

Braunston News

October 2023



Dog issues - again

Once again we are suffering from a small minority of people who fail to clean up after their dogs when out and about. The piece from Min Burdett below explains why the permissive path through Hebe's Wood is being closed, and we are also seeing a rise in dog mess around the village, noticeably on the village green by Charles Cooper's bench. We do get a lot of people coming to Braunston to enjoy the countryside around us, so it is not necessarily village residents causing the problem, but if you do see anyone failing to take responsibly for their pet then please do have a word, or report the details to Rutland County Council who are responsible for managing anti-social behaviour.

We are still offering trail cameras that will pick up dogs when people have failed to pick up after them, together with helpful signs (for the dog owners) to remind them to do this and that they may be on candid camera. Please contact the newsletter if you'd like to borrow one by emailing braunston.newsletter@gmail.com

Hebe's Wood - Closure of Permissive Path

Increasing numbers of people are coming up Wood Lane from Braunston and beyond to enjoy Hebe's Wood. We very much welcome you and the interest and support you have shown us. It is with regret, however, that we note that some dog walkers are abusing our hospitality. Despite talking to walkers and leaving signs asking people to pick up dog faeces, more and more is left in the wood and also on the approaches to the wood where people park their cars.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's blog (www.lrwt.org.uk/blog/thewildlifetrusts/paws-thought) gives their view of why they are restricting access to some of their nature reserves: horrible to stand in poo; polluting ponds; and adding unwanted soil nutrients. Dog faeces are also a health risk; dogs may deposit roundworm eggs (toxocara canis) in their faeces, which become infectious after about 3 weeks, and can remain so for up to 2 years. This can infect people, other dogs, farm animals and wildlife. The countryside should not be seen as a public convenience for dogs.

We are going to close the permissive path running between the bridleway and public footpath on the northern (nearest to Braunston) edge of Hebe's Wood. We are hoping that this will publicise that, wherever you are in the countryside, you should be picking up your dog poo. Please pick it up; not stick and flick. We need your help. Not everyone who comes to the wood reads Braunston News and we are not always on hand to explain to people why the permissive path is closed. Some of you may use professional dog walkers from beyond the village or have friends from elsewhere. Please explain our reasons.

We look forward to re-opening the permissive way when the bridleway and other paths in the wood are not blighted by dog faeces. If you have any comments on what we are doing please contact us via email on minburdett@gmail.com.

Suzie Manley and Min Burdett

Smarter streets

A reminder that we're planning to severely prune the Lime tree on the village green later this year. It will be a bit of a shock because we have to take a lot of wood out of the crown for the tree to survive and prosper for a few more years. Although the haircut will be quite radical, it will grow back into a decent shape within two to three years. Meanwhile, the replacement oak trees will shortly have their guards fitted.

Thanks again to the hedge cutters and pavement scrubbers; we need more work especially on the hedges overhanging the pavements along Knossington Road, so please do muck in.

Jim Attack

Change to postbox collection times

The collection time for the High St postbox on the green will change from Oct 9th to 9am on Monday to Friday and 7am on Saturday. This brings it into line with the box on Church St, but means that we lose our afternoon collection.

Quiz night - tickets going fast

The next village hall quiz is on Sat 28th Oct and places are going fast! If you want to join in the fun then contact Karen Allen on 07961 050077 or email karenbraunstonrutlanduk@gmail.com as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Maximum teams of 6 (or we can find a team for you), tickets £10 (£5 under 16). Scrumptious hot supper included, rumour has it that it might be chili, baked potato and a yummy pud!

The doors and bar will open at 6.45 pm with a prompt start for the quiz at 7.30pm.

This month's church services

Sunday 24th Sept 11am Harvest Thanksgiving
12.30pm Harvest Lunch in village hall
Sunday 1st Oct 11am Holy Communion
Sunday 8th Oct 11am Sunday Worship

Sunday 15th Oct 11am Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd Oct 4pm Memories Service
Sunday 29th Oct 11am Joint service
for southern parishes

Sunday 22nd October is our annual Memories Service. It's a time of quiet reflection as we remember all those close to us who we've lost, especially in the last five years.

Gail Rudge

The sky's (still) the limit for Ray

Last month we wrote that Ray Martin was to do a charity sky-dive in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. Well, he managed to pick one of the few September days when the weather didn't quite play ball. Ray writes



'we waited over four hours and at 5.30 pm they called it a day owing to the weather. It was like a tropical storm, I have not seen rain like it for years, we arrived in the sunshine and then the sky went black.

I have a new date for the jump on the 22nd September at 2.30pm - let's just hope the weather is kind to me'

So, fingers crossed that conditions on Sept 22nd mean that he can make that leap, and meantime if you'd like to donate to his cause please visit his Justgiving page at www.justgiving.com/page/ray-martin-04021945

Good luck Ray !

News from the Gwash

The Friends of the Gwash (FOG) group is continuing its work to restore our river, and the surrounding habitat, to its former glories. An informative walk was organised on some of Chapter Farm's 50 plus acres of land. Mike Hammond guided a group from FOG and members of the Rivers Trust on plans to create wetland/flood plains on some of the land which will encourage wetland wildlife into the area and help sustain a healthy course for the river through the village.

FOG members will be meeting Anglian Water officials on October 9th after which we hope to be able to announce more details about the practical proposals Anglian Water will be putting forward to improve the health of the river, as well as drainage issues affecting the village.

FOG is also hoping to hook up with local farmers and landowners to partner some of our initiatives. Any farmers or landowners out there who want to get involved please contact us at:

Friendsofthegwash@gmail.co.uk

Braunston Bats stream out in style!

Braunston bats gave a fantastic display at the Braunston Beer & Bats night in early September. The weather was perfect, Bups and his team provided an exceptional buffet at the Blue Ball and the bats streamed out of the church roof at dusk to the delight of the sixty or so attendees. Inside the church the "Wing and a Prayer" multi media display was on show. Our local Bat Conservation group showed us how to use the bat detectors and gave insights on the bats behaviour.

It was a great turn out in every sense to mark the end of the five year Heritage Lottery funded Bats in Churches (BiC) project. Braunston church has benefited massively financially and technically from being a pilot church. Over the last five years the project has successfully developed nationally applicable strategies for churches and their congregations to co-exist with bats who find roof spaces in mediaeval churches ideal roosting spots.

Later in September Sue Willetts presented Braunston's experience and learnings at the London BiC close out National Conference. The project has enabled mediaeval churches up and down the country to successfully manage and coexist with thriving bat populations - a great outcome for everyone and our environment.

Details on the project were also broadcast on the radio after Rob Persani from Rutland and Stamford Sound interviewed Sue during the Ride & Stride day.

Rob Anderson

Regular Events

- Ladies Pub Night: Meets 1st Wed of month in Blue Ball from 8pm

Village Hall

- Indoor Bowls: Alternate Fridays at 7:30 pm. Contact: Sandra Lickman 722536
- Quilting & Patchwork Group: Weds 09:45 - 15:45. Contact: Elaine 01780 756004

- Table Tennis: Weds 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 Contact Angela 01572 720351

- Gardening Club: 3rd Thursday of month at 7.30pm. Contact Mary Milner 720387

- The Wool Group: 1st Weds of the month, 2pm. Contact Jill 07967 650361

- Zumba: Thurs at 6pm (5pm on 3rd Thurs in month). Contact Kayleigh 07954 287002

Church Events

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

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 November edition to braunston.newsletter@gmail.com by Oct 22nd. 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.