

BURTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2015/6

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1. About The Association

The Association was formed in March 2014, and its objectives are:

- To promote community recreation, play, sport and social facilities and activities;
- To improve the quality of life for villagers, particularly the elderly or vulnerable, to enable access to services and facilities;
- To promote awareness of the history, folklore, environmental, and cultural heritage of the village;
- To foster a sense of community and pride in the village;
- To represent the villagers in consultations with the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and other bodies, ensuring that all residents are informed and consulted on community matters;
- The Association will uphold equal opportunities and work towards good relations amongst all members of the community, specifically prohibiting any conduct which discriminates or harasses on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

The Association was recognised as a charity in July 2014, and in 2016 its revenue has now reached the level for it to register with the Charities Commission (in hand).

The affairs of the Association are run by a main committee elected annually, with four officers who are also trustees, and in 2015 two subcommittees were formed, one to organise events, and one to support the Play Area project. The officers and members of these committees are listed in Appendix A.

2. Overview of the Year 2015/16

2015/6 has been a year of real achievement and progress for the Association, building on the hopes and excellent groundwork of the BCA's first year.

BCA has carried out projects this year to a value of £3500, of which £1100 is from grants from external bodies and about £2400 from BCA's own funds. This is the first time for many decades that there has been any investment in community facilities apart from the village Church. In addition BCA has the opportunity of over £10,000 specifically earmarked by Wiltshire Council for a Burton play area; pledges of £2,000 from Wiltshire Council and £700 from Nettelton Parish Council for gateways at the entrances to the village; and a pledge of £500 from Cotswold Homes for the play area project. BCA also holds over £3000 in its reserves, thanks to the 100 Club and fundraising at events, and so it is in good shape to deliver further improvements in the community facilities.

The ongoing activities of the Association are:

- Burton in Bloom, enhancing the general tidiness and visual appeal of the village
- Events
- Book Club
- 100 Club lottery (new in 2015/16)
- Village Communications: The Bugle, BCA website, Village-wide email service
- Community Speed Watch

and the Association has worked on three capital projects:

- A bench for The Triangle

- A Public Access Defibrillator
- Play Area

There is an annual report for each of these below, together with the annual finance report. The annual accounts are provided in Appendix B.

Alistair Caie

3. Annual Report for Ongoing Activities

3.1 Burton in Bloom

One of the key areas of interest that was identified during the BCA launch meeting was that of the general tidiness and visual appeal of the village. With this in mind, a small group of likeminded residents lead by Victoria and Trystan Hitchens of Top Cottage formed a team and began work on a number of fronts under the banner of "Burton in Bloom".

Since its inception, the group has achieved a lot including:

- A total of five village tidy up days have been arranged over the last 2 years, one of which was in May 2015 and another in October 2015 and most recently with the assistance of Al Caie a dedicated tidy up day in January 2016 which focussed on the newly acquired piece of land designated for a play area. Every event resulted in great improvements in various parts of the village and all were reported in "The Bugle" and/or "The Honeycomb".
- Engagement with Nettleton Parish Council (NPC) and Wiltshire County Council (WCC) has continued as required to encourage the timely installation of the picket fences/gateways after support and funding was secured in late 2014 and early 2015. Planters for the gateways were also donated by Cotswold Homes.
- In the interests of health and safety and following the recent agreement of BCA, solar powered lights have been installed to light the footpath linking The Street with Toll Down Way. This will benefit the many residents who rely on this otherwise very dark right of way. Initial feedback has been very positive.
- Following feedback from several residents about parking on the grass area at the bottom on Toll Down Way at the junction with the B4039, options are being explored to install appropriate bollards to prevent the parking of vehicles at the junction which contravenes the highway code, creates an unnecessary hazard and spoils the visual appeal of the area which is regularly mowed and in 2015 had daffodil bulbs planted throughout.
- Separate to "Burton in Bloom" but championed by one of the team members, a petition signed by residents of Toll Down Way in the early part of 2015 resulted in the resurfacing of significant parts of the road in Toll Down Way by WCC; an improvement on many fronts which was felt by all and a visible demonstration of the needs of the community being heard by the WCC and acted upon.
- Looking forward to the main part of 2016, we plan to hold additional tidy up days on a regular basis with the next being scheduled for Saturday 2nd April and hope to see the installation of the picket fences and planters at the eastern and western entrances to the village on the B4039.

We would both like to thank all those "volunteer villagers" who have helped in their different ways throughout the year to make this initiative a continuing success - here's to 2016!

3.2 Events

Well, Burtonites, it's been a great year for the BCA! The Events Committee was set up in April 2015, and has been working hard. Its first event was an American Independence Day street party which was highly received and attended and the 2nd Annual Halloween Party was a smashing success!!! There was also a villagers' trip to the Butcombe Brewery and The Bear and Swan Pub, graciously arranged by the Warburtons from the Old House @ Home. The BCA Events Committee has also helped to promote a Macmillan Coffee morning held by Judith Bird; a quiz night held by St Mary's Church and provided eggs for an Easter Egg Hunt at the Church! More events are planned to welcome all the newcomers to the village, including repeats of the Independence Day and Halloween parties - we are excited to see so many younger families breathing fresh air into this community and could not be more anxious for some fun events for everyone!! Whilst we have some surprise events in the works, please feel free to contact us with any ideas you'd like to put forth! Your participation is what makes this village shine!

Missy Sell

3.3 Burton Book Club

The Book Club has been running for two years and meets once a month (third Monday every month) in the Old House at Home. Books are nominated by members then drawn from a hat. The Club also arranges visits to the theatre and cinema. Last year, trips included the powerful production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* at the Bristol Old Vic; and the National Theatre Live production of Shakespeare's iconic tragedy, *Hamlet*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

The book of the month (and all previous Book Club books) is listed on www.burtonvillage.org.uk, select BCA on the top menu and pull down to Burton Book Club. Meeting dates can be found on the website's Calendar. New members always welcome. No need to attend every meeting, just come when you can. Turn up even if you haven't read the book. Contact Amanda Read (amanda_read@btopenworld.com) for details.

Amanda Read

3.4 Village 100 club lottery

Formation of the lottery club was suggested by resident Ruth Lortal and discussed at the BCA Committee meeting on 31st March 2015. This type of lottery is classified under the Gambling Act 2005 as a non-commercial small society lottery, and must be registered with the local authority.

The BCA completed the application process for a licence through Wiltshire Council, which was granted on the 18th May 2015. The licence is valid for 12 months whereupon prior to the expiry date a renewal application must be made for a further 12 months. Part of the licence renewal process involves the submission of an annual return to include the proceeds of membership subscription and value of prizes generated from the monthly draws. The current membership renewal is due on the 14th May 2016

In line with many other similar lotteries, the BCA decided to split the subscription payments: 50% used for cash prizes and 50% to be used for community/association projects

Details of the proposed lottery club were circulated to all the residents of Burton, which initially resulted in a total of 75 residents becoming members. This number later rose to 83 residents, from just over a half the houses in the village. Members could elect to subscribe for either 6 or 12 months, at a cost of £5 per month. A monthly draw now takes place during 'happy hour' on the last

Friday of each month at the Old House @ Home public house. The monthly prize money is split into three on a sliding scale of 1st (50%), 2nd (30%), and 3rd (20%)

Collection of subscriptions was initially done in person, however an option to pay electronically via on-line banking has been introduced as an alternative, which should provide an easier method of payment. However anyone wishing to pay subscription in person by cheque/cash will still be afforded this facility.

After the initial 6 months and following further canvassing of residents, the current membership is once again 75 albeit some differing persons.

For the first year the lottery club has collected membership fees of £4,660, of which £2,330 will have been paid out (inclusive of May 2016 draw) in prize monies. The remaining £2,330 made available for on-going community projects such as the defibrillator and proposed play area funding. Of course the money could be used for any other suggested projects proposed by residents of the village.

The lottery club remains a key part of providing regular funding for BCA activities and the committee is hopeful that residents will continue to subscribe to the lottery and ensure that funds remain available for on-going community projects.

Chris Bennett

3.5 Village Communications

The Bugle newsletter is brought together and edited by David Webb. It is published quarterly, and includes articles about BCA projects, events and activities and other village matters of interest. It is printed and distributed free of charge to every household in the village, and also posted on the community web site.

The Association website www.burtonvillage.org.uk includes much more about BCA events and activities than can be covered in the newsletter. Users can enrol for automatic email alerts of new postings on the website, by going to any page on the BCA section of the web site, and entering your email address. If you have an item you would like posted on the web site, please email Graham Read (graham_read@btopenworld.com) or Chris Bennett (chriswatkinbennett@supanet.com). The website is complemented by the Facebook page 'Burton Community Association', which also contains news of village events and activities. Villagers are encouraged to 'like' the page.

The village email list has over 100 members. As well as events and activities, it is used for communicating all sorts of things such as Neighbourhood Watch crime alerts, missing pets, road closures. If you are not already receiving these messages, please contact Chris Bennett (email above)

3.6 Community Speed Watch

At the BCA launch meeting, traffic speeds on the B4039 were identified as a major concern. To address this, BCA applied through Nettleton Parish Council for a Community Speed Watch Scheme, where trained volunteers use a speed gun at sites approved by the police. The first Speed Watch Session was on 5th May 2015, and since then there have been a further 45 sessions, with a total of 450 cars being reported as over the 35mph threshold. Drivers exceeding the threshold receive a warning letter from the police. They also receive a police visit either on the third occurrence, or if the driver has exceeded 44mph.

We now have a driver approved to use the POLICE marked Volvo provided for the use of CSW teams, to give an increased presence in speed watch sessions to deter speeding drivers. We are also awaiting approval of a speed watch site in the 40mph limit on Hillside, and are investigating the

possibility of joining the Wiltshire Council Speed Indicating Device scheme, where they provide a vehicle activated sign for two weeks at a time as an additional encouragement to improving driver behaviour.

There is clear evidence of a substantial reduction in the percentage of drivers speeding during a CSW session. One can only speculate to the extent of the benefit at other times. Nevertheless, speed watch observers do feel there has been a significant overall improvement since the scheme started.

The scheme currently has 8 trained volunteers, but we could do with more, particularly if you are available on a weekday. Please contact Judith Bird 01454 218686 zebus@btinternet.com.

4 Annual Report on BCA Capital Projects

4.1 The Bench on The Triangle

For many years there was a bench around the tree on the Triangle donated by a villager, which was much used by people, particularly schoolchildren, waiting for buses or lifts. In 2010 it was in a dangerous condition, and rather than repair or replace it, Nettleton Parish Council decided to remove it. It was much missed, and so a new bench was one of the village projects identified when the Association was formed. When Cotswold Homes (builders of the Grange development) contacted the Association in the spring of 2015 to offer funding for a village project, BCA agreed to organise a hardwood bench to celebrate the birth of Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Cambridge (May 2, 2015). The bench was duly installed and dedicated in a ceremony with Cllr Jane Scott, Leader of Wiltshire Council. It is anticipated the bench will last at least 20 years without maintenance.

Alistair Caie

4.2 Defibrillator

Pip Gilbert (BCA Treasurer) has led a successful project to provide a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD - an electrical device which tries to return the heart to its normal rhythm after a heart attack) for the village. The PAD is now fitted to the outside wall of our The Old House @ Home, with the kind and generous permission of the Warburton family, owners of the pub. They have been extremely supportive in this project and readily agreed to placing the equipment on the building

The project was partly funded by a grant under the excellent British Heart Foundation scheme for providing a subsidized defibrillator and a CPR and PAD training pack, with the balance from donations by the residents, some in memory of the late Pat Chiddy. Chris Bennett, Missy Sell and Judith Bird have supervised the training to date of 35 residents of the villagers, so that there are plenty of trained people who can be called upon to help anyone requiring life saving assistance.

Pip Gilbert and Chris Bennett

4.3 Play Area

The Play Area project took a major step forward in November 2015, when the formalities of the lease on the Nettleton Road site were completed. The Association would like to thank Paul and Karen Lysley of Castle Combe, who have very generously granted the BCA a 125 year lease at a peppercorn rent on what is potentially a valuable piece of land. The Association would also like to thank Adrian Packer, who has facilitated the arrangements.

Contact has been made with Green Square Housing Association, owners of the adjacent land, which it is hoped to use for access on foot from The Meads and the rest of the village. Whilst the response from Green Square has been encouraging and constructive, so far they have not been willing to

make a formal long-term commitment to provide access. Baroness Jane Scott (Head of Wiltshire Council) has kindly offered to assist with these negotiations.

The Play Area subcommittee have met with those who developed the play areas in Acton Turville and Yatton Keynell, and also with the Wiltshire Council play area specialist, to get the benefit of their advice and experience.

Preliminary proposals have been received from four possible suppliers, and Paula Coyle kindly ran a focus group with village parents and grandparents to develop a clear specification for the play equipment. The preferred equipment is:

- A two tower unit with slide, ladder, bridge and climbing wall;
- A swing unit with one flat seat and one cradle seat, and possibly a group nest swing;
- A multi - unit exercise and balance trail.

This specification is being issued to the suppliers to obtain final tenders, from which the preferred supplier will be chosen.

Most recently, pre-application planning advice has been received from Wiltshire Council. This has indicated the importance of obtaining access over the Green Square land. The planning department will be pleased to see an application for a play area, which they feel is much needed in the village, and have indicated that the planning application can be simple and straightforward without any need for specialist input (e.g. professional drawings). Baroness Scott, as our Wiltshire Councillor, has indicated she will support the progress of the application through the formal processes.

In parallel with all this administrative work, work has gone on to physically improve the site. Cotswold Homes kindly sent a digger up to help with grubbing out trees and levelling the site, and villagers have been steadily working at the mammoth task of clearing huge amounts of rubbish and stones, and digging over the site to get it ready for grassing.

The goal is that by the end of May we will have chosen the supplier and equipment and submitted a planning application. It is possible that access over the Green Square land, if not already obtained, may be a condition of the planning permission. Once this has been achieved, an appeal will be launched for funds for the project.

Alistair Caie

5 Annual Finance Report

The BCA has had a financially successful year with a current balance of £3,117.70 as at 31 March 2016. Appendix B shows the profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the year.

Income during the year was £7,262 of which £4,690 was from Club 100 entries, £1,990 from gift aid donations, £387 non-gift aid donations and £195 from event takings.

We incurred £4,669 of expenses to date of which £1,842 has been for club 100 winner payments, further club 100 payments are due for April and May from the present entries. Other costs to note are £1,500 for legal fees for the lease of the playground area and £886 for defibrillator related purchases.

As our income has exceeded the Charities Commission (CC) non-registered income limit of £5,000 we have applied for registered charity status; a decision on our application has yet to be made by the CC.

Pip Gilbert

APPENDICES

Appendix A Organisation

BCA Committee (at March 2016)

Alistair Caie (Chair)	Pete Coyle
Grant Cambridge (Deputy Chair)	Trystan Hitchens
Pip Gilbert (Treasurer)	Victoria Hitchens
Chris Bennett (Secretary)	Missy Sell
Judith Bird	Olivia Watts

In addition the following left the committee during the year

Paul Bird	Paul Lortal
Freddie Clark	

Events Subcommittee

Missy Sell	Diane Chatfield
Pete Coyle	Judith Bird
Paula Coyle	

Play Area Subcommittee

Alistair Caie	Steve Symonds
Glynis Morris	Marje Caie
Grant Cambridge	Lisa Suchet
Paula Coyle	Diane Chatfield
Olivia Watts	

Appendix B Accounts

B.1 Balance Sheet

Burton Community Association
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2016

		2016	2015
		£	£
Bank	Current - Burton in Bloom	100	100
	Current - Club 100	1,605	-
	Current - defib	31	-
	Current - general fund	1,351	424
	Current club 100 - future	30	-
		<u>3,118</u>	<u>524</u>
		3,118	524
Net assets		<u>3,118</u>	<u>524</u>
		£	£
Shareholders' funds	Profit and loss account	524	-
	Net profit	<u>2,593</u>	<u>524</u>
		3,118	524
Total funds		<u>3,118</u>	<u>524</u>

B.2 Profit and Loss Account

Burton Community Association
Profit And Loss Account
For the year ended 31 March 2016

		2016	2015
		£	£
Income	Club 100	4,690	-
	Defib donation - gift aid	470	-
	defib donation - none gift aid	387	-
	Donation - Non gift aid	-	434
	Donations - gift aid	1,520	90
	Event takings	195	-
		<u>7,262</u>	<u>524</u>
Expenses	BCA playground lease	(40)	-
	Club 100 winner payments	(1,842)	-
	Defib costs	(886)	-
	Event costs	(100)	-
	Insurance	(161)	-
	Legal fees	(1,500)	-
	Lottery scheme reg	(40)	-
	Repairs and renewals	(100)	-
		<u>(4,669)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net profit		<u>2,593</u>	<u>524</u>