

Braunston News

December 2017

All Saints bat update

December Highlights

- Carols by Candlelight, 17th Dec, 18.00, Church
- Journey to Jesus, Christmas Eve, 15.30, (starts in Church)

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

Contributors

Thanks this issue to: Rob Anderson, Jim Atack, Connie Beadman, Gail Rudge, and Janet Taylor.

A potential solution to the problem of bats inside All Saints has been identified.

As a result of the three bat surveys carried out over the summer at the Church, the Project Ecologist from the the Heritage Lottery funded "Bats in Churches" (BiC) project team has been able to conclude that whilst the bats need to have access from outside the church into the roof space, they do not need to be able to have access from the roof space into the church.

As a result, the ecologist has recommended temporarily blocking up all the small crevices and holes which allow the bats into the inside of the church using inert, flexible foam material. If this is shown to have no detrimental effects on the bat roost during the following summer then the solution could be converted to be permanent.

As bats are still not well understood, they may react in an unexpected way to this intervention so it was recommended to have a contingency back-up plan. The

Project team proposed a second option of erecting two bat boxes on a 'telegraph' type pole about 3-4m above the ground to provide an alternative roost location and potentially reduce the numbers roosting in the church. The pole & boxes would ideally be sited along the line of the trees running down the south side of the churchyard and churchyard extension, which is a flight line the bats follow when going out to feed.

Planning permission and consultation would be needed before this could go ahead.

Whilst these conclusions represent a major step forward there is still much planning and approval work to be done. The BiC project will fund all these actions as phase 2 of the pilot project but the actual funding release for Phase 2 may come too late for the work to be implemented in 2018, so work might slip to 2019. We will keep you posted on progress and if anyone would like more info on the bats do feel free to contact either Sue Willetts or Rob Anderson.

- RA

The Great Braunston Bake-Off

Another new class is coming to the Village Hall next year as Leslie Gadd, a former lecturer at the National Bakery School will be starting a series of monthly baking classes in February. Leslie already runs a number of sessions in village halls to the north of us and is now extending into Rutland.

Every month will be different, covering cakes, pastries, biscuits, buns, rolls, and breads with seasonal recipes from the UK and Europe. The classes will run in the early evening for three hours and cost £40

and you can sign up for as few or as many as you like; everything is provided, all you need to bring is an apron and a tin to take home your goodies

Watch out for publicity on the village hall website or visit Leslie's website at www.lovely-loaves.co.uk.

And with Christmas coming, it's worth pointing out that a gift voucher for one of Leslie's classes might just make a great present for that person in your family who loves to get their hands floury.

- JT

WI closes doors

Sadly, the Braunston & Brooke WI has

announced that it will hold its last meeting at the end of the year after 68 memorable years. More next issue.

Church Events

- Sun 3rd December, 11.00
- Holy Communion
- Sun 10th December, 11.00
- Sunday Worship
- Sun 17th December, 18.00
- Carols by Candlelight
- Christmas Eve, 15.30,
- Journey to Jesus (Begin in Church)
- Christmas Day, 11.00,
- Holy Communion

Journey to Jesus, our unique Travelling Village Nativity begins in church at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve before travelling round parts of the village: following Mary and Joseph to the inn, finding the shepherds trying to keep warm in the cold night air, seeing the Wise Men arrive in search of Baby Jesus, and finally finding him with Mary and Joseph in the 'stable'. After all that, we will warm ourselves with mulled wine and mince pies in the Village Hall. If it's raining or there's a blizzard, everything will take place in the church. Finally, on Christmas morning we shall celebrate Christmas with a special Communion service.

- GR

@ The Pubs

- Sun 3rd Dec, 12.00 - Live Lunchtime Jazz at The Blue Ball - Art Themen
- Tue 5th Dec, 10.00-16.00 - Free Antiques Valuation, Blue Ball. Followed by talk and book signing at 18.30: 'Forty Years of Great Finds - Tales from The Antiques Roadshow'. Tickets £10 inc Glass of Wine & Cheese. In aid of church repairs.
- Sun 10th Dec, 12.00 - Live Lunchtime Solo Guitar with William Webster at The Blue Ball
- Mon 25th December, Christmas Dinner, Old Plough - £49.95 per head
- Tuesdays - Curry Nights, Thursdays - Chicken & Ribs, Fridays - 2 for 1 Cod & Chips - The Old Plough

Save the date!

Next Safari Supper takes place 20th January. Details next issue.

Viking invasion a success

Around fifty people made their way to the Village Hall on Sun 29th Oct to see one of the best pieces of theatre that the village has hosted over the past few years.

James Rowland's *Team Viking* is a one man show that is both funny and moving, taking a subject that sounds unlikely to be entertaining — the death of a best friend — and turning it into a masterpiece of laugh-out-loud humour seamlessly combined with poignant reflections on the sadness of our mortality.

James Rowland proved to be a masterful performer, interspersing his narration of

the story with a loop-pedalled song that built gradually as the story progressed. It was easy to see why this show took the Edinburgh Fringe by storm last year, and I think we all left feeling both uplifted and slightly emotionally drained. If you get the chance, go and see it.

Our next theatre night will be on April 25th, when John Hinton presents his *Ensonglopedia of Science*. This will be family friendly and fun, and John is another accomplished performer who will be certain to delight.

- JT

Remembrance

Some of the older Braunston residents may remember the Hinman family. Maurice Hinman died in August this year aged 90. He was the son of Robert and Caroline Hinman who lived at 11, Cedar Street, Braunston., and he and his wife Evelyn lived at Church Farm Cottage, Brooke where their eldest daughter was born. They moved to West Sussex where Maurice was employed at Gatwick Airport for many years.

Maurice's uncles Thomas Hinman and Charles Hinman had died in the First World War, their names are on the Braunston War Memorial. Grandmother

Mary Hinman used to lay the village poppy wreath on the Memorial at the annual Remembrance Service. Sadly Mr and Mrs Hinman had also lost two more children: Mary Ellen aged 13 in 1903 and Albert aged 2 in 1904. All their names are on a gravestone in the churchyard.

At the 2017 Remembrance Service our Parish Council Chairman, Christopher Bichard read the names of the fallen and laid the poppy wreath. Vice-Chairman, Richard Beadman read a lesson.

Lay Reader Alan Rudge conducted the service, Angela Lashbrook also read a lesson and the trumpeter was Gill Callaghan's Grandson.

- CB

Paula in pole position at Plough

A warm welcome to Paula Merrell, who has taken over the landlady duties at The Old Plough after a period best described as a bit turbulent for the pub.

Paula lives in the village and is approaching the job with something of a new broom attitude. Rooms are being refurbished, a new chef has been hired, there's a new menu, and there are also a range of new theme nights being rolled out through the month.

Tuesdays will feature curry nights, Thursdays sees a dizzying combination of different chicken and ribs dishes on offer,

plus there is the already well-established Fishy Friday nights. And on Sundays the food timings are being extended dramatically into the evening, allowing people to indulge in a pub-cooked Sunday Roast at any time between 12 and 8pm.

And if all this seems fairly food-oriented so far, Paula also has a firm desire to ensure that the pub is not given over exclusively over to diners and that it remains a vibrant venue for local people at the centre of the local community. Watch this space for future plans.

Braunston News is usually published towards the end of the month. Please submit any material for inclusion in the next edition covering January by December 16th to: braunston.newsletter@gmail.com