Banwell Parish Council News and Information
Spring Updates from Your Parish Council

Despite the rain, it's lovely to see that the days are getting a little longer and there are some subtle signs of spring around the village. We have lots of upcoming events and initiatives over the coming months. Have a browse of this newsletter to find out more.

'Recognition of Service to the Community Award 2026'

Many Banwell parishioners generously give their time and energy to support public engagement and volunteer within our community. To recognise and celebrate these individuals, the Parish Council annually presents the Recognition of Service to the Community Award. Pictured here is last year's winner, Jade Longmoor, who has volunteered in the village for many years — serving as a bell ringer and now Tower Captain, and founding a much-loved toddler group. Her dedication reflects the quiet commitment that keeps our community strong and connected.

Do you know someone who has, for example:

- Made a significant positive impact in the community
- Gone above and beyond as a volunteer
- Inspired others to get involved
- Made a marked difference to someone's life
- Successfully fundraised for a project.

If so, please complete a nomination form via the Parish Council website, Facebook page, by email, or by visiting the Parish Office. Forms must be returned by **Monday 6th April**. The 2026 winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Electors / Parish Assembly on **Monday 27th April at 7:30pm in Banwell YCC**.

Diary Dates

Banwell Parish Assembly will be held on Monday 27th April at 7.30pm at the Youth & Community Centre or virtually.

All parishioners are welcome to attend. It is an opportunity for you to hear what has been achieved in the village over the past year, both by the Parish Council and by the various local organisations, as well as their aspirations for the coming year (If you are a part of an organisation that would like to share what they have been doing, please contact the Clerk).

We will also be awarding the 2026 'Recognition of Service to the Community' Award
You will have the opportunity to ask questions and give your views about any aspect of the Parish Council's work or any other issue to do with village life. Further information from the Clerk on 01934 820442 or clerk@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Banwell Spring Clean - Saturday 16th May 10am - 12noon

Come and join us for the Banwell Spring Clean Up. We'll be weeding, litter picking, painting fences and just making sure our lovely village looks its best. Everyone welcome, refreshments and all equipment will be provided.

Mead Fields Spring Clean - Wednesday 8th April 6pm – 8pm

Our first Mead Fields Spring Clean – we'll be weeding, litter picking and painting – pop along and join the fun! Refreshments and all equipment will be provided.

Events and Initiatives

- **You Can Do I.T. & Tea & Tech**

Free digital advice tailored to you — whether it's using apps, online shopping, Facebook, or something else entirely. Join us at Banwell Youth & Community Centre from 2:30pm–4:30pm on: March: 5th, 19th & 24th, April: 2nd, 16th & 21st, May: 7th, 21st & 26th

All ages and abilities welcome. No experience needed, just come along to learn something new or enjoy tea and a chat. To book, contact Liz on (01934) 820442 or email clerk@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Walking Buddies Programme

If you'd like company on a walk—or a bit of motivation—contact the Parish Office and we'll match you with a walking buddy. We're also recruiting **volunteers** who'd be happy to go for a stroll with someone in the parish. To sign up as a walker or a volunteer, contact nature@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk / 01934 820442- everyone is welcome!

Book & Puzzle Swap at the YCC – Find Your Next Favourite!

Looking for something new to read or a puzzle to get stuck into? Our Book & Puzzle Swap is growing every week, with plenty of great titles and jigsaws waiting to be discovered. Come along, browse, and take something home — you might find a new favourite.
Every other Tuesday & every Thursday, 10am–1pm. Also open during Council meetings – 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7pm

Banwell Public Living Room

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10am–1pm. Banwell Youth & Community Centre. Free tea, coffee, and biscuits. Sit, read, chat with the Craft Corner Group, or log on using our free tablets and laptops. Everyone welcome!

Soup and a Roll – Every Thursday, 12:30pm

Warm up your week with a delicious bowl of soup and good company. Voluntary donation: £2. Let us know if you're coming for the first time: 01934 820442 or clerk@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Notices and Updates

Our Website & Emails Have Moved to .gov

Banwell Parish Council has now officially moved from *.org* to *.gov* addresses.
All our email addresses and our website remain exactly the same as before, but with .gov.uk instead of .org.uk. If you normally email us, just swap the ending — everything else stays the same.

Community Pages and Community Events

Our website features community pages, events listings, and a local business directory. If you run an activity, event, club, project or business in Banwell and want it featured Contact Sally on comms@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Banwell Scouts Planting for the Future

The Woodland Trust has kindly provided young trees to be planted at Banwell Youth & Community Centre. Banwell Scouts will soon plant the saplings to create a new hedgerow. Once established, the hedgerow will help strengthen the boundary of the field while also boosting biodiversity by creating valuable wildlife habitat.

This project has been made possible thanks to support from Banwell Gardening Club and Garden Organic, who are loaning tools for the planting day, and Galliford Try, who have donated equipment and volunteers. We are also grateful to the Scout leaders for their support on the planting day. We look forward to seeing the new hedgerow take shape.

Dog Bin Relocation

Two dog waste bins in the parish will shortly be relocated. The bin at the Recreation Ground has a broken lid and requires replacement. As dogs are not permitted on the Recreation Ground, and following a request for a bin at the West Garston to Knightcott Park ramp, the Council has agreed to relocate the replacement bin to this area.
Dog waste bins remain available nearby: behind the bus shelter by the footpath to The Paddocks, and along Westfield Road on the footpath to Queens Road.

In addition, one existing bin at the top of Knightcott Gardens is being moved to an alternative nearby position on a temporary six-month trial basis following concerns about its siting. The location will be reviewed after this period.

We thank residents for their understanding as we monitor how these changes work in practice.

Banwell Foodbank – Donations Welcome

Banwell Parish Council runs the local foodbank, affiliated with Weston Foodbank, and we welcome donations to support households in our community. We accept tinned and long-life foods, toiletries and household essentials. Donations can be brought to the Youth & Community Centre on **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am–1pm**, or you can contact the Clerk to arrange another drop-off time.

🟦 Citizens Advice – Local Outreach in Banwell

Banwell Parish Council funds a Citizens Advice outreach service, offering support with issues such as council tax, Universal Credit, benefits, debt, budgeting, discrimination, consumer problems, and utilities. Weekly appointments take place at Banwell Youth & Community Centre or Winscombe Community Centre and are booked directly through Citizens Advice. For more information or to arrange an appointment, please contact Citizens Advice: 🌐 www.nscab.org.uk 📞 0808 278 7973

👋 Welcome to our new Councillor

We're pleased to welcome Andrew Base to Banwell Parish Council. Andy and his wife, originally from Bristol, moved to Banwell in February 2015 and have grown to love both the area and the community. After retiring from a 40-year career in aerospace engineering, Andy felt he wanted something to keep his mind active and becoming a Parish Councillor felt like the perfect fit.

Andy says: *"As a councillor I hope to work together with the community to help maintain our great village and, if possible, make it even better."*

We are delighted to welcome Andy to the team and look forward to the contribution he will make to the Parish Council and the wider community. You can find out more about all of our councillors on our website: https://www.banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/your-councillors

👔 Vacancy: Become a Parish Councillor

Want to give back to your community? We currently have a vacancy and would love to hear from residents aged 18+. Being a councillor offers valuable voluntary experience and a chance to help shape Banwell's future. Training available.

Learn more at www.banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk and contact the Clerk: clerk@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk 01934 820442.

Your Parish Councillors

You can find out more about your Parish Councillors on our website www.banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Steve Voller (Chairman)	07977 536145	steve.voller@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
Paul Harding (Vice Chairman)	07974 392245	paul.harding@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
Simon Arlidge	07956 030305	simon.arlidge@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mike Bailey	07831 838578	mike.bailey@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
Andrew Base		andrews.base@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
Steven Davies	01934 822245	steve.davies@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mike Dolling	07939 590154	mike.dolling@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
Kelly Smith	07590 115521	kelly.smith@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
Matthew Thomson	07415 788727	matthew.thomson@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tara Wright		tara.wright@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact Your Parish Council

- Call us on 01934 820442
- Email us on clerk@banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Message us via our website www.banwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Visit us at Banwell Youth & Community Centre **Tues & Thurs 10am-12noon**
- Follow and contact us on Facebook and Instagram
- Send us a letter to Banwell PC, Youth and Community Centre, West St, BS29 6BD.
- Attend a Council meeting online on zoom, Facebook Live or in person.

Follow Banwell Parish Council on Social Media:

Facebook: @BanwellParishCouncil
YouTube: Banwell Parish Council