026.

We'd also like to say a huge thank you and farewell to Niamh Laughlin, a Bourton resident who graduated from Rose Bruford College in London. Niamh has been helping run classes with us since September and has been a wonderful support to our young people. Her energy, kindness and enthusiasm have made a real difference to the group.

Niamh is now heading back to London to continue pursuing her career in theatre, and while we'll miss her, we're incredibly grateful for everything she's brought to Sparkhouse Creatives and Cotswold Youth Theatre. We wish her the very best for the exciting opportunities ahead.

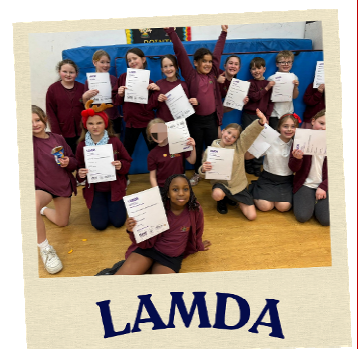
<https://www.cotswoldyouththeatre.co.uk/>

[@cotswoldyouththeatre](#)

[@sparkhouse_creatives](#)

Warm regards,

Cotswold Youth Theatre



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Bourton Vale Tennis Club

Join Us for the 2026 Tennis Season!

Memberships for the 2026 season are now open, and with our membership year running from April to March, there's no better time to join and enjoy a full year of tennis at Bourton Vale Lawn Tennis Club.

Our club has two courts available for members to book online up to three weeks in advance, making it easy to get on court whenever you fancy a hit.

With membership fees at just £40 for juniors (£30 if they are taking coaching) and £150 for adults, it's fantastic value for money. We also offer parent & child and family membership packages, so there's something to suit everyone.

Members can also make full use of our modern, well-equipped clubhouse, which includes changing rooms, kitchen facilities and toilets—perfect for relaxing before or after a game.

Whether you're a complete beginner, a rusty returner, a seasoned competitor, or even a future Wimbledon champion, we welcome players of all ages and abilities. We're also lucky to have two excellent coaches offering individual and group coaching for both juniors and adults.

What's on offer at the club?

Fun and friendly social competitions throughout the year
Regular club nights and a singles box league
Club tournaments and Gloucestershire doubles league matches

A growing social calendar, bringing members together both on and off the court

New for 2026

Adults "Rusty Rackets" – 6-week course

Starting Friday 17th April, - 2–3pm

Contact **Clare Bell – 07495 767343** for more information

Non-members are welcome to join!

So, what are you waiting for? Get active, get social, and get into tennis in Bourton!

Find out more and sign up here:

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BourtonValeLawnTennisClub

We look forward to seeing you on the court in 2026!

Jacky Harding Club Treasurer



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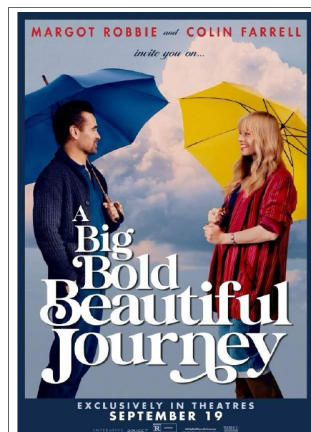
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COLIN FARRELL
MARGOT ROBBIE
DIRECTOR
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Fantasy - Drama - Romance
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26th June 2026 – Charity Golf Day

There are still a few places available for our Charity Golf Day on Friday 26th June. The day will feature a Texas Scramble competition, great food, prizes and an auction.

We also have corporate sponsorship opportunities available and would love local companies to get involved. Hole sponsorship costs £100, and in return we can offer visibility on the day and promotion across our social media platforms. Please contact Mike Pender on telephone: 07775 085431 or email: mike.pender@kateshomenursing.org.

8th August 2026 – ABBA Tribute Night

Get ready to say “Thank You for the Music!” Join us for a fabulous ABBA Tribute Night at Bourton Rovers Football Club on 8th August. Expect all the classic hits, plenty of dancing and a brilliant community atmosphere. More details will be coming soon – but for now, save the date and dig out your flares! For more information, please visit: www.kateshomenursing.org.

Looking for a Challenge in 2026?

Through our partner, Run for Charity, we have access to charity places for hundreds of marathons, half marathons, Tough Mudder events and inflatable 5K obstacle courses nationwide. Many of these events are already sold out through the usual booking routes.

So, whether you want to run the Royal Parks Half Marathon, the Amsterdam Marathon or the Great South Run, we may be able to secure you a place.

As 2026 marks our 30th anniversary year, all we ask in return is that you aim to raise a modest amount of sponsorship to help us continue providing our services free of charge for the next 30 years and beyond.

To secure your place in one of these events, visit: www.kateshomenursing.org/running-and-challenge-events or email us with any questions at: info@kateshomenursing.org.

A gleaming piece of motoring history has just rolled into the Motor Museum—quite literally. The arrival of our newly acquired **Clement Bayard car** has been a moment the whole team has been eagerly awaiting, and its journey to its new home turned into a wonderful community effort. After being delivered to the High Street, the vehicle was carefully guided and pushed in by our dedicated volunteers, whose enthusiasm and teamwork turned a logistical challenge into a memorable occasion. Their hard work ensured the car made it safely through the museum doors and into position.



Following a brief period of rearranging one of our galleries to make space for this remarkable addition, the Clement Bayard is now proudly on display for visitors to enjoy. As one of the early pioneers of motoring, the Clement Bayard represents an era of innovation, craftsmanship, and adventure. Its elegant lines and engineering detail offer a fascinating glimpse into



the early 20th century, and we're delighted to be able to share it with the public. Whether you're a motoring enthusiast or simply curious about the evolution of transport, this new exhibit promises to be a highlight of any visit.

Alongside the excitement of the new arrival, the museum is also gearing up for one of our most popular family events of the year: the **Easter Egg Trail**. Running from **28th March to 13th April**, the trail will take young explorers on a fun journey through the museum, with clues hidden among the exhibits—including, of course, our newest resident. It's a wonderful way to keep children engaged during the school holidays while giving families a chance to enjoy the museum together.

Isabel Harvey
Museum Manager

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Thank you to everyone who supported us last year.

We had an amazing year. If you would like to know more about the North Cotswold RNLI Branch events please come and join us at our Annual Meeting. We would love to see you at:

The George Moore Community Centre, Windrush Room, Saturday 25th April, from 2-4pm.

Hopefully you will be able to meet our new Community Manager, Liam Mackay, who has replaced Amy Hill.

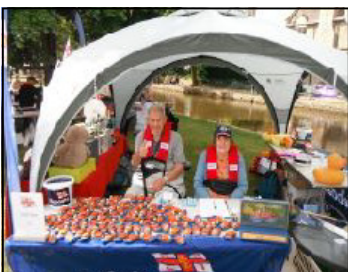
Weather permitting, our first **Bric a Brac in Moore Road, will be on Saturday 28th April or Sunday 29th.** Jean and Sue will have their usual eclectic mix of donated items.

We started off our events with **Lechlade Crafty Boaters on the 7th March**, where we sold RNLI retail and also 'Saved lives with tea and cakes'!!!. There are three more Crafty Boater events in the Autumn.

Sue and Tony Windsor have very kindly offered to open their garden again for us to enjoy their roses and stay and have tea, coffee and delicious cakes at

The Old Vicarage Bledington OX7 6UX, on Sunday 28th June, from 11am to 5pm.

We hope to be able to run our usual Duck Racing event on **Saturday 4th July** with Bric a Brac, Tombola and Hook a Duck. This year we will be remembering Brion Tanner, who started our first races in 2015 bringing years of experience of fundraising with Bourton Scout group. He will be sadly missed. We send our condolences to his family.



If you are able to offer an hour or two of your time helping our inland fundraising crew in the North Cotswold, area from Moreton and Broadway to Lechlade and Cirencester, then do come and speak to us or email me at northcotswoldrnl@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Julia, Secretary of the North Cotswold Branch

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April already, and as the sun climbs higher our thoughts turn to the Summer ahead, well, we are always optimistic! We have several projects in hand, not the least of which is exploring the possibility of a footpath between Upper and Great Rissington. Whilst this has been mooted in the past, we are now making headway and hopeful that we will succeed in joining the two Parishes. We are keen to promote community events in the Rissingtons; if there is no "community" there is no village. We have had quizzes and comedy evenings. What about a Tea Dance in the Upper Rissington Village Hall? It has a floor designed for the waltz, or maybe something more modern? We are aiming for a Sunday afternoon in May, more information next month.



We are a supporter of "Lend with Care". If you have not heard of it, it is a UK based microfinance lending platform that allows people to lend small amounts of money to entrepreneurs in low-income countries, so that they can start or expand small businesses. We began by lending a total of £200 to a few selected entrepreneurs. Currently, have made 21 loans totally £435 to 73 people and created 93 jobs and a total of 341 people helped. These people range from a farmer in Ecuador to a clothing and footwear retailer in Pakistan; from Suban in Thailand tailoring clothes to Meluna in the Philippines farming. All the participants have repaid their loans on time. We believe this is a great opportunity to give people less fortunate than ourselves a simple helping hand.

Nearer to home we are working with the Cotswold School helping students, who will shortly be launching into the big wide world, learn how to apply for and get employment.

See you next month,
Andrew

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Birdland

Spring arrives in full colour at Birdland Park & Gardens this Easter, and with it comes one of our most loved family traditions: the Birdland Easter Egg Hunt. From 28th March to 12th April, guests of all ages are invited to explore the park, stretch their legs, and take part in a seasonal adventure filled with discovery.

This year's trail challenges visitors to track down nine hidden letters scattered throughout the park. Each letter is tucked away near one of our iconic habitats or exhibits, encouraging families to slow down, look closely, and enjoy the wildlife around them. Once all nine letters have been found, they can be rearranged to reveal a secret themed word.

The trail is designed to be fun, gentle, and accessible, making it perfect for younger explorers while still offering a satisfying puzzle for older children and adults. Whether you're wandering through Penguin Shore, exploring the Flamingo Point boardwalk, discovering our parrots and owls, or getting prehistoric in Jurassic Journey, every corner of Birdland becomes part of the adventure.

And of course, no Easter trail would be complete without a sweet reward. Every child who completes the challenge and solves the mystery word will receive a mini chocolate egg as a small treat for their efforts.

The Easter Egg Hunt is included as part of standard admission, making it a brilliant addition to a full day out at Birdland. With over 500 birds to meet, peaceful riverside pathways, and the beauty of spring unfolding across the gardens, it's the perfect way to celebrate the season.

So book **NOW** at birdland.co.uk and join us this Easter for fresh air, family fun, and a little bit of chocolate along the way.

Simon Cox

Can you find all the eggs this Easter?

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North Cotswold Tri & Run News

Two members of North Cotswold Tri & Run, Jon Francis and Dawn Coley, recently travelled to Oulu, Finland to compete at the Winter Swimming World Championships.



The event brings together cold-water swimmers from around the world to race in near-freezing water. Competitors swim without wetsuits, wearing only a standard costume, hat and goggles.

Both Jon and Dawn competed in a range of events across the championships week, lining up against swimmers from around the world in challenging conditions.

Jon produced a fantastic performance, winning an age group bronze medal in the 50m butterfly in a time of 18.2 seconds, a brilliant achievement at a world championship event.

Elsewhere, several club members took on the notoriously tough Mayhill Massacre trail race, battling extremely muddy conditions. In the 15-mile event Ally Stirling was first female in 2:29:48,

Lucy Walmsley was third female in 2:43:46, Tom Williams finished fourth overall in 2:28:42 and Tim Heming was tenth overall and ninth male in 2:34:20.

In the 7-mile race Simon Finley finished in 1:31:30 to place 41st male. In the canicross event Elly Finley was 17th female in 1:34:59, with Kate Robertson 27th female in 1:50:40.



At the Bourton 10K, Ally Stirling ran a personal best of 43:53. Hedley Philips finished in 43:19, Matthew Burrard-Lucas ran 36:37 and Tim Heming 40:16. Nikki Hitchcock recorded 52:34, Rachel Coley 52:44, Janet Duffey 55:00, Kate Robertson 1:01:22 and Helen Holden 1:10:30. There were also strong performances at parkrun. At Cirencester, Dennis Walmsley finished in 22:30 to take first V60 while Hedley Philips ran a course PB of 22:28 to finish first MV45. At Chipping Norton, Walmsley celebrated his 40th parkrun in 23:04, again finishing first V60.



Combe Mill

..... a place to discover

**Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills,
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‘In Steam’ Sunday 19th April.

Themed event, ‘Military Vehicles’

Bring the children! April's theme will be ‘Military Vehicles’ Supporting and visiting Combe Mill will be the North Oxforas & Cotswold Military Vehicle Trust. There will also be a Home Guard display. Interested in the Military? This is the event for you. The children will love the Jeeps and Army Trucks.

All the mill machinery will be working and being demonstrated by our lovely volunteers.

Combe Mill is a Late 19th Century Grade, 11 Listed Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode, in its day it was the workshop for Blenheim Palace estate, not to be missed.

The Tea Room will be open for refreshments, enjoy the Picnic area by the River Evenlode. Browse our Mini Market too, Gift Shop, Tombola, BBQ. Dogs Welcome and free Parking. Adults £9.50. Seniors £8.50 Children are now FREE. Web Site combemill.org Enjoyed your visit, why not enquire about *Volunteering*; we would love to hear from you.

Also, open every Wednesday from 18th March to End of October, self-guided tours and Tea Room open. £6.00 Adults, £5.00 Seniors, Children NOW Free. Parking Free.

Sophie's ready to swing into star role

It's one of musical theatre's most iconic roles, and has been played by stars like Ethel Merman, Elaine Paige and Patti LuPone.



So how is Sophie Bell feeling about taking on the part of Reno Sweeney in the Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society's production of the swinging jazzy musical *Anything Goes*, which hits the stage in May?

"Well, firstly, I have to say I am absolutely loving rehearsals," said Sophie, who starred as Miss Walsingham in last year's CHAOS show, *Kipps – The New Half a Sixpence Musical*.

"It's a huge challenge, with fabulous songs and big dance routines to get under my belt, but we're all pretty happy with how things are shaping up." Reno sings a string of Cole Porter show-stoppers including the title song 'Anything Goes', 'I Get a Kick Out of

Wychwood Players present



Thursday 30th April - Saturday 2nd May at 7:30pm
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You', 'You're the Top' and 'Blow Gabriel Blow', and she described this as the most demanding role she's ever tackled.

"Reno's a gutsy nightclub singer with a big personality and a very cheeky sense of humour," says Sophie. "So it's going to be great fun recreating her on stage. I really can't wait!"

Sophie and the cast are being put through their paces by John Kearsey, who's also looking forward to wowing Chipping Norton crowds when the show opens for its three-day run on May 7.

"This really is a musical with everything," says John, who's directing a mu-

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sical for the first time. "Great songs, lovely dancing, solos, duets, and big chorus numbers.

"And the script is hilarious – there's a joke or a sight gag on every page – so we're really hoping to bring it all to life and make it one of the most entertaining shows we've ever staged.

"That's the plan anyway!"

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.

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Bourton Panto Group

What a fantastic start to the year it has been for Bourton Panto Group! Our shows at the end of January were a wonderful success and we're still smiling when we think back to all the

laughter and cheers. We'd love to say another huge thank you to everyone who came along to support us — we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Now that the curtain has fallen and the wigs have been carefully packed away (well... mostly), we hope all of our cast, crew and audiences have had a chance to recover. Panto season certainly keeps us busy, and we're already missing the buzz of the stage. We hope you aren't missing us too much — but don't worry, we'll be back before you know it!

One very special thank you must go to the many wonderful local businesses who kindly donated prizes for our raffle. Your generosity and support mean a great deal to us and truly help keep community theatre alive and thriving. We are incredibly grateful to each and every one of you.

Finally, we would love to know if there are any budding, or experienced, Pantomime directors out there! If you have a passion for panto, a flair for fun, and the ability to keep a group of enthusiastic performers roughly in the right place at the right time, we would love to hear from you. We may just need your help!

As always, thank you for supporting your local pantomime group. Keep an eye out for news, updates and opportunities to get involved with. After all, behind every great panto is a brilliant community.

Emily Franks

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

Coln River Trail – Leg 2 – Source to Andoversford – Wednesday 8th April – Moderate 4hr 7.5ml. The second in a series of walks which aim to cover the length of the Coln River Trail from Winchcombe to Lechlade over 9 circular walks. Bring a snack/drink and lunch. Start: 10.00am Wardens Wood car park, Cleeve Common. OS Map ref: SP 011 236. W3W: low-est.albums.zealous

Walking the Ways 1 (of 5) – Tuesday 14th April – Moderate 4.5hr to 5.5 8.5ml. The first of five circular walks during 2026, exploring Wardens' and Windrush Ways, which run between Winchcombe and Bourton-on-the-Water, & the landscape and villages they pass through. Bring a snack/drink & lunch. Start: 10.00am Winchcombe Back Lane car park, Winchcombe. Pay & display (£1 all day). OS Map ref: SP 023 284. W3W: statue.harps.supposes

Northleach, Hampnett & the Saltway – Tuesday 21st April – Moderate 2.5hr 5ml. An interesting walk from the 'wool town' of Northleach including the Salt Way & Fosse Way. Bring a snack/drink. Start: 10.00am Market Place, Northleach, Cheltenham GL54 3EJ. OS Map ref: SP 113 145. W3W: tickets.emotional.perky

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Their yellow crowns so high and bright,
Arouse and fuse wonder and delight.
Yet, ask for simply nothing in return,
Like a Gift from Heaven unearned.

Where daffodils are favoured and found,
They exalt whatever else is around;
And play their unsung, crucial part
In hoisting again our souls and hearts.

And here, too, is the very thing -
Daffodils are the Heralds of Spring:
Signalling in their own, special way,
To start afresh every single day.

Hugh O'Connell



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

We have a word limit of 300 words per article.

If your contact details appear in the Bourton Browser they will be on our website copy. If you do not want this to happen, tell us. Unless we hear from you, we will assume consent.

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Ray Dodd, Advertising Manager



Bourton Roadrunners 10K, 22nd February 2026

Approaching 700 runners took on the **Bourton 10K**, supporting Prostate Cancer UK, and thrilling the many supporters and visitors alike, as the runners gave their all. It was Matthew Lock of Witney RRC who bagged the glory in a stunning display, completing the 6.2 mile course in 31 minutes and 21 seconds. The battle behind him showed no sign of surrender, with Stewart Merry of Cheltenham & County Harriers (31:39) just staying ahead of Richard De Camps (31:46) of Gloucester AC.

The class in the women's field was no less impressive, with the relative newcomer Isabel Brinsden of CLC Striders leading a quality group to victory in 35 minutes and 36 seconds. Becki Timmings of B.R.A.T. was second (36:39) and Georgina Greenwood of Stroud and District AC third (36:44).

It was Bourton Roadrunners' Conor Shoemark who led the host club's team home in an impressive 35 minutes and 55 seconds. Bourton's Steph Lane gave a strong performance in 37:15, finishing sixth woman overall in race. Other BRR runners included Alex Pye (39:40), Kevin Goodwill (41:19), Chris Dry (50:35), Andy Caley (50:51), Barry O'Leary (52:31) and Mollie Heyworth (72:36). They were chaperoned by Bourton's Shirley Creed, the race's official tail-runner.



Conor Shoemark with 100 metres to finish at Bourton 10K.

Bourton Roadrunners are immensely grateful to High Bridge Jewellers, Cornish Bakery, Gloucestershire Police, Cotswold First Aid, Gloucestershire Highways and Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council for their invaluable support.

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