



KEY  
 Roads ———  
 Paths - - - - -  
 Canal ———

1. Church
2. The Plough
3. Shops
4. The Wheatsheaf
5. Village Hall
6. The Admiral Nelson
7. Braunston Marina Complex
8. The Boathouse



# BRAUNSTON CANAL SOCIETY

## WELCOME TO BRAUNSTON



## A Guide to our Village

Sponsored by  
 Braunston Parish Council

## Braunston - Northamptonshire

A Village in Northamptonshire that has an important part in the development of the canals in the UK. The canal reached Braunston in the 1770's and its proximity to main turnpike roads made it an early centre for transhipment of loads. With a population in excess of 1500 people today, it still remains a central point on the canals although their use is now almost only for leisure purposes. Please view our new website [www.braunston.org.uk](http://www.braunston.org.uk)

**Braunston Canal Society** is a group of local volunteers who dedicate much of their time to local projects mainly on the canal but also some projects in the village. We have adopted a section of the Grand Union Canal and carry out maintenance work on this stretch with the supervision of the Canals and Rivers Trust.

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

**Braunston All Saints Church** – This is the third church known to have stood on this site. It has played an important part in the history of the canals and its people. It is thought by some that the boating families gave it the title Cathedral of the Canals. It was obviously an important part of their lives, the records and the grave stones mention many well known boating families. Visitors are most welcome, service details available locally. New for 2014 is the village Timeline [www.allsaintsbraunston.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsbraunston.org.uk)

**Braunston Village News** is published 11 times per year, this is available from most shops /pubs etc at the beginning of each month. For details contact the Editor, Jenni Burton - [jenni.burton@btinternet.com](mailto:jenni.burton@btinternet.com)

**Jetty Fields** – this is an area of several acres, gifted to the village at the eastern end of Braunston. There is a walk through it that takes you from the bottom lock up to the village. It is maintained by volunteers.

**Braunston Stop House** – Adjacent to the marina, on the canal side there is the Braunston Stop House. It is owned by The Canal and Rivers Trust and opens on Fridays. Besides information and enquiries there is a small collection of canal artefacts. As more volunteers become available there is an intention to open this for information on a more regular basis.

**The Village**, which is in easy reach of the canal, has all the facilities that people might need – a general store, with post office/cash machine, etc, a local butcher with an extensive selection of locally sourced meat and other services, a fish and chip shop, a ladies hairdresser, a well equipped garage and a coffee shop all in the centre of the village. There is a shop open all day at the bottom lock which besides a vast selection of canal goods also has the essentials such as milk and bread available. Bed and Breakfast is available locally.

Every possible boat facility is available between the bottom lock and the junction, Marina, Dry Docks, Boat Brokerage, Chandlers, Boat Hirers, Boat Builders, Boat Painters, Fender Makers and rope specialist, Cover manufacturers, boat fitters, specialist engine builders and a boat share business. There is also on the canal side outside the marina a small café boat which has a reputation all over the canal system.

Braunston has 4 pubs, 2 in the village main street, 1 on the main road which also has mooring on the canal side near the junction. The fourth one is adjacent to Lock 3 on the lock flight, you can join the ranks of "Gongoozlers" and sit and watch the boats working through the locks.

Access to the village is from the bottom lock, the footpath leading up from Bridge1 – Butchers Bridge or from the main road up towards the Church. The footpaths are shown on our map and are clearly marked.

## Village and Local Events

The village and the Marina have an ongoing programme of events throughout the year, some happen every year some others are less regular. Many events are organised by the Church, the Church fabric needs continual maintenance and there is a need for funds for other projects. Amongst the events are a Church Fete, quiz nights, Burns Supper, Barn Dance, craft fair and various musical events.

The Marina hosts a "Share Boat Show" early each year when it is possible for people to view a selection of boats where shares are available and to talk with owners who already have shares. At the end of June each year they host a Historic Working Boat gathering and parade. This has attracted anything up to in excess of 100 working boats in various stages of repair. There are frequently loaded boats amongst these and there are parades up to the junction each day and entertainment for 4 days. There are, new for 2014, plans for a IWA Gathering at the Marina and a floating market on the canal opposite the Boathouse Pub – both these events planned for May.

Within the village there are several groups who hold events, The Braunston Players, The Twinners, The Village Weekend, The Gardening Society, The Historical Society and several others utilise the modern facilities at the Village Hall to run various events throughout the year. There is a well supported Cinema Club which puts on films regularly. All the four pubs run various events through the year, mainly music based but also featuring other events such as Halloween.

You can find most things within the village but the town centres of Daventry and Rugby are well served by buses either from the village or outside the marina.

Chris Burton - February 2014