Bournheath Parish News
Spring 2026

Hello everyone, here is the Bournheath Parish newsletter for Spring 2026 containing news on what your Parish Council has been working on, with an update from Bournheath Village Community Centre.

If you have moved into the area recently, we would like to welcome you. This is delivered by hand to those for whom we have no email address. If you would like to receive this update electronically please email clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk and state “opt into emails”.

We hope you find the information in this newsletter useful. If there is anything 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. The meeting agenda can be found on noticeboards/online 3 days prior. Each meeting covers a public question time, updates from our district and county council ward representatives, planning applications submitted, reports from councillors, community project updates and financial performance overview. The council is currently represented by the following members of the community; Gary Davies (Chair), Louise Colley (Vice Chair), Matt Guest, Philip Hughes, Karen May, Sophie Moir, and Maria Stepin. To put a face to a name, please have a look at the “Councillors” tab on our website (www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk).

Bournheath Parish Council News

Chairman’s welcome
Welcome to our Spring 2026 newsletter. I wanted to open with great news about the start of the tree planting project in the fields next to the M5. On the 28th of January Teams from the Council and Waseley Hills Country Park Rangers met on what was, thankfully, one of the few sunny days in recent months. It was great that Parish residents also turned out armed with their spades, gardening gloves and a lot of enthusiasm. The team arrived with a large number of small tree saplings of varied types. It was surprising how many we were able to plant in a relatively short space of time. The area directly adjacent to the motorway is now fully planted.

The Council team also returned the following week and added a few larger saplings. Please take a wander over - it’s a marvellous sight. As you are aware, the ground is a little damp so the new trees should get a good start! As these trees mature they will offer a haven for nature that will also be open to walkers. They should also help with attenuation of noise from the motorway. We look forward to further planting which will take place next winter. It’s also great to see that the apple trees planted in the park appear to be thriving, thanks to everyone’s watering efforts during the dry spell. Perhaps we can look forward to sampling some local produce in the autumn.

I trust you will find this newsletter useful and hopefully we will all enjoy some brighter weather in the upcoming months.

Community projects
Flood prevention – Aqua-Sacs and how to use in flood emergencies
The council still holds a number of aqua-sacs, which were purchased as a flood defence tool for residents’ properties which require emergency protection. We have a small supply of bags, if you are at risk of flooding and would like a few bags, please email the clerk with your address and notes on previous damage experienced.

The aqua-sac is designed to absorb up to 13 litres of water and is self-inflating. It is important to follow the instructions below to maximise the benefits of the aqua-sac:

1. Before using the aqua-sac it will need to be soaked in water for about 3-5 minutes to inflate
2. Once inflated the sac needs to be placed near the area you want to protect, ensuring it is level with the ground
3. As water enters the aqua-sac it will absorb and expand creating a barrier against flooding

4. Sacs should be laid like brickwork creating a wall ensuring that the top is flattened before adding another row (if needed), this will make the structure more stable
5. A curved wall in an arch is stronger than a straight wall. While the wall should be at least two layers high, additional layers may be needed depending on the expected flood height
6. You will need to keep an eye on the sacs as they absorb water and adjust the position as needed to maintain the barrier. Aqua-sacs will not stop the water completely but may reduce the impact of flooding.

The Parish Council, together with the County Council, continues to inspect and clear drains as needed. If you spot a blocked drain the issue can be reported to County Council via the online portal at Report drainage and flooding on a highway | Worcestershire County Council. As many of you start to prepare gardens for the spring, please remember to dispose of any garden waste/cuttings responsibly by depositing them in your garden waste/brown bin. Please do not sweep any waste into drains/gulleys/culverts which can lead to blockages.

New VAS sign Doctors Hill

The council is in the process of replacing the VAS sign on Doctors Hill, the new sign will help us track volume and speed of traffic travelling through the village. Together with the new white carriageway edging lines on Doctors Hill we hope this improves road safety in the area.

In addition, we continue to lobby Highways and County Council to review the speed limit on Rocky Lane. With the change in road usage, because of the ongoing works at the reservoir, we support residents' concerns that the current limit is excessive and needs to be reduced from Catshill into Bournheath.

Bournheath Flag competition

For some time, the Parish Council has been thinking that it would be nice to have a Bournheath flag on the flagpole. This would be something to represent the village - perhaps showing who we are as a community, and maybe incorporating both past and present. The old logo contains pictures of nailmakers, glass-blowers, Housman, and a Worcestershire Pear, but what is Bournheath like now? We would like residents to design the flag. It needs to be simple, so it can be clearly seen, original, and non-political. Further information will be available in the run up to the summer fete.

Spring projects

As we move towards brighter days (fingers crossed) the village flowerboxes will be replanted shortly ready for the spring. Working with District Council and County Council, we are in the process of reviewing resident requests including moving waste bins on the Recreation Ground away from houses and reinstating the original road width on Claypit Lane.

Community Speed Watch

After a short seasonal break, Speed Watch will be returning to monitor traffic on the roads in Bournheath. Please say hello and have a chat with the team if you see them working in the village.

If there is anything you would like the council to consider, please email the Clerk at clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk with your request.

Neighbourhood Watch Updates and Community News alerts

Residents can join local groups for community news and alerts:

Facebook:	Bournheath, Bromsgrove, B61 – Neighbourhood Watch & Community News
WhatsApp:	B61 Neighbourhood Watch – Crime & suspicious activity
	Bournheath B61 Residents – General community messages

To join, save Cllr Guest – 07802 373636 in WhatsApp and message which group(s) you wish to join. For Bournheath residents or those with village connections only. WhatsApp numbers will be visible to members.

Date for the diary

We are pleased to announce that the Summer Fete will be held on Saturday 13th June 1-4pm.

Bournheath Village Community Centre Update

Since the last newsletter was issued in September 2025, we have continued to be busy at the Community Centre.

The **Pumpkin Trail** continues to go from strength to strength thanks to the number of people putting out displays, walking the trail in the evening, and coming to the hall to vote. The skill and creativity of those people carving pumpkins is amazing, and we're looking forward to this year's event already. Our plan is for it to be held on Friday 30th October, which will be the end of the half-term week (so lots of time for children to help with the displays!)

The **Christmas Fair** was, once again, exceptionally well-attended. We had some fabulous local craftspeople presenting their products, and the whole event went well. We have found that, once we start advertising, the stalls do go very quickly, so if you live in the Parish and you are interested in having a table, please contact us on bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk asap so that you can go on our contact list.

This Spring, we have held a quiz night – for which the tickets sold out within a week. A good time was had by all, and, after the success of the night, we will aim to put on some similar events more frequently. It is always lovely when a community spirit is generated by people turning up to events.

We have, of course, continued with our fortnightly 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, or, if you're not keen on chatting, just come along to borrow books or DVDs from our well-stocked mini-library.

We have also continued the Wednesday evening social table tennis sessions (first and third Wednesdays from 7.30-9.00). Numbers have increased, and our two tables allow more play to take place. The emphasis is on fun – so feel free to pop in and have a go. All standards welcome and it's still free. The aim of both activities is to foster community spirit, so please come along and join us. Thank you to everyone who supports us by attending.

Can you help?

Last year we distributed flyers to all houses in the village asking for more volunteers to come forward to help us in running the hall. We are a very small group and it would be ideal if we had more people on board.

If you didn't notice the flyer, we, essentially, were asking for new committee members but also for people who may be able to help us in a practical sense. 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), 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. Alternatively, perhaps you would like to run a particular group in the village that doesn't already exist – such as a book club - or perhaps you have an idea for running a one-off community event. The hall is for everyone in the village, so if you have any ideas please email bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk and someone will get back to you.

Dates for Your Diary

Games Night – organised by Nikki, who runs many of the classes at the hall (date to be confirmed)

Easter Holiday Pebble Trail – decorate the village by painting a spring-themed pebble before 6th April, and then putting it out for people to find in the following week. More details on the BVCC Facebook page, the B61 Facebook page or via email.

Pumpkin Trail – Friday 30th October

Christmas Fair – Saturday 21st November

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	
	18.30-19.00	Legs, Bums, and Tums
	19.05-19.50	Pilates
Fridays	10.00-10.30	Baby Ballet
	10.45-11.30	Zumba
	11.45-12.15	Stretch and Tone
Sundays	10.00-10.45	Pilates

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 generally with residents – so please ask to be included if you are not already on it.

Hall Improvements and Hall Hire
After purchasing new chairs and curtains last year, we have now had the interior of the hall repainted. Many thanks to Kevin Rodgers for all his work on that.

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 £30 to hire the hall for four hours in the daytime during the week, and only £35 at the weekend, which we think is good value for money.

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.
