

BRAUNSTON NEWS Village

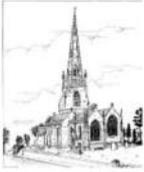
Published jointly by All Saints' Church and Braunston Parish Council

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Remembrance Day parade circa 1959. Photograph supplied by Sheila Beckett.

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

 AllSaintsBraunston

Churchwardens:

Pat Milner

E: warden2@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

T: 01788 899 157

Mariann Holloway

E: warden1@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

T: 07761 136 307

Secretary:

Fergus McCloghry

E: secretary@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

T: 01788 890 747

Treasurer:

Peter Hobbs

E: treasurer@allsaintsbraunston.org.uk

BRAUNSTON REGISTERS

No weddings or Baptisms

Funerals –

23rd Sept – Burial of ashes for Bob Hargrave

12th Oct – Burial of ashes for Rosemary Harding

Vicar's letter

Remembering

I have been thinking a lot about remembering. On 11th November we will remember and pay tribute to the millions who fought and died in WW1, WW2 and later conflicts, but I also remember things closer to home.

Our youngest granddaughter has recently had her first birthday and we were able to be together as a family to celebrate and remember the remarkable first year of her life.

She has spent most of it living in a world with Covid-19. She is not phased by people wearing face masks, waiting in queues and having to gel and wash her hands copious times each day!

A very close friend was diagnosed with dementia at the start of the Covid crisis and she struggles to remember who I am. So many of her memories have gone and she cannot remember the remarkable woman that she is. We talk about the memories of 25 years of our friendship but it's as if they have been with someone else.

I remember a dear lady who was part of our church community. I took her funeral in July. She had been in hospital for 13 weeks prior to her death, had no visitors in that time and died without her family by her side. She would've been busy knitting poppies this time of year to raise funds for the British Legion.

I wonder what you are remembering. The Coronavirus has changed all our lives in dramatic ways. We remember the freedom we once enjoyed and possibly took for granted. We remember and mourn loved ones who we see no more or who are slipping away before us.

That's why this year remembering is vitally important – not only to remember those brave men and women who fought for our freedom but also this year to honour and pay tribute to those key workers who have lost their lives in serving our communities in the fight against Covid-19.

This year we are unable to come together in the same way to pay tribute on Remembrance Sunday. However, there will be a short service at the War memorial in the churchyard at 10.50am.

At 11am, would as many of you as possible, come out the front of your homes to share in the 2 minute silence together followed by showing our appreciation with clapping for those who fought and died and those who continue to serve for our freedom from tyranny and deadly disease.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

God Bless,

Rev Nat



Sunday 8th November 2020

At 10.50am

This year we are unable to come together in the same way to pay tribute on Remembrance Sunday. However, there will be a short service at the War memorial in the churchyard at 10.50am.

Please book your place with Sheila Rogers - 01788 817361 or sheila.rogers@talktalk.net

If you are shielding and vulnerable or have Covid symptoms, please do not attend.

At 11am, would as many of you as possible, come out the front of your homes to share in the 2 minute silence together followed by showing our appreciation with clapping for those who fought and died and those who continue to serve for our freedom from tyranny and deadly disease.

For more information please contact Rev Nat 01788 890298

Opening the church

I am delighted to share with you that all 3 churches in the benefice of Ashby, Braunston and Welton have re-opened for Sunday services. We will be holding one joint service for the 3 churches each Sunday at 10.30am. This will rotate around the 3 villages.

The services for November are as follows –

1st All Souls Day at Braunston, for a short service to remember loved ones we see no more

8th Remembrance Service – a 20 minute outdoor service will be held in each churchyard at 10.50am. The 2 minute silence will take place at 11am followed by applause of appreciation.

15th Welton church

22nd Ashby church

29th Braunston church

In order to make the services as safe as possible, you will need to book. If you would like to join us please contact Sheila Rogers 01788 817361 or sheila.rogers@talktalk.net

Service sheets with a 'Thought for the day' continue to be sent out to those who are unable to access the online services or attend in person. If you would like a sheet, please let Rev Nat know.

The video of the services will be posted on our YouTube channel – *All The Saints Online Church* – go to playlist, Sunday worship. You will also find other videos of family friendly all age services.

The zoom coffee time at 11.30am will continue each Sunday. There will be a mid-week Communion via zoom each Wednesday at 7pm.

Advance notice for December – Village angel hunt and outdoor Nativity!

If you would like to know more or just need a chat, please contact Rev Nat 01788 890298.

Church Floodlighting

* = Friends of All Saints – A huge Thank You

October

3rd - * Lit by Julie Simpson for Debbie, Nina and friends.

3rd - Celebrating our Golden Wedding anniversary, George and Jeanie Midson

5th - * In memory of Rose Bray, Boatwoman

6th - * Ralph & Gill Maltby's Wedding Anniversary

17th- Ed & Gill's Wedding Anniversary

31st - * Remembering Joan & Bill Folkard and my brother, Michael, Love Lin

November's floodlighting so far ...

1st - Remembering Robert Keary on his birthday

12th - * Happy Anniversary Mick, with love

14th– In loving memory of Philip Binding. Theresa, Rachael, Thomas and grandchildren

These are the floodlighting requests received before the BVN deadline, 18th November 2020.

The 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 then be left at the Rectory or at the village Post Office. Please mark the envelope 'Church Floodlighting'.

Please submit your request before the BVN closing date of the 18th of November.

Parish Council Information and News

Clerk: Steve Rolt

c/o 82 Greenway, Braunston, NN11 7JT

0800 002 9783 (Freephone) 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
Jo Glover, High St from Old Plough to The Green incl Chapel Court	t: 07973 278052
David Cary, High Street from A45 to Old Plough	t: 07775 514840
John Pomfret, Eastfields	t: 07817 234727
Peter Hawsworth, Ashby Road	t: 01788 891900
Robert Davey, Spinney Hill and Closes	t: 01788 891591
Sue Harrison, Dark Lane	t: 07769 589459
Sandra Stapley, Welton Rd, School Cl, Maple Cl	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.

2 nd November	Full Council Meeting (will be via Zoom, please send your email address if you wish to attend)
16 th November	Precept Meeting (setting of 21/22 Budget)
7 th December	Full Council Meeting

All Agendas and Minutes are available on the Braunston Website

Ladder bridge at the Marina

Paul Kelly and Adrian Honeybill of CRT presented their plans for the new ladder bridge. See report on page 22

Street Lighting, Update on LED scheme

Funding of the scheme can be achieved through a loan covering 68% of costs, reserves and savings. We now have a complete list of lights. 7 lights have been identified as being potential duplications which could reduce costs. All posts will be replaced by steel. The lights give a better directed beam of light and will be lowered to 50% intensity overnight reducing light pollution.

Bins on Butlins Hill

We are waiting for quotes for the pictures to cover the sides prior to proceeding

Monitoring vehicle speeds

We have received quotes for various types of monitors/signs circa £3k and are now looking at options including sharing a monitor with another village. The budget for a monitor/sign will be included in the upcoming precept if finances allow.

We now have enough volunteers for a Community Speed Watch once Covid 19 restrictions allow the scheme to restart.

Mowing

A proposal by Braunston CAN to reduce mowing of areas of amenity grass to three weekly was agreed. Signage will explain the reasons for and benefits of moving to this regime to reduce carbon emissions and increasing pollinating plants.

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Braunston Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic and self-motivated person to fill the role of Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer from December 2020.

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Arrange, publicise and attend monthly Parish Council meetings (held on the first Monday of every month, except when a Bank Holiday in which case the meeting is the following Monday) and one Annual Parish Meeting, usually in May. Duties include the preparation of agendas and taking minutes of the meetings.
- Attend to administrative tasks including maintaining paper and electronic files, annual review of all parish policies, dealing with correspondence and enquiries, and overseeing the maintenance of parish council assets.
- Manage and report the Parish Council's finances and prepare the accounts for annual audit
- Advise and support 12 Councillors.
- Maintain and update the Parish Council website.
- Maintain and co-ordinate the links with the District and County Councils that have an impact on the Parish Council.
- Liaise with District and County Councillors and other organisations.
- Manage the work of the village handyman and liaise with allotment holders

Local Government experience and holding the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) is desirable but not essential. Support and training will be offered.

The post is for nominally 8 hours a week and is based from home, with meetings normally taking place at the Village Hall with remote video conferencing by Zoom being currently used.

The salary will be paid in accordance with experience and in line with the National Joint Council Salary Scale rates and will range from SCP 24 (currently £14.90/hour) - SCP 28 (currently £16.75/hour).

Apply to Chris Johnson, Chair of the Parish Council.

E-mail : chris.johnson@braunstonpc.org

Village Hall Information

Our hall is open, we only ask that you take all the measures that are currently in place to make sure that your event is safe.

Let us all take care and look forward to better times.



Hall hire charges

If you want to hire our hall please visit the website. Your bookings mean that we can keep improving the hall for your enjoyment.

For all day or all evening events special reduced rates apply. See our website: braunstonvillagehall.org.uk,

email villagehall@braunston.org.uk

or phone 07890 072487.

Details of special events can also be found on the website.

If your child attends Braunston Pre-School or Braunston C of E Primary School you are entitled to Braunston resident's rates even if you do not live in the village and you receive an extra 10% off hall hire charges during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays.

	Braunston Residents	Non Residents
Gallie Room	£11 per hour	£22 per hour
Main Hall	£11 per hour	£22 per hour
Both Halls	£20 per hour	£40 per hour
Meeting Room	£6 per hour	£12 per hour

Village Hall Information

Contacts for regular activities in the Village Hall

Currently, groups may not be meeting in the Village Hall. Contact numbers are provided in case you wanted to find out about any alternative arrangements.

Weekly

Monday	Pilates	7.30pm	Sam	07593 913686
Tuesday	Learn to Crochet	10.00am	Gill	07711 742575
	Pop Mobility	2.00pm	Lorraine	01788 890846
Wednesday	Braunston Art Group	2.00pm	Alan	01788 890164
	Yoga	7.00pm	Sheila	01788 891831
Thursday	Short Mat Bowls	1.45pm	Bill	01788 891145
			David	01788 891183
	Fishing Club Bingo	8.00pm	Julie	01788 890720
	Brownies	5:30pm	Clare	

Fortnightly

Monday	Friendly Club	2.00pm	Jenny	01788 890186
Friday	Youth Club	7.00pm	Leah	01788 891833

Monthly

Tuesday	History Society	7.00pm	Annie	01788 891179
	Women's Institute	7.30pm	Valerie	01788 891975
Thursday	Linus Group	10.00am	Laura	01788 890102
	Gardens Association	7.30pm	Kate	01788 890340
	Climate Action Network	7.30pm	Abigail	07989 421836
Saturday	Cinema Club	7.30pm	Arthur	01788 890508

Pre-School Monday-Friday - 01788 891891
braunstonpreschool@googlemail.com

Clubs and Groups

Braunston Canal Society

September saw the completion of our lock painting schedule. Locks 1 and 2 were painted under the prevailing COVID 19 rules at that time. BCS has two complete sets of painting kit. This allowed us to divide the volunteers into two groups prior to the task day. During the task the two groups of 6 were able to stay separate by working on opposing sides of the lock. Pre-designation of tasks to each volunteer and a leader for each group made for a very slick performance. The tasks were completed in good time with everyone thankful for the dry weather.



The last painting of the year was to freshen up the mile post markers. The one mile marker above top lock and the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile marker by the Marina were painted. The $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile posts are missing. After a fruitless search with metal detectors it was decided to investigate the possibility of reinstating them by having them recast.

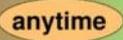
The Society is always keen to welcome new volunteers so if you would like to come along and have some fun you can email me at braunstoncanalsociety@gmail.com or phone/text me on 07817 435911. If you would like to see our previous activities check out our website at www.braunston.org.uk/bcs.



*Kindness &
Compassion*

Braunston Heart

Caring for our Community

Freephone 0800 0029066 

Loneliness Shopping Medication Dog walking Getting online
Scared General errands Signposting We will try and help

Braunston Heart has a team of call handlers and volunteers just waiting to help **ALL** people in Braunston who may be in need of any kind of assistance.

Just telephone us with your problem on

FREephone 0800 0029066

If you get a recorded message just state your name and telephone number and we'll get back to you very quickly

Alternatively



you can email us at

heart@braunston.org.uk



Braunston Bakes – Christmas Pop-Up – 12 December



Things might be slightly different this year, but the Braunston Bakers will be popping up with some of their delicious bakes and Christmas goodies on Saturday 12th December.

Depending on what is possible at the time, we hope to run a pre-order/ collection only event, so please let us know what you would like to see by contacting us via Facebook or braunstonbakes@gmail.com

We plan to produce a list of bakes to pre-order based on what you'd like – and what the bakers love to bake - more details to follow.

Braunston Community Car

The car is available for hospital and doctor appointments.

Only members of one household may travel together.

All passengers need to sit in the back.

All passengers are required to wear a mask.

All passengers will be required to use the hand sanitiser provided.

For our part, the driver will wear a mask and the car door handles will be sanitised after each trip.

Some journeys are provided in volunteers' own cars.

To request a journey call 07984 412921

Braunston Cubs

Braunston Cubs celebrate success

Braunston Cubs still meet weekly via zoom to stay in touch & plays games and complete badges in fact we are celebrating:



100

The number of badges already earned by Braunston Cubs whilst 'Scouting at Home' since March.

Mckenzie Wins Sunflower Competition

Back in the spring the Cubs were each given 4 sunflower seeds and a little pot of compost to see who could grow the tallest. Mckenzie, a keen gardener was the worthy winner with this magnificent specimen. His secret? Lots of horse manure at the bottom of a big pot.



David Coleman Akela 2nd Braunston Cub Pack
david@braunstonscouts.co.uk Website: www.braunstonscouts.co.uk

THE WHEATSHEAF



COFFEE *Club*

**EVERY WEDNESDAY 10AM- 1PM
COFFEE, TEA, CAKES, BAKES &
MORE. RUN BY VOLUNTEERS -
ALL PROFITS DONATED TO
YOURCAFE COMMUNITY
GRANT**

10 THE GREEN, BRAUNSTON // 01788 890748

Braunston Paddock Cricket Club

Bad weather meant that we had to abandon our traditional end of season charity match. Instead Ryan Spriggs organized an alternative evening in the Wheatsheaf to raise money for Mind (The National Association for Mental Health). Socially distanced and confined to tables of no more than six, the Wheatsheaf was transformed into a courtroom with Judge Kurt Shingler presiding. Adam Sargisson acted for the prosecution and Ryan Haynes for the defense.

Members were charged with 'crimes' committed throughout the season. Misdemeanors included poor dress sense, lateness to matches, childish behaviour on the pitch and getting lost on the way to an away match. As everyone was found guilty, pleading innocence only increased the fine or forfeit.

Over £200 was raised on the night and with further donations from others who could not attend and a very sizeable contribution from the Wheatsheaf the final total raised was £461.64.

Jetty Field

Saturday morning's really heavy rain held off long enough to allow ten doughty volunteers to weed, plant winter pansies, secure some wobbly fence posts and generally tidy up the garden. Time was also spent on repairing the site of September's fire in the wild area.

Earlier in the week the path fairies had worked extremely hard to weed the heavily overgrown path in the garden and renovate the step by the gate.

The Jetty Field committee are still looking for a few more volunteers to help make bird and bat boxes (see page 25) which could be sited in the area. If anyone is interested please contact Mike Gunn Mykeygee@icloud.com for more information and instructions on construction.

Our next work morning is November 7th starting at 9:00am. We will work in small groups within Covid rules.

Braunston Walkers

For this walk two members were recruited to be walk leaders to be able to divide walkers into groups of 6 or less to comply with Covid measures.

It was a fine day as we set off in three groups at intervals each led by a competent leader with sweet rations and a walkie talkie. Intervals meant we never walked together.

We went up Ashby Road onto the Jurassic Way and then turned left down a field to the Barby Road. The trees and bushes were resplendent in their autumn colours, a particularly welcome site in the current year. We walked in single file up Barby Road carefully avoiding traffic. After the S bend with the medieval village of Fawcliffe on the right the road climbs quite steeply but we took it at a fair pace. At the T junction we looked back to see the next group coming up the hill.

Crossing the road we tackled the first of many stiles into the fields of Chapel Farm. To get to the concrete slab path which leads to Ashby Home Woods we had to master opening and closing several electric fence hooks. We turned off that track and after wading through a field of long wet grass we emerged onto the Ridgeway Road.

The second and third groups were still following at a distance as we reached the crossroads at Barby. We wandered down Longdown Lane for 100 yards or so, past the cricket club and then turned left onto a footpath which leads through a well established woodland, Camps Copse. From here we were on an obstacle course for walkers. Every stile we came to was either broken, bent or surrounded by copious amounts of mud. We stepped over each one with great care.

The views from up here across the village are sublime and would be good at any time of year but are doubly impressive with the autumn kaleidoscope of colours. It is rolling countryside with each brow of a hill revealing views of our village church and the Warwickshire plains beyond.. Inquisitive cows watched us as we crossed the fields below Tiltups Farm.

Walking down towards Countryside we finally reached the village and were soon settled at the Plough and served with tasty food and drinks.

I say it often, but it is true we are very lucky to be living in such a beautiful place with great pubs. This was a great walk particularly welcome at this awful time, and thanks to the stand in leaders who kept us legal.

Our next walk is November 21st and will be somewhere local.

Ray Scrivens (rayscrivens@btinternet.com)

Braunston CAN (Climate Action Network)

In our energy survey earlier this year, several respondents identified insulation as a priority. This, and other measures such as air-source heating, that reduce the carbon emissions of homes, now qualify for the Green Homes Grant. Homeowners can apply for up to £5,000 of vouchers. However, the work must be completed by 31st March 2021. This may prove difficult for particular energy saving improvements as we have been made aware there may be a shortage of heat pump engineers. Beware of scammers who are cold-calling and using bogus weblinks to steal personal data. Only use reputable tradespeople.

We are a group of about twenty Braunston residents working to reduce the carbon emissions of the village and beyond. If you are interested in joining us, please message 07989 421836 or 07554 264742. Let us know if you would like to receive our email updates.

Other News

Braunston News in the Daventry Express

I write in the Neighbourhood News columns in the 'Gusher' each week about anything of interest from Braunston. If you or your organisation are doing something that might appeal to a wider audience, for example raising money for charity or someone winning a prize or an award, please let me know.

I send my copy on Sunday evening for publication the following Thursday. Either email me by noon on Sunday

e:chris@multiplex.me.uk

or put it through the door at 36 Welton Road

Chris Grossart

Gongoozler's Rest Café Boat
Braunston

Thank you all for your help
in raising £197 funds for
Cynthia Spencer Hospice

Don't forget our WordWheel competition
Entries £1.00 – collect from boat
(closing date for entries is 31st October)

Website:

Gongoozlersrest.wix.com/gongoozler

Tel No: 07940 973529

Braunston Village Charity



The Braunston Village Charity was formed in 2015 to bring together, in a single organisation, a number of smaller charities dedicated to assisting and supporting villagers by making small, one-off grants and gifts.

The Charity is managed by a board of Trustees selected to represent village organisations and areas of the village. The Trustees for the current financial year, April 2020 – March 2021 are:

Vicar of Braunston – Rev Nat White (Chair)
Chair of the Parish Council- Chris Johnson (Vice Chair)
Parochial Church Council – Jenni Burton
Parish Council – Sue Harrison
Friendly Club – Sally-Ann Longworth
Braunston Scouts – Steve Rolt
Braunston Pre-School Committee – Carrie-Ann Biggs
Governors of Braunston School – Deborah Gardner
Eastfields – Julie Leadbetter
The Marina – Graham Newman
Village Shop – Kim Donald

The Trustees have developed a webpage for the Charity which is hosted on the Village Website. This contains the revised Constitution and details of the Charity's structure and processes, including details of who the current trustees are. It also gives details on how to apply to the charity and more details on the type of help that can be given. To qualify recipients must live in the village and the grant or gift cannot be to provide something that should be provided by the state.

If you would like to suggest someone who might be eligible for help from the Charity or want to find out more please contact the Charity via the webpage, on 07943 486097 or via The Parish Council, c/o 82 Greenway, Braunston, but not the Trustees directly.

Steve Rolt is the Honorary Treasurer and I am the Honorary Secretary.

We will keep the Village informed of the Trustees' activities through the Village website, the BVN and the Parish Meeting each year, though obviously not of the details of the recipients of any grants or gifts.

Pete Morgan

Honorary Secretary

Further to the Parish Council meeting on 7 September we now have initial concept designs for the replacement bridge and with these we have been able to obtain an outline cost. This indicates that the bridge is going to cost substantially more than the value of the legacy. Indeed, the shortfall is approximately £150,000.

The Trust is committed to delivering the project following the very generous legacy gift through the estate of the late Peter Andrews and this has led us to investigate other options. These include revisiting the design, asking for the support of local volunteers in the construction of the new bridge and fundraising to close the funding gap. We are identifying potential funding opportunities so, if you know of any groups or organisations locally that might be able to help, please do let our senior project manager Paul Kelly know at paul.kelly@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Given all the above, a spring 2021 date for commencement of works appears extremely unlikely, as does the project's completion in time for the Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally in June 2021. We will ensure that the work, whenever it does start, does not impact on access for the boat show.

We appreciate the delay will be a disappointment but please be assured that we are committed to getting the design correct and delivering the project so that it meets Peter's wishes.

Stephen Hardy

Comms & Campaigns Manager (East Midlands)

Bus times

There have been changes to the times of a few of the journeys. The timetables at the stops are not current; they are the times that the company expect to revert to at a later date. Below are the current times.

From Braunston to Daventry and Northampton:

Mon-Fri: 0644, 0711, 0856, 1056, 1256, 1506, 1544, 1657, 1917

Sat: 0643, 0711, 0846, 1056, 1256, 1506, 1544, 1711, 1917

From Braunston to Kilsby and Rugby:

Mon-Fri: 0738, 0830, 1001, 1041, 1241, 1441, 1656, 1831, 1901

Sat: 0830, 1001, 1041, 1241, 1441, 1656, 1831, 1901

From Daventry to Braunston:

Mon-Fri: 0706, 0758, 0930, 1010, 1210, 1410, 1625, 1800, 1830

Sat: 0758, 0930, 1010, 1210, 1410, 1625, 1800, 1830

From Rugby to Braunston:

Mon-Fri: 0611, 0639, 0824, 1024, 1224, 1434, 1512, 1624, 1839

Sat: 0611, 0639, 0814, 1024, 1224, 1434, 1512, 1639, 1839

It is compulsory to wear a face covering on the bus.

Bin collections

Wednesday 4th Nov Food, Waste and Garden Waste

Wednesday 11th Nov Food and Recycling

Wednesday 18th Nov Food and Garden Waste

Wednesday 25th Nov Food, Recycling and Waste

Weather report for September

September has again been a fairly warm month, temperatures reaching 28 degrees centigrade on the 15th and a minimum of 3 degrees centigrade during the night of the 28th.

The second half of the month was also a little breezy with winds reaching 25mph at times.

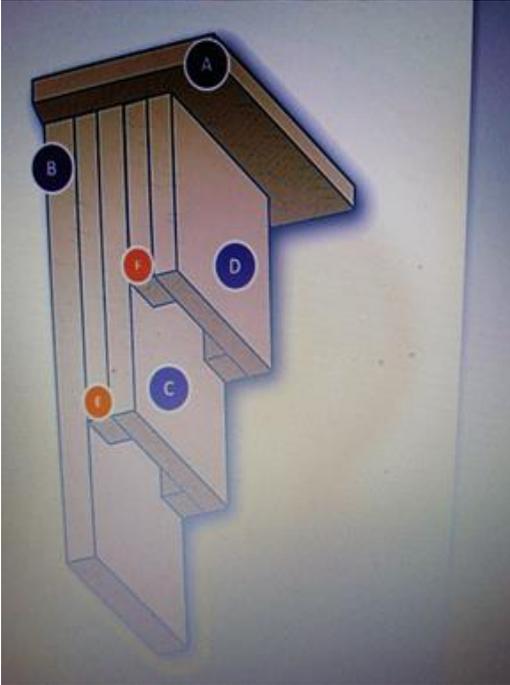
There was very little in the way of rain for the first week or two, just 10mm. There was only the occasional light shower until the deluge at the end of the month on the 30th when we received 12mm in the early evening, in just a couple of hours. This gave a total of 30mm of rain for the month, which ended up being less than half of last September's rainfall which was 76mm.

Adrian Pell

Rainfall chart:

	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	33
May	45	33	71	72	36	3
Jun	25	68	32	1	109	68
Jul	48	8	54	14	47	55
Aug	44	60	53	42	64	98
Sep	33	43	72	29	76	30
Oct	48	16	11	50	102	
Nov	61	74	29	39	115	
Dec	72	21	92	72	78	
Total mm	499	554	582	579	758	479
Total in.	19.6	21.8	22.9	22.8	29.8	

Features



The Kent bat box (designed by the Kent Bat Group) is a great way to encourage bats in your garden or green space. The box should be rainproof and draught-free. The only critical measurement is the width of the crevices: between 15-25mm. Other measurements are approximate. Timber should be approximately 20mm thick. Measurements for one Kent bat box kit would be as follows:

Part	Quantity	Size (mm)
Roof (A)	1	250 x 160 x 20
Back (B)	1	450 x 200 x 20
Centre (C)	1	330 x 200 x 20
Front (D)	1	210 x 200 x 20

Centre Rails (E)	2	330 x 20 x 20
Front Rails (F)	2	210 x 15 x 15
Stand-offs (optional)	2	200 x 20 x 20

Material and Tools

This kit requires approximately 1.6m of rough wood and 25 screws (8 x 1 ½ inches) to assemble. You can rough it up by scraping with a suitable tool – possibly a saw blade or even a screwdriver but make sure you use untreated wood as some preservative chemicals can kill bats. Pre-drill the holes to prevent the wood splitting. Alternatively you can assemble your bat box kit with nails although they tend to be less robust than boxes made with screws. The hanging screws may either be at the edges of the front panel or in the side centre block (not in the rails!). Fixing may be by use of brackets, durable nylon cord or wires. When installing the box, assess the risks of working at height, use the appropriate fittings and assess where the box will be located, in relation to any public access. Regular checks should be made to ensure the box remains securely fitted, especially after high winds.

Photos and illustrations in this document by the Bat Conservation Trust.

FROSTY'S NATURE NOTES

Let's not think badly about bats

Why, oh why do bats get such a bad press. Many people think they may be responsible for passing on the corona and other viruses to humans. If they did we should remember they didn't sit around in their caves planning the awful situation we now find ourselves in. They were victims too. Halloween also does nothing for the street credibility of what are some of our most fascinating wild creatures.

Let's dismiss a few bat myths before we start. British bats don't suck blood. Nor do bats fly into your hair and get tangled. Many people are frightened by the swooping silent flight of bats but their remarkable echo location system means they can avoid we humans— even long haired sub-species - easily. Bats are flying mammals and with at least 18 species account for almost a quarter of Britain's mammalian species.

Bats are common all around our village and many of Braunston's older houses and other buildings have a healthy and legally protected colony of these flying mammals. Strangely our church is probably a bat free zone.

The common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) is the most common bat species in the British Isles and indeed in Braunston. Stick your hand in your pocket or purse and take out a pound coin. Weigh it in your hand and remember that's about what a British bat weighs, yet each bat eats several thousand tiny insects in just one night.

As late as 1999 the common pipistrelle was thought to be a single species. It was split into two species by some remarkable detective work using then newly developed hi-tech bat detectors. The two groups of pipistrelle bat had distinctively different voices. I was the first time in nature that any kind of species was defined just by its call.

Sadly, Braunston along with the rest of Britain's bat populations have suffered severe decline. Insecticides build-up in the animals themselves, roosts are lost in old buildings and rotten trees as we tidy up woodland or demolish older buildings. Bats are protected by law but that doesn't mean unscrupulous property developers aren't averse to putting profit before bat conservation.

You can help, a bat box can make a home for what is a lovable furry mammal – and one with wings.

Peter Frost

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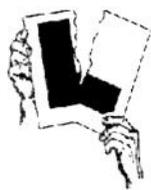
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