

Boughton Village Matters

Deadline for the July issue is 20 June

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Welcome to June's BVM

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GET READY FOR BOUGHTON DAY

After months of planning, Boughton Village Day is here. It will be held on Saturday 20th June from 2pm until 5.30pm and then 7pm until 10pm. We look forward to seeing you all in Church Street for a day of family fun. The event will be kicked off by our MP Stuart Andrew. Reece The DJ will be present for the duration of the day and evening. There will be a performance by Born to Shine, while Tony Boulemier and Judy Shephard will give short talks on the history of Boughton. Other attractions include a birds of prey display, artists of the village displaying their work, a best pet competition, bell ringing, face painting, a dressing-up competition, magician plus opportunities to learn to juggle. There will be a selection of stalls. Afternoon teas and ice cream will be served. The Whyte Melville will be open all day until 10pm, serving a special menu of street food with music in the pub garden.

SPEEDWATCH NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

More volunteers are desperately needed to help with Boughton's community speedwatch, which is revealing some interesting data regarding speeding traffic. To date, 390 vehicles have been detected speeding and reported. Anyone going 20mph over the speed limit will receive a visit from the Police. Average speeds appear to be going down: in 2022 it was 38.5mph, 2023 37.3mph and in 2026 so far the average is 28mph - still approximately 8mph over the speed limit. To get involved, please email malcolmsanderson@btinternet.com

FUN AFTERNOON IN THE POCKET PARK – SAVE THE DATE

Following on from the Pocket Park's 'picnic in the park' that celebrated the opening of its new play equipment, the committee is planning a barbecue on the afternoon of 17th July. More information to follow in next month's BVM and on the Pocket Park Facebook page.

BVM'S ANNUAL – POSSIBLE PERMANENT - HOLIDAY

A reminder that there will be no village newsletter in August. As reported in last month's BVM, the editors will be retiring at the end of the year. If you would be interested in taking over and putting your own stamp on the newsletter, please get in touch. Putting together BVM is a great way of keeping abreast of what is going on in Boughton and giving back to the community.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VILLAGE HALL

A start date for the refurbishment project is expected imminently – watch this space. Before then, the Hall will be hosting the monthly coffee morning on 3rd June from 10am until 12pm. The committee treasurer would like to step down and so the committee would love to hear from anyone who is good with numbers and would like to contribute to the village community. For more details, please email charlotte@mackaness.net

NEW VICE CHAIR FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

At May's Parish Council meeting Lorraine McEllin was elected as the council's new vice chair; Simon Phipps continues as chair. More information about the make up of the Parish Council can be found at boughtonparishcouncil.co.uk

BOUGHTON-BASED COMPANY SWEEPS AWARDS

Four Talent, a recruitment consultancy based in the village, is celebrating after winning two honours at this year's Northamptonshire SME Business Awards. The Four Talent team secured 'gold' for 'service excellence' (won for the second time) and 'silver' for 'best enterprising business'.

REPORTING ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council continues to urge parishioners to continue reporting Highway issues, such as potholes, fly tipping and parking obstructing the highways, to FixMyStreet/Street Doctor. Villagers may have noticed works being carried out by WNC/Kier. The Parish Council would like to remind parishioners that while they may be frustrated with ongoing works, they should not vent their frustration at employees carrying out their day-to-day job. WNC/Kier is carrying out an extensive project; the traffic-calming scheme is in excess of what was legally required. The Parish Council hopes the remaining work can be completed without any further incidents.

EVENTS AT LOCAL RAILWAYS

Fathers' Day – on 21st June – is among a long list of events at the Northampton and Lamport Railway. Dads go free on that day. There's also a 'Double Diesel' Day on 12th July, 'Kids for a quid' on 26th July and a 30th-anniversary celebrations on 29th-31st August. For more information, take a look at nlr.org.uk

HEIDI BOULLEMIER'S POTATO SALAD



Ingredients - serves four

New potatoes to serve four
3 hard-boiled eggs
3tbsp mayonnaise
3tbsp olive oil
3tbsp Dijon mustard
¼ red onion, chopped finely
1tbsp white-wine or apple-cider vinegar
Salt and ground black pepper
1tsp chopped parsley
1tsp dill, chopped

Boil the potatoes. Peel the onion, chop finely and place this in cool water for a few minutes. Halve or quarter the potatoes, depending on their size and how chunky you like your potato salad. Chop the eggs to a similar size. Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper.



DAVID HARROP'S COUNTRY DIARY

We are experiencing some extremely hot, dry weather at the moment at the height of the breeding season for most garden birds. I've been kept busy re-filling bird baths on a daily basis. However; it is important to keep them clean too. Many of us use bird tables and a variety of bird feeders. I do during the winter but stop using feeders between spring and autumn when natural food should be readily available for most species.

That said, following the results of the last National Bird Count, the RSPB has advised everyone that these feeding places can unintentionally do harm. It's a disease called trichomonosis, which is a protozoan parasite, and blamed for the decline in many garden birds but particularly greenfinches and others like chaffinches and bullfinches. The disease is transmitted at the feeding stations due to proximity and causes problems with swallowing and can be fatal. Since I heard this news I've also stopped using my two bird tables for household scraps. Instead I scatter such scraps on the ground but not always in the same place to avoid the risk to them infecting each other.

Sitting in my garden watching the birds I've also noticed an increase in large birds of prey circling above the Boughton fields. Buzzards and red kites are two common ones. Wild rabbits are plentiful in the fields around us, which attracts them as does any 'road kill'. I have not seen any kestrels lately on my walks and hope they have not been affected too by eating infected small birds. Carrion crows have nested in a tall conifer in my garden and the young have just left the nest. Crows can also prey on tree- and hedge-nesting smaller birds such as blackbirds and thrushes.

We bird lovers need to heed this advice and adapt and change how we help them recover.

HIRE BOUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

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

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