

Braunston News

May 2018

Village Hall AGM: Good News & Sad News

Upcoming Highlights

- Sat 19th May, Braunston Big Brekkie, Village Hall, 08.30
- Sat 15th June, Charity Band Night: Wrong Direction @ The Blue Ball, 19.30. £10

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
- Oakham Sings!, Mondays, 18.45. Content Brooke Peverell, 07772 055935
- 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 Atack, Min Burdett, Tamsin Fagan, Gail Rudge, Janet Taylor, Dom Way, Sue Willetts

The 2018 Annual General Meeting of Braunston & Brooke Village Hall Trustees took place on 19th March.

The meeting was overshadowed by the sudden illness of Steve Stafford, our Hall Caretaker for over 20 years. Steve died on 2nd April and was buried in the Church grounds at an extremely well-attended service on the 16th. He will be sadly missed in the village and the wider area; our sympathy and thoughts go out to his family and friends.

On a happier note, the Village Hall continues to be a vibrant focal point for activities in the village. Hall usage in 2017 was significantly up on 2016, with around 480 individual sessions booked compared to around 330 in 2016. New regular bookings include Choir and Baking groups.

A wide range of social, common interest and sporting groups use the Village Hall during the year, representing around 85% of all booked sessions and around 60% of hire income. The remaining 15% of booked sessions are private hires both from within and outside the village. The 9% of privately hired sessions from beyond the village contribute over 30% of hire income.

The high utilisation of the Hall reflects both the excellent current maintenance of the facilities and the marketing efforts of the committee. As a consequence Hall finances are healthy, with a small net

surplus on the year.

As per the original 1923 deed of gift for the "recreation room", the Village Hall committee (in some cases jointly with the church) organised social events, entertainments and dancing including a Midsummer Ceilidh, Quizzes, and Theatre events. Well-attended annual village events using the Hall included the May Fayre, the Flower & Produce Show, the Advent Fayre, and the Village Nativity. The Trustees are very grateful for the support received from across the village.

Improvements in 2017 year included new hall lighting and a new water boiler (courtesy of a donation by the Gardening Club). Thanks go to all the volunteers who helped with ripping out the huge leylandii hedge, planting a new small yew hedge on the boundary with the churchyard, and laying the lawn to the rear of the Hall.

The committee particularly thanked Rosemarie Whittaker who retired from the committee having been Secretary since 2010; a fantastic contribution from someone who doesn't actually live in the village. The current committee was re-elected for 2018 with the addition of Mike Fagan, who indicated willingness to take over as Treasurer from Cheryl Rogerson, Suzanne Harry taking over as secretary, plus new members Karen Allen, Pip Nall and Sally Dux.

- RA

DoE Awards

It seems that we have a number of candidates for Duke of Edinburgh awards, in the Village, at any one time. One of the tasks which successful candidates must accomplish is to perform supervised work for the community for a set period, which depends on the level of the award sought.

This is very good news, as there are always a number of suitable tasks which

the village needs doing such as village surveys, cutting back hedges, trimming grass, litter picking, gardening, Good Neighbour tasks, and so on.

Let's try to match the tasks with the candidates; would any candidates seeking tasks please contact either Rob Anderson (774 388) or Jim Atack (759 556). Anyone wishing to propose a community task should also get in contact.

- JA

Church Events

- Sunday 6th May, 11.00,
Holy Communion
- Sun 13th May, 11.00
- Rogation Service
- Sunday 20th May, 11.00
- Holy Communion (Pentecost)
- Sun 27th May, 11.00
- Sunday Worship

@ The Pubs

- Sun 6th May, 12.00 - Live Lunchtime
Jazz at The Blue Ball
- Sat 2nd June, Live Music, The Old
Plough

Braunston Big Brekkie

Saturday 19th May is going to be a fairly big day, all things considered, with not one but two national events taking place. Not only is it the date of the FA Cup Final, but it's also the day that Harry marries Meghan. That will keep the tabloids out of mischief for a day or two. Not got an invite to the Royal Wedding? Console yourselves and get some carbs in before the saccharine at the Christian Aid Big Brekkie in the Village Hall from 08.30. It's a good cause: the charity works throughout the developing world creating and supporting sustainable long-term projects to help communities help themselves out of poverty, while protecting the environment.

Charity Band Night

In previous years we've had a May Fayre pre-event. This year, and perhaps in honour of the band's name, we'll be changing things round and having a post-event. Gig stalwarts Wrong Direction will be performing on the 15th June, 19.30 at the Blue Ball. Tickets will go on sale after the May Fayre and cost £10, to include supper, available from the Blue Ball or from miketamsin@btinternet.com. And if you have any bandwidth left over after the Fayre, the event is looking for volunteers to help with the supper. Contact Tamsin at the address above. Should be a fun night!

News from Hebe's Wood

In February's newsletter we told you about our intention to protect one of our ponds with a dead hedge so that the newts and other pond life can be less disturbed by passing dogs. This is now in place and we thank you for understanding our need to protect this important habitat.

At the Braunston Bloke's Club meeting in February, a number of Hebe's Wood dog walkers were present. They seemed shocked to hear of the damage that dogs can do to ground nesting birds. The scenario painted was of a pair of Whitethroat warblers, weighing half an ounce each, flying all the way from

Senegal to nest in Hebe's Wood. What a waste of effort when a canine foot carelessly squashed the little family...

We are currently putting up signs to remind everyone that this is the nesting season and ask you to keep yourselves and your dogs to the footpaths. In addition, we have designated some areas of further protection where we would ask you to keep your dogs on a lead. Again, thank you for your understanding.

And please talk to others you may see in Hebe's Wood about what is going on, as they may not get this newsletter.

- MB

The Return of the Midsummer Ceilidh

Saturday June 23rd sees the return of the James Joyce Band to the Village Hall for another Midsummer Ceilidh night.

Whether you're a complete ceilidh novice or a fully experienced veteran of last year's shenanigans, come along and strut your stuff to a great live band complete with caller to make sure we're all going in the right direction. Mostly...

We take a well-earned rest halfway through the proceedings and serve up a hot supper, and, of course, there will be a licensed bar to keep the energy levels high.

Tickets are £12 inc. supper, available from Janet on 759556, Rob on 774388, or email info@braunstonvillagehall.co.uk. Be quick! They sold pretty fast last year.

- JW

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Following the 'trailer' in last month's newsletter, a number of folk turned up at the annual Parish Meeting, on the 12th.

There was general enthusiasm for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the village; the main issue being one of specifying and controlling how any future development might take place, driven by the wishes of our community.

It was noted that there are now several very good local Neighbourhood Plan examples which would provide good counsel for how to prepare a plan.

The Plan would be produced over a period, and the village would be consulted fully, along the way; the first step would be to canvass village opinions and confirm enthusiasm, with a survey.

As ever, we will need volunteers to help us with this task; would anyone willing to help please contact our secretary, Carole Browne at: clerk.braunston@gmail.com

Meanwhile, we will put this on our regular Parish Council agenda, and report on progress.

- JA

Walks from Braunston

Two walks set out from Braunston on Weds 30th May as part of this year's Active Rutland Walking & Cycling Festival.

A 6.5 mile walk departs the Blue Ball at 10.00, with a shorter, 4 mile one leaving at 14.00.

...Head to <https://www.activerutland.org.uk/rutlandround> for more details.

Braunston News is published towards the end of the month. Most of the time. Due to holidays the next one might be a bit later, so you have until around the end of May to submit any material for the June edition to: braunston.newsletter@gmail.com