

NEWSLINK

BRYMPTON PARISH
COUNCIL



The news magazine for the people of Brympton

A New Look to NEWSLINK

Following much deliberation the Brympton Parish Council has decided to reorganise the layout of the NEWSLINK to make it easier to access the content and at the same time keep it up to date with respect to essential and/or urgent news. Some of these changes are immediately obvious, some are not, both are summarised as follows:

The NEWSLINK is moved to a new position on the opening page of the Parish Council website, thus making it more instantly visible and easier to select by reducing the amount of scrolling previously required.

The publication date will be more flexible and on an “as and when schedule” as required. This means that it will only be issued when “there is something to say” plus the flexibility will permit news items and other

contributions to be published at the relevant time

It is hoped that some hard (paper) copies of NEWSLINK will be made available at nominated sites for those who prefer this media.

The overall content of the magazine will cover a broader spectrum of items, not just Brympton Parish Council, or other groups/organisation news. The editorial team will be hoping to receive general stories and items of interest/concern from the community at large.

New Waste Bins for Brympton

A proposal was made to BPC to trial an alternative style of Refuse Bin, which is dual use (Litter & Dog Waste). This is a larger bin to increase the periodicity for emptying. Three of these new style Refuse Bins have now been installed in Oak Tree Park. Two of the bins have replaced three existing old style metal bins and one has replaced the missing bin outside of the Children Play Area.

Two of the original bins were located close to entry to the Oak Tree Park. BPC requested that the replacements Refuse Bins should be relocated away from the entrance, to distance them from the fast-moving traffic on Stourton Way. The Refuse Bin coverage on the north side of the circular path is still not quite optimised, however the new bin location is closer to the path.

BPC would welcome your comments as to whether you support the current action taken, specifically the suitability of the larger Refuse Bins for Disabled Accessibility.

BPC will continue dialogue with SSDC to improve the coverage of Refuse Bins within the Brympton Parish. This may result in existing bins being relocated to improve coverage.

Councillor Roger Simonite



New Skate Park Open

The new skate park in Oak Tree Park was formally opened on 13th April 2023. Despite the blustery conditions with the constant threat of heavy rain showers, the new skate park facility was opened in the presence of many, with much celebration and merriment. A great time was had by all who were there



Message from the
Chairman of the BPC
Councillor Graham Pritchard

May's BPC meeting was held in Lufton Community Hall, for the first time, on Wednesday 24th May at 7.30pm

Our PCSO Natalie gave a brief report on issues being dealt with. Social disorder is being monitored around Alvington. A dog on dog attack has been reported. If residents see a crime in progress please report via 999, anti social disorder or petty crime please report via 101 or electronic messaging.

Two parishioners addressed the council regarding waste bins, and replacements will be installed at key points on Abbey Manor. Also cctv monitoring of the Oak tree skate park was requested.

Council was also advised by Somerset Council officer Steve Fox, on a number of issues in the Parish. Principally footpaths, picnic benches, play areas, tree managment, grass cutting/rewilding and habitat improvements.

Meeting proper was opened, and I was honoured to be elected to serve another 12 months as Chairman, supported by Bob Brookes who agreed to serve another year as Vice Chairman. I thank Bob and all the Parish Councillors, giving of their time to improve our community. All councillors agreed at least 3 areas of responsibility on working parties, commitee's, and outside bodies. Crime and disorder issues Audit and financial matters were agreed. A schedule of meeting dates agreed, omitting August as not necessary, any outstanding items at that point will be deferred untill September! Councillors agreed to defer, and consult, on a shelter at Oak Tree skate park, but did agree to source and fit more bench seating. Our next meeting is 7.30pm Wednesday 21st June at Lufton Community Hall in Kingfisher Primary School

The Brympton Parish
Council at June 2023

The Brympton Parish Council consists of 12 members (councillors) representing the citizens of the parish at the lower level of local government. Whilst the parish council has some legal/regulatory powers enabling to act in its own right, much of its effort is spent in advising, co-operating with and where necessary, cajoling the higher level of local government (Somerset County) to act in the best interests of the citizens of Brympton and their community. The Parish Council currently benefits from having the experience and insight of two members who are also County Councillors representing the Brympton Ward.

The detailed work of the Parish Council led by the Chairman is facilitated by appointed working groups and committees which report back to the full council in accordance with its Standing Orders. The current status of the members interests and specific responsibilities were reset at the Annual Parish Meeting so individual responsibilities will be published when the various committees and working parties meet and elect the chair/leader of each grouping:

Cllr Graham Pritchard Chair
Cllr Stephen Attrill
Cllr Daniel Crooke
Cllr Paul Herbert
Cllr Lynda Simonite
Cllr Jeny Snell County Councillor

Cllr Bob Brookes Vice-Chair,
Cllr Sandra Brookes
Cllr John Hanson
Cllr Tony Power
Cllr Roger Simonite
Cllr Peter Seib County Councillor



Brympton Litter Pickers

Despite the less than ideal weather on 2nd April, the Brympton Litter Pickers, comprising nine adults and three children had a very successful outing as can be seen in the photos below. Many thanks to all who took part.

Councillor Lynda Simonite

Dates for your Diary

Upcoming events that may be of interest

19th June
Brympton Litter Pickers 6:00 pm to 7:00pm.
Meet at the Arrow

21st June
Brympton Parish Council Meeting 7:30pm.
Lufton Community Hall in Kingfisher Primary School

5th June, 19th June, 3rd July, 17th July, 31st July
Brympton Golden Oldies Coffee Mornings
10:00am to 12:00pm.
Abbey Community Centre



Some of the rubbish collected



Among the helpers, Councillor Paul Herbert and children

Local Community Networks

Are coming our way in the near future

A Local Community Network (LCN) is a committee of the Somerset Council that aims to foster community engagement and development, and to improve outcomes for residents by working with local partners and stakeholders. The LCNs are the voice of local communities and have formal decision-making powers and influence on issues such as health and wellbeing, transport, environment, planning and economic development. The structure of an LCN consists of a chairperson, who is a Somerset Council member elected by the LCN members, and a vice-chairperson, who is a City, Town or Parish Council representative elected by the LCN members. The LCN members include all Somerset Council members within the LCN boundary, one representative from each City, Town or Parish Council within the LCN boundary, and

representatives from other local organisations such as voluntary sector groups, health and social care providers, police and fire services, education providers and business associations. The purpose of an LCN is to provide a forum for local dialogue and collaboration, to identify and address local priorities and needs, to allocate funding and resources for local projects and initiatives, to monitor and review the performance and impact of local services and activities, and to advise and influence the Somerset Council on matters affecting the LCN area. The outcomes expected of an LCN are to enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of local residents, to strengthen the sense of community identity and belonging, to increase

the participation and empowerment of local people in decision-making processes, to foster positive relationships and partnerships among local stakeholders, to promote innovation and best practice in service delivery and community development, and to contribute to the strategic vision and goals of the Somerset Council.

Thorne Coffin

After the success of bringing 40+ villagers together for the Queens Jubilee the Thorne Village Hall committee decided to celebrate the Kings Coronation. A new venue had to be found as Leonardo have sold Thorne House. All were very grateful when Sue Larcombe volunteered her beautiful garden. The weather was perfect so plenty of eating, drinking and games. Thanks to the many volunteers for all their help in setting up the tables ,chairs and marquees. We were enjoying ourselves so much we only took photo's after the set up. 40+ villagers turned up.



Coronation Celebrations in Brympton

Forde Park

The rain held off on Sunday afternoon for the Forde Park celebrations.



Brympton Golden Oldies

The weather on Monday was wet but the BGO's celebrated in style in the ACA community hall. A toast was drunk in honour of HM King Charles



News from St James Church

It's been a busy couple of months, with celebrations of the Coronation (including the church lit up in red, white and blue), an exhibition of Knitted Bible Stories, and an open morning with our Bellringers.

We've started up 'St James @4', a new 30-40 minute service every Sunday at 4pm, with well known prayers and hymns, and time to chat over a cuppa afterwards.

Sunday Worship

10.30am Morning Worship, with creche area and weekly 'Junior Church' for children aged 3-12,.

4pm St James @4, 30-40m service, in the church room, with a cuppa!

6.30pm Arise contemporary worship service, 4th Sunday of every month.



Regular Groups

Children and Youth (termtime only)

Abbey Toddlers: 9.30-11am every Wednesday, Abbey Community Centre

Tots & Toys 10-11.30am every Thursday in the church room, for 0-2s and their parents/carers

Junior Church 10.30-11.30 every Sunday alongside morning service

LIFT youth group 6.30-8pm Sunday evening

Adults

Tuesday Fellowship 2.15pm every Tuesday

Scrabble Club 2.30pm every Wednesday

Bellringers practice every Weds evening

Coffee Morning 10am Thurs 1st June, Tues 4th July

Mens Group 7-9pm Airfield Tavern, 8th June, 13th July.

Ladies Group 2.30pm Thurs 15th June, 20th July

Knit and Natter 2.30pm Thurs 22nd June, 27th July



Summer Events

Quiz Night Thurs 29th June 7.30pm

Coffee Plus Sat 15th July 10am-12 noon, Summer fete with stalls, refreshments, tombola etc

Contacts: church office 414097

office@stjamesandstpeters.org.uk.

Rev David Keen, Vicar. revdmkeen@btinternet.com



Late News

Contributions Received Just Prior to Publishing

NO MOW IN MAY

Many of you are aware, and indeed some of you have commented, about swathes of uncut grass in Oak Tree Park and other public open spaces, but many are unaware of why things are left in this rather scruffy and unkempt state.

The Somerset Council is encouraging the county to get behind this year's "No Mow May" campaign and highlighting its own work to 'let it grow' where possible – until May and beyond.

The national initiative encourages people to help pollinating insects and spring flowers by not to mowing their lawns until the end of May.

Somerset Council is committed to a greener, more sustainable county and has changed its approach to grass cutting as part of its Climate Strategy.

Its grassland management strategy, written with the help of Somerset Wildlife Trust, means the Council keeps cutting to a minimum, so long as it is safe and does not stop people enjoying its parks and public spaces.

Busy areas have to be mown so they can be accessed by all, but elsewhere the strategy is to let things grow longer.

There is less frequent cutting of flowering lawns, annual cuts for some grassed areas, and grass left to grow around trees and along the borders of hedges.

So long as it is safe and does not affect visibility, the cutting of roadside verges is also kept to a minimum.

Nearly 80 per cent of Somerset's rural verge cutting takes place outside of No Mow May, with a maximum cut of a single one metre swathe of verge unless there are specific safety risks. That adds up to an additional 3km of highway verge for wildlife.

The cutting programme is reviewed every season to ensure wildlife is a priority. You can find out more about the programme and where cutting is taking place on the Somerset Council [website](#).

Outside of these parks, public spaces and roadside verges, there is a rolling programme aiming to cut every three to four weeks.

Steve Fox from the County attended the BPC Annual Parish Meeting on 24th May to explain the Somerset County policy in more detail and answer question submitted by councillors.

Basically, the grass will not be mowed until September at which time all cuttings will be removed. This is a planned four year programme during which time any environmental changes in insect, fauna, wildlife habitat will be monitored with a final review to determine future policy actions.

LITTER PICKING UPDATE

Update following the litter pick in April (see page 3), another was organised for Monday 22nd May meeting at the Arrow at 18:00 for a one-hour pick

Nine volunteers including 2 new members attended.

5 sacks (not full) of rubbish removed from around Abbey Manor Park which, I am pleased to say is a lot less than normal.

If anyone would like to join us in the future please contact me on Facebook "Brympton Litter Pickers" page or via the Brympton Parish Council Clerk

All equipment is provided, but please bring your own gloves - gardening gloves are ideal.

All ages welcome but ALL children must be accompanied by parent or responsible adult.

The next litter pick is June 29th 6-7pm meeting at the Arrow.

Please let me know if there are any areas within the Brympton Parish that need to be targeted on future litter picks.

Councillor Lynda Simonite

Acknowledgements

NEWSLINK's survival depends greatly on the many people who contribute to its content, stories and information.

Contributors this time include the following, with apologies to any who have been missed out.

Brympton Parish Council: Councillor Graham Pritchard - Chair
 Councillor Roger Simonite
 Councillor Lynda Simonite
 Councillor Paul Herbert
 Marie Attrill, Clerk

Rev. David Keen and his team at St James Church

John Clancy for news from Thorne Coffin