

BROADSHEET

THE BOURTONS

February 2021

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR



Welcome...

Hi everyone,

Inside this issue we have the winners of the December competitions and, I hear, there are many more Big 'things' in the offing – see page 12 – which will be fun and keep us occupied whilst we endure the pandemic restrictions. At least February is a shorter month!

If you've any ideas for fun, fundraising, or simply to brighten a daily walk then don't hesitate to let me know and we can let everyone know!

What to do or say about February? So, I googled February and am amazed that there is something to 'recognise' every single day! Here's a few 'National days': Dark Chocolate; Banana Bread; Nutella; Pizza; Homemade Soup; Rose; Chocolate souffle (there's a theme here) and I love 7 Feb – Give Kids a Smile Day ☺

...not forgetting Pay a Compliment Day, Pancake Day and of course happy Valentines!

Well, who knew February could be so exciting... with best wishes for a happy day every day.

Sue x

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**The February
Community Coffee
Morning is
cancelled.**

Love to hear from you:

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Tel: 01295 758036

Copy deadline: 17th of each month



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Community News

The Bourtons' Gardening Club update

Note from Ann...

Chair, BGC

"We are tentatively making plans for garden visits later in the year; the first one, which has been pencilled in for June, will only take place if it is safe to do so. All meetings in the Village Hall that were in the programme for Feb, March and April have been cancelled.

Our AGM report was emailed out to members in January and we will continue to stay in touch with members by email and phone as plans for May onwards are agreed."

The Bell Inn continues to offer a takeaway service on Friday and Saturday, 5-8:30^{pm} – menu published on FB. Please call 01295 750862 after 4:30pm for menu detail/to place your order.

Protecting our Footpaths... During these troublesome times when many of our residents are taking advantage of our parish footpaths for their exercise and well-being, the Parish Council are keen to keep our footpaths and open spaces as accessible as possible. Our footpath warden, Mervin, who has served our parish for many years most admirably, is not able to walk the footpaths as usual and make his reports at the moment, so we are asking residents to report any difficulties they may come across in order that we can maintain the footpaths to the standards set out by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

If you experience any preventions or difficulties in accessing any of the parish footpaths please contact our parish clerk at clerk@bourtons-cherwell-pc.gov.uk or write to Clerk to the Council, The Bourtons' Community Hall, Main Street, Great Bourton, OX17 1QU. Your name and contact details will not be included in any subsequent action by the Parish Council, so do please get in touch with any information which may help us to keep the public rights of way accessible to everyone.

Mindful Touch Massage

Note from Ross...

"Sorry that I'm unable to offer my usual remedial and relaxing massages and I will be sure to let you know via FB and the Broadsheet once I'm able to take bookings. Thank you all for your support in the past and I look forward to seeing you again sometime soon. Take care and stay safe."

Foodbank

Contributions may be left in Church or with Gina Cumming at Greenslade, Crow Lane, GB - please leave items under covered area near door.

Items are taken to the Banbury Foodbank.

FIRE WALK – MARCH 2021

As the temperature drops, why not turn up the fundraising heat by taking part in our fire walk to help support people facing life-limiting illness in our community. You'll be walking over embers burning at a temperature that could melt aluminium - without any injury or pain. You'll receive all the training needed to take part on the night during a 1-hour motivational session. To find out more head to www.khh.org.uk/firewalk

LONDON MARATHON - OCTOBER 2021

Are you looking for something to work towards this year? Have you always wanted to run a marathon? Why not take on the challenge and sign up today and take one of our two places to run in this year's London Marathon. Katharine House will be with you every step of the way... just head to www.khh.org.uk/london-marathon-2021 to find out more.

HOSPICE LOTTERY

Would you like to be in with a chance of winning £1000 every week whilst supporting local patients and families? Join in the fun and sign up to our weekly lottery today. Find out more at www.khh.org.uk/lottery



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Bourtons' Big Thank You...

Firstly, to the judges of the Bourtons' Big Wreath Off – Lee Atherton, Jenny Eadon and Sue Upton – and to those of you who took part!

£675 was raised for Katharine House Hospice and this message was received from the Hospice:

"It sounds as though a lot of time and effort went into making the event a real success and we can't thank you enough for raising such a fantastic amount for Katharine House! A big thank you to the residents of Great Bourton and Little Bourton for supporting Katharine House this way."

Wreath winners by category:

Traditional Christmas:

1st prize: Rosemary Cannon

2nd prize: Alison Bayliss

Most Unusual Creative:

1st prize: Stavroula & George Pappas 2nd prize: Anna Hardy

Highly Commended:

Nicola Barlow

Julie Johnson

Michelle Sparrow

Anne-Marie Ratcliffe

Beth White

Special Prize for the Most Innovative:

Maggie MacAngus

Under 11s - the judges were impressed with two entries and decided to award them as joint winners:

1st prize - Bella Burrell (age 3) and Isla Cutler (age 10)

Secondly, to those who kicked off and enthusiastically took part in the **Bourtons' Big LightFest**, here are the results:

1st prize: Andy & Jackie Moxon, Christmas Cottage, GB

2nd prize: Karl & June Thompson, The Close, GB

3rd prize: Trish & Malcolm Boxall, Holly Cottage, GB

4th prize: Kay & Geoff Jennings, Paxton, LB

**Send your used
Postage Stamps to:**

**The British Hedgehog
Preservation Society,**
229 Blossomfield Road,
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See back page for
more exciting
Bourtons' BIG
things to come...

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THE BOURTONS' PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the VIRTUAL meeting held online on
Wednesday January 13th 2021 at 19:30hrs

Note: The Local Authorities & Police & Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority & Police & Crime Panel Meetings) (England & Wales) Regulations 2020 allowed Parish Councils to convene their meetings virtually online.

In attendance online: Cllr Mrs S Upton (Chairman), A Johnson;
D Drummond; S Bowen (Clerk); Mrs H King

Apologies: DCllr G Reynolds (business)

Declarations of Interest: None

Public Participation: No members of the public joined the meeting virtually.

Minutes: The previous meeting (Nov) minutes were received and **APPROVED.**

Item

Following the resignation of Cllr Mrs Sally Leszczynski as a Cllr and Chairman, the first action of the meeting was to appoint a new Chairman. Cllr Johnson proposed that Cllr Mrs S Upton was appointed as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Drummond and unanimously approved. Following on Cllr Drummond proposed that Cllr Johnson be appointed Vice Chair, this was seconded by the Chairman and unanimously approved.

Following her expression of interest in joining the Council, and after due consideration, Mrs Heather King was co-opted onto the Council, with unanimous approval. The Clerk officially welcomed her.

Footpaths - Progress Report

Residents have again raised the matter of issues along footpath 138/8 where it joins the Cropredy road. This has been reported to both the CDC Dog Warden and the Police who advise that they cannot act on third party reports and will await any direct reports from walkers affected. Council will contact Beth Rutherford (OCC Officer) for an update and PCSO will be asked to keep a watching brief.

Highways & Road defects - Progress Report

The OCC Highways inspector attended this week to review previously marked potholes and advised that OCC had been invoiced by the third-party contractor for this work although it had visibly not been completed. A further visit will be planned when the Chairman will accompany her and make sure all serious holes are identified and promptly attended.

The order for speed reduction signs has been chased with OCC and will be monitored. The intention is that they will be fitted in February.

Defibrillators - Progress Report - GB unit OK.

Following the resignation of the former Chairman, a new monitor for the LB unit is required. It is mounted on the wall of the Dirt House PH and the landlord has been very supportive; Council will try and continue this arrangement.

Website development - Progress Report.

An estimate has been received from K C Graphics and a further quote will be sought from Vision ICT, our official email provider.

Projects: Garners Field

The LAP remains closed; but a meeting is scheduled between Hayfield Homes and CDC. An update regarding the transfer to CDC has been requested, and once this is complete the Parish will confirm its interest in assuming responsibility.

Reports have been received from residents that they are experiencing leaks from the artificial chimneys. The Clerk has advised that the Parish Council cannot intervene as this is a contractual matter between residents and Hayfield Homes who we understand are now fully engaged in resolving the matter with those involved.

A request has been received from some residents enquiring if the footpath that joins Main Street near the junction with Southam Road could either be protected with a pedestrian gate or be closed off. Further action on this matter will be explored once the transfer of the public space land to CDC has been completed. Cllr King also advised that the GF residents' involvement in the ground's management company had yet to be initiated and this will be followed up.

Playgrounds & Public Spaces

The need for a new Playground Warden has been identified following the resignation of Cllr Clive Upton last year. This was discussed and the matter will be investigated. Cllr King expressed her interest in monitoring the GB playground and the LAP and a schedule of regular checks will be developed by the Chairman. The issue of the LB playground will continue to be monitored. For the foreseeable months it is anticipated that safety notices will be required in the playgrounds and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise the purchase of appropriate permanent plastic signs up to a max value of £200. Further notices about the adult gym equipment at LB being closed by Government instruction due to Covid will also be required.

Allotments

The tenants of Plot 21 are understood to have moved out of LB and will no longer be eligible to hold a plot. An email has been sent to confirm their situation. The role of liaising with the Allotment Committee was formerly handled by Mrs Sally Leszczynski as the now retired Chairman. She has kindly agreed to continue in this capacity and this was endorsed by Council.

Public transport

The funds transfer from OCC of the s106 agreement monies in support of local public transport has now been received, and the initial previously agreed payment of £5k to Ability CIC to support the acquisition of a further minibus will be made. Council would be interested in hearing from any residents who have ideas about further regular services that could be investigated, perhaps such as a once-a-week route to the JR hospital to enable residents to visit patients, or perhaps shop in Oxford.

Village Hall: The badly leaking guttering repair has been decided and will be fixed once dry weather occurs to allow the fix to be secured. The damage to the oil tank cover has been inspected and a fix using aluminium checker plate will be arranged.

Community Hall:

The draft lease has now been returned with comments and is now with our solicitors to be finalised.

The issues with the unsatisfactory performance of the heating system continue and an expert report has been commissioned from a firm independent of construction project managers with a heating efficiency division. The survey visit has been completed and the report is awaited. This will then be discussed with Hayfield Homes to try and reach a conclusion. CDC are involved in trying to resolve the car park drive surface issue and an update is expected soon.

Healthcare

No further progress on the retention of a consultant led Maternity Unit at the Horton. Cropredy Surgery have confirmed that they are working with Windrush Surgery and have established a vaccination centre at Grimsbury Community Hall and will be contacting qualifying patients to make appointments. Patients are asked NOT to contact the surgery but to wait to be approached with an appointment date.

Finance & Administration

The financial report for December and January including receipts and payments had been previously circulated to Cllrs and was **APPROVED**. Eight payments totalling £6,747.17 were **APPROVED**. To comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code those in excess of £100 are listed below:

Castle Water: payment on account for allotment water £200.00

Moore: external audit fee £240.00

Ability CIC: First contribution towards further minibus £5,000.00. Note this payment is paid from the funds transfer received from OCC referred to above. The previously presented budget which was reviewed in November was **APPROVED** together with a small increase in the Precept of £250.00 which represents 2%. DCllr Chapman reported that the budget at CDC level is seriously challenged by Covid related losses. PCllrs discussed the reasons for the increase proposed and commented that there will be continuing pressure from CDC and OCC for the continued transfer of services to lower tier Councils and we should ensure we are prepared for all eventualities.

The Clerk informed Council that our current Internal Auditor had been in hospital for a significant period last year and is now uncontactable despite numerous attempts and similar experiences by other Clerks. This will mean that we will need to resource a new Auditor, and this was **APPROVED**.

The saga with Castle Water continues and Cllr Johnson presented the case for sending a legal letter to them expressing our concerns and repeating that we will pay any account rendered, providing it is supported by realistic estimates or accurate meter readings, and that questions asked by us of them are answered. This was **APPROVED**.

Work continues on progressing registration of Council owned land with the Land Registry in partnership with our former Chairman to ensure we capture her significant knowledge.

The Chairman updated the meeting on the Winter Resilience draft plan and mentioned the need for identification of the location of our grit bins. Cllr King offered to help with this task.

Planning applications

New Applications

20/03301/F: Sharawle, Main Street, GB: new porch, dormers, etc, part resubmission. This was discussed and it was noted that two live enforcement notices are active at this property that reference matters included in this application. Council will OBJECT to this application and comment on the notices.

20/03385/F: Ta Megara, Chapel Lane, LB: extensions. **SUPPORT**

20/03376/F: Stanwell Lane Cottages, Stanwell Lane, GB: erection of 2 x agricultural barns. Significant comment has been received from residents. There is a reported Roman Villa in the vicinity and this will be mentioned in our **OBJECTION**.

Decisions

No new decisions received

Enforcement matters

20/01808/F: Development of three bungalows behind School Lane, GB - there has been a reported non-compliance with the approved plans which is being investigated by Enforcement. CDC have rejected the report and the matter is being referred to the Local Government Ombudsman by a resident.

19/00161/ENFC: Sharawle, Main Street, GB: enforcement notice has been served; this has potential significance for 20/03301/F above.

Correspondence

No new correspondence has been received.

New business No other new business was discussed.

County & District Councillors report

DCllr Chapman updated Council on the state of the CDC budget planning process where great concern is being expressed about the significant reduction in income and increase in costs due to Covid.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, February 10th at 19:30hrs as a virtual meeting unless current guidance is changed.

Meeting closed at 21:30hrs. Minutes drafted by the Clerk on 12/01/21

Need a venue?

For enquiries and bookings for the Bourtons' Halls, contact:

Village Hall: Maggie 01295 750497

Community Hall: Claire 07810 518794

or **email:** bourtonscommunityhall@mail.com

Shires Edge Benefice

Note from The Revd Hilary...

Candlemas

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come winter, have another flight.
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,
Go winter, and come not again.*

Candlemas is an intriguing little festival that has attracted a range of traditions and customs along the way. It is a time for wondering and seeking to predict when the seasons will change. Is Spring really coming (or even already here) or are we in for more Winter? Is change coming, or will the days remain the same? Once again, these questions take on deeper meaning in these Covid 19 affected days.

In between the Winter solstice and the Spring equinox, Candlemas comes. In the earth new life is stirring, seeds are tentatively making their way through the cold, dark earth into the light. It is time for wondering about what might be coming, emerging. It is time for noticing and attending to new possibilities. Candlemas is a turning point. In the church's calendar it is time to turn away from the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany and turn towards Lent and Easter. We hear a wonderful intergenerational story and take inspiration from wise and holy ones – Simeon and Anna, who kept up a faithful way of listening and hoping, looking out for God, and who recognised the light of God's love in the child brought to the Temple to be blessed, surrounded by love and thanks.

May Candlemas hope, wisdom and wonder continue to guide and bless us.

"At the moment, sadly, our Churches are closed for communal worship and open only for private prayer – All Saints is open on a Saturday from 10am-1pm.

For your comfort and safety please do read the notes displayed on noticeboards regarding what to expect if entering a Church.

Sunday 10am and Tuesday Noon Zoom services continue – please call me for details and for telephone access.

Keep taking care of yourselves and others."

Love from Hilary

Email: vicar@campbells.me.uk Tel: 01295 750385

Bourtons' BIG Events for 2021...!

We are all looking forward to what 2021 will bring and you'll be pleased to know I've heard there are some events on the horizon, for fun and many to help support various local good causes and charities:

January – competition time kicks off with the #winterphoto2021 – a landscape (not portrait) photo which sums up the word "winter" and the best 10 will go in a FB poll. The winning photo will be used on the FB the Bourtons' Community page.

February – towards the end – a **Bourtons' Big Walk: Treasure Hunt** – this is being created and details will be displayed around the villages and on FB. Planned to take place over a couple of weeks and will hopefully brighten the month giving us something to do as part of our daily exercise ☺! Clues will be available in exchange for a donation to the Bell Tower conservation fund.

March will see the launch of the **Bourtons' Big Bloomers** (sunflower) competition – so popular last year and you've only to beat 11'6"! (8'4" if you're under 11 years of age.) Watch out for when the seeds become available. The tallest will be judged in late summer. Donations to Katharine House Hospice.

April – Easter weekend, there will be a **Bourtons' Big Bell Tower Bake-off** – more detail to follow in the March issue and notices will be posted round the villages. Proceeds and donations to the Bell Tower conservation project.

Also at Easter there are plans to have a **Bourtons' Big Walk: Easter Egg Trail** – more info to come on this and we'll need some help and support to create this.

A date will be shared for the **Bourtons' Big Plant Swap** – so do get potting up those self-sets, take cuttings, and prep the plants you wish to swap and share. Also awaiting a date for the **Bourtons' Big Give-away** – whilst the weather does its worst, clear those attics, cupboards and drawers in readiness!