Bournheath Newsletter Spring 2025

Hello everyone, here is the Bournheath Parish newsletter for Spring 2025. 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 regular Parish Council meeting which takes place on the second Wednesday of every month (apart from August and December) 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).

Many of you have now received your council tax notification for 2025/2026 which shows that the Parish Council has requested extra funding. This is to help meet increased running costs, new project funding and the creation of an emergency contingency fund. For an overview of how the money is used to meet the needs of the community and why an increase was needed, a leaflet explaining the changes is available on the website (www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk).

Be a councillor and make a difference
Would you like to support your community? We currently have a casual vacancy and are looking for someone who can spare some time to help support the council and the residents of Bournheath. You could be involved in anything from organising events to major infrastructure works and everything in between. In the past we have arranged and supported:

- Community events, including remembering those we have lost on Remembrance Day and the organising the annual summer fete
- Working with Worcestershire County Council and North Worcestershire Water Management to review flood management and devising a new flood alleviation plan
- Improving greenspaces with the introduction of the community orchard and working with County Council on the introduction of the new Bournheath Woodland
- Listening to residents’ concerns regarding traffic and working with Councillor Shirley Webb and Highways on a raft of measures to help reduce speed and improve safety in the village (more on that later)
- With additional responsibility for grass cutting, defibrillators, flowerboxes, flagpoles, noticeboards, dog waste bags , commemorative benches and bringing a little joy to the Christmas season with the lighting of the tree on Tuppenny Cake. Our thanks to Phil Danckert for his support, I hear a rumour that the tree may have a star this year.

No prior experience is needed, Clerk and Councillors are on hand to support new joiners and training is available. The role is only open to those 18 years or older and have lived or worked in Bournheath for the last 12 months. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

Village Community Orchard and proposed woodland project (including new flood measure)

In the last year, a new community orchard has started. It began with the introduction of four mature apple trees to the Recreation Ground and, at the start of this year a further six trees were provided by Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) Countryside Service Team this was as a result of the Coronation Living Heritage Fund. The Council thanks Whiting Landscapes for the original four trees and to Councillor Shirley Webb and Wade Muggleton (Senior Greenspace Officer, WCC) for arranging of the order, delivery and planting of the six additional trees. Not forgetting those residents who attended the planting, thank you for your help and we hope you managed to take away some tree planting tips.

Furthermore, as part of Worcestershire County Council's commitment to plant 150,000 trees across the County over a 5-year period, five new woodlands are being developed one of which, is to be on County Council owned land in Bournheath.

The site consists of just over five hectares of land along Claypit Lane and behind the village's community hall and stretching over to the motorway. A funding application is currently with the Forestry Commission and if successful, is scheduled to see planting commence this year in November/December. When complete, it will have circular trails to complement the existing footpaths that already run across the site.

As well as the trees, which will consist of a wide mix of native broadleaves like Oak, Lime, Hazel, Cherry, Rowan, Sweet Chestnut there will be open spaces, some flood mitigation scrapes and fruit trees.

The term 'scrape' is used to describe a shallow pond that forms in a natural low spot in a floodplain. The area behind the village hall (adjacent to the Recreation Ground) has been identified as a suitable area to introduce a number of scrapes. The scrapes will be dry during the summer months. It is hoped that the scrapes will be started later this year during the summer.

The site will fulfil multiple roles of habitat creation and benefit local wildlife, enable public access to green space for recreation and wellbeing, as well as contributing to carbon reduction targets. Once underway, it is very much hoped that residents will join in on community planting days and so feel a sense of engagement and being a part of creating this new woodland for the future of Bournheath.

It is hoped that Wade Muggleton, project lead, will join us at the village fete to discuss the project in further detail. A draft map and site picture of the project are at the end of the newsletter. The Bournheath Woodland is still subject to funding approval and the woodland plan is a concept drawing which may change. Maps will be appearing on noticeboards in the near future and we hope to add some photographs of the site to help residents better place the areas where the changes will be taking place. We will keep you updated on progress as it happens.

Traffic management and the return of Speed Watch

During the last six months the council has been working tirelessly with County Councillor Shirley Webb and Highways Team to address some of the traffic issues in the village. Over the next few months there will be a programme of changes taking place. These changes have been discussed at council meetings and with Cllr Webb and Highways at site meetings.

During the spring you will see:

- New VAS sign on Dordale Road
  Following feedback from residents and the continued speeding from Belbroughton into Bournheath a new VAS sign will be installed by the village gate on Dordale Road. Not only will the new sign alert drivers to their speed but the sign will also hold data on the speeds that all vehicles are travelling at. This data will be collected and managed by Bournheath Parish Council. Our thanks to Cllr Webb for arranging for the site agreement and placement of the new sign and for covering the majority of the purchase cost. Further thanks to Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council for their contribution towards the sign

- Line painting on Doctors Hill
  After a site inspection it was agreed that in addition to the existing narrow road sign that new white lines, marking the edge of the carriageway, will be added to Doctors Hill. The work is

weather dependant; therefore, we expect it to be completed towards the end of spring

- Monitoring of traffic volumes and speed on Doctors Hill and Parish Hill
  We have asked for traffic data to be recorded for Doctors Hill and Parish Hill. The data will allow Highways to review the current traffic volumes and the speeds along the two stretches of road. The work has been slated to be conducted in the next quarter and we will report back any significant findings

- New speed and horse-riding signs
  Cllr Webb has arranged for new speed signs to be placed on Parish Hill and Doctors Hill. The recent site inspection highlighted that the current signs are small and new more visible signs are needed. Also, Cllr Webb has ordered horse riding signs to remind those, passing through the village, that horses are a regular sight on the public highways in Bournheath

- Request for Traffic Regulatory Order for Bumble Hole and Rocky Lane
  After the hit and run incident we have asked Cllr Webb and Highways to review the speed limit traveling into Bournheath from Catshill. In addition, we have also requested that the 30mph speed limit starts at the village gate. This request may take some time to review and can typically take a year to enforce once a decision is made

- Speed Watch
  After a short seasonal break, Speed Watch will be returning to monitor traffic on the roads in Bournheath. If you wish to be a part of the team of speed watch volunteers, please contact the clerk at clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk.

We are here to listen to any traffic concerns residents may have, please contact either the Clerk or Cllr Webb with any worries you may have.

Neighbourhood Watch and community updates
For community news and to receive updates of any suspicious activity, residents can request to join the following groups for information:

Facebook: *Bournheath, Bromsgrove, B61* - Neighbourhood Watch and community news group

WhatsApp: *1. B61 Neighbourhood Watch*
This group is for the residents of Bournheath Parish and is used to inform others, and the Neighbourhood Watch team, of suspicious activity, crimes and other concerns

2. Bournheath B61 Residents
Please use this Bournheath group to contact other residents within the parish. about anything that may be helpful (not crime related).

Only residents of Bournheath and people with connections to the village are permitted. Please be aware that by entering any WhatsApp 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 Cllr Guest's phone number 07802 373636 with a message requesting which groups you would like to be join.

And finally …Save the date - Summer Fete 14th June
The fete will be on Saturday 14th June 2025 with doors opening at 1pm until 4pm. The dog-show is returning along with games, stalls and refreshments. We look forward to sharing more details with you and are hoping for some sunshine!

Bournheath Village Community Centre Update

Since the last newsletter was issued in Autumn 2024, we have continued to be busy at the Community Centre.

The annual **Photo competition** took place at the end of September, with voting taking place at the hall throughout one day in October. We had more people voting than when we had previously done this via the website, so it may be a method to continue in the future. Congratulations to the winners of all categories.

In October, the popular **Pumpkin Trail** was co-ordinated by Leigh Danckert, and, as in previous years, people in the village really entered into the spirit of the event, creating some amazing displays. Voting took place in the hall, and this year we had joint winners.

In November, we held the **Christmas Fair** and, despite thinking that footfall would be down because of Storm Bert, we had a healthy turnout. The Elf Trail was a washout, but we're pleased to report that all the elves are safe and well after their battering by wind and rain.

We then held our first **Christmas Quiz** in December, at which a good time was had by all. We've already had requests for another quiz, so watch this space.

We have, of course, continued with our fortnightly coffee mornings, and these have been very well attended so far this year. 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.

We also continued the Wednesday evening social table tennis sessions. Numbers have increased, and we now have a second table allowing more play to take place. Thanks to Sarah Davies for donating her old table so that more people can enjoy the sport. 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

Spring Event

On the afternoon of Sunday 6th April, we are holding a family event at the hall. This is a combination of a craft fair and a fete-type of event, so there is something for everyone. There will be some fab craft stalls (Men in Sheds with their woodwork items, Pebble Art from Jo at Dodford, Michelle Doidge's art, Karen Mulally's fabric bags, notebooks, purses, pencil cases and flowers, and Levene Brown's delicious preserves, Wychbold Fudge, honey produced in Bournheath by Mandy Taylor), refreshments, and a range of competitions for both adults and children. Start designing your garden-on-a-plate now!

Photo Competition

Watch out on Facebook or on emails from the Parish Clerk for details of the categories for this year's competition. The deadline will be the end of September.

Pumpkin Trail

After the success of holding the Trail at the start of half-term last year, we will do the same again. Sunday 26th October is the date for your diary – more details to follow.

Christmas Fair

This year's Fair will be held on Saturday 22nd November. Look out for more details nearer the time. It may seem early, but last year we had a waiting list for tables, so if you know you would be interested in having a table, please email us on bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk.

Hall Improvements and Hire

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we now have new chairs and curtains. Our current project is to upgrade the exterior lighting.

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.

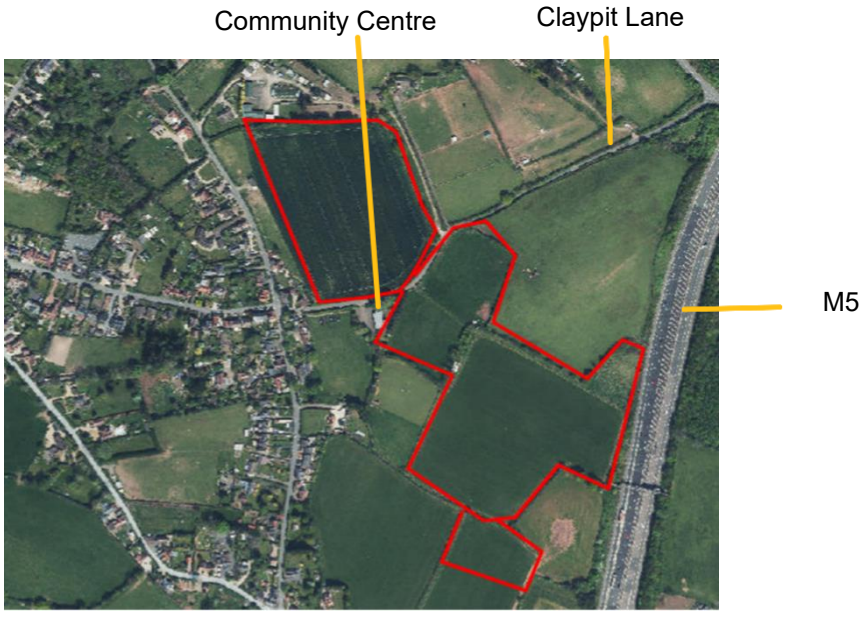
Regular Activities
Here is an update on the regular activities taking place at the hall in which you can participate:

Mondays	10.00-10.45	Zumba
	11.00-11.45	Pilates
	16.00-16.45	After School Ballet (Key Stage One)
	18.30-19.15	Pilates
	20.00-22.00	Country Dancing (Morris Dancing)
Tuesdays	Seasons Art (externally run with tutors) morning or afternoon sessions are available	
Wednesdays 1st and 3rd of 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
	1st and 3rd of the month (afternoons) Bournheath Art group	
	18.30-18.45	Adults 'beginners' ballet
	18.50-19.35	Pilates
Fridays	10.00-10.30	Baby Ballet
	10.45-11.30	Zumba
	11.45-12.15	Stretch and Tone

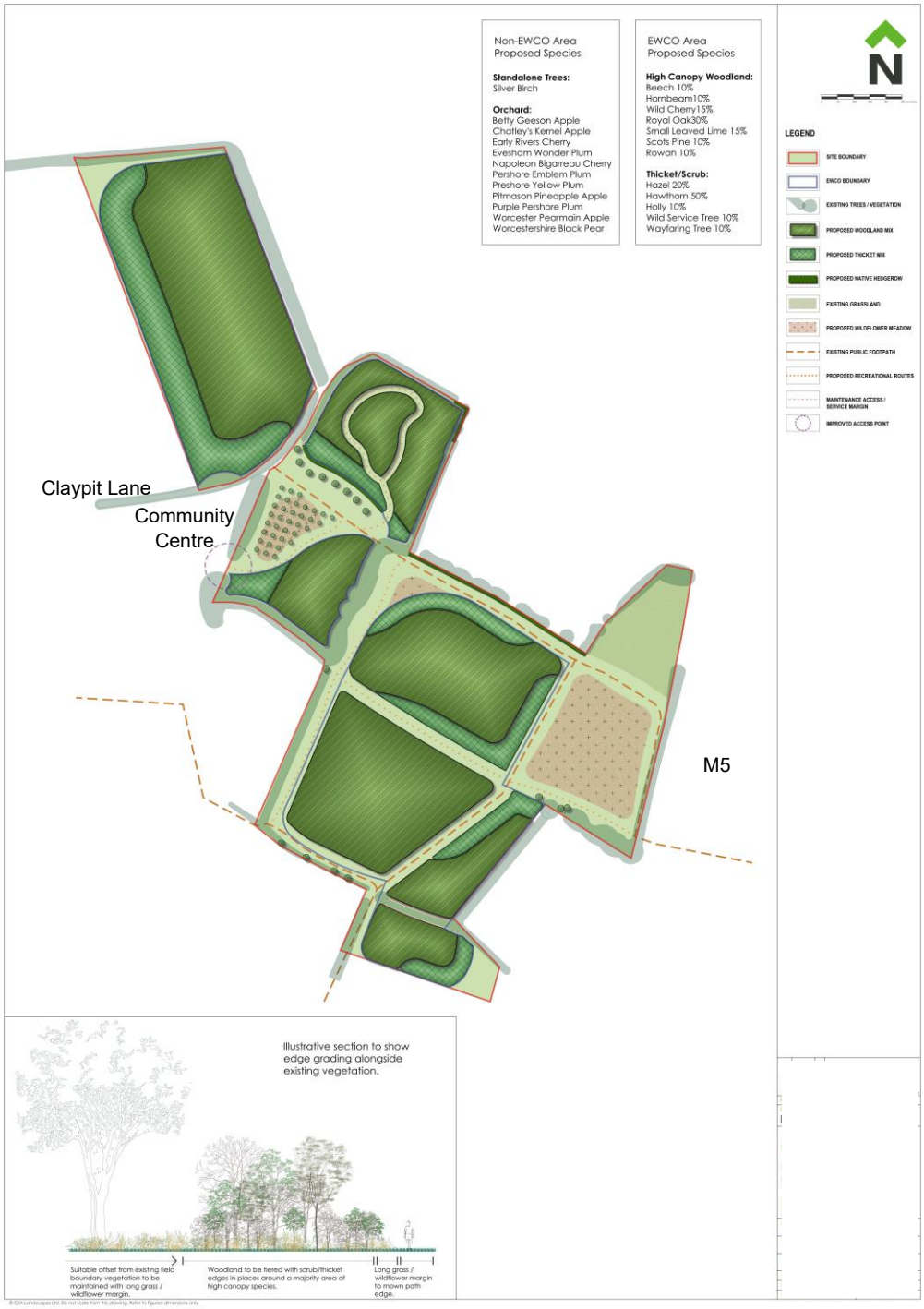
Can You Help?
As with any organisation run by volunteers, we are looking for new people to join the team. If you have skills in managing a website, or if you would be interested in coming on to the committee to help us to provide a service to the community (for example, by helping us with coffee mornings or with other events, or by doing some DIY or gardening), then please email bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk or phone Louise on 07989 769229 for a chat. You may have recently moved into the area, or you may have recently retired and have a little time available. There are many ways in which you can help, and we'd love to meet you. No special skills are really needed – just a willingness to get involved.

For contact details for any of these activities above 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.

Aerial view of site for the proposed woodland



Concept plan for Bournheath Woodland



E-mail contact list

We would like to stay connected 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.