

# THE **Bourton** **BUGLE**

LOCAL NEWS, VIEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL

## SPRING 2015



*Millennium Wood  
Val & Dave Walsh*

- How to Save a Life On Your Doorstep
- Get Ready for Open Gardens
- Far Horizons – the Educational Trust in Action
- And More!



Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter which you may notice has undergone a 'rebrand'. This is partly to help distinguish the circular from others distributed locally but also the Editor indulging her liking for alliteration.

In this edition I am delighted to include an article by a young villager whose recent travels were made possible in part by financial support from the Educational Trust. It's a great illustration of the work the Trust does to encourage young people in Bourton to expand their horizons and build up their skills and I hope will prompt other young people and their parents to think about whether the Trust could help them as well.

*Ailsa Vigrass*

### **ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH**

You may have noticed the clock stopped striking some weeks ago. It has been going for a long time but at last it felt in need of some TLC. Following some repairs to the chiming mechanism it is now in fine fettle, chiming correctly and is now much easier to wind.



The Rev. Dana has brought in a certain dynamism to our services and we get a warm welcome from her. The services are below and you are welcome to come and experience the new vigour.

#### **The services up to and including Easter are:**

Sunday 1st March (second Sunday in Lent) - 6pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Sunday 8th March (third Sunday in Lent) - 11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 15th March (Mothering Sunday) -

11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 22nd March (Passiontide) - Benefice Holy Communion Service at Blockley at 9.30am

Sunday 29th March (Palm Sunday) - 11.15am Holy Communion (BCP) - Blessing of Palm Crosses

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) - 2pm The Last Hour

Sunday 5th April (Easter Day) - 11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

**You will be warmly welcomed to any or all of our services.**

#### **Other matters**

You might like to know there is now a box in church where items for the local food bank can be left. The contents will go to the Moreton food bank. Please be generous.

There is now placed in the Church a 'prayer net' next to the font on which prayers can be left and which will be included in Evening Prayer at 5pm each Wednesday.

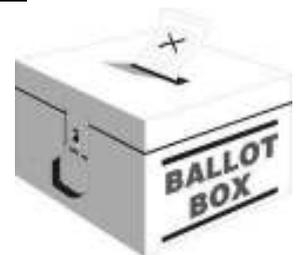
The 'Four Shires Bell Ringers' will be ringing on Easter Evening at 7.30pm (as agreed at the last PCC). They have rung before and are very good.

*Peter Herbert*

### **THE PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **Elections**

At the same time as the general election in May, there will also be Parish Council and District Council elections. Due to boundary changes in





the district elections Bourton on the Hill will no longer be part of Fosseridge Ward (which included Longborough and Broadwell); we will join Moreton West Ward. The Parish Council are very grateful to Cllr Julian Beale who has represented us on the District Council and helped us with many issues and especially the planning applications at Hillcrest.

### **Highways**

There has been some progress with Gloucestershire County Council Highways discussing installing new traffic calming gates at the entrances to the village on the A44 and also discussing the potential installation of a vehicle activated sign (VAS) near Fenhill Close.

The new bollards have been a useful addition to the traffic calming measures and we are grateful to those residents who regularly wash the dirt off to maintain the reflective surfaces. Several have been hit and broken so Highways are looking into more robust alternatives.

Highways have also informed us that there will be major resurfacing work along Five Mile Drive from Troopers Lodge to the county boundary at the top of Fish Hill from March 23rd until April 15th. This will involve the complete closure of the A44 and both turnings to Chipping Campden. We have contacted Pulhams Coaches to see what provisions they have for the Chipping Campden School bus which travels that route. We will endeavour to let parents know as soon as possible.

### **Speed Gun**

At our last meeting it was agreed to buy a Community Speed Watch 'speedar' (speed gun) jointly with Longborough Parish Council. Once we know the date of the next training session which is run at Stow Police Station, we will try to have more people trained to use the equipment. This will enable us to have regular teams of volunteers keeping our main road

safer. If anyone would like to volunteer to be the co-ordinator for the teams and the equipment, please contact Alexia Monroe (Clerk to the Parish Council 01386 700277).

### **Defibrillator**

The familiarisation evening for the new defibrillator (see page 4) will be in the Old School Hall in the near future. We will be advertising the date as soon as we have it. We encourage everyone to come along to see how it works and how you could save a life.

### **Sight-Impaired Support**

'Insight Gloucestershire' who are helping sight impaired people have a support and information service in the Moreton Area Centre, in the Council offices on the High Street, every Monday 10 am – 1pm.

### **Wheelie Bins**

Don't forget to apply for your green wheelie bin licences by March 6th to ensure that they arrive by April 1st, ready for the new year.

### **Council Meetings**

The Parish Council meetings for 2015 are all on Mondays as usual, i.e.: 23rd March; 11th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting), 18th May (Annual Meeting of the Parish with refreshments), 13th July, 12th October and 7th December.

### **Councillors**

Your Parish Councillors are Andy Vigrass (Chairman), Liz Bowden (Vice Chairman), Louise Davis, Sir Peter Herbert, Tom Martin & Mark Norton. The Clerk to the Parish Council is Alexia Monroe.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held in the Old School Hall on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm. All are very welcome to attend.

*Alexia Monroe /Andy Vigrass*



## **DEFIBRILLATOR**

If someone you were with suddenly complained of chest pains or collapsed what would you do?

You'd call 999 immediately of course but we have recently installed an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator ("AED") in a green cabinet on the outside wall of the Old School (picture below) to try to sustain life in the event of heart problems until help arrives.



The defibrillator is there to restore a heart-beat after the normal rhythm has been disrupted by first monitoring the patient's condition and then applying an electric shock if it might help. The AED is safe to use because it will only apply the shock if it is sensible to try.

It's there for everyone to use including YOU. If someone needs help, YOUR prompt action could save their life.

So, if the worst happens, this is what you do:

- Call 999 and tell the ambulance operator what's happened
- If appropriate, they will know where the defibrillator is and tell you the combination of the cabinet lock
- Open the cabinet, unzip the bag, press the green ON button

- The defibrillator will talk you through the simple 3 stage process to use it.

Don't hold back. Don't delay. Every minute counts.

It's the result of a joint initiative between the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council and has been purchased and installed thanks to generous local donations for which we are very grateful.

Even though the defibrillator is easy to use, we're planning on holding an initial training session to show how to use it. If you are interested in finding out more, please let Alexia Monroe, Clerk to the Parish Council, know.

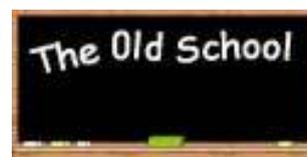
In the meantime, take a look at the cabinet which is lit up at night. You can see the defibrillator through the window in the door. Tell your friends. You never know, it could help save their life or even your own.

*Mark Norton*

## **THE OLD SCHOOL**

### **Christmas Party**

The Old School Committee decorated the hall ready for the Christmas Party ready for the thirty five people who attended our annual festivities. Hot food was served with a glass of mulled, red or white wine on arrival. Our thanks go to Sheila Rosenthal who was our compere for the evening and John Robertson who played the keyboard. The programme was a traditional one with carols and Christmas readings given by villagers. A quiz and a Yule log decorating completion completed the evening's entertainment.



We would be delighted to see you at our Christmas 2015 party. It is a great way to meet



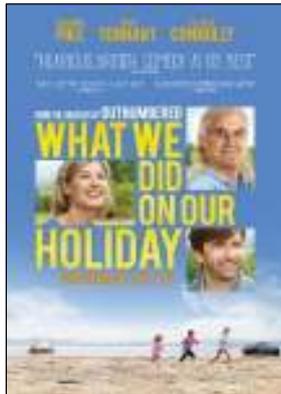
people in the village and enjoy yourself. Children are always welcome.

### Sausages

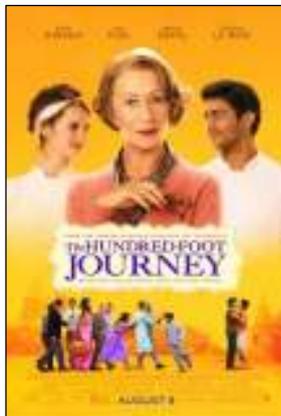
We are planning a 'Sausage & Mash' supper with entertainment for the evening of **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April** – the exact time is to be confirmed. Please look out for posters around the village closer to the date for more details.

### Rural Cinema

These popular evenings continue to be held once a month.



The film for February will be shown on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> and is the comedy '**What we did on our Holiday**' starring Billy Connolly, David Tennant and Rosamund Pike.



The film for March is to be shown on Saturday March the 28<sup>th</sup> and is another comedy, '**The Hundred Foot Journey**' starring Dame Helen Mirren. Both features will start at 7.15 pm.

Tickets cost £3.50 on the door - hotdogs and wine are available as an added extra and are on sale from 6.30 pm.

### Bookings

The Old School is a perfect venue for parties or meetings of any sort and villagers enjoy a discretionary hire rate. Both the upper and lower floors are available with the lower floor offering a fully equipped play area which is ideal for younger children. Bookings can be

made with Pat on 701396 or Sandra on 701385.

We are always delighted to hear of any suggestions for community events - the Old School is run for the use of all villagers so please do reach out to us – we are a very friendly lot!

*Pat Freeman  
Tel. 701396*

### CAROL SINGING

This took place on Friday 19th December in aid of the Cobalt Unit in Cheltenham. We had a great turn out, nineteen singers in all and a beautiful crisp night to walk around the village, finishing in The Horse and Groom. We collected a total of **£212.16** for the Cobalt Unit, who are very grateful to those who contributed so generously. Many thanks also to all the singers who gave up their time and braved the cold for this very worthwhile cause.



*Anne Robertson*

### OPEN GARDENS 2015

This year, Open Gardens will take place on **Sunday 14th June from 1pm to 6pm**. We are grateful to Mr and Mrs Quintus for opening Bourton House Gardens that day and allowing parking in their car park.

We hope there will also be a number of gardens in the village open for people to visit. In the past, eight or nine other gardens have opened. If you are willing to open your garden or help with teas in the Old School Hall or assist with parking, please contact Anne Robertson 01386 701564 or any other member of the Old School Hall committee.

*Anne Robertson*



## **BOURTON HOUSE GARDEN**

As we write, Paul, Jacky and Gareth, our hard-working gardeners, are turning their thoughts to the new season and opening to the public again on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. The group bookings are filling up the diary and, in February, 37 Japanese bookings arrived in one single day – an all-time record! It looks like it will be a busy season for everyone.



Sue Williams and Christine Walford have retired from running the Tea Room and Gift Shop in the Tithe Barn and we are pleased to welcome Carolyn Coleman and her husband Tom as our new tea room proprietors. Carolyn will be opening the tea room from the beginning of May until the end of September, which will hopefully please everyone who visits on sunny May days as they will now be able to get a cup of tea during their visit.



*Parterre  
Alan Pollock-Morris*

Several beautiful snow-frosted winter photographs of the garden by Alan Pollock-Morris featured in a six page spread in the January 2015 issue of 'Home and Garden' magazine, accompanied by an interesting article from freelance garden journalist Naomi Slade. We are also delighted to be featured in

'Secret Gardens of the Cotswolds: A Personal Tour of 20 Private Gardens' by Victoria Summerley with photographs by Hugo Rittson-Thomas, which was published in February 2015.

### **Dates for your diary**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Village Gardens Open including Bourton House Garden

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August – Open in aid of NGS

**FREE ADMISSION:** On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, we will be participating in the first ever National Gardens Open Day, as part of RHS National Gardening Week. Admission to the garden will be free to everyone throughout the day and we do hope you will come along, enjoy the garden, chat to the gardeners and see the garden coming to life after the long winter months.

We wish you all a sunny and successful 2015.

*Roelof and Cheryl Quintus#*

### **BRIDGE CLUB**



The (North Cotswolds) Bridge Club continues its programme at the Old School. Extremely social meetings for novices, improvers, more competitive players and occasional charity events are held each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, mornings, afternoons and evenings.

Full details of these and any amendments to the timetable are available from me on: 01608 650202 or [alan.lamb123@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.lamb123@btinternet.com) or [www.bridgewebs.com/northcotswolds](http://www.bridgewebs.com/northcotswolds) or Facebook!

*Alan Lamb*



## EDUCATIONAL TRUST SPECIAL: A MESSAGE FROM MALAWI

Around this time last year an opportunity came up to travel on a school trip to Malawi in the South East of Africa to help local communities out there by working on some projects and learning about a new culture, so different from ours. I jumped at the opportunity and started to earn money and save up for this trip, along with some financial help from the **Bourton on the Hill Educational Trust** and various generous friends.

So on the 16th October last year twenty five of us set off from school to Heathrow Terminal Two for our long journey to Africa. We flew to Ethiopia overnight and arrived at 11am local time with a two hour wait for a flight to Blantyre, Malawi. Finally we landed in Blantyre with clear blue skies and thirty five degrees; such a change from grey and chilly England!



We were staying at Fishermans Rest run by the parents of one of the girls at school. They had been there for nearly twenty years and had set up multiple community projects, school feeding programmes, construction programmes and many other things. We stayed on site in a reserve with many impala, geckos, scorpions, inala and snakes but also with lovely rooms, amazing cooks and an incredible Africa-shaped pool to relax in when we weren't working.

Over the next week and a half we spent time at four schools teaching lessons which included a rocket launcher to teach about pressure, which caused a lot of joy, and serving 'phala' (a fortified porridge designed for those who have

it as their only meal of the day). We also visited a prison to give out bread, play frisbee and football with the inmates and get to know about the legal system in Malawi. It was very frustrating to hear about those who had done as little as steal a chicken, given it back but were still sent to prison as they couldn't afford the fine.

On our first day we also visited an orphanage run by a lovely Canadian couple. An orphan in Africa is classed as a child who has lost one parent or more, so there are very many of them all wanting to be part of the amazing orphanage. It was so sad to hear about children dumped on their doorstep as the parents knew they were HIV positive and the orphanage could give them a better life. But it was so encouraging to be a part of the happy atmosphere.



Just down the road from Fishermans Rest was the Tilitonse Community Centre where we built bricks. The unfired bricks were built into a kiln; we carried water up from the stream to make the mud to slap onto the kiln; fires were then lit in the tunnels of the kiln to set the bricks. These would be used to build another classroom for the primary school. Another activity was to work with the local community to fix their borehole which provides them with water when it is not running in homes and facilities. We travelled there and followed their instructions to "lift, unscrew, hacksaw, pull, replace"... - it was all very confusing but the result was so satisfying as water flowed again.

The last few days in Malawi were mainly relaxing as we travelled to Lake Malawi to



relax on the beach for a few days as well as taking a boat trip and jumping off the top to go snorkelling and look at all the fish. On our last night we stayed in a game park with monkeys, elephants, wilderbeast, warthogs and hundreds of hippos! It was certainly not the English camping I was used to and was a strange experience scaring away monkeys from the porridge, hearing elephants fighting very close to the tent and gunshots from the security scaring them away! But the next morning we packed away and headed back to Blantyre airport and back home again.

I hope it is clear that I greatly enjoyed the trip and received a lot from the experience, I would like to thank again the Educational Trust who helped fund the trip.

*Phyllida Monroe*

### **EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

It's time for some big 'Thank-Yous' from the Educational Trust:



THANK YOU - to Liz Ludbrook who has recently retired from being a Trustee, after many years of supporting Leslie Badger, Mick Gaden, Richard Paice and I. We will miss your advice, your humour and most importantly your strong commitment to the young people in our village.

THANK YOU - to those families who have asked the Trust for help: during the last few months we've been able to give money for school uniforms, sports kit, school trips, Duke of Edinburgh award, music lessons and university grants.

THANK YOU - in advance to all of you who will be asking for money. Its money invested for young people of the village and we want to spend it!

Are you aged under 25, and live in the village?  
Are you...

- about to start a new school and need uniform or kit?
- going on school trips, or playing sport or music?
- wanting extra lessons in something (languages, swimming, maths)?
- need help with dyslexia or other disability?
- doing a special programme like Duke of Edinburgh award?
- starting (or continuing) college or university and need help with paying for travel, equipment, books or a computer?
- just starting work but want to do some extra training?

If so, then the Educational Trust are here to help you.

If there's something you (or a child you care for) would like help with, then please ask one of the team. They are: Dr Louise Davis and Carlin Anderson (Fenhill), Rupert Crawshaw (Main street) and Catherine Firth (next to the church) - email [allen.firth@btinternet.com](mailto:allen.firth@btinternet.com) or phone 700939.

*Catherine Firth*

### **SMALL ADS**

Michael Wainwright is a qualified French teacher and is available for all levels of French tuition. He currently holds a class in Bourton on the Hill and will take groups or individuals. If interested please contact Liz Bowden on 700659

The Moreton in Marsh Garage which is currently situated on Hospital Road has now opened a branch at the Quarry Garage and is operating a MOT service. Tel: 01608 650015 and ask for Lewis



### MILLENNIUM WOOD



The Millennium Wood is now beginning to take on the appearance of a well established young wood. Even though there are no leaves on the trees, but plenty on the ground, on a misty morning the wood looks truly beautiful.

There has been a good show of cyclamens and the primroses, which are spreading more each year, are just starting to flower.



*Primrose, Millennium Wood*

The path around the wood will continue to be kept free from weeds but as the canopy is becoming thicker, year on year, the undergrowth is becoming less vigorous.

Over the winter the insect box has been repaired and metal plates have been put on the front of the bird boxes. The woodpecker had obviously been busy enlarging the entrance holes for his own purpose!

*Val & Dave Walsh*

### TRANSPORT SURVEY

Cotswold District Council has commissioned research, funded by the Police & Crime

Commissioner, into transport needs and potential solutions in the Cotswolds.

CDC is keen to encourage as many people who live, work or study in the Cotswolds to complete a short, tick box questionnaire to provide more information on transport difficulties, travel needs and challenges. The survey should take no more than a few minutes to complete, and will give them essential information regarding the needs for specific services.

Surveys can be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CotswoldCommunityTransportSurvey>

If you would prefer to receive hard copies of the questionnaire for completion, please email Sian Thornthwaite or Jennifer Taylor at CDC and they will arrange for those to be sent to you.

*Sian Thornthwaite, STC 07903 803478  
Jennifer Taylor CDC 01285 623566*

### THE NEXT ISSUE

is due out in early July  
Items for inclusion should be submitted by mid June to:-



*Ailsa Vigrass*  
[amvigrass@gmail.com](mailto:amvigrass@gmail.com)