

# Boughton Village Matters

Deadline for the March issue is 23 February

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## Welcome to February's BVM

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### LOCAL PLAN COULD MEAN OVER 1,500 MORE HOUSES FOR BOUGHTON

West Northamptonshire Council's housing targets have increased by 9,000 homes. As a result its draft Local Plan proposes 1,500 houses for the north of Buckton Fields (around Boughton Grange and towards Pitsford), a change to the confines of the village and 43 houses for the village itself. An eight-week public consultation opened on 29<sup>th</sup> January and will run until 28<sup>th</sup> March. There are a number of public engagement events, including 2<sup>nd</sup> February in Moulton Community Centre (1.30pm until 4.30pm) and 4<sup>th</sup> March at Long Buckby Community Centre (3pm until 7.30pm). Details of all the dates and more information can be found on the Parish Council's website: [boughtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://boughtonparishcouncil.co.uk)

### START DATE FOR VILLAGE HALL WORKS

The much-anticipated refurbishment of the Village Hall will begin on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and is expected to last eight weeks. The contractors are very conscious of the Hall's neighbours. As such, there are plans in place to ensure no vehicles block the highway. There will be some scaffolding on the Hall. If anyone living close by has concerns at any point, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the committee via [boughtonvillagehall01@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonvillagehall01@gmail.com)

### CRICKET SEASON GETS INTO SWING IN BOUGHTON

"BT Cricket Club is one of the longest established friendly cricket clubs in Northampton," writes Greg Wilson. "We are a very sociable and inclusive club for all ages and abilities, playing most Wednesday evenings at Boughton Cricket Club in the grounds of Boughton Hall. We would very much like to welcome any residents of Boughton who would like to join our club. If you are interested in getting your pads on or bowling a few overs, we would love to hear from you. We play to enjoy cricket whether we win or lose. No need to worry about your ability – we offer a warm welcome. If you'd just prefer to watch, come along and enjoy the evening cricket in the village. We have plenty of chairs and a well-stocked kitchen. If you'd like to learn more – or would like a fixtures list – please contact me on 07921 126016."

### COULD YOU BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you might be interested in filling this slot, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk ([clerk@boughtonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@boughtonparishcouncil.co.uk)) before the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

### FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES IN BOUGHTON

The Village Hall is hosting a Lego and craft session on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February from 1pm until 2.30pm and a silent disco on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February from 1pm until 3pm. These are being put on by Born To Shine and are free of charge (donations gratefully received) and for children aged six to 14. Places must be booked in advance via [saffy@borntoshine.org.uk](mailto:saffy@borntoshine.org.uk)

## **BOUGHTON BOOK LAUNCHES SOON**

Judy Shephard's book 'All About Boughton' will be launched on 28<sup>th</sup> February at an event at the Whyte Melville. To pre-order your copy of this wonderful local history, please contact Judy on 07889 123039.

## **SPEED WATCH WHIZZES AROUND AGAIN**

Northamptonshire Police have invited Boughton to take part in the Community Speed Watch (CSW) programme for 2026. The scheme will run from March to October. A significant change this year is that Boughton will purchase its own speed detection radar device, so allowing us to conduct roadside speed monitoring throughout the full eight-month period, without the need to return equipment after one month. The Police will supply everything else we need to get started free of charge. Following the introduction of the village-wide 20mph zone, we still need to monitor speeding in Boughton and report detected vehicles to the Police. Your help will be needed in educating drivers and positively influencing driving behaviour. Boughton Parish Council has asked Malcolm Sanderson to lead the CSW 2026, and asks for volunteers to assist. Email Malcolm ([malcolmsanderson@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolmsanderson@btinternet.com)) with your contact details if you can give some of your time to help the village.

## **VERGE MARKERS CAUSING A STIR**

West Northamptonshire Council has told some residents on Moulton Lane that 'verge markers' (put up to help prevent cars driving on them) are unsuitable. The Parish Clerk has made enquiries to Highways to ask what is considered appropriate and is awaiting a response from Kier, which runs Highways in Northamptonshire.

## **COULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO BOUGHTON'S POCKET PARK**

The Boughton Pocket Park Committee has its AGM in April and it would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining this friendly group. To find out more, please email [boughtonpocketpark@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonpocketpark@gmail.com)

## **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY FOR LOCAL RAILWAY**

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Northampton & Lamport Railways. This will be celebrated in various ways but the focal point will be the NLR30 Gala over August bank holiday weekend. To find out more or to learn how you could volunteer, please visit [nlr.org.uk](http://nlr.org.uk)

## **THE SVENNEVICKS' WALNUT SABLES**



### **Ingredients –**

- 3oz margarine
- 3oz plain flour
- 3oz grated cheddar cheese
- Chopped walnuts
- Grinds of rock salt
- 1 egg, beaten

Make a dough with the margarine, flour and cheese. Roll this out to about 1/4in thickness. Cut into strips about 2in wide. Brush with beaten egg. Scatter the walnuts and a few grinds of rock salt on top. Cut the strips into squares and triangles before placing on a taking tray – not touching each other. Cook in a hot oven (approx. 180) or the top shelf of the Aga for about 10 minutes. Put to cool on a wire rack. Eat when cool enough to do so – they are delicious when still warm!



## DAVID HARROP'S COUNTRY DIARY

"Well, winter is now in full swing and it's the worst time for birds and some animals as their natural food sources diminish. This is why the RSPB encourages us to provide food and water facilities in our gardens to supplement this natural shortage. The 23<sup>rd</sup> of January the Big Garden Birdwatch was conducted nationwide and the number of birds (and animals) counted in our gardens, parks etc. will be published and compared with previous years.

This survey will give the RSPB very useful information that will help us to halt and improve the on-going decline in many common species. As I've said before, we can all help by using our own properties to this end. For instance, I've read that over 80% of fledged robins die in their first year of life. The losses are enormous, with predation disease and starvation taking their toll. This affects many small birds too as they suffer in bad weather.

One particular exception to a declining population is the growth of green ring-necked parakeets in Britain. Recently some Boughton residents have reported seeing one or two in their gardens. I did too, last year, but not yet this year so far. However, it is estimated the over 30,000 of these birds have been logged in the London area and they are obviously going to spread further North - so expect more soon. This will be aided by global warming, which will continue to attract more European/southern species to the UK and even cause some species not to migrate for the winter.

In addition to wild birds in my garden, I have a regular pair of grey squirrels and many wild rabbits who, in common with the moles, are trying to re-design my back lawn - a bit of a nuisance! Talking of which, the most astonishing animal I had on my pergola-mounted bird table yesterday was a brown, striped cat, which was attracted by the household scraps - that was certainly a first.

Anyway, I have always loved seeing and helping a whole variety of wildlife since I was a small boy, and will continue to do so even if squirrels (and cats) think it's their bird table food too!

## **HIRE BOUGHTON VILLAGE HALL**

**MEETINGS, REHEARSALS, CHILDREN'S  
PARTIES, DANCES AND FUNDRAISERS**

Email: [boughtonvillagehall01@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonvillagehall01@gmail.com)