

# BROADSHEET

THE BOURTONS

February 2026

## Horse



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### *Hi...*

Forgive me for starting off feeling sad – our thoughts are with friends and neighbours who are starting a year with losses of loved ones - our hearts and blessings go out to you.

February has brought us a bumper issue of news and events, although disappointing to read about the Gardening Club – if you can help to keep this going then do get in touch - read page 4.

Also see page 7 for an update on the Bell Inn. Quite a number of residents went along to the hearing which was quite a technical process – with our case and points well made by the STBIG team – who we have to thank for their strong diligence and perseverance.

Busy month coming up – enjoy your pancakes on 17<sup>th</sup>! Then it's Lent... do you give up something? Interesting to read that the word Lent comes from an 'old English term meaning "lengthen," as days grow longer in spring'. Thanks Google - good to hear and to see the many bulbs pushing through.

Life gets more exciting in the Ong household with Chinese New Year and, it being the Year of the Horse, a very significant year for our eldest!

Whatever you do in February enjoy, be safe, keep well, warm and enjoy the daylight for longer...

and happy Valentines...

*Sue xx*

### **Love to hear from you...**

**Email:** [bourtonsbroadsheet@gmail.com](mailto:bourtonsbroadsheet@gmail.com)

**Tel:** 01295 758036

**Copy deadline:** 17<sup>th</sup> of each month

**Browse our Parish website for more local info:**

<https://bourtons-cherwell-pc.gov.uk/>

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**Message from...**

**Will Reeves**

**Headteacher, Cropredy School**

*"As we begin a new term, I am delighted to share the successes of our school community over the past term and our exciting plans moving forward. Last term was a time of growth and achievement, underpinned by our new vision: 'Building Bridges to a Brighter Future'. This vision reflects our commitment to fostering strong connections - between pupils, staff, families, and our wider village community.*

*Our school values remain at the heart of everything we do. Last term, we focused on Respect and Community, and as we return, our emphasis shifts to Kindness - a value that we believe strengthens relationships and creates a positive learning environment for all.*

*We are proud to share that our pupils' hard work and dedication have placed us 6<sup>th</sup> in Oxfordshire for attainment at the end of KS2 SATs - a fantastic achievement that reflects the commitment of our staff, families, and children. We have continued to enrich learning through memorable experiences beyond the classroom. Highlights included visits to the Tower of London, the Imperial War Museum, and Tooley's Boatyard, giving pupils opportunities to deepen their understanding of history - both national and local.*

*Another exciting development is the introduction of Forest School sessions every day. These outdoor learning experiences have brought countless benefits: building resilience, encouraging teamwork, and nurturing a love for nature. Alongside this, we remain committed to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, ensuring every child has the chance to thrive academically, creatively, and personally.*

*Thank you to everyone in our villages who continues to support our school. Together, we are truly building bridges to a brighter future.*

*Warm regards "*

*Will Reeves*

Tel: 01295 750210

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## **The Bourtons' Community Hall**

For information on the facilities, please go to

[bourtons-cherwell-pc.gov.uk/the-bourtons-community-hall/](http://bourtons-cherwell-pc.gov.uk/the-bourtons-community-hall/)

To book or make an enquiry: Sue Montgomery would love to hear from you.... Either text Sue on 07967 631770 Or email:

[Bourtonscommunityhall@mail.com](mailto:Bourtonscommunityhall@mail.com)

## **Bourtons' Gardening Club (BGC) – Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30<sup>pm</sup>**

in the Village Hall with guest speaker Lucinda Lachelin who will chat about 'Orchids for All'.

New members always welcome - contact one of the team:

Ann Brooks: 07957 436273 Clare Steans: 07492 165565

Ann Murray: 07843 327773



**Interested in joining the BGC?** Membership is £12pp pa. You will receive a 10% discount card for Farnborough Garden Centre; and a 10% discount at the National Herb Centre may be claimed on production of your BGC membership card. If you would like more information, please email [annbrooks100@gmail.com](mailto:annbrooks100@gmail.com)

### **Annual Report 2025...**

**Ann Brooks**

**Chair of Bourtons' Gardening Club (BGC)**

### **AGM – January 2026**

*"It was another busy, productive and enjoyable year for the BGC. Membership in 2025 stood at 54, slightly down on the previous year, and we enjoyed a full programme of visits, social events and speakers.*

*Our programme followed a familiar and successful pattern. We hosted 3 speakers (Feb, Mar and Apr), before visiting gardens during the rest of the year. This proved to be a particularly challenging season due to the severe drought; however, despite the difficult conditions, we visited some truly wonderful gardens. One standout favourite was 16 Ace Lane in Bugbrooke, which I think many members would agree was a highlight.*

*We were pleased to be able to subsidise 2 September visits for members: Evenley Woods and Broughton Grange. Unfortunately, there was insufficient interest this year to organise a coach trip to RHS Malvern. On that note, I am still patiently awaiting a response from King Charles to my letter outlining how expensive and challenging it is for groups (compared with individual visitors) to visit Highgrove — a visit we had hoped to arrange for 2026!*

*Our 3 social events were all well attended and very successful. The May garden party was the busiest I can remember and raised a significant amount of money for the club. It was particularly lovely to welcome some completely new faces, all enjoying the beautiful setting of Jenny Eadon & John Melrose's garden. Thanks in large part to Julie Tomlin, we had an excellent selection of high-quality plants for sale, and as always, the cakes and refreshments were delicious. The Autumn cheese and wine evening and the Christmas get-together were also both well attended and thoroughly enjoyable.*

*Fundraising remained an important focus for the committee in sustaining the financial health of the club, and I would like to thank everyone who contributed through raffles, plant sales, baking and general help. With speaker costs always rising, these additional funds have always been vital in keeping membership fees low (£1 per month).*

*I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow committee members — Treasurer Ann Murray and Clare Steans — for their ongoing support and hard work, which helped ensure the year ran smoothly and efficiently. Thanks also to Paul Drury for his help with the programme, and to Alison Bayliss for managing refreshments at our VH meetings. BGC really is a team effort: everyone pitches in, and it remains a warm and welcoming community club.*

*Finally, I am stepping down as Chair at this AGM after 9 years in the role. I have enjoyed my time immensely, but it is a long stint by any standards. As we know, several local gardening clubs in the area have closed in recent years, including Boddingtons & District Gardening Association and the Burton Dasset club.*

**Proposed Plan for 2026 and beyond...**

*As no members have yet come forward to join the committee, and as the BGC committee is up for re-election at every AGM, every January, we have agreed the following plan:*

*We have 3 speakers already booked for Feb, Mar and Apr 2026, and we will honour those commitments. Although membership fees technically run from Jan to Dec, there will be no charge to attend these talks; however, a raffle will be held at each meeting to help offset village hall hire costs.*

*Our final 2026 event will be the May Garden Party which will again be held at Jenny and John's. After this event, the club will take a break unless and until a new committee can be formed.*

*Following the May event, the club's finances will be frozen, and the Treasurer will investigate transferring funds into a savings account. If, after a reasonable period, there is still no appetite to re-form the committee and continue the club, 3 or 4 Trustees will be appointed by the 2025 committee. Members from 2024 and 2025 will be consulted regarding the appropriate destination of the remaining funds, and the club will then be formally wound up.*

*Please note: The National Herb Centre discount will be honoured until the end of Feb and the Farnborough Garden Centre discount until the end of Mar 2026.*

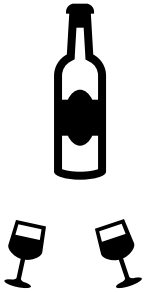
*Clare, Ann and I are willing to stay on informally to ensure the smooth running of the club up to the end of May 2026."*

**\*\* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\* \***

**Bourtons' Music Society - Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30<sup>pm</sup>**, in the Village Hall: 'A Night at the Movies' - select a piece of music which enhances the cinematography of a movie.

Byo refreshments. New members are always welcome, so if you would like to come along to see if it is for you, the evening only costs £1.50pp for non-members. Membership is £12pp pa. Information about the Music Society is available from Margaret on 01295 758519 or Paul on 01295 750596.





## **Bourtons' Popup Wine Bar!**

**Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30-9<sup>pm</sup>** in the Village Hall. Meet with neighbours and friends and enjoy a glass of wine together. The theme this month is '**Guess the mystery wine**' and take part in the tasting and identifying 2 mystery wines! A chance to meet up and enjoy a glass together. No sales, strictly BYO. Just £2.00 (contribution toward hall hire). Want to know more? Please contact Jane on 07498 761155 or [janefostersmith@gmail.com](mailto:janefostersmith@gmail.com)

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**Friends of All Saints** – met during January to plan for 2026 and are looking to arrange the next Big Breakfast alongside reserving dates for the rest of the year – particularly December! We'll be sharing soon the details of another TreeFest and associated festive fun dates for you to plan and look forward to. December 2025 was fantastic fun across the Bourtons and such fabulous collaboration with enormous community spirit and engagement. TreeFest will have a slightly different award approach this year so watch this space!

We'll get the dates in your diaries as soon as we can...

The other big news is we are really pleased to have welcomed Bobbie Wolf-Brown and Amanda Gibbard Atherton to the Friends' team who, as you may know, are the fundraising 'arm' for All Saints Church. We are very lucky to have a great team who plan and initiate events to raise much-needed funds for the upkeep of the church and bell tower, especially in this year of the Quinquennial Inspection (CofE mandatory process for the indepth investigation of church buildings). Bobbie and Amanda bring a wealth of experience, particularly in engaging with youngsters, and we all look forward to working together in the coming months.

It's appropriate at this point to mention that although the Friends' team develop and propose ideas for fundraising these would never happen without our friends of Friends 'bring it to life' supporters, so many creative and skilled people who really make things happen and help us all to make a difference!

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**S T O P P R E S S – Date for your Diary!**

**Bourtons' Big Breakfast just confirmed**

**for Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall!**

## Save the Bell Inn Group...

### **"Our campaign to Save the Bell Inn continues!"**

*As a result of "significant public interest" the appeal by the developer against the CDC Planning Committee decision was changed to a public hearing held on 15<sup>th</sup> January in Bicester. Nearly 40 villagers attended the meeting and were able to voice their concerns on the impact the loss of the pub would have on them personally as well as the community. A decision is due in late February.*



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## THE BOURTONS' PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

**Draft** Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 19:30hrs

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**In attendance:** Cllr Mrs Upton (Chair), Cllr Johnson, Cllr Duckworth, Cllr Beales, Mrs Pheasey (Clerk/RFO), Mr Bowen (Assistant Clerk, Plg)

**Apologies:** Cllr Martin, Cllr Brooks

**Declarations of Interest:** none declared. 2 members of the public present.

**Minutes:** Nov 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

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**Footpaths:** The footpath on the corner of Main Street and School Lane is in a bad state of repair. This will be investigated to see if it can be repaired as it is by the school bus stop. The footpath down towards Cropredy has previously been closed and the PC will check to see if this has been reopened. The steps by the footpath in Stanwell Lane are in a bad state of repair and the PC will contact OCC to report.

**Highways:** Four speed watch sessions were recorded this month. The highest speed recorded was 32mph with 22 speeders. There were some offenders that were not known to DVLA. The PC will write to PC Lee to see if anything can be done.

**Existing planning applications:**

25/02365/F: Mr T Hardacre/Milne, Trelowen, Main Street, GB: Retrospective renew external staircase and other minor changes has now been approved.

24/03218/F: Change of use application re The Bell Inn, Manor Road, GB: an appeal has been made, and the Planning Inspectorate hearing is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> January in Bicester. The Asst Clerk and the Chair will attend.

**Enforcement matters:** CDC enforcement continue to monitor The Stables/The Paddocks.

**Defibrillators:** Mrs Foster-Smith was at the meeting and informed the PC that the defibrillators do not need an electric power supply to work as they are run by batteries. The battery level is shown on the devices and should be renewed every 2 years. The Chair thanked Mrs Foster-Smith for her work to ensure they are kept in working order. Cllr Duckworth has confirmed that she is happy for one of the new devices to be put next to her house in LB and it was agreed that the other one be situated on the side of the Community Hall for GB.

**Website:** Chair confirmed that work has been done to ensure the website conforms to accessibility needs however has been unable to find any software to audio describe the pictures.

**Playgrounds & Public Spaces:** Chair confirmed that the landlord has been contacted re. lease renewal and we are awaiting a response. The repair work to LB park is ongoing to ensure it fulfils the requirements for the RoSPA report. The Asst Clerk for planning has contacted CDC with required paperwork to transfer the ownership of the Garners Field playpark to the PC and to confirm the ownership of the hedge.

The request to start a book shelter in GB has identified a site in the Bell Tower. The PCC will be discussing this at their next meeting.

**Allotments:** The trial posts for the fence repairs were not suitable and Cllr Martin will look at getting new quotes to complete this work. Castle Water has now corrected the address of the meter and have agreed that it will be possible to site a new meter in the allotment site. This now needs the agreement from Thames Water.

**Halls: VH:** The new lease is still being worked on, and the land registry document will be needed to include in the renewal details. There was a report of damp in the toilet area that the PC think has now been resolved but will confirm this and potentially the front doors will need repair work. This will be followed up.

**Healthcare:** Cllr Johnson confirmed that the new surgery in Cropredy is being worked on. Cllr Beale informed the PC that the new online parking system at the Horton Hospital was now working and that the machines did still accept card payment.

**Finance & Administration:** The FIN REP and bank rec. were circulated and it was **RESOLVED** that the associated bank reconciliation be accepted and that 8 payments totalling £2,262.78 be approved. To comply with the Transparency Code those in excess of £100 are listed below: Payroll - two employees - £1,502.10, KC Graphics – Website Hosting - £468. The PC **RESOLVED** to agree to a budget of £17,317.72 (an increase of 5% from the previous year).

Having agreed the budget, the PC considered the Precept request and **RESOLVED** to agree the amount of £17,317.

**Correspondence:** Correspondence has been received about the replacement seat on Foxden Way. This needs to be sited at least 18 inches from the roadside and as another site has not been identified it was agreed that the bench should be replaced in the original site.

**New business:** The grit bins have been used a lot in the last few days with the recent icy weather, and the PC will look to see if there is any more salt that needs to be purchased at the next meeting.

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**Belfry Light & Flag...**

**7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> January**

“Thank you to everyone who has supported the Beacon Christmas lunch.



**14<sup>th</sup> February**

“Happy Valentines – you are always in my Heart...  
xx”

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# Bourtons' Village Hall



For more information go to:  
<https://bourtons-cherwell-pc.gov.uk/bourtons-village-hall/> and to book,  
 please contact Maggie 01295 750497  
 or email [m.macangus@sky.com](mailto:m.macangus@sky.com)

**Dates for your diaries!** TmK look forward to seeing you for...

**Quiz Night & Raffle** – Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 7:30pm  
 (doors open 7pm)

Teams of 6 people max; £3.50pp  
 Reserve your table – ring Maggie 01295 750497 or Trish 07523 011913

**Easter Bingo** – Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm

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## Shires Edge Benefice February \*

When:		Service:	Where:
1 <sup>st</sup> Sun	9:30 <sup>am</sup>	Family Communion	Cropredy
	11 <sup>am</sup>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>Bourtons</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Sun	9 <sup>am</sup>	Family Communion	Mollington
	10:30 <sup>am</sup>	Morning Worship Family Service	Cropredy Wardington
15 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10 <sup>am</sup>	Seeker Service	Cropredy
	11 <sup>am</sup>	<b>Family Communion</b>	<b>Bourtons</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> Wed	7 <sup>pm</sup>	Ash Wednesday	Claydon
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sun	9:30 <sup>am</sup>	Family Communion	Wardington
	11 <sup>am</sup>	Family Communion	Claydon
	4 <sup>pm</sup>	Evening Prayer	Mollington

\*Please go to [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) for confirmation of services throughout the Benefice as these services are pending confirmation on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. Alternatively, please check with your church warden.

**9am Morning prayer:** Mon@GB; Tues@Claydon; Wed@Cropredy;  
 Thurs@Mollington; Fri@Wardington

For baptism, wedding or funeral enquiries  
 Chat to Revd Sarah on:  
 01295 750486 or 07747 181868;  
 Or email [vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com](mailto:vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com)



## Bourtons' Goings-On 'at a glance' :: February

CH = Community Hall

Village Hall = bVh

When		What	Where
Every Mon & Tues	2 <sup>pm</sup>	BEAT – Mon: Yoga Lite - £5 Tues: Strength - £5	CH
Tuesdays	2:30-4 <sup>pm</sup>	Knit, Natter and Craft!	bVh
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	7:30 <sup>pm</sup>	Gardening Club	bVh
12 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	7:30 <sup>pm</sup>	Wine Bar – byo	bVh
18 <sup>th</sup> Wed	7:30 <sup>pm</sup>	Music Society	bVh
25 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10:30 <sup>am</sup>	Community Coffee morning	bVh
27 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7 for 7:30 <sup>pm</sup>	Quiz Night – pre book your team!	bVh
<b>What's coming up...</b> watch out for more info...			
4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Gardening Club, bVh		
12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Wine Bar, bVh		
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Bourtons' Big Breakfast, bVh		
27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Easter Bingo, bVh		
24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Pop up take away night! bVh		

### Beyond the Bourtons...

Claydon Church Room:

Coffee, Cake & Company: 10<sup>am</sup>-Noon - Wednesday's,  
18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 18<sup>th</sup> Mar...

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**LittleB WhatsApp Group** call Bobbie on 07730 570639 to join.