



# Bournheath Parish Council

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

### THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

2020 has certainly been an unusual year, and we would like to thank all the residents of the Parish for your consideration towards one another, for your willingness to help people with whom you may not usually come into contact, and for the sacrifices that people have made in their efforts to help with the Covid-19 crisis. We would particularly like to thank those people who volunteered to be part of our parish "Response Team", and who shopped for other people, kept in contact with anyone who might be isolated, and who were just willing and ready to be part of a caring community. This response team was co-ordinated by Angela Barnes, so special thanks to her for all the work involved in organising this. Thanks also to Matt Guest, who created new WhatsApp groups for Neighbourhood Watch and for Covid-19 information, thereby increasing the range of people who could be reached with important information. It was brilliant to see people using these groups for passing on offers to shop, to provide free plants, or for up-to-date information if any suspicious activity was noticed in the parish. For regular updates about things relevant to the parish, and for information about what's on at the Community Centre, please ask to be added to the Parish email distribution list, by emailing [clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk) and stating "Opt into emails".

Just as a reminder, the Facebook and WhatsApp groups created by Matt Guest, can be accessed as follows:

**Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Group:** Bournheath, Bromsgrove, B61.

#### WhatsApp groups:

**Bournheath COVID Help:** Please use this Bournheath Coronavirus support group to contact other residents within the parish. If you are self isolating and need help with supplies or collecting medication, please let us know. If you can spare some time or help others please also join. As a community we can help each other.

**B61 Neighbourhood Watch:** This is a Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group for the residents of Bournheath Parish to inform other residents and the Neighbourhood Watch team of suspicious activity, crimes, and any concerns you may have. We will also update on any news that relates to Neighbourhood watch within Bournheath.

Please be aware by participating within these WhatsApp groups your mobile phone number will be on display to the others within it. We will only add residents of Bournheath and people with connections to the village. By joining the groups you are agreeing for your number to be visible to others. To be added to either or both of these groups please log into your WhatsApp and add Matthew Guest's phone number 07802373636 and send a message stating which groups you would like to be added to.

A further thank-you also goes to Andrew Hewston for providing eggs for people on a weekly basis during Lockdown, and, in the process, raising a large amount for charity.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are currently being held virtually via Zoom. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please see the Bournheath Parish Council website or the noticeboards for details of agendas and how to join a meeting.

## **THE RECREATION GROUND**

In the Spring Newsletter we mentioned that members of the Parish Council met with representatives from Bromsgrove District Council (the owners of the ground), Severn Trent and their contractors (NMCN) in January to discuss the state of the recreation ground. The plan to aerate the ground has now been carried out, and we have obtained some saplings (to be delivered in November) which will help with absorbing the water that runs on to the recreation ground from the adjoining fields. We are in communication with the District Council about how best these trees should be utilised. It is likely that we will need to plant them ourselves....so this is where we would be very grateful to anyone in the parish who is willing to volunteer to help out with this task. Please contact the parish clerk on the email address provided in the previous section if you are able to give even a small amount of time to help with this planting.

Bromsgrove District Council is also responsible for the play area, and would like to thank people for adhering to the guidelines about not using play equipment when the area was closed as a result of measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. As with all other play areas in the District, guidance about social distancing and hand-hygiene is still displayed.

## **SMARTWATER AND CRIME IN THE AREA**

In our last newsletter, we reported that some streetlights could be upgraded this year thanks to finances provided by our County Councillor, Shirley Webb. The County Highways Department has initially selected four lights near the junction of Fairfield Road and Dodford Road which can be converted to LED so that they can be left on overnight, which, hopefully, will act as a deterrent to crime.

## **FOOTPATHS IN AND AROUND BOURNHEATH**

Peter Trueman has kindly offered to take on the role of footpath warden for the village, and he is willing to monitor the public rights of way around the area. Messages can be forwarded to him from the Parish Clerk's email address, so if you have any concerns, please use that as a first means of communication.

## **GOOD NEIGHBOURS**

We have much to be grateful for in this village, and the neighbourliness shown throughout the year is just one thing. We have, though, had one request for this newsletter – and that is to ask people to park considerately in the village and to ensure that there is always space for emergency vehicles to get through if necessary. Please leave footpaths clear for pedestrians, and, particularly for pushchair and wheelchair users.

## BOURNHEATH VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

Since the last Parish newsletter, the Community Centre has, of course, been closed. We have missed our regular users, and have particularly missed those people who attend the fortnightly coffee mornings/afternoons and the evening table-tennis sessions. We look forward to seeing people again as soon as possible and have been working hard to ensure that the building and the expectations for users meet the requirements for being “covid-secure”. As a result, some regular hirers have been able to resume their activities.

Unfortunately, because the rules have been that only two households can meet indoors, and are now that only six people can meet in any setting, we cannot yet offer the regular “Social Wednesday coffee mornings/afternoons” since their main function is to allow us to meet and socialize. Rest assured that we have plenty of tea and coffee and have been keeping up to speed with our cake-baking skills in preparation for re-opening!

Over the summer we have had the hall re-wired and have had new energy-efficient heating and lighting installed, and we hope that this will make the hall even better for our users. Special thanks go to Kevin Rodgers for all his work and time in plastering, painting, repairing guttering and fascia boards, and tidying the vegetation around the hall.

Because of the Covid-19 situation, organisations which might usually provide grants for installing disabled toilets have only been focusing on Covid-related grant requests, so we are, unfortunately, still looking for help in terms of getting this facility installed.

### SPRING COMPETITIONS

In the Spring, we ran a series of competitions to provide a focus during Lockdown. If you are not on the email distribution list or didn't see these advertised on our Facebook Page, we had Poetry, Garden on a Plate, Leaf and Flower Art, Sketching, Newspaper Reporting, and Mini-Saga competitions and we had some absolutely spectacular entries. It was great to see so much talent and we were very grateful to all of those people who supported the competitions. Even if you are not a registered Facebook user, the Community Centre Facebook page is an “open” page, which means that anyone can access it (just search for Bournheath Village Community Centre) or our website is [www.Bournheathvcc.co.uk](http://www.Bournheathvcc.co.uk) . If you access one of these sites, you will be able to see some of the entries.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

As you will appreciate, we had to cancel our summer events, but we're hoping to get going again in the Autumn.

**On October 10<sup>th</sup>, we have our annual Photographic Competition.**

The categories for 2020 are as follows:

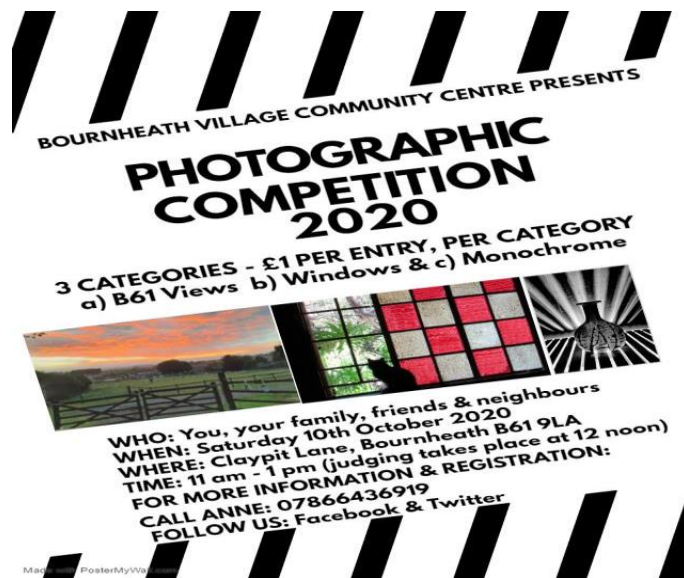
B61 Views

Windows

Monochrome (any subject).

Please have a go, regardless of your previous experience. It may be that you had more time than usual this year to get out and about in the local area to take photos – but, if not, there’s still time! Because of the current situation with social distancing and self-isolation, the format for the day may change but the competition itself will go on as planned. If we are unable to have prints on display in the Community Centre, we can still have electronic copies judged externally by our good friends and supporters, Bromsgrove Photographic Society.

If there are any changes to be made, we will notify you in good time. Hopefully, this will not be necessary. So, enjoy taking photographs and we’ll keep you posted.



**BOURNHEATH VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE PRESENTS**  
**PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020**  
3 CATEGORIES - £1 PER ENTRY, PER CATEGORY  
a) B&W Views b) Windows & c) Monochrome

WHO: You, your family, friends & neighbours  
WHEN: Saturday 10th October 2020  
WHERE: Claypit Lane, Bournheath B61 9LA  
TIME: 11 am - 1 pm (judging takes place at 12 noon)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:  
CALL ANNE: 07866436919  
FOLLOW US: Facebook & Twitter

Small images on the poster include a landscape, a window view, a red and white checkered pattern, and a monochrome architectural shot.

We are still hoping that the **Christmas Fair** may be able to go ahead as indoor markets are currently allowed. We want to make sure that we have stallholders in place to make it a Christmas Fair to remember. If at the last minute it has to be cancelled, stallholders will have their fee returned to them. So, spread the word, and let's get Bournheath Village Community Centre back on the festive map!!



Charity No. 523101

**Christmas Craft Fair**  
**Saturday 28th November 2020**  
**10am-2pm**  
Bournheath Village  
Community Centre  
Claypit Lane  
Bournheath  
B61 9LA  
To book a table at £10  
Phone Anne 07866436919

The poster features a decorative background with gold and silver swirls, a Christmas tree, and a gift box.