



Braunston News

January 2022



Our beautiful village church needs your help

The Braunston Church Architect has advised that £150 - 300,000 worth of repairs are needed - Can you help with fund raising or ideas to widen the building's use?

Our listed Grade II* church building dates from Norman times. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the small congregation have limited means to maintain it. Over the last few years, with support from across the village, we have dealt with roof leaks, coexisted with a major bat colony, replaced crumbling stonework and maintained services, when allowed, throughout the pandemic. However, significant problems remain and the church architect advises that over the next five years the north aisle roof and south porch roof need replacing to keep the building watertight. In the longer term we should fit gutters, drain pipes and gulleys to manage water from the roof, the heating system needs replacing, further repairs will be needed to stonework, and access inside the tower should be improved. At current prices this work will cost between £150,000 and £300,000 over the next 10 years depending on what we find when we start work.

To make sense of spending so much money and to access suitable grants, we should maximise community use throughout the week, complementing not competing with the village hall. Currently there is around £33,000 remaining from the previous repair appeal (where we put less urgent work on hold for the time being).

Do you have any ideas or proposals for alternative uses? Could you help in fund raising? Would like more information on the repair work? Please get in touch with any of the following contacts: Rob on 774388, Sue on 722150 or Alan on 755570 or email robander961@hotmail.co.uk

Over the next months we will provide more info on the work required and the options going forward. Keep in mind that the building has been here in some form or other for around 1000 years, so it is likely it will still be standing in another 100 years - the main question is how usable will it be?

Rob Anderson for the PCC.

The May Fayre returns (we hope !)



After a break of two years, the Braunston May Fayre planning wheels are beginning to turn again. The date for 2022 is Monday May 2nd, and as well as raising funds for the Village Hall, the Church and a local charity, it is just a great day with fun for all the family, stalls, activities, entertainment, competitions and of course, lots of refreshment opportunities.

There will be plenty of volunteering opportunities nearer the time, but currently we are looking for:

Someone to coordinate the prize collection, and someone to operate the adult Tombola stall on the day.

Also, as our most recent local charity, Dove Cottage Day Hospice, has now relocated away from Rutland, we are looking for another local good cause that would appreciate our support, and would welcome any suggestions that you may have.

Please get in touch if you think you can help. If you're new to the village and haven't yet experienced a May Fayre, this is a great way to get involved in village life.

Regular updates and requests for help will be published in the Braunston News. The success of the day in the past has been very much due to the enthusiastic participation of everyone in the village and we hope we can rely on you all as we move forward into what will, hopefully, be a bright spring free of the worries and concerns of the past two years.

Peter Allen

Maypole Dancers Needed

With the May Fayre returning in May, we are hoping that we will again have Maypole Dancing in the village. We are therefore looking for children aged 4-11 (Reception to Year 6) to join. Maypole dancing is open to any children from Braunston or neighbouring villages, or if any grandparents in the village have grandchildren who live nearby they are very welcome too. No experience necessary, just lots of enthusiasm and able to turn up to the weekly practices in the Village Hall on a Sunday 9:30-10:15.

Being mindful of the current situation with COVID we are hoping to start practices in March however we will confirm the final date nearer the time. If you are interested please let Jo know so we can gauge numbers or if you have any questions.

Jo Palmer-Phillips 07876 251257 joannepalmer73@hotmail.com, 27 Cedar Street, Braunston.



Advent Windows, and Events for 2022

A **BIG** thank you to everyone who took part in the Advent Windows and Phone Box display this year.

They all looked fantastic. It was a delight to walk around the village and see not just the windows, but all the other lovely lights and decorations. It certainly brightens up the dark winter evenings.

'Happy New Year' - Events for 2022 - Keep your eye out for the next edition of the Braunston News! There will be some dates I'm sure you will want to put in your diary! And for those of you who were so looking forward to our New Years Eve party, which unfortunately have had to cancel, we are planning that now for April! After all, if HMRC can start their New Year in April, why can't we?
Karen Allen

(Editor's note - Slightly worried to see that Father Christmas had taken a bit of a chimney tumble in the phone box, but all my presents arrived so he must be OK 🤔).

Gwash Clean-up

Another 'thank you' spot, this time to the intrepid squad who turned out on a chilly December Saturday to help clear vegetation from the banks of the Gwash down by the weir.



Armed with a variety of tools and plenty of enthusiasm, excellent progress was made cutting back overhanging trees and shrubs, and clearing the reeds and other plants which were beginning to overgrow the banks. A supply of hot drinks and cake ensured that energy levels were maintained!

Thanks, in no particular order, to Jim, Peter, John, Dom, Carl, Clare, Jo, Olly, Richard, Chris, Janet & Debbie. Same place, same time, next year??

More plans for the Old Plough

After last month's update about the fate of the Old Plough, we see that another planning application has just been submitted to develop the site for housing. It's a smaller scheme than the previous one, with the pub being converted into two houses and a further two new-builds at the rear. Full details can be found on the council's website at

www.rutland.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building-control/planning/

and the planning reference is 2021/1421/FUL. The public consultation period ends on 13th January 2022, so if you have any comments, now is the time to make them.

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

Braunston WhatsApp group

When the Covid pandemic first struck, we created a Good Neighbours WhatsApp group to bring together volunteers to help with requests from residents. This worked well, and with the decline of Covid related requests, has now evolved into a general village help and information group. It is a great way to provide a link between villagers for subjects as diverse as lost and found dogs, suspicious activities, road conditions, village events, requests for trades and services, etc.

There are now nearly 70 members and if you would like to join, then please send your name and mobile number to us at braunston.newsletter@gmail.com and we will add you to the group. Thanks to Simon & Jo for being group administrators.

As with all these groups there is sometimes a tendency to go off-topic but we do try to encourage people not to use it for general/personal chat.

Fast fibre will have to wait

Sadly, we didn't manage to raise enough interest in fibre broadband to achieve government vouchers meeting the £230k target. We actually got to around £130k, so quite a large gap. This is a shame since we'll now have to wait a couple of years until Openreach installs it at its own cost.

My thanks to all those who lobbied and signed up for the scheme. Everyone who obtained a voucher, and pledged it to Openreach, will receive an email in the New Year cancelling the voucher and any obligations.

Jim Attack

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. 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.