

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

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

## SPRING 2017



*Picture courtesy of Philip Gee*

- Broadband news
- Keeping up with the times
- Open Gardens – call for volunteers
- And more!



Welcome to the Spring edition of the Bugle - we have some great news about our church clock together with details of our biannual Open Gardens event which is such an important fund raiser for our community. Wishing you a wonderful Easter.

*Ailsa Vigrass*

**The Parochial Church Council:**

The Rev. Dana Delap.  
Philip Gee, Churchwarden  
Mike Bunston, Churchwarden  
Frances Stone  
Tom Martin  
Sandra Gee  
Henry Betts

**ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH**

**SERVICES AT ST. LAWRENCE TO THE END OF MAY**

*We would be delighted to welcome you*



**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Palm Sunday**  
11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April, Good Friday**  
2pm Last Hour by the Cross

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Sunday**  
11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Second Sunday of Easter**  
11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, Third Sunday of Easter**  
**This Service is at Blockley**  
9.30am Benefice Holy Communion

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
6pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May, Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
11.15am Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
11.15am Holy Communion (CW)

All of whom will be happy respond to any questions

*Philip Gee*

**PARISH COUNCIL**

**Broadband**



Our County Councillor, Lyndon Stowe, told us on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March that Fastershire aim to provide every property in the county with faster broadband by the end of 2018. Fastershire are also due to announce at the end of May 2017 the next areas to be upgraded, so we await their news.

The Parish Council have considered some options used by other communities, even including installing a transmitter on the church tower. However, they have all been found to be impractical and/or far too expensive.

We wait to see what Fastershire announce at the end of May.

**Middle Bus Shelter**



The solar panel and the lights at the Millennium bus stop in the middle of the village had stopped working. An electrician has been engaged to repair them.



## Highways

Highways have asked us to provide a wish-list for future projects. We discussed this in our last meeting and we agreed to submit the following:



1. Install a vehicle-activated sign, saying for example “30 Slow Down”, for traffic coming uphill between Fenhill Close and Bourton House.
2. Clear the land slippage off the pavement from the Horse & Groom up to the Longborough turning and to build a pavement on the same side of the road all the way to the Filling Station.
3. Install lighting in the bus shelter at Fenhill Close
4. Finish the tarmac on the pavement down the A44 towards Moreton.
5. Resurfacing on Back Lane/Rectory Lane and Keytes Lane.

## Freedom of Information

We are now required to provide access to our records on the internet. We are continually adding more documents to the Parish Council section of the village website. Please take a look and you will see regular updates at [www.bourtononthehill.co.uk](http://www.bourtononthehill.co.uk).



## Table Tennis Table

County Councillor Lynden Stowe has given the Parish Council a grant of £300 to buy a table tennis table which will then be donated to the Old School Hall Committee; to add to their facilities.

## Councillors

The Parish Councillors are Andy Vigrass (Chairman), Liz Bowden (Vice Chairman), Louise Davis, Jacqueline Job, Sir Peter Herbert, Tom Martin & Mark Norton. The

Clerk to the Parish Council is Alexia Monroe (01386 700277).

## MAY 15th – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Meeting of the Parish

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th May, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council with the election of the chairman and vice chairman at 6pm; followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7.30pm. There will be drinks and nibbles and all members of the public are welcome to attend. This is the annual opportunity to hear from the local charities and organisations and a good roundup of what has been happening in the village in the last year.

*Alexia Monroe / Andy Vigrass*

## THE OLD SCHOOL



The Rural Cinema

continues to go from strength to strength and last month 63 people were present to watch ‘Sully’ – this is a record and reminded us that we only have 62 chairs! The April film is ‘A United Kingdom’ on Saturday 22nd April and flyers are being distributed to all households as usual.



On Saturday 4th March, we held a Coffee Morning with a silent auction and bric-a-brac sale. The morning raised £270.00 which will go towards funding a ramp and handrail to improve disabled access.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April there will be a Wine Tasting with wines provided by Majestic Wines followed by a Cheese and Wine supper. Places must be booked in advance from Sandra Gee – 01386 701385.



## The Old School



### WINE TASTING

#### Majestic Wines

will be introducing a variety of wines for tasting. This will be followed by a wine and cheese supper.

**Friday 28th April 2017**  
**6.00 for 6.30 p.m.**

**Tickets: £10.00**  
(to include tasting wine  
and cheese and wine supper)

**Must be booked in advance from:**  
Sandra Gee - Tel: 01386 701385  
or Email: [psgee@btinternet.com](mailto:psgee@btinternet.com)

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July another Open Gardens afternoon will take place. Please keep the date in your diary.

We would like to welcome one or two more people on to the Committee to help us organise various events throughout the year. If you are interested, please contact Pat Freeman (Chairman) on 701396 or Sandra Gee (Secretary) on 701385.

Do get in touch with us if you have any ideas for future events you would like us to organise in the village. We would love to hear from you.

*Sandra Gee*

## GARDENS OPEN DAY



Village Open Gardens will take place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July from 1pm to 5pm. Bourton House Garden will be open along with a number of other gardens in the village.

Teas will be available in the Old School Hall from 1:30pm to 4pm.

Are you proud of your garden? Would you like to share it with other people? If so, please contact Anne Robertson on 701564 for further details.

Thank you to those who have already indicated their willingness to open their garden but would love a few more to join us.

We would also be grateful for help in the tearoom and with parking. Please contact any member of the Old School Hall committee.

*Anne Robertson*

## BRIDGE CLUB

The Bridge Club meets in the Old School most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. All welcome. Please see further details at:



[www.bridgewebs.com/northcotswolds](http://www.bridgewebs.com/northcotswolds).

*Alan Lamb*



## THE SIGNS AND THE TIMES AT ST. LAWRENCE

The week commencing Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March was an exciting one for our beautiful church which has been a ‘beacon on the hill’ since the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.

Two very generous donations enabled us to commission two important projects and both came to fruition in the same week!

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March wonderful new sign boards were put up in the churchyard just behind the wall onto the A44 – see the photograph below. These were deliberately kept as ‘uncluttered’ as possible and they fulfil the simple but important function of making the name of our church visible to those passing by and of letting people know that our churchyard is part of the Quiet Gardens scheme.

It is wonderful how many visitors pause and spend time to enjoy the peace of our lovely churchyard and its glorious views and we hope that the new signs will encourage even more to visit both the church and the churchyard – to sit quietly, reflect and/or pray and to enjoy their beauty. We are extremely grateful for the very generous anonymous donation which paid for these new sign boards.



The following day, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Smith of Derby began work on installing an auto-wind system for our church clock. There is

a brass plaque on the front of the clock case in the tower which says:

“This clock made by Messrs Smith & Sons of Derby at a cost of £98 was placed in the tower and started by the Rector on 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1904:

Rev’d Frederic Farrer MA, Rector  
Mr. Thomas Davis, Churchwarden  
Mr. Harry Gill, Churchwarden

The cost was defrayed from a fund annually gathered at the village fete”

The clock mechanism (see photo below) has remained unchanged apart from annual servicing and maintenance ever since it was installed and Smith of Derby (the current name for the firm that made the clock) have continued to service it. The mechanism is in excellent condition and the clock keeps very good time but, in common with many clocks of this type, it has needed to be wound manually and this has been done for the last 113 years by a succession of willing people who have been strong and fit enough to do so.



Winding the clock manually involved using a large handle to raise three weights at least once a week; the clock would run for up to seven days before it needed to be wound but it was easier to wind it twice a week as two of the weights (for the chime and for the strike) are in excess of 2½ hundredweight! It was a good workout!



As is the case with many village churches the number of fit and strong people willing and able to wind the clock is diminishing and there is also the 'health and safety factor' of whoever wound the clock having to go up and down a steep, narrow (and dusty) spiral stone staircase in fairly dim lighting alone with all the obvious risks. The PCC and churchwardens decided to approach Smith of Derby about the possibility of electrifying the winding of the clock (not the electrifying of the clock mechanism) and were told that they had a system which could be installed to work with our clock.

We were more than delighted when the family of David Peake, a much loved and long-time member of our congregation, who died in September 2015 offered to make a donation in his memory to cover not only the cost of electrifying the winding of the clock but also the cost of installing a 'magical' pendulum regulator which will not only ensure that the clock maintains time within an accuracy of a few seconds but which will automatically adjust the clock for the one hour changes in March and October. The wonders of modern technology!

The installation of the auto-wind system was completed on Friday 10th March and the pendulum regulator was fitted on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March. All appears to be working well and the clock is keeping excellent time. We are so very grateful to the family of David Peake for making such a generous donation in his memory and there are plans to put up a plaque marking that donation.

I hope it goes without saying that the faculties approving the new sign boards and the electrification of the clock winding were applied for and received before the work was started!

*Philip Gee (Churchwarden)*

### **BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL HELP IN NEED CHARITY**

This long-established charity provides assistance to people in the parish to meet particular financial needs and more generally to help with winter fuel costs. Grants of funds in a wide variety of circumstances have been made, and the Trustees have a duty to distribute the charity's funds to assist parishioners. This can only be done where the Trustees are made aware of any particular needs, and it should be stressed that all approaches to the charity are treated with complete confidentiality.

The Trustees are always keen to be made aware of specific needs, either for you or for others who you believe would benefit.

The Trustees are :-

Dana Delap  
Michael Dulverton  
Trish Hayes (Chair)  
Peter Herbert  
Rachel Hudson

While all the Trustees are happy to be contacted directly, where requests are communicated to Trish (01451 870309) or myself (01386 700939), this will generally help in terms of getting them considered most speedily.

*Allen Firth  
Clerk to the Trustees  
allen.firth@btinternet.com*



## EDUCATIONAL TRUST

- Are you under 25?
- Would you like to: go on a school field trip this summer?
- Learn something new ? (Swimming? Art? Climbing?)
- Buy a new kit or equipment?
- Need help with transport?



If so, then the village Educational Trust is here to help you, with anything connected with your education or training.

Please ask one of us (Catherine Firth, Louise Davis, Carlin Anderson, Rupert Crawshaw or Rev Dana Delap), either by email or in person. There are no forms to complete.

*Catherine Firth*  
*catherinefirth54@gmail.com*

## BOURTON HOUSE GARDENS

As we write, Bourton House Garden has just opened its gates to the public for the 2017 season. Last year, we extended our opening days to four days a week and we are delighted to report this was a huge success, with Tuesday openings proving to be very popular and often one of the busiest days of the week. For the first time, we came very close to 10,000 visitors - a record number.



The lovely early April weather has been a blessing with plenty of spring flowers and the Japanese cherries in our field laden with white blossom. Our diary is already very full with group visits from home as well as overseas. This year we are pleased to welcome many Scandinavian groups as well as return visits from some of our favourite groups from Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, USA and

Australia. We are also delighted to have become a regular garden of choice for Japanese garden design students as well as students from UK colleges.

**Spring Special** - Admission only £5 in April

### **Dates for your diary**

Sunday 2nd July

Village Gardens Open, including Bourton House Garden

Sunday 13th August

Bourton House Garden open in aid of NGS

We wish you all a sunny and successful 2017.

*Roelof and Cheryl Quintus*

## WALK, REMEMBER, CELEBRATE



This year's Walk for Longfield (formerly Solstice Walk) will be on Friday 9th June, with the option of 5km or 10km walks on Minchinhampton Common, plus music, children's entertainment, a barbecue and a bar. All money raised will support Longfield's amazing care for people in Gloucestershire with life-limiting illness and the walks start at our building in Burleigh Lane from 6.30pm. Entry fees are £10 for an adult and £5.00 per child.

Register at [www.longfield.org.uk](http://www.longfield.org.uk), call 01453 886868 or e-mail [events@longfield.org.uk](mailto:events@longfield.org.uk).

## THE NEXT ISSUE

.. is due out in July. Items for inclusion should be submitted by early July 2017 to: -



*Ailsa Vigrass*  
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