

Brock's News



The annual newsletter of Brockley Parish Council

Annual parish meeting

On a cold night on 18 March, 21 people relished the new heating system at Chelvey Church while hearing reports from Julian Ridge and Geoff Coombs. The year's main topics were a new Sites and Policies Plan, news from Bristol Airport, proposed traffic calming in the lanes, a feasibility study for mains water at Brockley Church, work on local drains, the proposed wind turbine at Grove Farm, the new footpath in the woods, and daffodil planting. Copies of the budget were available and parishioners heard the precept for 2013-14 had been set at £3,300, with a call for £61 from reserves. Parishioners regretted the amount of litter in the Combe and the increasing amount of drinks cans, particularly along Chelvey Road and Lane.

Business concluded after 30 minutes, when Richard Simon and Steve Barrett, Directors of Solarsense, gave a much appreciated talk on 'The practical application of renewable energy', well illustrated with photographs of local examples. Thanks to Felicity Ford, the meeting ended with coffee and flapjacks. For more detail of the APM, see minutes on the parish notice boards.

Connecting Brockley Church

Antony Ridge has been talking with interested parties, leading a feasibility study for the connection of mains water and a sewerage system at St Nicholas'. If these facilities were in place, the church would be a much more suitable venue for public functions and would help to make Brockley a more cohesive community. Watch out for developments: fund-raising could be in the offing.

Brockley wins funding!

Bristol Airport's Local Community Fund has awarded us £375 to meet the cost of traffic calming plans agreed with North Somerset Council. This summer, drivers coming down the Combe will see a Road Narrows Ahead sign at the Crossroads. In Brockley Lane, Double Bend warning signs in advance of Solarsense will alert northbound and southbound drivers. In Chelvey Road, night drivers crossing the stream bridge just west of Chelvey Bridge will see a white line highlighting the edge of the narrow carriageway.

Annual litter pick

Despite cold weather, 14 residents turned out to support the event. Although North Somerset Council had only been able to provide rubbish bags and three handheld pickers, the stoic team was not thwarted and scoured the parish lanes for rubbish. Some also ventured up the Combe as there was a strong feeling this was looking particularly messy and the associated risk of danger was low. David Pike also cleaned the millennium stone. Altogether, 21 bags of rubbish were collected and sorted. To ensure recyclable products did not go to landfill, half the bags were taken home for separate collection. There were worrying numbers of drinks cans - at least 50 cider and lager cans along Chelvey Lane alone. All in all, the event was a complete success. **Mike Fishwick**

Education grants

The Backwell Educational Foundation makes payments to parishioners under 20 to help with their education. Ring 463261 for details. **David Pike**

New woodland path

Walkers this summer will be able to enjoy a new waymarked path through the Combe. It will lead from the A370 opposite St Nicholas Way to join the existing track (which will become a bridleway) near the 'bowling green'. Thanks are due to landowner Wanda Denning and to Elaine Bowman at North Somerset Council for her help and commitment. Rambler Volunteers will clear shrubbery, and the council will donate £50 to costs.

Didn't it rain!

There was minor flooding in Brockley for many weeks owing to the various springs that run along the edge of the escarpment. Because these only run every 10 years or so, the drainage infrastructure could not cope. Julian Ridge has discussed this with the North Somerset Council drainage engineer and a programme of work will be undertaken to ensure that all the known drains are working and will be regularly maintained.

February Gold

A hundred new narcissi (February Gold) are in flower at the Crossroads. Councillors had planted these around the Liquidambar tree to mark the Diamond Jubilee. With the tree and bulbs planted by Brockley Hall residents and others, the four corners of the Crossroads are looking very attractive.

Brockley's old trees

Brockley has a number of trees worthy of note. Four young oaks close to Brockley Church commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the coronation of George V, and the Silver and Golden