

# Braunston News

April 2017

## Local Plan Update

### Forthcoming Highlights

- Sun 16th April, 7.30pm - May Fayre Pre-Event, Blue Ball
- Mon 1st May, 10.00-16.00 - Braunston May Fayre, throughout the Village

### 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 19.00 - 20.30. Contact Jim Ward [www.taichiforhealth.co.uk](http://www.taichiforhealth.co.uk)
- Pilates: Fridays 09.00 - 10.00. Contact Alison Sentance on 07496 814825

### Church Events

- Sun 2nd April, 11.00 - Holy Communion
- Sun 9th April, 11.00 - Sunday Worship
- Mon 10th April, 19.30 - Compline and Address
- Good Friday 14th April, 17.00 - Prayers & Reflection
- Easter Day 16th April, 11.00 - Holy Communion
- Sun 23rd April, 16.00 - Sing Sunday

You may be wondering where we are with the Local Plan which, if you will recall, managed to give Braunston the sort of score more associated with small towns than a village with fairly meagre facilities last year. So, here's an update.

First a bit about the process. Every ten years, or so, Rutland County Council reviews its Local Plan; a job that was last undertaken between 2009 and 2011. Based on various bits and pieces of data collected from all of Rutland's villages during this process, RCC then proposes revisions to the County Development Plan.

After the last data collection in 2009, RCC determined quite rightly that Braunston had few local facilities. We might have two pubs and a village hall, but there's no school, store or playing field, and no buses, footpath, or cycle path that allow a safe commute to Oakham. This assessment put us into the entertainingly-named class of Restraint Village – all of which means that Braunston is essentially not a suitable location for the building of new housing.

So, we were all surprised to say the least last year when the very same data collection process looked to reinterpret the numbers and redefine our

village as a Smaller Service Centre. This basically implied that not only was Oakham now safely accessible, but Braunston was suddenly blessed with significant local facilities; all of which meant it could serve as a safe suburb of the town. And the headline consequence of that was that new housing developments suddenly became permissible.

Given the lack of any real world change on the ground and the miraculous appearance of new facilities, the Parish Council objected to the data collection process and its conclusions and demanded a re-run.

We consider that Braunston should be included in the Small Village category, together with other Rutland sites such as Manton, Morcott, Belton and Caldecott.

That data collection has been redone and we are awaiting its conclusions.

The last consultation document was published in November 2015, and the current status is that a further consultation document is anticipated at some point this year. So, as yet we have nothing concrete to impart but are hopeful that the new local plan will actually reflect matters on the ground.

For more detail, and to read the document as it stands, go [here](#).

## Water works (finally!)

Full marks this issue to Rutland County Council, which has intervened to sort out several drainage problems causing road flooding in Braunston.

The drain at the top of High Street has now been unblocked, preventing water from the fields straying onto the road, and the drain outside the Plough has also been sorted, allowing surface water to get into the brook and not

create a sizeable lake as before.

Meanwhile, on Church Street, RCC brought both Severn Trent and Anglian Water in to examine the long-running problem there. ST will again unzip the road surface and use some brain power to diagnose the underground water problem before simply zipping it up again.

RCC promises to pursue until fixed.

## @ The Pubs

- Sun 2nd April, 12.00 - Jazz at The Blue Ball
- Tue 11th April, 18.00, Buffet Club, Plough
- Sun 16th April, 19.30, May Fayre Fund-raiser, Blue Ball
- Wed 19th April, 19.30, Quiz Night, Plough

## Make Your Views Count

You have two excellent chances to engage in participatory democracy in the village. The Annual Parish Meeting takes place on 13 April in the Village Hall at 20.00. Amongst the issues to be discussed are whether to keep the old red phone box on the Green. And the meeting to elect All Saints Churchwardens commences at 19.30 on Tuesday 25th.

## May Fayre Bakers Required

All of the May Fayre refreshments are 'maked and baked' by village volunteers, and in fact turn out to be one of the main money-spinners for the event. If you can help, please drop cakes off at the Hall on the Sunday or Monday of the Fayre, or contact Clare Seymour 07949 199122 if you need help in transporting larger items.

## Ring Your Bell

A recruitment drive is currently underway for new bellringers. Taster sessions are being held on Saturday 8th April and Saturday 15th April starting at 10.00. If you're interested just, head to the Church or call Richard Beadman beforehand on 723382.

## Flower Show Date Set

The 2017 Flower Show and Fete is planned for Sat 12th August in the Village Hall. As usual there will be teas, tombola, and games on the lawn, and of course a chance for you to enter your produce in the show. There will be classes for gardening, cooking, handicrafts and more, and classes for the children too. For more information ring Sue 756694 or Mary 723047.

## Braunston Web Links

Parish Council website:

[www.braunstoninrutlandpc.org.uk](http://www.braunstoninrutlandpc.org.uk)

Braunston Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/braunston](http://www.facebook.com/braunston)

To receive this newsletter via email, drop a line to: [braunston.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:braunston.newsletter@gmail.com)

+++ May Fayre still needs volunteers to help out on the day on the day.  
Contact Mike or Tamsin: [miketamsin@btinternet.com](mailto:miketamsin@btinternet.com) +++

# Annus Mirabilis for Village Hall

Caroline Hammond, Braunston & Brooke Village Hall Committee retiring chairman, summed up a year of increasing activities, improved facilities and wider village usage of our Village Hall at the AGM on Monday 13th March, writes Rob Anderson. The Hall is in use most days with regular activities, existing groups including the Bowls, Gardening, Zumba, Toddlers Group and Table Tennis have been joined by Tai Chi and Pilates during the year. This year the committee has invested in fast broadband and new ovens, which have recently been installed to enhance the cooking facilities.

The external areas continue to be improved, including the removal of the overgrown hedge between the Church and Village Hall, which has now been replaced with a low yew hedge and looks all the better for it. Caroline expressed her thanks to the committee, officers and caretaker and all the volunteers who have contributed during the year.

The Village Hall website has been significantly updated and now pro-

vides much information of village activities together with all needed information to book the Hall.

The Hall accounts remain in good health despite significant investment in improving the facilities. The committee continues to prioritise village social events and this year there were successful quizzes, a ceilidh and theatre events, together with the May Fayre which also raised funds for the Hall as well as other local charities.

At the AGM Caroline was thanked for her excellent work as chairman over the last 3 years, and for her membership of the committee as she stood down from being a trustee. Rob Anderson was elected as Chairman in her place and the rest of the Committee officers and members were all re-elected.

The committee now has one vacancy. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact one of the existing committee members whose names can be found on the village hall website, together with lots more information: [www.braunstonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.braunstonvillagehall.co.uk).

## Who will be the quickest quackers?

The ever popular May Fayre Duck Races are being enhanced this year. 80 new ducks weighted for speed and stability will be in contention for major prizes.

As in past years, the owner of the winning duck over multiple short course races will receive: Dinner for four plus wine (value £100) at the Old Plough; An Otters Gift Hamper (Value £50) donated by James Sellick; Local farm-raised joints of lamb and sausages.

A new event is being introduced this year too, The Braunston Quack National; a single Long Course race where all 80 ducks participate, the winning and place owners will receive: 1st Place – A £100 Gift Certificate from The Barnesdale Lodge Hotel for

food or accommodation. 2nd Place – Dinner for two plus wine (Value £50) at the Blue Ball. 3rd Place – 6 Bottles of Petite Gasconne Blanc wine donated by Corney and Barrow. 4th Place – A gift box (Value £25) donated by Hambleton Farms Butchers.

Duck ownership registration forms are available at the Blue Ball and The Old Plough. Cost is £5 or £10 per duck for Short Course ownership and a mere £2 per duck for the prestigious Quack National.

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