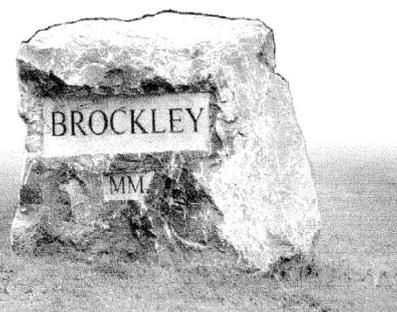


## Your council

**Julian Ridge** Chair 01275 462313  
**Antony Ridge** Vice Chair 01275 462179  
**Mike Fishwick** 01275 462995  
**Martin Jarvis** 01275 462456  
**Liz Lunn** 01275 462989  
**Bryan Smith** 01275 462434  
**Clerk:** Ms Joanna van Tonder 07586 437769

Main notice board: Brockley Stores  
Email: [brockleypc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brockleypc@hotmail.co.uk)  
Website: [www.brockleypc.org](http://www.brockleypc.org)

# Brock's News



## The annual newsletter of Brockley Parish Council

April 2016

Issue 15

### NEW Parish Council website

In order to comply with the government's Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities, the Parish Council has a new website where you will be able to find past minutes of council meetings and upcoming agendas, financial records and much more. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

[www.brockleypc.org](http://www.brockleypc.org)

### Parish Council Changes

After four years keeping the Parish Council on the straight and narrow, **Gill Rowley** retired as Clerk last year and handed over to Joanna van Tonder who is also Clerk to Barrow Gurney Parish Council. Gill's love of history and resourcefulness added much to the job and we wish her well in her retirement.

Following the local elections in May last year, a vacancy existed on the Council that was filled with the co-option of **Martin Jarvis** of Chelvey Batch, bringing the Council up to full strength.

### Annual Parish Meeting 2016

The 123<sup>rd</sup> APM was held at St Nicholas' Church on 15 March and was attended by 12 residents, braving a chilly spring night.

**Chairman's Report:** Julian Ridge introduced Joanna van Tonder, the new clerk, co-opted Councillor Martin Jarvis and District Councillor Deborah Yamanaka.

\* Planning: North Somerset Council's Site Allocations Plan is open to consultation until 28 April and details where the 20,985 required houses are proposed to be built.

\* Bristol Water Southern Resilience pipeline: Works to install a new drinking water main pipeline from Barrow Gurney to Cheddar are scheduled to begin in Autumn. Works within the parish will be confined mainly to fields but will impact on traffic at Main Road at the Chelvey Batch junction, Brockley Lane and St Nicholas Way.

\* Wildflower verge: Originally planned for both sides of the A370 at the Backwell border, the creation of a wildflower meadow on the north verge has been postponed until 2017 as the proposed pipeline will pass through the middle of it.

\* St Nicholas' Church water project: Staff changes within the CCT have further

delayed the project however fundraising is continuing.

\* Brockley drains: Blocked gullies remain a problem especially after heavy rains.

\* Footpaths: Maintenance of the parish footpaths has been carried out leaving most paths and stiles in good order. The intention is to increase vegetation cut-backs to two this year.

\* Website: The cost of setting up and maintaining the new website was met by a grant received from the government's Transparency Fund.

\* Wall on the A370: No further progress has been made in the resolution of this ongoing problem. The Parish Council's application for grant funding from the Bristol Airport Community Fund was turned down.

\* Budget 2016/2017: Copies of the budget were made available. The precept has been increased marginally to £4,100 in order to maintain a reasonable reserve.

**Other reports:** Deborah Yamanaka explained the District Council's current shortfall in its 5 year supply of housing and as yet unadopted Core Strategy was leaving it vulnerable to less desirable development within the region but reiterated that the greenbelt would remain protected.

Deborah went on to say that, despite the Council already having made huge savings, further government cuts to funding were due and would lead to inevitable cuts to the services the District Council was able to provide.

**Public Questions:** The question of what additional challenges the District Council is facing was answered by Deborah, listing areas such as school crossings, social care and general staffing levels as those most vulnerable to cuts.

The issue of litter picking along Brockley Combe was raised. Martin Parsons had kindly cleared up most recently and it was felt that North Somerset Council ought to be pressed for a commitment to maintain the cleanliness of the area.

**Guest speaker:** Andrew Prestt, Recycling & Waste Contract Manager, North Somerset Council, delivered a presentation on the challenges facing the recycling team and offered ways in which the community could assist. A lively discussion

on the proposed changes to the green waste collections in the district followed.

### Recycling and Composting



It has been well publicised of late that the days of the green waste bags are numbered and that green wheelie bins will soon be replacing them. One way to keep your green waste down is to compost.

North Somerset Council are running composting events during May to offer advice and give residents the opportunity to buy a 220ℓ compost bin for £10.

If you are interested, you can find the team at the North Somerset Agricultural Show on 2 May, Queen Square, Clevedon on 7 May, Winscombe Community Centre on 12 May or next to NS Reuse Project, Smallway, Congresbury on 21 May.

More information can be found at <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/waste/composting/about-composting/>

In the meantime, though, don't forget to leave a rock with your green recycling bags to stop them blowing away after collection.

### 2016 litter pick

Ten parishioners turned up on 19 March to attend the annual parish litter pick. North Somerset Council provided collection bags, litter grabbers and gloves whilst the Parish Council made available fluorescent jackets to improve safety. Eleven bags were collected and left at the crossroads and a few more were taken back to residents' own homes for disposal.

Sadly, as in recent years, empty cans of lager and cider made up a significant proportion of the total rubbish giving continued concern about drink driving on our narrow lanes. This was reported last year to the local community Police Officer but it is very difficult to catch the culprit/s in action.

Well done to those who joined us and to those who could not make it on the day but who contribute all year round helping to keep our parish clean. **MF**

## Events over the year

The well attended **2015 Brockley Lecture** entitled "The Road to Waterloo", given by retired army officer Chris Day on 19 September, was followed by a buffet supper with wine. The lecture was most enjoyable and informative and the whole occasion, fun.

Before embarking on the battle itself, Chris took us through the history that led up to Waterloo and talked about the main characters involved, often with amusing vignettes of their personal relationships. One device that very successfully brought in the human element was to follow the path of an imaginary young soldier, Trooper Dermot O'Rhiordan, an Irishman from a very poor rural family who joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and acquired some of the glory of victory. Chris imparted a much more complete and nuanced view of the battle and its origins than the jingoistic one of the glorious British General Wellington and the defeat of the monster Napoleon.

After the lecture, Chris took questions from the audience and a vote of thanks was given by Rupert Ridge. **AR**

## Coming soon

A **Batik and Quilting Exhibition** will be held on Saturday, 30 April, Sunday, 1 May and Monday, 2 May 2016 from 10am to 4pm at St Nicholas' Church, Brockley, BS48 3AX. The exhibition will include pictures, lampshades, cushions, throws, quilts, cards and more. You will also be able to have a go yourself at trying to make some lines and dots with hot wax on cotton! We will be serving teas, coffees and delicious home-made cakes.

All proceeds will be going towards the installation of water in the church. Please come along and see some of the unusual work of many artists and thereby support a worthy cause. By kind permission of the CCT. Enquiries to Conny Ridge 01275 462179.

**Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner election:** This will be held on Thursday, 5 May 2016. Seven candidates stand nominated for election. The deadline for applications to register to vote is Monday, 18 April and may be made at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

**EU Referendum:** Everyone on the electoral register will be eligible to vote on Thursday, 23 June 2016.

**New revelations on the activities and influence of the Smyth-Pigotts of Brockley:** An illustrated talk by Jasper Allen and Bryan Smith on Friday, 24 June at 7:30pm – Brockley Church. Tickets for the event are £10 to include wine and canapés; contact 01275 463738. **BS**

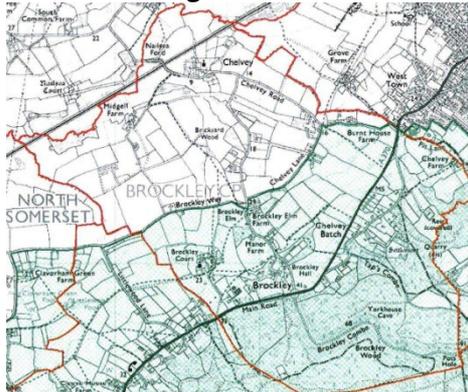
The **2016 Brockley Lecture** entitled "Body Clocks, Light and Sleep; Science to Medicine" will be given by Russell Foster, FRS, Professor of Circadian Neuroscience at the University of Oxford on Saturday, 10

September 2016 at 6:30pm in St Nicholas' Church, Brockley.

Science can be difficult for non-scientists but previous lecturers on scientific subjects in this series have been remarkably successful at communicating with a general audience without being patronising or banal. Prof. Foster is known to be an excellent communicator and will, without doubt, maintain this valued tradition!

Conny and Antony will be stepping down after this, the tenth Brockley Lecture so if any parishioner has an idea for something that could be a suitable annual event in the church and would be willing to organise it, please let Antony know. **AR**

## Beating the Bounds



The original reason for beating the bounds goes way back into the mists of time when parishes used to do an annual check of their boundaries and boundary stones. It was certainly the practice in Anglo-Saxon times and is mentioned in Alfred the Great's chronicles.

On 9 May last year, and for the first time in several years, 25 walkers aged from 4 to 80+ (and one dog!) walked the boundaries of the twin parishes of Chelvey and Brockley, a distance of 5.9 miles.

We did a circular walk starting and finishing at St Bridget's. A snack lunch of a bacon bap and tomato soup was awaiting us on our return. Ten additional supporters joined us for the lunch and we all sat out on the new lawn on the North side of the church. Thanks go to Jean Whitaker who kindly organised the walk.

**TS**

## Second World War base camp at Brockley



Local archaeologist, Alice Millard, is working towards her postgraduate degree at Bristol University, conducting research on two WWII camps in Somerset, one located on the land at Manor Farm, Brockley. The camp was used as an American transit camp before the soldiers were sent off to help with the war effort

on the Western Front and later held Polish individuals and families who decided to remain in Britain after the war.

Alice is interested in the experiences of those who lived or worked nearby, anyone held at the camp, their families or anyone affected by the camp in one way or another. If you or someone you know has any stories, memories, photographs or documents regarding Brockley Camp and would be happy to share them, please contact Alice on either 07811 526370 or [am15758@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:am15758@bristol.ac.uk). All documentation can be returned via recorded delivery and is strictly for research purposes only but any information may be published in the final paper. If you would like to discuss this, please contact Alice. **AM**

## Superfast Broadband

*Connecting Devon and Somerset* has brought fibre connections to areas within the parish with Cabinet 1 on the Flax Bourton exchange going live. 88 homes and businesses in the following postcodes are now able to connect to the fibre-enabled cabinet and residents should contact their ISP to see if they are connected: BS48- 3AH, 3AR, 3AU, 3AX, 3AZ, 3BA, 3BZ, 4AA, 4AB, 4AD, 4AE, 4AF, 4AG, 4AH, 4AJ, 4AL, 4AQ and 4AY.

## Rogue Traders

The Police and Trading Standards are working together to protect residents of North Somerset from being targeted by rogue traders. There are several ways you can help them to do this:

- \* Please report any leaflets / flyers you get through the door advertising for local services

- \* Report any cold calls to your area by persons touting for work such as gardening / house repairs / driveways

- \* If you have neighbours who are having work done and you are worried about them, let the team know – they can make discreet enquiries to ensure they are okay

- \* If you co-ordinate a scheme that would like some window or door stickers that promote the campaign, contact the Trading Standards department at the council offices

- \* Report any fly tipping or other suspicious sightings

**CONTACT:** Inspector Sharon Bennett at [sharon.bennett@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sharon.bennett@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk) or on telephone 101, or Ben Hayes, Trading Standards Officer, on 01934 888 888.

## Parish Council meeting dates

Parish Council meetings take place on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November and are held at 7pm at St Nicholas' Church, Brockley.

**2016 dates:** 3 May, 5 July, 6 September and 1 November 2016.

Agendas and minutes are available to view on the website and are posted on the noticeboards.

**ALL WELCOME**