Bournheath Parish News - Autumn 2026

Welcome to the Bournheath Parish newsletter for Autumn 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

Woodland and scrapes
The woodland has made an encouraging start and most of the young trees have come through the hot summer well. We’ve also been delighted by the variety of wildflowers that have emerged across the planted area; clearly lying dormant in the soil for many years. The volunteer day at the start of summer, when the remaining arable crop was cleared, seems to have made a real difference. The team is planning further tree planting over the winter. Ideally, they hope to begin a little earlier in the season than last year, dates are still to be confirmed. At the top end of the site, the scrapes are likely to be enlarged. Even during the hottest spells, they held noticeably more moisture than the surrounding ground, which was encouraging to see. The fruit trees in that area are also thriving. We’ll continue to share updates and will let you know as soon as new volunteer days are scheduled.

Update on the new Distribution Service Reservoir (DSR)
Works on site continue to move forward, with Forkers confirming that progress remains on track. The project is advancing as planned, and the team expects to vacate the site by the end of the year. The reservoir structure has now been fully completed, and final testing and inspections are underway. Alongside this, external finishing works are progressing well. These include construction of the new road beside the reservoir and the reinstatement of the surrounding fields, helping to restore the area.

Community Speedwatch: can you help?
As you will be aware, the Parish Council has supported the police initiative by introducing and continuing with community speed checks for a few years now. The Community Speedwatch volunteers are grateful to those of you who stop and engage with an overwhelming positive input, in addition to highlighting your own experiences and/or speeding concerns. Whilst the VAS signs in the village help with driver awareness of their speed, the presence of the Speedwatch team is another way to try to alert drivers passing through our village that we take the safety of our residents, visitors and four legged friends seriously. The objective is not to ‘catch’ motorists who are exceeding the speed limit, but to educate through written communications dispatched by the police. It is a small proactive team, and we would really appreciate it if some more volunteers would be prepared to spend between 1-2 hours per month assisting. Training is provided and conducted locally by the police prior to any sessions being undertaken. If you remain concerned about speeding in our village and would be willing to help, please contact the Parish Clerk who will forward your details to the team.

Flooding Prevention
The Parish Council, together with the County Council, is continuing to check and clear drains/gulleys whenever needed. If you spot a blocked drain, it’s helpful to report it directly to the County Council using their online portal: Drain reporting After such an exceptionally dry summer, and with the

long-range forecast hinting at periods of rain and even heavy snow, it's a good moment to remind everyone to keep ditches, drains and culverts clear. Even if the brook flows freely past your property, a build-up of debris can cause problems further downstream. We've seen this before, with flooding around Claypit Lane and Valley Road, so a little bit of routine clearing can make a big difference for the whole community. We still hold a small 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.

Community News:

Littering and dog waste

We know that many residents frequently pick up litter in the area, and we are very grateful to everyone who does this. Every time a piece of litter is picked up it helps to make our Parish a cleaner, tidier, and more pleasant place to live. There has been a noticeable rise in litter in a few areas of the village recently. We kindly ask residents, where safe and convenient, to pick up any small pieces they may spot during their daily walks. We also know that most dog-walkers always pick up after their dog. Reluctantly, in a few cases a gentle reminder to our dog-walking friends is needed: please remember to pick up after your dog while out and about. It keeps our shared spaces clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone, and it's one of the simplest ways we can look after our community together. Carrying a couple of spare bags in your pocket makes it easy, and popping waste into the nearest bin helps keep paths, parks, and fields pleasant for all who use them. Your help in keeping our shared spaces tidy is greatly appreciated.

Planning

Residents play an important part in the planning process, and their involvement can make a real difference whether in support of an application or objecting to it. While the parish council is a statutory consultee and provides a single, formal response to each planning application, individual residents are encouraged to submit their own comments too. A greater number of well-reasoned resident responses helps demonstrate the strength of local feeling and can carry significant weight when the planning authority considers an application. Your views help highlight issues, local knowledge, and community priorities that might otherwise be missed. By taking a few minutes to review applications and share your thoughts, you help ensure that the parish's voice is not only heard but amplified. Together, both parish council and residents can shape development in a way that reflects the character and needs of the community.

Remembrance Sunday - 8th November

As in previous years, our community will come together to remember those we have lost. This act of reflection is an important moment for many, and we invite everyone to join us. Further details will be shared closer to the date, please do join us on Sunday 8th November as we gather in remembrance.

Parish Council elections and Bournheath Annual Parish Meeting

Parish elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday 6th May 2027, and we'd encourage anyone with an interest in local community matters to consider standing. Parish councillors help shape the future of the community by representing local views, supporting village projects, and working with partners such as the County Council and District Council on issues that affect daily life. It's a voluntary role that involves attending meetings, considering local matters, and helping make decisions that benefit the parish. If you're curious about how the Parish Council works or what the role of a councillor involves, please get in touch with the Clerk, who will be happy to talk you through it.

Date for the diary - Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 10th March 2027 and is a chance for everyone in the community to come together and hear what's been happening over the past year. It's not a parish council meeting but a meeting for residents, giving you the opportunity to share your views, ask questions, and raise any local matters you'd like to discuss. The parish council provides updates on its work, and other local groups often share news too, making it a relaxed and open forum for community conversation. Further details will be issued closer to the time.

Summer fete

Thank you to everyone who joined us on the day and to all who took part in the dog show. It was a fantastic community event. We're delighted to share that the fete will return next year on 19th June

2027, and we hope to see you there once again. A special thank you goes to Councillor Moir and her team for helping make the day such a great success.

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/those with village connections only. Numbers will be visible to members.

If there is anything you would like the council to consider, please email the Clerk with your request.

Bournheath Village Community Centre Update

Since the last newsletter was issued in Spring 2026, we have continued to be busy at the Community Centre.

The **pebble trail** around the village in the Easter holidays led to many positive comments and gave a lot of people the chance to show their artistic skills or to just enjoy having a go at painting a pebble. The **Parish Council organised the Summer Fete** again and we were able to assist by providing refreshments and, or course, the toilet facilities! Thank you to those people who volunteered to help, out in the kitchen. A **summer quiz** was sold out within a day of being advertised, and, as usual, a good time was had by all. This particular quiz was organised by Nikki Foulkes, who runs several classes at the hall, and we are very grateful to her for this fund-raising event.

We have continued with our **fortnightly coffee mornings**, which have been 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, or, if you're not keen on chatting, just come along to borrow books or DVDs from our well-stocked mini-library. With the winter months coming up, the hall is also a warm space for people to use, and we hope that everyone in the village finds that it is a place where you can feel welcome. We have also continued the free **Wednesday evening social table tennis** sessions. Numbers have increased, and the emphasis is on fun – so feel free to pop in and have a go. The aim of both of these activities is to foster community spirit, so please come along and join us.

Coming Up
Pumpkin Trail
The ever-popular Pumpkin Trail will be back on **Friday 30th October from 5pm-7pm**. We hope that as many people as possible will carve pumpkins and put them outside houses so that everyone can walk around the village to look at the display and then come to the Village Hall to vote for their favourite. To take part, look out for information on our Facebook page or via the Parish Clerk's emails, or, if you are not able to walk around the village, please come to the Hall anyway for a hot or cold drink and some Pumpkin-themed nibbles. The BVCC Facebook page is an open page, so you can see the information even if you don't usually do Facebook.

Christmas Fair
This year's Fair will be held on **Saturday 21st November from 10.00-13.00**. Look out for reminders nearer the time. If you are interested in having a table, please email bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk. We already have 14 tables booked, so it could be a great way to get your Christmas shopping sorted! So far, we have the ever-popular Men in Sheds with hand-made items and their fabulous tombola, Temple Spa products, woodwork, knitted items, felt wreaths, fused glass, The Secret Garden, decorated glassware, honey from Bournheath, sea glass coasters and other items, cards, a raffle and refreshments – but this will have increased by November.

Can you help?
It's always lovely when people turn up to events and it creates a great sense of community, and, as with most village halls, we are always looking for more volunteers. The hall is the only community asset in the village, and, in effect, belongs to all of us. If you'd like to get involved as a committee

member or as a volunteer for events, please get in touch with one of the committee members, or email bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk. There are many ways in which you can help, and we'd love to meet you. It may be that you have ideas for a club that you would like to run, or perhaps you have an idea for a one-off event for people in the village and beyond. New ideas are always welcome, and the hall is for everyone in the village, so please contact us and we can take it from there.

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
We have had drain repairs carried out over the summer, a replacement porch is being built now, and new deep-flow guttering will help with heavy rainstorms. After the Spring work on interior repainting, we're hoping that the outside of the hall will look as smart as the inside soon! 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 and Data policy
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. 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.
