

# Braunston News

May 2024



## It's May Fayre time



Not long now until the May Fayre on Monday 6th May, and, like the ducks on the Gwash, the organisers are all paddling furiously to make sure that it's a great day. Hopefully the weather will brighten up a little to enable us to raise lots of money for the church repair fund, the village hall, and the local branch of the Riding for the Disabled.

Volunteers are still needed, particularly in the car park to help direct visitors to parking spaces, and in the village hall to help with refreshments. Please get in touch with Peter Allen (peter.allen@consultselect.com) if you'd like to lend a hand. It's a great way to get to know other village people.

There's a change to the main car park this year, which will now be in a field along Brooke Rd. Incoming traffic will be directed down Church St and then left into Brooke Rd; cars leaving the field will be encouraged to return to Oakham via Brooke Hill. Residents of Church St and Cedar St are encouraged to park in The Old Plough car park to enable them to get their cars off the road.

If you have any items for the Grand Tombola then please deliver them to Sue Willetts at 6 Hanbury Gardens, just leave them by the front door if no-one is around.

For the full May Fayre schedule, and all the up to date news, check out the [village hall website](#) or follow the May Fayre [Facebook](#) page.

## May Fayre pre-event fundraiser

The Blue Ball will once again be hosting a fund raising evening on Sat 4th May, featuring local acoustic duo Carter & Hartmann playing rock, funk and soul tunes from across the decades. Entry is £5, kids go free, and bar food will be available until 10pm.

## Remember to return your raffle ticket stubs - lots of fabulous prizes to be won!

More than forty fabulous prizes are to be won in the May Fayre raffle, but you've got to be in it to win it! Please return your raffle stubs and money no later than Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May to Rob at 52 Church St, or return them on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May at the Village Hall by 2.30pm. If you'd like more raffle tickets call Rob on 07900 535250.

## Planning matters

### Brooke Road application

The Planning Inspectorate appeal for the application for thirty houses on Brooke Road took place on Weds 17th April. Councillors Jane Ellis and Chris Bichard made excellent representation on behalf of the village, and there were also quite a few villagers in attendance. The Inspector visited the site and the village the following day and we await determination, probably some time in May.

### Tilton-on-the-Hill application

A planning application has been lodged with Harborough District Council to build a holiday park with 99 units of varying sizes, plus leisure complex, bar and restaurant, on the road to Tilton, about 1.5 miles before the village. The Parish Council is objecting to this on the grounds of increased traffic through Braunston. The closing date for comments is Mon April 29th so if you want to comment, whether for traffic reasons, unsuitable development in open countryside, or its location next to the Tilton Cutting (SSSI), then **do it now**. Supporting comments by those favouring a local leisure park may also be lodged on this site.

The planning reference is 24/00396/OUT, and the website is [www.harborough.gov.uk](http://www.harborough.gov.uk)

## Recent planning applications

No new planning applications this month in Braunston.

## Annual Parish Meeting

Braunston's Annual Parish Meeting took place on April 11th in the village hall.

Details of the meeting can be found on the documents page of the [Parish Council](#) website

## This month's church services

Sunday 5th May 11am Holy Communion

Thursday 9th May 7.30pm Holy Communion

Ascension Day, Oakham church

Sunday 12th May 11am

Sunday 19th May 11am

Sunday 23rd May 11am

Sunday Worship

Holy Communion

Pentecost

Sunday Worship

## Wildlife initiative in the churchyard

A group of villagers have been discussing how to manage the land around the church to encourage biodiversity, alongside its place as a calm reflective spiritual space for all. The principles to guide our planning include consistency with the Christian traditions of Christ in Nature, together with minimal maintenance.

We have been developing ideas for the land in three key areas: Active - where families visit; Inactive - no visitors; The extension - yet to be consecrated.

Current plans as spring flows into summer include:

- conducting a flora and fauna survey(s) and comparing changes since the last survey in 1990;
- reducing regular grass cutting in areas not regularly visited
- establishing a tree & hedge management plan, which will start with summer pruning of some of the older prunus.

There will be a meeting on Monday 29th Apr at 7.30pm in the village hall, when Debra Thatcher from Ridlington will be joining us to share their approach. All are welcome.

Jill Martin

*More details on this month's 'Page 3 Special'*

## Dogs & Ground Nesting Birds in Hebe's Wood

Signs are back up in Hebe's Wood asking visitors to keep to the paths to avoid disturbing the ground nesting birds that use the wood, and to ensure that dogs are kept under close control. One enthusiastic dog finding a nest can easily destroy eggs, and some of these birds have come all the way from Africa to breed; please help to make their journeys worth it. If you see a dog walker with an unrestrained dog, please ask them to follow the code.

Min Burdett and Suzie Manley

*More details on this month's 'Page 3 Special'*

## The Braunston Golf Day 2024

Plans are underway for the June 8th Braunston Golf Day. For anyone who missed the earlier announcement, there is time to get your name on the participants list. The golf format is teams of three (Ladies and Gents) in a Texas Scramble Competition, so very social with a touch of competitiveness, golf will be followed by dinner in the Village Hall. Full details will be sent to everyone who has expressed an interest already, and to some who have not! If you would more information or to let us know of your interest, please contact Peter Allen 07714-583907 or peter.allen@consultselect.com

## Dog nuisance

Once again there seems to have been an increase in dog poo nuisance around the village recently. Please make sure that you are prepared to clean up after your dog when you go out, and then make sure you actually do. As ever, it is a small minority of dog owners who seem oblivious to and/or unconcerned by the nuisance that they cause.

If you have any information on who the culprits might be, please contact the Parish Council. Meantime the PC has trail cameras that can be installed if there is an area on or near your property that is regularly visited, and you would like to monitor it. Again, please contact the PC if you would like to borrow one.

## Regular Events

### 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: Thursdays 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

### 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 June edition to braunston.newsletter@gmail.com by May 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.



## Page Three Wildlife and Nature Special



### Dogs and Ground Nesting Birds

In February 2018 the BBC (Braunston Blokes Club) invited us to a Sunday evening event at The Blue Ball to tell them what we are up to in Hebe's Wood. One of our guest speakers was Lloyd Park who then lived in Braunston, was employed by the Leicester and Rutland Wildlife Trust at Rutland Water to look after the birds, and spent quite a lot of his free time in Hebe's Wood finding out about the wildlife there.

At the BBC event, Lloyd told a parable about the Whitethroat, a warbler that winters in sub-Saharan Africa. In April, this little bird, weighing about 15 grammes (1/2 an ounce) flies from Africa to Hebe's Wood and finds a mate. They make a nest on the ground and she lays five eggs. Lloyd then shocked the audience by telling us that a dog, chasing a rabbit through the undergrowth, put one of its paws into the nest and smashed all the eggs. All the warblers' efforts for that year came to nothing. One of the dog-owning nature-loving members of the audience asked "why didn't you tell us?"

Therefore, in 2018 we bought a number of ground-nesting bird signs. If you have been to Hebe's Wood recently you will note that these signs have been deployed again. The warblers are on their way. Some chiffchaffs and black caps have already arrived (they haven't got so far to come, and some, due to global warming, our now overwintering in England). It is not just the warblers who nest on or near the ground. Given the choice (and there's a lot of it in Hebe's Wood) most birds will do so.

The chiffchaff's song is a sign that we should stop our winter work in Hebe's Wood and allow the birds to nest. You can also help the birds by keeping your dog under control and staying on the paths. If your dog is liable to wander off the path, please put it on a lead.

Min Burdett and Suzie Manley

### Supporting Nature on Braunston Church Land

A group of villagers have been discussing ideas about how to manage the land around the church to encourage biodiversity, alongside its place as a calm reflective spiritual space for all. The principles to guide our planning include consistency with the Christian traditions of Christ in Nature, together with minimal maintenance.

Nationally there is an ecochurch movement which has lots of ideas and approaches to support this move. See <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/> and we are looking at local initiatives in churches nearby including Ridlington and Langham.

In Braunston, we have been developing ideas for the land in three key areas: those areas that families still visit (the active areas); areas that appear to be inactive; plans for the extension area which will be consecrated.

Current plans as our spring flows into the summer include:

- conducting a flora and fauna survey(s) and comparing changes since the last survey in 1990;
- reducing regular grass cutting in areas not regularly visited including under the tree canopies, behind the church (keeping a cut path for walkers) and along the edge of the active burial area;
- establishing a tree and hedge management plan, which will start with summer pruning of some of the older prunus.

In the medium term, late summer/autumn, we are looking at the possibility of:

- creating a compost area close to the existing shed for old plants, old lowers displays, grass mowing etc. (current green bin);
- extending the reflective area at the top of the area for cremated remains into the extension patch creating an oval/semi circular seating area containing the two existing trees;
- enhance the flow into the extension area by removing the fence and gate along the whole line of the hedge and repairing the path
- developing plans for the extension area including trees, pathways, and exploring the possibility of a pond to sit in the very wet area.

Next open meeting is on Monday 29th April at 7.30pm in the village hall when Debra Thatcher from Ridlington will be joining us to share their approach. All are welcome to come along.

Jill Martin