

BOURTON BROWSER



ISSUE NO 308

www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk

December 2024

DIARY DATES

29th November, Christmas Tree Lights switch-on 4.30pm, (also carols 4.15pm, some businesses open late with Christmas special offers).

December

1st Christmas Gift Fair, **VH**, 10am-5pm, 07832195427.

2nd 16th & 30th Mindsong, Sing 2 Remember **GMCC**, 10.30am & 2.30pm. 07764 212506 or 01451 821216.

4th Sight Loss Advice Hub, **GMCC**, drop in 1-2pm, appointments, 2-4pm. Call 01242 221170, or email info@insight-glos.org.uk

4th Parish Council meeting, 7pm, **GMCC**.

6th Panto Group, Fun Festive Quiz, **VH**, 6.45pm for 7.30pm start. See poster page 6 for full details.

7th Tayler & Fletcher, Monthly auction sale, **NCS**, GL54 2AR. 821666.

7th Christmas Charity Band Concert, Cotswold School Hall, 7.30pm, see poster page 20 for full details.

7th-8th Christmas Gift Fair Victoria Hall, 10am- 5pm. Tel : 07832195427

9th Probus, 10am, **GMCC**. "My Life in Opera" by Sue Black. See page 6.

10th WI, **VH**, 7pm. See page 12.

11th u3a, Scrabble Group, **GMCC**, 2-4pm. 07341 094206. peterdawson790@icloud.com See page 5.

11th Irene's Charity Knitting Circle, **WP**, 10am-12pm. See page 12.

11th u3a, "My life as a Micro Artist" by Graham Short **BLH**, 10am-12noon. www.u3asites.org.uk/bourton See page 5.

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 Council Notes

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER
PARISH COUNCIL



Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th November 2024

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson is working with local business owners to get a temporary arrangement in place for coach parking on the industrial estate. It is hoped to get a longer-term solution in place at the Cotswold School but costings are still being put together by the school and funding would most likely be needed from multiple sources.

Clapton Row Green: Cotswold District Council's Tourist Levy funds are being used by the Parish Council for the planting of a Prunus Lusitanica evergreen hedge around the perimeter of Clapton Row. This will be in place of the existing stones and is to prevent vehicles driving over the Green.

Proposed new bus stops in the village centre: Gloucestershire County Council Highways have submitted proposals for the design and location of new bus stops, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy. Members of the Highways Committee are providing feedback on three sites in the High Street; near the Edinburgh Woollen Shop, outside The Willow pub and outside the former Cedars site (opposite the war memorial).

Grant funding: The Parish Council would like to extend their grateful thanks to the following:

- The Rockcliffe Charitable Trust for their donation towards the Rye Crescent play area refurbishment.
- Gloucestershire County Council and County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson for the Build Back Better grant of £5,000 towards outdoor gym equipment at The Naight and Melville play areas.
- Cotswold District Council for £10,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund to part-fund the cost of replacement windows and doors at the George Moore Community Centre.

A new working group will explore options for ensuring the safety of residents and visitors in the village centre. Following an initial meeting, this group will be open to any resident who wishes to volunteer. Meeting dates will be advertised in the Browser and our website.

Bourton to Kingham cycle track project: The Council received an update that this project is still ongoing, with a report from Sustrans expected soon. It is hoped that this project will establish a sustainable route between Bourton and Kingham station and generally reduce motor traffic in the parish.

Christmas Arrangements: The Parish Council offices will be closed from Monday 23rd December to Wednesday 1st January inclusive.

Continued on Page 2, column 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 January edition is **Noon on 15th December**

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Continued from page 1 column 1

- 11th Horticultural Club. Social Evening with quiz & nibbles. **BCH**, 7.30pm. See page 5.
- 11th Bourton Community Day Club, 10.30am - 2.30pm, **MC**, GL54 2HE. 01608 652019.
- 13th & 27th Dementia Friendly Cafe, **StLC**, 2-4pm, 07746 672726. See Page 19.
- 14th-15th Gift & Craft Fair, **VH**, 9.30am-5pm, beautiful gifts, handmade crafts & lovely stall holders!
- 15th Craft & Tabletop Sale, in aid of Sunflowers Suicide Support, Baden Powell Hall, 11am-3pm. See article below, column 2.
- 22nd Farmers Market, **BLH** Car Park, GL54 2AR. 8.30am-12.30pm 07980 080073.

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Regular Weekly Bourton Events

- Mon. "Old Sweats" Meeting, **BLH**, 10am—12 Noon, 07714 852364 bourton.secretary@rbl.community
- Mon, Wed & Fri, Bourton Men in Sheds, 9.30am-12.30pm, Behind **RBL**, 01608 692811.
- Mon. & Thurs. Stay Strong & Steady, **BLH**, 1-2.30pm. 07957 546067 cotswoldactivehealth@gmail.com
See page 18.
- Mon. & Fri. Cotswold Yoga, **VH**, Mon 10-11am, Fri 5-6pm, 07490858775. See page 18.
- Tue. Drop in Digital Help Group, **GMCC**, 10.30am-12.30pm. 07707 281803. See poster page 14.
- Tue. "Together on Tuesdays", soup lunch, **StLC**, 12-2pm.
- Thurs. Flexercise, **BLH**, 10-11am. 01993 882350 kathy.kirk@live.com

In aid of
Sunflowers
SUICIDE SUPPORT

Craft and Tabletop Sale

Sunday 15th December,

11am to 3pm

Baden Powell Hall,

Bourton-on-the-Water

Tables, £10 each.

Contact Carol Groom 07906 789867, by December 8th, if you'd like a table.

Monies to

Sunflowers suicide support. 1177266

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Continued from page 1 column 2

On behalf of Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council I would like to wish all residents, businesses and visitors to Bourton a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Date of next meeting: Ordinary Parish Council meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 4th December and an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting to discuss the 2025/26 budget at 6.30pm on Wednesday 18th December. Both meetings will be held in the Windrush Room at the George Moore Community Centre.

For further details and enquiries, please contact the Parish Council Clerk Sharon Henley by emailing clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk or visit the Parish Council website www.bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk

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Bourton Browser Team News

Merry Christmas: We wish all our readers a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. Thank you all for your articles and adverts this year. Special thanks go to our Proof Readers, Printers, Distributors and all our Street Deliverers. Without this amazing team of about 60 people, the Bourton Browser would not be able to operate. You are all stars!

Karen and Ernie Rumsey: Karen and Ernie have been doing street deliveries, as well as the distribution for the south part of the village for a number of years. They are now relocating to the Lake District. We would like to say a huge thank you to them for all the work they have done for the Bourton Browser. We will miss their input greatly and send all our good wishes for their future.

South Round Distribution: We are delighted to report that Margaret Hollamby has agreed to become our new south area distributor. Our grateful thanks Margaret and a big welcome to the team!

Extra Relief Delivers needed: Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help us. We could still do with a few more volunteers, please. Our Relief Team fill in when one of our regular street deliverers are sick or on holiday. The deliveries usually take place during the last week of the month and vary in size from about 30–80 drops. If you could help us, please email us at team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk or call us on 01451 822431.

Articles: We welcome articles, letters, poems etc (maximum 300 words) & photographs, from adults, children and local community groups on any subjects of local interest.

team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk

www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk

The Bourton Browser Team



Bourton On-line Village Diary

To see what's going on in Bourton for this, and future month's, use the QR code or go to: www.bourtonbrowser.co.uk



If you are planning a **Bourton based** event, email the details to: team@bourtonbrowser.co.uk We will add them to the on-line village diary and include them in the "Diary Dates" column in the relevant month's Browser. Events welcome for dates throughout 2025.

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

HIRE of HALLS

Baden Powell Hall lettingsbph@gmail.com

Baptist Church Hall Tim Newstead 01451 821523

Bourton Cricket Clubhouse jlthepavilion@gmail.com

Bourton Farmers Market Miles Salmon 07980 080073

British Legion Hall Branch Office 01451 824303

Broadwell Village Hall Tracey Spragg

broadwellvillagehall@gmail.com

Cotswold Hall, Northleach Jacques Astic 01451 860366

George Moore Community Centre Jo Herbert
01451820712

assistant.clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk

Lower Slaughter Village Hall annclass@yahoo.com

St. Lawrence's Mrs Gill Willett 01451 821484
familywillett@hotmail.co.uk

Victoria Hall Lydia 07768722514

Wyck Rissington Village Hall Vicky Lathe 07584 188 200
whwyckriss@gmail.com



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OUT AND ABOUT in December

Mondays - Yoga for All, 9.30-10.30am, Pilates 10.35-11.30am, Wyck Rissington Village Hall. 07950 424037 Enquiries: franyoga@rocketmail.com

Daily until 15th December, Bath Christmas Market, www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk/

Daily - Christmas at Blenheim Palace, Neverland in the Palace, Light tour, skating rink & Christmas Market. Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, OX20 1UL. call 01993 810530 or www.blenheimpalace.com

Daily - Spectacle of Light, Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, GL54 5JD. 4.45pm onwards. Book tickets at www.sudeleycastle.co.uk

Daily until 5th January, Join the Big Batsford Elf Hunt! Santa's helpers have gone missing and they're all hiding at Batsford Arboretum – find them to win a prize! £3 per child, plus arboretum admission fee. Visit www.batsarb.co.uk for details.

Daily until 12th Jan, Aladdin Panto, Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, GL50 1HQ. www.everymantheatre.org.uk 01242 572573.

1st Cirencester Advent Market & Xmas Lights Switch-On, market, 10am-4pm. 01285 655 646

1st Combe Mill Annual Christmas Fayre, 11am-4pm. Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxon. OX29 8ET. Market Stalls, Stories with Santa, Tea room open, Mulled Wine & Chestnuts, Tombola, Raffle. Free Entry. See page 9.

1st, 6th-8th, 13th-15th, 18th-23rd, Enchanted Light Trail & Father Christmas, Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power, GL54 5FL. 01451850307. https://cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

1st, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd Santa Express, GWR Steam Railway, Tickets and info 01242 621405. www.gwsr.com/events/santa-express-2

6th Rissingtons Local History Society, 2.30pm "Blenheim Palace Christmas Past & Present" by Antonia Keaney. Seasonal refreshments. Village Hall Upper Rissington, GL54 2QW. Visitors Welcome £3.50. RLHS@gmail.com, 07815 606770.

6th-7th, 14th-15th, 20th-23rd, Christmas at Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney, OX28 3LA .10am-7pm, Santa's Grotto and Light Trail. tel: 01993 772602. www.cogges.org.uk/

7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st & 22nd Santa is returning to his magical grotto at Batsford Arboretum! Visit www.batsarb.co.uk for more details and to book.

7th Christmas Bingo Sherborne Village Hall, GL543DH. Starts 8pm. Line & Full house plus special house prize and a raffle. £2 per book of 6 games. See page 18.

12th-22nd, Cheltenham Christmas Arts & Crafts Market, Promenade, Cheltenham, 10am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 5pm.

13th Kate's Home Nursing Christmas Carol Service, St Edward's Church, Stow on the Wold, 6.30. Tickets £18. See 'cut out' invitation pages 19 & 20.

14th Chipping Norton Choral Society, "A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Brittan, with Christmas carols for choir and audience, St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton, 7.30pm. Tickets: www.cncs.org.uk Under 16s free.

14th-15th Great Rissington Christmas Tree Festival, St John's Church, Great Rissington, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12-6pm. Free admission, refreshments available. See the poster on page 12.



FOR SALE / WANTED ITEMS



To advertise items such as Household items, Toys, Garden Equipment etc, complete the contact form on the "Get in Touch" tab. The advert should be no more than 15 words. It must be received **before 12 noon on the 15th of the month.** No commercial adverts accepted for this section.

For Sale

Two Hornby Train Sets, boxed, Southern Belle & Blue Rapier. Tracks included. £180 ONO. 01451 821215

For Sale

6ft Christmas Tree, with cones and berries. Boxed. £50 ONO. 01451 822365

Bourton Rovers FC – Halfway There!

What an exciting season so far for Bourton Rovers! Our Hellenic team is sitting high in the table, with two of our players among the top 10 scorers in the league—a fantastic accomplishment that speaks of the team's hard work and skill.

Our Witney team faced some challenges in October, but November brought well-deserved success. They've moved into the 2nd round of the cup, and team spirit is high as we head toward the Christmas break. Thanks to our dedicated volunteer committee and coaching staff, the colder weather hasn't slowed us down. Training continues on the astroturf, and both teams are more motivated than ever.

Behind the scenes, our volunteers are the true heartbeat of Bourton Rovers. Week in and week out, they're here to mow, mark, and maintain our pitches, organise and run training sessions, clean up the changing rooms, wash kits, cook & serve up fantastic hospitality and so much more! Their hard work is often invisible but vital—our club simply couldn't run without them. We're always looking for more helping hands, so if you have an hour or two to spare, we'd love to welcome you into our friendly, hardworking committee.

Home games are on Tuesday evenings & Saturday afternoons, so come and join us & celebrate local football and support these talented young players!

Off the pitch, the social club has been buzzing with live music! "The DropOuts" recently delivered another stellar performance, and New Year's Eve promises to be just as memorable with "One Day Remains" headlining (See poster page 2). These local favourites rocked WellyFest back in July, so it's sure to be a sell-out event. Get your tickets soon, either on our website or at the club—last year were already sold out by mid-December!

Catherine Williams



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Food from noon until 8.30pm (5pm Sundays)
Family & Dog friendly, kids play area

Events & Specials

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Bourton Vale Horticultural Society Your friendly Garden Club

Well, what a strange year! Still very mild for November. No frosts where we are, so dahlias and chrysanthus are still flowering.

Our speaker at the November meeting was Adrian James. Adrian had spoken to us before and it was a pleasure to have him back again as he is such a good speaker.

His subject this time was Folklore and More and was fascinating. Most of the old traditions related to celebration, new life and fertility. Snowdrops symbolise new birth and hope, but for the Victorians they symbolised death and bad luck. At Wassailing, a celebration of cider orchards, a 12 bore shotgun is fired to scare evil spirits from the trees. May pole dancing on first day of May is often attended by Morris Dancers. The dancers start at dawn and move from village to village enjoying a beer at each! When to pick your blackberries? Michaelmas Day, the 29th September celebrates Satan being expelled from heaven. He fell to earth in a patch of brambles. He was so angry he stamped, spat and did other unmentionables on the brambles, so advice is not to pick blackberries after 29th September!! Holly and Ivy. Holly is male. Ivy is female. If you only have Ivy in your decorations the household is run by the female and if you have holly the man is in charge. If you decorate your house with evergreens before Christmas Eve there will be quarrels over Christmas. Fascinating or what? Chris King won the competition for an arrangement of seedheads.

Our next meeting is on 11th December. Unfortunately, our speaker has had to cancel so we will have a social evening with nibbles and a quiz. The competition is a Christmas tree decoration. **Stay warm.**

Sheila Thorpe, 07973 391741

sheila@bobbelfarm.co.uk



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u3a Bourton & District

If you are not in full employment and would like to socialise with people who enjoy like-minded interests, why not try your local u3a?

With over 30 different Activity groups, spread throughout the week between our local communities in Bourton, Stow, Moreton, and The Rissingtons etc, there is something of interest for everyone. We neither require nor give any qualifications.

Monthly get-togethers are held on Wednesday mornings at the **Royal British Legion Hall in Bourton-on-the-Water from 10am to 12 noon**

and are ideal for prospective new members to sound us out.

We next meet on Wednesday 11th December 2024, when we will be entertained by Graham Short (The Hands of Genius!) describing his life as a micro artist.



Please come along, enjoy a tea/coffee, and see what we have to offer. We will be very pleased to see you.

Or look us up on: u3asites.org.uk/bourton

U3a Scrabble Group

Are you retired, or semi-retired, and enjoy a game of Scrabble? If so, come along to the George Moore Community Centre, on 11th December, 2-4pm and give our group a try. We'd love to see you. Give me a call on 07341 094206 or email me at peterdawson790@icloud.com for more details. If you enjoy the group and decide you'd like to come regularly, you will need to join Bourton and District u3a, a group that offers a wide range of activities. See the u3a article above for more details.

Patsy Dawson

THE
OLD NEW
INN

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THE OLD NEW INN, RISSINGTON ROAD, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GL54 2AF



Bourton Panto Group

FRIDAY 6TH DEC

FESTIVE FUN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS QUIZ

£20 PER TEAM OF 4
(INCLUDES NIBBLES)

DOORS OPEN AT 6.45 FOR A 7.30 START

WINE, BEER AND SOFT DRINKS WILL BE ON SALE

THE VICTORIA HALL
BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER

TO BOOK YOUR TABLE ...
Contact Margaret on 07791917684 with the following...

- Name
- Contact number
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THE CUT OFF DATE FOR ENTRIES WILL BE WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER AT 7PM

Bourton Panto Group

Are you counting down to Christmas? Excitement is building in homes up and down the land and families are looking forward to seeing each other. Our Panto "family" is also anticipating a village get together, **Quiz Night on Friday 6th December!** If you haven't already booked a table for four, **give Margaret a call on 820080** to see if there are any spaces left. It promises to be another fun evening with questions on topics all related to the festive season.

Perhaps you've noticed but there is a theatre company in Cheltenham that has decided to stage "Aladdin"!!!

This has happened to us before. We choose our title way back early in the summer but after we have committed

to it, we notice that others have chosen similarly! However, we are certain you will support our local version.....won't you! Thanks! Our cast this year has some familiar faces and some new ones too. We have been delighted to welcome our newcomers, see if you can spot those treading the Victoria Hall's boards for the first time!

Tickets are already on sale on-line and via Ticketsource and are selling well. Prices are held for another year. £9 for level seats and £10 for the raised. If you still haven't bought your ticket, there is only **one** other date when **face to face** ticket purchases can be made and that is **Friday 17th January from 1pm to 3pm at the George Moore Community Centre**, where Margaret and Angela will be happy to serve you.....if there are any seats left!

When the weather is colder, the days are shorter and nights long, our performances bring some silliness and jollity to get your chuckle muscles working. Marvellous value for another evening of fun and frolics!!

See you there! **Ann Chapman**



Peaceful Christmas Wishes

Sorry, but I won't be sending Christmas cards this time. I would like to wish all friends and neighbours a peaceful Christmas and thanks for helping me through my sad time.



Joan Mustoe

Bourton Probus Club

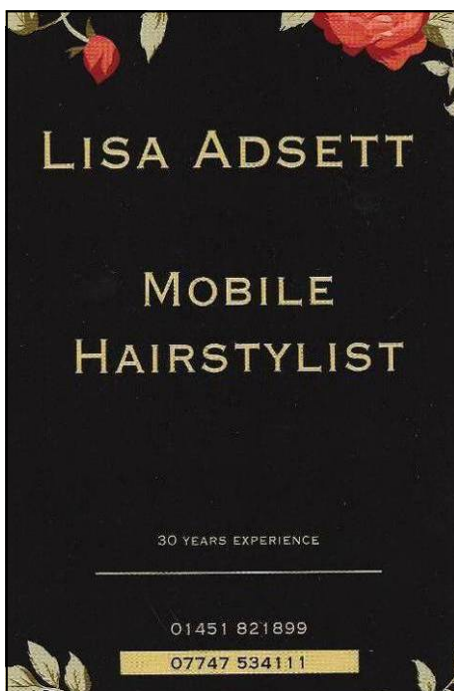


On 25th October Mike Marshal gave us a talk on the history of The British Legion from its foundation in 1921 to becoming Royal British Legion in the early 1970's. We heard of all the work that they continue to provide for injured service men and women to the present day, including specialist hospitals. A thoroughly interesting and informative talk.

On 11th November Nick Brazil, who was a replacement speaker, gave us an amusing and instructive talk called "Castles in the Air" which was about many strange inventions of the 18th and 19th centuries. We were amused by methods used to help women sewing, such as the dog working a sewing machine, and a clever butter churn and baby rocker for distressed babies. This was more used in farming communities with the mother churning butter and the churn connected to a rocking bed. All in all, a highly amusing and informative talk. The castle in the air was a shopping mall suspended from a balloon with a lift to reach it. It did not become fashionable!

Bourton Probus club is for retired men and women who enjoy interesting talks and social events. If you are interested in joining us, come to one of our meetings and talk to us about our activities, or contact our secretary Kevin Hick on 01451 860435.

Roger Harris



LISA ADSETT

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Bourton on the Water

Message from the Church



As we enter December we come to the church season of advent. This is a time of waiting as we prepare our hearts for the arrival of God's most precious gift, his son Jesus.

For many of us, advent as an invitation to wait, can feel at odds with the pressure and busyness of this time of year. There is so much to do and get ready: festivities and presents don't just happen! We can feel exhausted before the month has even begun.

The good news of advent is that to prepare our hearts for Christmas, we don't need to do anything! Quite the opposite, we're invited to slow down, to take time to rest in God's presence as we prepare to receive God's lifegiving love, joy and peace.

This can be a hard time of year. The tinsel and sparkle a far cry from pain, grief or injustice – in our own hearts or the wider world. As we think of that first Christmas: Mary and Joseph, the refugee

family living in poverty, we are reminded that the heart of Christmas is not about riches, glitter or perfection, but the birth of a baby whose most precious and simple message is love breaking through into a hurting world.

As we prepare our hearts and our homes for the coming of Christ, I share the beautiful words of the carol by Christina Rossetti, "what can I bring him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb. If I were a Wise Man I would do my part. Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart."

A very happy Christmas to you all and may your hearts, homes and this community know the peace and joy of the Christ child this Christmastime and always.

We look forward to welcoming you at our services over the Christmas period.

Rev. Hannah



admin@bourtonparishchurch.co.uk
www.bourtonparishchurch.co.uk

All are welcome every Sunday at 11am

Remember – church is open 10am-4pm and heated every day - you are always welcome.

Christmas Services

Christingle Breakfast Church - Sat 14th Dec - 9am start – everyone welcome

Carols on the Green – 6pm 15th Dec – Dress up warm for an outdoor sing!

Carols in the Church – 6pm 22nd Dec

Crib Service – 4pm Tues 24th Dec (come dressed up as a character from the story!)

Midnight in Bethlehem - Christmas Eve Communion – 9pm 24th Dec

Christmas Morning Communion - 11am 25th Dec

29th December - 11am Service of Readings & Carols for Christmas

Together on Tuesdays Lunch Club 12-2pm—3rd & 10th only

BumbleBeez (parent and child group) - Thursday 9-11am not 26th

St James, Clapton-on-the-Hill—1st Dec 9:30am Holy Communion, Mon 16th Dec

6:30pm Carol Service, 25th Dec 9:30am Christmas Holy Communion



Bourton Baptist Church

Minister: Rev Sue Woodley

Manse: 01451 820055

Mobile: 07828 781246

Church Office: 01451 824225

E-mail: minister@bourtonbaptist.co.uk

Sunday Morning Service 10.30am All Welcome

Open4U Open every Thursday from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm

Cafe' Tots Every Wednesday from 9.15 - 11.30 am

Christmas Messy Church

Sunday 15th December 3pm - 5pm

Sunday 22nd 10.30am **Christingle and Wavemakers Presentation**

6.30pm **Carols by Candlelight**

Christmas Day Celebration 10.30 am

www.bourtonbaptist.co.uk



Roman Catholic Parish of

Our Lady & St. Kenelm,

Stow on the Wold

stow-bourtoncatholic.net

Fr. Stephen Lambert 07836 384932

Email:

Stephen.lambert@cliftondiocese.com

Weekend Masses: Sat. evening: **Vigil Mass 6 pm.** Sun. morning: **9 am Sung Mass.**

Weekday Masses: At 9 am every day (No Mass Sat. mornings). Mass on Tues. takes place at St. Lawrence's at 9 am. (Check website)

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

Advent and Christmas

Monday 2nd December 6.15 pm Rotary Club Advent Carol Service. Fridays 6th, 13th. 6.00 pm Advent meditation service (30 minutes) with Adoration. Friday 20th 6.00 pm Advent meditation service with two priests available for Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Christmas Eve 6 pm Solemn Sung Mass with childrens' involvement. 10 pm Solemn Sung 'Midnight' Mass.

Christmas Day 10.30 am Solemn Sung Mass of the Day.

26, 27th December Mass 9 am. Saturday 28th December Vigil Mass 6 pm. Sunday 29th, Feast of the Holy Family Solemn Sung Mass 9.00 am

Young children: We now have a special facility for young children from 3 years old upwards at all Sunday 9 am Masses.

Fr. Stephen

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CARTRIDGES

St Lawrence's Church now has a collecting box for you to recycle your Canon, Epson & HP ink cartridges and other company (e.g. Tesco) equivalents.

All proceeds for church funds

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email: outreach@quaker.org.uk

For The Younger Generations



As we approach Christmas, The Cotswold School is a hive of activity.

The Cotswold School Careers Fair

Always busy and inspiring. Our Careers Fair was a great success again this year as we welcomed over 35 exhibitors. Thank you to all volunteers for giving up their time to encourage young people into their sectors.

Year 12 BTEC Business students Race Night

What a fabulous evening! Well done to our Year 12 Business students who organised and hosted a Race Night, raising an amazing £1099 for the British Heart Foundation. We are extremely grateful to the event sponsors and raffle donators, to Bourton on the Water Co-Op for donating the flowers, and to the PTA.

Remembrance

The History department ran a video conferencing session with the National Archives called 'All Pals Together'. The event involved sharing an hour in the life of a soldier from a Pals Battalion, Private Henry Fairhurst (played by a professional actor), as he spoke about his experience of life in the trenches. Sessions led up to Remembrance Day, enriching Year 9 learning of WW1 and considering why we remember.



To mark Remembrance Day, the whole school gathered together to watch The Cotswold School Combined Cadet Force (CCF) march, and to hold a two-minute silence to remember all those lives lost in wars and conflicts around the world.

Sixth Form Applications

Following the recent Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 students and their families, applications are now live on our website.

Christmas Activities

Finally, as we are in the run up to Christmas, many Cotswold School families will join our Christmas Concert at St Lawrence' Church in Bourton and our Christmas Bonanza, a night of music and festive cheer.

Enjoy the festive season!

www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk

Cotswold Youth Theatre



What a busy time of year for the Youth Theatre! End of November sees The Victoria Hall transformed into The Cotswold Youth Theatre's LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) examination centre with 21 of our members taking their first LAMDA exams. The senior group have been working on their performance pieces for the exam since they finished their last production of DNA, whilst our Junior group gets ready for their 'Christmas goes wrong' showcase with a variety of Christmas stories told through Mischief Theatre's brilliant 'Goes Wrong' style.

The Junior group will be joined this year for the first time by one of our newest groups - The Shining Stars, who will be performing their version of Scrooge.

Our Shining Stars are a group of brilliant children from years 4 and 5 at Bourton Primary School and are eager to perform their little Christmas Show to any local retirement or nursing homes. If you would like a visit from this magical group then please get in contact.

Our Home Educated senior group (ages 10+) are developing a play in the style of the Italian Commedia Dell'arte as well as working on their LAMDA and Arts Awards. See the photo of their fantastic masks! Our Junior group (4+) have been exploring mountains, oceans and jungles through stories, song and role-play - and lots of dressing up!

And, of course, there are the visits to see the National Theatre's 'War Horse' and at the Everyman 'Sherlock and the Christmas Mystery' as our end of term treat.

In our staff news, Ella started her new role as FOH manager at Chipping Norton Theatre and we have been joined by Jen who has just completed her degree in Opera and will be returning to London in September to complete a masters.

All our groups are currently full - apart from our junior home-ed group. If you would like more information or to join our waiting lists for any of the groups then please contact

sarah@cotswoldyouththeatre.co.uk

Sarah Dowie

Local Groups and Organisations for the YOUNGER GENERATION

Baby Gymnastics 0-18months	Caroline (Cotswold Clubhouse) 263130
Beavers	Stephanie Lewis 07308 144397 1stbourtonbeavers@gmail.com
Bourton Primary School	820458
Bourton Road Runners Juniors	Chris Hartley/Richard Buffton 0772.0509894 brjuniors@gmail.com
Bourton Rovers Youth (U10 Upwards) -	Catherine Williams 07889 694545
Bourton Rovers Youth (U9 & below) -	Amy Wright 07876 458571
Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Lucy Gillespie 07949 227128 craiglucygillespie@yahoo.com
B'n Vale Equestrian Centre	Leanne Launchbury 821101
Bourton Vale Tennis Club	Kingsley Harris 07879 644218 www.bourtontennisclub.org
Bumblebeez babies & pre-school tots	Pat Taylor 07518 457652
Cafe Tots	Sue Woodley 07828 781246

Children's Jujitsu	Andy or Hayley 07951 587398
Cubs	Nick Hawke 07788 406728 1stbourtoncubs@gmail.com
Hockey	Rhys Davies 07817 108970
Little Hurricanes (Babies & Toddlers)	littlehurricanes@hotmail.com
Pre-School	Lisa Sorley 07950 048066
Pre-School Gymnastics	Caroline 263130
Recreational Gymnastics	Caroline 263130
Scouts	Phil 1stbourtonscouts@gmail.com
Squirrels	Emily 1stbourtonsquirrels@gmail.com
4Shires Swimming	Jo Shaw membership@4ssc.uk.uk
Taekwon-do	Lee Chapman 01285 640500
The Cotswold School	820554
Youth Club	Lynda Hicks 07867 121122
Youth Theatre	Sarah Dowie sarah@cotswoldyouththeatre.co.uk

BOURTON YOUTH CLUB

ACTIVITIES

With thanks to Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council for funding these weekly sessions.

Date	Activity
13th	Candle Making
20th	Salt Painting
27th Nov	Biscuit Decorating
4th Dec	Christmas Scavenger Hunt & Decoration Making
11th Dec	Christmas Movie Night with S'mores & Popcorn
18th Dec	Christmas Party

WEDNESDAYS

6.15PM | 8.15PM

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Annual Christmas Fayre

Sun 1st December, 11.00am to 4.00pm

Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxon.OX29 8ET. Don't miss out, come along and bring the children. 'LISTEN TO A STORY WITH SANTA', get a present, (book a slot from Combe Mill Web Site). Browse THE CHRISTMAS MARKET STALLS for a Christmas gift, enjoy Hot Food, Mulled Wine & Chestnuts, Tea Room Open, Grand Raffle with fantastic prizes, Tombola and Gift Shop. Combe Mill's blacksmiths will be in the Forge to make pokers, with VIEWING ONLY in the Mill, no machinery operating.

Blacksmith's items on sale, made by our very own blacksmith, Wood turner's items on sale too, all make for a very popular gift for Christmas.

Combe Mill a late 19th Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode. Come along and see the Blacksmiths in the forge you might just be able to make a poker.

Dogs on Leads most welcome. FREE ENTRY & CAR PARKING.

Combe Mill cannot be held responsible for attractions that cancel.

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- Upper Rissington School

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Bourton Primary Academy



We are fully into the Christmas spirit at Bourton Primary now. The younger children are practicing their speaking parts and songs for their annual nativity. This year's nativity is based on lots of decorations from the Christmas Tree trying to decide who belongs at the top! Our Junior children are also practicing their carol concert which will incorporate poems and readings as well as the traditional singing. We are very fortunate that both of these performances are happening in our wonderful church, St. Lawrence's and we are very grateful that we are allowed to use the church for events like these. Our choir is busy preparing to sing at the Christmas Tree Lights Switch On and at the Dementia Friendly Café in December.

Our sporting calendar for November has seen some Year 2 children take part in a gymnastics taster event held at The Cotswold School. It was lovely to see some of our ex-pupils as young leaders helping out. Our Year 4 children took part in a sports hall athletics event at The Rissington Schools and our A team came first out of 6 teams across schools from our cluster. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils are currently training for the indoor

sports hall athletics at Cirencester and as it is the time of year for winter sports, the annual Hockey Tournament is also happening in November.

We were very proud of the whole school when we visited the War Memorial for Remembrance Day. We think it is important that the children listen to the roll call of honour and observe the 2 minutes of silence with our community. Several members of the public commented on the behaviour of the children and how respectful they were.

**Tori Gainford,
Deputy Headteacher**

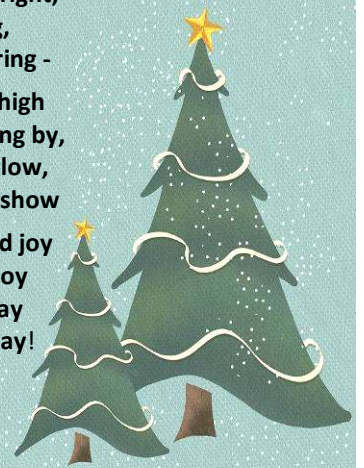
Carols by the River Xmas Tree

**On a cold, dark December night
People gather together and unite,
To sing carols and their refrains
That herald Christmas once again.**

**Carol sheets flutter in the light
By the river tree shining so bright;
And the longer they sing,
The more conviction they bring -
Of Good King Wencelas on high
Or three ships sailing by, sailing by,
Next to the Xmas tree all aglow,
As if, together, they want to show**

**The coming of such hope and joy
With the birth of a baby boy
In a stable far, far, far away
On Christmas, Christmas Day!**

Hugh O'Connell



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Bourton Rovers Youth **Halfway Through the Season!**

As we approach the Christmas break, our youth teams are powering through the colder months with plenty of enthusiasm and energy! With training sessions now moved to the AstroTurf, players are staying sharp and focused as we near the end of the first half of the season. The upcoming winter break brings a reshuffle of league divisions to ensure each team competes at the right level, a welcome shift for both players and managers who are ready for fresh challenges.

Our U11 Blues are back on an incredible run, reaching the semi-finals of the Arthur Stiley Memorial Cup and setting their sights, once again, on the finals in Cheltenham Town. Not to be outdone, our U11 Yellows and our U10s are on fire in their plate competition, moving steadily through the rounds. The U14s have already advanced to the quarter-finals in their cup competition, and our U12s, after a stellar first half of their season, are full of confidence as they enter the second round of their cup. It's definitely an exciting time to be on the sidelines, cheering on these talented young players!

Both our U13 teams, the Blues and Yellows, are having a fantastic season so far! While our U15s faced a challenging start, their hard work and determination are beginning to shine through. With each game, they're proving their resilience, and now their scorelines are finally matching the effort they've put in.

What's most rewarding as a parent, manager or committee member is seeing the sportsmanship, dedication, and pure love for the game from these young players. Bourton Rovers is entirely volunteer-run and with a Halloween disco completed and a Christmas party just around the corner, our committee are working hard ensuring the fun continues off the pitch, too.

Catherine Williams



Guided Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens



Details of the walks available are described on the website (below). **Please check walk details carefully on the website, including whether booking is necessary. Additional walks may be published on the website.**

<https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/guided-walks/>

Adlestrop, Chastleton and Cornwell – Tuesday 3rd December – Moderate 3hr 6ml. A lovely walk from Adlestrop where Edward Thomas was inspired to write his famous poem 'Adlestrop', when his train made an unscheduled stop and he wrote about what he saw and heard. From there we walk to Chastleton, and Chastleton House, owned by the National Trust. The Jacobean house was used as the Seymours' house in the television series of Wolf Hall. From here we walk on through the remains of Chastleton Barrow fort to the village of Cornwell and Cornwell Manor, a prestigious wedding venue. We head back to Adlestrop via Daylesford, home of Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of India. Daylesford is now the home of Sir Anthony Bamford of JCB fame and the venue of Boris Johnson's late wedding reception. Bring a drink/snack. Start: 10.00am Adlestrop Village Hall GL56 0YR. OS Map ref: SP 242 272. W3W: sourcing.outfit.exotic.

The Icing on the cake of a good walk! – Thursday 5th December – Moderate 4hr 8ml. A gentle walk via Toddington Mill to the village hall for coffee (and more). Then we continue to the Railway Station and follow the line which passes by Didbrook and Hailes before returning to Winchcombe. A pre-Christmas walk with a welcome stop off. Don't forget to bring cash or cards if you want to indulge in a treat. Start: 10.00am Back Lane car park, Winchcombe (£1 to park all day, payment by RINGO if preferred). OS Map ref: SP 023 284. W3W: daylight.bake.corkscrew.

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. EASY - Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. STRENUOUS – may be rough underfoot and ascents and descents may be steep. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, others not allowed.

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

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Bourton WI



It was the AGM of Bourton-on-the-Water WI on Tuesday 12th November, wine and nibbles were provided for the large turnout of members.

Outgoing Committee members were thanked - especially the outgoing President Pat Taylor who was thanked for her enthusiasm and humour during her term of office - and new ones welcomed onto the Committee. We now have a new President - Victoria Jackson.

And then And then And then along came Molly with a mind-blowing Beetle Drive. I'll bet that no one has ever put mind blowing and Beetle Drive in the same sentence before!??

It would take too long to explain here but suffice to say, tables of 4, 2 pairs on each, the winning pair then moved to the next table and changed partners! After a glass of wine, well, I will leave the rest to your imagination!!

June Renshaw

Irene's Charity Knitting Circle

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.00am until 12.00pm at Willoughby Place, Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, (opposite the Co-op Filling Station).

Last month was our most successful meeting, with a great turnout. Why not join us or just pop in with your knitting? Enjoy coffee/tea with biscuits. Everything we receive will be donated to worthy causes. The latest collection of hats and blankets is now on its way to Ukraine. Please note, there is no parking available at Willoughby Place, however we are happy to collect anyone who needs a lift within Bourton. Just give us a call.

For further details, call

either:

**Irene or Peter on
01451 824175
or 07764 699594**



Great Rissington Christmas Tree Festival

At St John's Church
SAT 14th DECEMBER
10am - 6pm
SUN 15th DECEMBER
12pm - 6pm
(following our Christingle service)

Tea, coffee & cake available both days & on Saturday, soup lunches. Christingle making on Saturday morning - all ages welcome to help! A prize will be awarded for the best tree as voted by you - the visitors!

Admission free, donations most welcome
Trees kindly supplied by Wyatts Farm Shop

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 1st February

QUIZ NIGHT

Platter of meats, cheeses and snacks included

Rotary in the Rissingtons raising funds for local charity CALM - (Children Achieving Lifelong Movement) www.thefundmovement.org

At the Upper Rissington Village Hall, bar opens at 7.00.
Tickets: £15 each, can be purchased online on Ticketsource: www.ticketsource.co.uk
Groups of up to 6, pre-booking only.

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A Word From Your Local Travel Experts!

As the days get shorter and the weather cools, we know many locals are dreaming of some winter sun! At Stow Travel, we've been busy helping local residents plan their escape to warmer shores this winter.

So if you, like so many others, are thinking of heading off somewhere warm, here are our top travel tips to help make your winter holiday as smooth as possible:

- 1. Check Your Passport:** Post-Brexit rules mean your UK passport must be valid for at least three months after you return and be less than 10 years old on the date of travel. Many have been caught out by this, so double-check before booking!
- 2. Get Travel Insurance Early:** Don't wait until the last minute! Travel insurance can cover you for unexpected cancellations before you even set foot on the plane.
- 3. Ask For Advice:** Online reviews are useful, but nothing beats firsthand advice. Ask someone who's been to your destination for insider tips—they often have insights you won't find online!
- 4. Plan Ahead:** Many popular attractions, like the top of the Eiffel Tower, require booking months in advance. Make reservations for any must-visit spots and book restaurants early to avoid disappointment.
- 5. Book Early:** Gone are the days of the last minute deal! Early booking discounts and grabbing fares as soon as they come out is definitely the way to get the best deal!

Wondering where everyone's jetting off to? Here are the top five sunny spots (all under a 5-hour flight) our clients are heading to: Morocco, Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Luxor, and Fuerteventura. With more & more low-cost flights now departing from Birmingham, winter getaways from the Cotswolds are becoming easier than ever!

So, until next month - Bon Voyage & Happy Travels.



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Cotswold District Council honours Janne Bishop

S2R gang singing to Janne, with word changes to make songs specific to her - Congratulations and Thank You for the Music. (Kate and Andrew leading, Janne sitting with her flowers next to Kate.)



The Unsung Heroes Awards shine a light on the heart and soul of our district—the volunteers who generously give their time, energy, and care to support others. From leading community programmes to providing essential care and creating safe spaces for all, these heroes embody the spirit of giving back. Janne Bishop was one of the 4 individuals chosen as the first winners of this award.



Left: Kate Hicks-Beech presenting Janne with congratulatory flowers from Mindsong, with Andrew behind.

Right: Andrew presenting Janne with the Unsung Heroes award.

Janne's nomination highlighted her as a true champion for memory care, describing how she has been the driving force behind two Mindsong Sing to Remember groups on odd week Mondays at the George Moore Community Centre in Bourton-on-the-Water. Mindsong is a Gloucestershire based charity

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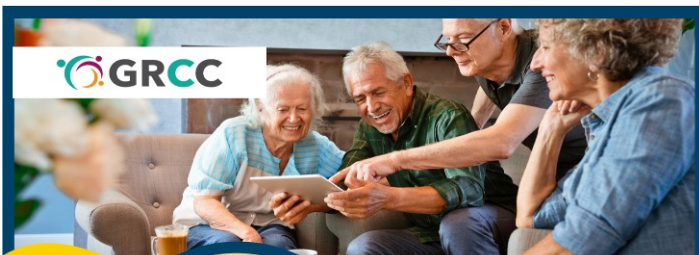
which supports people living with dementia through music and song.

Sing to Remember offers a lifeline to individuals living with dementia, their carers, people on their own or those who just like to sing. Sing to Remember runs year-round without breaks—even during holidays—which showcases Janne's unwavering commitment.

Janne's tireless dedication extends beyond this, as she also co-leads the weekly "Coffee, Cake, and Chat" group in St John the Baptist Church, Great Rissington. This has become a popular hub for local residents. Her efforts provide not only fun activities but also vital connections that bring the community together.

On Monday, 7th October, Cllr Andrew Maclean had the honour of presenting Janne Bishop with her well-deserved Unsung Hero Award at a Sing to Remember session. The Director of Volunteer-led Services for Mindsong, Kate Hicks-Beach, came along to the session as well, to congratulate Janne. Thanks for all you do, Janne!

Myra Ford



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North Cotswolds Rotary

**Christmas Charity Band Concert
Featuring Carols and Festive Tunes-
Saturday 7th December, 7:30pm**

North Cotswolds Rotary are delighted to welcome back the Waterloo Band and Bugles of the 7th Rifles to the stage at The Cotswold School in Bourton-on-the-Water on Saturday 7th December. The Band will be playing their specially arranged Christmas programme which will include the opportunity to sing along to carols. There will be a fully licensed bar, a free mince pie at the interval and a raffle with prizes that include Christmas hampers. Come along and enjoy the warm atmosphere and festive spirit. Accompanied children under 15 are free and you'll be helping raise funds for the Royal British Legion and Rotary Charities. See also poster page 20. Tickets are available on the door for £15. Advanced discounted tickets priced at £14 are available from:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rotary-club-of-the-north-cotswolds>

**RotaKids Launches at Stow on the Wold Primary
and Kitebrook Schools**



It is never too early to start making a difference in the community, and RotaKids aged 7-12 do just that. Stow on the Wold Primary and Kitebrook Schools have both started RotaKids Clubs. Citizenship is part of the curriculum, so Rotary supports and expands the work already happening in schools. RotaKids enjoy developing into responsible and effective citizens - having fun, developing teamwork skills and making good friends. The decisions made in the clubs always involve RotaKids and the Stow RotaKids have already put their ideas into action with a collection at harvest festival. The children decided to donate the proceeds to Asthma + Lung UK.

Moreover, both schools' RotaKids clubs have enjoyed planting purple crocus corms at their schools that, as well as looking beautiful when they flower, also raises money to support Rotary's polio eradication initiative Purple for Polio. We wish all the RotaKids great success with their future ventures.

John Barber



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holiday
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Full Circle Hair Design is here for all your hair needs offering cuts, colours, highlights, balayage, and more, all by appointment only for a truly customized experience. With onsite free parking you can relax and pamper yourself ready for the Christmas rush, holiday parties and the New Year.

To begin your holiday glam or New Year transformation, call or message Leigh at **07826 014 595** or visit fullcirclehairdesign.co.uk. Appointments are by booking only, so there's no set opening hours—simply schedule when it's convenient for you.

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BOURTON SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK

BourtonSnetwork@gmail.com

Wishing all a Happy Festive season from all at BourtonSnetwork

This is a time that is traditionally white, and we encourage **GREEN** and **BLUE**

A group of residents from Bourton and surrounding hamlets and farms have formed a network of people interested in:

- protecting and improving the local environment,
- promoting a more sustainable lifestyle
- connecting likeminded people.

This month we have an exciting update from our **BLUE** Spaces focus

Something to Celebrate?

Bourton is excelling again this year with 2019 hours of raw sewage discharged into the Rivers Dikler and Windrush to date, surpassing the 1371 hours total hours in 2023. As the first sewage treatment facility on the Windrush, the system is beyond capacity and has become a significant contributor to the continued decline in the river water quality.

A new citizen science group has started within the Bourton **Sustainability** Network in the hope of gathering evidence on the continued decline of the River Windrush. The Windrush Action Group, known as **WAG**, will begin monthly testing in December 2024 at four locations around Bourton. Testing for nitrates, phosphates, and turbidity are key indicators and will result in a better understanding of the chemical health in the Windrush.

The group hopes to invite other groups along the river to join and start testing in the

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New Year to gather evidence on the overall levels of contamination throughout the

Windrush Catchment. Data will be gathered by Earthwatch as part of their Freshwater Watch programme and shared with the Cotswold Rivers Trust for monitoring.

As the weather turns and thoughts shift to festive cheer, there will be something to

celebrate – community action for the Windrush.

For more information or to find out more about what Bourton Sustainable Network is

doing, contact bourtonSnetwork@gmail.com or leave a voicemail on 01451 509484.

BANTER SESSIONS

Free, weekly online Banter Sessions on a vast range of interesting topics to save the planet and save your pockets.

The Banter Sessions, provided by the Great Collaboration, are held on zoom every Wednesday from 12 noon for one hour.

There is also a library of all the 40+ past sessions called the wiki

A recent presentation on how we can help ourselves save water and fuel bills at home with some straightforward ideas, videos and presentations (two of each!) are now available on the wiki (session 40). <https://wiki.greatcollaboration.uk/knowledgebase/events/banter-sessions-inc-table-of-all-sessions/>

To join the zoom call for the next Banter Session and to get yourself on the email list for weekly invitations, please email **Graham Stoddart-Stones** admin@placebasedinitiative.co.uk

BourtonSnetwork

Bourton Roadrunners

Everyone that takes part in *parkrun* has their own reason, whether it's to get a new personal best time or to gain that joyful experience of social running with friends and strangers alike. Some participants like to support their local event while others seek-out a new one while on holiday or visiting friends and relatives, near and far. This weekend Bourton Roadrunners certainly managed to cover all of those reasons and more.

Lee Hutton and his wife Claire travelled to Oxford to join a group from the charity Transplant Sport. Dr Paul Harden from the Churchill Hospital Oxford, and chair of the charity, was joined by several transplant patients, staff from the hospital and supporters, promoting the benefits of organ donation and the life-changing benefits of transplantation. Lee, himself the recipient of a live donation, from his wife, is a great example of this having won four medals at this year's British Transplant Games, and is proud to have been selected to represent Great Britain at the World Transplant Games in Dresden, Germany, next August. Also, Oxford will be hosting next year's British Transplant Games, at the end of July 2025.



Oxford parkrun Transplant Sport supporters, including Lee Hutton (back row 2nd from right)

Bourton Roadrunners enjoyed the hospitality and challenge at the following venues this weekend, where several were rewarded with new personal best times:

- Battersea, London:* Eva Shoemark - 26:54.
- Cannon Hill:* Helena West – 26:13.





Christmas is nearly here
At the end of our 200th year
It's time to relax
Raise a festive toast
And cheer
To say a big
"Thank You"
To all who have helped
And supported us this year

We wish you a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy and Healthy 2025

Julia, Dave
and all the
North Cotswold Crew

Chipping Norton School: Edward Hare - 18:39 (JM11/1 and 1st overall), Helena Dobbs 24:12 - (SW20/2), Gill Carrick - 29:52 (VW65/1).

Harkerville, South Africa: Gillian James - 34:55 (VW50/2), Nicky Patterson - 40:33 (VW55/3 and course PB). They were joined by Chris Lynch, who unfortunately mislaid her bar-code.

King George V Playing Field, Cheltenham: Chris Dry - 29:20.

Oxford: Lee Hutton - 24:46 (Course PB), Claire Williams - 36:17.

Riverfront, Newport: Jaq Underwood - 24:21 (VW55/1).


Stratford-upon-Avon: Alex Pye - 17:07 (1st overall and PB), Rebecca Townsend - 21:51 (SW20/2 and course PB), Susan Hunt - 25:59 (VW55/3).

Witney: Louise Hamilton-Smith - 29:52 (course PB), Liz Hulcup - 29:52 (VW70/1).

Louise, Gillian and John



Stratford parkrun, where Alex Pye (centre) finished first overall with a new personal best of 17 minutes and 7 seconds



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Halloween Tractor Run



We had 28 tractors take part. The best dressed Tractor was Michael Knight's. A Stunning job was done and second was Rich Neal. Thank you to all our supporters. Must give a mention to the Baptist church, what a send-off they gave us!

The grand total raised was £1021.98, which will be split between Sunflowers Suicide Support and Cancer Research .
Carol Groom and Steve Freemantle

Christmas

It's frightening how fast this year has gone - With lists of things still left undone. It cannot be 12 months ago, that we put up trees and wished for snow.

The dark nights and winter chill are present as we enjoy the thrill - of late-night shopping and festive fayre; of roasting chestnuts bought to share.

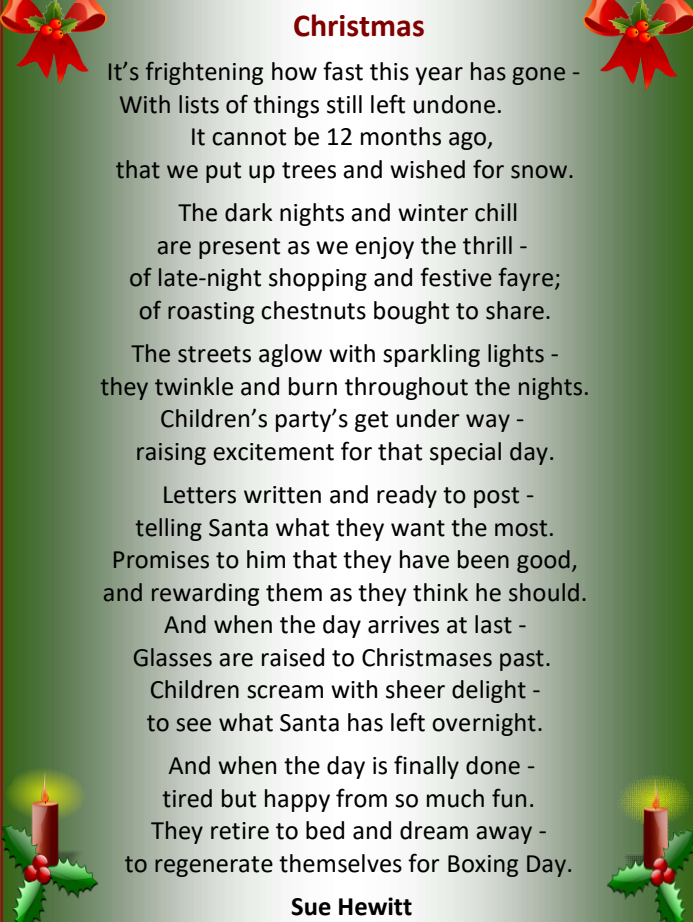
The streets aglow with sparkling lights - they twinkle and burn throughout the nights. Children's party's get under way - raising excitement for that special day.

Letters written and ready to post - telling Santa what they want the most. Promises to him that they have been good, and rewarding them as they think he should.

And when the day arrives at last - Glasses are raised to Christmases past. Children scream with sheer delight - to see what Santa has left overnight.

And when the day is finally done - tired but happy from so much fun. They retire to bed and dream away - to regenerate themselves for Boxing Day.

Sue Hewitt



Christmas and New Year Waste and Recycling Collections



Tuesday 24th December, recycling and refuse collection, but **NO** collection of Garden waste.

Food Caddy only collection on **Thursday 2nd January** (instead of Tuesday 31st December).



Recycling, Refuse and Green Bin Garden waste collection on **Wednesday 8th January**, (instead of Tuesday 7th January.)
www.cotswold.gov.uk

Christmas Bingo



Saturday 7th December
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Christmas Wishes

We stirred the pud,
And put a sixpence in,
Hoping all our wishes
It would bring.




I wished for peace,
In the world we live,
And that we have lots,
Of love to give.

And that families gather,
Together,
As the memories made,
Will last forever.

Carol Groom



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Badminton Club	clclare@gmail.com	
Bell Ringers, BOW	Stephanie Hemming	01451 810996
Bell Ringers, Gt Ris	Sheila Jesson,	01451 820395
Bourton Road Runners	Nicky Patterson	Brr.clubsec@gmail.com .
Bourton Rovers Chairman	Liam Williams	07769 216528
Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Lourenza Hargreaves	07375 033609
Bourton Vale Tennis Club	www.bourtontennisclub.org	
Brass & Silver Bands	Stephanie Hemming	01451 810996
Bridge Club, Northleach	Tim Morris	01285 750288
Community Group Club	Bridget/Lorna	01608 652019
Cotswold Yoga	Nazuna Yeo	07490858775
Dementia Friendly Café	Kathy Chesters	07746 672726
Fitness League	Kathy Kirk	01993 882350
Gardening Club	Sandra Mitchell	07840 898472
Glos. Advanced Motorists	Rod Harrison.	01451 821605
Hockey Club	admin@bashc.co.uk	
Jubilee Lodge		01451 823100
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Men in Sheds	Keith	01451 831886
Moreton Bowls Club	Brenda Dix	01451 821020
North Cotswold Arts Association	Alexa Buffery	07999589387
North Cotswold Gymnastics Club	Caroline Gill	01451 263130
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Pilates	Robert Cox	07500 188445
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Rotary Club Nth Cotswolds	Steve Whincup	07488 365908
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THE VISITOR

Twas the night before Christmas, and all round the house
 Snow silently drifted. Too cold for a mouse.
 With footprints soon covered, the tramp lay in wait
 For the lights to go out. He had left it quite late.
 Church bells rang at midnight as he moved to the door.
 The house was in silence, unlocked as before.
 He crept to the fireplace where embers still glowed,
 And looked at the bounty, a sight to behold.
 There were cheeses and crackers, mince pies - some port too
 And a note which read "Merry Christmas to You."
 In the morning, a snowflake, hand-carved out of wood,
 Lay next to the hearth where the supper had stood.

Pam Clifford

Dementia Friendly Cafe

We held a fun Bingo session recently. Please note that our seasonal carols from the Primary School will be on the 13th December. Do come along, even if it is your first time. You will be most welcome. Then, our first meeting in January will be the 10th and that will be, what we call, a social get-together, with tea and chat. **A Happy Christmas to one and all. Bill Wragg**



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