



# Newsletter Autumn 2023

Welcome to the Autumn Sopley/Ripley Parish Newsletter 2023,

It has been a great honour to preside as Chairman of Sopley Parish Council for the last year. I would like to thank you all for your attendance, achievements and support over the last year.

We have welcomed new Cllrs who have joined over the last 12 months. The Council listens and pays attention to the needs of its community whilst following protocols and rules.

This may, on occasion appear to be non-action and progression may, on occasion prove to be slow, but the Council continues, as always, to ensure its decisions are the right ones for the community as a whole. This requires working closely with other local authorities to achieve a common goal but Sopley Parish Council remains autonomous in its decisions.

SPC have recently purchased a speed indication device which will go up in various locations around the parish. The data collected will hopefully show that greater awareness leads to slower traffic.

There have been tremendous highs and lows during my term in Office...

The Country came together to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's reign of 70 Years and the Parish came together to host its 'Jubilee in the Garden Event' in June. It was wonderful to see so many members of the community celebrating and enjoying time together outdoors in the fresh air; a time to pause and reflect.

It was with great sadness Sopley Parish Council heard of the demise of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September 2022, the Council and its parishioners were united in their grief. Celebrations were planned in recognition of King Charles III's Coronation and again, an excellent event was held in the Gardens of Smugglers Kindly hosted by Cllr Dee Dunn. What a joyful way to start the year, Thank you.

**Dan Shutler Chairman SPC 2022-23**



All Council/Parish information regarding meetings and events

can be found on the Parish Boards and website - [www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk).

Any queries please email: [parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk).

You can now complete the "Contact us" form on the website or join our  
Sopley Village Facebook page for regular updates.





## Finally the Autumn 2023 edition of the Sopley/Ripley Newsletter has arrived!



It has been an interesting 4 years since the last Newsletter in 2019 but here we are with our Autumn 2023 Edition. A new concept but firstly I would like to say thank you to all the contributors who have sent, emailed and posted their articles to me to put this together for our local Community.

Sopley Parish Council have been able to help with funding for local projects in the last few years; Sopley School were granted funds for laptops for the children to use at home during the Covid pandemic, Heatherstone Grange Green Group and their projects including the purchase of an infant swing, public benches, Jubilee Orchard and most recently the addition of the Coronation Bench not forgetting their own contribution of funds raised by residents themselves. Grants have also been received from Hampshire County Cllr Michael Thierry and been received from District Cllr Tony Ring for bulbs to be planted at Shirley Common by local Scouts. Sopley Parish Council have also made a substantial donation to the Stepping Stones Nursery. They are also looking at funding for Sopley School Parent/Teacher Association for their new project "Sopley's Secret Garden". This is scheduled for when the Grant funding window opens again in October 2023. Sopley Parish Council have also assisted Sopley Parish Hall in the purchase of a Jubilee Bench and contributed to the installation of a defibrillator at the Parish Hall and also a second defibrillator funded by a parishioner at Heatherstone Grange. Thank you.

Sopley Parish Council have also purchased a Speed Indicator Device to help traffic calming and will be collecting data from various positions in the Parish. If anyone is interested in joining the Speedwatch scheme then please complete the application form on our website or complete the "Contact Form" at [www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk).

The Cemetery maintenance team have done an amazing job of bringing the local Cemetery back into line after being neglected during Covid 19. Major renovations have been carried out to the cemetery walls to prevent further deterioration. The Lychgate has now also been repaired after damage was caused by a storm in November 2022. For any queries regarding the cemetery please email: [cemetery@sopley.gov.uk](mailto:cemetery@sopley.gov.uk).

The Allotments at Heatherstone Grange have been maintained and there are ongoing projects due to start shortly for hedge, tree and overgrown car park issues. If anyone is interested in renting an Allotment then please email [Allotments@sopley.gov.uk](mailto:Allotments@sopley.gov.uk) and I will add you to the waiting list for 2024. We are currently looking for contractors for these projects so please email if you would like to tender for these opportunities.

Finally, with some great news; Sopley PC have been granted the rights from the Cabinet Office, in honour of the Kings Coronation. The "unnamed" bridge outside the Woolpack Public House will now be known as "Coronation Bridge". Further details regarding signage and a naming date will follow shortly.....

*Katie Hughes, Clerk to Sopley Parish Council*



## Annual Sopley/Ripley Litter Pick 2024

Many thanks to all of the Parishioners who helped with the Annual Litter Pick on Saturday 15th April 2023 this year.

It was a great turnout again and a lovely dry sunny day for it, thanks also to the lovely people who helped in the background and ensured the rubbish collections were appropriately placed and then collected by NFDC.

Thanks also to the Woolpack for letting us congregate in their lovely pub after the litter pick.

**Next year's Litter Pick date is pencilled in for  
Saturday, 13th April 2024  
so please make a note in your Diary.**

[www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk)

Photograph supplied by Heatherstone Grange Green Group.



This Coronation bench was purchased for the Kings Coronation 2023. Funds were raised for the bench from Heatherstone Grange Green Group, Hampshire County Council and Sopley Parish Council.

## ***SOPLEY VILLAGE W.I. SUMMER 2023***



The Women's Institute in our lovely village of Sopley moves from strength to strength. We now have some 35 full members plus 5 dual members & enjoy such a variety of events including interesting talks, outings, parties, workshops, walks, book club, coffee mornings & sometimes cinema trips. Our Committee works so hard & are always full of fun ideas to keep us all busy & educated - & even entertained!

During 2022 & spring of 2023 our talented Speakers ranged from a very artistic Textile Designer; to the life of a real-life bride in Iran; a Space Station expert; our WI Climate Ambassador talking about Marine Plastics; a wise Physiotherapist; historical facts about our local Regent Centre in Christchurch; & even a Wardrobe Genie !

Workshops have been very popular in the Village Hall - last year we had an excellent art based session & then a timely Christmas wreath making which really inspired many of us. Thank you so much expert ladies.

The annual Christmas Fayre in early December was very busy with many stall holders rebooking for Christmas 2023.

By kind invitation of Dee, everyone especially enjoyed a jolly afternoon in her beautiful grounds to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. As usual our WI ladies served suitable & tasty refreshments.

The Annual Meeting was another "full house" as we said fond farewells to retiring President Rosie, & welcomed the new Committee headed by new President Claire, daughter of well known expert WI Advisor for Hampshire, Phoebe Morrison.

Do contact us if you think you may enjoy what we have to offer - we meet on 3rd Tuesday (not August) of each month at 7pm - trying to finish by 9 pm.

SVWI now boasts a WEBSITE<[sopleyvillagewi@weebly.com](mailto:sopleyvillagewi@weebly.com)>





## **ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH SOPLEY**

*Our lovely early Saxon village Church sits on a mound above the well restored Sopley Mill at the end of Mill Lane. From the graveyard extensive views of the river Avon can be enjoyed.*

*Sadly in spring 2021 our Priest-in-Charge, Rev'd Nigel Lacey had to leave us for pastures new. During the interregnum and re-structuring of the Benefice, our Church relied on the excellent management of the ChurchWardens, Mrs Liz Bishop & Mr David Lay.*

*Now in summer 2023 Sopley has become part of New Forest Edge Churches comprising St Mary's in Bransgore, All Angels in Hinton, All Saints at Thorney Hill, and St. John's at Burley. Our Vicar, the Rev'd Dr Ben Sargent now has a newly ordained Curate, Mrs Mo Pimenta to help his Ministry in such a large & busy pastoral group of Churches.*

*Sopley has always been a popular Wedding venue and continues to be so with the nearby Sopley Mill an ideal venue for Receptions. Services are held each Sunday at 11am and our Church is always adorned with beautiful flowers arranged by artistic local ladies. Whether it be a place to visit to find some beauty and peace, or to join for a special Service you are always welcome at Sopley Church.*





**New Forest Edge Churches:  
Bransgore, Burley, Hinton,  
Sopley and Thorney Hill**

## **St Michael & All Angels, Sopley**



**Benefice Vicar In Charge – Rev'd Dr Benjamin Sargent**

**Email: [vicar@newforestedgechurches.org](mailto:vicar@newforestedgechurches.org)**



**Parish Assistant Curate – Rev'd Mo Pimenta**

**Email: [mo.sopleychurch@gmail.com](mailto:mo.sopleychurch@gmail.com)**



**Benefice Administrator – Daniel Sanderson**

**Email: [admin@newforestedgechurches.org](mailto:admin@newforestedgechurches.org)**

**Church Warden – Mrs Liz Bishop**

**Email: [r-bishop3@sky.com](mailto:r-bishop3@sky.com)**

**Church Warden – Mr Dave Lay**

**Email: [dave.lay@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.lay@btinternet.com)**

**Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) – Mrs Jacque Lay**

**Email: [sopleysafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:sopleysafeguarding@gmail.com)**

**Services every Sunday at 11am**



**Upcoming Sopley Parish Council meetings,  
please note these are Council Meetings held in  
Public not a Public Meeting.**

### **Meeting schedule**

7.30pm	Thursday, 21st Sept 2023	SPC Meeting
7.30pm	Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	SPC Meeting
7.30pm	Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	SPC Mtng(Finance/Budget)
7.30pm	Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	SPC Meeting (if needed)
7.30pm	Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	SPC Meeting
7.30pm	Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024	SPC Meeting
7.30pm	Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	SPC Meeting
7.30pm	Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	SPC Meeting
7.30pm	Thursday, 23rd May 2024	AGM SPC Annual Assembly

Agendas are published a minimum of 3 days prior to the scheduled meeting date.  
Parishioners are welcome to attend all meetings which are held in the Parish Hall,  
Priest's Lane, Sopley (unless notified otherwise).

**Agendas and Minutes are available at  
[www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk)**

***Please note if you wish to contact  
Sopley Parish Council then please use  
the "Contact Us" tab now available  
on the website.***

## **News From Thorney Hill**

### **All Saints Church**

The church continues to open its doors weekly to visitors between Easter and end September. In 2023 we opened 2-4pm on the first Saturday and 3-5pm on the third Sunday of each month. For the who haven't visited the church it has a stunning Arts and Crafts style mural painted in 1922 depicting local and national characters and New Forest scenes.

Check the Facebook page (All Saints Thorney Hill) for updates.

### **Thorney Hill Community Centre**

The centre is available to hire for parties and events.

Locals arrange community events throughout the year - bingo, skittles, yoga etc.

A programme of regular activities is being developed and information will be made available on the Facebook page; it is hoped a dedicated website will follow.

### **Bransgore and District French Twinning Association**

The Twinners have an active social calendar and arrange annual exchange visits with families at St Georges Montcocq in Normandy.

We are always looking for new members - particularly families. Knowledge of French is helpful but by no means essential - many of our members barely speak a word of French! However enthusiasm for discovering the French culture and lifestyle is important and we have spent many happy long weekends either hosting or visiting our French friends in the 40 years since the Association was formed.

**For any information on the above feel free to contact  
Ian Searle on [ianmsearle@icloud.com](mailto:ianmsearle@icloud.com)**



SOPLEY PARISH HALL  
PRIEST LANE  
SOPLEY  
HANTS BH23 7BA

## Sopley Parish Hall Annual Report – 2023

Welcome at last to an update on the Parish Hall and how the local community is making use of the excellent facilities we are now able to provide!

Covid was a difficult time for us all of course, and we as a committee were concerned about the financial outlook for the Hall, but with the welcome support of two government grants I'm pleased to say we were able to weather the storm and are now once again home to a broad variety of regular user groups, clubs and classes, details of which are listed below.

We have also hosted a great number of private events in recent months – from children's parties, baby showers and christenings, to anniversary celebrations, wedding vow renewals, wakes and various other extended family get-togethers. The staffed licensed bar has been in demand for many of these events, and occasionally the skittle alley too! Meanwhile, our facilities are becoming increasingly popular for workshops and seminars, thanks to both the well-equipped kitchen and the projection equipment which we are able to offer.

After a somewhat hesitant start, with people understandably cautious to start socialising again after lockdown, we have held many of our usual fund-raising events for the local community. Activities that have been widely enjoyed include Skittles, Quizzes, Bingo, Table-top sales and a Christmas buffet with live music. We aim to put these events on about once a month throughout the year; and if you have an idea for one or would perhaps like to get involved in helping to organise them, then please get in touch, we would be delighted to hear from you. In addition to these monthly activities, we are excited to be holding a Village Fete this year – our first event of this kind since Sopley Festival last took place in 2019.

Thanks to Dee Dunn who very kindly let us use her beautiful garden on two occasions for a very English bring-your-own picnic celebration: firstly for the Jubilee and then again for the Coronation, with cakes prepared by Sopley Village W I – a very enjoyable afternoon on both occasions. Dee's garden was also used for a local cycling club AGM and BBQ supper, which was a very successful fund-raising event. Thank you again Dee.

Our thanks go too, as always, to Sopley Parish Council for their ongoing support, in particular their help in raising the funds necessary to complete the Hall restoration and rebuilding project.

### *So where exactly do all these funds go?*

Well, the Hall requires regular maintenance and cleaning, and there always seems to be something which needs repairing, replacing, repainting, or just updating to conform with current legislation! During the first week of April for example, the lovely original wooden floor of the main hall, which has done great service for very many years, was sanded and re-varnished: this was quite a major undertaking both in terms of time and outlay but very much due and, now complete, should help keep the floor in good condition for many more years to come.



The Hall is managed by a committee of trustees and other volunteers. New faces are always welcome, especially, dare I say it, those in the younger age bracket! No specific skills are required (though we are more than happy to exploit any that you may have) – just enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved, and of course it's a great way to meet new people. Please contact myself or any other committee member for more details.

We have such a good community facility in the Hall: please help us to keep it running for future generations of inhabitants of the Parish of Sopley (which includes Heatherstone Grange, Avon, Ripley and Shirley).

**Caroline Paul**

**Chair, Sopley Parish Hall Management Committee**

Our regular Hall user groups currently include all the following:

'CHECK YOUR MOOD' FITNESS Total Body Stretch Monday morning

CLAIRE'S CIRCUIT CLASS Monday evening

LADIES' KICK-BOXING Tuesday morning

SHORT-MAT BOWLING Tuesday & Thursday afternoons

SOPLEY VILLAGE W.I. 3rd Tuesday evening each month

IYENGAR YOGA Wednesday morning

'CHECK YOUR MOOD' FITNESS Dance Fit Wednesday evening

DORSET & HANTS MACHINE-KNITTING CLUB 1st Thursday morning each month

BELLY DANCE 'Jan's Gems' Thursday evening

SHOTOKAN KARATE Thursday evening

STAGE DOOR SCHOOL OF DANCE Saturday morning

For bookings and general Hall enquiries, tel 01425 209929 or  
email [SopleyParishHall@gmail.com](mailto:SopleyParishHall@gmail.com).

A full list of current committee members and their contact details can be found at  
[www.sopley.gov.uk/management-committee](http://www.sopley.gov.uk/management-committee).

❄ ❄ ❄ DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES ❄ ❄ ❄

The Sopley Parish Hall CHRISTMAS PARTY will take place on **Friday 15th December** from  
7:30 pm, with live music, licensed bar & buffet and guaranteed festive fun.

Tickets available nearer the time but please save the date!

❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄

**Sopley Village Fete**

**Saturday 9th September 2023**

Back in 2000, a Garden Party was held in the gardens of The Old Vicarage on Derritt Lane to mark the millennium. It was such a success that another one was held the following year and then another the year after that... by about 2012, the event had expanded next door into Owls Barn's field, becoming Sopley Festival, and in 2017 it relocated to the grounds of Moorlands College, where it stayed until rudely interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Four years on, we're pleased to be taking this event back to its roots by holding a Village Fete on Saturday 9th September, kindly hosted, once again, by the White family at the Old Vicarage on Derritt Lane.



SOPLEY PARISH HALL  
PRIEST LANE  
SOPLEY  
HANTS BH23 7BA

TEL 01425 209929  
SOPLEYPARISHHALL@GMAIL.COM

# SOPLEY VILLAGE FETE



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
**12 – 4pm**

**The Old Vicarage**  
**Derritt Lane, Sopley BH23 7AZ**

## FREE PARKING

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| * Fun Dog Show                       | * Stalls & Raffle               |
| * Bar, Barbecue, Teas & Refreshments | * Skittle Alley                 |
| * Entertainment Stage                | * Children's Games & Activities |
|                                      | * Toddler Play Area             |

**Please bring cash!**

**All money raised by this event goes towards the upkeep of Sopley Parish Hall**  
Organised by Sopley Parish Hall Committee

Charity No. 1130934

**SOPLEY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL  
ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING &  
ANNUAL  
ASSEMBLY 2024**



**THURSDAY 23rd May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

After the conclusion of a brief session of formal business, the Annual Assembly provides an opportunity for Parishioners to raise for general discussion, any matters or suggestions that may be of concern or interest to the wider community.

The meeting will then be addressed by our guest speaker.

To be followed by Cheese and wine.



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### ***A message from Dee Dunn from Smugglers, Sopley:***

*On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 saw a gathering of Sopley Parish Villagers coming together in the beautiful grounds of Smugglers to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II 70<sup>th</sup> year of reign. We were also blessed with a beautiful sunny day. Picnics came in all shapes and sizes, live music and a bar to buy drinks.*



*What better way to bring people together, new and old friends were united, and new acquaintances were made.*

*A celebration cake made by our local Sopley Village Women's Institute was cut by Dr Hickish to mark the occasion.*

*In a world of busy people, we sometimes forget to find time to relax and enjoy each other's company and we all certainly had a fabulous time in delivering within our local community.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***And then in 2023.....***



The sun shone on the day we had the king's coronation picnic at Smugglers (it had been raining the day before and rained the day after!)

It was so nice to see so many familiar faces and some new ones.

We all enjoyed some rather posh picnics there were games of Boules, giant Jenga, throwing sand bags through holes and some very competitive games of croquet on the lawn.

Sopley village hall provided a bar.

The ever-willing Sopley WI provided yummy cakes and served tea thank you ladies for your hard work.

A splendid Coronation cake was cut by local resident Ann Ramm who has always been involved in Sopley village life a very big thank you Ann for all you have done for the village over many years.

I would like also to thank the village hall for the flowers you so kindly presented to me thank you.

I have received letters emails and phone calls of thanks for sharing my beautiful garden with you and you are all most welcome anytime.

***Dee***

## Avon Tyrrell Estate

So much has happened since I last wrote in 2019 that I will just concentrate on the highlights.

The rebuild of 37 Ripley was **completed** in 2020 and the rebuild of Bumblebee Cottage also in Ripley- a victim of a number of floods in the past - is now also complete. Like 21 Ripley it has had to be raised up in order to stay dry. A new building for the pig enterprise at Avon Farm was completed in 2019.

Despite last year's very dry summer our hedge planting alongside Solway's Spinney (Footpath 12) only suffered a few losses which have been made good. The previous year's hedge planting from Primrose Lane to (almost) Derritt Lane is growing well with only a few plants having to be replaced. As before we have planted native species mainly quickthorn but also plants such as spindleberry and field maple.

The new plantation from Curry Pond Bridge across to Martins Lane is now looking well established and will make an attractive and nature friendly addition to the landscape. Lord's Piece (off Pitt House Lane) has been felled and replanted with cricket bat willows.

Corner Barn at Court Farm is undergoing extensive repairs which, when complete, will be available to rent as small office units.

Despite having taken over just before the pandemic the New Queen is thriving under Merle and his team led by Martin and Kamil. This year the addition of a pizza oven in the garden will be an added attraction.

We have re routed the stream where it crosses Martins Lane into Anji Hill's field which has successfully stopped the worst of the regular winter flooding of that part of a very popular footpath.

On the people front John Bovett retired as farm manager having joined us in 1999. Sadly Mrs Wonham, who along with her husband Bob came to live on the Estate in 1966, passed away this Spring at 97. Sadly Derek Stainer who farmed Blackberry Farm has also died aged 84 having moved there with his parents when he was just 2 years old.

Finally no round up of Estate news would be complete without a mention of Vernon Dene. Readers may recall that the developers arrived over Easter 2019, demolished all the buildings and cut down all the trees and hedging breaking the electricity power line in the process. All this despite the fact that approximately 40% of the site lies within the Environmental Impact Zone of the three surrounding Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Since then numerous concrete pads and access roads have been laid in preparation for the permanent siting for all year round occupation of approximately 90 static homes. Following a direction by the Secretary of State that the works required an Environmental Impact Assessment and a Habitats Regulation Assessment the National Park served an Enforcement Notice requiring the removal of the unauthorised works. The site has changed hands again and the US controlled developer has appealed the Enforcement Notice and applied for planning permission. Although no permit has been granted by the Environment Agency as far as we know the developers still intend to discharge the so called treated sewage into the ditch that runs across the Blackberry Farm SSSI, into the Ripley Brook and then the River Avon.

Vernon Dene is surrounded by three SSSI s which are home to a number of rare and sensitive plants and animals including Nightjars, Smooth Snakes and Sand Lizards.

We expect a hearing before a Planning Inspector towards the end of this year.

Willie Manners  
2023

## Bransgore Rotary



Over the last 12 months Bransgore Rotary has been able to donate over £34,000 to good causes, with a significant amount of this being spent in the local communities.

As I write, Bransgore Rotary is busy preparing for our biggest fundraiser - the annual **Beer Festival** on **29/30<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October** at The Three Tuns. There will again be a large selection of real ales and ciders, and music to suit all tastes. Soft drinks and wines are also available. Come along and enjoy listening to good music and enjoy a drink with friends during the day, and a party atmosphere with dancing in the evening.

Earlier in the year we held our annual **Fun Day** on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and this featured several Arena events, including The Dolphin Marching Band and the Ocean Blue Dog Agility Display. Gym Tin led the Fun and Fitness session involving local teams of children racing around an obstacle course. Medals were awarded to all participants with a trophy for the winning team. Local organisations and charities promoted their activities and raised funds. A variety of foods were on offer and refreshment was provided by a beer tent run by The Carpenter's Arms. A big thank you to all those taking part.

In June, our **Annual Fun Run** took place with 5k and 10k events. Our top times included the first place runner completing the 5km route in 18.37 minutes and 10km first place in 36.17 minutes.

This summer we are again teaming up with Folksy Theatre and Harrow Wood Farm Caravan Park to bring you **The Merry Wives of Windsor** by **William Shakespeare**. The event takes place on **Sunday 6th August** so by the time you read this newsletter it will already have happened. However, the audience is invited to bring a picnic to enjoy before the performance. If last year is anything to go by, everyone will have really enjoyed what we hope will become a summer staple.

Socially we have had a wine tasting, monthly rambles through different parts of the Forest, and we've had a very enjoyable safari supper. More outings are planned over the next year.

We have launched our new look website! Not only does this tell you more about us, but tickets for our events can now be purchased on line.

Rotary is a dynamic organisation, fully involved in the life of the local community, but also working with less fortunate communities worldwide.

New members are always welcome. If you want to help to make a difference and have fun doing it, why not take a look at us on: [www.BransgoreRotary.co.uk](http://www.BransgoreRotary.co.uk) or visit Bransgore Rotary CIO on Facebook

# **BRANSGORE** **ROTARY BEERFEST '23**

**LIVE MUSIC ALL WEEKEND  
AT THE THREE TUNS**



**TICKETS ONLINE**  
**@ [brangorerotary.co.uk](https://brangorerotary.co.uk)**  
**WEEKEND TICKETS £15**



## **FRIENDS OF SOPLEY CHURCH**

The Friends of Sopley Church is a charity which was set up in 1977 for the purpose of raising funds to help maintain our beautiful church. We have a small committee and about 80 members. We have recently paid for the painting of the guttering at the church and also paid for a new heating system which has made a huge difference and is now much warmer for the services during the winter months. But our efforts are ongoing and we continue to try and raise funds.

We hold social events throughout the year and everyone is welcome at these you don't have to be a member. All the events are displayed on the Parish notice boards as well as online.

If you would like to become a member it costs just £5 a year please contact our Treasurer Rosi E-mail [rosemarymoynihan6@talktalk.com](mailto:rosemarymoynihan6@talktalk.com) who will be pleased to give you details.

We will be holding a festive event with mince pies and mulled wine on Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am -12.30pm at The Old Vicarage Derritt Lane Sopley and we are also hoping to hold a Vintage Tea Party next summer but more details later. We would love to see as many people as possible to help us in our efforts to keep the church in good repair.

Jackie Gibson (Secretary)





**MOORLANDS  
COLLEGE**

Moorlands College

Sopley, Christchurch, Dorset BH237AT

Phone: 01425 674500

Web: <http://www.moorlands.ac.uk>

Company Number: 4241702

Registered Charity: 1092000



As a college, we have the joy of celebrating our 75-year anniversary in 2023. Although we started out in Matlock, Derbyshire before moving to Verwood via Dartmoor (hence the name, *Moorlands*), we made our home in Sopley in the 1970s and it's hard to picture us at home anywhere else.

Our students love the peace and tranquillity found within our grounds and the more rural setting, but as a college, our focus isn't inward. The purpose of Moorlands is to 'equip people, passionate about Jesus Christ, to impact the church and the world'. All of our residential, undergraduates are involved in local placements and positively impact the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and New Forest areas through the volunteer work they do. This includes children's and youth work, foodbank services, chaplaincy, outreach to Bournemouth's nightlife and homeless community, and so much more. As of September 2023, people will be able to study at Moorlands from wherever they are in the UK through our new Flexible Learning mode of delivery, which enables students to study our undergraduate programmes primarily online.

We're pleased to let you know that our Sports Hall facilities are available to hire. Our Sports Hall is suitable for sports such as volleyball, badminton, and football, as well as group exercises such as Zumba, Yoga, Pilates, Circuits and much more. We've got ample on-site parking, changing facilities, and ready to use equipment. Our various-sized conference rooms are also available to hire and are a great space for meetings and training days. Out of term time, our grounds and accommodation can also be hired for both small and large groups. If you're interested in hiring any of our facilities, please contact us on 01425 674 500, or you can email us: [reception@moorlands.ac.uk](mailto:reception@moorlands.ac.uk)

It is fitting that on our 75-year anniversary we also celebrate the appointment of our new Principal, Andy du Feu. Andy was a student at Moorlands in 2000, before joining the staff team in 2011. He has been leading the college for the last 12 months as Executive Director and we are thrilled that he will continue to lead the college in his new role as Principal.

We are thankful to be part of this community and are grateful to call Sopley our home.

Matt Mellor

Director of Operations



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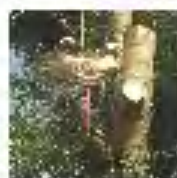
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## **Bransgore Community First Responders**

### **Appeal for volunteers in Bransgore, Burley and Sopley areas.**

Community First Responders are members of the public, just like you and I, trained and despatched by the ambulance service to attend local medical emergencies to provide basic life support until the arrival of the ambulance. We need more members to help provide our service. Having more volunteers in these areas means we can achieve a faster response time to greatly improve patient care and survival rates in the critical minutes before the arrival of the ambulance.

We really hope people have been motivated by what they have seen and experienced over the past three years and will want to help to make a difference in their community. Being an ambulance community first responder is a great way of putting something back into your community.



You must be over 18 with use of a car, be of good character and fit enough to carry the equipment bag up a flight of stairs to assist a patient. No previous medical experience is necessary, all training and uniform is provided by the ambulance service over two weekends. Our team support new volunteers.

We ask for a minimum of 20 hours on-call every month in case needed, at times that suit the individual. You are not knowingly sent to the type of call that may place you at any risk. This is extremely rewarding work -probably the most rewarding work on dry land. You won't be paid - other than out of pocket expenses- but the reward is having the knowledge that by supporting our NHS ambulance service you will have helped save lives in your community, and there is no greater satisfaction than that.

If you are interested in joining our award winning team you can visit the Charity website at [www.scascharity.org.uk](http://www.scascharity.org.uk) or if you are not sure and want an informal chat first, you can call 0844 500 9699, leave your details and a member of the Bransgore team will call you back for a no commitment chat. You must be resident in Hampshire and in, or very close to, the areas we cover in this part of the New Forest.

Mike Jukes B.E.M

Bransgore Group Co-ordinator

We have  
limited spaces  
in some year  
groups!



# Sopley Primary School

## The past 12 months have been busy!

We've taken part in football, tag rugby and cross country competitions.

We've learned how to be road safe on our bikes around the village.

We celebrated the Kings coronation with cream tea on the playground.

We've built fires and developed our woodworking skills on our outdoor learning days.

We've been on school trips to the Winchester Science Museum, Longdown Activity Farm, The Ancient Technology Centre and many, many more.

## Our big project over the last few months

has seen Sopley's Secret Garden transform from an unused space into a wonderful outdoor learning space for our children. So many members of the Sopley community as well as our parents have given such wonderful feedback and we will continue to plant, improve and learn in our outdoor space.



### Our Secret Garden has:-

- A strawberry tower
- A pond
- A gigantic bug hotel
- An Owl box
- A polytunnel
- A runner bean tepee
- A sunflower house
- Fruit trees
- Vegetable and herb beds



### Follow us at:

[www.burlevandsopley-federation.org.uk](http://www.burlevandsopley-federation.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/Sopley-Primary-School](https://www.facebook.com/Sopley-Primary-School)  
[www.facebook.com/sopleyssecretgarden](https://www.facebook.com/sopleyssecretgarden)

### Contact us at:

Telephone: 01425 672343  
Email: [admin@sopley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sopley.hants.sch.uk)



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- STEEL FRAME BUILDINGS SUPPLIED AND ERECTED



## Heatherstone Grange

2021 had seen the installation of a child swing, benches, and picnic tables around the SANG (green areas) for the benefit of residents and walkers. (Main funding by Sopley PC with support from residents).

2022 was a busy year for HG Green Group, well supported by its residents (and their children).

Hedge & Orchard - January 2022, saw initial ground work and hole digging by NFDC, with residents' and their children planting a mixed hedge, supplied by the Woodland Trust. This was quickly followed by the planting of an orchard - 11 trees (apple, cherry, plum and pear). Sopley Parish Council, and residents provided funding.

We hope the hedge will encourage more birds, whilst the orchard the production of more homemade fruit pies!

Spring bulbs - November saw an enthusiastic group of residents' fund and plant Spring bulbs. 1,500 daffs in 5 locations around the green walkways and 1,250 crocuses around the large oak tree on the main green.

### Heatherstone Grange

Hedge planting	Orchard planting
	
Daffodil planting	Crocus planting
	



## A CORONATION 1953 STYLE

Memories from 1953 will be recalled again this year by many older people due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II in September last year.

The heir to the throne's Coronation has been planned for this coming May, so I am sure plans will have been made to organise celebrations around our Parish by various groups, which most likely will include the Parish Council, the Parish Hall Committee, the Parish Church, the Primary School and many individuals.

Back in mid-January 1953, the Parish Council under the stewardship of the Right Hon The Lord Manners, H.A.Kemp-Welch Esq. Messrs .T.L.Dampney, A. Lane, F.Tuck, and A.E.Wiseman, formed a Coronation Committee to organise a programme of events for the residents of the Parish.

According to their printed schedule the main event was to be a Sports Day for children and adults, to include a buffet tea, music and a bonfire. Other occasions planned were a coach drive for Old Age Pensioners (sic) on a subsequent day, some small permanent souvenir for children and the flood-lighting of Sopley Church.

Donations were invited from parishioners and an authorised collector was to be sent round the villages to collect these, which raised a total of £78-9s-8d. Residents were also asked to make a special effort to have houses and gardens "bright and festive" during the celebrations.

Other donations to help with the cost were received from two village Whist Drives, a Dance at Sopley Social Club and a separate Social Evening, all raising an amount of £26-3s-0d. The R.A.F. at Sopley gave £7-7s-0d, the Jocktrill Committee gave £5-0s-0d, Sopley British Legion gave £7-0s-0d and Mr and Mrs E. Stuart, who ran the Sopley Stores raised another £1-0s-0d through returned Brooke Bond tea wrappers, ( a scheme running at that time ). Hampshire County Council also made a grant of £6-4s-0d.

The Sports events and Fancy Dress parade were held in the field by Ripley School, opposite Ripley triangle, by kind permission of the farmer, Mr Lot Hunt. For this special occasion a Grand Raffle was organised, for a prize of a Ladies Bicycle, supplied by Mr A J Harrison, Motor and Cycle Engineer of Sopley, at a cost of £8-5s-0d. Tickets for this were one shilling and £28-11s-0d was raised.

It was decided to purchase 150 Bibles and special bookplates for the Children's Coronation Souvenir, which was supplied through Canon Kirkham at a cost of £38-0s-0d.

More than twenty races were held during the Sports Day afternoon, separate ones for girls and boys and also mixed ones of different distances. These included flat races, three legged races, sack races, relay races, egg and spoon race, high jump, obstacle race and wheelbarrow races.

For adults there was a ladies novelty and relay race, whilst the men had a novelty race, and a veterans handicap race, which was for men over 35 years of age. This race was over 100yds and you gained an extra yard per year, if you were over thirty five.

Besides these a Tilting the Bucket, Greasy Pole, slow bicycle race and a Tug of War were organised, with the latter being competed for by teams from the villages of Avon, Shirley, Ripley and Sopley. No record has been found of the winner of this no doubt hotly contested event.

A buffet tea was available between 4-30pm and 6pm, but you were advised to bring your own cup and saucer.

Music during the afternoon and evening was provided and relayed by the Public Address System kindly loaned by the R.A.F. at Sopley. With the Queen's Speech being relayed at 9pm, it is believed that the bonfire was the conclusion to the day's activities.

Later in the year, the accounts for the events and activities associated with the Parish celebrations gave an interesting view of monies gathered and spent. One entry showed that from the generous amounts received, the Parish was able to send £5-0s-0d to the Westminster Abbey Appeal Fund. This charity is still active today and helps with costs for repairs and maintenance of the Abbey, along with supporting the Choir School, education, training and religious activities.



Information for this article was taken from the Charity Commission website and documents donated to me from various sources, so thanks must go to those persons involved.

It has been related to me that the Bibles mentioned above were handed out at a further event held in Sopley Park, but in the short time taken to collate this article I have not been able to gather further information regarding this latter event.

Cynthia Hiscock.

PARISH  
OF  
SOPLY

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

TUESDAY 2ND JUNE 1953

3.15 p.m.

(In the field opposite Ripley School  
by kind permission of Mr. L.G. Hunt)

Sopley Parish  
Coronation Committee

Nº 651

Name

Address

All monies, unsold tickets and  
counterfoils to be returned to  
the promoter not later than  
23rd May, 1953.

SOPLEY PARISH  
CORONATION COMMITTEE

Nº 651

This ticket acknowledges the receipt of 1/-  
as an unconditional donation towards the funds of the  
above and entitles the holder to participate in a free

**Coronation Draw - 1953**  
*for Lady's or Gent's Cycle*

The Draw will take place on Tuesday, 2nd June  
at the Sports Field, Ripley

Promoter: Mrs. E. G. Stuart, Sopley Stores, Sopley

Note—This ticket is issued under Section 24, Part 2, of the Betting and Lotteries Act, 1934

Printed by The Valley Press, High Street, Christchurch.

## USEFUL NUMBERS, CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

### ***Sopley Parish Council Composition 2023/24***

**Chairman** - Daniel Shutler  
64 Fish St, Ripley, Bransgore  
Christchurch, BH23 8EU  
01425 673113

Cllr G Vines - Vice Chair  
Cllr D Dunn  
Cllr J Allen  
Cllr J Partridge  
Cllr B McDonnell  
Vacancy

The Offices of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year, together with the composition of the various Council Committees, are decided by Council vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Council—which will be held on May 24th, 2024 immediately preceding the Annual Parish Assembly.

Any correspondence for Sopley Parish Council should be sent to the Clerk  
parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk or  
by using the "Contact us" tab available on the website.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY  
GIVEN THAT WE HAVE  
A VACANCY IN OFFICE  
FOR A PARISH  
COUNCILLOR FOR  
Sopley Parish  
Council**

**Contact the Clerk for further  
details**

**Parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk  
Tel: 01425 674833  
M: 07591 973493**

**Website: [www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk)**

**Parish Clerk - Mrs Katie Hughes**

**Parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk  
01425 674833/ 07591 973493**

**Sopley Parish Hall (Bookings)  
01202 299909**

**Sopley School  
01425 672343**

**St Michaels & All  
Angels Parish Church  
Liz Bishop 01425 672628**

### **Where can you find out more about the Parish Council?**

The Parish Noticeboards are located in Sopley Village at the Parish Hall and in the layby opposite The Old Post Office, in Ripley next to the phone box/post box, in Avon by the the entrance to London Lane and at Heatherstone Grange.

Parish Council Meetings are held every month - usually on the third Thursday of the month - and are open to all Parishioners and interested parties. Meeting dates, venues and agenda details are posted on the notice boards and the parish website ([www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk)).



## Sopley/Ripley Newsletter Autumn edition 2023



**The Sopley Village telephone box is still under renovation by one of our Council Members.  
We are looking forward to seeing it fully restored this Autumn.**