

Braunston News

November 2017

Greening the Gwash

November Highlights

- BBC - Big Issue Discussion Night, 19th Nov, 19.30, Blue Ball
- 25th November - Advent Fayre, 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
- 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 & 10.15 - 11.15. Contact Alison Sentance on 07496 814825

It won't have escaped anyone's notice that the Gwash Weir in the village has fallen into a fairly decrepit state over recent years.

Over the years, the weir wall has been extended to prevent water running around the end of the original weir. However, this extension has been underwashed and water is now leaking underneath the extension wall. The fire pond has also collected quite an amount of silt, which constrains its capacity.

Following the recent fire at Gainsborough Cottage, when the Gwash's current lack of use as a fire pond was highlighted, the Parish Council has joined forces with the Welland Rivers Trust, which looks after rivers and their landscape around the Welland Valley, in a bid to improve the situation.

A joint application for a grant from the Aviva Community Projects fund has thus been submitted to fix the broken weir and to generally tidy up the area around it. Aviva has recently accepted the application, and now it's up to the

rest of us to give the bid the impetus it needs to succeed.

If we are to get money from Aviva — the project is looking for £3000 with a further £1000 contingency — we now have to show a good level of support from within our community. This effectively means online votes for the project.

Please go to: www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-1722 to get involved, register, and vote for the project. Votes count when it come to this sort of thing, so please also encourage friends and relatives to do the same, no matter where they live.

The renovation works would hope to be commenced after the spring rains next year, and would look to stabilise the foundation of the weir extension wall and dredge and contain the fire pond.

The plan is then for a volunteer squad to cut back some of the over zealous vegetation, remove rubbish, and generally do all they can to return the area to a valuable and picturesque community resource one more.

Making the village more accessible

Village accessibility survey. In common with many communities, especially in rural areas, we have a number of folk in Braunston who can't get around all that easily any more. As a result, the Parish Council has been giving some thought to how we can improve access around the village, *writes Jim Atack.*

This extends beyond just providing ramps into the pubs, and includes addressing such problems as uneven pavements, obstructive hedges, raised kerbs, and other obstacles that could trip

up all those with mobility issues.

Over the next few months therefore we plan to engage with a group that runs very specific surveys in this field which can highlight various problems and propose solutions, often with financial help from the County Council.

What's more, the survey extends to access to the village, as well as within the village, so once more the subject of the Oakham footpath/cycle path is back on the agenda and we can only hope for a more satisfactory outcome this time.

Church Events

- Sun 5th November, 11.00
- Holy Communion
- Sun 12th November, 10.50
- Remembrance Service
- Sun 19th November, 11.00
- Holy Communion
- Sat 25th November, Advent Fayre,
11.00 - 15.00, Village Hall

Actors wanted for Nativity

Journey to Jesus 2017. Are you a budding thespian, *asks Gail Rudge*? Have you ever thought how brilliant an actor you might be? Do you enjoy singing? Whatever your talent, would you like to be involved in this year's Village Nativity? It's great fun: will it be alright on the night; will it rain; will we be under several feet of snow? Who knows? It all adds to the occasion and it's a great way to begin your Christmas. All volunteers enthusiastically welcomed.

Contact Gail 01572 755570
rudge330@btinternet.com

(Stolen) Sign o' the Times

Can anyone help us to find the street sign for Cedar Street, which disappeared from the High Street end of Cedar Street in the last couple of weeks? If we can't find it, it will be replaced by RCC with a new plastic one – frankly yuk!

Quick Bat Update

The team are hoping to get the full report back from the ecologists carrying out the survey around Nov 1st. So, hopefully more next issue on our Chiropteran friends.

@ The Pubs

- Sun 5th Nov, 12.00 - Live Lunchtime Jazz at The Blue Ball
- Sun 12th Nov, 12.00 - Live Lunchtime Solo Guitar with William Webster at The Blue Ball
- Fridays, Cod & Chips 2 for 1, Old Plough

History, heritage & debate

Braunston Blokes' Club. Back from its summer break, the autumn programme of the Braunston Blokes' Club has hit the ground running and promises more.

"On Sunday evening, 15th October, 20 villagers gathered for a tour of the village's historic church: much was learnt and a few on the tour knew more about the social history of the building than the tour guides!" writes Rob Anderson.

"Looking through the record books was fascinating. One copy book we have shows all baptisms, marriages and funerals back to 1558 and it was interesting to see how many current village families can trace their name back to those times and the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

"Many thanks to Dom & Pip for a little sustenance after the tour. The most challenging issue raised by the tour was how many interesting stories are known

by many of the older folks in the village but are in danger of being lost in time if they are not captured. Is anyone interested in trying to capture the stories in some way? Perhaps on a website?"

Next up, on Sunday 19th Nov 7.30pm at the Blue Ball is Big Issue Discussion Night!

Bring your big issue to discuss on the evening and the BBC will see what they make of it. Even if you haven't got a big issue come along and see what everyone else is getting worked up about.

Here are a few quick topic suggestions to work with: Does money in sport destroy the game? Are referenda a valid form of democracy or an abdication of responsibility on behalf of our elected representatives? In the wake of the Weinstein affair, what can men do to turn the tide of sexual assault?

Weed 'em and Weep

A big thank you to the nine volunteers who turned out on Saturday 14th October for the churchyard tidy up.

Much jollity was shared and the sapling hedge was fully weeded giving it a chance to flourish, hedges were trimmed and a number of overgrown bushes thinned out and freed to grow again.

It's always remarkable how a bit of communal effort transforms parts of the village and improves the environment for everyone. Thanks again to all who helped.

And, for anyone who would like to lend their labour to similar endeavours in the future, as you will have read on the front page there are plans afoot to spruce up the Gwash in the spring.

Watch this space for details...

Braunston Advent Fayre Saturday 25th November

11am-3pm in the Village Hall
'The beginning of the Christmas season'

Be there and help make it a resounding success!

- *Bringing you the best of home-made luxury produce: jams, marmalades, chutney, Christmas puddings, Christmas cakes, speciality cakes and seasonal treats,
- *Fragrant bulbs ready for Christmas,
- *Extra special fine craft gifts,
- *Bespoke jewellery from our guest jeweller,

- *Dove Cottage speciality stall
- *Competitions, games, tombola, fun for everybody.
- *Delicious refreshments served all day

There is also going to be a Prize Draw to win one of this year's three luxury Christmas Hampers! Draw tickets on sale now

Entrance: a mere 50p
If you can help in any way — donating prizes, selling raffle tickets, making produce, or on the day please contact Pat 774388, Alan 755570 or Sue 722150.

All proceeds to be split between Braunston Church and supporting your local day hospice, Dove Cottage at Ridlington.

Braunston News is usually published towards the end of the month. Please submit any material for inclusion in the next edition covering December by November 20th to:
braunston.newsletter@gmail.com

