

Braunston News

April 2018

Helping out at the Braunston May Fayre

Upcoming Highlights

- Sat 7th April, Rutland Poppy Project, Village Hall, 14.00
- Mon, 23rd April. Oakham Sings!, Village Hall, 18.45
- Weds 25th April, Engsonglopedia of Science, Village Hall, 19.00

Regular Events

- Ladies Pub Night: Meets 1st Wed of month in Blue Ball from 8pm
- 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 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

Thanks this issue to...

Rob Anderson, Jim Attack, Arnie Breen, Sarah Cooper, Pip Nall, Gail Rudge, Janet Taylor, Tracy Waterman

If you've lived in the village for a while, you'll know that we're heading rapidly into all hands to the pump territory as far as the May Fayre goes.

This year's Fayre takes place on Monday, May 7th. Simply put, it takes a lot of effort to put the event on. And, in particular, it needs people to help out on the day itself.

This starts with parking the cars of all the people that drive to the event. We had well over 1500 people at the Fayre last year, and, while we wait mournfully for a cycle path to connect us to the metropolis of Oakham, the vast majority of those from outside the village have to drive here.

All those cars park in a field down Knossington Road, and, rather than have it turn into a free for all, we guide them in carefully so everyone can get in and out with no problems.

Please drop Jim Attack a line at jim.attack@gmail.com if you can help out here.

Then, of course, there is the Fayre itself. From helping set out things for the stallholders, to making sure people can get

around the event safely, running the different attractions on Games on the Green, keeping the crowds in the Tea Room in the Village Hall happy, and on to the crowning of the May Queen and the Maypole dancing that ends the day, there are a huge amount of things to do to make sure the Fayre runs smoothly as usual.

As well as being a generally fun day, the Fayre is an important fundraiser both for village amenities and the local charities we support, so please contact the show runners Mike & Tamsin Fagan at

miketamsin@btinternet.com if you can volunteer your time on the day, even if it's only for an hour.

"We particularly need willing helpers to help with getting the signs and craft fair set up on Sunday the 6th pm before the Fayre," says Tamsin. "And we also need help with the catering in the Village Hall on the Monday or helping to run one of the fun family games,"

And if anyone has a hotline to the capricious gods in charge of the weather so far in 2018, please do put in a good word...

Oakham Sings! (in Braunston)

Local musician and songwriter Brooke Peverell is launching a new women's choir called Oakham Sings!

The project is a follow-up to her successful Stamford Sings! group and is open to all women, regardless of age, singing ability, or experience. As part of that whole vibe, no auditions are taking place — the emphasis will be on having fun, making friends, and singing a varied programme of generally upbeat and uplifting songs. The idea is that your singing ability and confidence improves by osmosis as a byproduct of all that.

If you're wondering what you're in for, Brooke's other choirs have covered material from the likes of ELO, The Carpenters, Barry Manilow and Elton John, as well as more traditional choral bits and pieces.

So, if you fancy a hour of mood-lifting, endorphin-releasing, no-pressure singing, head to the Village Hall on Monday April 23rd where the first session will be run.

Sessions run on Mondays from 6.45pm to 8pm and cost just £5 per session.

More info from Brooke directly on 07772 055935.

Church Events

- Sun 8th April, 11.00
- Sunday Worship
- Sun 15th April, 11.00
- Holy Communion
- Sunday 22nd April, 11.00
- Sunday Worship
- Sun 29th April, 1.00
- Team Service (Whissendine)

@ The Pubs

- Sun 8th April, 12.00 - Live
Lunchtime Jazz at The Blue Ball
- Sun 22nd April 12.00 - Live Solo Jazz
Guitar from William Webster at The Blue Ball
- Weds 25th April, 10.00 - 16.00, Free
Antiques Valuation Day with Mark Alum
from the Antiques Roadshow, Blue Ball
- Tuesdays - Curry Nights, Thursdays -
Chicken & Ribs, Fridays - 2 for 1 Cod &
Chips - The Old Plough... probably.

Dogs in the Play Area

There is a sign at the entrance to the play area down Brooke Road that reads, in attention-grabbing capital letters, DOGS ARE NOT WELCOME IN THIS PLAY AREA! Problem is it doesn't seem to be catching quite as much attention as it should, as we've had numerous reports not only of dogs running around in it, but also their owners failing to clean up after them. The play area needs to be a safe place for children to play on all levels, and that includes not being harassed by dogs or coming home with dog mess on their shoes or on their clothes. Please can all dog owners ensure their animals aren't allowed into the area.

Under new management (again)

The Curse of the Braunston Newsletter has struck once more! It seems that no sooner have we welcomed Paula Merrel into the role of landlady at The Old Plough than she's moving on — and to Spain no less, so there's little chance of popping in for the odd shift to help out. We're keeping mum about the new incumbent in case it genuinely is us causing it all, but good luck L.

The Return of the Quack National

The Duckmeister might be different this year, last year's Deputy Duckmeister, Arnie Breen, stepping up and into the big galoshes vacated by the vacation-bound Peter Allen. But some things are inviolable, and we're pleased to confirm that the ducks will be an integral part of the May Fayre events once more.

As the experienced amongst you will know, that means there are exciting opportunities available to become a duck owner for the day. Rewarding to, as the

owner of the winning duck over multiple short course races will receive a prize. Then there's the 2nd Annual Braunston Quack National: a single long course (-ish) race where all 80 ducks participate. Prizes for all duckuler activities are TBA.

Duck ownership registration forms are available at both The Blue Ball and The Old Plough. Cost is £5 or £10 per duck for short course ownership and £2 per duck for the Quack National.

You'd be quackers not to. Ahem...

News from the Village Hall

A couple of important events taking place this month at the Village Hall for you to put in your diaries.

First, on Sat 7th April, and as we mentioned last month, there will be a poppy-making session held there as part of the Rutland-wide community art project to mark the end of the Great War.

Project artists will be there to help people make a poppy which will be fired and glazed and used as part of a display in Oakham later in the year. All materials and equipment will be supplied, and all adults and accompanied children are welcome — just wear some old clothing. Doors open at 2pm with poppy making

from 3pm. It's a drop in session, but it will be helpful to give the artists an idea of numbers to expect. Please email Pip at blueballbraunston@gmail.com if you know you would like to participate.

And *The Engsonglopedia of Science* is coming to the Village Hall on Wednesday April 25th. This is a brand new show by multi-award-winning writer and performer John Hinton, featuring witty (and occasionally silly) songs about science in all sorts of genres.

Recommended for ages 7 to 107, it's a show that will be enjoyed by everyone, children and adults alike. Tickets are £10 adult, £7.50 under 16, and £30 for a group ticket for four inc at least one child. Available from Cheryl on 07956 308808, or email info@braunstonvillagehall.co.uk.

Reminder #1: the Neighbourhood Plan

The annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on the 12th April at 8pm. As well as the usual stimulating agenda items, at this meeting the Council is mulling over the idea of a Braunston Neighbourhood Plan.

These have been successful in other areas and are useful tools for assessing how residents want their neighbourhood to develop in future years.

Interested? Head to the Parish meeting and join in the debate.

Reminder #2: Braunston Bites Back

As part of this year's May Fayre fundraising, plans are afoot to publish a recipe book featuring favourite recipes from people who live in Braunston.

Braunston Bites, a fundraiser for the playground, was published 19 years ago.

Therefore this one is going to be titled *Braunston Bites Back* and the deadline has been extended into April.

Contact Tracy at tracyandnickw@yahoo.co.uk with recipes or for more details.

Braunston News is published towards the end of the month. Most of the time. Please submit any material for inclusion in the May edition by April 20th-ish to: braunston.newsletter@gmail.com