

Brocton Paper Chase

Issue 50

May 2018



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Dates for Your Diary

Brocton Village Hall events

- Weds 23 May **Afternoon Tea.** 2.00 – 4.00pm. **All welcome.** Donations gratefully received.
- Sat 26 May **Quiz Night – All welcome.** 7.30pm start, cost = £20.00 per team of 4. Bring your own drinks.
- Sat 9 Jun **Summer Disco – All welcome.** 7.30pm start, entry fee = £5.00. Bar available.
- Sat 14 Jul **Family BBQ.** 5.00pm start. No entry fee. Bar available.
- August (date tbc) **Coffee morning.** 10am – 12 noon. *Check Brocton Village Hall website for details of date.*
- Sat 8 Sep **Last Night at the Proms.** 6.30pm start. Cost = £10.00, which includes a fish and chip supper.

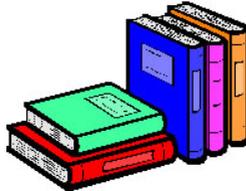
Parish of Berkswich Church events

- Sat 26 May **BBQ.** To be held in the grounds of St Thomas' Church, Walton on the Hill. 6.00pm. Bar, raffle and musical entertainment. Family £20.00, adults £8.00, children £4.00 – eat all you want – salads, potatoes, homemade desserts!!
- Sun 17 Jun **Summer Fete.** To be held at Milford Cricket Ground, with stalls, games, refreshments and entertainment, from 1.30pm. Entry fee £1.00 per car, 50p per adult pedestrian.
- Sun 22 Jul **Treasure Hunt.** Walton Village, followed by strawberry cream tea. To start and end at St Thomas' Church from 2.30pm onwards. Adults £5.00, children under 12 free.
- Fri 31 Aug **SING-ALONG to “Mamma Mia”.** Film with subtitles. Community Hall, Baswich Lane. Family £20.00, Adults £8.00 and children £4.00, to include hot supper, popcorn, choc ices. Bar and raffle also available.

Civic Amenity Lorry Visits 2018-19

The Civic Amenity Lorry will visit Brocton, parking at the top of Chase Road from 9.00am-11.00am on the following Saturdays: 2 June, 28 July, 15 September, 3 November and 26 January 2019.

Mobile Library Visits



Mobile Library Visits in Brocton

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

9 May; 30 May; 20 June; 11 July; 1 and 22 August 2018.

Please visit website for more information; www.broctonparishcouncil.co.uk

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 Mudway on

01785 662868

Yoga Classes

Brocton Village Hall, Monday afternoon 1.30 – 3.00pm

Brocton Village Hall, commenced Tuesday 16 January 2018, 4.30 – 6.00pm

To book a place please contact diane.ralphs108@gmail.com or mobile 07709 613107

Parish Council in Brief

Parish Precept. At the December 2017 Parish Council meeting and a subsequent Special meeting held in January 2018, the Councillors considered the budget for the financial year 2018/19. The decision was taken by the Parish Council to set the Parish Precept for 2018/19 at £11,000. This is an increase of £350.00 on last year, which equates to a rise of 64p per annum for an average Band D property. This increase has been necessary due to growing pressures that are being placed upon all Parish Councils, as funding from central government to local authorities reduces.

In addition, the cost of the Civic Amenity Visits has increased from £125.00 per 2 hour visit in 2017/18 to £130.00 per 2 hour visit and the offer of any free visits has been removed. The Parish Council recognises that this is a valued service to the Parish and will therefore, meet the full cost of these visits.

In December 2017, the Parish Council, agreed to upgrade the Parish Council website. It was fortunate to secure funding for this upgrade though a grant from the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities and was also able to purchase a new laptop/software at the same time. As technology continues to evolve the Parish Council wishes to embrace this technology for the benefit of the Parish and is keen to engage the younger residents of the village with the work of the Parish. As reliance on volunteers is becoming ever more important, new ways of reaching out to a wider audience is vital.

As a responsible employer, the Parish Council has reviewed the hours of duty for the Clerk and agreed an increase in hours from 8 to 10 hours per week, from 1 April 2018, to accommodate the increasing workload and demands/expectations being placed upon Parish Councils.

The Parish Council will always strive to keep a tight rein upon its finances to ensure it offers the best value possible to residents

Changes to Data Protection from May 2018

Many of you may be aware that from 25 May 2018, new Data Protection arrangements come into force. The general data protection regulation (GDPR) is a new EU law that will come into force and will replace the current Data Protection Act.

It's the biggest overhaul of data protection legalisation for over 25 years and will introduce new requirements for how organisations process personal data. These new arrangements will affect Parish Council's and work has been ongoing for the last few months to ensure that Brocton Parish Council is able and ready to comply with these arrangements. The Parish Council cannot, legally, act as its own Data Protection Officer and has therefore, to secure this service from elsewhere. Discussions are currently taking place to secure this service in due course. In the meantime, please visit the Parish Council website, where we intend to make available, over the coming months, all of the relevant policy documents that the Parish Council will comply with. If you have any concerns or questions relating to Data Protection please contact the Clerk, in the first instance. Alternatively, visit the Information Commission's Office website for more information - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Profile of a new Parish Councillor

Councillor Beth Smith, aged 34, joined the Parish Council in September 2017. She is a special needs teacher, who works in Uttoxeter. Beth has lived in the village of Brocton since October 2014. She is married to Rich and has two daughters aged under 2. Beth's reason for joining the Council was to help keep the Parish relevant for young families and children in the area, she hopes to bring a motherly eye to the Council and to help develop the area for all families. She is keen to support the Parish in moving forward as it embraces new technology and hopes very much to develop a community feel.

Neighbourhood News

Litter pick events

Two recent litter pick events have taken place, one at the Cannock Road end of the village and the other at the Milford Road end. The Cannock Road event took place, despite the snow and was supported by the Councillors and 3 volunteers. The weather was much kinder for the Milford Road event. Both events saw a considerable amount of litter collected.

Volunteers required

Our footpaths are in need of some TLC – will **YOU** help?

Staffordshire has a massive rights of way network, spanning 4,500km, 33.9km of which are located within our Parish boundary. Staffordshire County Council receives many thousands of enquiries each year regarding the network and as the Rights of Way team has considerably reduced they are struggling to respond to the number of enquiries being received.

To keep our footpaths/ gates/ stiles/kissing gates/bridges all in a useable and safe condition a willing band of volunteers is needed. If you have a few hours to spare each week/month would be willing to consider giving some of your free time to support your community?

Volunteers will be asked to play 2 important roles. For those who are slightly less physically able, you could walk the Parish footpaths and accurately log and report all features, condition, etc. For the more physically able it may be possible for you to also carry out some maintenance work, for example: repairing or installing stiles; repairs to gates or clearing of overgrown vegetation. The County Council's Rights of Way team is currently trialling a mobile App, which will be available later this year. This mobile App will allow volunteers to accurately record features that they come across whilst walking a route, along with any other issues they may find. The App will ensure that the Rights of Way team know exactly the location of the footpath/gates/stile and will, hopefully, be able to identify how issues can be put right more quickly. In the past, it has been difficult to accurately identify the location of the footpath, etc, which has resulted in delays/ work not being done.

What the Parish Council is looking to do is establish a band of trusted volunteers, so that we can work together, with the County Council to keep our footpaths, etc looking good and safe for us all to use. Therefore, if you are a regular walker of the footpaths or are out and about walking your dog, why not register your interest as a volunteer with the Clerk so that together we can build up a band of volunteers. Also, when you are out and about, why not consider carrying your secateurs with you, as you may be able to do a bit of tidying up whilst you are out walking. We cannot continue to rely on the County Council to put everything right, we need to take responsibility for our footpaths, etc and understand that, in these times of diminishing resources, we need to take action ourselves.

Play park – Sawpit Lane

If you are able to spare an hour or two each week/month to over see the play park on Sawpit Lane, please contact the Clerk. All that is needed is a visit to the park, as regularly as you can, (if there are a number of volunteers interested a rota can be drawn up) to check for and collect any litter; to check for any damage to the play park equipment; to monitor any evidence of deer activity that may cause damage to hedges, etc. A monthly report should be sent to the Clerk outlining any findings, which will then be presented to the full Parish Council monthly meeting.

If you would be interested in supporting your Parish, in either of the above volunteer roles please contact the Clerk accordingly, clerk@brocton.parishcouncil.gov.uk

Cannock Chase Country Park Update

Sarah Bentley, Environmental Advice Manager at Staffordshire County Council, writes:

It's been a busy winter with some challenging weather but our winter works have been successfully completed, including halo thinning in Brocton Coppice and management of trees and scrub to protect the archaeology.

Our environment team and rangers are now working hard on a range of projects leading towards our management plan for the Country Park over the next ten years, from January 2019. Studies are underway at Brocton Coppice and across the site to survey the habitat and identify the works needed to maximise its benefits for wildlife and archaeology. A further study will be starting in the Oldacre Valley in the summer to look at the wetland habitats. We are also undertaking fieldwork to look at the grazing ideas developed by stakeholders at the September 2017 workshop, looking at potential areas, fencing techniques and phasing and will be in touch soon to discuss these ideas further with local residents.

Information for Dog owners

All dog owners are expected to be responsible for clearing up after their dogs. However, on the odd occasion when you may find yourself without a poop bag, you will be able to take advantage of an emergency supply that can be accessed from the local Post Office. Please note, these are being made available on the clear understanding that they will only be used in genuine emergency circumstances only.

ADOPT A KIOSK PROGRAMME

At the time of writing, the Parish Council is delighted to announce that required amount of funding has been achieved, which is excellent news for the village. Funding has been obtained through donations from residents, collection buckets located in and around the village at various establishments, contribution from our local County Councillor John Francis as well as funding from the Parish Council. Installation of the defibrillator has yet to be agreed. The Parish Council hopes to arrange publicity regarding the installation so please keep an eye on Parish Council website for further details of this.



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On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman wishes to express his thanks to all the residents who donated to this very worthwhile cause, to all of those anonymous contributors to the collection buckets, to his fellow Councillors for their support in delivering/collecting buckets and to Councillor John Francis for his very generous donation.

Brocton Football Club



Brocton approached the end of the season very positively. In a frantic last few weeks, with a huge fixture backlog due to postponements resulting from prolonged spells of bad weather, the team has started to haul itself away from the bottom of the table almost up to the halfway spot. During an 8-day spell in which they ended up playing four games, they managed to pick up seven points, including two away victories at Littleton and Bolehall, where they recorded an impressive 5-0 victory. At the time of writing the team is still in the JW Hunt cup competition, if they win the semi-final against Wolverhampton sporting they will play at Molineux in the final.

The team is now safe from relegation; currently situated in 15th place. There is still however some uncertainty surrounding the regional reorganisation under proposal by the Football

Association. This could possibly entail the club playing in a league to the north of the region stretching up to the Manchester area.

Whilst it has been a very testing season for manager Sam Norton, he has undoubtedly done well to pull the results round from the disastrous position which was looming at the midway stage. Sam has decided to step down at the end of the season with family and work commitments taking more of his time.

The U-21 team has been a success story this season, not only have they performed well in their league competition, currently in sixth position in the table, but they have on several occasions provided players to the first team, and with encouraging results. The club has aspirations, to continue with its youth strategy.

Brocton Youth Teams:

Both of our young teams have suffered in the latter part of a very on-off season caused by the persistent rain. The younger side (U16) play in the Potteries and District Junior Youth League and lie 9th out of 10, having seen no fewer than 5 of the other teams in the league fold.

It seems that the number of postponed matches have made some teams' players lose interest and drift away. Our team will at least complete their season and will look to recruit a few more members for next season as U17's

The older side(U17) have a similar end result with a 9th out of 10 finish in the Lichfield and District League, but theirs has been in an U18 league and was always going to be hard. They did manage to reach the semi-final of the County Youth Challenge Cup, also an U18 age group competition for teams across the county, losing to the eventual winners and their young trio of coaches are all set to take the team on as U18's next year.

In March the club once again staged a successful sporting evening at the White Eagle Club, raising much-needed funds towards its running costs. Former Newcastle United player John Beresford was this year's guest speaker and in addition £1000 was raised for the Donna Louise Trust.

Info at: www.pitchero.com/clubs/broctonfc

General Information of Interest

New guide to care and support in Staffordshire – a crucial time for information

A new, updated Staffordshire & City of Stoke-on-Trent Care Services Directory has been published today in association with Staffordshire County Council. It gives readers crucial information on how to access, and pay for, care services throughout Staffordshire.

You may have seen there's a huge amount in the media at the moment about the crisis in social care. If you're growing concerned about your care options, or just want some more information on what your choices may be, this directory can help. With information to help you understand your options, where to go for advice and how the paying for care system works, the Staffordshire & City of Stoke-on-Trent Care Services Directory can support you to make informed decisions.

The new edition of Staffordshire & City of Stoke-on-Trent Care Services Directory and accompanying website give information on all aspects of arranging care and support in Staffordshire. It includes how to stay independent for as long as possible, the different care and support options available and what to look for when choosing a care provider. It also offers guidance on important issues such as paying for care and what financial assistance may be available from the local authority. There are comprehensive listings of all registered care services throughout Staffordshire plus checklists to help you ask the right questions when visiting services.

For a free copy of The Staffordshire & City of Stoke-on-Trent Care Services Directory contact Staffordshire customer advisers - 0300 1118010 or Stoke-on-Trent Council - 0800 5610015 It is also available throughout the region from outlets including carers' centres, hospitals, GP surgeries, Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society. It can be downloaded from www.carechoices.co.uk and is available in spoken word.

Robert Chamberlain, Managing Director of the directory's publisher, Care Choices, commented: "This is an invaluable source of information for anyone considering short or long term care in Staffordshire and contains vital information to help people decide what type of care and support is best for them.

"With the current crisis in social care, finding a care service for yourself or a loved one that meets their needs and is affordable can be a daunting and unfamiliar task. This new Staffordshire & City of Stoke-on-Trent Care Services Directory has been compiled to help people understand the process and offer them reassurance at every step of their journey."

Care Choices is the UK's largest independent publisher for social care and adults with additional needs. It is also the largest publisher of care directories for local authorities in England.

For more information, please contact Gemma Hunter, Care Choices. Tel: 01223 207770. Email: gemma.hunter@carechoices.co.uk

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 – 07973
193146

Cllr Leslie Lee - 664521

Cllr Roy Middleton - 660182

Cllr Lynne Smith - 662976

Cllr Larry Goff – 07502 226980

Cllr Bethan Smith – 07545 540804

Stafford Borough Council Representatives

Cllr Frank Finlay – 664531

Staffordshire County Council Representative

Cllr John Francis – 665490

Member of Parliament

Mr Jeremy Lefroy Tel: 01785 252273

Email: jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk

www.jeremylefroymp.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.