

The Story of The Bourne

Today the area known as The Bourne is administratively one of the nine electoral wards of Farnham and comprises a community of some 4000 people with many open spaces and points of interest, including Waverley Abbey, as well as a remarkable network of footpaths and bridleways. It fits well into the beautiful town of Farnham but the residents are also proud of their local heritage and retain their own feelings of belonging to a village community, as befits an area that has been settled by man since the earliest times. However, in order to focus on and understand the story of this village community it is necessary to take full account of the wider history of Farnham as the local market town of great significance.

Geology and Landscape

Some knowledge of the underlying geology of the area is essential to an understanding of the way environmental factors have influenced life here over the years. The Bourne stands exclusively on a single one of the ancient rocks that make up the great Wealden feature, the Lower Greensand (Folkestone Beds). This has given rise to a naturally dry landscape with sandy soil that needs much care and attention before it is suitable for agriculture other than rough grazing. This is the basis of the heathland landscape best seen on Frensham Common and which is now visible once again on the RSPB Farnham Heath Reserve. To the west is a strip of Gault Clay, which in the past supported a flourishing pottery industry centred in Alice Holt Forest. There were once also patches of clay in The Bourne that gave rise to a small number of pottery kilns there. Building stones associated with the Wealden geology include Bargate stone that was quarried near Godalming, and Ironstone that was available more widely.

The underlying Wealden strata were subjected to the normal forces of erosion which have shaped the landscape that is visible today. This process included the capture of the headwaters of the river Blackwater by the Wey which is described in more detail elsewhere on this website. This gave rise to the overall river system we are familiar with today including The Bourne Stream running in its steep sided valley and the Frensham Vale Stream. The flow in both is seasonal and the former was known historically by the more descriptive name of The Winterbourne.



Rural meadows in The Lower Bourne Valley

After the Ice Age the whole area was left with a covering of coarse gravel up to a maximum of 25ft in depth. Traces of this are still apparent today but the gravel has been considerably disturbed by erosion and is now confined to the hill tops of the several Greensand ridges in the area.

These gravel deposits were once a significant feature of The Bourne because for a very long time they were dug out and used in an ad hoc way by local people for use in building.

Today, three small patches of woodland along Aveley Lane indicate the former position of Old Public Quarry Sites used for this purpose. In the nineteenth century the gravel deposits were exploited commercially, especially for use in railway construction. As extraction from the quarries or pits was completed, the archaeologists moved in and were able to uncover a rich harvest of the stone implements such as axe heads used by early man. The pits that remained facilitated close scrutiny by geologists and allowed them to build up a picture of the processes mentioned above. Traces of these pits are still evident in the wider Farnham area where the more prominent ones are still in use for other purposes, an example being the lake of the Tice's Meadow Bird Sanctuary.

Pre-History

The deepest gravel deposits were beneath the A287 road now known locally as Gravel Hill. They were exploited in Ward's Pit where the present Church of St Thomas- on-The Bourne now stands and in the Averley Tower pit across the road. These gravels were amongst the oldest and gave no indication of settled occupation by man. However, the number and variety of artefacts discovered in later deposits provided evidence that from about 5000 BC the area gave shelter and sustenance to many people. There are abundant signs of settlements and indications of their successive occupation from the later Stone Age on into the Bronze and Iron Ages. Some 20 such sites across Farnham have been studied in detail of which those at Monks Walk and Green Lane are in The Bourne and there are others close by at Moor Park and Sheep Hatch. From the available evidence it is believed that the Monks Walk site, by virtue of its probable access to hunting grounds and water, was considered particularly favourable for habitation as it was part of a larger settlement that clustered around the point where The Bourne stream meets the Wey flood-plain. So it can perhaps be claimed that here is one of the earliest examples of a village community in the country. The main investigator of the Monks Walk site in the early twentieth century was the Rev Thomas Griffith, second Vicar of St Thomas' Church, who was also an avid collector of the stone artefacts found there.

What seems clear from this evidence is that early man considered the area very suitable for habitation because of its mild climate, excellent water supply from the Wey Chalk Stream and an ample forested land for gathering sustenance and timber. They chose their sites with great care and, as a result, they were re-used over a long period of time. There is thus much evidence in Farnham of early settlements and industries including finds of characteristic beakers, arrow heads and urns. One of the most extensive sites was on the west side of Green Lane which unfortunately was not completely investigated because of rapid commercial exploitation by the Farnham Gravel Company in the 1930s. The Stoneyfields site close to The Bourne, showed evidence of habitation in the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman era.

Roman Period

The Romans occupied Britain for 400 years from AD 43 and the remains of their roads, buildings and fortifications can be seen all over the country but in the Weald the signs of their occupation are in general of small size and well distributed. It is considered therefore that the lives of the native population were not greatly changed and that the activity at that time was largely civil and commercial rather than military because the main route taken by the legions from the Kent coast was along Watling Street towards London and the North.

There were once suggestions that, because of its position on the old natural route along the North Downs known as the Harroway, Farnham was the site of the Post Station Vindomis referred to in Roman literature. However, there is no evidence to support this, and it is now

accepted that Vindomis was in fact a small but significant township lying at the junction of major Roman roads at Neatham near Alton. Nevertheless there are scattered Roman remains in Farnham including a villa at Romans Way as well as a number of pottery kilns in The Bourne at Green Lane, Mavins and Stoneyfield. It had long been thought that the pottery industry here would have given rise to a network of roads and tracks including a route to London indicating that the Wealden area was being drawn for the first time into the life of a larger region. Although this seems highly likely there is still no real evidence of a major Roman road through Farnham but it is probable that whatever network did exist at that time does form the basis of our current comprehensive network of paths, lanes and roads.

Anglo Saxon Period

At the end of the Roman occupation the considerable infrastructure they had created fell into disrepair and the area relapsed for a time into the remoteness and isolation of pre-Roman times. This was particularly true of The Bourne where farming was difficult but even here there was soon much fresh activity. Even before the Romans finally departed in 410, invasions by other peoples from what we now know as northern Germany and Denmark had begun and these continued until the renewed Viking incursions of the 700s. These peoples were all illiterate and so there are no contemporary accounts of what actually happened in those years, which, until comparatively recently, have often been described as the Dark Ages. However, there are a few later documents which, together with the results of archaeology, allow a picture of life in the period to be generated and this reveals that many significant developments took place. First and foremost was the emergence across the whole land of Kingdoms of the invading peoples such as the Saxons, each with its own capital city. Surrey became part of the Kingdom of Wessex which had a series of Kings including Caedwalla 686-688 and Alfred the Great 871- 899, who made Winchester the capital city. Wessex was a successful kingdom and provided a degree of stability which allowed Farnham to grow and prosper.

Another development of great importance was the spread of Christianity in Britain following the arrival of St Augustine in 597. The accompanying Church infrastructure led to the creation of a Diocese in each Kingdom which in Wessex was the Winchester Diocese where eventually the great cathedral we know today was to be built.



**Statue of Great King Alfred
In Winchester**

The Bishops, with their links within the wider Church centred on Rome, were important spiritually and politically. They were major landowners and became rich from the many offerings they received. In one of his last acts King Caedwalla used his position and wealth to create the Manor and Minster Church of "Farnham".

As Elfrida Manning says in her book entitled "Saxon Farnham" this is the first appearance of Farnham in recorded history, and it was to remain the property of the Bishop of Winchester for the next 1000 years."

The Bourne was not a centre for all these activities but the few people living here would have observed what was going on. They would have been aware of a degree of stability returning and of the presence of the Minster down by the Wey which is now the parish church of St Andrew.

The remains of Saxon huts were discovered on a site now called Saxon Croft just off Firgrove Hill. There was still some turmoil as shown by the Battle of Farnham which took place in 892 in which Anglo Saxon Forces fought a Viking force that was endeavouring to retreat with booty amassed in Hampshire and Berkshire to its ships lying off the East Coast. Whether this was a running engagement or a full scale battle is not known and there is also some debate as to whether the site was Gong Hill or the high ground in Hale near Lawday House where the Manor Court was based.

Medieval Period

By the end of the eleventh century England had an air of wealth and sophistication but this was abruptly shattered by the Norman invasion of 1066 which ended the Anglo Saxon period and started a new historical chapter. It opened dramatically when, after his victory at Hastings, William the Conqueror marched on London and made it his capital city. There followed an enormous building programme across the whole land, mainly of castles, as a way of imposing Norman rule on the country. This would soon affect The Bourne directly but initially life in the Manor of Farnham carried on much as before. The Lord of the Manor remained the Bishop of Winchester and there was no change in use of the land for farming.

Life was in keeping with the structure of the Feudal system which had now been established. In this the Manor was the basic building block of land ownership and contained pasture, arable and common land. A larger division was called the Hundred which was made up of a number of manors. In West Surrey there were three Hundreds: Blackheath, Godalming and Farnham. Within these units, small settlements of about 10 families were sometimes identified as Tithings and in Farnham these were Tilford, Wrecclesham, Runwick, Badshot and Runfold, Dogflud, Frensham and Seale. It is likely that The Bourne is not on that list because it consisted mainly of common land on which settlement was not allowed. It also seems likely that the remains of that poor quality common land can be seen today in the small patches of woodland that break up the urban area of which Burnt Hill Wood and Compton Copse are examples. Additionally, Monks Walk Wood is officially classed as Ancient Woodland, meaning that trees have been growing there since 1600 AD.

Two events in the local area had specific impacts on life in The Bourne and are good examples of the inter-relationship between Church and State. The first of these was the establishment of Waverley Abbey. This occurred through the gift of a portion of land to the Cistercian Order of Monks by William Gifford who was both Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor to King Henry 1. Today he is remembered by Gifford Close near Abbots Ride. Work started on the site in 1128 under the direction of Abbot John and his small party of monks when they arrived from France.



The ruins of Waverley Abbey

The immense activity of the construction phase would have been followed by greatly increased movement by the monks and their visitors as well as opportunities for supply of produce and welfare support at the Infirmary.

It is also likely that some residents would have become Lay Brothers who worked in the Abbey and its fields.

The second event, which occurred soon afterwards in 1138, was the building of Farnham Castle by Bishop Henry de Blois who was the brother of King Steven. This was part of a programme of building residences for the Bishop of Winchester to enable him to properly manage the vast estate of the Diocese and to help him carry out his political duties in London for which he had a seat in the House of Lords and was sometimes required to be at Court. The impact on residents of The Bourne would not have been great but they would have been very much aware that the officials responsible for running the Manor led by the Reeve, were based at the Castle.

Throughout the Medieval period through to the time of the Tudors, Farnham was prospering as the local centre and Market Town. This was confirmed in the 16th Century by the digging of the New River to provide water for its cloth and tanning industries from the Wey right up to the town centre. The nature of those industries indicates the continuing importance of agriculture in the Manor with emphasis on production of wool at this time. Although not necessarily dating from that period, old farm houses are still present in The Bourne including Greenhill, Stream, Bourne, Ancora and Monks Walk Farms. Limited agriculture is still practiced on the west side of Farnham.

1500-1800

Early in this period the sudden dissolution of Waverley Abbey in 1536 would have been a shock that caused loss of work and trade. More generally, much happened in the country including such events as the Civil War, the Napoleonic Wars and the birth of the Industrial Revolution. All had an impact on the growing town of Farnham especially the Civil War in which there were major engagements locally. In the rural community of The Bourne, however, life seems to have carried on much as normal. There was some modest building activity and. It is also likely that there were local troop movements and the opportunity to supply produce and other goods during the Civil War. The effects of major changes in industry and agriculture were certainly felt but took time to filter through. One change of note was the start of the hop growing industry which was to have a beneficial effect on the local economy right through until the 19th century. At its peak the Farnham Whitebine hop was considered the finest of the English hops and annual hop picking became a popular recreational activity for many. Today there is still a tiny hop garden at the Hogs Back Brewery just outside The Bourne.

One building overlooking The Bourne is Moor Park House believed to date from 1300 and where the author and Satirist Jonathan Swift, best known for writing Gulliver's Travels, was secretary to the diplomat Sir William Temple.



Little Willows

The only other building remaining in the Bourne from the early part of this period is the timbered rear half of the Fox public house (the front portion being of Victorian brickwork).

Other houses remaining from the 18th century include two delightful cottages, Hunters Hollow and Little Twynax, as well as a series of standard workers cottages typified by Little Willows and two now configured as garages in Old Church Lane.

There are others of this type, now heavily modified, visible and still in use throughout the area.

By the end of the period small clusters of houses were becoming apparent along the valley of The Bourne Stream, forming the hamlets of Upper, Middle and Lower Bourne. Today only Lower Bourne remains as a recognisable community while the others are remembered only by road names such as Upper Bourne Lane.

A controversial feature of this period was increased enclosure of the common land. This reached a peak in the 1770s with many Parliamentary Enclosures taking place. It is a complicated subject and there were benefits such as an increase in arable land but there was also a downside in that many poor people suffered badly through loss of their historic Common Law rights. Perhaps related to this there was an increase in Squatting through a misguided belief that if one went onto the Common by night and erected a rough dwelling by morning you would become a registered land owner. This may have worked in some cases as there is one house in The Bourne named Moonlight Cottage that is believed to have originated in this way.

Another feature of life at this time was the difficulty of obtaining a reliable water supply because of the permeable nature of the sandstone of the area. This became a problem of increasing significance as the population increased and led to a high death rate amongst children in an age lacking in medical science.

The Victorian Era

Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 and her long reign was to become a period of immense change in many fields. Local government progressed in various stages from being a matter for the Parish of St Andrews with annual elections in the Vestry, to the establishment in 1895 of the Farnham Urban District Council with wide responsibilities including for water supply and sewerage, both new public services introduced in this era. Communications also advanced with the introduction of the electric telegraph through the Post Office located at the junction of the A287 Road and the Old Frensham Road. In the middle of the century two further highly significant events affected the local population.

The first was the arrival of the railway from Guildford in 1849 which very quickly led to the age of commuting which in turn triggered greatly increased house building and a rise in population movement. The second was the advent of the Elementary Education Act in 1870 which required a school to be within reach of every child. On this The Bourne was already coming up to speed because its first infant's school opened in December 1869. This quickly

filled up and was therefore extended in 1875 by the erection of a corrugated iron building. This served its purpose until it too became so over-crowded that HM Inspectors refused to sanction further use. A move was then made to a new school in Lower Bourne which opened in 1895 and was to continue there until the present day. The earlier temporary iron building can still be seen in the Rural Life Centre.

The effects of the railway were felt more quickly in many ways. The rise in population meant that the Rector of St Andrews felt he was now unable to cope with the number of parishioners and so in 1861 he commissioned the building of a Chapel of Ease in The Bourne. This quickly became the parish church of St Thomas – on-The Bourne with The Reverend Thomas Sidebotham as Vicar. Needing a home for his family, he raised the funds for the fine vicarage to be built which can still be seen on Vicarage Hill.

Initially the church was used on weekdays as a temporary school and it was also due to the initiative of the Church that the Infants School mentioned above was erected in this period with the Revd Sidebotham serving on the Management Committee for many years until his death in 1907.

To commemorate the opening of the new church two yew trees were donated for the churchyard by James Knight Esq of Vernon House with a plaque inscribed "as a memento of the Wedding Day of HRH the Prince and Princess of Wales". The same benefactor also donated the avenue of Lime trees that is still flourishing in the churchyard. James Knight was from a family that had become rich from their investment in the hop industry and Vernon House was to become the Library of Farnham.

Burials commenced in the churchyard and the record of graves there provides an illuminating view of the people of The Bourne and their contributions to society over this period. One person buried there is the Vicar's sister, Miss Anne Sidebotham, who was very musical, played the harmonium in the Church and became the well-known personage of "Miss Annie" as she cycled around the village. Her greatest achievement was to cooperate with her friend, Frances Carey Broc, to produce the Children's Hymn Book which became a best seller. With her share of the profits she had the lych-gate to the churchyard built as a present to her brother. This is still standing and is a locally listed building.

The first little church was twice extended but by 1900 still remained too small for the increasing congregation and so steps were taken to provide a new church. A site for this was generously donated in the form of an old gravel pit by the Revd John Martyr Ward, a retired clergyman who had inherited the Firgrove Estate on which development was now taking place.



The first church of The Bourne

The second stage was to decide on what to build and here finance was a problem. The Vicar's son, Henry Sidebotham, was the chosen architect and various options were looked at, the cheapest being the use of corrugated iron, a new material which had been used locally on The Bourne School The Bishop of Guildford, however, was adamant that this would be inappropriate for a sacred building and so money was somehow found to construct the church in Bargate stone.

This was consecrated in 2011 and remains the core of today's fine parish church of The Bourne where the custom of maintaining a high-quality choir that upholds the heritage of traditional English church music is continued.

There are two other religious buildings in The Bourne. One of these is the Congregational Chapel built in 1860 off the Frensham Road and now converted into a residential dwelling. The other is the Church of St Martin's By the Green. This was built in 1900 to overcome an anomaly in the parish structure which had considered residents of Lower Bourne to be parishioners of Tilford. This meant a long walk for them to attend services on Sunday and for the Curate to perform his duties on a daily basis. In a partnership between the Vicar of Tilford and local residents, land was acquired and a design drawn up to enable the building of a small but fitting church for this limb of the parish. This not only rationalised the situation but also confirmed Lower Bourne as the hub of the wider Bourne community with its Green, the Infants School, some shops, two if not three public houses and now its own Church.

The renowned local writer, George Sturt lived with his sisters in Vine Cottage on Old Church Lane which is now a Grade 2 listed Building. His books reveal much about social history and also his empathy with the working class. This is brought out in a series of his works arising from his seemingly endless conversations with his gardener, Fred Grover, whose hard life was typical of labourers of that time. Fred, who figures in the books as Bettesworth, is, with his wife Lucy, buried in the Old Churchyard. The work that perhaps made Sturt's name, "Change in the Village," addresses the problems of ordinary people in coming to terms with the new faster moving and changing world of the late nineteenth century.

Another notable name in this period is that of Montague Wilbraham Taylor an officer with a distinguished record in the Rifle Brigade who retired to The Bourne where, in addition to living in a somewhat ostentatious manner, built a large hall for use as a social club with facilities designed to keep young people out of the pubs. This is now a locally listed building known as the Scout Hut because of its current usage.

One last change that occurred at the very end of Queen Victoria's reign was a solution to the problem of water supply. This came about after steady engineering improvements that led in 1900 to the opening of the Victoria Reservoir and Supply Station at the top of Firgrove Hill. This meant that for the first time, throughout Farnham, piped water became possible in every home. This led directly to an increasing population through health improvements and also to a fresh surge in building, mainly of stylish houses some of which were the work of the famous local architect Harold Falkner.

The Twentieth Century

At the start of this century, even though the war in South Africa was rumbling on, the country was in good shape and taking advantage of the great achievements of past years. The people of The Bourne were no doubt aware of the electric street lighting being installed on Firgrove Hill to replace the gas lighting. However, change was in the air and in 1901 the much revered old Queen died and was replaced by King Edward VII and it was not long before the outbreak of war in 1914. It then took only four days for the Defence of the Realm Act to put the nation on a war footing. The expression "Home Front" came into common use, thus launching the idea that everyone was involved. Aldershot was quickly full to capacity with troops being kitted out and mustered for the front. Local residents who responded to Kitchener's famous call of "Your Country Needs You" were often required to go to Guildford to enlist. When casualties began to arrive, Waverley Abbey House was converted into an Auxiliary Hospital, courtesy of the Anderson family. Mrs Rupert Anderson who served as Commandant was later awarded an OBE for her contribution.

Local casualties were typified by Private Arthur Culver of the Royal West Surreys who was injured on The Somme and later died of his injuries in St George's Hospital before being given a full military funeral in the Old Churchyard where he still lies in a Registered War Grave. His family suffered again when their second son, William, was killed in action in 1918. As was the custom he is buried where he fell in France.

When peace came at last, a Remembrance Service was held in Castle Street at which the now national custom of observing a two Minute Silence originated. In 1921 The Bourne War Memorial was consecrated alongside the Church of St Thomas with 36 names inscribed to remember those killed in what became known as the Great War.

In what was to become known as the Inter-War years, the population of Farnham grew steadily and much new development took place, sometimes on former hop fields. A landmark event in The Bourne was when the sewerage system, which had hitherto been confined to the town centre, finally arrived.

More significantly perhaps, the UK and other nations took steps to develop their military technologies as was illustrated in the annual, international Schneider Trophy Air Race that in 1929 took place around the Solent and was won for Britain by Flt Lt Henry Waghorn RAF flying a Super Marine Swift which in simplistic terms was a Spitfire on floats. RJ Mitchel, the designer of that aircraft, was in the support team for the race. Waghorn became a national hero, was awarded the AFC and posted to Farnborough to carry out experimental flying. While there he married a local girl from The Bourne but was sadly killed in May 1931 while testing a Horsley bomber. He was given a full military funeral in the Old Churchyard at which one of the pall bearers was Air Vice Marshal Dowding who was destined to become Air Officer Commanding RAF Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain at the outset of the Second World War.

Attention on this fresh conflict became sharply focussed in May 1940 by the threat of invasion following the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from the beaches of Dunkirk. Once again the nation prepared for war with the utmost urgency. One action was to put in hand construction of a GHQ Defence Line to protect London and the Midlands, together with a succession of Stop Lines between this and the coast. Locally the GHQ Line followed the course of the river Wey and it was here that pill boxes, tank obstacles and weapon emplacements were built at 500m intervals. These were manned by the Home Guard as well as regular troops including some from the Commonwealth. In the area of Dene Lane there was a Canadian Searchlight Battery in which the men busied themselves by using local timber to build mess huts. Much modified into attractive houses these can still be seen in Dene Lane.

Inevitably there were casualties leading to the addition of x more names on The Bourne War Memorial. On a happier note, 1945 saw the start of the Bourne Show which has ever since been held in July annually on The Green.



The Super Marine Swift before the race



Gun emplacement overlooking the Wey

In 1960 the water supply story was continued in 1960 by the provision of a deep borehole in The Bourne valley to replace the supply from the Farnham Waterworks which was running out.

The Twenty First Century

On 31st December 1999 many computer users were worried that their machines would not roll over to the new century because of the so called Millennium Bug which was really a software flaw. In the event this turned out not to be a problem and so what was to become a period of immense technical innovation began satisfactorily. However, the way forward was not altogether smooth. In The Bourne, for example, there was great concern about a proposal to put a Mobile Phone communication mast close to the School because of the perceived danger of the radio waves. The local Mums banded together and threatened a Sit-In to block the traffic on the A287 Road. For whatever reason their case was won as new sites were found for the several transmitters needed at the nearby Reservoir Compound and on a high mast at Avey Lane which also re-broadcasts television signals across the town.

The Bourne Residents Association, formed in 1962, decided to commemorate the new era by naming and signing an existing path along the valley of The Bourne Stream as the Millennium Walk and also giving traditional names to the other local paths linked to it. Later a Public Enquiry was held when residents of some new homes wrongly blocked off part of the Walk. The Council restored the Right of Way.

In parallel with these activities, local resident, Dr Stan Cockett launched in 2002 a new volunteer group named The Bourne Conservation Group (BCG) with the intention of working with the local Councils to improve the maintenance of the green spaces and public footpaths in the area, some of which had been allowed to get into a poor state. At the time of writing, this Group is still carrying out those tasks and has undertaken much more for the benefit of the Community and the Biodiversity of the area. Their work along with that of other local groups and the Council was to prove invaluable in the town's response to the Climate Emergency declared in Surrey in 2019.

Two other contrasting events early in this period were the inception of a new Medical Centre at the junction of Lodge Hill Road and Tilford Road and the start of filming in Bourne Woods with the very successful "Gladiator" as the first local production.

Another local project at this time was carried out by the RSPB which purchased a 383 acre area of Pine Forest close to the Wey and commenced to fell the trees to enable heathland

restoration, a habitat that was in decline but which supports a range of rare birds such as the Dartford Warbler and Night Jar. There were mixed feelings in the community about this work: while many welcomed it, some were dismayed to see so many healthy trees felled and others were troubled by the seemingly endless flow of heavy trucks carting timber away. When completed the site was renamed Farnham Heath and has become a popular space for local naturalists and walkers

In 2011 a change occurred in Farnham that that directly impacted on The Bourne. This arose from Farnham Town Council entering the RHS In - Bloom competition in the Large Town Category. This meant allowing green spaces and floral displays across the while town to be judged. In The Bourne the Middle Bourne Lane Community Garden and Bourne Crossroads Raised Flower Bed fitted well into this plan and helped the Town win a Gold Medal in 2011 and in many subsequent years.

In 2020, the nation suffered the Covid Pandemic. In this many suffered badly but there were some good effects. Faced with the need to take regular exercise, many residents took the opportunity to explore the local footpath network where they were often able to enjoy the sight of foxes, deer and even badgers emboldened by the greatly reduced traffic levels. The Middle Bourne Lane Community Garden and the Old Churchyard became useful spots for the walkers to take a break. The trade of local shops increased at the expense of supermarkets in the town centre. BCG as able to continue with its outside work provided social distancing was maintained between the volunteers. For once the Group decided to launch a small project outside The Bourne to arrange a small garden at an entrance to Farnham Hospital regularly used by members of The Bourne Surgery based there.



Building the first flower bed at The Bourne Crossroads, 2005