

# Braunston News

January 2018

## If you go up to the woods today...

### January Highlights

- May Fayre Committee Meeting, 17th Jan, 20:00, Blue Ball
- Braunston Bloke's Club A Question of Sport Quiz, 21st Jan, 19.30, Blue Ball

### 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](http://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, Min Burdett, Mike & Tamsin Fagan, Suzie Manley, and Tracy Waterman.

We would like to update you with what is going on in Hebe's Wood at the top of Wood Lane. In the spring of 2014, in our last newsletter article, we were concerned about the southern-most part of the bridleway. Thanks to your help in lobbying the Rutland Council, we now have a well-defined all-weather track for horses which walkers are also enjoying.

The wood has moved on considerably in the last three years. Sadly we have been hit by ash dieback and our thickets of young ash have been badly affected. Once we got over the shock, we re-appraised our decision not to plant trees and so last winter planted hornbeam, beech and birch. We have not, however, put in as many as originally planned. It turns out that the family's annual acorn parties have been very successful. Spaces for our imports were hard to find because of all the little oaks now emerging. We have found space for hazel along the bridleway with the long-term aim of establishing an easily accessible coppice area.

The wildlife continues to amaze and we are learning more about the inhabitants of the wood. As the early morning walkers will know, Braunston's Lloyd

Park of the Wildlife Trust has been bird ringing. We've also had a pond audit where the underwater world was revealed. Every sort of newt, dragonfly/damselfly lava, aquatic snail, beetle and bug was expertly netted, displayed and returned.

We are now busy with the winter work. We are battling with blackthorn and brambles to stop some of the rides (so important for biodiversity) from being overwhelmed. The pond audit revealed considerable damage to the ponds especially the one halfway along the bridleway. So one of our jobs will be to build "dead-hedges" around the ponds to stop dogs from jumping in. We are sorry if this stops an enjoyable part of your walk, but we feel that the wildlife should come first.

A number of you have said that you would like to join in and help us with our winter work. And we suspect that a few of you even meant it! If you would like to participate (ride widening, bonfires, dead-hedging, hurdle making) please get in touch and we will try to fit around your availability.

Contact: [minburdett@gmail.com](mailto:minburdett@gmail.com) 01572 723242 or 07968077205

- SM & MB

## May Fayre 2018: The work starts here

2018 will be our 28th May Fayre and it's still going strong. Last year was a very successful year raising £8000 for local charities and entertaining well over 1000 visitors. This only happened due to all the hard work and planning put in by the village folk. We start planning again in January for May 2018 and the first meeting of the May Fayre Committee will be on the 17th January, 8pm in the Blue Ball.

We already have some new attractions booked for 2018 with a visit from the Rutland Morris Men planned. The Fayre is a great day for the village that I feel very proud to be a part of it but it needs volunteers to make it work. If you would like to help, have a great idea for a new attraction or would like to run a stall in the church or street market please get in touch - [miketamsin@btinternet.com](mailto:miketamsin@btinternet.com).

- MF

## Church Events

- Sun 7th January, 11.00  
- Holy Communion
- Sun 14th January, 11.00  
- Sunday Worship
- Sun 21st January 11.00  
- Holy Communion
- Sun 28th January  
- No service

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## @ The Pubs

- Sun 7th Jan, 12.00 - Live Lunchtime Jazz at The Blue Ball - Jim Mullen
- Tue 23rd Jan, 10.00-16.00 - Free Antiques Valuation with Marc Allum, Blue Ball.
- Tuesdays - Curry Nights, Thursdays - Chicken & Ribs, Fridays - 2 for 1 Cod & Chips - The Old Plough

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## Village Hall Quiz

The next Village Hall quiz will be held on Friday 2nd March. Tracy & Nick will once again be testing village brains, while the usual team will rustle up a hot supper and run the bar. Tickets will be £9 - watch out for more information nearer the date.

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## Thanks Everyone!

First off, thanks to everyone who supported the Advent Fayre this year. We had some new stalls and Dove Cottage Day Hospice had a successful day with us. Our footfall was a record at over 160 visitors and we raised £2300 to support the of running Braunston Church, again a record amount.

And a huge thank you to everyone who supported the recent Poppy Appeal, *writes Di Picken*. There were collection boxes in the Blue Ball and the Old Plough and together with a door to door collection we raised £189, which was even better than last year!

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## Mind how you go

We did get some reports of diesel being siphoned from a 4x4 parked on a driveway in Brooke Rd before Xmas, and with heating oil looking a much sounder investment than Bitcoin at the moment, it's always worth being vigilant.

# Rebuilding Gainsborough Cottage

Many of you will have seen that work has started on rebuilding Gainsborough Cottage. Up to the beginning of December the work was all about taking things down to make the structure safe and getting planning permission for the rebuild, so we are pleased to see things moving on to the reconstruction phase now.

The first stage in this is to get the property waterproof again. It will be a slow process as the stone masons

frequently have to cut each stone to fit, using locally-sourced stone. Hopefully early in the new year though you will start to see the new reed thatch roof go on and then the scaffolding can be taken down, restoring access to the pavement.

After that we have the next phase where all the internal work has to be done and we can begin looking forward to planning our new home in earnest sometime in the second half of the year.

- M & TF

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## Bat update

The Heritage Lottery Funded Bats in Churches project has confirmed they will provide funding in 2018 to implement temporary blocking of the bats' access routes from the south aisle ceiling space into the church and the subsequent surveys in 2018 to confirm there is no impact on the bats.

The surveys last year concluded that the bats did not need to go inside the actual church. If the solution is successful, and can proceed without detriment to the bats, then it will most likely become a permanent installation.

The work must be done during the last week in April 2018 to avoid disturbing

the bats. Scaffolding will be erected inside the church under the south aisle to give access to the ceiling. And if it's successful there should be minimal bat poo inside the church.

This is a fantastic result, the congregation is delighted and would like to say a big thank you to Sue Willetts who did all the hard work to get us accepted as a pilot church for this project.

Watch out for details of summer 2018 bat events where we will have a detailed opportunity again to watch the bats and when we will share the full results of the 2017 surveys which identified in detail how the various species are using the church.

- RA

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# Safari Supper booked for 20th Jan

The next village Safari Supper takes place on Saturday 20th January.

Everyone is welcome. All you have to do is cook one course for around 6 or 8 people and you get a great night out with three courses, drinks plus aperitifs at the start, and you get to meet people that you may not have seen for a while during our busy day to day lives. It is not a cooking competition: just a relaxed and friendly evening.

Any new people that would like to join in (plus any existing people that haven't confirmed yet) please email Tracy at

tracyandnickw@yahoo.co.uk or phone 759799 and leave a message before January 9th. All I need are your names, email, address and phone number, and how many you can cater for maximum, plus any food allergies or requirements.

You will be contacted a week before to let you know which course you are cooking and where you are going on your safari round the village. If you can't cook then there are a limited number of spaces for paying guests @ £25 per person which goes into the village charity funds.

- TW

Braunston News is usually published towards the end of the month. Please submit any material for inclusion in the next edition covering February by January 19th to: [braunston.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:braunston.newsletter@gmail.com)