**Burton Overy Parish Council (BOPC)**

**Newsletter - Spring Update 2021**

**Contact us at any time:**

**Via our website at:** Burton Overy Parish Council (www.burtonoverypc.org.uk)

Or e-mail:

Clerk, Phil Woodward: Clerk@burtonoverypc.org.uk

Cllr Bob Warwick: b.warwick@burtonoverypc.org.uk

Cllr Sarah Rankine: s.rankine@burtonoverypc.org.uk

Cllr Kate Goddard: k.goddard@burtonoverypc.org.uk

Cllr Dave Fletcher: d.fletcher@burtonoverypc.org.uk

Cllr “*It Could Be you”* @burtonoverypc.org.uk!

**The Parish Council**

BOPC would like to take this opportunity to update you all on current council business and to remind you who your current councillors are. Also, to formally introduce our new Clerk, Phil Woodward. Phil has prior experience as a Parish Council Clerk and will be an asset to BOPC. A huge thank you goes to our former Clerk, Kate Barker, for all her hard work and dedication and we wish her a very happy retirement!

As many of you know, I am leaving the council and village for pastures new. It has been an honour to act as Chair and prior to that as a councillor from 2013. I would like to thank everyone, councillors and villagers, for the support you provide to the council. My last BOPC meeting will be March 16th.  From this point Cllr Bob Warwick will be taking on the role of Chairperson. Supporting him will be Cllr Sarah Rankine as Vice Chairperson, Cllr Dave Fletcher and Cllr Kate Goddard.

My exit leaves a casual vacancy for a replacement councillor. BOPC are now commencing recruitment for a new Councillor to be in post, ideally, from the 1st April. A new Councillor would be joining a vibrant, committed and approachable council whose primary focus is always the benefit of Burton Overy. Watch out for further information and if interested don’t hesitate to contact Phil on clerk@burtonoverypc.org.uk.

**History Project**

There are many hits on the BOPC website for information relating to Burton Overy. We are also aware of the wealth of information held by villagers either through old photographs, collated histories (such as the work completed on the WW1 deceased soldiers), verbal testimony of life before the internet, etc, etc. There is also other work completed such as a project by the Great Glen U3A who collated and outlined a description of every grave and commemorative plaque within the church; a very interesting read! We have more recent history to capture in relation to village events and of course, Covid. It would be beneficial to capture village exploits and memories of this challenging time, for future generations.

As such, BOPC are currently researching the best way to add as much of our history as possible onto the BOPC Website so that it is in one place and accessible. If you would like to be involved, or have information to share and collate, email Phil at clerk@burtonoverypc.org.uk.

**Wildflowers**

If you have passed down Back Lane recently, you may have noticed four blue hearts staked into the ground, placed at intervals along two verges. If you haven’t spotted them they are on the corner of Back Lane and Main Street. The blue hearts mark out Burton Overy’s first official wildflower verges. During the summer months Harborough District council will not be cutting these verges, the hearts remind them not to do so. The Parish Council are delighted to have designated an area within the village that will encourage wildlife and biodiversity. They are a wonderful addition to our beautiful village.

The verges however, will need to be managed if they are to flourish. As part of this process an expert from Naturespot will be surveying them in early June. Naturespot record the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland. Our verges are now registered with them, so please visit the Naturespot website to view their amazing work. The survey will outline what species already exist and advise which native species could be planted to enhance the verges further. We will need a team of volunteers later on in June to help us with maintenance, cutting, raking and of course the exciting bit, sowing and planting. Please contact either Sarah Rankine or Kate Goddard if you wish to be a part of the wildflower verge team. S.rankine@burtonoverypc.org.uk or k.goddard@burtonoverypc.org.uk

**Defibrillator**

Hopefully everyone now knows where to obtain the defibrillator should it be needed and that the additional signage in the village has helped to signpost it better to the village hall. Don’t forget, also, that it is never locked and that the machine will tell you how to use it just by turning it on.

BOPC has been asked to consider an additional defibrillator to be sited at the other end of the village. We are actively looking at this and making enquiries as to where it could be sited. Defibrillators cost about £1000 so there will need to be a fund-raising exercise should this be progressed. Let us know what you think!

**Climate change**

Parish councils are being encouraged by the Government and County Council to do their bit to help with climate change. Cllr’s Sarah Rankine and Kate Goddard are very keen advocates of this and have attended online training and conferences, sponsored by BOPC, to better understand the ways parishes and individuals can help slow the pace of climate change through improved bio-diversity and sustainability initiatives.

BOPC will be circulating a climate change questionnaire through your doors, (on recycled paper), very shortly, with the aim of understanding the level of engagement on this subject within Burton Overy.

Once out of lock-down, Sarah and Kate will host a climate change event in the village hall (funds secured for this prior to start of the pandemic), to share ideas and tell you about successful initiatives operating in other villages. Also, to understand the immediate and future benefits for ourselves and future generations.

Don’t be shy on this, get involved! Contact Sarah, Kate or Phil to find out more and be kept updated on initiatives; and/or to become actively involved in a support group.

**Bus routes**

BOPC are members of CPRE, a countryside charity (formerly the Campaign to Protect Rural England), that actively promotes support for issues that matter to rural communities. CPRE are currently promoting support for more rural bus routes and are urging rural communities to support their campaign by signing a petition. If you wish to support this, you will find a link via the BOPC website.

**Community Bugbears**

Generally speaking, BOPC receive few complaints about community poor behaviour. We all agree that Burton Overy is a lovely, thoughtful community. Even so, there are still a few issues that can wind each other up. Without making a song and dance about it, do please note the following and consider if any may apply to you and consider if you can personally remedy any particular bugbear reported by a neighbour!

* Inconsiderate parking;
* Not picking up dog mess from our footpaths;
* Inconsiderate bonfires;
* Leaving unsightly dustbins out on the footpaths instead of returning them out of sight and out of the way;
* Allowing hedges and other plants to extend across footpaths;
* Siting a satellite dish facing the street (HDC Planning will review all such cases); and
* Driving too fast through the village for the conditions causing unnecessary distress to others.

**Census**

You should be receiving information directly about the upcoming Census. BOPC website will also have information on this as provided by HDC.

**Community Groups**

BOPC will continue the Whats App groups through the pandemic. We also post notices on our notice board sited on the wall to Higher House, Main Street.

You are all welcome to attend all council meetings via Zoom. These will all be notified in advance on the noticeboard and via Whats App.

Many thanks and good luck going forwards.

Cllr Carolyn Carson

Chairperson BOPC

March 2021.