

Braunston News

February 2017

Under Pressure

Regular Events

- Ladies Pub Night: Meets 1st Wed of month in Blue Ball from 8pm
- WI : Meets 2nd Tues of month in Village Hall at 7:30pm. Contact: Carol Hodcroft 757477
- Indoor Bowls : Alternate Fridays in Village Hall at 7:30 pm. Contact: Sandra Lickman 722536
- Gardening Club : 3rd Thurs of month in Village Hall. Contact: Mary Brooks 723047
- Table Tennis : Tue & Wed in Village Hall at 7:30 pm. Contact: David Smart 01664 474354
- Zumba : Mon in Village Hall at 7pm (during term time). Contact: Mark Stokes, 07747 637070
- Parents & Toddlers : Every Thu during term time 10-12 in Village Hall. Contact Sue Richard 756694
- Quilting & Patchwork Group : Every Monday & Wednesday in Village Hall 09:45—15:45. Contact: Viv 771020
- Tai Chi: Thursdays from 26 Jan, 19.00 - 20.30. Contact Jim Ward, www.taichiforhealth.co.uk
- Pilates: Fridays 09.00 - 10.00. Contact Alison Sentance on 07496 814825

Church Events

- Sun 5th Feb, 11.00 - Holy Communion
- Sun 12th Feb, 11.00 - Sunday Worship
- Sun 19th Feb, 11.00 - Holy Communion
- Sun 26th Feb, 16.00 - Sing Sunday

We are happy to report that some progress has been made with the early-morning low water-pressure problems in the village, which were caused by high morning demand over the hill in Oakham

Severn Trent monitored this 'shower dip' last year and agreed that we were being affected by the high concurrent demand. So, back in October, it separated us from the Oakham supply and connected us to an alternative water main (and, indeed, discerning residents with well-honed senses may have noticed a change in the flavour of the water following the switchover)

The switchover has prevented the 'shower dip' occurring, but unfortunately hasn't made any inroads into the issue of there only being a modest pressure available in the village throughout the day.

To improve this, ST is now planning to upgrade the size of the supply main feeding the village. However, this is quite a big project, and it is having to seek internal approval for cash within the organisation. If all is agreed, the

work will probably be undertaken next year.

Meanwhile, the ST supply pipe in Church Street has failed twice in recent times, first leaking water through the tarmac and ultimately bursting and cutting off water supply to the village in September last year (though this failure was not quite as spectacular as the Great Fountaining of 2015). More than one cause for the repeated failure has been advanced over the years, with the most recent official line being that it is due to an old drain belonging to Anglian Water washing out the ground below the main and collapsing it.

This was supposedly fixed finally in December, but as the recent January spell revealed there is still a problem underground somewhere; both of the recent tarmac patches weeping from their uphill seam and even creating dangerously icy patches in the colder weather. It would seem that the exact cause, and thus the exact solution, remains elusive. Currently we are awaiting a response from Highways regarding this long-standing hazard.

Chapter Farm Footpaths

Mike and Caroline Hammond of Chapter Farm have recently granted a permissive right for village residents to access the footpaths across the farm from Knossington Road through Hedge Lane. Mike has installed a stile and dog slide at the gate on Hedge Lane so that village walkers can reach the footpath (E185), which runs west from the paddock behind the church to the opposite field boundary.

This permissive access doesn't give walkers license to cross the field directly; if you want to join the other

Chapter Farm footpath (E187) that runs, up the hill towards Top Windmill you should go via the Church where the footpaths join.

There is frequently livestock in the field, so please follow the country code and ensure that dogs are kept under control, preferably on a lead, and that all poos are picked up.

Mike will post signs showing the layout of the footpaths; the Parish Council has also applied for more dog poo bins to be installed to assist dog walkers to clear up after their charges.

@ The Pubs

- Sun 5th Feb, 12.00 - Jazz at The Blue Ball with Suzanne Mellard
- Tue 14th Feb, Valentine's Day meal specials, both pubs
- Sun 19th Feb, 19.30 - Braunston Blokes Club, Blue Ball
- TBA Feb, 19.30 - Quiz Night at the Old Plough

Play Area Volunteers

Following our story in December, we are still looking for volunteers willing to help run the Braunston Play Area and help undertake the weekly safety inspection required to keep it open and accessible to all. Contact any member of the Parish Council or Chris Bichard on 756694.

Next Village Quiz Date

The next Village Hall quiz will be held on Friday 24th March. It will be the usual format of quiz and supper, Nick and Tracy will be doing quiz mastering duties again, and, of course, there will be a licensed bar. More information to follow, but in the meantime keep an eye on www.braunston-villagehall.co.uk for more details.

Don't Forget The King

A quick reminder that Shifting Sands Theatre's 'The King Lear' is coming to the Village Hall on Saturday 4th March. Tickets available from The Blue Ball or Cheryl on 07956 308808.

Support Your Flower Show

A meeting was held at the start of January about the future of the Braunston Flower Show, and the fact that it had to be held at all indicates there are issues.

We'll have more about this next time, but in the meantime if you have any ideas regarding the show or can offer to help in any way, please contact Sue on 756694 or a member of the gardening club.

Braunston Web Links

Parish Council website:

www.braunstoninrutlandpc.org.uk

Braunston Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/braunston

To receive this newsletter via email, drop a line to: braunston.newsletter@gmail.com

Slippery When Wet (& Icy)

Winter, of course, means ice, and there have been both a number of falls on pavements and a number of minor accidents on Braunston roads as the cold maintains its grip.

The council currently only grits certain main roads during icy conditions — the High Street and Knossington Road in the village — and, unfortunately, takes no responsibility for ice elsewhere. That means that certain areas, such as the junction at the bottom end of the village near the Blue Ball, can be treacherous in icy conditions. Watch your speed round the corner is the best advice.

Unlike some European countries where residents have a duty to keep the pavements outside their properties clear, in England everyone is very much left to their own devices. But the neighbourly thing to do to keep everyone safe is to clear snow and spread rock salt outside your property where possible (though dog walkers are advised to wash their charges' feet after walks as a result). Rock salt is cheap, can be bought in many places, and it does work. There is also salted grit in the yellow bunker by the church gate available for local use.

Please help keep Braunston safe this winter.

New Classes at the Village Hall

We have two new fitness groups booked in the Hall to help make sure that 2017 is the fittest year for Braunston yet.

On Thursday evenings Jim Ward will be running a Tai Chi class from 7pm to 8.30pm. Tai Chi Chuan is a great form of low-impact exercise and Jim is an established local class leader; for more information contact him on

07811 139419 or email jimward51@gmail.com. He is also running new daytime courses in Oakham.

On Friday mornings from 9am to 10pm we have a Pilates class, which is another low-impact form of exercise, concentrating on core strength and flexibility.

Contact Alison Sentance on 07496 814825 for more details, and to find out whether the class is right for you.

May Fayre Needs Volunteers

This year's Braunston May Fayre will be held on May Day itself, Monday May 1st, and the initial planning meeting has been held under the auspices of the new chairs, Mike & Tamsin Fagan.

Things are looking good, but there are some definite gaps in key roles that need to be filled, such as overseeing the craft stalls, and plenty of scope for vol-

unteers on the day to help with cones, parking, and any number of the small but essential tasks that keep the event running smoothly.

The next planning meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th February and, if you feel you can volunteer your services in any manner, great or small, please contact Mike & Tamsin on miketamsin@btinternet.com.

ing in April. More next issue.

Traffic Update

We are currently waiting on RCC to approve our suggestions for speed control measures in the village, all of which will be considered at the RCC cabinet budget meet-

Braunston News is usually published in the third week of each month. Please submit details of what you would like to see included in the next issue by the 13th to: braunston.newsletter@gmail.com