

# THE Bourton BUGLE

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

## WINTER 2020



- Christmas at St Lawrence
- The Old School receives a grant
- Open Gardens 2020
- New village website
- Memorial to Sir Peter Herbert
- And more!



Welcome to the winter edition of the Bugle. Even though St Lawrence and the Old School have had to close and cancel or postpone their activities it is heartening to see that work is still going on so that when something like normality returns we will be able to enjoy the community life at Bourton that is so special.

In the meantime, I wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas and hopefully a very much better New Year for everyone.

*Ailsa Vigrass*

### ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

*We would be delighted to welcome you*



The many changes in the rules relating to Covid 19 have made it impossible to plan services very far ahead and at the time of writing we do not know what will be allowed as from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021.

However we have been able to plan the following:

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Advent 4**

11:00am Holy Communion (CW)

*Please wear a mask*

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

#### **Carol Service in the churchyard**

6pm – *Please wrap up warmly!*

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Midnight Mass**

11:30pm Holy Communion (CW)

*Please wear a mask*

Although we are still not allowed to sing in church, we have been advised that an outdoor carol service is permitted so we very much hope that as many as possible will be able join

us on 22<sup>nd</sup> December whilst observing social distancing. It will be lovely to be able to sing carols. There will be some readings and the carol singing will be accompanied on a keyboard by our organist, Henry Betts. We need to pray for a dry evening!

We will ensure that seating for the services to be held in church will be socially distanced and hand sanitiser will be available.

In addition to the above, Blockley Church is holding a **Walk-through Nativity** on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December between 5pm and 7:20pm. You are warmly invited to attend on one of these dates; admission is free but will be by timed tickets only which can be obtained either from the Blockley Shop or from [www.blockleychurch.org.uk](http://www.blockleychurch.org.uk).

*Philip Gee*

### PARISH COUNCIL

The main items to report from this summer are that we have put up a memorial plaque to Sir Peter Herbert in Back Lane and have also launched a brand new website for the village. Otherwise on the usual PC business front it has been a quiet summer.

#### **Highways**

Cllr Stowe is still pursuing Highways on our behalf to change the junction at the Blockley turning from a 'give way' to a 'stop' junction following several accidents where motorists have ended up hitting the wall and the signposts across the main road.

We are still looking to reinvigorate the Speed Watch Teams and to use the speeder machine which we share with Longborough. Stow Police Station have restarted training sessions for new volunteers, there will regular updates on the village website.





future meetings will be available on the village website and on the village notice boards.

### **Councillors**

At the Parish Council on the 8th July Andy Vigrass was re-elected as Chairman and Liz Bowden was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

The Parish Councillors are Andy Vigrass (Chairman), Liz Bowden (Vice Chairman), Louise Davis, Angela Hay, Anna Stanley, Tom Martin & Mark Norton. The Clerk to the Parish Council is Alexia Monroe.

### **Phone & Email**



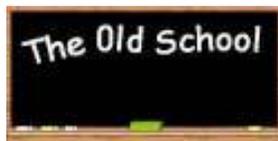
The phone number for contacting the clerk: **07594-169499**



The clerk's email address is **clerk@bourtononthehill.co.uk**

*Alexia Monroe / Andy Vigrass*

### **THE OLD SCHOOL**



Unfortunately, the Old School Hall has had to remain closed since the first Coronavirus lockdown in March.

The Bridge Club is suspended, Scottish Dancing cancelled and no Rural Cinema has been possible since we showed Downton Abbey in February. We hope to resume cinema screenings in the spring once we get the go ahead from the organisers in Cirencester. Naturally, we will have to follow all the rules on social distancing which will, inevitably, restrict numbers.

All other events planned for this year had to be cancelled, a Cheese and Wine evening, VE Day celebrations, Autumn Fete, Harvest Supper and Xmas party.

We did manage a Village Gardens Open event in conjunction with the Community Orchard project on 22nd August, (see separate report.) Covid restrictions have meant we have had to be inventive in relation to committee meetings, (held in gardens) and our AGM on 15th August which was held in the hall, meant wearing masks and being socially distanced. We are grateful to the 3 people who contributed along with the members of the committee and trustees.

We have taken advantage of the hall being empty to carry out maintenance and upgrading tasks, including having the roof repaired, guttering replaced and the wall adjacent to the road repointed. The kitchen has been refurbished with a new, (second hand) cooker and new shelving with the shelf in the hatch being removed. This will make serving hot dogs much easier without having to bend double!

We were lucky to benefit from a grant of £10,000 from Cotswold District Council as part of their scheme to keep community buildings and village halls viable despite the total loss of income since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Fire Alarm system is currently being overhauled and emergency lighting being renewed. Thank you to the neighbours who have informed us of the fire alarm sounding recently and apologies for the disturbance caused.

We hope it will not be too long before we can resume activities in the hall and welcome everyone back. In the meantime, keep well and stay safe.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*Anne Robertson  
(on behalf of the Old School Hall Committee)*



## **THE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

Are you new to the village, and do you have children? The Trust helps anyone under the age of 25 with modest grants towards educational activities, including school uniform, sports kit, field trips, music, equipment and starting university or college.



We also give a modest gift at Christmas to everyone under the age of 18. If you have moved here recently and have children we would like to include them on the distribution list, so please let us know their names and ages as soon as possible. Please be assured that this information will be kept securely by the trustees (see below) and not shared with anyone else.

To find out more about the Trust please look on the village website (& click the link for The Educational Trust).

The trustees are: Dr. Louise Davis, Carlin Anderson (both Fenhill Close), Rupert Crawshaw (main street), Rev Canon Dana Delap (The Vicarage, Blockley), and myself.

*Dr. Catherine Firth  
Chair of Trustees  
(catherinefirth54@gmail.com)*

## **BOURTON COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND GARDENS,**

The Bourton Community Gardens Association wishes to thank all the support received this year from parish, local and county councillors for the gardens project.

### **Bourton on the Hill Open Gardens 2020**

This year, Bourton on the Hill held a Villagers' Open Gardens event on Saturday 22nd August. Seven gardens were opened for neighbours to visit, and all were invited to

meet up for drinks in the new Community Orchard at the end of the afternoon. Approximately 50 villagers, friends and family attended the event - in an informal and socially-distanced fashion - and had the opportunity to find out more about the orchard and Bourton Community Gardens' plans for the future.

Thanks to the generosity of the local community, donations towards Bourton Community Gardens amounted to £211.60. *Thanks to all involved.*

### **Update: Bourton on the Hill Community Orchard and Gardens (Bourton CGA)**

At the end of 2019, a group of enthusiastic village members came together to set up a community orchard to reinvigorate the Bourton allotments, and to beautify the village by planting wildflowers and bulbs at various locations. The gardens have created a new community space and made a start on encouraging children (and adults!) to grow their own sustainable food and energise local conservation and climate efforts. Thanks to a small community grant from the and lots of kind contributors, over the past year we have planted:

- 20 fruit trees (apple, plum, pear and cherry) and
- Started a wildflower meadow in the orchard
- Planted bulbs throughout the village.

### **Looking to 2021**

We have recently planted up various new areas of bulbs around the village, and are looking forward to our spring display! Next year, we're hoping to really gear up on some 're-wilding' work around the village to encourage more wildlife back into the Cotswolds, and help mitigate the nature and climate crises our planet is facing – action starts at the community level!



If you'd like to get involved in this important local initiative, drop us a line. We wish all our supporters and friends a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2021.

**About Us**

Bourton CGA is grateful for the support of the Bourton on the Hill community members, the Bourton Parish Council, the Old School Committee, the Parochial Church Council, and from Cotswold District Council.

Please contact Tom Dixon on [BourtonCGA@gmail.com](mailto:BourtonCGA@gmail.com) to learn more or get involved.

*Tom & Elisabeth Dixon*

**BOURTON HOUSE GARDEN**



Well... what a year!

When we last wrote for the Bugle we were looking forward to the start of our new season and hoping to welcome many visitors; including over 100 groups. Shortly after we were wondering if we would be able to open at all in 2020.

Jacky and Gareth continued to work hard through the whole of lockdown to get the Garden ready in the hope that we would be able to open at some point; so we were delighted to open the gates in mid-June.

Despite group bookings not being able to go ahead we were thrilled with the number of visitors – it was a joy to be able to provide an escape from the constant news updates and hopefully a respite from the worries of coronavirus. We received such lovely feedback (all bar one, but there is always one who isn't happy!) not only about the Garden but how they felt safe and comfortable to visit – making the extra work and safety measures

all worthwhile. We really do never tire of receiving these comments!

We were also delighted to be able to go ahead with our National Garden Scheme day; albeit on a smaller scale for social distancing purposes. Despite the challenges created by the pandemic the NGS announced in late November donations totalling £2,884,710; the majority of which would be going to the nursing and health beneficiary charities without which the NHS would have struggled during the coronavirus crisis.

We now have positive news of the vaccine and hope that this will bring a brighter future for 2021 to us all.

Until then, we hope you all stay safe and well and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Best wishes,

*Roelof & Cheryl Quintus  
and the Garden team (pictured in sunnier times this year!)*



## **BRIDGE CLUB**



It is Allan's aspiration to come out of retirement to some level of Bridge Club activity... all depending on vaccinations and Village Hall feasibility. Any enquiries are best made by email, contacting the host through the website: [www.bridgewebs.com/northcotswolds](http://www.bridgewebs.com/northcotswolds)

*Alan Lamb*  
700583 (not after 8pm, please)

## **THE NEXT ISSUE**

.. is due out in March. We've been delighted to receive feedback from readers such as 'It just gets fuller and fuller with news' so please do let us have any pieces that you think would be of interest to your neighbours.



Items for inclusion should be submitted by early March to: -

*Ailsa Vigrass*  
*amvigrass@gmail.com*  
(or post items to me using the link on Bugle page on the new village website)