

Brocton Paper Chase

Save the Date !! Picnic in the Park 2017

**The Annual Picnic in the Park event will be held on
Wednesday, 2 August 2017**

Further details will be included in the next edition of the Paperchase

All Welcome.

Garden Open Days

Sundays: 4 and 25 June 2017,
2.00 – 6.00pm

**At: The Garth, 2 Broc Hill Way,
Milford ST17 0UB (look out for the
yellow signs)**

Cream Teas and Plants for sale.

**All welcome, Adults £3.00,
children free**

*All proceeds to the National Garden
Scheme (yellow book)*

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Dates for Your Diary

Civic Amenity Lorry Visits

The Civic Amenity Lorry will visit Brocton, parking at the top of Chase Road from 9.00am – 11.00am on the following Saturdays: 3 June, 29 July, 16 September, 4 November and 20 January 2018.

Brocton Village Hall events

- Mon 6 March – **Spring Flower Arranging Classes have started.** 8.00pm – 9.30pm
Mon 19 June (alternate Mondays).
Brocton Village Hall. For further details Contact Anita Wright on 01785 661182, new members always welcome, so why not give it a try.
First night free, then approx. £2.50 per night.
- Wed 26 April **Annual Parish Meeting**, Brocton Village Hall, 7.30pm
Speaker: Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council. **All welcome.**
- Tues 9 May **Brocton Village Hall Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm. All welcome**
- Sat 13 May **Cheese & Wine Evening.** Brocton Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tickets £10.00 incl. cheese & biscuits.
- Sat 15 July BBQ. Brocton Village Hall from 5.00pm. Free admission. Families welcome, pay for Burgers.

Parish of Berkswich Church events

- Sat 27 May **BBQ**, 6.00pm at St Thomas' Church, Walton on the Hill
- Sun 18 Jun **Summer Fete**, 1.30pm at Milford Cricket Ground, Main Road, Milford
- Sun 23 Jul **Treasure Hunt/Cream Tea**, 2.30pm at St Thomas' Church, Walton on the Hill

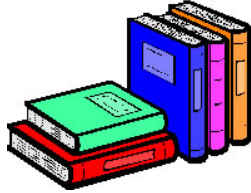
Iron Man Challenge Returns to Staffordshire!!

18 June 2017

Visit the dedicated Ironman Challenge web page for more information about events, volunteering, road closures

www.ironman-70.3/staffordshire

Mobile Library Visits



Mobile Library Visits in Brocton

Brocton Village Green: 10.15 – 10.45am on Wednesdays as follows:

17 May, 7 and 28 June and 19 July 2017

Please support this service or its future may be in doubt.

Ladies Exercise Class

Brocton Village Hall, Thursday evening 7.30 – 8.45pm.

Suitable for all ages and abilities. For more information contact Monica on 01785 662868 or Joan on 01785 664302

Yoga Classes

Brocton Village Hall, Monday afternoon 1.30 – 3.00pm

Berkswich Primary School Monday & Wednesday evenings 7.30 – 9.00pm

To book a place please contact diane.ralps108@gmail.com or mobile 07709 613107

Berkswich Primary School, Tuesday evening 7.30 – 9.00pm

Please contact Irene Yates on 01785 662207

Parish Council in Brief

Spring Clean Litter Pick 2017



A number of brave volunteers and Parish Councillors faced the elements on Friday, 3 March 2017 and participated in the Spring Clean event organised by Streetscene, Stafford Borough Council. The wind, rain and cold did not dampen the spirits of the willing volunteers and a significant amount of litter was collected. A further litter pick will be organised for September 2017, please consider joining in next time and help support keeping Brocton village litter free.

Children's Play Area Maintenance

The Parish Council are delighted to inform you that the universal joint on the 360* basket swing within the children's play area has now been replaced. In addition, the footplates have also been tightened. The Parish Council, with the support of John Sulway, continue to monitor the safety tiles within the play area and are reviewing the options available regarding the maintenance of these.

Reminder – the Parish Council is looking for volunteers to help re-paint and re-varnish the picnic table and bench as well as the other wooden seating in the Park. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Clerk accordingly.

Profile of a new Parish Councillor

Councillor Larry Goff, aged 55, joined the Parish Council in October 2016. He is a chartered Engineer and experienced Project Manager who has lived in Brocton since late 2013 having lived in the region for some 15 years. Now working in Rugeley, he is married to Helen, has two grown up daughters and two grandchildren. Larry joined the council to help keep the Parish relevant in a difficult financial era and is keen to use his business experience and organisational skills to further the aims of the Parish Council. He is currently focused on developing the Council archive with the intention of making it more accessible to the parishioners and broader population. Larry believes that there is a firm place for modern technology in helping the Parish reach out and work with the local community and other regional bodies to further the work of the Council and promote the interests of the Parish.

Neighbourhood News

Safety in the home – article from local resident

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a recent experience that I hope will encourage everyone to consider taking preventative fire safety measures in their homes. When I moved to my house in Brocton just over 3 years ago, I discovered that the gas fire in my lounge did not work. I was reluctant to use it due to the fact that when I had a survey carried out on the property, I was informed by my chartered surveyor that the previous owners '*had a natural distrust of service engineers*'. Neither the gas boiler nor the gas fire had ever been serviced.

In early February 2017, I asked my gas safe registered engineer to service my gas fire in the hope that he would be able to get it working again. When he removed the fire from the chimney he discovered a large pile of nesting material, soot and mortar. He carried out two smoke tests and it became immediately clear that my chimney was completely blocked as all of the smoke came back into the room - not a single bit of smoke was drawn up and out of the chimney. Having found a local chimney sweep who came out the following day, it took over 2 hours to unblock my chimney. Plus an additional 2 sacks' worth of nesting material, soot and mortar were removed. The sweep made the comment that this was one of the worst chimneys that he had come across for quite some time and that it appeared unlikely that the chimney had ever been cleaned.

I found it extremely shocking to be told that had my gas fire been in working order, it was almost certain that I could have died of carbon monoxide poisoning as no air was being drawn up the chimney.

I am writing this article to urge everyone to take some simple, but potentially lifesaving measures, to improve the safety of their homes. I would urge you all to:-

- 1. Get your boiler serviced on an annual basis by a qualified engineer.**
- 2. Get all fires – gas, coal, and wood burners etc, serviced on an annual basis by a qualified engineer.**
- 3. Get all working chimneys swept on a regular basis – the frequency will depend upon the type of fuel you burn and how frequently you use your fire.**
- 4. Fit caps to any disused chimneys and fit bird guards to all working chimneys.**
- 5. Install carbon monoxide alarms in all rooms where you have a boiler or gas/coal/wood burning fire.**

The above experience gave me a real fright and it was quite sobering to think that I may have died from carbon monoxide poisoning. The previous owners' '*natural distrust of service engineers*' could have cost me my life; thankfully my trust of service engineers saved my life!

Finally, I would like to mention the fantastic service offered by Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service. They offer a free home fire risk check, which is intended to provide basic fire awareness for home owners/occupiers based on a visual assessment of their properties. They will fit smoke alarms free of charge as well as discussing preventative measure that can be taken to reduce the risk of fires. They can be contacted on Tel: 0800 0241 999.

The above article is indeed a sobering one and highlights the real importance of safety in the home. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service offer advice and free home fire risk checks. Please visit their website for more information -

www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/Documents/Fire_safety_in_the_home.pdf

In addition, they can offer some really useful advice on carbon monoxide poisoning – for further information visit:

www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/2602.asp

Stafford Borough Walkwise



Stafford WalkWise is part of the Stafford Borough Walking for Health Initiative that aims to improve health in our borough by encouraging more walking. The Health Walks in the WalkWise programme are short led walks that take 10 - 90 minutes. We also offer some walks that are extended health walks that are over 90 minutes in duration.

A list of Health Walks and other events planned for Stafford Borough can be obtained by contacting the Environmental Health section on **01785 619376**. We are always adding more dates to the calendar so please look out for posters in your area and visit this site again. In severe weather, conditions may be hazardous and it may be necessary to cancel some walks. To confirm that your walk is going ahead, please contact the health team on 01785 619376.

Full details of all walks can be found at: www.staffordbc.gov.uk/walkwise-calendar

Brocton Football Club



A late revival has given Brocton's 1st team an outside chance of avoiding relegation to the first division of the Midland Football League. During February Brocton eased away from bottom place in the league, and victories away at Loughborough, and title-chasers Westfields have seen them narrow the gap between them, and AFC Wulfrunians, to just three points. At the time of writing they are still six points from safety, and with only six games to play, a return to division one still looks very much on the cards.

The reserve team are firmly rooted at the foot of the reserve division. However they have played fewer than any other team in the league, and still with eight games remaining, they would hope to pick up a few points to lift them off bottom spot. They have reached the semi-final of the bowl completion, so despite a poor league placing there could still be some silverware at end of the season.

The youth section of the club, shows a far more encouraging picture. The Under 21's are guaranteed runners-up in the North Division of the Under 21 section of the Midland League. The U-18 team is currently in 4th place in the Bilston Partnership (u-19 section), and the U-16's and U-15's are 3rd and 2nd respectively in their relevant sections of the 1st Division of the Lichfield league. Additionally the Under 16 team reached the League cup final, unfortunately going down 4-3 in that game, and are through to the final 96 teams of the FA People's Cup – a national competition, the finals of which will be held in Birmingham on 1st May. The Under 15's have also progressed to their League Cup final at St George's Park in Burton.

Construction work is now complete on the new hospitality/kitchen unit at Silkmore Lane, and an official opening is anticipated in the coming weeks. It should be fully functional by the start of the 2017/18 season.

The club's annual sporting evening was another success this year. This year's speaker at the White Eagle club was former Arsenal and Leeds goalkeeper John Lukic. The event raised over £3,500 for the club and £1000 for this season's chosen charity the Local Air Ambulance.

You can get up to date information on the website:

www.pitchero.com/clubs/broctonfc

Should you require any help or assistance with any matter you can contact any of the people below who will be happy to try to help.

Brocton Parish Councillors

Chairman: Cllr Robin Bates – 661518
Vice-Chairman Cllr Julie Perry - 662707
Cllr Elizabeth Learoyd – 07776 090003
Cllr Leslie Lee - 664521
Cllr Roy Middleton - 660182
Cllr Lynne Smith - 662976
Cllr Larry Goff – 07502 226980

Stafford Borough Council Representatives

Cllr Frank Finlay – 664531

Staffordshire County Council Representative

Vacant – pending outcome of elections
4 May 2017

Member of Parliament

Mr Jeremy Lefroy Tel: 01785 252273
Email: jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk
www.jeremylefroympp.co.uk

Clerk to the Council

Jill Davies, 29 The Crescent, Stafford ST16 1ED, Tel. 01785 598434,
email: clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk

Useful Contact Numbers:

Staffordshire Police Non Emergency Number: 101 www.staffordshire.police.uk
Crimestoppers: 0800 555111 you can call this number anonymously with information about crime.
Neighbourhood Watch Membership Local co-ordinator: Cllr Robin Bates – Tel: 01785 661518
Staffordshire County Council. www.staffordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 111 8000
Stafford Borough Council. www.staffordbc.gov.uk Tel: 01785 619000
Deer Casualties: Telephone Staffordshire Police non emergency number: **101**
Good Neighbour Scheme. 07599 956939
To report fly tipping: grimewatch@staffordbc.gov.uk or call 01785 619402.

Who do I call if there is a power cut?

If you need to speak to Western Power Distribution in an emergency, perhaps because you are experiencing a loss of power supply, you can use the following numbers:

Landline users: 0800 328 1111 Mobile users: 0330 123 5008 * calls to 0330 numbers cost no more than a local rate number from a landline or mobile.

Every endeavour has been made to ensure information contained in this publication is correct at the time of printing.