

Boughton Village Matters

Deadline for the October issue is 20 September

Issue Number 323 – September 2026



Welcome to September's BVM

Helen Coghill Pegasus House hmcoghill@doctors.org.uk
Charlotte Mackaness Wickets Cottage charlotte@mackaness.net

VILLAGE HALL RENOVATION LATEST

No doubt residents have noticed that work began in July on the refurbishment of the Village Hall. The project is going well and it is anticipated that the Hall will be reopened in November – watch this space. The committee plans to celebrate this with some kind of event for the village. More news to follow. The search continues for a volunteer to take over as treasurer once the refurbishment is complete. This role involves monitoring payments (all done electronically), attending as many meetings as possible and presenting the annual accounts. It is a very friendly committee; joining would be a great way of meeting new people and giving something back to the community, as well as helping to mould the future village hall. For more information, email boughtonvillagehall01@gmail.com

FAREWELL TO MUCH-LOVED VILLAGER

'Barbara Evelyn Piggins, who lived in Church Street for well over 40 years, passed away on 4th July,' writes *Lorraine McEllin*. 'For many who knew Barbara, she was one of "life's angels". Nothing was too much trouble when it came to helping others. Along with the assistance of Sue Greatorex, for many years she looked after the welfare of Boughton's senior citizens on behalf of the Parish Council. Barbara was married to Arthur, who died in 2012.'

TOURS OF VILLAGE SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 INTAKE

Mary James, head of Boughton Primary School, invites parents of children due to start in the next academic year (2027) to book in for a tour of the school in October or November. Please email admin@boughtonacademy.co.uk for more information.

BUCKTON FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE TO OPEN

Later this month the new community building at Buckton Fields is scheduled to open. Charity Born To Shine is running the space for the benefit of the entire community. There will be an soft launch day on Saturday 5th September from 10am until 2pm that is open to all. To find out about the activities and provision planned, plus any further information, please email mail@borntoperformcareservices.co.uk

STREETLIGHT INSTALLATION AND ROADWORKS

Two additional streetlights are due to be put up in Spring Close on 5th September. The schedule of roadworks/traffic calming measures in the village does keep changing. However, in regard to the wooden posts on Moulton Lane verges, WNC Highways has confirmed that wooden bollards will be installed 450mm off the kerbs, which is standard clearance for any street furniture. You can learn more in the news section of the Parish Council's website: boughtonparishcouncil.co.uk

COULD YOU TAKE OVER BVM?

As previously reported, the December issue of the village newsletter will be the last for Charlotte and Helen. To date, nobody has expressed any interest in taking over. Please get in touch if you might be able to help!

PARISH CHARITY HAS FUNDS TO HELP STUDENTS IN NEED

The Richard Humfrey (Education) Foundation provides financial assistance to students under 25 undertaking further education studies. Applicants should normally be resident in the Parish of Boughton and apply by 31st October. Awards are made in cases of financial or personal hardship. An application form can be obtained from secretary Jill Gist via 847890 or email jandrgist@tiscali.co.uk

DOG-LOVING VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

The Guide Dogs' charity is looking for volunteer puppy raisers from across Northamptonshire to help bring up the next generation of guide dogs. If you love dogs, have the time, space and care to give to one of our pups, and can help with basic training, please get in touch via volattractcentral@guidedogs.org.uk to find out more.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The September Parish Council meeting, which will be held in the Church Rooms because of the closure of the Village Hall, will take place on Monday 21st at 7pm.

FUNDRAISING RUN IN PITSFORD

The Colour Run is taking place on 12th September at 12pm to raise money for Pitsford Primary School. Please meet at the T's Coffee at the Quarry at 12pm. It costs £5 to register and this must be done by 7th September. For more information about the event, please email pitsfordschoolassociation@outlook.com

JUDITH PILKINGTON'S STUFFED FIGS



Ingredients - serves four

2 figs per person

Soft, creamy goats cheese – as much as you like/can pile on each fig

1 slice of Palma ham per fig

Handful of walnut pieces

Runny honey or maple syrup

Rocket

This makes a very easy starter and is delicious – especially at this time of year when figs are ripening on the trees. Cut the stems off the figs and ensure they can stand upright by thinly slicing the bottom if necessary. I have peeled large figs if the skin is very tough but there's usually no need to do this. Next, slice the figs in a cross from the top. Cut deep but not all the way down. Gently pull out the quarters so you fill with goats cheese. Push in some walnut pieces, too. Wrap a slice of the ham around each fig – you can use a cocktail stick to hold in place if necessary. Stand them in a shallow Pyrex (or similar) dish. Heat the oven to 200C. Cook for five minutes or so – until the cheese is slightly runny. Arrange on a plate and drizzle with honey or syrup and scatter with walnut pieces. Serve with rocket.



DAVID HARROP'S COUNTRY DIARY

Since I last wrote the weather has been exceptionally hot with hardly any rainfall. This has affected the birds and animals during the breeding season. Lately on some wild fruit bushes, particularly elderberries, the berries haven't matured. So no food for birds and no wine making for me! Wild fires have also been a threat in our locality but fortunately we've been lucky here. However, I have been sorry to hear about the several wildlife reserves and regions around the country that haven't been so fortunate. Now we've had some heavy rain and the drought is over it is a big relief.

We have now come to the end of the nesting season and many of our garden visitors will be migrating back south to warmer (?) climates for the winter. One thing I have noticed is how busy my three birdbaths have been during the drought with all sorts – tits, finches, blackbirds, magpies, pigeons and doves to name some of the regulars. It's been fun to see them drinking and splashing about enjoying themselves. I have been busy topping them up daily and keeping them clean. I would recommend all gardens have a fresh, safe water source for wildlife. Rabbits have long had a warren in my garden and use a stone water trough at the lawn edge when they are not digging holes in it!

It's been important to provide bird food during the summer, particularly following the warning about birds transmitting a fatal disease by proximity contact. I have continued to put out suitable food scraps but making sure to scatter them randomly on the lawn in different places. My bird tables have been cleaned and sterilised ready for late autumn provided I hear from the RSPB that it is safe to use them again. During the hot summer I managed to maintain a variety of potted flowering plants on my patio and also lilac and other flowering shrubs in the borders. These have been welcome sites for bees; insects and butterflies.

I also have a number of sites for solitary bees, which are used annually and interesting to watch. However, I put up a new bee/insect house this year but a greater spotted woodpecker decided that it would help itself and just pulled out all the hollow bamboo canes to get at the larvae inside them. I've now moved it to a more protected site and hope the bird has given up trying. Autumn is here now so let's hope our local weather returns to normal.

**HIRE BOUGHTON
VILLAGE HALL
*SET TO REOPEN IN NOVEMBER***

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

Email: boughtonvillagehall01@gmail.com