

Braunston News

July 2017



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
- Pilates: Fridays 09.00 - 10.00. Contact Alison Sentance on 07496 814825

Try a class for free!

Two well-established classes in the Village Hall, Tai Chi and Zumba, are both offering a free initial class to attract new members. See above for contact details

Church Events

- Sun 2nd July, 11.00
- Holy Communion
- Sun 9th July, 11.00 - Sunday Worship
- Sun 16th July, 11.00
- Holy Communion
- Sun 23rd July, 16.00 - Evensong
- Sun 30th July, 18.00 - Joint service (Oakham Methodist Church)

Hanging on the telephone

Keen-eyed village observers will have noticed the phone box on the green at the junction of Cedar Street and the High Street. Even keener ones will have noticed that it has not been used in anger for a very long time; all of which has led BT to consider disconnecting it and offering it to the village for the princely sum of £1.

The Parish Council has decided to

rather more utilitarian designs in the 1960s.

What's more, its listing, which dates back to 2010, places it into the context of an overall aspect, stating that "It has a strong visual relationship with three listed buildings, one of which is Grade II*" (this being Quaintree Hall).

So, with the phone box not going anywhere, the issue becomes what comes next.



take up this offer, the next task in front of the village being to decide what to do with it.

A quick canvas of local opinion has unearthed a surprising range of views, from conversion to a local (albeit rather compact and bijou) amenity, through to out and out removal. But research by several residents has revealed the fact that the box is actually a Grade II Listed structure in its own right.

The Braunston phone box is not just any phone box, but a K6 model described in [its listing](#) as "a milestone of C20 industrial design." Over 70,000 were produced from Giles Gilbert Scott's design from 1935 onwards, but many were subsequently replaced by

Several ideas have been put forward, from a new site for the village defibrillator (unfortunately impractical due to the need for constant electricity) to a book exchange. And several residents have come forward and said they'll maintain it and keep its new functions operational.

A quick Google shows that communities across the country are using them for a wide range of purposes, from art installations, to tourist information points, even to pubs.

What Braunston does with its own piece of telecommunications heritage is still undecided. But there is a Parish Council meeting on Thursday 13th July at 20.00 in the Village Hall where its future is likely to be debated.

Bats and Church target harmonious future

The pilot trial to enable bats and church congregations to live together more harmoniously kicked off at Braunston Church on 13th June, writes Rob Anderson. A four person team of professional ecological surveyors carried out the first of three planned dusk and dawn bat activity surveys in Braunston Church.

The team used infra red cameras and bat detectors to track where the bats come from and go to around and inside the church. Initial reports suggest a massive 389 common and pipistrelle bats were detected together with 3 long eared bats.

This was the "early season" survey, two more surveys will be carried out, at roughly monthly intervals to cover the whole of the active bat season. Based on the surveys and in consultation with ecological and architectural experts, proposals will be made on better ways

for humans and bats to inhabit the church alongside each other.

The project will identify and pilot ways to ensure bats can roost in the building without damaging the building fabric (including the historic 14th century wall paintings) and minimising the current daily clean up effort required to remove bat faeces and urine to allow safe human use of the church.

The project is funded by a £3.8million Heritage Lottery grant and sponsored by Natural England, The Church of England, The Bat Conservation Trust, Historic England and the Churches Conservation Trust. It promotes improving awareness of the contribution of bats and churches to life in its widest sense and sharing the challenges and insights with the local community.

Our first Braunston Church & Bat Awareness Evening is planned for Sunday 6th August starting at 7pm when all

the local community is invited for a fun learning evening.

The current plan for the event is: an introductory "expert" talk on bats and what we have learnt so far on how they use the church and churchyard; a short tour of the church highlighting the historic features of the church and the challenges of humans living with bats today; children's fun activities focused on bats and church; a barbeque and refreshments - all ending with the opportunity to watch bats emerge from the church as dusk approaches and to see bat detecting equipment in use.

Watch out for more info next month. If you would like to get involved in the project contact Sue Willetts on 01572 722154 or Rob Anderson on 01572 774388. For more info on the national project follow the link:

<http://bit.ly/2tNeq11>

Batmen & Women at work!

@ The Pubs

- Sun 2nd July, 12.00 - Jazz at The Blue Ball
- Thurs 20th July, 19.30, Quiz Night, The Old Plough

Flower Show Entries

Once more, don't forget the 2017 Flower Show and Fête is planned for Sat 12th August in the Village Hall. For more information ring Sue 756694 or Mary 723047. Events start at 2.00pm and watch out for entry leaflets soon.

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

Braunston News is usually published towards the end of the month (well it was this time). Please submit details of what you would like to see included in the next issue by July 13th to: braunston.newsletter@gmail.com

Swings & roundabouts

The new working group set up to look after the interests of the village play area has had its first meeting. And, as a result, volunteers will soon be going door to door in the village canvassing opinion as to its future direction.

"The current playground was initially constructed around 17 years ago and has become quite dated," explains Alanna Gleave. "The Parish Council have done a great job in funding a rolling replacement / addition programme, but it is now time to raise funds for a larger scale refurbishment of the playground."

The survey has three aims: to gain an idea of the current village demographic and population in terms of number of / age of children, including those who visit regularly and to determine how often they use the current playground; to give villagers the opportunity to input ideas about how they would like to see the playground develop in the future, what sort of equipment they would like to see etc; and to ask if anyone has any fundraising ideas.

Fundraising is, of course, a key component of any such works nowadays, and the initial hope is to raise somewhere between £15-£20K to purchase new equipment.

As to what that equipment should be, that is part of what the survey hopes to establish.

"As well as considering how to improve the playground for children, we are also interested in finding out if there is interest in including any outdoor exercise equipment (such as that at Whitwell or Princess Avenue, Oakham) for adults," says Alanna. "The new playground in Market Overton was primarily funded through corporate sponsorship and fund raising, and we anticipate using a similar model in Braunston. Any ideas would be gratefully received!"

After establishing what the village would like to work towards, playground manufacturers will be consulted to design a sample scheme after which the working group will seek further community feedback.

Watch this (play) space!