

Braunston News

September 2017



Autumn Highlights

- Harvest Thanksgiving and Supper, Sun 24th Sept, 17.00, All Saints & Blue Ball
- Team Viking, Sun 29th October, Village Hall

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 Bichard 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

Church Events

- Sun 3rd September, 11.00
- Holy Communion
- Sun 10th September, 11.00
- Sunday Worship
- Sun 17th September, 11.00
- Sunday Worship
- Sun 24th September, 17.00, Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Supper, Blue Ball, 18.30

Flower power!

Given recent events in the village, it's nice to open with a good news story, and the resurgence of the Braunston & Brooke Flower Show is just that: really good news for the community.

From a position last year which the organisers admit left the continued running of the event in doubt, to the 490 entries and groaning tables of produce and artworks that were the hallmark of the 2017 show is quite a journey.

What's more, the event managed to raise £800 for the usual good causes.

Prize winners included David Stewardson who collected five cups, including one for being top overall exhibitor. Maisie Wright took the Kitchen Produce and Jam Classes cup, Lynn Cooper was awarded the highest points overall for a resident of the

villages, while in the children's classes Lucy Barnes won the cup for the under 7s, Annija Krumins the 8-11 Cup, and Bertie Bradbury the 12-16 Cup.

The Men's Chocolate Cake competition was won by Chris Brichard, and Sue Brichard won the award for Outstanding Exhibit in the vegetable classes for a truly giant marrow.

In the Garden Club's Best Geranium competition, Liz Sanders won top honours, while the Best Exhibit in Show, selected by all the judges, was awarded to Linda Jenkins who submitted a superb cross stitch picture of a map of the Netherlands.

Congratulations to all the winners of what is being billed as the best Flower Show in a decade: one that means we can all now look forward with a deal of confidence to the 2018 show.

490 to beat...

Bats (not) in the belfry

Braunston's inaugural Bat Night drew a large crowd to the Church on a Sunday early August evening to hear a presentation on the pioneering work being done at All Saints.

Braunston, as regular readers will know, is one of three pilot churches chosen for the £3.8 million scheme, which aims to smooth out the problems that often occur when bats and churches collide. The work done here will then form an action plan that will be rolled out to the 20 next most affected churches in 2018 and then expanded from there.

Braunston unfortunately qualifies nowadays as an extreme case. The Church has actually hosted a small colony of 30-40 bats for decades, but following the collapse of a nearby-chim-

ney housing a much larger colony of Soprano Pipistrelles four years ago, the numbers have increased dramatically to their current hundreds.

The problem is a mixture of the facts that they are a) protected, b) live up to 30 years and c) their droppings are corrosive, even to stonework.

The project will therefore investigate ways to minimise their impact while not harming the colony. Capital works will start after the current survey phase is completed, and look at various options including providing heated nest boxes and deploying acoustic deterrents to keep the bats out of the main building.

Interest is high, and several national news outlets carried the story.

And no, they don't like roosting in the belfry: it's too cold.

Harvest service

It's Harvest Time again, *writes Gail Rudge*. All Saints Braunston will be celebrating this traditional village event in style on Sunday 24 September with a Harvest Thanksgiving Service at 5pm followed by a Harvest Supper at the Blue Ball at 6.30pm. These days, unless we're actively involved with working on the land, our lives are no longer closely involved with harvesting the crops, but Harvest used to be one of the most important events in the rural calendar and Braunston was no exception. We shall be having traditional harvest hymns and readings, so come and join this ancient celebration followed by a delicious meal in the pub.

Firewater update

Following last month's fire in Church Street, Severn Trent has confirmed its intent to upgrade the volume and pressure of the water supply to the village. Work is currently slated to start in September next year, but the Parish Council has asked that Severn Trent give urgent consideration to advancing its programme.

The Parish Council has also heard from the Environment Agency, who has declined to give any help in reinstating the ability of the Gwash fire pond and weir to deliver a useful amount of firewater, in the event of a major fire.

There are concrete plans afoot to fix the leaky weir soon, however.

@ The Pubs

- Sun 3rd Sept, 12.00 - Jazz at The Blue Ball
- Sat 30th Sept, 19.30, Race Night in aid of breast cancer, The Old Plough

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. Please submit any material for inclusion in the next edition covering October by September 18th to:

braunston.newsletter@gmail.com

Local plan downgrades Braunston

Not normally the sort of headline you'd associate with good news, but when it comes to the Local Plan maintained by Rutland County Council, less is definitely more.

Consultation is open until 25th September, but the revised proposal for Braunston is that we retain the classification as a Small Village, rather than the somewhat mysterious labelling as a Small Service Centre, which occurred last time they ran the numbers and which would have allowed potential significant development to occur.

Copies of the Draft Plan may be viewed in all Rutland Libraries and at

the Council Offices in Oakham. There will also be a community roadshow when Planning Officers will be available to discuss your views and help you to submit your comments.

Venues include Victoria Hall, Oakham, on Saturday 2nd September (10am-1pm)

Details of the evidence supporting the preparation of the Local Plan Review can be viewed on RCC Local Plan Evidence Base [webpage](#).

For more information, either email localplan@rutland.gov.uk or telephone 01572 722577 and ask for the Planning Policy section.

Healthwatch consultation

Healthwatch is a useful local body which visits health facilities and assesses the quality of their services, *writes Jim Attack*. The aim is to prevent the situations which developed in South Staffs, etc, where standards had slipped and no-one seemed to be accountable.

The current arrangements for local Healthwatch services in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are due to come to an end in March 2018, thus a consultation is now taking place to

gather people's views on how the services should be provided in the future.

Rutland County Council is holding a public engagement event: Wednesday 6th September, from 4pm to 7pm, Council Chamber, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, where you can make your views known. This consultation will help the Council to make a decision about how the services should be provided from 1st April 2018 onwards.

Online survey link [here](#).

Electoral review of Rutland

We are currently in the middle of a ten week electoral review of Rutland County Council, which sounds deadly dull but is actually quite important.

The aim of the survey is to deliver 'electoral equality' for voters across the district: in other words that each councillor represents roughly the same number of people.

As a result the Boundary Commission survey hopes to be able to make recommendations on several aspects of all this, from the total number of future councillors elected, to the number of wards, the number of councillors representing each ward, ward boundaries, and even names of wards.

The Commission is currently 'mind-

ed' to recommend Rutland should be served by 26 councillors in future, but with shifting population patterns, how should those councillors be allocated?

Key to assessing all this is an interactive [online map](#) at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>, where you can have fun playing round with the boundaries.

Are the interests of our 1068 current voters best served by the Braunston and Belton ward? Should Belton secede and ally more with Uppingham? Should we throw in our lot with Martinshorpe to form a rural power bloc? It's like *Game of Thrones*, only democratic. And in Rutland. And without dragons.

It's also one of the key ways you can shape the future of what happens in the county. Worth taking a look.