



The **Bitton Parish Council**

Covering: Bitton | Oldland Common | North Common | Upton Cheyney
Swineford | Beach and part of Willsbridge (south of the A431)

www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk

ISSUE NO. **53** | JANUARY 2017

New **community** and **youth building**

Since 2012 Bitton Parish Council has had aspirations for a new community and youth building to the rear of Redfield Edge Primary School at High Street, Oldland Common. This will become the regular meeting place for the Council, will provide accommodation for the New Tracks Youth Club and also be available to community groups to hire. Regular updates about the progress of this project have been included in previous newsletters.

It has been a long time coming! But the lease is now signed and planning permission and building regulations

approval have been granted. Construction work started on 7 November 2016 and is progressing well. We hope that it will be finished in May 2017. Once it is ready for occupation the adjacent existing youth club building will be demolished, leaving additional open space in front.

The new building comprises a main hall 12.5m x 5.75m (72m²), a meeting room 6.25m x 4m (25m²) plus a small kitchen and toilet facilities. Any group or person wishing to consider hiring the facilities should contact the Clerk (details on page 2) to discuss the matter. It is anticipated that the accommodation will be available from September 2017.



Newsletter



How to **contact** the **Council**

Bitton Parish Council is always pleased to hear the views of local residents on any matter of interest or concern. You may contact the Council in a number of ways:

- ▶ **Via our website:** www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk
- ▶ **Via the Clerk:** Mrs Sharon Robbins, 4 Hencliffe Way, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3TH
01454 868102 | bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk
- ▶ **Via Councillors:** A list of Councillors and their contact details is shown on all parish council notice boards or is available from the Clerk.

Council meetings

The full Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except August).

- ▶ The **Planning Committee** meets every **three weeks** on a **Monday**.
- ▶ The **Environment and Leisure Committee** meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of **January, April, June, September** and **November**.

All meetings start at **7.30pm** and are held at **North Common Village Hall** unless otherwise stated. Full details of the meetings including agendas are posted on parish notice boards and on the Council's website 5 days in advance. A diary of meeting dates is listed on the website.

All meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend. An opportunity is always given to speak to Councillors about any matter of interest or concern to you.



Allotment vacancies

Do you enjoy eating fresh produce, knowing where it has come from and how it has been grown? Do you enjoy gardening or are you looking for a way to take a bit more exercise? Ever considered having an allotment to achieve all this and more?

Bitton Parish Council has allotments sites behind North Street and at Redfield Hill, Oldland Common. In total there are nearly 100 plots. At the present time there are a few plots vacant. If you would be interested in having a plot – or perhaps finding out a bit more about allotment gardening – then contact the Clerk (contact details on page 2). Rents for 2017 are set at £20 for a whole plot or £14 for a half plot.

Creative Arts Competition 2017

Each year Bitton Parish Council organises its **Creative Arts Competition for young people aged up to 18 years old**.

There are categories for pictures, models, handwriting, short stories, poems and computer generated design. Prizes are awarded in 4 age classes. Why not enter? The entry form is available on our website at www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk or from the Council's Leisure Officer, Mrs Sarah Jones, 21 Oakleigh Gardens, Oldland Common, Bristol BS30 6RJ. Tel: **07757 796155**.



Buggy walks

Bitton Parish Council organises buggy walks for parents and very young children. The walks start from Bitton Station at 10am on the first Monday of each month. We offer good company and the opportunity to socialise while getting exercise. Walks are about 3k and take around 40 minutes. Join us afterwards in the Station Café for a well-deserved drink.

You can find us on Facebook at Bitton Buggy Walks.

Footpath walks

A new year brings a fresh programme of guided footpath walks. Join Clive Brett on a Sunday afternoon for some enjoyable exercise.

For further details contact Clive on [01173295183](tel:01173295183), [07434869429](tel:07434869429) or clive@brett.org.uk



Walk 1

Sunday February 19th at 2.30pm

Meeting in Hazelbury Drive, off Mill Lane, North Common.

Sat Nav Aim for BS30 8UA (Albany Way but park just inside Hazelbury Drive).

This is quite an urban walk, so dry underfoot. It follows the history of William Champion and includes historic features around the area.

Walk 2

Sunday March 26th at 2.30pm

Meeting at Swineford Picnic Area.

Sat Nav BS30 6LN gets close, then take the signs, please do not park in the pub car park.

A hilly walk, climbing to Upton Cheyney and Prospect Stile, but offering wonderful views.

Walk 3

Sunday April 30th at 2.30pm

Meeting near the Bridge Inn, Shortwood. Sat Nav BS16 9NG.

This is a straight walk so we will arrange cars to bring you back to the starting point; it is essential that you register for this walk with Clive Brett well in advance. This very flat walk continues the Dramway walk to Coalpit Heath, exploring our coal heritage.

Walk 4

Sunday May 21st at 2.30pm

Meeting by the McBraida factory, Francis Way Bridgegate.

Sat Nav BS30 5JW.

A walk around Golden Valley and surrounding hills.





Blue plaque to **Sir Bernard Lovell**

Sir Bernard Lovell is Oldland Common's most famous son. Bitton Parish Council resolved to erect a blue plaque at 94 West Street to mark his birthplace. Although internationally renowned as a scientist his legacy is not well known. We therefore took the opportunity to work with our five primary schools and one secondary school (named in his honour) to put on an exhibition of pupils' work about him at St Anne's Church Hall, Barry Road.

Two of our parish Councillors researched and read up about Sir Bernard Lovell. He was born above his grandmother's grocery shop in Oldland Common on 31 August 1913. He attended Kingswood Grammar School and then Bristol University, where he was awarded a Physics degree in 1934 and a PhD in 1936 on the electrical

conductivity of thin films. His work on cosmic rays at Manchester University (where he was an Assistant Professor) was interrupted by the Second World War, during which time he was closely involved in the development of radar for use by night fighters, submarines and eventually British bombers. In 1945 he returned to his post at Manchester University to continue his research into cosmic rays. The electric trams which travelled up and down Oxford Road, Manchester caused background electrical interference and so he moved his equipment to the University's Botanical site in a more rural location. It was here that he constructed at Jodrell Bank, Cheshire the then-largest steerable telescope in the world, named the Lovell telescope after him. Over 50 years later it remains the third largest steerable telescope in the world and is still operational as a

radio telescope, used as part of the important MERLIN project. He died at home in Cheshire in 2012, three weeks short of his 99th birthday, overlooking the arboretum he had planted to reflect his love of trees.

During the build-up of the project we realised that the Jodrell Bank Visitor Centre had an Educational Wing, to assist with school trips to that site. We contacted them and they were very enthusiastic about our project. Three members of staff came to Oldland Common and were delighted to see the house where he was born and the Chapel where he had played the organ. The Sir Bernard Lovell Academy offered us a Hall for our Jodrell Bank friends to give a morning session about Sir Bernard to pupils from each of the five primary schools and an afternoon session about cosmology to pupils from that school.





During the sessions the staff from Jodrell Bank did experiments to illustrate their talk, which really held the pupils' attention. They fired the enthusiasm for our project about Sir Bernard and for science and cosmology. We are grateful to them for their time and expertise.

The Councillors traced Sir Bernard Lovell's children and other close family members and invited them to the unveiling of the plaque (performed by his daughter Judy Spence), a buffet lunch and the opening of the exhibition on Saturday 12 November 2016. The exhibition was then available to the public for the remainder of the weekend and many people – including local residents, school pupils and more distantly related family members - came to view it and sign the Visitors' Book.

Bitton Parish Council is pleased to be able to honour such a noteworthy celebrity by mounting the blue plaque. Councillors hope also that more people now understand why Sir Bernard Lovell is world famous, appreciate the legacy of his work on radar and the continuing importance of his research into cosmology and space exploration.

Community Infrastructure Levy

This is a new way of funding certain community projects.

Previously, when a developer gained planning permission he was required to enter into a legal agreement with South Gloucestershire Council (known as a section 106 agreement) and make payments to reflect the additional costs that the local authority would bear as a consequence of the new development such as school places, library provision, highways improvements, etc. From 2015 section 106 agreements will cover only those aspects within the development site – open space, play areas, etc - and a community infrastructure levy (CIL) is payable to reflect other impacts of the new development on the area.

CIL is seen as an improvement over section 106 agreements for two main reasons: 1) it is payable for all sites from one house up to large residential or industrial estates and so is more fairly and evenly spread across a wider range of developments; and 2) the amount payable is clearly set out in a charging schedule so that developers know in advance what they will have to pay, rather than the amount being decided by negotiation at the point when planning permission is granted.

Under the new legislation, South Gloucestershire Council must pay 15% of CIL receipts to local town and parish councils who will use the funds to the direct benefit of communities within the parish to offset or mitigate the effect of any new development. The 85% that South Gloucestershire Council keeps will be used on major capital infrastructure projects such as schools and highways.

Bitton Parish Council has already received a small amount of CIL funding from developments started during 2015. It is anticipated that further amounts will be received in future years, some of which could be significant sums (for example in respect of the redevelopment of the former Intier site at Golden Valley Mill, Bitton for up to 115 houses). Councillors have set up a Committee with a remit to agree criteria against which to judge what kind of community projects to support and set up procedures to identify possible projects and consider if they are sustainable and should be funded.

Future newsletters will give more information about how CIL funding will be allocated as the system develops. In the meantime any community group may wish to consider an approach to the Clerk to discuss informally ideas for possible projects.



*Throw caution to the wind,
with Phoenix*
Judo Club

Looking to try something different in the New Year? Read on and discover some facts about the life changing opportunity being offered by Phoenix Judo Club.

Judo, an Olympic Sport

Judo is a physical contact sport. However, kicking and punching does not feature within the sport, unlike some other martial arts. Disrupting your adversary's balance and placing them on the floor on their back, in a skilful and controlled way, are key elements of a judo contest. Judo has a technique and style to suit all shapes, sizes and ages. The sport has been likened to a physical form of chess. Body movement and mental agility are developed by the skilful judo player. The practice of judo helps develop self-confidence and physical fitness.

So you think you'd like try Judo

Starting Wednesday 8 Feb 2017

The club is offering a half price [£1 a session payable in advance] six week introductory course. Phoenix Judo Club is a not for profit club run by and for the benefit of its members.

Boys and Girls age 8-13 – Wed, 6.30–7.30pm.

Adults 14 upwards – Wed, 7.45 -8.45pm.

Contact the club coach, Bob Straughan, for further details. **07711068871**

The coach can also be contacted via e-mail **bobstraughan@outlook.com**

Or visit us from 6.00 -8.00pm on Wed/Friday at St Anne's Church Hall, Barry Road, Oldland Common. BS30 6PH.

Why not visit us on Facebook?

Phoenix Judo Club Bristol



Member awarded
grants

South Gloucestershire Council has changed the way in which community groups may apply for small grants.

Under the new system each South Gloucestershire Councillor has been allotted an amount of funding. Councillors are individually responsible for the allocation of their Member Awarded Funding budget to support local community projects and services. A number of basic principles have been agreed to provide a transparent, accountable, consistent and legal process to be followed by all.

Contact your local councillor to discuss your proposal and how to request an application form.

Bitton – Erica Williams

Erica.williams@southglos.gov.uk Tel: **01454 864042**

Oldland Common and North Common

Sam Bromiley

Samuel.Bromiley@southglos.gov.uk Tel: **01454 864014**

Paul Hughes

Paul.Hughes@southglos.gov.uk Tel: **01454 864034**

Easter *playscheme*

Once again Bitton Parish Council will be organising a playscheme for children aged 5 – 11 years during the school Easter holidays. A wide variety of both indoor and outdoor activities will be available (weather permitting).

It will be held at Cherry Garden Primary School, Cherry Garden Lane, Bitton on Monday to Wednesday 10-12 April and Wednesday to Friday 19-21 April. Each session runs from 10am till 12 noon. There is no need to register in advance and it is free. Letters will go home to parents a couple of weeks in advance from all primary schools in the parish. Details will also be available on the website and from the Clerk to the Council (see contact details on page 2).



Problems on permissive paths

T There is an extensive network of public rights of way across Bitton Parish. Routes should be well signposted and easy to follow.

Additionally there are a number of permissive paths where a landowner has agreed to allow the public access to a path across his/her land but no 'right of access' exists. Some owners allow dogs to run free in fields, which is not permitted. Recently there have been incidents where dogs have chased farm animals.

In one case on a permissive path, a number of sheep which were in lamb were chased into a river. They were badly affected by the experience – one has subsequently died. If such incidents persist, landowners could decide to withdraw their permissions, and the paths will close.

Another common issue is dog-fouling, which is incompatible with managing healthy livestock. As well as being harmful to people, dog mess can cause animals to become ill, abort or become unfit for the human food chain at considerable cost to the farmer. The diseases include:

- ▶ **Toxocariasis** (caused by roundworm larvae) can cause permanent loss of vision in humans
- ▶ **Neosporosis** in cattle is spread through eggs in dog mess and it is a major cause of abortions in herds

The eggs can live in the ground for many years – they don't just disappear after rain. Leaving bagged dog mess in trees and bushes is doubly anti-social and polluting – please take it home with you or place it in the nearest public litter bin. You can report dog fouling at www.southglos.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/street-care-and-cleaning

A guide to walking, cycling and horse riding routes in the South Gloucestershire, B&NES and Bristol area, including maps and advice can be found at www.outdoorswest.org.uk
You can also report a problem to the relevant Highway Authority.

Most public footpaths and bridleways, especially in more rural areas, cross private land. Walkers are welcomed but there are rules which must be followed. Basically these are:

- ▶ You may walk on a footpath - or use a pushchair or wheelchair where the terrain is suitable. You may not ride a bicycle or horse on a footpath, but you can on a bridleway. It is a criminal offence to drive a mechanically propelled vehicle (eg a motor bike) on a footpath.
- ▶ Always keep to the public footpaths or other marked paths.
- ▶ Keep your dog under close control, **and by law, on a lead where sheep are present.**
- ▶ A farmer may lawfully shoot any dog caught worrying livestock on any part of his land. No farmer wants to do this, but please don't put your dog at risk.
- ▶ All dog waste must be bagged and taken home or placed in a public litter bin. Dog fouling can ruin the enjoyment of a walk, and spread diseases which can kill livestock and also be harmful to humans.
- ▶ Keep away from wild and farm animals. If you feel threatened, release your dog and get to a safe place.
- ▶ Use the gates and stiles provided.
- ▶ Leave gates and property as you find them.
- ▶ Show consideration and respect for other people.
- ▶ Protect plants and animals.
- ▶ Take your litter home.
- ▶ Guard against the risk of fire.
- ▶ Be safe: plan ahead and follow any signs.
- ▶ Go slowly and carefully on country roads.

The 'Right to Roam' does not apply to public paths or the countryside generally – only to designated Open Access Areas. These are clearly signed and can be found on the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Explorer map and at www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk

This is a beautiful area – the footpaths are there for your enjoyment. Please use them, but also be considerate to other walkers, landowners and farmers, especially when walking your dog.



Do come and **join** in the **fun!**

Cadbury Heath Library

School Road, Cadbury Heath BS30 8EN

Email: cadburyheath.library@southglos.gov.uk

Tel: 01454 868006

Like us on facebook [facebook.com/sgloslibrarie](https://www.facebook.com/sgloslibrarie)

Monday	9.00am – 7.00pm
Thursday & Friday	9.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am – 5.00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday	Closed

“I get company in the library, a reason to get up in the morning”

What's on

Storytime & Rhymetime for pre-schoolers – Bring your little one along to a Bookstart Bear Club rhymetime or storytime for a fun and family friendly activity for babies and toddlers. Share rhymes, songs and stories every Monday 9:15 – 9:45am.

The Zone – reading and homework support plus board games, Lego and fun. Monday, Thursday and Friday 3:15 – 4:30pm. Supported by Juice Community Project.

Coffee morning – a warm welcome, good company and a cuppa every Thursday 10am – 12.

Craft group – Craft, coffee and chat. Bring along your work in progress and share ideas with others. Every other Saturday from 14 January, 10am – 12.

Discussion group – put the world to rights for the New Year! Lively chat about what's in the news. Friday 27 January 10:30 – 11:30am.

Support for young people's wellbeing and mental health available free at South Gloucestershire Libraries
Reading Well for young people is a national scheme which helps young people to understand and manage their wellbeing and emotional resilience by providing high-quality information, support and advice on a wide-range of mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders and self-harm, and difficult life pressures, like bullying and exams.

A list of 35 books has been selected and are free to borrow from any South Gloucestershire Library. The list is at www.southglos.gov.uk/shelfhelp and you can find out more at www.reading-well.org.uk/shelfhelp

The library comes to you...

the Mobile Library will be in the area at the following times:

Fortnightly on Thursdays:	from 5 January
School Rd, Oldland Common	9:45 – 10am
St Annes Drive, Oldland Common	10:05
Cherry Gardens	10:35 – 10:50am
Aubrey Meads, Bitton	11 – 11:35am
Beach House Farm, Beach	11:45am - 12 noon

All aboard for:

- ▶ Books, maps and jigsaws for loan
- ▶ large print and talking books
- ▶ local history collection
- ▶ DVDs for hire

A hydraulic lift is available for people who cannot climb the stairs.

