

# BRAUNSTON NEWS Village

*Published jointly by All Saints' Church and Braunston Parish Council*

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*(online version only)		



The blossom trees in the village look wonderful.

Read how the Friendly Club solved a mystery surrounding a painting of a blossom tree on page 13.

## All Saints' Church Information



### **Parish Priest: Rev Nat White**

Team vicar for Braunston, Ashby & Welton

T: 01788 890 298

E: revnatwhite@gmail.com

### **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRAUNSTON**

 [www.allsaintsbraunston.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsbraunston.org.uk)

 AllSaintsBraunston

#### **Churchwardens:**

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E: warden2@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

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E: secretary@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

T: 01788 890 747

#### **Treasurer:**

Peter Hobbs

E: treasurer@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

### **BRAUNSTON REGISTERS**

There have been no baptisms or weddings this month due to the lockdown.

#### **Deaths**

Nen Batten died on 31<sup>st</sup> March. There are no funeral details as yet.

## Vicar's Letter

### We'll meet again...

This month marks the anniversary of VE day. Many people have compared this current time of Covid-19 to that of life during the war. In particular people who can remember the war have suggested that we've seen the same level of people pulling together and caring for one another that happened during the war. It's definitely been really good to see the way this has happened in Braunston.

I found this hymn that was apparently sung during the war years,

*God of the strong, God of the weak,  
Lord of all lands and our own land;  
Light of all souls, from Thee we seek  
Light from Thy light, strength from Thy hand.*

*Teach Thou, and we shall know indeed  
The truth divine that maketh free;  
And knowing, we may sow the seed  
That blossoms through eternity.* (Richard Watson Gilder 1903)

People often seek God in times of trouble and this hymn reminds us that God is the source of light and strength. The hymn also says that what we do now sows seeds for eternity. The way people in our village have pulled together to care and support one another will have a profound effect on our village for years to come.

Last month we celebrated Easter. Many of you will have enjoyed Easter eggs and chocolate as I did. But many of us will have also celebrated that Jesus is risen and brings us new life and hope, which is greatly needed in these scary and uncertain times.

Our church services could not take place in the church building but were held online this year. The church building might be closed but, as I have often said, the church is the people not the building and so the work of the church continues to serve the village in whatever way we can. We will continue to post pre-recorded services on the church website and Facebook page so please take a look. We are also posting hard copies of services to those that want them, so just let me know.

*Continued overleaf.....*

Although I cannot visit you in the same way, I am still available if you need to get in touch. So, until the lock-down is lifted, may we be encouraged by the hope-filled war-time words of Vera Lynn,

'We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again'

God Bless,

Rev. Nat

The church has a pastoral care team that has continued to operate during the lockdown. We used to visit people in their homes, care homes and hospitals but this has had to change to phone calls to make sure they are cared for and supported. If you would like someone to phone you for a chat as a one-off or regular basis then please contact Rev Nat

01788 890298 or email [revnatwhite@gmail.com](mailto:revnatwhite@gmail.com)

We also have a group of people praying for specific needs. If you'd like prayer for yourselves or others, please let me know.

Maggie Murray, Parish Nurse,

07495 873565,

[parishnurse@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk](mailto:parishnurse@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk)

I work 2 days per week usually  
Wednesday and Thursday.



## **Church Floodlighting**

### **April's floodlighting**

1<sup>st</sup> - \* Janet & John's Wedding Anniversary

3<sup>rd</sup> - \* Happy Birthday Pat

5<sup>th</sup> - \* Love to all the family, from Geoff & Jean

6<sup>th</sup> - \* In memory of our dear friend Nen. From all Friendly Club members, at home, but together.

**The floodlighting failed at this point – see note below.**

9<sup>th</sup> - \* Happy Birthday Rosemary

15<sup>th</sup> - To celebrate Barbara and Richard's 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

19<sup>th</sup> - (Primrose Day) - \* In loving memory of my wonderful parents, Alan and Nancy Matthews on this their 76<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Rest in Peace, together again.

26<sup>th</sup> - \* Julie's Birthday

### **May's floodlighting so far ...**

3<sup>rd</sup> - Dad, Tony Gilbert, forever in our hearts and in our thoughts. Love always Steve, Jo, Daniel and Jessie

5<sup>th</sup> - \* Rowena & Mark's Wedding Anniversary

5<sup>th</sup> - Birthday memories of Roger Thompson. Love & miss you Bro. Sally xx

23<sup>rd</sup> - Thinking of you Braunston, from all at LNBP Narrow Boats

= Friends of All Saints – **A huge Thank You**

## **Floodlighting**

You may have wondered why All Saints' was not floodlit at Easter, but unfortunately the lighting system developed an electrical fault prior to 9<sup>th</sup> April. We are sorry for the disappointment that this will have caused to all those who enjoy seeing the spire lit and especially to celebrate a special occasion. At the time of going to press, we have not been able to get an electrician to fix the fault.

We will honour all requests for lighting that should have taken place during the time the lights have been inoperable with a floodlighting at a suitable alternative date after the lights have been repaired.

## Parish Council Information and News

**Clerk:** Steve Rolt

c/o 82 Greenway, Braunston, NN11 7JT

07956 682733 clerk@braunstonpc.org



### **Parish councillors and areas of responsibility:**

Alan Mawer, Archer Avenue and Cross Lane	t: 01788 890340
Chris Johnson (Chair), Greenway and closes	t: 01788 891597
Graham Newman (Vice Chair), Marina, London Rd, Hill Row, Old Road	t: 07710 290265
Pete Morgan, The Green	t: 07932 362768
Vacancy, High St from Old Plough to The Green	t: 07956 682733
Lizzie Payne, High Street from A45 to Old Plough	t: 07904 061548
John Pomfret, Eastfields	t: 07817 234727
Peter Hawksworth , Ashby Road	t: 07956 682733
Robert Davey, Spinney Hill and closes	t: 01788 891591
Sue Harrison, Dark Lane	t: 07769 589459
Sandra Stapley, Welton Road, Maple Close	t: 01788 890475
Tom Sabin, Church Road, Barby Road	t: 01788 891797

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

Members of the public are invited to attend the following meetings. Unless indicated meetings are held in the Library at Braunston Village Hall at 7.30pm.

4<sup>th</sup> May Full Council Meeting (will be via Zoom, please send your email address if you wish to attend)

1<sup>st</sup> June Full Council Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting, has at the present time, been cancelled.

All Agendas and minutes are available on the Braunston Website.

## **Coronavirus COVID-19**

Many people in Braunston are thinking of those who find the situation worrying and need help to cope. The Parish Council thanks all those people who are looking out for others. All who are looking out for neighbours, members of the Church community, the Parish Nurse, the volunteers who have created the Braunston Heart group, the Braunston Cake Fairies, the help being provided to members by the Friendly Club, the suggestions from the Braunston Charity and many thoughtful actions by individuals and groups of which we are not yet aware.

If you need help, please contact Braunston Heart (0800 0029066), Rev Nat White, Maggie Murray (Parish Nurse) or the Parish Council.

## **Parish Council**

The monthly Parish Council meetings are continuing by being held electronically using the Zoom platform. Please notify the Clerk if you wish to submit a question.

There is a vacancy on the council. The council would welcome a note of interest from anyone in the parish who would like information about being co-opted to fill the vacancy.

The Annual Parish Meeting was due to be held in May. We will wait to confirm a revised date.

## **Second defibrillator**

The Parish Council agreed to contribute £500 to house and upkeep a defibrillator to be installed outside the school fence.

## **Welton Road Play Area**

The rear fence will be repaired when the health emergency restrictions are lifted.

## **Bus route**

Almost all responses to the suggestion detailed in the March BVN favour requesting the amendment. However, it has been pointed out that if the change were introduced by the bus company, it would not be possible to make a journey from Spinney Hill to the Village Hall. For this reason further consultation will be carried out at a later date.

## Braunston C of E School



We are living in unprecedented times ... I cannot count how many times that I have written this or heard this. Braunston Primary School had to close its doors on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, to the majority of our pupils.

We are currently working as a hub alongside

Barby and Staverton to support the families of keyworkers, and Braunston is open every weekday. Our thanks go out to the keyworkers who are continuing to carry out vital roles in this very challenging time.

I would like to thank the talented staff at Braunston who have rapidly become experts in the field of distance learning. This means that children are able to access learning online daily and can communicate directly with their teachers. This is no substitute for being in the classroom, however it supports parents and carers who have been given the difficult 'job' of home schooling. Braunston's parents and community have been wonderful in their support of the school and rising to the trials of all that is being asked of them. Rev Nat and her team have been magnificent in supporting many of our vulnerable families and we are very grateful to the Church and the village Community.

As I was home schooling my own children, we came up with the idea of creating a memory box so that in years to come we can look back at the happy, sad and unusual memories of this unprecedented time in world history and what we were doing during it.

We have already drawn a rainbow for our box (and one for the window) and written on it what it represented. We recorded ourselves and our community clapping to support the NHS and all keyworkers on a Thursday at 8pm and will keep that in our memory box too. We are going to take some photos of the shops that we walk past on our daily exercise route and then we are going to write about how shopping has changed for us as a family. Of course, we will also include how school has changed since 23<sup>rd</sup> March for us all. Our box is also filling up with newspaper articles. What ideas can you think of?

Our gardening staff team, led by Sue Barnwell and Sue Allinson, whilst observing social distancing, have been using their time to continue to further improve the school environment. We are aiming to increase wildlife footfall in Braunston School grounds and develop sensory areas. If you are able to make bird tables, bird boxes, bird feeders, rustic wind chimes, bird baths, painted stones (with positive phrases), garden sculptures or anything to attach to our railings and fences, then we would welcome these. The National Trust has lots of ideas for inspiration.

Please email school at [bursar@braunston.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@braunston.northants-ecl.gov.uk) or call the office on 01788 890494 to arrange drop off during a quiet period.

You are all part of our Braunston School family and we pray that you stay well and that we can resume normal daily life as soon as it is safe to do so.

With very best wishes,

Lianna Willis

Braunston C.E. Primary School

Rainbows in the school  
window



## Other News

### Rainfall in Braunston

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan	53	72	55	62	25	67
Feb	31	37	47	24	36	103
Mar	25	79	54	104	47	22
Apr	14	43	12	70	23	
May	45	33	71	72	36	
Jun	25	68	32	1	109	
Jul	48	8	54	14	47	
Aug	44	60	53	42	64	
Sep	33	43	72	29	76	
Oct	48	16	11	50	102	
Nov	61	74	29	39	115	
Dec	72	21	92	72	78	
<b>Total mm</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Total in.</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>29.8</b>	

March started as being quite changeable with wind and rain, but the second half was found to be drier but still quite windy at times.

The rainfall recorded was 22mm in total, most of it fell in the first two weeks with only 2mm falling in the last two weeks.

Adrian Pell

### Bin Collections May

Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Food and Recycling
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Food and Garden
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Food, Recycling and Waste
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Food and Garden

## **The Ladder Bridge**

The Canal & River Trust has put together a project team to progress the anticipated redevelopment of Ladder Bridge at Braunston Marina following the generous legacy received from the late Mr Peter Andrews.

This project team is currently working on various initial design options for a more accessible bridge to replace the steep steps and narrow deck which are currently in place. Once these design options have been identified then we will have a more detailed idea of costings and whether any additional funds will be required. We're very keen to involve local people, Mr Andrews' family, friends and neighbours, and will be consulting with the community on the available options.

There are no fixed timescales on the project but we will be pleased to keep local people informed as plans progress.

William Coffin

Supporter Engagement & Legacy Manager

Peter Andrews died on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 aged 83. He generously left donations for several charities including £100,000 to the Canal and River Trust for a specific project of building a new wheelchair friendly footbridge over the canal at the Marina. It is to be named 'Peter's Bridge' Peter owned a narrow boat, the Nifty Fifty, and lived in Brindley Quays.

You can read more about Peter in the March 2018 edition of the BVN on the Village website

## **In memory of Honor Mackichan**

The Coventry Half Marathon has been postponed so Team Mack ran individually around the village on March 24<sup>th</sup>. They will run it together when the Coventry Half Marathon is re arranged. So far £900 has been raised. Thank you.

## **Braunston Heart. Kindness and Compassion**

The last few months have changed all of our lives in ways we could not have imagined and will, indeed, do so for sometime. I would however like to focus on a positive aspect – that of the amazing spirit and heart that is Braunston community. There would be no Braunston Heart if not for you. What started as a bubbling idea soon took off with the enthusiasm of you all. This is not the time to list names but for now please note that there is a strong support group behind me and the volunteers.

- The freephone number, 0800 0029066, kindly provided by the Parish Council went live on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This has received 127 calls (as of 17<sup>th</sup> April). This does not include calls made to the original number provided.
- Our 110 volunteers are divided into six ‘zones’.
- Nine call handlers work shifts to take your calls. Any missed go to a voicemail which emails me the details, so you can ring any time.
- About 50 emails have been responded to.
- Over 100 tasks have been completed. These range from what you might expect – shopping and picking up medication but also arranging chat buddies – I think the most important task - broken boiler repair and buying a toaster. I wonder what else we might get asked about.
- We were asked how donations could be made. A Just Giving page has been set up at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/braunstonheart>. I have been incredibly moved by the generosity of people. I hasten to add here that making a donation is not a requirement to receive help.

Whatever happens in the future, my wish is that we all build upon the new relationships and connections we have made during this time. I certainly hope to.

Jo Glover

Braunston Heart

Kindness and Compassion.



# A CALL TO ARMS !!

## Braunston Heart

is a voluntary organisation helping to care  
for all Braunston residents who are affected  
by the virus situation.

If you would like to volunteer to help with,  
for example, shopping, running errands or just  
having a regular chat on the phone

or

If you are aware of someone who might need help

please email:

[Heart@Braunston.org.uk](mailto:Heart@Braunston.org.uk)

or ring:

**FREEPHONE 0800 0029066**

**Kindness and Compassion**

## Clubs and Groups

### **The Alternative Book Club**

At the moment Laura is not delivering books because she has volunteered to deliver prescriptions to people who are vulnerable.

### **Braunston WI**



Although we cannot meet as usual, Braunston's members are firmly keeping in touch. During the first week of lockdown we instigated a Ring-Round-Robin of phone calls, where everyone rings the next on the members list for a catch up. On following days, the member called then phones the next on the list and so on to keep us in touch.

Two of our members have celebrated important birthdays, and hopefully have had several calls.

This is Braunston WIs Centenary Year and most had realized all our various plans would have taken more time than usual, boy how things have changed!!

Now it seems catch up at home is what most of us are relishing, time to clear cupboards, reorganize our gardens and ring far away friends

No doubt of course we will pick up on our celebrations, but in the meantime we celebrate having good friends

Contact Valerie 891975

## Braunston Friendly Club

Braunston Friendly Club goes virtual

Braunston Friendly Club has continued to look forward and are connecting together while self-isolating by solving a few village challenges. Using our telephone calls, we are sharing our challenge solutions and laughing with each other about all sorts of things.

Did you meet the artist Ray Keats when she visited the village to paint in the 1960s? Well, she contacted us from her current home in North Wales and asked Friendly Club members to help her solve the mystery of the location of one of her paintings. There was a massive clue in the picture of her painting; the house had a stone wall in the foreground, clearly the boundary of the house. Further clues are the 3 distinct chimneys and some beautiful blossom. Members came up with great suggestions; the Ghost House and the old orchard off Nibbetts Lane, both now with more modern houses on the sites, as well as Dark Lane and the old shop by the locks were just four of the suggestions from the 20 members.



So, Kate was sent off on one of her exercise walks to take photos of all the suggestions to find which house had been the focus of Ray's artistic talents. Brilliantly, by using all the members' ideas and working together, we solved the mystery. The surprise was that the stone wall was not a boundary wall after all but the top of a canal bridge where the artist had been sitting. So a real red herring. A great project to get our self-isolation off with a swing. The artist was delighted with our sleuthing and we have exchanged a number of emails with her and Braunston Friendly Club!

Keeping with the theme of the 1960s we then thought it would be fun to make up a quiz based on members' 1960s experiences; work, home and social life. We thought that you may like to read about a few of our memories.

- Dancing at the Stead and Simpson Social Club and in the British Timken dance hall.
- As a dinner lady we took the children for prayers. One blow of the whistle and all were quiet.
- Being interviewed by Mr Archer to get one of the new Cross Lane houses. They were like gold dust.
- Introducing the telex machine to the engineering company where I worked.
- Working at Stead and Stimson as a shoe stitch marker.
- Darts and Skittles team member and treasurer.
- Coventry Gauge and Tool social club dancing to The Beatles.
- Sewing at Symington's Corset factory. As well as underwear we put elastic in to make seersucker.
- I was a claims officer in a Canon Street Insurance Brokers.
- My dad moved us from Birmingham to Daventry when he got a job in the new Timken factory.
- I had to leave work once I had my child. I took 3 buses, with walks between, to get to my parents' but I always wore my high heels!
- Working a 1000 ton press, with another woman, feeding in the metal making rotors and stators.
- We had to run from the Daventry Picture House to get the last bus back to Braunston.

- Before the change in gaming law Leamington Spa had a casino and I ran the roulette table.
- If there was a home game, my Saturdays were spent watching the Cobblers play.
- My husband proposed to me on the day that we went to the pictures to see, 'Divorce, Italian Style'!
- My brother made me guess all the door colours along the street on the way home from school.
- Dancing Wednesdays and Saturdays. The social club had a bar, table tennis as well as the dance floor.
- Having lived abroad when young I was surprised that in the UK they served cake with custard (pudding).
- Teaching weaving, fabric printing, pottery. The University Union dances were like a cattle market!

This was March. In April we went quiz crazy and who knows what we will find to do together while being apart in May?



## **Braunston Village Gardens Association**

This year for our Garden Store we ordered 130 bags of peat-free compost from our wholesaler, more than the combined number for all compost types last year. Thank you for the positive comments about the new formula of compost.

When the order was delivered on 28<sup>th</sup> February, a cold, wet morning, it was difficult to fit everything in. The store has never been so packed. Thank you to Geoff, Richard, Bob, Helen and Alan who helped with the lifting.

Through March we opened as normal until the 22<sup>nd</sup> when we organised social distancing arrangements with only Alan inside the store, Catherine on the garden steps dealing with the money and Geoff delivering phoned orders to those who had been advised to stay at home. Demand has never been higher.

The next day the 'lockdown' was announced and the store has since been closed. Our wholesalers have had to close down and lay-off their staff. Like other suppliers we have delivered orders which have been phoned in. We accept payment by BACS.

Following the high demand in March the only products we have in stock are:

- Canes
- Fish, Blood and Bone fertiliser
- Bonemeal fertiliser

Pease ring 01788 890340 if you would like a delivery.

In Braunston we are fortunate to have four family-run plant nurseries nearby. For all of these it is a very worrying time as we move towards one of the busiest sales time of the year and they have to be closed. The BVGA would like to send our best wishes to these businesses.

Whilst these businesses are closed to customers, they are allowed to deliver. To find out about Barby Nurseries (01788 890314) and Whilton Locks Garden Village (01327 843100) you can use the website [plantsnearme.hta.org.uk/](http://plantsnearme.hta.org.uk/), a website set up especially to help gardeners get supplies during the current emergency.

Dennetts Garden Centre (01327 702286) and Crick Garden Centre (01788 824774) are on Facebook. All four have their own websites.

## Braunston Walker

As the group are not meeting at the moment, on a fabulous sunny day I took our dog over to Wolfhamcote. It's a regular walk for me and is featured as a route in the magazine 'Country Walking' this month. It's one we have often done as a group. I miss seeing the group and I also missed the Balti, half rice, half chips and a pint of Doombar at the Plough at the end of the walk.

I set off towards the church where one of the peregrine falcons was perched and then down to cross an eerily quiet A45. I could hear the other peregrine returning with food. Strolling along the Grand Union canal, keeping well to the left alongside moored boats, as we are asked to avoid towpaths, because it is difficult to maintain social distancing. I then turned under the double white bridge to the Oxford canal where there were no boats at all.

Walking over what is known locally as the 'Uppy Over Bridge' once again it went through my mind what other kinds of bridge are there? I spotted the first bluebells thriving by the side of the towpath. Passing under two bridges and climbing steps to reach a stile nicely adapted for dogs, I remembered pausing here in torrential rain on one of our previous walks trying to raise umbrellas and feeling the wet soaking into my clothes. Today though, dare I say it, it's even warm. The track back from here is now part of the Via Beata, way of blessing, pilgrimage walk, which stretches all the way from Lowestoft to St David's in Pembrokeshire, around 600 miles with strategically placed artworks along the way. The track back to Wolfhamcote and St Peter's Church passes two deserted medieval villages, Wolfhamcote and Braunstonbury now just humps in the ground. We always used to say they were plague villages, but it was landowners who realised that sheep were far more profitable than peasants. There are now cattle as well as sheep in the fields alongside the track. I got back to the village and home still missing my pint and Balti. The good news is The Plough are doing takeaway, yippee! We are so lucky living in such a beautiful area at these awful times.

Hope you are all keeping well. Let's hope we can get together soon,

Ray Scrivens 01788891384

## Braunston Show Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**We hope it will happen.**

**We are planning for it to happen.**

**We want to help you make it happen.**

The Braunston Show Subcommittee have provided a short outline of the new classes for this year's show below. To see last year's schedule for the regular classes, go to the BVGA Show page on the Braunston website and look for the downloadable schedule.

**Children's classes.** We have always liked to provide you with the children's entries early so that children can get things ready in the summer holidays. This year we thought you may like them even earlier. We have listed below things that can be started now.

**Under 5s.** Decorate a sheet of paper using printing stamps to make a sheet of wrapping paper and Draw a picture of your favourite animal.

**5 to 7s;** Practice growing a carrot top and making a marshmallow mini scarecrow. Make a piece of handicraft and take a photograph with the title, 'Enjoying outdoors'.

**8 to 10;** Tallest sunflower, displaying something you have grown yourself and a handicraft item. Making a glove puppet using a sock. A 3D model (40cm x 40cm max). Photograph titles are 'Splash' and 'In the Garden'.

**11 to 14;** Tallest sunflower, displaying something you have grown yourself and a handicraft item. Make an item of clothing using recycled materials. A design for a garden ornament. Photograph titles are 'Together' and 'I like this'.

**Vegetable, fruit and flower** classes are as last year with the usual three new themes for the flower arranging classes: Arrangements in a cup and saucer, for a new baby and a jam jar of grasses for a picnic.

**Home Produce** will have new recipes to try, but these will only be revealed nearer the time. However, when you see flour again you could start to practise savoury tarts, lemon meringue pie, tray bakes, sweet and savoury biscuits, as all will appear in 2020.

Also, flavoured vinegar, from the suggestion box, is replacing a jar of pickles.

**Handicrafts** will have all the same range of classes as last year with the collage being, 'A day on the cut' and instead of last year's bag we have 'Decorate a hat for autumn'.

**Photographs**, as always, we have new class titles. The full set are: 'I don't believe it!' Blue, At play, Reflections, Weather and of course our two regulars Creative Fun and Out and About in Braunston, which needs to be recognisable as Braunston. Possibly a popular subject this year!

For more details or to ask any questions please ring Kate Mawer 01788 890340



## **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

Three local lads, Keifer, Mitchell and Ollie, have recently completed their DofE Bronze award for volunteering by undertaking litter picking within the Parish's parks and playgrounds. They have been out in all weathers over a minimum of three months and collected numerous bags of rubbish on their travels. The Parish Council would like to thank them for volunteering and wish them well on the rest of their DofE journey.



## **Braunston Paddock Cricket Club**

Under normal circumstances the cricket club should be well into the season, but currently all matches are on hold and it is unlikely that any ball will be bowled until at least the last few weeks of the normal season.

However, thanks to our Chairman, Adam O'Connor, we are playing matches, albeit in the virtual world. He organises a weekly game of Howsthat! cricket and then publishes the scores and commentary through the club's Facebook page. The format is one that schoolboys have played for years and involves rolling two dice, one for runs scored and the other indicating how the batsmen are dismissed.

We have 'played' two games so far. The first was a club XI against a combined England and Australia Ashes XI and last week was an intra club match when the Kings of Swingers XI beat the Dolly Droppers. The matches are two-day affairs with each team batting two innings. After each innings Adam publishes the scores along with a lighthearted but comprehensive commentary.

The next match will be an intra club match between the Golden Oldies (20<sup>th</sup> century) and the Present Day Wannabees (21<sup>st</sup> century). The two teams have been selected based on when they first started playing for the club. Obviously, this is not as good as being out in the fresh air and playing the real game, but it is a way of keeping the club together and keeping spirits high through Facebook and email chatter.

## **Jetty Fields**

We managed to plant 120 saplings the weekend before lockdown commenced. Mike Gunn has been taking his exercise in the nature reserve cutting up the felled young trees and fallen branches from the autumn/winter. Larger staves will be used to create a frame for the dead hedge, while smaller offcuts and twigs will be for bug habitats. There are quite a few flowers in bloom and a lot of bird activity, including wrens, warblers, robins, blackbirds, blue tits, a greater spotted woodpecker and others yet to be identified. Also a number of bees and butterflies. Allotmenters have made the most of the fine weather and whilst strictly observing the social distancing rules have used their daily hours exercise digging and tilling in preparation for what will hopefully be a fruitful summer. They have had company though in the form of the friendly local robin and a very noisy woodpecker.

Dead hedges are piles of branches and twigs arranged to form a barrier which are increasingly used as a way to dispose of the material that arises from thinning or clearing operations in woodlands. Tree surgeons call this waste material of saplings and side branches "arisings" whereas foresters tend to call it "lop and top". Using surplus branches in this way is good for wildlife - especially for small mammals and birds - because it gives them somewhere to shelter that is protected from predators and from the wind and rain. It's also good for insects: dead hedges in effect create a linear eco-pile.

Woodlands.co.uk blog

Dead hedge along the edge of the nature reserve.



The allotments.

## Scouting in Braunston continues during lockdown

Despite lockdown we are determined that scouting will continue. Many badges can be done entirely from home such as Animal Carer, Artist, Book Reader, Chef, Collector, DIY, Musician, Digital Maker.

At 2nd Braunston, leaders and our parents use OSM: Online Scout Manager, an online tool to track badges and run our programmes and now rolling out extra 'virtual' features to support scouting on-line for leaders to deliver scouting and award badges. We are also staying in touch with texts and e-mail.

### Things we are planning

Camping at home - pitching a tent in the garden during this good weather, cooking a meal, packing a rucksack for the overnight stay, making a camp gadget etc. we might even all sing camp songs via a phone app.

Virtual Meeting over the internet with our opening and closing ceremonies and games that work on-line and a chance for Cubs to share experiences with each other.

Community support - How can we help our community? Ideas welcomed.

Campaigning - putting the scouting symbol or our necker next to the rainbow in the window, making bird boxes/bug hotels/ feeding birds.

Challenges -Star gazing, wildlife watching, exercises, crafts, cooking.

23<sup>rd</sup> April St Georges Day - On line promise renewal.

Treasure hunt walk - To do only as a household to conform with isolation rules.

David Coleman 2nd Braunston Cub Scout Leader

[david@braunstonscouts.co.uk](mailto:david@braunstonscouts.co.uk) 07484 157588

## Features

*By kind permission of the Northamptonshire County Records Office, where the manuscript now resides (Box X1534), this series reproduces brief extracts from the Rev H E Ruddy's 1953 account of 'Braunston: as it is and as it was within living memory'...*

During the late war, Whist Drives and Dances were very popular, but facilities for going to the 'pictures', as well as radio and television, are tending to take the place of self-provided entertainment. Concerts do not take well, especially those of a high musical standard (!) But things used to be different. It is known that, in 1914, there was a 'Braunston Glee Society'. There was also at one time a Fife and Drums band. About forty years ago a scout troop was run by Capt. Loftus. There were 15 second class scouts and 12 tenderfoots.

It seems essential to village organisations that some really keen person should be the leader, and where this kind of leader is missing, the effort comes to an end. An organisation which promises well at the moment is the Village Garden Committee. This has already done much to beautify the village, their gardens at the west approach, and at the Green, being a joy to behold...Cricket and football flourish here. The cricket team are all village men, but the football team, known as 'Braunston United', absorb a number of players from outside the village. They have a reputation, past and present, and are accustomed to winning cups and heading their league (In the past) quoits were played in Braunston House (The Boat House PH) field. A square each end of the pitch had a special surface of clay into which the quoits were thrown.

Ice hockey was played on the large reservoir (east of the Wharf). Water polo was also played there. Marbles, top and tipstick,(were played by children at school). Walking on stilts and Jumping 'Gallows' ( a bundle of rags was soaked in paraffin, set alight and kicked about). Football was played on the Green by moonlight – a forecast of modern floodlight football".

## Remembering Reverend Ruddy

Aileen and Gloria remember Reverend Ruddy from Sunday School. "He was Welsh, a nice man but very quiet. Every Sunday we received a stamp for attendance at Sunday School, they were picture stamps we stuck in a book and when the book was full, we were given a reading book. There were always a lot of us there, it was in the afternoon and while we were there parents cooked lunch"

Aileen remembers when on holiday in Dorset she would walk up to the church and get her stamp to put in her book so as not to miss one.



Aileen (on the right) still has her books from Sunday school. They did not choose the books themselves. The titles reflect the times!

## 50 years ago - a different virus

It was 1970. Under the editorship of Duncan A. Gallie, Headmaster at Braunston C of E School, the Parish of Braunston News Sheet, had started publication in January.

In the February edition the piece submitted by the Friendly Club read:

The Friendly Club had a most interesting meeting at Ashby St. Ledgers Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Unfortunately, owing to an influenza epidemic, many of our members were unable to be present, but the ones who attended had a thoroughly good time from the people of Ashby. Our next meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> February.

None of the other group reports in this edition mention the influenza epidemic. The Church of England Men's Society met at the Rectory to listen to Mr Paul Howard of Coventry speaking on the Church in the Secular World. Their report ended with 'It is a pity that so few men join us on these occasions.'

The Mothers' Union also met at the Rectory where they were shown 'some interesting slides on various Churches in Italy.' The report on the Youth Fellowship's talk, the Scientist in Space, said that 'this earth of ours...is only a speck in this wonderful creation of God'.

The Sunday School wanted 'a man...to teach the boys aged 10 -12 years, Sunday by Sunday...a challenge to someone in the Parish'.

At the next Womens (sic) Institute meeting Mrs Pettitt was going to speak on 'Fun with Music'.

The Young Wives held their New Year Party on 15th January when they were entertained by the Rugby Scottish Dancers. They were joined by the Ladies Club of Onley. Mrs J Oxborough won a raffle prize of a Table Cloth and Egg Cups. It was announced that in the next meeting Mr D.A. Gallie would give a talk and show slides of his holiday the previous year in America.

One month later the publication was renamed Braunston Village News and included reports the Parish Council, Village Hall and other groups.

## Victorian Braunston

A Limited Edition Postcard

Only one thousand copies of the original photograph have been made. Printed by Noel Tatt Ltd.

An oil painting by an unknown artist of the village showing the junction of the Grand Union and Oxford Canals and the supply reservoirs which are now the Marina. All Saints' Church (rebuilt 1849) and the new Rectory (built in 1840) can be clearly seen adjacent to each other. The windmill nearby carried its sails at that time but is now a residence.



Photograph by Cedric J Wasser.

### **BVN Deadline - June 2020 Edition**

The next newsletter will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please submit to [bvn@braunstonpc.org](mailto:bvn@braunstonpc.org) or the Post Office by noon on **18<sup>th</sup> May**.

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If you would like to promote your business or just support the BVN please email [bvn@braunstonpc.org](mailto:bvn@braunstonpc.org)

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4.30pm - 5.00pm

Intro to Ballet (5-8 yrs)

5.00pm - 5.45pm

Pre-Primary Ballet (7-8 yrs)

5.45pm - 6.30pm

Primary Ballet (8 yrs +)

6.30pm - 7.15pm

Grade 1 Ballet (9 yrs +)

7.15pm - 7.45pm

Grade 2 Ballet (11 yrs +)

7.45pm - 8.30pm

### Friday

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5.15pm - 6.15pm

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