

A NOTE FROM...

YOUR (BROUGHTON) PARISH COUNCIL



AUTUMN 2023

Hello and welcome to our Newsletter.

It feels that we are putting summer behind us, we are enjoying just the last of the odd balmy days now and the definite feel that Autumn is here with morning mists and cooler evenings.

We haven't had the best of summers this time and the school holidays were not something to shout about but if you are taking the chance to go for a walk, the hedgerows are full of autumn fruits, blackberries, hips and sloes, the fields are already picking up with new crops and the trees will soon be changing to keep things interesting.

As the clocks change in October, please be neighbourly with any older residents that you may have near you – the darker nights and the onset of autumn/winter can be a difficult time from some.

Sometimes we hear some news in the village of new arrivals, weddings and then residents who have sadly left us. Sometimes unfortunately, we miss these important events. We are wondering if it might become possible to include this news as a feature going forward but we will need your help. In times past, the 3 Spires Magazine used to share these events and it was always helpful to get up to speed with what was going on but with modern GDPR rules and regulations, it isn't possible anymore to simply lift info from the various registers and share publicly. However, if you would like to share your news with the community, please contact Alison, our Parish Clerk (contact details are shown on the last page of this newsletter) and we will be very pleased to post in the next edition.

More Broughton Parish Council commentary and meeting reports can be found in the relevant minutes of our meetings on our website.

Are you interested in what the Parish Council does, perhaps you may be thinking that you would like to be part of it and help the community in this way? If you feel you would like to sit in on a meeting or two, please feel free to do so or contact any one of the existing councillors or clerk and they will be happy to help.

Meetings are held at Broughton Baptist Chapel on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and all are welcome to come along. (NB Exceptionally October will be the 4th Wednesday (Oct 25th).

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

Pocket Park Diary_(Parson's Spinney).

Summer is drawing to a close in the Pocket Park but the last few months have been eventful.

The Parish Council are always seeking new ideas to improve the experience of those visiting the park. The latest addition is a new more weather resistant path from the Bridleway entrance to the pond area. We hope this will make it easier for those with mobility limitations and young families with buggies.

A simple post and rail style fence has been erected at one end of the pond to make the path at that end a little safer. It also creates an opportunity to pause a moment and enjoy the view from that end. The pond area continues to mature with more native plants becoming established around the edges and a great variety of wildlife has been spotted. Frogs and newts are breeding, pond skaters are dancing across the water while water boatmen and whirligig beetles are going about their business under the water. The vivid blue flash of Damselflies can often be spotted and if you're lucky you can see different species of dragonflies visiting the pond.



The pond will need routine maintenance from time to time which may cause temporary inconvenience but please bear with us. This work is necessary to keep it in good condition to support wildlife and be an attractive place to spend a while.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

The Broughton Charities of Bentham and Others

You may or may not have heard of this Charity? For those who haven't, the brief history is that in the 1600's, the Rev. Joseph Bentham gifted a small endowment to form his charity. His purpose was to provide some support to those in need in the parish of Broughton.

It was a gracious gift at the time as there was no assistance anywhere to support those who were falling on hard times. The Rev Bentham was first appointed as parish priest at Weekley and became a bit of a controversial character publishing his popular sermons however he gradually became associated with the Royalist cause as Civil War approached. He was only able to return to the Church after the Restoration and ended his days at Broughton where he continued to write - his final book was in 1669.

Edward Hunt (1674), Mrs Elizabeth Henchman (1772), Sarah Keyston (1841) and the Rt. Hon James Lord Douglas (1852) also left small endowments to benefit the poor and those in need. All of these small charities were subsequently combined in to what we have today under the Bentham Charity. The generosity of these particular individuals was magnificent and has no doubt been a real lifeline for some in desperate times.

It is really very difficult for this type of small charity to maintain focus and relevance after such a long time and to be able to continue to deliver in the intended spirit of why they were created. Centuries of change and varying priorities have rolled by – the concept of need was quite different 400 years ago however need does still exist today.

With this in mind, the current Trustees are conducting a review and evaluation in order to make sure that this ancient Charity stays focused and relevant for our residents now and well in to the future.

In the recent past, it has been the practice of the Charity to distribute £10 to those who are over 60 at Christmas-time. The distribution this year will take place on the 8th December from 10am at the Baptist Chapel, from 11.30am at St Andrew's Church and thereafter at St. Andrew's Court. Please be advised that this will be the final distribution of charitable monies in this way.

As part of the overall review by the Trustees, this broad distribution at Christmas as such does not wholly fulfil the purpose of the charity and to realign with the original intended objectives, all future distribution of funds will be specifically directed to those in need of support.

The Trustees will continue to use this newsletter to update on the progress of the review of the Charity so please keep a look out for future news.

CURRENTLY.....

Broughton Phone Box Book Library

We have a resident who has been acting virtually as a voluntary Librarian for the Phone Box Book Library since its inception.

Books are rotated each week with duplicates being removed – these duplicates were recently sold on a stall at the Village Show and a profit of £25 was raised for the Village Hall funds.

We would like to give our thanks to this resident for their effort in keeping the phone box updated and for everyone who is using it. As a reminder, this is a book library only – when depositing your books, please do not leave them on the floor as they will become damp and no DVD/CD's should be left, thank you.

Highways Matters

Broughton Parish Council has linked in with Pytchley Parish Council to continue to work with NNC Highways regarding Pytchley Crossroads. The Crossroads sits in Pytchley Parish not in Broughton Parish but we are affected and it is a concern - it is on our doorstep and many residents use this junction regularly with some having been victims themselves of accidents/incidents.

Northants Highways are fully aware of all of the issues and the history and have reviewed the junction at various intervals with different interventions but in spite of all of the signage, flashing lights and rumble strips, accidents do continue and as such, it remains high on our Agendas.

We all know that the problem with this junction is not a new one however, it does feel that more traffic is using the junction in recent times with a fair amount of non local traffic which may be compounding the issue which has resulted in the increased number of accidents – we will continue to apply pressure where we can with Highways and others where possible. We have our own vehicle speed/count equipment to achieve real data on this point which we are hoping to set up so that we can share with Highways to continue to help with the ongoing issues.

On the subject of Highways, at the beginning of the summer, the roads through Broughton felt not just a little bit but very much like an off road course and trying to avoid the many potholes was becoming a sometimes hazardous slalom. Broughton Parish Council repeatedly remonstrated with Highways at the state of the roads and eventually individually reported 40 single potholes via Street Doctor – this was in addition to all those that had been already logged which did eventually prompt some action. Nevertheless, we continue to highlight the poor state of these repairs which don't last and question the cost efficiency of the service which is being provided.

CURRENTLY

Dog Poo

There is a lot of noise recently about dog poo – this really is an old chestnut that doesn't go away. Many already do the right thing but please can all try to be responsible dog owners? Please take poo bags with you when you walk your dog, bag it and put it in the bin. If you find you have come out without a bag and are in need, please just ask another dog walker to help you out. Equally, please don't bag your dog poo and then leave it by the wayside or in a field – it doesn't just disappear or if it does, that means someone else has picked it up and binned it for you! Accidents will always happen but please be your dog's best friend and do your best to try to sort it out. The message is always about being a responsible dog owner but it is also respect for others and for the wonderful countryside and village where we all live.

Please dispose of your dog waste properly - in one of the many waste bins that are located around the village or at home in your own bin.



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 Chapel will notify of deliveries via their own Facebook Page and via the Broughton Village Facebook Page so keep a look out and drop in to see what they have.



When open with the Bags 4 Good, the Chapel offers a community warm space with tea or coffee and some company.

CURRENTLY

State of the Nation!

We are sure all residents will agree when we say that that NNC has failed to provide a satisfactory grass cutting service this year – our village open spaces and verges are in a very neglected state and the wider road network is no better.

We do not feel that it is acceptable and are formally requesting NNC to deliver an improved service in 2024. It is difficult to raise the bar when the stock answer is we have no money but that isn't an acceptable response. It is poor management and extremely short termism to let things get so bad that it costs more to put right when finances are tight. A real downside is that it is then hard for residents to make things look good themselves however we are still trying! One resident has taken it upon himself to mow the verges outside his and his neighbours properties in Podmore Way and has done a grand job, they have looked pristine all summer. Top marks to all of you who are putting the extra in but shame on you NNC, this is how it should look!



COMING UP.....

Halloween

Not so far away now – there are many children (and adults) who really enjoy the fun at Halloween - there is a Halloween Disco at the Village Hall on Friday 27th Oct from 6-8pm and there are some brilliant house decorations that come out. There will be lots of pumpkins and treats but it's not for everyone with opening the door on dark nights or it's perhaps just not their thing.

If you would like to let others know you don't wish to have visitors, just put a note on your door or in your window. This won't spoil anyone's fun or offend. Feel free to copy this sign if you are reading this newsletter online 😊



COMING UP.....

Bonfire Night

There are bonfire nights locally at The Cricket Club, Loddington on Friday 3rd November and then at Mawsley on Saturday 4th November. If you are planning on having fireworks at home, please let your neighbours know if they have pets. Most pet owners will be on the lookout for fireworks going off and will manage their pets but this can be a difficult time as some fireworks can be very loud and can un-nerve even the steadiest if caught unawares.



Lanterns for Loved Ones

St Andrew's Church will be holding their Lanterns for Loved Ones this year on 29th October at 4pm. This is a moving event where the path to the church is lit by hundreds of candles in memory of loved ones, living or departed. If you would like to donate towards a candle, please either contact Jan Manning with your details for your loved one (j.manning31@yahoo.co.uk) and use the QR code below for your donation or leave an envelope at 58 Church Street with your donation and details of your loved one.

St Andrews Church Broughton All Souls Service & Lanterns for Loved Ones

**We will be lighting hundreds of candles in the churchyard again this year
in memory of loved ones.**

**The names of those being remembered will be read out and there will be
a short reflection, prayer and hymns.**

**It is not necessary to attend to donate for a
candle/s for a loved one.**

To donate you can scan the QR code below



Or

Bank Transfer to St Andrews Broughton Parish Church
Sort Code **40-26-07**; A/c no. **90183695** Ref: **LFLO**
and email the names of your loved ones to Jan on
j.manning31@yahoo.co.uk

Or write the names of your loved ones on an envelope and put your
donation inside. Then post through the door of **58 Church Street**.



Sunday 29th October at 4pm

COMING UP.....



Dare we say it ? You might not want to hear it just yet but yes, Christmas is coming !

This is advance notification of one event that is getting out there early. St. Andrews Church Elves are very busy organising and will be holding an outdoor evening Christmas Gift Fayre on Saturday 25th November. This will run from 4pm through to 7pm and there will be plenty of seasonal stalls to browse. The Big Man himself, Father Christmas is expected to make an appearance so please go along and make sure that he knows to drop in at your house on Christmas Eve!

If you have an Event that you would like us to help advertise, please drop a note through to Alison, our Clerk who will make sure that we have it ready for our next newsletter or our website.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

We shall aim to feature our Broughton Heritage in each Newsletter – this time we have a wonderful photograph of St Andrew's Church, Broughton taken from Church Street in 1895. It is not so easy to orientate yourself with this view as many of the buildings have disappeared however just like in many locations in the village, if you are looking we are still able to have a glimpse of the past with this one.... The view today is a bit obscured by the trees as shown in the modern photo but you can see the gate and the side of the first house on the right (leading towards the pocket park as we know it). If you are reading online, please zoom in to appreciate the detail of the old photo - it is really good. Who are those people?



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/parking-roads-and-transport/report-potholes-or-highway-problem>

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 4 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 and the Telephone Box Library.

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 7 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, Jan Manning, 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

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