

Bovingdon News

No. 85

May 2025



BOVINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman				
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Lisa Edwards	Asst. to Parish Clerk			Bovingdon HP3 0HJ
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				office@bovingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk
				Office Hours
				Mon-Wed and Friday
				9:30am-12noon
				Thu — CLOSED

WELCOME TO BOVINGDON NEWS

My opening thoughts for this issue are where has the time gone? As I write this, it is already early April... in my defence though, there has been a lot going on! Apart from my own work life (including designing and building a very clever website for a government lobbying campaign, and working in Holland with Marillion at their music convention), I have been putting in some time with the Bovingdon Community Events team as we plan the forthcoming inaugural Scarecrow Festival (more details of this can be found on pages 28-29) and we hope this will be the first of many. The team got together to start organising key events in the village and are hoping to re-instigate some old favourites to help build and promote community spirit — keep your eyes peeled for posters and information in and around the village and on social media.



With the housing developments currently taking shape, the village is changing, growing bigger, but we need to maintain the village atmosphere and this can only be achieved by the villagers attending village events, supporting the local shops rather than going further afield, and joining the village clubs and societies — as I say, use them or lose them!

Steph Farrer

Editor, Bovingdon News

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Copy for the Next Edition of Bovingdon News

As editor, I welcome advertising and articles from any residents of the village and beyond; without your support Bovingdon News would not be the interesting read it currently is!

Any articles must be submitted by 7th September by email to steph.farrer@icloud.com, and for advertisers the booking deadline is 31st August. Once the booking form has been submitted an invoice will be issued that will be payable within seven days of invoice date (via bank transfer). Adverts may be supplied as complete files (preferably PDFs, either 4C or B/W depending on the booking) or can be created in-house for a one-off cost of £30.

Opinions

It should be noted that the Editor cannot accept responsibility or be held liable for any errors or claims made by the advertisers, nor does the Editor necessarily agree with the views expressed by the contributors. Please note that to avoid repetition within editorial copy the area code 01442 has been omitted from some local phone numbers.

Bovingdon News is designed, edited and published by

Steph Farrer

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Miscellaneous

Memorial Hall Toilets

The public toilets are OPEN as follows: Monday to Wednesday 8am-3pm, and Friday 8am-12noon, but are CLOSED Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. There is also a toilet for disabled users, which can be accessed using a RADAR key.



Scoop the Poop!

Bovingdon Parish Council supply dog poop bags to villagers at a cost of £1/pack, and can be bought from Jarmans on the High Street. Thank you for cleaning up after your dog.

Saturday Parking

Did you know that parking is available on Saturdays in the High Street at the rear of Batemans Solicitors, and also occasionally in the School car park (from 8:30am-6:30pm)?

Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service



Do You Wear NHS Hearing Aids?

We run a monthly walk-in clinic for hearing aid maintenance and replacement batteries on the first Tuesday of each month, from 2pm-3:30pm in Bovingdon Memorial Hall and no appointment is necessary. HHAS is a charitable organisation working alongside the NHS offering a free service for NHS patients only.

To contact the service, please call 07547 579998.

Recycling for Sight...

Bovingdon Community Library now accepts donations of glasses, cases and hearing aids for recycling by the Lions Club. If you have any of these items and wish to donate them for recycling, please bring them along to the Library where they will be gratefully received.



Hatch, Match & Dispatch

Baptisms

Luke C
Theo J
Oakley E
Ezra H

Marriages



Deaths

Joyce H
Reuben P
Susan J
Arturo B
Franco B
Muriel S
Brian S
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Joe B



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Or email gc@cullumpublishing.co.uk for a link and further details
See also www.bovingdoncommunityevents.co.uk





PROBLEM:

HOW CAN I GET THERE?

You have an appointment at a hospital, clinic, surgery or other medical establishment or need to make some other essential journey BUT . . .no car, can't drive, no relatives nearby, no convenient buses! What do you do? Who will help?



SOLUTION:

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HOW DO I FIND THEM?

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At other times, or if the number is busy or unavailable, leave a message by voicemail or send a text – one of our coordinators will get back to you as soon as possible.



BACKGROUND:

All the helpers are volunteers. There is no actual charge for our services but we hope that you will make a donation to cover the driver's expenses and contribute to other costs.

Remember, if you have a problem getting to important appointments:

" The Solution is Bovingdon Connect ".

BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION!

After all you never know when you might need a friend to give you a lift!

We are always in need of more volunteer drivers, particularly holiday times and also the school holidays when people are needed for Grandparent duties. So, if you have a car and some spare time perhaps you could become a volunteer driver. There are no set days, rosters or commitment. Most drivers do one or two runs a month, completely of their own choice. Requests are sent out using a WhatsApp group and you decide whether to accept the job—you can just say you are unavailable.

Volunteer driving and donations for expenses do not affect a driver's car insurance under current guidelines.

CONTACT US!

If you would like to help or want more information, please visit bovingdonconnect.uk, email rmgardener@gmail.com or contact DICK GARDENER on 07860 811154 (mobile) or 01442 833574

BOVINGDON CONNECT

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Chairman's Report

As I write this report, the thousands of daffodils that the Parish Council have planted over the preceding two years are about to flower. What a magnificent display they will make, truly confirming that spring has arrived. We are also hoping that a multitude of hanging baskets will be on show again this year, which should give an on-going colourful display in the High Street throughout the summer months.



I am pleased to report that a recent vacancy on the Parish Council was filled by co-option, and I am delighted to welcome Cllr Karen Bregazzi-Jones to our small but dedicated team of Parish Councillors. There is currently a further vacancy on the council for which we have received several enquiries. I would ask that anyone who may be interested in becoming a Councillor to contact the Parish Office by email at office@bovingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk or by phone on 833036. We would be delighted to chat through what would be involved and provide further information: this is an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on local decisions and initiatives.

There are number of events scheduled to take place in the village during the year, the first of which is the VE Day 80th Anniversary celebration that will take place on Thursday 8th May. At gam there will be a flag raising outside the Memorial Hall, together with the reading of a proclamation by Cllr Richard Roberts. Representatives from the British Legion, Parish Council, Church and Primary School will be in attendance and villagers will be most welcome to attend. In the evening there will be a cricket match on Bovington Green between Bovington and Chipperfield. The cricket club bar will be open to the public, and a variety of refreshments will be available including fish and chips and BBQ provided by Bovington Scouts. At approximately 9pm the Beacon on the green will be lit and the VE Day Tribute read out; this will then be followed by a firework display.



On 6th July there will be another Classic Vehicle display event on Bovington Green taking place between midday and 6pm. The event is being organised by the Bovington Community Events Team and it is expected that there will be over 250 classic vehicles on display. There will be entertainment and activities for all ages, a large variety of refreshments and numerous stalls

many of which will support various charities. The Community Events Team are also hoping to re-start the annual Christmas Fayre and Christmas Light Switch- On.



Page Design and Layout
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Chairman's Report (cont'd)

The annual meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 12th May at 7pm in the Memorial Hall. This is an excellent opportunity for villagers to attend the meeting and meet your Parish Councillors.



On behalf of all the Parish Council team we send our very best wishes for a long and enjoyable summer.

*Councillor Graham Barrett
Chairman, Bovingdon Parish Council*



Planning Committee Update

In respect of planning matters, there have been no further significant planning applications received. Work is now well underway both at the Molyneux Avenue site and at Grange Farm, where it is anticipated that construction of the new community facilities will commence later this year or in early 2026. We understand that the whole development is scheduled to be completed by the first half of 2027. Other major development projects in the village at the Bobsleigh Hotel and Bovingdon Brickworks have not yet commenced. Parking restrictions outside the main shops in the High Street have finally been put in place and should be operational from April. The proposals have been formulated to create a greater turnover of parking spaces to assist local businesses, as well as provide dedicated goods vehicle loading and disabled badge holder facilities.

*Councillor Graham Barrett
Chairman, Planning Committee*

Scouting in Bovingdon

1st Bovingdon Swim for the Win! The term started off with a bang in January with us taking part in the Hemel Hempstead Scouts annual swimming gala. After a fantastic evening of fierce competition across all events, Cubs came in second overall with Scouts first overall bringing home two impressive trophies. We also proudly celebrated Isaac completing his Chief Gold Scout Award! A highly prestigious award, and our first since our scout group reformed seven years ago. Our fund-raising for the new scout hut continues, and we are very grateful to all our donors that continue to support fund-raising efforts and help enrich the lives of our young people.

Scouts



*Michelle Black, Scout Leader and Committee Fundraiser
blackmich@googlemail.com*

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County Report

Christmas was a welcome break after a frantic few weeks: plans were revealed for the future of Local Government and our budget setting went to the wire. Government has opined that the current two-tier system, operating perfectly well in Hertfordshire, is to be replaced. Locally that means goodbye Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council to be replaced with single councils that do everything called Unitary Councils. Elected Mayors will sit on top, working closely with the rest of the public sector. Change is coming at breakneck speed but our top priority remains the delivery of over 500 vital services and that change must be for the benefit of residents and businesses: it could be a bumpy ride.

Money is tight: we took the decision last year to streamline our workforce and save as much as possible. Pound for pound we saved as much as we asked for in council tax. That huge savings effort meant we could protect and invest in what matters most, such as social care, libraries, waste centres and yes roads. No cuts, just trying to make the money go as far as possible. A big thank you to all our 8,000 staff who have not only had to deal with change but in many cases increased demand. The biggest areas of increase have been for children with Special Educational Needs, older residents needing some care at home, and children in our care needing specialist accommodation.

It's also rained a lot and that hasn't helped the roads much, you may have noticed! A new package to tackle flooding, drainage, potholes and edge of road repairs will kick in as frosts give way to drier weather and the summer programme can crack on. Vicarage Lane, Church Street, Shantock Hall Lane, Water Lane, and the far end of Chesham Road are all due for surface dressing this year, with the Hempstead Road pavement leading up to the crossroads being rebuilt. The top of the High Street is particularly busy and to connect across safely we are exploring putting in a new zebra crossing. Across the county over a thousand road schemes will be delivered this year, as we did last.

Most flooding in the village has been addressed through an on-going investment over the past ten years. The final piece of the jigsaw, flooding at the top of Green Lane, is planned to be resolved, as part of the Bovingdon Grange development.

Talking of development, I am increasingly concerned about the Government's increased number of mandated homes planned for the county, the watering down of greenbelt protection and less scrutiny of local planning decisions. The eye-watering increase for Dacorum is another 30%, St Albans is another 70% and, unbelievably, villages are more likely to be vulnerable to speculative development than towns.

By the time you read this the county elections, in which I am standing, may well be over. Can I thank you for the absolute privilege of being your County Councillor for the last four years. My thanks as well to all who work so hard for and with the village, often those creating the least fuss, seeking the least recognition and delivering the most. Happy 60th Ladybirds!

My very best wishes for a warm and sunny summer.

Councillor Richard Roberts, Herts County Council
richard.roberts@hertfordshire.gov.uk / 07923 139092 / 01992 556557



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Bovingdon Gardeners

Anticipation is what keeps us gardeners motivated through the bleak winter months and, as I write this in early March, the longed-for spring sunshine has finally arrived. Now we can begin to prepare the soil, mow the lawn, and enjoy the emerging spring flowers.



It seems a very long time since our last show on 14th September. Despite the topsy-turvy summer weather this was well supported by our members with 223 exhibits in classes for fruit and vegetables, flowers, floral art, cookery, preserves and home-made drinks. Competition was fierce and only two of the cups went to previous winners. Like all societies we need an injection of young blood and that does not come younger than our two

newest members who are aged four and six. Despite the fact that there were no children's classes to enter in the show (this has now been rectified!) they were not deterred, choosing to compete with the adults and were very successful. Well done boys for your determination, and I am sure we will see more of these youngsters at future shows.



Our final event for 2024 was our annual social evening in November. The quiz night staged in the Memorial Hall was a great success, not only entertaining the members but raising over £400. The money will help support our coming events and a donation will be made to the Hospice of Saint Francis for their garden.

There has been a lot of gloomy weather during this last autumn and winter so we are hoping to brighten our gardens with the help of Katharine Woods who was the speaker at the first of our spring talks. *Get The Exotic Look* was the title of her illustrated talk, which took place on 19th March. Sadly by the time you receive this magazine the talk will have been given but look out for more exotic plantings appearing around the village this summer! Our second talk on April 23rd was *The Use of Herbs* given by herbalist Lucy Blundell. As well as listening to her advice on growing and using herbs we had the opportunity to try some of her herbal teas.



If the subjects of these talks interest you, why not join our society and receive a quarterly newsletter with information on all of our events? We stage three shows each year, in March, June and September, make an annual trip to an RHS garden and have a variety of speakers to give illustrated talks in the spring. We also have a discount scheme with Thompson and Morgan that gives us 50% off seeds and 15% off potatoes, onions, bulbs and fruit. Our three shows are not just for fruit, vegetables and flowers but we also have sections for floral art, handicrafts, cookery, photography and painting. Come along to our Summer Show on 28th June to get a taste of what we offer. You can join our society at any of the shows or contact our membership secretary, Mike Leon, via our website membership@bovingdonhortsoc.org.uk



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Bovingdon Gardeners (cont'd)

This year in May sees the revival of our plant sale. Before COVID this was an annual event that attracted a lot of customers keen to buy good quality plants and to get some unique advice on growing them. If previous sales are anything to go by there will be a wide range of annuals, herbaceous plants, vegetables, and probably some specialities reflecting the interests of the members selling. The sale will take place in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th May, with doors opening at 9:30am. Hopefully this magazine has reached you in time with the information!



As a gardening society affiliated to the RHS we are entitled to one free visit each year to one of the RHS gardens. For the last ten years we have chosen to visit Wisley gardens in Surrey. Unfortunately this involves taking your chances with traffic on the M25. For the last two years the roadworks at junction 10 have been particularly disruptive so on 13th July we

are heading to RHS Hyde Hall in Essex. Although this involves a longer drive it will give us the opportunity to see the changes that have been taking place at this less formal garden. The visit is open to non-members who can pay just £5 to join our society. The normal entrance fee is £16.80 at the gate. The cost of coaches is prohibitive so we travel by car and can arrange car sharing for non-drivers. If you are interested contact me, Doreen Woods, via our website www.bovingdonhortsoc.org.uk

We hope to see you this year at one of our events... and happy gardening!

Doreen Woods, 833520 / www.bovingdonhortsoc.org.uk

Bovingdon Lunch Club

Bovingdon Lunch Club has taken place in St Lawrence Church Hall since the loosening of COVID restrictions but sadly we had to leave earlier this year, and now meet up in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall, who have welcomed us with open arms, but we thoroughly enjoyed our final Christmas lunch last December in St Lawrence Hall, as can be seen from the photo below.



We meet up every Friday lunchtime, for a chat and a two-course lunch; consisting of a mixture of newcomers to the village and life-long Bovingdon residents, the Lunch Club is a great place to make new friends, have fun and enjoy good company. Coming up we are planning commemorating the 80th anniversaries of both VE and VJ

Days, plus an afternoon tea if the sun shines. If you would like further information on Lunch Club, please contact us on the details below.

Sue Miller, 832569 / Sue Sturtivant, 833023

Bovingdon Baptist Church

High Street, Bovingdon HP3 0HG www.bovingdonbaptist.org.uk

£20/hour whole church, including kitchen

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News from St Lawrence



We were delighted to welcome large congregations to our services at Christmas and look forward to doing so again this Easter. Meanwhile our regular pattern of Sunday worship and mid-week activities continues, aiming to cater for all ages. A particular highlight is our work with young children and families: a weekly 30 minute informal Family Praise service, monthly groups for Explorers (7-11), older children (9-13) and Messy Church for families. If you or your children want to find out more about the Christian faith and what goes on at church, check our website for details, contact me at the address below, or just come along one Sunday — you will be very welcome.

We are still in full fund-raising mode for our 'Patience' project, aiming to raise a total of £1.6m to build an annexe on the church (replacing the hall in Vicarage Lane) and create a warm, flexible and welcoming space in the church itself. At the time of writing we have raised £970,000 and we are now appealing to the whole of Bovingdon to come out and support this exciting project, which will benefit church and community alike.

St Lawrence Hall in Vicarage Lane was sold on 30th April and we have worked with our hall users to find them temporary accommodation elsewhere. This sale means that we have now raised over 50% of what we need, and this enables us to apply for grants to several charitable trusts.

The St Lawrence Music Club is holding monthly concerts and musical events, both to raise funds for our 'Patience' appeal and also to highlight what a brilliant facility our church is for community events. We've had jazz, opera, the Community Choir, and classical song so far; we will continue with a variety of musical styles to suit all tastes.

Alongside this we have our usual events planned: our Church Summer Fête (Saturday 14th June), Hallowe'en Light Party (31st October) and Christmas Market (15th November). These are fun community events and we would love to see you there. We will also have a tea tent and craft activities at the Car Show on the green (6th July) and are grateful to the organisers for making our 'Patience' project one of the local groups to benefit from the proceeds of this event.

Whether you are new to Bovingdon, or have lived here for decades, and whatever your beliefs, you are always welcome to join us for one of our services or simply to call in (the church is open every day) for a few moments of peaceful contemplation.

With prayers and best wishes

Rev'd Canon Charles Burch, Vicar of Bovingdon
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The Friends of St Lawrence Church

Registered Charity No. 1112950

The Friends of St Lawrence Church is a charitable trust and exists to help ensure the preservation of Bovingdon's Parish church and churchyard for current and future generations.

We are a registered charity that is independent from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) but we collaborate closely with it to fulfil our objectives, but we have decided to curtail our activities whilst St Lawrence is actively engaged in raising the money required for building its annexe. No doubt you will read more about this elsewhere in this publication.

We did, however, hold our annual coffee morning in May. As foretold it was held in Red Lion Cottage, hosted by Marion Perkins. We were blessed with a beautiful day which complemented her lovely garden. The Ladybirds turned out in strength and contributed to us raising £1,128, almost back to pre-pandemic levels.

Our 2024 Christmas card was also a success. Marion Perkins kindly donated a painting of the church, which we reproduced for the card. It was a beautiful card and, despite the general reduction in sending Christmas cards, all 1,500 were sold generating a surplus of £573 on sales.

During the year we donated £29,604 to St Lawrence Church. Of this figure, £24,331 was for the essential repairs to the troublesome south-east corner of the chancel. This brought our contribution to these repairs to £46,520: a lot of money but the work has now been completed. It has caused a massive reduction in our funds, carefully garnered over recent years.

Our reserves were down to just £13,435 at the end of December of which £5,000 is held for the maintenance of the churchyard. The reduction in our funds means that we will not be able to finance the much-needed redecoration of the interior of the church; this means this has now been delayed until the completion of the building project by which time we hope to have raised further funds.

On 13th May, we will be holding our annual coffee morning. This year it will be hosted by Jane Caley at Maulden Orchard, which is just at the end of Long Lane. We look forward to seeing you there.

In common with other village undertakings the availability of volunteers is an on-going problem. People lead very busy lives these days and our regular volunteers are not getting any younger. We will be delighted to hear from anybody who would like to help us.

With best wishes for 2025.

*John Walker, FoSL Chairman
834025 / john@adaptainer.co.uk*

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MARINA PILATES, A BOUTIQUE FITNESS STUDIO, HERE IN BOVINGDON

Boutique fitness studios have become increasingly popular, offering a more personalised and community focused alternative to traditional gyms. These specialised studios focus on specific workouts such as Pilates, providing a welcoming space where clients receive expert guidance and support.

People are drawn to boutique studios for their sense of community and expert led sessions, making workouts more engaging and effective. With a focus on quality over quantity, they provide a refreshing and motivating way to stay fit.

Marina Inez Pilates is a boutique Pilates and fitness studio right here in Bovingdon, a unique studio specifically designed for smaller, more personalised classes. Ensuring each individual receives attention, allowing you to improve your wellbeing, progress at your own pace, build strength and refine your technique, in a friendly, supportive environment.

To find out how I can help you, get in touch. Contact details below.



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EMAIL: HELLO@MARINAPILATES.COM



Bovingdon Bowls Club



Our Thursday and Sunday morning winter leagues are building to exciting finishes, with Welwyn currently in prime position. They have become serial winners in recent years, and certainly do set a very high standard for all of the other teams involved to aspire to. The real winners, of course, are Bovingdon, as hosts who provide such a friendly and enjoyable experience for all participants. Soup at half-time and a light meal after the game provide an opportunity for all eight teams involved on any one day to get together and have a natter and a laugh. The winter league was established more than 30 years ago and still enjoys unwavering success, with a number of outside teams hoping to join us. We thank Andy Smith and Dave Horsley for excellent administration of the two leagues.

Even before the winter leagues have finished we look forward to a greatly anticipated summer programme. Fixtures secretary, Jennie Sylvester, has been her usual diligent self, producing a full and challenging diary to keep us all occupied throughout the summer and, in addition to these, we will be running a third Vets team who will start in the new 5th division of the Watford & District League. She is also preparing for this year's British tour to Weymouth in June. Last year's tour to Torremolinos seems a distant memory now. Social secretary, Debbie Smith, is helping to keep our full social life active with the recent quiz night and another evening with the very popular Cockney Sovereign.

These are exciting times at the bowls club, with the proposed move to the new development at Grange Farm holding a major place in our current thoughts. It is true that our first thoughts regarding this were (and to some extent still are) that we would be reluctant to lose our prime position in the centre of the village, where, for many years, we have been part and parcel of village life, opening our doors to various groups and not just for our own members. We are immensely proud of our high quality accommodation, which was fully funded by ourselves and gives rise to further reluctance to give it up. On the other hand we are aware that there is a need for more housing, particularly for our youngsters, and the development team are committed to providing us with a fine playing area and accommodation that will be at least to the standard we enjoy at the moment, and our meetings with them so far have been positive. Should things progress without too many hitches we have been told that we could be in place in time for our 75th anniversary in two years time.

I am sad to report of the passing of Tony Denton, a valued member, this year and also that of Sheila Emberton, a member from the Radlett club; both will be missed very much. It is probably a reflection of the bowls world that members from other clubs can be held in such high esteem — perhaps it's why we play this lovely game.

We will be holding *Give Bowls a Try* days on Saturday 19th April and Monday 5th May (10am-2pm) and would love to see you if you fancy a try out. You won't need to bring anything as all equipment will be provided. The only thing we ask is that you wear flat-soled footwear (trainers are fine). There are a number of members who are very happy to spend time helping newcomers to the game, so you will have friendly faces to get you started. If you are unable to attend, but would like to find out more about us please contact our secretary Andy Smith, 07432 082299 / andy.cfc.smith@btinternet.com or email Steve Woods at steveawoods@btinternet.com

Bovingdon Memorial Hall

Registered Charity No. 238850 / Gift Aid XR97748

The Memorial Hall is located in the heart of the village and is an ideal venue for parties, christenings, weddings or any other social gathering. The Hall, run by the Parish Council via the Hall Management Committee, is the centre of a wide variety of regular village activities, including a pre-school, dance and theatre groups, exercise classes, local clubs and dog training to name but a few. Horticultural shows, a monthly village market (selling homemade produce) and private functions also make full use of its many facilities.

Further information and hall hire charges can be found on the Parish Council website
www.bovingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facilities include:

- Main Hall including Kitchen and Garden (maximum 130 seated) •
- Clubroom (maximum 30 seated) • Large production stage in Main Hall •
- Large enclosed rear garden • Internal and external toilets for the disabled •
- Loop system (for the benefit of the hard of hearing) in the Main Hall •
- A fully equipped kitchen • Projector screens in Main Hall and Clubroom •
- Projection stand • Table tennis table • PA system in the Main Hall •



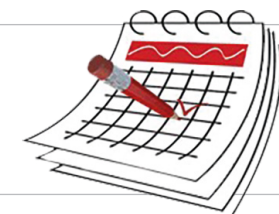
Keep an eye out on the noticeboards for posters and updates on what is happening in the Hall

**To view the hall or to make a booking,
please contact Gemma or Lisa at the Parish Office
833036 or email office@bovingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Babies and Toddlers	Hayley Miller	07957 663324
Bovingdon Connect	Careline	07376 832999
Bovingdon Gardeners	Doreen Woods	833520
Bovingdon Players	Robert Peacock	info@bovingdonplayers.com
Bovingdon Primary Academy	School Office	406545
Bovingdon Village Facebook	www.facebook.com/groups/bovingdon	
Bovingdon Village Market	Julie Steer	07803 141254
Bovingdon Villager	Gary Cullum	927222 / 07768 774355
Bovingdon WI	Alison Walker	bovingdonwi@gmail.com
Bowls Club	Andy Smith	bovingdonbowlsclub@hotmail.com
Boxmoor Trust Office		253300
CAD Volunteer Centre	Matt Hatton	matt@communityactiondacorum.org.uk
Child Health Clinic	Health Visitor	0300 123 7572
Churches	Baptist	07368 322363
	Catholic — Rector Michele du Saire	01923 264377
	St Lawrence — Rev Charles Burch	833298
Cricket Club	Jamie Banner	07599 578845
Crimestoppers		0800 555111
Cubs and Scouts	Michelle Black	07713 741483
Fire — Hemel Fire Station		265028
Fire — Home & Safety	www.hertsdirect.org/fire	0300 123 4046
Football Club		bovingdonfc@gmail.com
Friends of St Lawrence	John Walker	834025
Hatha Yoga	Jo Bain	jo@bain-family.org
Hearing Aid Clinic		07547 579998
HMP The Mount	Prison / Visitor Centre	836300 / 836516
Ladybirds	Sue Baxter	831804 / 07547 579998
Library	Enquiries & Mobile Service	0300 123 4049
Lunch Club (Over 60s)	Sue Miller	832569
Parish Clerk	Gemma Coventry	833036
Police — Hemel Hempstead	www.herts.police.uk	101
Pre-School	Pre-School Office	07549 019445
Rainbows and Brownies	Karen Dance	07785 983775 / kdance66@gmail.com
Shopmobility	Marlowes, Level A Blue Car Park	259259
St Lawrence Baptism Team	Karen Wright	baptism@stlawrencebovingdon.com
St Lawrence Welcome Café	Helen Campbell	833298
Tennis Club	Andy Ferguson	07493 002596
	Membership Secretary	admin@bftc.club

Key

B	Bowls Club	LIB	Library
BC	Baptist Church	MH	Memorial Hall
BG	Bovingdon Green	STL	St Lawrence Church
BPA	Primary Academy	T	Tennis Club
C	Clubroom, MH		



May 2025

5	B	Mon	10am	Bowls Club: <i>Give Bowls a Try</i> Day
10	MH	Sat	9:30am	Bovingdon Gardeners Plant Sale
12	MH	Mon	7:30pm	BPC: AGM Parish/Parish Council
13		Tue	10:30am	FoSL Coffee Morning (Maulden Orchard, Long Lane)
14	BC	Wed	7:30pm	Evening WI: AGM and Quiz (incl cheese and wine)
19	MH	Mon	7pm	Ladybirds
31				Scarecrow Festival (around the village until 14 th June)

June 2025

2	MH	Mon	7pm	Ladybirds
9	MH	Mon	7pm	Ladybirds
11	BC	Wed	7:30pm	Evening WI: Strawberries and Cava
14	STL	Sat	2pm	St Lawrence Church Summer Fête
23	MH	Mon	7:30pm	BPS: Parish Council Meeting
28	MH	Sat	TBC	Bovingdon Gardeners Summer Show
28	BPA	Sat	TBC	Bovingdon Primary Academy Summer Fête

July 2025

2		Wed	TBC	St Lawrence Open Gardens
6	BG	Sat	12noon	Classic Car Show and Summer Fayre
7	MH	Mon	7pm	Ladybirds
9	BC	Wed	7:30pm	Evening WI: <i>Jazzy Rose Flowers</i> with Lisa Comfort
21	MH	Mon	7pm	Ladybirds

August 2025

13	TBC	Wed	12:30pm	Evening WI: Garden Meeting with lunch
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September 2025

1	MH	Mon	7:30pm	BPC: Parish Council Meeting
3	STL	Wed	TBC	St Lawrence: Back to School BBQ
8	MH	Mon	7pm	Ladybirds
10	BC	Wed	7:30pm	Evening WI: <i>Patterned Path to Freedom</i> with Kay Goddard
13	MH	Sat	TBC	Bovingdon Gardeners Summer Show
22	MH	Mon	7pm	Ladybirds

October 2025

5	STL	Sun	10am	St Lawrence: Harvest Festival Service
8	BC	Wed	7:30pm	Evening WI: <i>Mosaic Art</i> with Michael Groom
31	STL	Fri	TBC	St Lawrence: Light Party

Page Listing	Company Name	Contact
37 Computer Tuition	Reeboot, Karen Cramer-Smer	388537
7 Butchers	R A Fyfes, Andy Fyfe	833492
7 Design and Layout	Steph Farrer	07913 086477
17 Dance Classes	Bovingdon Dance Academy	07872 338836
7 Digital Transcription	Steph Farrer	07913 086477
45 Driving Instructor	Pete Moore	07879 831750 / 832889
31 Education	Westbrook Hay	256143
45 Fuel Merchant	G C Parish & Sons	832224 / 832341
11 Garage Services	Bowron Motorcare	07860 882970 / 834634
17 Gutter Cleaning/Repairs	Gutterbuster, Adam Cooper	07749 977997 / 874540
15 Hall Lettings	Baptist Church hallhire.bovingdonbaptist@gmail.com	
21 Hall Lettings	Memorial Hall	833036
9 Hearing Aids	Halo Hearing Solutions	389949
37 Home Care	Hub Care Support	01923 624604
39 Market	Bov. Village Market, Julie Steer	07803 141254
33 Pest Control	Hope's Pest Solutions, Pete Hope	07717 190614
15 Painter/Decorator	Allan Brown	832103
45 Painter/Decorator	David Towse	07984 760912
19 Pilates	Marina Pilates	07930 350981
15 Planning Drawings	John Galvin	07841 861298 / 834284
43 Plumbing	AA Plumbing Solutions	07782 122555
31 Plumbing and Heating	Manor Heating, Vic McDonald	07712 265034 / 834373
41 Pre-School	Bovingdon Pre-School	07549 019445
13 Roofing Contractor	Roman Roofing, John Croft	07720 860979
35 Venue Hire/Golf	Little Hay Golf Complex	952444
11 Veterinary Practice	Hope Vets	833198
37 Wasp Control	The Wasp Man, David Jess	07590 575927
47 Zumba Classes	Tally's Training, Tally	07562 369810

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C	Clubroom, MH	TT	Term time only
FC	Football Club		



Monday

MH	9am-3pm	Bovingdon Pre-School TT
Online	9:15am-10:30am	Hatha Yoga
C	9:15am-10:45am	Bovingdon Baby & Toddler Group
LIB	10am-12noon	Knitting Group
C	2pm-4pm	The Art Group
LIB	3:30pm-4:30pm	Lego Club
BPA	5pm-6pm	Beavers TT
BC	6pm-7pm	Pilates (Lisa Giles)
BPA	6pm-7:30pm	Cubs TT
MH	7pm-9pm	Ladybirds (fortnightly)
BPA	7:30pm-9pm	Scouts TT

Tuesday

MH	9am-3pm	Bovingdon Pre-School TT
LIB	9am-11am	Toddler Tales
C	2pm-3pm	Child Health Clinic (fortnightly)
C	2pm-3:30pm	Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service (1st Tuesday)
C	3pm-4:30pm	St Lawrence: Tea Time (3rd Tuesday)
MH	4pm-5:45pm	Bovingdon Dance Academy
LIB	6pm-8pm	Scrabble Club (1st/3rd each month)
MH	6pm-8:30pm	Kredible Kg (puppy/dog obedience classes)

Wednesday

C	9am-3pm	Bovingdon Pre-School TT
C	9:15am-10:45am	Bovingdon Baby & Toddler Group
LIB	10am-11:30am	Baptist Church Coffee Morning (1st and 3rd Wednesday)
T	From 5pm	Adult Social Tennis
MH	5:45pm-6:45pm	Tally's Training
MH	7pm-8:15pm	Hatha Yoga
BC	7:30pm-9:30pm	Bovingdon WI (2nd Wednesday)

Thursday

MH	9am-1:30pm	Bovingdon Pre-School TT
C	9:30am-12noon	STL Welcome Café (Oct-Mar)
C	1:30pm-3pm	Bovingdon Pre-School TT
MH	6:15pm-7:15pm	Bovingdon Yoga Fitness
LIB	7:30pm-8:45pm	Singing for Fun



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Steph Farrer, Publisher, Bovingdon News
steph.farrer@icloud.com / 07913 086477

General

Dacorum BC	Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead (www.dacorum.gov.uk)	228000
Dog Warden		228418
Drainage Problems	Council Tenants	228666
	Public Drains, Thames Water	0845 920 0800
Environmental Health		228455
Handy Person Scheme	Age Concern Dacorum	259049
Hertfordshire CC	County Hall, Hertford SG13 8DE	01992 555555
Mediation Hertfordshire	help@mediationherts.org.uk	268044
Pest Control		228275
Wasp Nests	Dacorum Call Centre	867867

Dacorum Fault Reporting — Self-help

You can report faults in Dacorum such as abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, fly tipping, waste collection issues and more... see www.dacorum.gov.uk for more details.

Refuse Bank Holiday Collections

Details of Bank Holiday collection dates will be published in local press and will also be available on the Dacorum website: www.dacorum.gov.uk

Herts Highways Fault Reporting — Self-help

You can report faults in Hertfordshire such as potholes, street light issues, traffic signal problems and more. You will get a reference number and can enter an email address to receive updates. See the website for more details.

www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/highways/hhonlineservices/hfr/

Public Transport

Intalink (Herts. Buses)	0300 123 4050	www.intalink.org.uk
London Underground	0845 330 9880	www.tfl.gov.uk/tube
National Rail Enquiries	08457 484950	www.nationalrail.co.uk

Utilities

Electric Hazard		0800 404090
Power Failure (local provider)	www.nationalgrid.com/UK/Safety/Power-cut/	
Gas Leaks		0800 111999
Water Leaks	www.thameswater.co.uk/reportaleakonline	
Sewage Emergencies		0845 9200 800

Village Medical Services

Chemist	Manor Pharmacy	37 High Street	832127
Dentist	Bovingdon Dental	60 High Street	832212
	Laurel Cottage	57 High Street	833922
Doctor	Archway Surgery	52 High Street	833380
	Longmeadow Surgery	16 High Street	833295

**Key**

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C	Clubroom, MH	TT	Term time only
FC	Football Club		

**Friday**

C	9am-3pm	Bovingdon Pre-School TT
T	From 9:15am	Ladies Tennis
C	11:30am-1:30pm	Bovingdon Lunch Club (Over 60s)

Saturday

T	From 8am	Tennis — Men's Practice
BC	8:30am-12:30pm	Bovingdon Dance Academy
MH	10am-11am	Horticultural Society Supply Hut (rear of MH)
MH	10am-12noon	Bovingdon Village Market (3 rd Saturday)
T	From 2pm	Social Tennis

Sunday

T	From 11am	Social Tennis
STL	8am	St Lawrence: Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer
STL	10am	St Lawrence: Family Communion (1 st Sunday Only)
STL	9:30am	St Lawrence: Family Praise (all other Sundays)
STL	10:30am	St Lawrence: Parish Communion or Morning Prayer
BC	10:30am	Baptist Church: Sunday Service

BPC Planning Committee Meetings to be held in the Clubroom at 6:30pm on
19th May, 2nd and 23rd Jun, 14th Jul, 4th and 25th Aug, 22nd Sept, 6th and 20th Oct

Please note: the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the BPC AGM will take place in the Memorial Hall on Monday 12th May at 7:30pm; all village residents are welcome to attend.

Village Diary/Regular Events Listings

If you have any events (either regular events or a one-off) you wish to publicise in the Village Diary or Regular Event listings, please send the details to me and I will ensure their inclusion in the relevant issue — thank you.

Steph Farrer, Editor, Bovingdon News
steph.farrer@icloud.com / 07913 086477





Bovingdon Scarecrow Festival 2025

31st May — 14th June 2025

www.bovingdoncommunityevents.co.uk

SPOT THE SCARECROWS!!!

Bovingdon's inaugural Scarecrow Festival is set to start on Saturday 31st May and will run for two weeks, with prizes awarded at the St Lawrence Church Summer Fête on Saturday 14th June.

But what's a Scarecrow Festival, we hear you ask? Families make themed scarecrows from straw, clothing, hats, old shoes or welly boots etc (if you are old enough, think Penny for the Guy) and display them outside their homes. Villagers and visitors can then buy a Festival Programme throughout May (£5 from Jarmans), which will contain a map/list of all addresses to visit, so you can view the scarecrows and vote for your favourites!

HOW TO TAKE PART..

To enter a scarecrow, download a registration form from the website (or contact The Village office on 927000/news@thebovingdonvillager.co.uk). You must register your scarecrow by Sunday 4th May, and it must be displayed in front of your home or business between 31st May-14th June. Public voting will take place between these dates, but you can display your scarecrow sooner if you wish. The Festival is **FREE TO ENTER**, and straw for 'stuffing' will be supplied **FOC** too, courtesy of Harvey Mash of local farming company WJ & M Mash, and will be made available in advance of the festival from the old scout hut site in St Lawrence Close. Details of the days and times when it can be collected will be posted on social media.

PICK A WINNER — WHO WILL IT BE???

Prizes awarded on 14th June at St Lawrence Church Summer Fête for:

**Best Scarecrow • Best Use of Recycled Materials
Funniest Scarecrow**

For this first year, all scarecrows are to be themed as 'Celebrities and Famous People' "... as we decided on a nice and loose description to make it easy for entrants, and the aim is to build it into an annual fund-raiser for local good causes," says the community events team.

Bovingdon WI

The WI was formed over 100 years ago and is the largest woman's voluntary organisation in the UK. Later this year Bovingdon WI will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Will Bovingdon WI meet another milestone birthday? We need a group of ladies from whichever generation you belong to: Baby Boomers, Gen X, the Millennial, or Gen Z generations, to keep the WI going with new ideas and activities to suit all ladies in the village. There is room in the WI for all ages, as the ethos of the WI is to *inspire women*. Can you and your friends rise to the challenge and join Bovingdon WI so we can reach another milestone birthday?

Meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month in the Bovingdon Baptist Church starting at 7:30pm. See our programme in the library or in Bovingdon News, or our posts on Facebook, and our charity for 2025 is Riding for the Disabled situated at Bank Farm Ashley Green.



This autumn/winter members and visitors have heard about Victorian London and also the history of local paper making at Frogmore Mill. We have appreciated autumnal cookery, enjoyed an autumn quiz, admired a range of crafted items in various autumnal colours, and ate a Fish & Chip supper. In December we were entertained with songs of our youth (60s, 70s and 80s) sung by *Just Dave* and his guitar.

The new year saw a change of programme when we travelled through the Low Countries with Nigel Hollington, to the sites of Operation Market Garden (1944). These included seeing the rivers that were crossed, the bridges that were captured and significant memorials and buildings. We also heard stories of heroism and sacrifice (both army and civilian).

In February we welcomed Etta from the ethical and sustainable cosmetics company, Tropic. She showed us, via a practical makeup demonstration (on a willing volunteer), the processes involved and how she uses the products to maximum benefit. The results were really obvious and made a distinct difference. Etta made herself available to answer individual skincare/makeup problems with several members.

Members continue to enjoy monthly lunches and occasional evening meals at local hostleries. We have also started meeting up for coffee, cake and chat: sometimes at Chipperfield Garden Centre or the Two Brewers.



Do take a look at our programme and come and join us if you see anything of interest. In May several of us will be joining with other WIs in the Ashridge Group, for a day at the RHS Garden at Wisley. We are hoping for a sunny dry day to appreciate all the wonderful garden displays.

Contact me on the details below if you would like to know more about the WI in Bovingdon.

Alison Walker, 07711 696263 / bovingdonwi@gmail.com

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News from Bovingdon Baptist Church

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

Our mission is: *To love God more, to love each other more and to love our neighbours more.*

We are a small, informal and friendly church, meeting every Sunday at 10:30am, in our warm and inviting chapel, to sing songs of worship, pray and hear a bible-based talk, followed by refreshments. We have a variety of monthly events, as well as special Christian celebrations.

We currently do not have a minister and we do not know who God has lined up for us, or when they will join us. However, in the meantime, we have Maureen, a wonderful new helper (known as a moderator), to support us on our continuing journey of friendship, love, prayer and learning more about Jesus, as well as helping us find a new Minister. Maureen leads us once a month(ish) in worship and learning and we are amply supported by other visiting speakers who regularly share their thoughts and understanding of the Bible.

We are currently learning more about being a Christian through reading Ephesians. This book is written by a man called Paul who, before knowing Jesus, terrorised and executed many Christians. His life changed following an encounter with Jesus and he ended up writing, from prison, letters to Christians that later became books in the Bible. Ephesians is all about coming together; uniting diverse backgrounds in the love of God, and how this togetherness should be reflected in our own lives through giving love and taking action, in both the church and our personal relationships.

Those who come to the church, be it for our Special Christmas or Easter Service, one Sunday when they feel like 'giving it a go', or those who come regularly, tell us they feel welcomed and relaxed, and those that stay, say there is a sense of being in an extended family; a feeling of belonging and a bond of togetherness, where everyone is valued.

We continue to meet all year round and invite you to come along whenever you feel ready. Over the school summer break, many of our regular members take holidays but although smaller in number, we continue to meet and share encouraging words, thoughts and ideas together.

You do not have to be a Christian to come to church. You may be quite sceptical, you may want to find out more, or you may just want a good coffee! Whatever the reason, we will welcome you. Whether you come alone, with a friend, or as a family, we will welcome you. Whether you are old or young, we will welcome you. Whether you are single, divorced, married, in a partnership or widowed, we will welcome you. Whether you are full of joy and hope, or are in need of some comfort and support, we will welcome you. When younger children come along, we provide beautiful handmade bags full of toys, books and activities to help entertain, so please, do come, we will welcome you.



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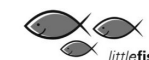
Celebrate the arrival of your little miracle with a joyful christening at your local Church — St Lawrence.

Newcomers welcome

Find out more by contacting
Karen — baptism@stlawrencebovingdon.com



www.stlawrencebovingdon.com



News from Bovingdon Baptist Church (cont'd)

If 10:30am on a Sunday is inconvenient, do feel able to join us at any of our other events:

- Coffee Mornings at 10am on the first and third Wednesday of the month, held in Bovingdon Library.
- Our Monthly Walk, Talk and Coffee, where we meet at 9:30am on the second Saturday of the month at Chipperfield Common, for a walk of 2-3 miles (dogs welcome) followed by coffee at the local pub at 11am. Come to both or either! Please ring (07368 322363) for further information if you would like to join us!
- A Men's Social Evening, 7pm on first Monday of the month (ring 07368 322363 for a warm welcome and more details)

Just in case you don't know where we are, we are along the long driveway, just past the Cutting Garden (as you walk up the High Street) — look out for the blue and yellow double doors painted in support of Ukraine. Or sneak in the back door, off Apple Cottages (most of us do!) For more information, visit our website www.bovingdonbaptist.org.uk, check out our Facebook page, call us on 07368 322363 or see the display in the library. We hope to see you soon!

BBC Leadership Team, 07368 322363

Ladybirds Women's Club

Who are the Ladybirds? Probably one of your neighbours, the lady in the library, the village market, village choir, the Welcome Café, Friday Lunch Club and numerous other places in Bovingdon. Let me explain: we are a group of women of varying ages who meet in the Memorial Hall on a Monday evening, about twice a month, although in the dark winter months of January and February when nobody wants to venture out, we meet in the afternoon. We are a very friendly, easy to chat to bunch.

What do Ladybirds do? Well, in the last six months we have had a number of guest speakers who have talked to us about Medical Detection Dogs, Hub Care and Working on Documentaries. We have also had an extremely interesting presentation on Scams (we learnt a lot from this), and one of our members was made glamorous with a Makeover Makeup. All this plus a really enjoyable Christmas Lunch at Little Hay and a couple of Tea Socials.

What are Ladybirds plans for this year? This year is our 60th Anniversary and we have arranged a very special outing to a boat, the Tereza Joanne, which is docked on the Thames in London where we will enjoy a traditional Cockney meal and musical hall entertainment.

We will also be welcoming speakers on subjects such as seasonal gardening given by a local nursery, current projects given by a local trust, travel, reflexology, mosaics and Gary from The Villager will be talking to us about current issues. In addition we have our annual Garden Party and Summer Socials to look forward to... so a busy and sociable six months.

Who can join Ladybirds? Why don't YOU come along and join us, you will be made very welcome.

Pearl Bowler / Linda Comerford, Joint Secretaries

07796 173069 / 07800 589299

34 Bovingdon News May 2025



 little hay
golf complex

Beyond the greens, Little Hay is a haven...

RECREATION ~ RELAXATION ~ CELEBRATION

When you think of Little Hay Golf Complex, you might envision a pristine golf course designed to challenge your swing and improve your game. However, there's so much more to this Hertfordshire gem than just the fairways and greens. Little Hay Golf Complex is a hub for outdoor recreation, a social spot for lunch with friends and family, and an ideal venue for celebrations and corporate events. OPEN 7 days a week.



Par 3 Suite for Hire

We are open to all so join us for morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea, our Sunday Carvery or just drinks on the terrace, you will find our Par 3 Suite has it all...

And is perfect for any celebration from conferences and events to weddings, birthdays and anniversaries.



Not Forgetting the Golf

With a wide range of golfing activities available at Little Hay, there is something for everybody be they a beginner or the advanced golfer...

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 little hay
golf complex

Box Lane, Bovingdon, HP3 0DT
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Bovingdon Community Library

Run by volunteers and still continuing to open for 30 hours a week, the library offers a wide range of services beyond just books including **Knitting Group** (Mon 10-12am), **Lego Club** (Mon 3:30-4:30pm), **Toddler Tales** (Tue 9-11am), **Scrabble Club** (1st/3rd Tue 6-8pm), **Coffee Morning** (1st/3rd Wed 10-12am), and **Singing for Fun** (Thu 7:30-8:45pm)



Other facilities/services include photocopying, laminating, two-hour free internet use for library card holders, jigsaws, book sale trolley, daily newspaper, magazines available for one-week loan, audio books, activities for children during the holidays, plus a wide range of books for children, teenagers and adults for three-week loan.

Hertfordshire libraries are celebrating 100 years this year, and will be running additional activities; please keep an eye out for the posters. In the meantime, pop in and visit us or check out our noticeboards (in the library, the Memorial Hall or at the corner of Hyde Meadows for village-wide events, volunteering opportunities, village groups and clubs, and historic village photographs.

The Bovingdon Academy second-hand uniform clothes rail is also available; we just ask for a cash donation (all monies raised go to BAPA). Any clothing donations can be handed into the library or the school.

Any changes to opening hours will be displayed at the front of the library, but our current opening times are as follows:

Monday — 9-6pm
Thursday — 1-6pm

Tuesday — 9-6pm
Friday — 9-1pm

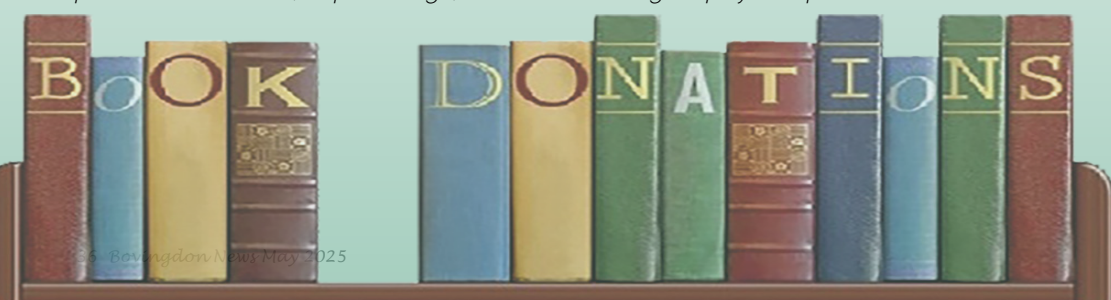
Wednesday — CLOSED
Saturday — 10-1pm

We thank you all for your continued support of our library, and we hope you will consider volunteering with us or with another local group. I would also like to personally thank all the library volunteers for their continuing support and the hours they put in.

Julie Steer, Chair, Bovingdon Library Committee

DONATIONS

If you have any good quality books, recent releases, adult or child, which are now just sitting on the shelf, please consider donating them to the library. We can only accept books in good condition, recently published; there is a donation bin just inside the library. Where possible, we will add the books to library stock or, if they cannot be added, we will sell them, and any proceeds will go towards buying new books and supporting activities. If you have any jigsaws for adults or children, Duplo or Lego, these will also be gratefully accepted.



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Bovingdon Cricket Club



Since the last issue of Bovingdon News was published last November, much has happened within Bovingdon Cricket Club. At the AGM the same month, club stalwart and legend Mark Carine stepped down as secretary after 22 years and was honoured with the club's highest accolade. Lifelong member Mark was appointed as a life-present in recognition of his service to the club that has played cricket in the village for more than 170 years. He joins his father, mother and brother in being honoured for their contribution to the club. Mark joins his father Les in the lifetime role that has only ever been awarded on 14 previous occasions. Mark's mother Janet and brother Peter are both vice-presidents.

Youth development officer Jamie Banner was appointed at the meeting to succeed Mark as secretary, and there was a bouquet of flowers for Nicola Hazelton who stepped down as club safeguarding officer after eight years.

Meanwhile youth cricket is in the ascendancy. A new Under-9 team, Bovingdon Thunder, has been formed (a mixed- gender team) and will play ten matches against local clubs in a junior league, lead by the existing coaching staff, with the season about to start as this edition of Bovingdon News went to press. The club believes that juniors are the future of the club and they are the key to the longevity of cricket in Bovingdon in the future.

On Friday evening throughout May and June, it's the turn of the All Stars and Dynamos — the junior cricket stars of the future. Almost 100 youngsters, both boys and girls, participated last year and the scheme for this year has just been launched — do watch Facebook for more details. Allstars and Dynamos sessions will start this year on Friday 9th May and the booking system will be live by the time you read this. We are currently building our team of coaches and have nine qualified coaches. Please contact juniors@bovingdon-cc.co.uk, or either Darren (07970 675687) or Tom (07595 937692) to get involved.

The Allstars and Dynamos play a crucial role in nurturing young talent and building a robust foundation for Bovingdon Thunder and other Colts teams. By offering structured training, competitive match experience, and emphasising skill development at an early stage, these feeder teams ensure a steady pipeline of well-prepared players.

As I type, the fixtures lists are being finalised and the cricket square is looking superb: crisp mown lines on the diagonal, the grass fully restored from last season's rigorous use by a growing number of local teams. Big thanks for this bowling carpet are due to our groundsman, Craig Ringsell, and his hardworking team. No village green looks complete without a cricket pitch does it? With that gentle sound of leather on willow as spring turns into summer.

Leverstock Green will again play cricket in the village on Saturdays while we strive to rebuild a Saturday side for the Herts league over the coming years. That said, there has probably never been more cricket played in the village. The BMWs — the Bovingdon Mid Weekers, led by Water Lane resident Shaun Mills — have a full fixtures list for the coming season while our Sunday team, led by Afzal Rahman has a full fixtures programme too. Add in the juniors throughout the summer and it's a pretty full programme of cricket locally.

For more details or to enrol your youngsters, give Jamie a call on 07599 578845, or drop me an email and I'll put you in touch.

Gary Cullum, Vice Chairman, Bovingdon Cricket Club
07768 774355 / gc@cullumpublishing.co.uk

Bovingdon Village Market

10am-12noon

2024/2025

17th May • 21st Jun • 19th Jul • 16th Aug • 20th Sep • 18th Oct

The village market continues to grow with new stall holders and products, plus our regulars.

Homemade goodies: local honey, cakes, Eccles cakes, eggs, pies, pasties, sausage rolls, jams, curds, marmalade, chutneys and more...

Handmade cards for all occasions, wide range of crafts (bags, bunting, cushions, pictures), baby knits, handmade jewellery, Laser Monkey (house signs, wooden coasters, cheeseboards: laser designs etched while you wait), bird or bug boxes and garden fun, items crafted from

Clover's horse shoes and garden fun, clothes and denim designs etc, fun knits, local prints and cards, plants, seasonal veg, Neal's Yard Remedies, mosaics, lavender treats, Chocolate Orange and Ferrero knits, glass, second-hand books and jigsaws (monies collected for Bovingdon Community Library), teas and coffee, and much more...

All Enquiries: Contact Julie on

07803 141254



Shop and Support your Local Traders... Bovingdon Village Market is a non-profit making monthly market for the community. Monies raised are re-invested back into the village. The cost of a table is £5 medium and £7 large and the market is run by volunteers, supported by the stall holders and customers. Come and join us, or pop in for a treat, whether home-cooked or handmade...

Check Facebook for up-to-date list of stall holders.

St Lawrence Church Welcome Café

In 2022, St Lawrence Church introduced the Welcome Café to provide a space within the community for people from Bovingdon and surrounding villages to meet to have a warm drink and conversation. Since then, the café has gone from strength to strength and become a very popular community hub, offering a warm and friendly welcome for visitors on Thursday mornings. Last year, our café welcomed over 600 regular and occasional visitors and raised more than £1,000 in donations. Every penny of these donations was used to buy supermarket vouchers and food supplies for some of our neighbours who found themselves in financial hardship.

Traditionally, volunteers have hosted the café in St Lawrence Church in the summer months (May–September) and relocated to St Lawrence Church Hall for the winter months (October–April). However, St Lawrence Church Hall has recently been sold to raise funds for our planned St Lawrence Church annexe, so from 2nd October 2025, the café will move from St Lawrence Church to our new winter venue at Bovingdon Memorial Hall. The Welcome Café venue may change but our hospitality won't! We hope you will join us on Thursday mornings for coffee and cake, not forgetting treats for our canine visitors too!

The Welcome Café is run by volunteers. If anyone has an hour or two spare and would like to volunteer with us at the café or bake a cake to share, we will be delighted. Please contact the church office in Church Street, Bovingdon or speak to one of our volunteers at the Welcome Café.

Once again, many thanks to our volunteers and visitors for helping us make St Lawrence Church Welcome Café a great meeting place for members of our local community and for the donations which are helping our neighbours in financial hardship.

Help Rebuild Lives on the DENS Woodland Trail

Local charity, DENS, is thrilled to announce the launch of its brand-new fund-raising event, the Woodland Trail. Taking place on Saturday 21st June, this exciting challenge invites participants to walk or run their choice of five or ten-mile routes immersing themselves in stunning woodland scenery, while making a real difference in the community.

Starting from the historic Berkhamsted Castle, participants will follow well-signed trails through outstanding natural landscapes, before receiving a special finisher's token at the end of their adventure. Whether you're an experienced runner looking for a scenic challenge, a keen walker wanting to enjoy the beauty of nature, or someone in the community eager to push yourself to complete a long-distance route, the DENS Woodland Trail offers something for everyone. More than just a day out in nature, every step taken will help local individuals and families facing homelessness, poverty and social exclusion.

Booking for the DENS Woodland Trail is now open. For more information and to secure your places, visit www.dens.org.uk/trail.



Pre-School Enrolment

Term Time Only — Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm AM/PM/Full Day



Nestled in the heart of the community, Bovingdon Pre-School is run from the Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon HP3 0HJ.

We cater for children between the age of 2-5 years, creating a happy, caring environment where children feel nurtured and safe.

We strive to provide high quality learning opportunities alongside warmth and care.

For any enquiries:

Phone: 07549 019445

Email: admin@bovingdonpreschool.co.uk

Website: www.bovingdonpreschool.co.uk



Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club

Over the past year, the Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club has embraced the opportunity to continue enjoying tennis, despite some challenging weather. Thanks to our dedicated members and staff, we've kept a full schedule of tennis activities throughout the year.

We're also thrilled to announce that our Pickleball court is now up and running! Members have been enjoying this exciting addition to our club, and we have plans for more introductory sessions and social events this spring, leading into the summer months.

This year eight Bovingdon teams have been competing in the Aylesbury District Tennis League, which runs from October to April. We also have two women's teams and one men's team in the Hertfordshire Hot Rackets Competition, with matches held on Saturdays (away) and Sundays (home) during the summer months. Additionally, we are proud to have seven teams in the Watford and District Winter League, which runs from April to July. It's been an exciting season of competition, and we look forward to more success in the months ahead.

We are excited to announce that David Gray, our Senior Coach at the Club, will be leading our new coaching team, while our Junior Program continues to grow, offering sessions on Saturdays (9am-12noon), Mondays (5-6:30pm), and Tuesdays (5:30-7pm). We also offer Mixed Adult Drills for beginners and intermediates on Tuesday evenings (7-8:30pm). For more information on coaching, visit our website at www.bovingdontenniscub.co.uk.

We offer a variety of annual membership rates to suit all ages and levels from Full Adult Member at £212, Senior Member £171, Family Membership (two adults and up to four children in full-time education) £423, Juniors (10-15 yrs) £43, and Juniors (Under-10's) £27.

The Club continues to welcome new members, both young and old, and our members are drawn to our friendly and welcoming atmosphere, as well as the wide range of activities both on and off the court. If you're interested in joining us, why not come along to one of our social sessions to try us out? Simply contact our Head of Membership at membership@bftc.club for more details.

For non-members, our tennis courts are also available for booking 24 hours in advance for one-hour sessions. You can find more details about our membership options and court booking on our website.

We look forward to welcoming you soon at our Green Lane site.

Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club
membership@bftc.club / www.bovingdontenniscub.co.uk



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St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

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vicar@stlawrencebovingdon.com /

youthwork@stlawrencebovingdon.com

ALL WELCOME!

St Lawrence Churchyard

As I write, it is 20th March — the Spring, or Vernal Equinox. The clocks will change soon and by the time you read this in late April or early May, the days will be getting longer, with lighter evenings and, more importantly perhaps, we will have warmer days as we head towards summer.

Spring is such a wonderful time of year: all that new growth bursting into life all around us, and especially in Bovingdon's 4.5 acre St Lawrence churchyard, which has been full of snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, native pastel yellow primroses, wild hyacinth and is about to come alive under the canopy of the Austrian pines and ancient yews with a mix of English and Spanish bluebells.

Our first churchyard gardening session of the year was completed in March, tidying winter debris, and we moved into strimming and cutting mode in April. Chief lawn manager Paul Campbell had the sit-on mower in action today too for the first cut of the year; the main churchyard lawns always looks lovely when they've had a haircut. We are due a tree survey during April to ensure all trees are safe and well, and don't present a risk to the many people who find peace and tranquillity in the churchyard.

It's a big local community asset to keep neat and tidy, and we aim to achieve just the right balance — well-kempt, rural, but not overly manicured. If you are a regular user or have loved ones in the churchyard then I hope you agree that we usually have the balance just about right. If you have thoughts on the work the dedicated band of community volunteers carries out, or would like to join the gardening team, do make contact, as we are always in need of fresh arms and legs to keep on top of maintenance. My details are shown at the bottom of the page.

We meet on the first Saturday of the month for a maximum four hours from 9am-1pm with a tea/coffee and cake break at 11am. It's a good chance to have a catch-up with friends and villagers — and replace those calories burnt off during the morning.

I'm still on the look-out for another wheelbarrow if you have one redundant at the bottom of your garden, plus a couple of additional petrol-strimmer and lawnmower-owning volunteers to further strengthen the team. There's also the opportunity for anyone who would like to help start a mid-week team, as summer rain and sunshine really do make the grass, brambles, ivy, elder and self-seeded ash and holly grow... and all need dealing with throughout the gardening year.

The wild areas in the north-east corner are starting to grow — that's the area of the churchyard with many of the oldest graves and where we do not mow the grass until late summer and autumn so that the wildlife team can monitor the wild flowers and wild life.

As ever, I'll put out an appeal here to the dog owners — most are very responsible, but occasionally the churchyard team has to deal with a few deposits. As the signs at all three entrances state — please clear up after your pet

Many thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you if you'd like to join the volunteer gardening team.

Gary Cullum, St Lawrence Churchyard Officer
07768 774355/ gc@cullumpublishing.co.uk

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1st Bovingdon Rainbows and Brownies

Bovingdon Rainbows and Brownies have had yet another busy term working on programme badges. Presently we are enjoying many activities, including wellbeing Bingo, gifting plants, Valentine crafts, Spring Equinox, and Easter Egg hunts. Our last meeting was our presentation night where we presented many badges and awards to the girls. Both Rainbows and Brownies have been supporting our Division Country accommodation, Gaddesden Row, by completing 'Good turns'. Girlguides from Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted raised money to help with the refurbishment of our centre, and Gaddesden Row is used by many young ladies to enjoy a safe environment where they can have a full range of experiences, including crafting, cooking, camping, climbing, campfire, bug hunting, escape room and much more.



We are looking forward to our move from the Church Hall where we have been very happy to the Memorial Hall for our meetings after Easter. We would like to invite new members to our Rainbow unit, for girls aged four years to seven years; if you are interested in Rainbows, please register your daughters' details onto the Girlguiding website. We are also looking for leaders to help give young girls the opportunity to become empowered young ladies. Please contact Karen Dance — District Commissioner, or register your interest via the Girlguiding website.

*Karen Dance, HH South District Commissioner
Bovingdon Brownie Leader and Rainbow Leader*

Yoga — Time to Give it a Try?

Classes in Bovingdon Memorial Hall or on Zoom

The students in this long-established and friendly village group enjoy a class that combines a total body work out with the opportunity to relax and unwind. By combining the three key elements of yoga: controlled and focused movement, mindful stillness and concentration, and gentle but powerful breathing techniques, students work to become stronger and improve their suppleness, while simultaneously learning to feel calmer and more in control.



This Hatha yoga based class helps: stretch out tight muscles in a gentle way, release tension and increase flexibility, align the spine to relieve aching backs and end fatigue, build core and body strength to improve balance and posture, reduce stress through conscious breathing, and enhance powers of concentration. The class is suitable for all levels of ability from beginners to the experienced, whatever your age, gender or general fitness. Whether you want to return to yoga after a break or you've never tried it before, this is your opportunity to get involved. Please email me if you would be interested in joining either the Wednesday evening class, which runs from 7–8:15pm in the Memorial Hall and costs £8 per session, or the Monday Zoom class that runs from 9:15–10:30am and costs £7 per session, where you can practise from the comfort of your own home.

Namaste

Jo Bain, jo@bain-family.org / 07854 355291

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2025
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17th June
15th July
19th August
16th September
21st October
18th November
16th December

Tea Time is held on Tuesday's from 3pm
at in the club room at the Memorial Hall
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ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Dacorum Borough Council for Bovingdon, Flaunden, Chipperfield

Cllr. Gbola Adeleke	gbola.adeleke@dacorum.gov.uk	01442 240916
Cllr. Stewart Riddick	stewart.riddick@dacorum.gov.uk	07710 132985
Cllr. Phillip Walker	phillip.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	07899 925779

Hertfordshire County Council

Cllr. Richard Roberts	richard.roberts@hertfordshire.gov.uk	01992 556557
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Member of Parliament for Hemel Hempstead

The Rt Hon David Taylor MP	david.taylor.mp@parliament.uk
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Member of Parliament for South West Hertfordshire

The Rt Hon Gagan Mohindra MP	gagan.mohindra.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 3000
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LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

Bovingdon Community Library open 30hrs/week

Current opening hours are:

Monday:	9am-6pm
Tuesday	9am-6pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	1pm-6pm
Friday	9am-1pm
Saturday	10am-1pm

More information is available at www.hertsdirect.org/libraries



Parish Office Information

The Parish Office at the Memorial Hall
is open to the public from:
Mon-Wed and Friday — 9:30am-12noon
Thursday — CLOSED

Please use the letterbox for any written
communication with the Parish Council

Tel: 833036



office@bovingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk



www.bovingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk



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