



# Braunston News

April 2019

## May Fayre: Help required

**This year's May Fayre** takes place on Monday, May 6th, and as ever there are roles that need to be filled in the run up to the event. Here's an overall rundown from the Committee:

We are looking for help in a number of areas in the planning and running of this year's Fayre. With regards helping hands, we're looking for a couple more First Aiders, some assistance with the refreshments in the Village Hall, and also a couple of volunteers to help with the Games on the Green. In terms of donations, we're looking for items to sell on a 'Car Boot' stall that will be on Cedar Street, fundraising for the event (we should also mention that there are still Car Boot Stall plots available if anyone would like to have one). There will be a Children's Tombola this year and for that we are looking for donations of Soft / Cuddly Toys for the prizes. Finally, we would like someone with an open top car who would be willing to parade the May Queen around the village once she has been crowned.

If you are able to help with any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact one of the following:

- First Aiders / Open Top Car:  
[peter.allen@consultselect.com](mailto:peter.allen@consultselect.com)
- Games on the Green: Jo Palmer-Phillips:  
[joannepalmer73@hotmail.com](mailto:joannepalmer73@hotmail.com)
- Car Boot Items / Stalls: Sue Bichard:  
[susan125081@aol.com](mailto:susan125081@aol.com)

And some further detail in a few areas.

### Refreshments

We will need a small army of volunteers to help with the Catering in the Village Hall. We always have an amazing selection of cakes and cookies which are kindly donated by our villagers to help feed the hungry visitors. Please could you bake something for the day, it can be any cake, muffins or cookies and any size, shape or number.

Throughout the day volunteers help with the preparing, serving and washing up. For those of you who have never helped before or are new to the village this is a great way to meet new friends and get involved in village life. If you can help on the day

we only ask if you can spare 1 or 2 hours to help in the kitchen.

If you can do some baking or volunteering please contact me by phone, email or just text and thank you so much for helping keep the May Fayre a great village success.

Clare Seymour 07949 199122,  
[clareseymour@hotmail.com](mailto:clareseymour@hotmail.com)

### Tombola

Please donate tombola items (eg. bottles of wine, beer, canned drinks, small gift items, food items - within sell-by date though! etc) to:

Steve and Randall Wickham, 6 Church Street.  
01572 756730; Or, Rob and Janet Smith, Otters Holt, Oakham Road. 01572 720291

This year we are again featuring a second tombola, specifically for children, to run immediately after the main tombola. We would therefore also welcome donations of children's toys, games, puzzles, cuddly toys. Please deliver children's tombola donations to:

Karen Allen, Brookside, 4 Wood Lane, Braunston.  
07961 050077

Deadline for donations is 4 May.

## Bat Boxes Arrive

**The second phase** of the Heritage Lottery Funded "Bats in Churches" project work gets into full swing during April. Braunston Church is now closed to visitors until mid April, except for Sunday Services whilst the work proceeds.

Scaffolding is erected inside the south aisle to permanently block the crevices through which the bats enter the interior of the church. The bats will continue, unimpeded, to access the church roof from outside for maternity roosting and other functions. Last year's temporary blocking work minimised bat access inside the church, removing the impact of bat faeces and enabling humans and bats to happily use the church concurrently.

Bat surveys before and after the temporary blocking showed our church bat population actually increased from around 430 in 2017 to 540 in 2018, (mainly soprano and pipistrelles bats), and this enabled obtaining approval for the permanent blocking.

In the churchyard extension paddock, behind the church, a pole has been erected and bat boxes will be fitted to provide additional roost areas for our bats. The total cost of the work and related bat surveys is around £40,000, all of which has been covered by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Braunston Church has been one of three churches piloting techniques to allow humans and bats to coexist in ancient buildings (which are a key habitat for bats). These proven techniques will then be shared across the many ancient buildings similarly affected. Watch out for various events during the summer to learn more about Braunston's bat population.

-RA

## Village Hall AGM

The AGM reflected on a year of great change following the sad death of Steve Stafford our caretaker last April. The new systems for operating the hall without a caretaker are all fully operational. A tenant will move into the refurbished flat shortly. The VH Charity remains solvent and whilst reserves are somewhat depleted by the replacement of the floor and the flat refurbish, the financial outlook going forward is very positive.

The trustees and committee were re elected with no changes to office holders, Steve Wickham and Sue Willetts stood down both having served for around 20 years each, we thank them for their dedication and service. Dr Amanda May was welcomed as a new member to the committee.

Usage of the hall in 2018 continued at roughly the same level as the previous year with around 80% of sessions being related to the charity's purpose and the 20% of private hires providing a

disproportionately high level of funding to enable the charity.

-RA

## Church Repair Target Hit

**Thank you to everyone** who has made a donation towards the urgent repair work on Braunston Church. We now have donations, grants and pending gift aid claims totalling approximately £54,000, which is the estimated cost of all the repair work. It's a fantastic response from everyone. The first phase of repair work is awarded and will commence in September. It covers repairing areas of the main roof and flashing pointing which are leaking water into the main building and replacing areas of degraded stonework. Once this is complete and we have certainty on costs for Phase 1 we will proceed with the remaining phases of work, probably in April 2020, covering replacement of tower ladders and repointing and masonry repairs to the tower.

-RA

## Afternoon Tea Success

The first village afternoon tea was well attended, with 26 of us enjoying sandwiches, scones and cake along with a good chat. This has encouraged us to keep going with the next afternoon tea happening on Tuesday 30th April. It is our aim to bring all ages in our community together to meet up with old friends, make new ones and spend a couple of hours in each other's company, whilst enjoying a scrumptious afternoon tea. All welcome. Car lifts available on request.

Contact: Angela Lashbrook 720351, Sue Bichard 756694

-AL

## Listings

### 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
- 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
- Pilates: Fridays 09.00 - 10.00 & 10.15 - 11.15. Contact Alison Sentance on 07496 814825
- Baking Classes: 4th Thursday of month. Contact: Leslie Gadd 07904 956825, [gaddleslie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gaddleslie@hotmail.co.uk)

### Church Events

- Sunday 7 April, 11.00, Holy Communion
- Palm Sunday 14 April, 11.00, Sunday Worship
- Good Friday 19 April, 17.00, Prayers
- Easter Day 21 April, 11.00, Holy Communion
- Sunday 28 April, 11.00, Sunday Worship

### Thanks this issue to...

Karen Allen, Rob Anderson, Angela Lashbrook, Chris Lovelock, and Gail Rudge for info and various words where indicated.