

BRAUNSTON Village NEWS age

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

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Theatre in a tent

Braunston Brownies earning their Innovate Badge - performing a show in a tent with puppets they had made. Page 22.





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All Saints' Church Information



Rector: Rev Kathryn Evans

Team rector for Braunston, Ashby and Welton

T: 01788 726912

E: revkathryn@outlook.com

The Rectory, 71 High St, Braunston NN11 7HS

All Saints' Church, Braunston



www.allsaintsbraunston.org.uk



[AllSaintsBraunston](https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsBraunston)

Churchwardens:

Pat Milner

Mariann Holloway

E: warden2@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

E: warden1@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

T: 01788 899157

T: 07761 136307

Secretary:

Fergus McCloghry

Treasurer:

Peter Hobbs

E: secretary@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

E: treasurer@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

T: 01788 890747

CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL

2 nd	Braunston	Service with Holy Communion	10.30
6 th	Braunston	Maundy Thursday Reflections and meal	7.00
7 th	Welton	An hour at the cross	11.00
7 th	Braunston	An hour at the cross	2.00
9 th	Braunston	Easter Sunday Holy Communion with renewal of Baptism	10.30
9 th	Ashby	Easter Sunday with Holy Communion	10.30
9 th	Welton	Easter Sunday with Holy Communion	10.30
16 th	Braunston	BCP Holy Communion	9.00
16 th	Braunston	Family Service	10.30
23 rd	Welton	Service of Holy Communion	10.30
30 th	Ashby	Café Church	9.30

Rector's Letter

The beginning of April this year marks the beginning of Holy Week, During Holy Week we re-enact the key events in the last days of the life of Jesus. We ride into Jerusalem on a donkey whilst the crowds gather and wave their palm branches and shout Hosanna. We gather around the Passover table as Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and shares bread and wine with them. We sit and wait with Jesus in the garden as he prays to his Father one last time. Then we gather at the foot of the cross to watch as Jesus is put to death. On Holy Saturday, we wait. Then on Easter morning we gather and witness the empty tomb and celebrate our encounter with the risen Christ.

Please know that you are welcome to join us as we walk through the story of Easter. You will find all the details on page 3.

But the story continues. We actually have 50 days of Easter in which we remember the things Jesus did after he was raised. One of them is where he met some of his followers as they were traveling away from Jerusalem, after the devastating events of Good Friday, to a place called Emmaus. They had not heard that Jesus had come back from the dead.

Like many of us today, the disciples on the road to Emmaus were in despair over a world gone mad. The horror and shock of the Crucifixion had overwhelmed all hope. Do the horrors of today's world overwhelm your sense of hope? Do the teachings of love and compassion seem pointless in the face of war, climate change, inequality, and so many other evils? If so, you are on that road to Emmaus.

But something happens on this road.

Jesus joins these men, walks beside them, breaks bread with them, and opens their hearts in a way that is so overwhelming, the world is no longer mad to them. The world situation has not changed at all, but their hearts have. They literally turned around went back into the fray, back into Jerusalem, back into the world.

Jesus continues to walk beside us today. He breaks bread with us. He opens our hearts like he did on that road to Emmaus 2,000 years ago. His teachings are the same; The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

We too can allow ourselves to be so overwhelmed by the revelation of a God of love that no fear, no evil, no suffering, and no hatred can

leave us in despair. Despite the challenges, we can be overwhelmed by Love. And we can be empowered by that love to enter the fray. Because the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand; a world where love has the last word and life never ends.

Rev Kathryn Evans

BRAUNSTON REGISTERS

Burial 10th March Rosemary Snelson

Outdoor Family Church

Easter Saturday 8th April, 11am-1pm.

Braunston



In the Rectory garden at 71 High Street NN11 7HS

We'll be making an Easter Garden for the church and toasting marshmallows.

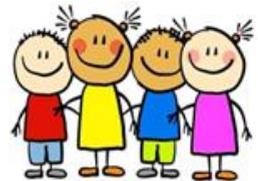
All families welcome (you don't have to live in one of the villages).



No charge, but donations towards costs are welcomed.

Tiny Treasures

Parent /Carer and toddler group for pre school children. Tuesday mornings during term time 9.00am to 11.00am



We meet in the Parish Room All Saints' Church Braunston. The Church door will be open. Just come on in. Come along and enjoy playtime, stories, craft time and singing.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be included to receive a copy of the prayer chain or receive prayer for yourself, please contact either suejennens21@gmail.com or your church warden. The list is updated each month (first names only).

Raise a glass to the Friends of All Saints'

There is, as we all know, no such thing as a free lunch. But a free drink? – Well maybe. Or almost. Or maybe almost.



This year, The Friends of All Saints are throwing open their Annual General Meeting to everyone, members and non-members, with the promise of a free glass of wine on arrival for members. Membership only costs a minimum of £2 a month. Well, okay, that's not a free drink – but members are also offered a welcome pack of goodies, making it an even bigger bargain.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 19th April at 7.00pm in the Parish Room at the church.

The wine may be (almost) free, but keeping the church building in good repair is not.

The latest five-year survey recommended work costing close to the £300,000 for emergency repairs when potential collapse loomed 12 years ago. Just this month came an estimate of some £5,000 for work on rainwater pipes. So we need to keep on raising money.

The Cathedral of the Canals will only survive if all who appreciate its importance are willing to make a contribution, however large or small. So if you are not already a member of The Friends, I hope you will join us. You can email me for details at secretary.foasb@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk. And I hope to see you on Wednesday 19th April.

I'll drink to that!

John Foster

Secretary The Friends of All Saints', Braunston.

Braunston Community Larder

This is a valuable resource for the village and visitors. It is on the left as you go into the church at the back. Donations can be left and those in need are welcome to access it as needed.

Church Floodlighting

The complete **March** list

15th - * In memory of Ada Littlemore - boat woman

15th - * Happy Birthday Debbie. Love Martin

26th - * Wedding Anniversary for Judith & Nigel Sykes

27th - * Pat and Alison's Wedding Anniversary

28th - * Our Wedding Anniversary. Jean & Brian Branch



The **April** list so far ...

1st - * Janet & John's Wedding Anniversary

3rd - * Happy Birthday Pat

5th - * Love to all the family, from Geoff & Jean

5th – In loving memory of Margaret & Brian Phillips. Love Jane & Tim x

9th - * Happy Birthday Rosemary 9th April. Always In Our Thought xx J & K

15th - Happy 80th birthday to Michael Batchelor. Love from all the Family xxxx

15th - Well done Sue Batchelor on looking after the old man xxxx

23rd - * To celebrate Sybil and Pat Herlihy's Wedding Anniversary

26th - * Julie's Birthday

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

These are all the floodlighting requests received before the BVN deadline – 18th March.

The current fee to light All Saints' is £7 per evening, although you can give more, and we ask that you try to keep the length of the dedication for inclusion in the BVN to not more than 12 words. The completed message with the donation can be left at the Post Office, but note that requests are only collected from the Post Office on the 18th of each month. Please mark the envelope 'Church Floodlighting'.

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Parish Council Information and News



Clerk: Steve Rolt
c/o 82 Greenway, Braunston, NN11 7JT
t: 0800 002 9783 (Freephone)
e: clerk@braunstonpc.org

Chair: Sandra Stapley, Vice-Chair: John Pomfret

This list shows which councillor to contact for the area you live in:

Archer Avenue and Cross Lane	Alan Mawer	01788 890340
Ashby Road		0800 002 9783
Church Road and Barby Road	Pete Morgan	07805 677559
Dark Lane	Sue Harrison	07769 589459
Eastfields	Jo Glover	07973 278052
The Green	Graham Newman	07710 290265
Greenway and Closes	Adrian Honeybill	07787 556078
High St (Old Plough to The Green)		0800 002 9783
High St (A45 to Old Plough)	David Cary	07775 514840
London Rd, Hill Row, Old Rd, Marina	John Pomfret	07817 234727
Spinney Hill and Closes	Carrie-Ann Biggs	07796 712408
Welton Rd, School Cl, Maple Cl	Sandra Stapley	0800 002 9783

Councillors can also be contacted by email. Addresses are councillors' names separated by a full stop and followed by @braunstonpc.org for example alan.mawer@braunstonpc.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Members of the public are invited to attend the following meetings at Braunston Village Hall.

3 rd April	7.30pm	Full Council Meeting
15 th May	7.30pm	Full Council Meeting
20 th May	10am-12noon	Annual Parish Meeting (See p10)

Agendas and minutes are available on the Braunston website.

Annual Parish Meeting

Village Hall, Saturday 20th May 10am

- Annual Parish Council report
- Opportunity to ask questions
- Reports from village organisations.

Parish Council Surgery

Councillors will be available to discuss issues you would like to raise at 2pm on Wednesday 5th April in the Old Library in the Village Hall.

If the surgery time is not convenient please get in touch to let us know your concern using the contact details on page 9.

Canal improvements

Representatives from the Canal and River Trust attended the March meeting to update the Parish Council. Their statement is on p28-29.

Review of parking restrictions

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) receives a large number of requests to change or introduce new parking restrictions. A review that includes Braunston has been conducted and the views of the Parish Council were sought.

The proposed change in the village would see 'No waiting at any time' restrictions (double yellow lines) extended at the corners of Barby Road /Greenway and Barby Road/Church Road and extended along Barby Road next to the Wheatsheaf and continue to The Green.

The Parish Council supported the proposal and suggested the restriction be extended further at The Green to cover the two bus stops to the north of the Village Hall.

No Mow May

WNC invited the Parish Council to participate in this initiative where we are encouraged not to use the lawnmower in May.

The council received and accepted a recommendation from Braunston CAN that this suggestion is not carried out as Braunston already has a mowing regime that increases biodiversity.

Coronation memorabilia

To commemorate the King's coronation on 6th May 2023 the Parish Council would like to present every young person living in the parish (under 16 as at 31/12/2023) with a memento.

Unfortunately no list exists (that we can use) and we are therefore asking you to register by completing the form on the parish website page or phoning the freephone number (0800 002 9783).

The closing date for responses is 13th April.

Grant to Braunston Twinners

The Parish Council approved a previously budgeted grant of £500 to the Twinners to improve cultural understanding including the costs of visits to sites of interest when the friends from Quincy-Voisins are here.

Information from West Northamptonshire Council

Councillor Rosie Humphries reported recent WNC news. This includes the three key Sustainability Pledges which outline WNC's primary commitments to:

- Net Zero the Council's own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045
- Take a community leadership role for Sustainability in West Northants
- Ensure all Council strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The full statement is on the WNC website. Search for 'Sustainable West Northants'.

WNC have received a government grant to develop an evidence base for possible action to deal with particulate pollution.

WNC are recommending that following the merger of the three councils that previously managed building control, two planning committees will deal with planning applications. If agreed, one will have responsibility for the Northampton development area and the second will cover all other areas including Braunston.

Bus service

Buses to serve stops at the Church and Boathouse

In January the Parish Council suggested to Stagecoach that they could reroute service D1 through Braunston via Willoughby and Longdown Lane to rejoin the route at Barby. We asked for this change as there are no bus stops currently served between Braunston and Barby and rerouting would provide a transport choice for parts of Braunston which have been without a bus service for about 6 years.

Stagecoach have agreed and, starting on Saturday 15th April buses will continue to serve the stops at Spinney Hill, Ashby Road and next to the Village Hall and from there will run along High Street and the A45 to serve the stops at the Church, the Boathouse and at Willoughby. The timetable will not change.

As the D1 is a commercial service its continued operation is dependent on there being sufficient passengers, both fare-paying and concessionary pass holders, to keep it viable so please use the bus as much as possible.



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Village Hall Information



Wi-fi is available in the Village Hall. The network name and password are shown on the notice boards in the entrance corridor and the library.

To hire the hall please visit the website: braunstonvillagehall.org.uk

Contacts for Village Hall activities

Please check with contacts listed below for information about holidays and breaks.

Pop Mobility	Lorraine	01788 890846	Tues 2.30-3.30
The Hive	Valerie	01788 891975	1 st Weds 2-4
Art Group	Alan	01788 890526	Wed 2-4
Yoga	Sheila	01788 891831	Wed 7-8
Short Mat Bowls	Bill	01788 891145	Thurs 2-4
	David	01788 891183	
Brownies	Clare	07544 936589	Thurs 5.30-7
Friendly Club	Jenny	01788 890186	2 nd and 4 th Mon 2-4
Learn to Crochet	Gill	07711 742575	1 st and 3 rd Tues 10-12
History Society	Jenny	07943 792977	3 rd Tues 7.30-9
	Liz	07890 072487	
Climate Action	Abigail	07989 421836	1 st Weds 7.30-9
Braunston Quilters	Laura	01788 890102	4 th Thurs 9.45-1
Gardens Ass'n	Kate	01788 890340	2 nd Thurs 7.30-9
Cinema Club	Arthur	01788 890508	Last Sat 7-10

Pre-School Monday - Friday 01788 891891

braunstonpreschool@googlemail.com

Braunston C of E School



Our telephone lines are open from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday, excluding school holidays. The number to call is: 01788 890494.



The next term starts on Monday 17th April.

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Clubs and Groups

Braunston Ex-forces Breakfast Club

Open invitation to any ex-forces or current forces personnel, who need a time to reminisce. Banter and friendly service inter-rivalry always on the agenda. Come along, soak up the nonsense and enjoy a few hours with like-minded comrades.

Bacon and sausage buns with a few mugs of hot drinks. Maybe stay for a cold one as well. We meet at the Wheatsheaf Inn Braunston second Thursday at 10.30am every month. So, see you there....

Meetings this year:

April 13 th	July 13 th	October 12 th
May 11 th	August 10 th	November 9 th
June 8 th	September 14 th	December 14 th

If you would like to enjoy a few hours with old comrades and new friends: phone George on 07512 707239 or email: geosue1@gmail.com

The Village Café, Braunston

To volunteer contact Dee on 07774 754511

Braunston Twinners

Our Twinning friends are visiting us over the Bank Holiday weekend, 28th April - 1st May. Everyone is very welcome to join in the festivities whether you are able to host or not.

twinners@braunston.net or Liz on 07890 072487

Braunston Village Charity

A webpage for the Charity is hosted on the Village Website -

<https://www.braunston.org.uk/org.aspx?n=Braunston-Village-Charity>

This gives details on how to apply to the Charity using the Application Form and more details on the type of help that can be given. To be eligible, recipients must live in the village and the grant or gift cannot be to provide something that should be provided by the state.



Braunston Friendly Club

We meet in The Gallie Room at the Village Hall, 2pm to 4pm.

Members enjoy tea, cake, fruit and a variety of activities that are organised through the year. Please come along and join us to find out more about what we do. We have extra cups, cake and chat all ready for people looking to come along to their first meeting.

- Monday 3rd April – PLEASE NOTE DATE – An unusual healthy treat!
– 2pm to 4pm

As requested, by our members, we welcome Lorraine Arnett to the main hall of the village hall to help us develop some chair-based stretch and movement that we can all do at home.

£10 subs are due in April.

- Monday 10th April – NO MEETING – Bank Holiday
- Monday 24th April – Picture Quiz - 2pm to 4pm

We will have a picture quiz to challenge you today. Do come along and join in the fun at this relaxed event.

£10 subs are due in April

Reminder – 8th May NO MEETING – Bank Holiday and 22nd May is the Boat Trip.

For more information telephone

Jenny 01788 890186 or Kate 01788 890340

Braunston Community Car

The Community Car is for you, available for all residents' journeys for hospital, doctors and other medical appointments, shopping and local trips to friends.



Any payment is by voluntary contribution. To request a journey call Community Car: 07984 412921 (24 hours notice where possible please).

As always our grateful thanks to Zak of Vinetree Automotive, Staverton for his continued support.

Braunston Cinema Club

Sat April 29th 7.30pm in the Village Hall

LIVING

Bill Nighy and Aimee Lou Wood, 2022 PG Rating

Overwhelmed at work and lonely at home, a civil servant's life takes a heartbreaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short. Influenced by a local decadent and a vibrant woman, he continues to search for meaning until a simple revelation gives him a purpose to create a legacy for the next generation.

You are welcome to bring your favourite drink and a glass. Ice Cream available to buy at the interval.

Tickets £4.50 members / £6.50 non-members.

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Braunston Village Gardens Association

Plant Sale

Saturday 13th May 9.30am to 12pm at the Village Hall

Come along and buy a bargain!

We will be selling annuals, perennials, vegetable plants and shrubs, all for £1, £2 or £5. So, bring along your change, enjoy a browse and see what you can find to brighten up your garden.

The Garden Community Shop will be open too.

Braunston Gardens Community Shop

Open for the sale of compost, fertiliser, canes, bark chips, garden twine and tomato feed on Sunday mornings from 11 to 12 at the Village Hall shed until 28th May. We will also be open at the plant sale from 9.30 to 12 on Saturday 13th May. If these times are not convenient and for other items we may be able to supply, please get in touch.

We can deliver for those who cannot get purchases home.

Alan: 01788 890340 a.mawer@virgin.net

Roger: rull82@hotmail.com

2023 Braunston Open Gardens

Sunday 11th June

Organised by Braunston Village Gardens Association to celebrate gardening and to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Would you like to take part this year?

We like to welcome new gardens and gardeners.

Visitors enjoy the wide range of gardens; all shapes, sizes and styles that show off the variety of gardening taking place in Braunston.

To be more involved in any way or to ask for some more information about the event please contact Catherine Eastaff at catherine.eastaff4@hotmail.co.uk

For more information about the BVGA or our events please contact Kate Mawer mawerk@hotmail.co.uk. 01788 890340

Braunston History Society

Tuesday April 18th 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The History of Braunston Marina

By Tim Coghlan

Please come along and support your local history society.

Members Free, Guests £4

Jetty Field, Braunston's Pocket Park

Now the poplar trees have been cut down the priority for the volunteers in the March work morning was to get a path of chippings down to the Preschool area so the children can use it again.

Many thanks to Mark Chamberlain, Oscar Tuck and Mike Gunn for a concerted effort!

There are more chippings to spread out so if you feel like helping please let me know.

The contractors commented on how helpful Braunston people were when they were working here. It made their job easier. Thank you for your cooperation.

The next Jetty Field work morning will be on Saturday 15th April from 9am. Please join us at any time during the morning. All are welcome to come and help maintain Jetty Field whether you've contributed some time before or not.

Bob Tuck 07419 299800



Braunston 1920s:2020s – news from the project

This is a fabulous opportunity, on your doorstep, to come and have a go at turning Braunston's past into contemporary writing in poem, plays and song. You may have never written but want to give it a go, or be a budding poet, short story writer and even playwright – all welcome. If you want to join in but can't meet the cost we can offer a bursary.

To join the Braunston Writers Group email Kate Saffin or phone her – kate@alarumproductions.org.uk 07976 818959

Joanna Matthews, Producer Alarum Productions

Braunston Short-Mat Bowls Club

The club runs at the Village Hall from 14:00 to 16:00 on Thursdays.

We have some space for new members, so if you're interested, contact Bill Adams on 01788 891145 to come along and join in a meeting.



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Prima Ballerinas 2 (3-5 yrs) 4.30pm - 5.00pm	Grade 3 Ballet (13 yrs+) 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Intro to Ballet (5-6 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	

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The Hive – A Club for ladies living in and local to Braunston



Our Easter meeting: Wed April 5th, 2.15pm. Village Hall

Bring your Easter bonnet!

Speaker: Kate Saffin tells of Braunston Boat People of the 1920s.

Visitors always welcome (£3)

Advance Notice: Concert in Church Friday, May 19th, 7.30pm.by

The Rugby Male Voice Choir

Tickets £5, (inc. wine/juice) from Post Office, Wheatsheaf or any Hive member. Proceeds in aid of local charities

Contact: Valerie 01788 891975



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I can get your devices back up and running in no time. My name is Tim Banks, and I am an IT support specialist based in Kilsby. With 30 years of experience in this industry, I have the expertise and knowledge to offer IT set-up and solutions for your homes or business. I offer my services in Rugby, Daventry and surrounding villages. I accept payments through BACS, PayPal, cheque and cash. Whatever your IT requirements or problems are, I am here to help. After an initial phone consultation, home visits can be arranged or I can connect remotely to solve simple problems.

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Braunston Brownies

This term we have been working on our innovate badge and express myself theme. We have performed a show in a tent theatre with puppets we had made, we used recycling to design prototype outfits,



had an Encanto theme night and along with other units in Daventry District we attended a Silent Disco to celebrate Thinking Day.



Next term we will be doing our take action theme.

We meet 5:30-7 in term time Thursday nights in the Village Hall.

If you know a girl aged 7 -10 who would like to join us please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the links to find out more. Or email secondbraunstonbrownies@hotmail.com



2nd Braunston Scout Group



BEAVERS Boys and girls aged 5¾ to 8 are welcome to come along to our Beavers section where they can enjoy fun and games, crafting and adventures. We meet on Tuesdays during term time between 6:15 and 7:15pm.

Please visit our website www.braunstonscouts.co.uk or email Jason@braunstonscouts.co.uk for further information.



For information about Cubs please contact:
david@braunstonscouts.co.uk

Braunston Heart

Please remember that we are here for you to contact when you are unable to collect your shopping, medication, change light bulbs or even to walk your dog. We will try to help with most things and will signpost where we cannot.

If anyone would like to be added to our volunteer group, please make contact. This doesn't have to be a regular commitment, just whenever you can. heart@braunston.org.uk

The Twinkle Team

Event to celebrate the Coronation.

Sunday 7th May noon – 3pm Playing Fields

Last year a very successful family day was held as part of the Jubilee celebrations. We have decided to hold a similar event with a few additions. The band All About Everything has been booked, as has a bouncy castle and Black Cat face painting and glitter bar. Picnics are welcome on this day which has officially been deemed the Big Lunch.

The cricket club and other friends have agreed to again put on games, including the very popular archery, and there will be fête stalls. Please make contact if you would like a stall. Braunston community groups are free of charge. The Twinkle Team are a little thin on the ground for this afternoon so any volunteers would be gratefully received!

We welcome donations upon entry which would help Braunston Heart fund the event. It is anticipated that the cricket club will arrange food and drinks for purchase; profits would go to the club. Fingers crossed for good weather.....

Twinkle on the Green

Sunday 3rd December 4-6pm. Please contact us if you would like to perform. Hearttwinkleteam@gmail.com or send a message on Facebook.

Jo Glover, Kindness and Compassion

Braunston Quilters

Please get in touch or come to the Village Hall on the fourth Thursday of each month anytime between 9.45am and 1pm via the Ashby Road entrance. If the outside door is closed ring the bell on the door frame.

Laura Sturrock: 01788 890102 or laura@whitenap.plus.com

Braunston Canal Society

February was all about using workboat 'Skippy' to facilitate vegetation management. The boat is essential where trees need to be accessed on the offside or where arisings need to be transported away from the onside.



Our Thursday task party set about the onside and offside cutting above top lock. Several small trees that were leaning out across the canal were removed along with growth encroaching on the towpath. Most of the onside arisings were transported to the offside and 'eco' stacked.

An early start on the Saturday task party saw the crew of 8 cutting back the brambles at Butchers Bridge. This was followed by pruning the bay tree below lock 1 and collecting the remaining hedge clippings, left by

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the contractors, at lock 2. Cutting back the overhanging willow branches at lock 5 was next. All the arisings were deposited on the scrubland behind the hedge. The final task was to clear the brambles and overhanging branches from below the bridge at lock 6.

A lot was achieved considering 'Skippy' broke her gear selector cable. Thanks to a spare cable supplied by Jonno at UUC, we managed to fix her while the volunteer work continued.

The Society is always keen to welcome new volunteers so if you would like to come along and have some fun you can email us at braunstoncanalsociety@gmail.com or phone/text us on 07817 435911. If you would like to see our previous activities check out our website at www.braunston.org.uk/bcs.



Braunston Walkers

March Walk - Birdingbury

Spring has sprung..... after all the snow and rain I expected the ground to be a little soggy so I planned that we would walk mostly on minor roads. Nineteen of us drove to the village of Birdingbury and started a walk over slightly soggy fields to the road leading to the tiny village of Leamington Hastings where the gardens of all the houses and the ancient church are carpeted with snowdrops, a real picture.

The church porch contains an art work for the Via Beata. (The way of Blessing a pilgrimage walk from Lowestoft to St David's). There are two beautiful carvings in the church porch. One side shows various members of the choir singing and the other side shows the musicians. They have all been painted and make quite a picture, well worth a look.

We continued on a muddy track and over wet fields and with a farmer's help, who Nigel included in handing out sweets, we reached a road. From here it was an easy stroll to the canal towpath by The Boat Inn. The towpath was badly churned up and we had to take avoiding action several times until we reached our lunch stop at The Two Boats.

From here it was a three mile walk following the road rather than footpaths through ploughed fields back to the cars at Birdingbury.

A fantastic 7.5 mile walk in beautiful countryside and great weather!

Our next walk is 15th April when we may visit Maidwell.

Rayscrivens@btinternet

Braunston CAN (Climate Action Network)

Hedgerows: Highways and Havens

Hedgerows have been a feature of our rural landscapes for over 1000 years. During the last 400 years, the process of enclosing fields with hedgerows accelerated and by 1950 there were about 1 million km of hedgerows. However, the period from 1950 to 2000 saw the rapid removal of 50% of this huge network, mainly due to government incentives to increase food production.

Our remaining hedgerows provide an essential wildlife sanctuary. A range of plant species (often including hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and elder) offer food, shelter and corridors for a wide variety of animals. Hedgerows are extremely rich in biodiversity and are increasingly recognised for their vital role in conservation.

Hedgerows also help to reduce soil erosion due to wind or water run-off, lower flood risks, increase carbon uptake and storage, and reduce levels of atmospheric pollutants. Finally, they dramatically improve the aesthetic appearance of our local environments.

The importance of protecting and managing our existing hedgerows (as well as planting new ones) in order to mitigate against the negative effects of climate change and biodiversity loss, is becoming increasingly clear. Government, farmers, councils and wildlife organisations recognise their value, and are encouraging techniques to improve hedgerow health such as rotating the height of different hedge sections (low/medium/high), reduced flailing, and where possible increasing hedge depth or using hedgelaying techniques.

Braunston Parish has a wide variety of hedgerows, including those along the towpaths and around Jetty Field, all of which will soon be bursting into life – especially the blackthorn (white flowers before the leaves), followed shortly by hawthorn (leaves before white flowers!)

For further information: www.hedgeline.org.uk and nffn.org.uk

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th April in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall. You can also join on Zoom.

We are on Facebook as Braunston Climate Action Network (B-CAN) or message 07989 421836 or 07554 264742.

Other news

Bin Collections

Small electrical items and batteries can be recycled by putting them in a carrier bag and leaving on the lid of the black waste bin.

Wednesday	5 th April	Food, Garden and Waste
Wednesday	12 th April	Food and Recycling
Wednesday	19 th April	Food and Garden
Wednesday	26 th April	Food, Recycling and Waste
Wednesday	3 rd May	Food and Garden

The full calendar is on the village website.



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Canal and River Trust Press release

Canal improvements in Braunston following generous legacy

The Canal & River Trust has started a series of improvements to the canal through Braunston, putting to good use a generous legacy of around £165,000 from the late waterways supporter and local resident Peter Andrews.

While it was not a specified condition in the will, the indication was that it was Mr Andrews' wish for the gift to be used for the replacement of the stepped and narrow 'ladder' bridge, which carries the Grand Union Canal towpath over an entrance to Braunston Marina.

The Trust has been working for some time to find an affordable design for a new bridge that's wider and has access ramps, however after an extensive tender exercise the cost of doing so has proven to be well beyond the value of the legacy, at around £400,000.

Determined that Mr Andrew's gift to the canal should be used in full to improve the waterway through Braunston, the charity has agreed with the executor of the will, a range of improvements with initial investigation works already started.

As part of the improvements Bridge 91a, at the entrance to Braunston Marina, is set to be refurbished. Works will include repointing of the historic brickwork, cleaning and repainting the cast iron elements of the bridge and resurfacing it with a resin bonded anti-slip surface.

The Trust would also like to resurface and raise the towpath and improve access to Bridge 1 (Butcher's Bridge), relaying the bridge landing and ramps in resin bonded surface to match Bridge 91A.

Finally, the charity plans to ensure a lasting recognition of Mr Andrews' generous gift by renaming Bridge 91A as 'Peter's Bridge'. A new bridge number plaque, reading '91A, Peter's Bridge', will be fitted providing a lasting tribute to Mr Andrews' remarkable contribution to his local canal.

Linn Beaumont, regional director at the Canal & River Trust, comments: "As the charity working to protect and preserve the canal for this and future generations, the gift from Mr Andrews is a very welcome and generous legacy. Whilst we had hoped to replace the 'ladder' bridge as originally proposed, it has been agreed with the executor of

Mr Andrew's will that the gift will fund other vital repairs to the canal through Braunston. We look forward to completing the works and celebrating the life of Mr Andrews when renaming Bridge 91A later this year."

The Trust has borne the cost of all of the investigative work to date meaning that the full value of the gift remains intact and will be used entirely to benefit the canal at Braunston. It is hoped that works will begin in the summer.

Thank you

A million thanks to all who came to my coffee morning to celebrate my eightieth birthday! You made my day.

A bench has been commissioned in memory of Chick (Alan Eley) and is to be installed in April just beyond Bridge 89 on the Oxford Canal opposite the Church on the towpath going to Barby. Please sit and rest, enjoy.

Mavis

Wanted - Used stamps postcards and old coins

£7046.06 raised last year, £1404.44 raised so far in 2023.

Thank you for helping to raise such a generous amount for animal charities. Please keep sending to Val Ward at 51 High Street.

Tip - The everyday British stamps are sold by weight so there is no need to cut around the edges.

The BVN

The next BVN will be published on 1st May. Our email address is: bvn@braunstonpc.org

If possible please send you contribution as an attachment. You can also submit on paper to the Post Office counter.

The deadline is noon on 18th April.

Message from Alarum Productions

Braunston 1920s-2020s - Village and canal, then and now

We held our first event on 18th March in the Village Hall, an evening of performances to launch the project finishing with 'I Dig Canals', our show about canal enthusiasts. Thank you to all who took part, on the stage and behind the scenes to create a lovely community evening:

- John Pomfret and Liz Fraser - hosting us at the Village Hall
- Mavis Eley – for serving refreshments and a lot of washing up
- Braunston Twinners Craft Fair - for supporting us sell tickets and the cake
- Nick Wood, Dave Tilley (musicians) and The Braunston Players

And all who donated raffle prizes (the £50 money raised will support local history research):

DB Autotech Daventry

Whilton Mill Karting

The Wheatsheaf Inn

The Admiral Nelson

Springfield Farm Daventry

Rivendell Bees Honey Co.

Braunston Community Café

Braunston Village Stores

Writing Workshops started on Monday 20th March in the Community Café, 7pm. By the time you read this newsletter there will be four more workshops that you are very welcome to join in with. Or you might just want to share your memories, photos and other family archives with the team to inspire others. Either way just get in touch (see below).

We are very pleased to tell you that Ann-Marie Morris who some will know from Braunston Primary School office and others through her dog Barney or her village photos on The Bugle, is now working on the project as marketing and admin assistant, alongside Kate Saffin and me.

Joanna (Matthews) – joanna@alarumproductions.org.uk

Or phone Kate Saffin on 07976 818959

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BVN Deadline - May 2023 Edition

The next newsletter will be published on **1st May**. Please submit to bvn@braunstonpc.org or the Post Office by noon on **18th April**.