



# Burton overy Newsl etter

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Sponsored by  
Burton overy Parish Council

## **Parish Council News**

### **Changes**

A number of changes have recently taken place on the Parish Council. Brian Pollard has resigned as chairman. Brian has served on the Council since 2003 and has taken the chair since 2008. Brian has served the village in many capacities over the years and has been instrumental in a number of important projects such as the renovation of the village hall and the formation of the Burton Overy Land Company. He has always been keen to preserve the special and historic nature of our conservation village and we can be very grateful to him for his input and leadership over the years.

The Council clerk Steve Kirk has also resigned having served the Council for the last three years. Local Councils are seeing a great shift in emphasis, regulation and responsibility following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011. As more power starts to filter down to local level, parishes are having to re-think the way their Council is run. The job of clerk has become a professional and at times quite onerous job even for small parishes such as ours.

My fellow councillors, Michael Broughton, Simon Barre and Robert Lloyd and I, will be looking at the best way forward for Burton Overy in terms of how the Council is run and clerked. We will be taking advice from the Association of Parish Councils on the options available and will, in due course, be discussing these options with the village. In the meantime, the AGM is on Wednesday 15th May at 8.00 p m in the village hall. Like all our meetings it is a public meeting and all are welcome to attend. We will need to co-opt another councillor at that meeting and I am pleased to say Carolyn Carson has agreed to stand.

### **Environment**

Spring is here and the countryside around us is coming to life with the arrival of new born lambs and nesting birds, and small mammals and pollinating insects preparing to breed. Here in Burton Overy we are very lucky to live so close to this natural cycle and to have great access to and the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this lovely landscape.

To help preserve this environment and support and encourage our local farmers we need to be considerate in the way we enjoy the countryside. The slogan for Natural England is "Respect Protect Enjoy" and it has published a leaflet on the Countryside Code which is a helpful reminder and advice leaflet about our interaction with the countryside. I have a number of copies of this leaflet and if you would like one give me a ring on the number below I will pop one through your door. Alternatively you can view and download the leaflet from the Natural England website:- [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk).

The pet dog population in Burton Overy has increased greatly over the last few years. As a dog owner myself, I realize how privileged we are to have the freedom and space to exercise our dogs in the surrounding countryside. Being a dog owner however brings particular responsibilities and the need to be aware of the impact that dogs can have on livestock, wild animals and birds.

Spring is a particularly sensitive time for farmers entering the lambing season. Sheep worrying by dogs is a serious matter and young lambs are particularly vulnerable. Ground nesting birds and other wildlife are also at risk of serious disturbance by dogs. Natural England in association with the Kennel Club has produced a leaflet entitled "You and your dog in the countryside". This contains some very useful advice about enjoying the countryside with your dog within the law and with consideration for farm animals and wildlife. A copy of the leaflet can be viewed or downloaded from the Natural England website mentioned above.

Whilst on the subject of dogs we have spent a depressing amount of time on the Parish Council over the years discussing that dismal subject of dog mess on footpaths in and around the village.

Dog mess is particularly noxious stuff as I am sure you will all agree. It can be particularly hazardous to young children.

Despite many requests and reminders and the provision of two dog waste bins, the footpaths still contain an inordinate amount of dog waste. We have a lovely village, let's respect and protect it for everyone to enjoy. Dog owners please help to keep our footpaths clean.

Fran Brown, on behalf of Burton Overy Parish Council (259 3184)

### **Poppy Appeal**

Last year the Poppy Appeal raised a magnificent £550.45. Well done to all who donated so generously and special thanks to Peter Barbour for his collecting and organisation.

### **Burton Overy Dancers.**

The group enjoyed dancing every Wednesday evening during the Autumn, ending with a party night on 19 December. In December, the club entered a tree in the village Christmas Tree Festival, something the club had done for many years. After a break for Christmas there was a New Year's Eve party in the Village hall, followed on New Year's Day by a 6 mile walk in glorious weather. On returning to the hall members enjoyed lunch followed by quizzes. The afternoon ended with tea and cakes. Christmas donations this year were sent to the Air Ambulance service..

The club was saddened by the passing of Marian McArragher on January 2nd. Marian and Patrick were two of the founder members of the group – Marian was a former chairman – and although in recent years they were unable to attend, they still took a keen interest in the club.

### **Flower and Garden Club**

The Flower and Garden Club continues to thrive.

The programme of garden visits for 2013 takes in the Bluebell Wood at Gumley, and gardens in Bitteswell, Catthorpe, Countesthorpe and Gunthorpe.

The first meeting this year will be on Thursday April 4, when the speaker will be Tracey Morgan, Head Gardener at Rolleston Hall. The meeting will be at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall and, as always, visitors will be welcome.

The Club continues to provide and arrange flowers in the church on a weekly basis and also for special occasions such as Easter and Harvest Festival. The Club also entered a tree in the 2012 Christmas Tree Festival (thanks to Judy Rollin for that), and club members worked hard in the week before the Festival opened to provide the important background decoration of the church before the trees were installed.

Telephone Joan Stephens (259 2210) for more information on membership, outings, flower arranging in church, etc.

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

Despite being our 13<sup>th</sup>, the 2012 Christmas Tree Festival was a great success.

The event raised £8,833, of which 20 per cent went to the nominated charity, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, the remainder to St Andrew's Church and the Village Hall.

There were 54 tree entries, including 36 from individual children or from children's groups such as Rainbows and classes from local schools.

Village entries swept the board in the Adult section:

First prize went to Sue Tuxford and Sandra Page, whose tree was titled: **Wild Floristree;**

Second prize went to Lizzie King, with **Warning: This Tree May Contain Nuts,** and

Third prize was won by Nicola and Katy Langton: **Come In and Have a Nice Cup of Tree.**

Congratulations to Laurence and Lottie King, whose **Mr and Mrs Christmas** won first prize in the Children's section.

Stoneygate School Pre-Prep took second place with **A Windy Christmas** and the Cockerill family, with **Great Expectations** came third.

The number of visitors who came to the Festival was similar to 2011:

625 on Friday,  
1,623 on Saturday and  
2,113 on Sunday.

2,181 votes were cast.

Once again, Ann Cornwell, formerly of Higher House in the village, who now lives in Sibbertoft, masterminded the decoration of the church and the siting of the trees, She has now stepped down from this role, and Judy Rollin has agreed to take it over for the 2013 Festival.

All the people who take part in the Festival – visitors, stall holders, representatives from the nominated charity, say how much they enjoy it and look forward to coming to Burton Overy at the beginning of December.

This was summed up by Alison Smith, Chair of the local branch of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, who wrote in her thank you letter:

“The Festival is a wonderful event with a wonderful spirit and it was a privilege to be part of it.”

### **THE DATES FOR THE 2013 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL ARE:**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 6,  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 7,  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 8.**

(Photographs of all trees entered into the 2012 Christmas Tree Festival can be found at:  
<http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/burtonovery/christmas-tree-festival-picture.html>)

## **Village Hall**

The next big Village Hall event is the Fish n Chip supper and quiz is on **Saturday 13th April**. Leaflets are being distributed but confirm your interest by emailing [burtonoveryvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:burtonoveryvillagehall@gmail.com) as numbers are needed to ship in the food.

Resident quizmaster Steve is unavailable so we have a guest quizmaster for 2 rounds and a guest quiz mistress for the other 2 rounds. It should be a fun evening.

Make a diary note for the Black and White Summer Ball on Saturday 22nd June. Full details will be circulated.

Other dates for your diary

**May 18th.** Boden Sale\*

**Sept 7th.** Village Show

**Oct 11th.** Curry and quiz

**Dec 13th.** Christmas fare and quiz

**Dec 31st.** New Years Eve Ball

Don't forget that there is fitness class every Friday at 10am until 11am.  
Contact Sarah on 259 0001 for details.

### **\* Boden Shopping Event**

The Boden Sale will be held on Saturday 18th May in the Village Hall from 10.30 to 16.30.

20% off any Boden Orders with free p & p.

There will be lots of other stalls including pottery by Daisy Fawcett, gifts from Albers Den, Beefayre beauty products homemade cakes and preserves stall. Hot soup served for lunch and the usual tea/coffee and cakes

All monies raised for St Andrews Church Death Watch Beetle Fund

For those who were interested in attending the Helen Barrett concert on the 20th April, unfortunately this has had to be postponed. It is hoped an alternative date will be arranged.

## **Village Website**

Currently the village events for the year are featured on the Main Page of the Village Website. If any event for 2013 is missing, please contact the website and let the site advertise it for you.

### **Did you know?**

The Village Website contains a list of marriages recorded in Burton Overy from 1572-1835.

The first recorded marriage was between:

Agnes Gamble and John More who married on Nov 10 1572.

## **Death Watch Beetle Fund**

The appeal is now well underway and David Pease and I are very grateful for the support from everyone in and indeed beyond the village.

The target is £46,000. By the time of going to print we had received or pledged £21,500.

The fundraising programme of events was launched at the meeting in the village hall on 7<sup>th</sup> March. This was well attended by over 40 people. A number of ideas were raised and discussed and a programme of events has been set up.

All villagers will receive updates from the Churchwardens and a detailed programme of planned events (event details will also be on the Village Website) but I am keen to give you some dates which you can put in your diaries.

These events are intended not simply to raise money but also to give opportunities to have fun.

We hope you will want to join in as many as possible.

27<sup>th</sup> April – Children’s Variety Show in Village Hall. Matinee and evening performances. Do come and support the children. This will be a marvellous curtain raiser for the season (pardon the pun).

18<sup>th</sup> May – Sale of Boden fashion clothes in Village Hall. 20% of all sales will be donated to the DWB fund.

20<sup>th</sup> May – Violin Concert in church by Tom Bowes “J.S. Bach: A Pilgrimage – solo violin music of Bach”.

8<sup>th</sup> June – Sponsored Walk around the Leicestershire Round. We intend to walk the 104 miles in one day, by breaking it into 11 sections and walking them simultaneously. All planning is complete. Please join us. We expect to have a large number of walkers. Choose your section. Help raise sponsorship and have a great day walking in the beautiful countryside of the finest county in England. See below for the sections and leaders.

29-30 June – Burton Overy Scarecrow Festival. The village will be open to the public and we hope to persuade a large number of villagers to make a scarecrow to display in their front garden or in the public parts of the village for visitors to enjoy. We will provide you with the straw. Please sign up to be part of what will be a busy and very worthwhile weekend. There will be ice creams / teas / cakes etc and stalls of Burton Overy produce in the village hall. We need a lot of volunteers to help.

6-8<sup>th</sup> December – The now traditional Christmas Tree Festival will again take place and hopefully be the event which marks the successful culmination of our fundraising. This will be a very big event as always. More detail to follow.

And once again thank you for all your substantial support for this cause.

Robert Brown (Churchwarden)

**More information** can be found on Facebook on the "Save St Andrews" page (type in 'Save St Andrews' in the search on facebook - [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) and also from the Village Website on: [www.leicestershirevillages.com/burtonovery/death-watch-beetle.html](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/burtonovery/death-watch-beetle.html).

**The Leicestershire Round – 11 sections – please choose one and contact the leader to sign up.**

1. The Charnwood Section (Newtown Linford to Mountsorrell) - 8.5 miles  
Leader Jo Taylor (nickjones33@btinternet.com)
2. Soar Valley/Wreake Valley Section (Mountsorrell to Frisby) - 10.5 miles  
Leader Carolyn Carson (cdale20@gmail.com)
3. Burrough Hill Section (Frisby to Somerby) - 11.5 or 12.5 miles  
Leader Fran Brown (frances-b@hotmail.co.uk)
4. Rutland Border Section (Somerby to Hallaton) - 13.5 miles  
Leader David Fletcher (sfac@uwclub.net)
5. The Langtons Section (Hallaton to Foxton) - 10.5 miles  
Leader Sarah Cockerill (richardcockerill@btinternet.com)
6. Canal Country Section (Foxton to Bruntingthorpe) - 9 miles  
Leader Judy Rollin (judyrollin@btinternet.com)
7. The Peatlings Section (Bruntingthorpe to Frolesworth) - 9.5 miles  
Leader Simon Barre (simonbarre@hotmail.com)
8. Roman High Cross Section (Frolesworth to Barwell) - 15 miles  
Leader Glen Postle (djwhymancars@aol.com)
9. Bosworth Field Section (Barwell to Shackerstone) - 11 miles  
Leader Sally Muir (gmmhouse@btoopenworld.com)
10. The West of Charnwood Section (Shackerstone to Thornton) - 7.5 miles  
Leader Anne Bloor (bloor@burtonovery.freeserve.co.uk)
11. The Approach to Charnwood Section (Thornton to Newton Linford)  
5 miles - Leader Liz Sturgess (lizsturgess@yahoo.co.uk)

**Ways to Give:**

To give directly go to: [www.justgiving.com/burtonoverypcc](http://www.justgiving.com/burtonoverypcc)

To raise money whilst shopping online go to: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Easy fundraising – donates to DWB when you shop online (Amazon etc) without costing you a penny.

Click on "support a cause" and select "'Burton Overy PCC".

Login using username/email/password.

Find a retailer – enter name, search and simply purchase in normal way & retailer will automatically donate.

## **Burton Overy Friendship Club**

In November 2012 the club's monthly meeting was kindly hosted by Ann and Richard Bloor. Mary Ireland our vicar was able to attend and we enjoyed refreshments in front of a lovely log fire. In early December 15 members went out and enjoyed a full Christmas lunch.

January 2013 and the first meeting of the new year at Vicky Ryall's house was unfortunately affected by the bad weather, but in February there was a good turn out at Kingarth Farm. Thanks to hosts Mary and Duncan Barbour.

The next meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Jo and Julian Swain at "Bunkers Hill"  
Future meetings are planned for:

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** at Gartree Cottage, Scotland Lane

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>** at White House Farm, Back Lane

*The Club still need new members if it is to survive! All villagers past and present or indeed friends of the village will be welcomed with open arms.*

*So if you can spare an hour, please come and join us.*

*We would love to see you and you will be made to feel most at home!*

For full details ring Thelma Short on 2137, or Jean Harris on 2251

## **Burton Overy Women's Institute news.**

The AGM was held in November, the existing committee was unanimously re-elected. Officers are:

President, Margaret Pollard,

Secretary, Pauline Wells,

Treasurer, Jane Spikings.

Other committee members are: Jane Chandler, Phyllis Hallam, and Dorothy Winfield.

The December meeting was held at the home of Alison Tasker who provided splendid food. Puddings were brought by those members who attended. Thanks to Alison for a lovely festive meeting. As usual a tree was entered in the Christmas Tree Festival. The Christmas charity donations were sent to the Help for Heroes fund.

Marian McArragher was a former member of the WI along with her mother Mrs Gandy and those members who remember her were saddened to hear of her death at the beginning of January. Marian was a outgoing person who had been very involved in village life for many years. She will be remembered with gratitude for all she has done.

## **Village Show**

Will be on the 7th September this year, with any luck it might stop snowing by then.

For those who bought seeds for the onion growing competition, hopefully they are sprouting well. For those who have not yet planted, there is still time.

A ten easy step tutorial can be found at: [www.wikihow.com/Plant-Onions](http://www.wikihow.com/Plant-Onions)



## **£15,000 Community Grants**

Leicestershire County Council has made available £320,000 per year for local communities to invest in local improvement of their choice. The funding is available through the 25 Community Forums.

This Community Forum Budget is not a regular grant fund, because local residents are involved in all aspects of the process and they will be making the decision which projects should receive a share of the funds.

Community groups can put forward project ideas for which they are seeking funding. All those project proposals are then made available on the forum's website so residents can view and comment on them. The community groups and other local residents then come together for a Decision Night to discuss the projects and vote for their favourites.

All proposals will benefit from advice by a panel of experts, including advice on further sources of funding.

Don't miss out. Dates for your diaries:

Submit a Project Proposal: **8th May**

View and Comment: **9th May - 5th June**

Register your interest to attend: **9th May - 29th May**

Decision Night: **5th June**

Information about how to apply, view and comment on projects and register your interest to attend your local Decision Night is available on your forum homepage.

You can also call 305 7034 for more information.

## **Curious Village History**

### **Border Crossings from Canada to United States, 1895-1956**

There is a database containing an index of aliens and citizens crossing into the United States from Canada through various ports of entry along the U.S.-Canadian border between 1895 and 1956. The list contains 3 people born in Burton Overy and all appeared to have crossed at the same time, 1st June 1931. These people were:

John Cox (68 years of age), Oscar Cox (66) and Sarah Martin (79)

Currently this is all that is known. Any information? Contact Angus on [gummi800@hotmail.com](mailto:gummi800@hotmail.com)

See: [www.leicestershirevillages.com/burtonovery/border-crossings-from-canada-to.html](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/burtonovery/border-crossings-from-canada-to.html) for more details.

## **Mary Ireland**

St. Andrew's vicar, Mary Ireland, will be leaving us at the end of April to move to a group of five churches in Northampton. Thanks and best wishes to Mary for her time as our vicar.

## Obituaries

### Walter James Burton

Walter James Burton (Walt, Wally or Wal) was born at The Chestnuts in Burton Overy on 12th October, 1932. He was the 6th of 7 children. When he was about 3 months old the family moved to Back Lane where Walt lived until he was married.

As a youngster Walt was a member of the church choir here in Burton Overy.

After leaving school he went to work for Walter Smarts Builders at Houghton and was trained in carpentry as well as learning the skills of the building trade. After the war he enjoyed 3 years' National Service, mainly in Germany. Afterwards he went back to work at Houghton until 1958 when he started his own builder's business. Two of his brothers joined him in the business, as did his son Nick years later.

At a Kibworth Village Hall dance Walt met Anne. They married and lived in part of his father-in-law's house in Smeeton. Walt wanted to live in Burton Overy and after a few years in Smeeton they came to Alpine Cottages, initially in one cottage before expanding into the next and eventually bought the lot!

Walter was a keen gardener and played the harmonica for pleasure. In his youth he was a good sportsman, playing football or cricket every weekend and representing both Leicestershire. and Northants at darts. His love for sport remained throughout his life and when he picked up a newspaper he always read it from the back first

Walt and Anne went camping with the family most years and later in life they went several times to America to visit Ann's penfriend in New Hampshire.

Walt was strong-willed and outgoing, he had a good sense of humour and loved a family gathering.

In the village, Walter's served as a Parish Councillor and did a great deal of work for the British Legion.

The funeral service for Walter James Burton (aged 79) was held at St Andrew's Church on 18th October 2012.

## Marian Elizabeth McArragher

15 March 1937 to 2 January 2013

Marian was the eldest daughter of Lilly and Ernest Gandy and born at their home on Wicklow Drive in Evington.

She started a career as a Drawing Office Assistant at the Gimson factory in Humberstone, Leicester. She took up a position with GPO Telephones and after specialist training at Bletchley Park she worked for many years as a Drawing Office Assistant at the then Telephone House at 66 London Road, Leicester.

Marian met Patrick McArragher in 1963 and they married at Bishop Street Methodist Church in Leicester in June 1964. They moved to Gartree Cottage, Scotland Lane in Burton Overy during 1966. Their first son, Simon, was born in January 1968 and James followed in 1970.

Marian helped organise a play group in the old Burton Overy Village Hall and this helped bring together many young mothers and children from the Village which led to some long lasting friendships. As soon as James started school Marian took over the running of Burton Overy sub Post Office with the help of her close friends Pam Hubbard and Mavis Hill. She had the strong belief that the Post Office and shop were a vital service in those days for the elderly residents of the Village and ran them for ten years.

Marian then worked at Hillside Garage in Great Glen, preparing orders and invoices and finally, before retiring, she returned to her role as Drawing Office Assistant with BT.

Marian was Secretary to the 'Friends of Leicester and Leicestershire Museums'. The list of clergy which can be seen in St. Andrews Church was neatly transcribed by Marian and came about through her interest in calligraphy. She was also competent at needlework and produced fine cross stitch pieces.

In Burton Overy Marian was Clerk to the Parish Council for five years, stand-in organist at both The Chapel and St. Andrews Church, Committee member and Caller of Burton Overy Dancers, member of the W.I. and a staunch member of The Friendship Club.

With her love of English Country Dance Marian was a Committee member and Caller of Rutland Folk Dance Club and a founder member of the W.I. Jerusalem Jammers Morris Dance Group. She also found time before she married to volunteer at the Leicester Family Planning Association where she returned, after running Burton Post Office, to work part time in the Family Planning Clinic.

In recent years Marian was unfortunately diagnosed with a rare degenerative disorder known as Multiple System Atrophy or M.S.A. This condition slowly took away her mobility and throughout her illness she was cared for and supported by Patrick.