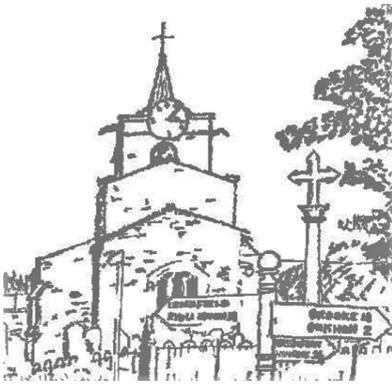


Braunston News

January 2021



Virtual Advent Fayre raises £2,000 – Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Virtual Advent Fayre and Raffle, we really appreciate the amazing response across the village. Your generosity has raised £2,000 which will help to keep our ancient church building maintained.

The support across the village, particularly for the raffle was outstanding - the three winners (all in the village) were:

- Carol England - Christmas hamper
- Sonia Young - Festive Drinks hamper
- Mr & Mrs Walton - Luxury Chocolate hamper

Rob Anderson for the Braunston Church PCC.



Vaccinations are go

As predicted in last month's edition, some villagers did indeed get their Covid vaccine for Christmas. The first group received their jab at Catmose just before Christmas, and the rollout is now ongoing. With the approval of the Oxford vaccine, the process should now speed up.

The NHS will get in touch with you when it is your turn - please *do not* try to contact them before then.

Traffic Calming

As previously reported, the Parish Council and the Traffic Working Group have been pressing the Rutland County Council to implement an effective traffic calming scheme through the village. This comprises; Knossington Road chicane; speed cushions in Knossington Road and High Street; 40mph buffer zones at each end of the village; and improvements to road marking and signs on the Oakham Road. So far, we have seen the construction of the Knossington Road chicane, which on its own has not proved effective.

Despite many attempts to engage our ward councillors and RCC, we have not succeeded. Recognising that RCC has little funding available, we have meanwhile raised local pledges to contribute to the cost of works. We now need to change gears and get more people in the village behind our campaign to slow down through traffic. Traffic calming will be on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting on the 14th January; you are all invited to attend via the Zoom link published on our website, www.braunstoninrutlandpc.org.uk, and on the published meeting agenda. Jim Attack

And this year's Oscar goes to

..... well, it has to be Journey to Jesus.

It has become a tradition in Braunston to produce a Christmas nativity play which is usually presented, live around the village, on Christmas Eve. This was impossible this year due to Covid restrictions, but undaunted and still wanting to continue the tradition, Gail came up with the idea of producing a film instead. So the crew went into production, writing, directing, acting, producing and editing. All the scenes were recorded around the village in the weeks up to Christmas, with only a couple of actors together at any one time.



Gail writes: "A huge thank you to all who took part in enabling us to film J2J this year. Not only for giving up your time, but also turning out in very unpredictable and unfriendly weather conditions. Special thanks to Chris Lovelock for his amazing photographic and editorial skills, not only in sewing together the scenes but also eliminating the helicopters, planes, traffic, horses, cyclists, wind, rain and the church clock. So thank you Chris for all the time and effort you put in and for all your ideas and enthusiasm."

The resulting video was premiered on Christmas Eve to critical acclaim and can be seen on Chris Lovelock's web page at <http://chrisl.me/J2J2020/>

Well done to everyone involved - a triumph over adversity.

Our Good Neighbours group is still very much in place so do give us a call if you need anything, from a prescription pickup or some shopping, to just having a chat, or providing a lift to enable you to have your vaccination.

We're not here just for Covid related requests, but for anything where you might need a helping hand,

Braunston Good Neighbours 07422 693608 braunstongoodneighbours@gmail.com

You can find up-to-date information about local support on the Parish Council website at

www.braunstoninrutlandpc.org.uk

For advice and information about Covid go to www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

If you need Covid-19 medical advice call 111 - do NOT go to your GP or A&E, but please remember that you can and should still contact and visit your GP or A&E for any issues that are not Covid-19 related.

Church News

Church Services for January 2021

Sunday 10th Jan	11am	Holy Communion	Church
Sunday 24th Jan	11am	Sunday Worship	Church



Thumbs Up, Well Done and Thank You



With the start of 2021 we're looking back at the strange year that was 2020, and handing out some well deserved thanks.

Firstly to everyone who rallied to the call of the Good Neighbours scheme at the start of the pandemic. Within a very short time we had a WhatsApp group set up (thanks, Simon), a co-ordinator in place (thanks, Angela) and a small army of about fifty people offering help for tasks from shopping and prescription pickups to phone line problems and emergency dental repair kits! With time, people have established their own support systems and the Covid calls have tailed off, but the group is still there and is proving to be useful for other village issues - just last week a cry for help resulted in a gang of volunteers out clearing road drains as flood waters threatened a property in the village. Sometimes the WhatsApp chat verges on the trivial, but even that can be welcome in these somewhat isolating times; chicken talk always raises a smile !

Next the small group of DofE candidates who are currently working their way around the village tidying the footpaths; they've been out in some miserable weather but their efforts are beginning to make a real difference. Thanks to Clare for supervising.

Another group of volunteers have continued their efforts to get effective traffic calming implemented on the High St/Knossington Rd rat run. Their continued resilience in the face of bureaucracy is impressive.

There are many other unsung heroes who just quietly get on with helping their neighbours and generally being good citizens. It all goes to make Braunston a great place to live - long may it continue.

Festive windows



Once again the gloom of December has been dispelled by Braunston's Christmas windows, making an evening stroll around the village a festival of light and good cheer. Well done to everyone who took part, whether creating a window scene, decorating the phone box, or just going overboard with the lighting displays.

Latest Covid proposal

I'm sure we've all noticed that there are more people out and about these days, not just villagers on their daily walks, but incomers from distant places such as Oakham, keen to sample the delights of our village. In order to help maintain social distancing on our now crowded pavements a Parish Council Sub-committee Working Party (Focus Group B) has devised an ingenious one-way system. The plan is that everyone will proceed in a clockwise direction around the roads in the centre of the village in order to avoid excess physical contact. We are looking for volunteers to act as marshals; plaguey beaks will be provided

The scheme will come into operation on **April 1st 2021**



Regular Events

The village hall has been closed since the last lockdown and now that we are in Tier 3 will probably remain so, depending on a committee decision next week. Please check the village hall website at www.braunstonvillagehall.co.uk for the latest news.

Braunston News is published at the end of the month by Braunston Parish Council and does not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council or any Parish Councillors.

Items for inclusion are always welcome - please send items for the February edition to braunston.newsletter@gmail.com by January 17th please.