

Boughton Village Matters

Deadline for the June issue is 20 May

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Welcome to May's BVM

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GET READY FOR BOUGHTON FAIR

Our village celebration takes place on 20th June from 2pm until 5.30pm on Church Street. It will be a day of family fun, including a pet show, birds of prey, juggling skills, performances and a classic car exhibition plus various talks and exhibitions. Specifically for children, there will be a face painter and entertainer. Afternoon teas will also be on offer, as well as food from the Whyte Melville. There will be a number of stalls, including a plant stand. If you have some plants or cuttings to contribute, please get in touch with Rosie Jeczalik via rosie.mcdonnell@gmail.com. Look out for more information in the next BVM with more details about timings, road closures and even more attractions on the day.

MOULTON LANE ROAD CLOSURE FOR REPAIRS AND SPEED HUMP INSTALLATION

Works to a crossing point, remove two speed cushions, reinstall speed humps and undertake a full-width carriageway repair will close Moulton Lane for up to potentially seven days (27th April until 5th May). Kier assures residents that they will still have access to homes and businesses. Diversions will be in place. West Northamptonshire Highways has written to households on Moulton Lane and Howard Lane about additional speed cushions that will be installed at a later date as part of traffic-calming measures. Any questions or comments can be emailed to boughtonqueries@kier.co.uk There is also a 'traffic calming wish list' on the Parish Council website, along with what is being considered and what has been agreed with Highways.

BUCKTON FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE EDGES CLOSER TO OPENING

It is hoped that the community building at Buckton Fields should be complete by the end of July. The Parish Council is making arrangements to kit out the space, which is being facilitated by a grant to Born To Shine who will run the community centre. More information to follow in future newsletters.

CRICKET CLUB BIDS FAREWELL TO STALWART

BVM is sad to report the death of Dick Steff, who many in the village will know thanks to the years he devoted to enthusiastically running the cricket club. Dick was a kind soul and an absolute cricket fanatic. In the summer months hardly a day went by when he wasn't piloting either a mower or a roller – usually followed by a spaniel - to ensure the pitch was in absolutely perfect condition.

BOUGHTON VILLAGE HALL AGM

The Boughton Village Hall committee is holding its AGM on 26th May at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, including anyone wishing to join the committee or ask questions of the Trustees about the Hall.

LATEST FROM BOUGHTON SPEED WATCH

Malcolm Sanderson writes: 'Our volunteers (22 to date but with 11 actively participating) have sent 275 vehicle registration numbers to Northants Police. The average speed of vehicles has reduced by 10mph compared to 2022 and 2024, which is good news. It would suggest that the 20mph zone is having an impact. Anyone wishing to volunteer their time, please email me on malcolmsanderson@btinternet.com.'

COULD YOU BE A BEAVER SCOUT VOLUNTEER?

Pitsford Scout Group is looking for leaders to run its Beaver Scout section. If you would like know a little bit more about what this would entail, please contact Sue McTaggart, the Pitsford Group Lead Volunteer at pitsfordleadvolunteer@gmail.com.

MOULTON LANE ROAD POSTS

There has much discussion about the posts/verge markers on Moulton Lane that residents have placed on their lawns to help preserve the grass verge. The Parish Council does not object to the proposal for wooden posts to be installed but suggests residents email boughtonqueries@kier.co.uk to confirm with Highways whether they want them in front of their property.

VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council. Applications will be considered at the Council meeting on 20th July. If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch with the clerk via clerk@boughtonparishcouncil.co.uk.

BVM EDITORS RETIRING AT THE END OF THE YEAR

After over two decades, newsletter editors Helen and Charlotte have decided that they'd like to step aside and let a new team take over the baton of producing BVM after the December 2026 issue. If you'd be interested in doing something for the community, please get in touch.

JOHN SHEPHARD'S RHUBARB FOOL



Ingredients

Lots of rhubarb
An orange (juice and zest)
Plenty of sugar
Double cream and sour cream in roughly 2:1 proportions
A glass of orange-based liqueur, such as Cointreau

Mix together the rhubarb, sugar, juice and zest of the orange. Bring to a gentle simmer in a big pan for about five minutes – until cooked but still firm. Watch it carefully, as this can cook quickly. Allow to cool, while whipping the creams separately. The double cream needs to be in soft peaks, while the sour cream will expand in volume. Drain the liquid from the rhubarb and set aside. Add half the Cointreau to the fruit mixture before folding in both creams. Spoon into a serving bowl or separate glasses. Cool further in the fridge. Add the remaining Cointreau to the leftover cooking liquid. Cool this in the fridge to serve separately. Additionally, you can serve with Amaretti biscuits for extra contrast.



BARKING MAD: observations of a spaniel

I had a very eventful Easter back in Boughton when I visited my dad Tony along with Ric, Julia and the children. But I was sad to see my old friend Teddy had died when I walked past his grave at the edge of the big field. Teddy was a Belgian Griffon, belonging to Marcus and Jenny. He was always pleased to see me and used to walk underneath me inspecting the area around my tail. But I didn't mind, because he was a good little friend. Then I heard about Oslo, John and Sarah's Chowski, who I am in love with. His back leg is all shaved and stitched where he had to have his hip replaced. Sounds painful.

But there was plenty of Easter fun, and on Sunday night I caught my fourth hedgehog. Then I led dad and Ric a merry chase around the garden with their torches. But this hog was so big, I had to stop and put it down. This was when they recaptured it and put it in a deep cardboard box in the garage along with water and some of my dog food, would you believe?

When they checked the next morning, it had gone: climbed out of its box and escaped. They spent ages searching the garage and barn but it took me less than two minutes to sniff it out, hiding in the garage rubbish. Dad has named him 'Ronnie' after a man called Biggs, who apparently robbed a train and then escaped over the wall of somewhere called Wandsworth Prison. Anyhow, he took it over to his pal Rod at Blisworth, who now has *two* of my hedgehogs running around his garden. I think they may be father and son. I'm back with the gang at Weybridge, now, where sadly there's not a hedgehog to be seen.

Heidi



Walkies by Judy Shephard

On white paws Nini rests her head in repose
One eye open above a gleaming black nose
Her coat is dark with a white facial stripe
With drooping soft ears of the foxhound type.
Regarding me with a trusting gaze
She eagerly awaits any small word of praise
I softly whisper an aside
And immediately she is there by my side.
Eagerly she looks up at me
Asking enquiringly me of 'What is to be?'

Her white-tipped tail gives a small beat
Whipping ever faster at my feet.
Dark, intelligent eyes do silently plea
Let's not forget it's all about ME?
I take a step towards the door
In tighter rings she dances the floor
It's her routine that she has decreed
And runs ahead to find her dangling lead.
Amid scrabbling and jerking and little grace
It's off down the lane at a cracking pace
With a high bark that does clearly say
Look out everyone, I'm on my way!