

A NOTE FROM...

YOUR (BROUGHTON) PARISH COUNCIL



SPRING 2024

Hello and welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

The temperature is climbing slightly now and fingers crossed, we hope we are putting what has been the never ending rain behind us.

Things are looking a little brighter in Broughton too – if you have been by the Village Hall you will have seen the crocus in bloom and elsewhere around the village there have been aconites, snowdrops and daffodils with bluebells to come, a welcome and wonderful show each year thanks to all our village volunteers (young and less young) who have planted them over the years as part of Operation Spring Bloom.

As this edition comes out, we are in the midst of the Easter school holidays. Several events have been organised in Broughton itself and we thank everyone for their hard work in making these things happen.

Next on the agenda will be the village Garage Sale – this year scheduled for Saturday May 4th between 9am and 1pm so please support this by either booking a table or by taking the time to walk around all of the stalls. All proceeds from the table bookings support Broughton Guides and Scouts. Book a table with broughtongaragesale@gmail.com



Broughton Parish Council is always looking to promote Broughton whenever it can and has been representing the village at various meetings recently. Please pick up on all news, reports, agendas and minutes via our website : www.broughtonpc.co.uk.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

Pocket Park (Parson's Spinney)

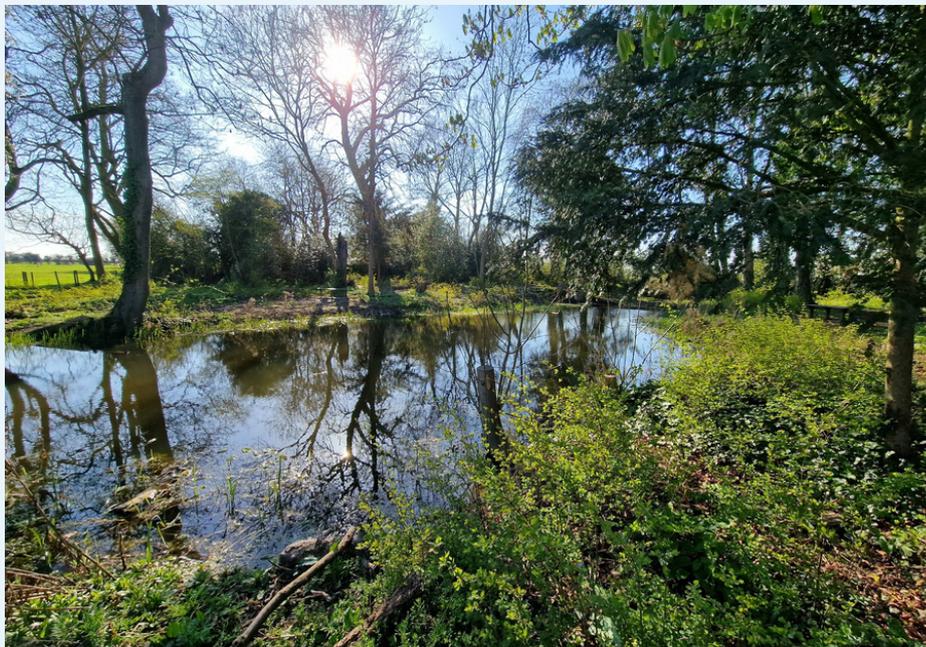
The Pocket Park project has continued this year with a new path being laid between the Bridleway entrance and the pond. This is providing a firm and durable surface which is less prone to becoming muddy in wet weather. It has certainly been put to the test this winter.

If you have ventured into the park in recent weeks you will have seen just how high the water level in the pond has become. As is the case everywhere, the constant rain has had an impact but the level will recede once the weather improves. In the meantime please take care around the pond area.

The project to improve the area will continue, discussions have begun to explore the possibility of putting a boardwalk at the end of the pond which remains passable but does get very muddy during the Winter months. This will extend the Winter access route a little further.

The excess vegetation which was building up in the pond was removed by specialist contractors to ensure that open water is retained to encourage wildlife. Anyone who saw a boat on the pond was not dreaming, they really did sail around the pond to do their work.

Broughton Parish Council hope that you enjoy the Pocket Park, we are fortunate to have such a wonderful environment on our doorstep.



CURRENTLY.....

Noticeboard

We have a new noticeboard outside the Co-Op,. This has replaced our old one which had gone beyond repair. Please look out for our news on upcoming meetings and items of interest. Our large community noticeboard is staying in place on the corner of Church Street (outside the Red Lion) – more notices can be found there and village groups are able to use this facility to share their news.

What a Pleasure!

We are being surprised recently by a very kind and secret Yarn Bomber who is decorating our post box with brilliant displays – in recent weeks, spring has sprung with a cheeky lamb amongst the daffodils.

Not just for our pleasure either it seems as this was also picked up by the ET and featured as their article headline photo – well done to our secret Yarn Bomber – now famous in Broughton and Beyond!



CURRENTLY

Hot Topics

There are a couple of requests to be made. The first one is for everyone to please park throughout the Village with consideration for others.

Broughton was built before cars came about and in places it really isn't straightforward in today's world of often multiple cars per household.

However, we have to work with what we have and sometimes things can be made a bit easier if we work together.

Firstly, if you have a driveway, please do use it as this can only help.

If you are parking on the road please take a moment to think if your parking could be causing someone else a problem – this can be for other vehicles eg are you obscuring visibility near a junction and equally for pedestrians – are you obscuring their visibility, not leaving enough room on the footpath for them to pass safely or making someone with a pram or wheelchair walk in the road.

Secondly, parking on Cransley Hill at school drop off and pick up times is contentious and has been for a very long time. The appropriate road markings and signage are in place and all car drivers are requested to observe these at all times.

Many parents do walk their children to school but for some who are going on to work or who are travelling in to the village, walking obviously isn't practical and they need their vehicles.

For parents who are using their cars, please do whatever you can to park with consideration and with due regard for the safety of all children, pedestrians, residents and other vehicles.

Do not park irresponsibly or dangerously. If parking is not available immediately outside the school, please allow yourself a few minutes so that you can park a little bit further away and walk the remainder to the school itself.

CURRENTLY

Escaping driveways!

We are experiencing some issues in the Village with gravel from driveways creeping over footpaths.

If you have a drive with escaping gravel, could you please ensure that this is kept to a minimum and gravel is swept back into your drive. This will help hugely for all pedestrians, those with reduced mobility or who are trying to push wheelchairs or prams.

Free Food in the Chapel

The Broughton bags 4 Good food table is available at the Chapel - please feel free to make use of this food - The Chapel is trying to help reduce food waste with the supermarkets by keeping these distributions open. Food Donations are very varied each time as it is simply what becomes available. The Food Table is open each Tuesday and Friday at 10am. Tea, coffee and a chat are also available!



CURRENTLY

Hot Topics

Do you have time to give a little bit back?

In today's world, lives are very busy and time is something that we all feel we don't have a lot of to share.

If you can, please think if you can help a little bit. Our village and everything that goes on here relies in very large part on people volunteering but because of work and life pressures on everyone, various groups and bodies are finding that it is becoming harder and harder to find volunteers which in turn is making it more difficult for those existing volunteers to keep going.

The old adage of many hands make light work is becoming very real.

One recent casualty has been Broughton Players, a group that has existed for very many years, done many shows and provided excellent entertainment. We also have the Village Show which is in real need of volunteers to make it happen this year and has recently done a door drop to hopefully recruit for the help they need.

There are lots of things to chose from what we have on offer in the Village, it can be really rewarding and it does make a massive difference to the whole community.

Broughton Parish Council is in the same boat – we do not currently have all of our Councillor posts filled and we welcome expressions of interest. The image of the Vicar of Dibley Parish Council is very old hat these days and we can promise you we are nothing like that.

The scope of what we do is varied and we are very happy for anyone to come along and sit in on our meetings to see if it would be something of interest. If you just want to have a chat about it, please contact our Clerk, Alison and she will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

CURRENTLY

Pytchley Crossroads

Well, we wrote about it in the last Newsletter and Pytchley Crossroads has been high on the Parish Council's list of issues for very many years. We have worked with Pytchley Parish Council and Highways during all of this time and have always tried to keep it high on everyone else's agenda.

As we know, we experienced an increased number of accidents last year which raised the level of concern even higher. After having had 2 family members experience crashes there, resident Laura Staniscia had been collating information via Facebook and the Parish Council had been notifying Highways of each incident.

All of this led to a bit of a breakthrough on the media front with the Evening Telegraph initially and then we had a visit from ITV News. Highways have been escalating on their side and we have seen in the last weeks some remedial improvements.

We now have a Stop sign and refreshed markers. As ever, all parties hope that something in these alterations will trigger a change in the number of accidents but as we are all at a loss as to why the multiple existing signage wasn't alerting drivers to the Crossroads before, we remain cautious in our expectations.



The screenshot shows the top portion of a news article on the Northamptonshire Telegraph website. The header includes the site's logo, the tagline "News you can trust since 1897", and a search icon. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "News", "Submit Your Story", "Sport", "What's On", "Lifestyle", and "Recommended". A yellow banner with the word "BREAKING" in black is visible, followed by a list of news items: "receive death threats", "7-year-old killed in horror crash", and "Star". The main headline of the article is "Council to carry out safety works at rural Kettering 'death junction' - but is it enough?". Below the headline is a sub-headline: "Residents say they fear it's a matter of time before there is a fatal crash there". At the bottom of the article preview, it says "By Sam Wildman" and "Published 7th Feb 2024, 05:00 GMT". There are also social media sharing icons for Facebook, X, and Email.

CURRENTLY

Memorial Garden (Garden of Reflection)

The memorial garden at the bottom of the park in the High Street has been a neglected area and sometimes troublesome spot for many years and whilst the whole park is owned and managed by North Northants Council, Broughton Parish Council has been in discussion with them to be allowed to pick it up and give it some focus.

The principal reason for the Garden becoming lost and without focus is the fact that the new Memorial is now situated at the corner of Northampton Road/Wellingborough Road. In keeping in line with the original purpose, the intention now is to create a Garden of Reflection instead.

Mr. Darlow got us off to a great start as he made a gift to the Parish Council in remembrance of his brother, long serving Parish Councillor and former Chairman, Malcolm Darlow. A small crab apple tree was planted last year and watered (a lot!) throughout summer. We can say that the tree is showing good growth this spring and we hope that it is now well established and will flourish.

A planting scheme has been drawn up for ornamental grasses to be grown in the central area, Broughton Scouts have built a bug hotel which will be placed soon in the garden. Some work has already been started by members of the Parish Council so watch this space as it evolves, we hope that in time, everyone will come to enjoy it and spend a moment there with their thoughts.



WHAT'S COMING UP.....

New Village Project - Shout Out as We need your Help

Broughton Parish Council is looking to start a new project for our Village Map. The current map is placed by the wall to the High Street Park but it is looking tired and is out of date.

We would like to do a shout out for any artists in the village to help us with the new Map.

We are hoping to make this new map more relevant and helpful in today's world and would like to make it interactive so that by scanning a QR code, this will reveal the history of certain of our village buildings.

This is quite a big project so we will break it down into various stages but above all, it will require a new map design and this is what we need your help with initially.

If you think this is something you would like to do, please contact Alison, our Clerk who will be happy to take some details from you.



NOSTALGIA CORNER

We have a real treat with the nostalgia photo this time - this one is T James, Blacksmiths Cransley Hill. Our famous Blacksmiths are a village treasure and we are delighted to feature them here (and perhaps we can persuade them to share more of their history with us in a future edition)



This photo has been shared and reproduced by Martin Rose

USEFUL INFO.....

How to Report Potholes

You can report potholes, follow the progress and view other highways maintenance issues via the North Northants Council Street Doctor service using this link :

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/contactus>

Please Close the Gate at The Cemetary

Knowing that our loved ones are safe brings great comfort. If you are visiting or even just passing the Cemetary, please have a look to see if the gates are closed. In years gone by, the gates were closed each day, this is no longer the case so if we can all take a look when passing, this will help.

Phone Box Library

The old red phone box at the corner of the High St park has been turned into a library. Anyone can borrow books from the library at no cost but we do ask that you return them when you have finished or swap them for an alternative book. If you are donating books we do ask you not to put them on the floor as they will get damp and be spoiled.

Would you like to be a Broughton Parish Councillor?

We currently have 5 vacancies available to us to welcome new Councillors. If you are interested, please contact Pat Scouse, Chair of Broughton Parish Council or Alison McDaid, Clerk to the Council for more information

Please remember that we are looking to reduce our footprint in the world and are actively working towards being a paperless organisation – this magazine will be shared electronically across our social media pages however if you have a neighbour who doesn't have access and they would like to catch up, please collect a copy for them from one of the following locations: the porch @ St Andrew's Church, Broughton Chapel, the Telephone Box Library and Broughton Post Office.

USEFUL INFO.....

Where to find Planning Applications and how to comment

All Planning Applications relating to Broughton Parish are available to view on the North Northants Council - Kettering Area website and discussed at the regular Parish Meetings. It is possible to comment on any application if you wish to via the NNC-Kettering website : https://www.kettering.gov.uk/info/20002/planning_and_building

Reporting Crime

It is always essential for all crime to be reported to the Police. Without this information, it is difficult for the Police to help us. At a recent Rural Forum Meeting, Inspector Paul Cash, Inspector for the Rural Area stressed the importance of community reporting and engagement to help the Rural Profile as without this, it is more difficult to draw support and resources to our communities. We will always share any consultations that are available and reporting can be via 999 for immediate and urgent help, 101 for general reporting and via Crime Stoppers for anonymous reporting

ABOUT US

Broughton Parish Council is a non political body and operates in the interests of the residents and community of the whole Parish. A Parish Council is the lowest tier of local government. Councillors are un-paid and are elected every 4 years (or co-opted if there is no election). We currently have 6 councillors but we can have up to 11. We are assisted by our Parish Council Clerk. Come and meet us at our Monthly Meeting every 3rd Wednesday @ 7pm (excl. August) at Broughton Baptist Chapel Meeting Room.



Meet the Team

Chair : Pat Scouse,
Vice-Chair : Robin Shrive
Clerk : Alison McDaid
Councillors : Hilary Bull, Martin Rose, Carol Taylor, Mark Gray



**BROUGHTON
PARISH COUNCIL**



www.broughtonpc.co.uk



find us on Facebook as Broughton Parish Council Live



Email : broughtonparishclerk@gmail.com



Meetings are held @ Broughton Baptist Chapel on the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ 7pm