



# Braunston News

December 2021



*Wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

## What's happening at the Old Plough ?

After the Old Plough closed in 2020, the Parish Council registered both village pubs as Assets of Community Value (ACV) because, with all the uncertainties that COVID brought, we wanted to make sure that the village retained at least one pub. Registration as an ACV gave us the right to match any offer, or negotiate a price with an owner who wished to sell.

This year has seen the renaissance of the Blue Ball, and a rejected planning application to develop the Old Plough for housing. The Parish Council reviewed the viability of buying, upgrading and running the Old Plough as a pub, hotel, restaurant, and local shop, and determined that this would not be a sensible project for the village to engage with, because the upgrade costs to achieve an acceptable standard were prohibitive, and we would not be able to raise a sufficient volunteer force to run the enterprise. We also consulted local folk with a track record in the commercial renovation of village pubs and couldn't find anyone prepared to meet the acquisition and start-up costs.

So, unless a private pub refurbisher gets interested, the outcome is likely to be more applications to redevelop the site for housing.

Jim Attack

## Advent Fayre & Raffle - Fantastic Success

Thank you to everyone who supported the Advent Fayre and Raffle this year, back once again in the Village Hall.

It was a great success with new stalls and increased pre-ordering of produce. Raffle ticket sales were high, and despite pretty horrible weather, there was a good turnout on the day with stall holders reporting brisk sales, and very little cake left at the end of proceedings. Always a good sign!

Provisionally, the event raised more than £2,500 to help maintain our ancient church building, probably a record year for the Fayre.

Raffle winners were: 1st Prize, Elaine Wyspianski, 2nd Prize, Kate Copeland, 3rd Prize, Ms Gallimore.

Thank you again for all your support.

Rob Anderson for Braunston PCC



## Have you had your Covid booster?

Just a reminder that booster vaccinations are now available locally at Ashwell Enterprise Park, and the Rutland Late Night Pharmacy. Appointments can be booked through the national online booking service ( <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> ) or by calling 119. If you need any help making the appointment, or travelling to the vaccination site, get in touch and we can find someone to assist.

Your booster jab is absolutely the best way to ensure that your protection from the initial vaccinations can be maintained; with the approach of winter and the arrival of a new variant this is more important than ever, so if you haven't already had it, do get it done.

We hope that everyone is at least double jabbed by now - if you aren't, then get online and get it done.

## Act now to get your Full Fast Fibre Broadband

Time is short to sign up for our project to get Full Fibre broadband now, instead of waiting for BT.

Whissendine is now connected, with Wing, Ketton and Manton also scheduled for early installation using the government voucher scheme.

So far, we have only about half of the number needed to qualify for Open Reach to obtain Government funding for fibre.

To get a free voucher, we just have to commit to using a full fibre service, for one year; the choice of provider is up to you.

Some people have expressed concerns about the cost of opting for full fibre. The average monthly cost for broadband and a landline in Whissendine, where fibre was added recently, is less than £30 per month for speeds up to 67mbs (from 13 suppliers); this is comparable with our current rates in Braunston.

Advantages of full fibre include: more reliable and stable internet access particularly if you are at a distance from the BT cabinet at the Old Plough; rapid download of large documents; uninterrupted streaming of films.

This is a project that would benefit the whole community and you can help Braunston get full fibre by pledging your support, either by accepting the voucher already offered to you, or on the internet, here:

<https://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity>

Jim Attack



## Church News

Sunday	5th Dec	11am	Holy Communion	
Sunday	12th Dec	11am	Sunday Worship	
Sunday	19th Dec	No service		
Monday	20th Dec	6pm	Carols by Candlelight	
Christmas Eve	3.30pm	Journey to Jesus		Starts in the church
Christmas Day	11am	Holy Communion		
Sunday	26th Dec	No service		



Although the threat of more Covid restrictions is hanging over us, we're continuing with our Christmas plans.

This year, our service of **Carols by Candlelight** will be on Monday 20th December at 6pm. This is to avoid a clash with Brooke who are having their carol service on the Sunday.

**Journey to Jesus 2021** will take place on Christmas Eve at 3.30pm, beginning in church and then travelling round parts of the village following the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to the stable and the birth of Jesus.

Make sure you come wrapped up, but we're not heroic - if it's pouring with rain or blowing a blizzard, it will all take place in church. That's only ever happened once.

Come and join in; it's a great way to begin your Christmas celebrations.

Gail Rudge

## Dog poo ( again )

It is lovely that we have so many dogs in our village, but not so lovely to encounter increasing amounts of dog poo. Dog owners do have a responsibility to others to clear up after their dogs. Leaving it behind in fields or on verges is not acceptable for the enjoyment of the countryside by others, and more critically parasites found in some dog faeces are harmful to children and can result in the abortions of cattle and death in sheep. Bag it up and dispose of the bags in any one of the bins around the village, or use a stick to flick it into undergrowth well away from where people are likely to walk or animals graze. Not noticing that your dog has pooped is not an excuse - be watchful and clear it away.

Angela Lashbrook

The Parish Council has some trail cameras that can be borrowed and installed near any spots that are of particular concern, together with CCTV monitoring signs. Please contact us if you would like to borrow one.

## Work Group – Gwash Clean-up

It's been a while since we last tidied up the vegetation around the weir and bridges over the Gwash, so it's time to get the wellies on and have another bash at it.

A volunteer work party is planned for Saturday 11th December - meet at the weir at 10am, and we'll spend a couple of hours cleaning up the area. If you'd like to get involved then please let me or Chris Bichard know and come along with any 'weapons of mass destruction' you may have. There's even a rumour that coffee & cake will be provided ! Jim Atack

## 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
- Table Tennis: Tue & Wed in Village Hall at

7:30 pm. Contact: David Smart 01664 474354

- Pilates: Fridays 09.00 - 10.00 & 10.15 - 11.15. Contact Alison Sentance on 07496 814825
- Tea Party: last Tuesday of month at 2:30 pm in village hall. Contact Angela 01572 720351

- Gardening Club: 3rd Thursday of month at 7pm in village hall. Contact Lynn 01572 722725

## Church Events

- Bell ringing practice: every Weds eve 7.30pm to 9pm. Contact Richard 07976 622130

## Tea@BVH

The village afternoon tea party (recently rebranded as Tea@BVH) is held on the last Tuesday of the month (excluding December, July and August) in the village hall at 2.30pm. The invitation to join us extends to everybody in the village and is also open to people with a connection to the village. There is no age restriction! There is a very small group of people who give so generously of their time and cooking skills each month, to whom I am so grateful. I would like to take some of the pressure off these kind souls and so, if anybody would like to join this group and help by making a cake or some sandwiches, I would be very grateful. Please contact Angela on 720351.

Angela Lashbrook

## Stop Press

Due to the recent increase in local Covid cases the **Tea Party** due to be held on **November 30th** has been **cancelled**. Hopefully the event will be back again in January.

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 January edition to braunston.newsletter@gmail.com by December 17th please. If you currently receive a printed copy and would like to receive an emailed version instead, then please let us know your name, street address, and email address.