Bournheath Newsletter Autumn 2024

Hello everyone, here is the Bournheath Parish newsletter for Autumn 2024. This newsletter will provide you with news on what your Parish Council has been working on, together with an update from Bournheath Village Community Centre.

If you have moved into the area recently, and are receiving this newsletter for the first time, we would like to welcome you. This is delivered by hand to those members for whom we have no email address. If you are willing to help us by providing your address, please contact the Parish Clerk (clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk) and state “opt into emails”.

We hope you find the information in this newsletter useful. If you have any issues or ideas that you would like to discuss it would be great to see you at our monthly Parish Council meeting which takes place on the second Wednesday each month at the Community Centre. Details of the agenda can be found on noticeboards 3 days prior to the meeting.

Bournheath Parish Council News

Your Parish Councillors (Cllr)

Gary Davies (Chair), Louise Colley (Vice Chair), Matt Guest, Philip Hughes, Karen May and Sophie Moir. To put a face to a name, please have a look at the “Councillors” tab on our website (www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk).

Changes to council
We’ve waved goodbye to our clerk, Natalie Cartwright and thank her for all her support; she will be missed. And hello to our new clerk Ro Hardeman who resides in neighbouring Belbroughton and has taken over the role; you’ve probably already spotted her in the village.

How we support the community

As the first tier of government, we work to ensure that any ‘street furniture’ such as benches, signs and notice boards are maintained and kept to a good standard, carrying additional responsibility for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences.

We also act as a consultee for planning applications and neighbourhood plans. Our work also involves liaising with other tiers of government (District and County Council) together with agencies (water management) and the police.

Projects

Flood alleviation programme
As many of you know flooding in the village is a concern for residents. The Parish Council is currently working with agencies and residents to develop a flood alleviation plan which helps manage the water flow through the village and to help divert and slow the rate of water. We continuously look at flood prevention measures and with the rainfall that we have already experienced, since the end of the summer, we will be revising the budget to ensure we have the right level of funding to manage any future issues (for example undertaking regular culvert surveys and provision for flood defence materials). The flood planning may impact the setting of the 2024/25 precept.

We continue to work with North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) to look at areas impacted and what steps residents and landowners can take to reduce flooding in the village. NWWM has conducted a survey of water culverts on Fairfield and Dodford Road and as a result letters have

been sent to make people aware of any issues on their land/properties. NWWM continues to support the Parish and will regularly meet with the Council, residents and landowners to look at problems and solutions which could be adopted.

Our county councillor, Shirley Webb has also arranged for drains to be surveyed and for any debris to be removed. As part of the Lengthsman scheme, our lengthsman regularly checks the drains and gullies and reports any problems to the Highway teams so that they can be cleared. Any issues can be reported to Worcestershire County Council via the following link:
https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue/report-drainage-and-flooding-highway
The PC welcome feedback from residents on what they would like to see more of to help manage any flooding issues. We will continue to update residents on any news and hope we have a drier winter season.

Village Community Orchard
As you may have seen, the new community orchard is starting to take shape. Our thanks to Cllr Colley for all the work she has undertaken to start the Community Orchard. The Council thanks Whiting Landscapes for their help and donations. Our plan is to add to the orchard over this Autumn/Winter with the aim of providing a resource that can be shared by everyone in the community.

Summer fete
In June, we held our first summer fete for many years. This proved to be a well-supported event with a superb community spirit. The fun dog-show was very popular, people enjoyed refreshments in the Community Centre or from the vans on the field, games were played, and a good time was had by all. Thanks to the many residents who attended, and, particularly to Cllr Sophie Moir for her organisational skills. We would like to be able to build on this in future years and to have more people involved in running stalls or events. Look out for more information.

Play area
As you will know from previous newsletters, we are aiming to try to improve the facilities on the Recreation Ground. We have started with the orchard, and we are still aiming to install a seven-a-side football goal. Our plans to update the equipment and to have the play area fenced in so that children can avoid dog excrement have been put on hold because we were unsuccessful in obtaining a grant, but we will continue to work on this.

Vehicle Speeding
Speeding continues to be a concern. We now have three Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) up and running on Doctors Hill and Fairfield Road.

The Speed Watch team has operated throughout the Spring and Summer with two teams, led by Terry Colley and Maria Stepin, and we would like to thank them for all their hard work in organising speed-monitoring sessions. We would also like to thank those residents who have given positive comments to the team when they have been out monitoring traffic.

A few of the original volunteers have been unable to continue with this, so we would love to have some new members. If you would like to be trained to become part of the team (training takes about three hours), please email the clerk on clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk.

We have been requesting new signage and road markings for some time, and it is to be hoped that the speed watch data, data from the VAS signs and feedback from residents will allow us to provide accurate information to the County Council so that the measures we request can be implemented. Thank you to the Speed Watch team for continuing to monitor the roads.

Future projects
We also look to 2025 and welcome residents' thoughts on what they would like to see in the community.

Defibrillators

There are currently three defibrillators in the Parish on Dodford Road, at the Community centre and a newly installed machine outside The New Inn. Unfortunately, the machine opposite the Gate Inn has developed a fault and we are working to resolve the issue. In the meantime, a sign has been placed on the machine. The machines at the Community Centre and New Inn are unaffected and are in working order.

Neighbourhood Watch

As a reminder, updates can be accessed via:

- Facebook, Neighbourhood Watch Group: Bournheath, Bromsgrove, B61
- WhatsApp groups:
    - Bournheath B61 Residents
      Please use this Bournheath group to contact other residents within the parish. about anything that may be helpful (not crime related).
    - 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. 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 in.

Keeping Bournheath litter free

Our continued thanks to the those many residents who regularly pick up litter, helping to keep the Parish clean. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in dog fouling, especially on the recreation ground and the children's playground. We ask that dog owners please pick up after their pets. Dog waste is hazardous and cannot be left to decompose, the excrement is toxic and needs to be bagged and disposed of in a bin/dog waste bin. It's also a nuisance to those who maintain our green spaces and waste can cover workers and any machinery used. The Parish Council continues to provide litter bins and dog waste bags. Failure to pick up may result in a fine.

Fly-tipping has been previously flagged with the Parish Council. It has a significant impact on the appearance of our neighbourhood and comes at a cost to remove and dispose of correctly. Cllr Karen May, working with Bromsgrove District Council, has arranged the deployment of covert cameras with the hope of catching litterers in the act. Cllr May hopes the new cameras will lead to prosecutions and deter individuals in the future. To report items for removal please go to the Bromsgrove Council online "Report fly-tipping page" where a simple document can be completed to report an incident.

Parish Footpaths

The Parish has a wonderful network of paths around Bournheath and extending into Wildmoor. The footpaths wardens continue to do a brilliant job of keeping our walking routes clear for use.

In July, a member of the public used the BournheathB61 Facebook page to report footpath 511(C) between the Stourbridge Road and Fairfield Road as being heavily overgrown. Brett Laniosh (Bournheath footpath warden) and Cllr Davies cleared it a few days later.

Combined Parish Footpath group continues to meet once a month. Work carried out on paths in Dodford, Lydiate Ash and Burcot in recent months. If you are aware of any footpath issues within the Parish, please contact us so that we can establish if the team can address them.

Bournheath Village Community Centre Update

Since the last newsletter was issued in the Spring, we have continued to be busy at the Community Centre.

The event on Easter Monday was well-attended, and we were presented with a good range of entries for the Best Decorated Egg Competition. The craft stalls proved to be very successful, drawing in in a number of people, and it is to be hoped that we can repeat this in future years.

The Summer Fete in June, organised by the Parish Council, was an amazing event with a great community spirit, and we were able to provide refreshments for this. Many thanks to anyone who provided home-made cakes for the afternoon.

One of our regular hirers, Nikki Foulkes, who runs the Zumba, Pilates, Adult Ballet and Baby Ballet classes, offered to organise a quiz in August in order to raise funds for the hall. This was an exceptionally well-supported event with a packed hall and a very competitive (and fun) atmosphere. Huge thanks to Nikki and her family for their organisation. We do know that tickets sold out very quickly and that some people may not have managed to obtain one – so keep an eye on emails and our Facebook page so that you don't miss out!

Throughout the Spring and Summer, we continued with our regular coffee mornings, which have been well-attended. If you haven't been along, please do drop in on the first and third Wednesdays of the month between 10.30 and 12.00, and if you're not keen on chatting, just come along to borrow books or DVDs from our well-stocked mini-library. In June and July, we were fortunate enough to have Fairfield's pop-up shop setting up a table at our coffee morning. They had planned to continue this throughout the Autumn, but their own situation has changed, and they are now going to be opening the shop at Fairfield Village Hall on some Wednesday afternoons instead. It's great that this enterprise is thriving – and it also gives Bournheath residents a chance to buy things that may have been missed at the "Foodie Fairfield" market on the first Saturday of each month.
We also continued the Wednesday evening social table tennis sessions. The emphasis is on fun – so feel free to pop in and have a go. All standards welcome and it's still free.

Coming Up

Photo Competition

Many thanks to everyone who entered the competition. We now move to the judging stage, and we will be asking residents to vote for their favourites on Wednesday 16th October – come along to the hall when it is open for coffee or for table tennis (between 10.30 and 12.00 and between 19.30 and 21.00) to cast your votes.

Pumpkin Trail

This year we are planning to have the Pumpkin Trail on Sunday 27th October instead of our usual Friday night. Look out for more details about how to get your expertly carved pumpkin on the trail map, and how you can take part. We'd love to see as many villagers as possible displaying a pumpkin to fill the village with light and colour, regardless of whether you want to enter the competition or not. The event will be starting at 17.30, which gives younger children (and parents) a chance to see the pumpkins, get to the Community Centre to cast a vote and enjoy some refreshments, and still get to bed at a reasonable time! Everyone is welcome to come along just to have some refreshments even if you don't fancy walking round the village to check out the pumpkins.

Christmas Fair 2024

This year's fair will be on Saturday 23rd November between 10.00 and 13.00. We believe that Bournheath has had one of the best Christmas Fairs in the area over the past few years, with a warm and welcoming atmosphere and some absolutely fabulous stalls. Look out for more information nearer the time. We currently have a few spaces for crafters to book stalls – so if you are interested please email bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk.

Craft Workshops

A series of wire or fused glass workshops will be taking place on Saturday 26th October, Saturday 2nd November and Saturday 16th November. If you are interested to find out more, please email us on Bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk and we can put you in touch with the organiser.

Jingle and Mingle - Friday 6th December
This is a Christmas Quiz with a difference – maybe a bit of carol singing or some Christmas jumpers? It is all intended to be an informal and fun gathering, so look out for more information nearer the time.

Hall Improvements and Hall Hire
As we mentioned in the last newsletter, we have made a series of improvements to the hall over the past three years. The floor has been sanded and re-sealed, with a high-quality sealant which has given improved grip, the toilets refurbished and the hall re-wired and redecorated. Our plan is to have new curtains and some new chairs by the end of the year. We have a setting that is ideal for all sorts of activities, so please consider using the hall for children's parties or for meetings/courses that you might be interested in running. If you have a look at our website (bournheathvcc.co.uk) or Facebook page you will see that there are reduced rates for those living in the Parish. It is, for example, only £28 to hire the hall for four hours in the daytime during the week, and only £30 at the weekend.

Regular Activities
Here is an update on the regular activities taking place at the hall in which you can participate:

- Mondays
  - 10.00-10.45 Zumba
  - 11.00-11.45 Pilates
  - 16.00-16.15 KS1 - Primary Modern dance
  - 16.15-16.45 KS1 – Primary Ballet
    for more information email: n.foulkes@hotmail.co.uk
  - 18.30-19.15 Pilates
  - 20.00-22.00 Country Dancing (Morris Dancing).
- Tuesdays Seasons Art (externally run with tutors).
- Wednesdays 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month
  - 10.30-12.00 Coffee morning
  - 19.30-21.00 Table Tennis.
- Thursdays
  - 9.30-10.30 Chair Yoga
  - 11.00-12.00 Tai Chi
  - TBC Bournheath Art group (1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons)
  - Evening Adults' beginners' ballet, Zumba, Pilates Barre and Mat.
- Fridays:
  - 10.00-10.30 Baby Ballet
  - 10.45-11.30 Zumba
  - 11.45-12.15 Stretch and Tone.

For contact details for any of these activities please email bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk

Bournheath Village Community Centre uses the Parish Clerk's email distribution list to communicate with residents – so please ask to be included if you are not already on it.

We'd like to keep in touch with you about the work of your Parish Council and Bournheath Village Community Centre. We will never sell your data and we promise to keep your details safe and secure. The council's privacy notices which explain how we use and look after your information can be found on the website www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk

Data policy
Under the General Data Protection Regulation, we have a legal duty to protect any personal information we collect from you. Information contained in this email and any attachments may be privileged or confidential and intended for the exclusive use of the original recipient. If you have received this by mistake, please advise the Clerk immediately and delete the email, including emptying your deleted email box.