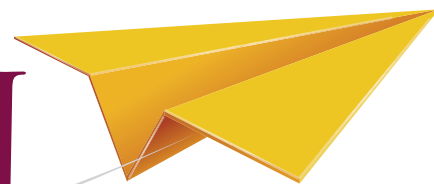


THE BOURTON FLYER



Christmas 2023

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL

What's this? There's white things in the air...

What's this? What's this?

There's colour everywhere,

What's this? There's white things in the air,

What's this? I can't believe my eyes,

I must be dreaming, wake up, Jack, this isn't fair,

What's this?

The film, *'Nightmare before Christmas'* is probably my favourite side-ways view of the festive season. The superb lyrics by Danny Elfman (who else!) and the somewhat weird imaginings of producer Tim Burton (must have missed an 'o' out on his birth certificate) make for a modern day classic. A festive/horror/comic/stop-animation love story that involves witches, vampires, the Bogeyman, a two faced politician and Santa Claus... and its for kids!

So, what is this to do with anything at all, apart from recommended viewing, nothing really but a feeble attempt to welcome you back to the strangeness and charm that is the *Bourton Flyer*.

Like a phoenix from the ashes the

parish council are relaunching an irregular news sheet to impart what's going on in the village and a summary of parish council matters – the old fashioned way.

That's what this is... Enjoy.

Diary dates at a glance

9th December	– Soleluna Pizza – 5pm - 8pm	Bourton Club
	– Live Music with Charlie Kay – 8pm	Bourton Club
10th December	– Christmas Cabaret – 6pm	Bourton Club
16th December	– Christmas Craft Fair – 12pm-4pm	Bourton Club
17th December	– Communion Service – 10am	St James' Church
17th December	– Carol Concert – 5pm	Village Hall
21st December	– Member Christmas Raffle – 8pm	Bourton Club
24th December	– Christmas Eve Service – 4pm	St James' Church
2024		
6th January	– Family Service – 10am	St James' Church
21st January	– Communion Service – 10am	St James' Church
2nd February	– Pop-Luck Supper	Village Hall
16th March	– Chilli'n'Quiz Night	Village Hall

St James' Christmas Eve Service



The candles are being readied for our traditional Christmas Eve service on Sunday 24th December at 4pm. All are welcome to attend this colourful and seasonal service.

Come and enjoy traditional carols in the village church's unique atmosphere. There will be some mulled wine to take away the winter chill and children are welcome to come dressed in seasonal attire, which is a good excuse for everyone

else to show off a festive woolly-pully for the occasion. The more colour the better!

There will also be a Communion Service on Sunday 17th December at 10am and our first service of 2024 will be a Family Service on Saturday 6th January at 10am.

All Services include an activity table and refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

Village website: www.bourton-oxon.org.uk

What's on at The Bourton Club

Cabaret Evening
featuring
The Village Voices
Sunday 10th December
6pm
Everyone welcome

9th Dec – Soleluna Pizza – 5pm - 8pm
– Live Music with Charlie Kay – 8pm

10th Dec – Christmas Cabaret – 6pm

16th Dec – Christmas Craft Fair – 12pm - 4pm

21st Dec – Member Christmas Raffle – 8pm

Bourton Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday 16th December
12pm - 4pm
FREE ENTRY & PARKING
Over 20 Small business to shop from!
Shop Gifts, Art, Homeware, Jewellery and more...
Story time with children's author
KATE CLAXTON
and... *Santa Claus*
(From 12pm - 2.30pm)
Follow @bourtonclub

BOURTON CLUB OPENING TIMES over Christmas and New Year

24th December – 12 - 3.30pm
25th December – 12 - 2.00pm
26th December – 12 - 2.00pm
27th December – Closed
28th December – Closed
29th December – 12 - 2.00pm

30th December – 1.30 - 3.30pm
31st December – 12 - 5.00pm
2024
1st January – 12 - 3.30pm
2nd January – Closed

Village website: www.bourton-oxon.org.uk

Village Hall

After the success of the recent '**Pot-Luck Supper**', and by popular demand, the committee have decided to hold another one on **Friday February 2nd** – an ideal time to liven up the greyness that the early months of the year can bring. A bit of warmth and good company to bring some colour back into one's lives. So, that's one date for the diary.

Another date to put on that brand new calendar, is the Village Hall '**Chilli'n'Quiz Night**' on **Saturday March 16**. No spoilers as to the likely grub involved for this one and as we are rather close to St. Patrick's day there might be some themed questions for the occasion. You have been warned. More details in the new year.

Currently elements of the committee are working very hard collecting information on grant funding, energy audits, solar panels to provide a positive framework for making the hall self-sufficient, in heating terms, parallel with a replacement roof. Like an iceberg, there's more going on which isn't visible that is crucial for the future of the village's hall and its viability.

Please consider joining the village hall's 50-50 club, if you haven't already, its a small way to help with the costs and you might well profit from winning one of the three prize draws every month.

Please have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

50/50 Club 2024

Why not join the Village Hall's 50-50 Club? The Club has been going for well over ten years and has generated income for the hall alongside benefiting winners with a return on their investment. The more people that sign up, the better the prize money.

The £12 minimum entry makes an ideal make-weight pressie for family and friends.

Obviously, the more 'numbers' you invest in, the better are the chances of winning. The monthly Draw benefits 3 winners every month. Last year we paid out over £500.

To join simply fill in the form that came with this newsletter or go online to <https://bourton-oxon.org.uk/50-50-club-membership/> where the form is also located.

CAROLS

at the Village Hall
Sunday 17th December
5pm

Join us for some seasonal
warbling, mulled wine, minced
pies and some festive spirit

EVERYONE WELCOME

All performers welcome.

Childrens/teens choir.

*Please let Fiona know if interested in
performing or IF you have any children
who would like to join the choir.*

Village website: www.bourton-oxon.org.uk

Parish Council News

The Parish Council have met three times since the village AGM back in May and we've summarised the bigger topics that we've been considering below. The full minutes are of course available on the village website, the address for which is shown at the end.

At the beginning of the year the council made grants to activities within the village including the village hall fund and the coronation celebration party. June saw the final adoption of the council's accounts for the previous financial year, including – among other documents – the auditor's report and the annual governance statement. All the statutory annual documents are available to view on the village website. We also approved a communications policy which addresses the use of social media by councillors and sets out the ambition to revive the 'Bourton Flyer' – a newsletter delivered to all properties in the village. This is the first edition of the Flyer's latest incarnation.

Cllr Caroline Francis is taking a close interest in the District Council's consultation for their upcoming local plan which will cover the period 2025 to 2041. The local plan sets out critical infrastructure initiatives for the district including the targets for numbers and locations for new housing. It's really important that villagers respond to the consultations and make their views and expectations known. Caroline has also attended meetings called by CPPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) and we'll provide updates on developments as they occur.

We're supporting a bid with three other local parishes for a grant for a community transport scheme. If successful it will pay for a minibus for local use, operated by volunteers.

Planning issues frequently come to the attention of the council. The long-standing planning application for 90 houses off Townsend Road (the road leading into Shrevenham from the A420 and on the boundary with

Bourton) has again been rejected. The main development in Bourton is at Home Farm (the disused farm buildings off the road to Bishopstone just beyond the church), work on which has been paused but we're told will re-commence at some stage. Six new houses are planned, with the name of the development proposed as "Farm Quarry".

The latest application relates to the building at the end of the Avenue, at the junction close to the railway bridge. An application has been made to convert the old stables there into a small dwelling and a garage with the proposed name of, oddly, "The Old Piggery". We've responded with concerns about the disproportionate size of the garage and the arrangements for sewage treatment.

The 20 mph speed limit in Bourton and 30 mph along the road past the entrance to Fern Farm, have been put in place and hopefully villagers are feeling the benefits of safer and quieter roads, especially at school drop-off and pick-up times. There is a Speedwatch scheme available for the village but unfortunately no volunteers have come forward just yet.

Finally, the council funds the upkeep of the village's paths and verges. This never-ending task is ably performed by Jack Webster who continues to work hard for the village despite starting an engineering degree at university this year! Potholes continue to be a problem in and around the village, which we report to Highways as they are identified. As always, there's an app for that and villagers can report potholes directly on fixmystreet.com.

Councillors are always keen to hearing the views and concerns of villagers and contact details are shown below and on the village website. And of course, villagers are welcome to attend council meetings. Subscribe on the site to receive email news and notices from around the village and the parish council.

Your Parish Councillors

Parish Council Contacts:

Maggie Brown (Parish Clerk) 782858

Nial Ledingham (Chairman) 783402

Other councillors contact details can be found on the village website



Nial Ledingham



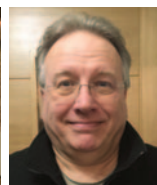
David Swann



Andy Knapp



Carolyn Francis



Simon French



Parish Clerk
Maggie Brown

Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

Village website: www.bourton-oxon.org.uk