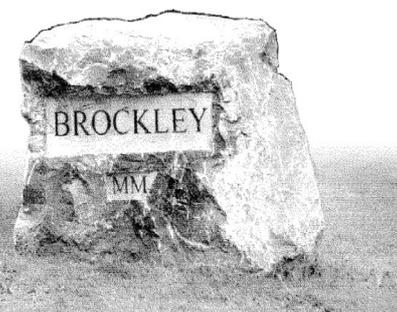


Your council

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
Website: www.brockleypc.org

Brock's News



The annual newsletter of Brockley Parish Council

April 2017

Issue 16

Parish Council website

Take a look at the Parish Council (PC) website where you will be able to find past minutes of council meetings and upcoming agendas, financial records and much more. Please let us know what you think.

www.brockleypc.org

Annual Parish Meeting 2017

The 124th APM was held at St Bridget's Church on 21 March and was attended by 24 residents and guests.

Chairman's Report: Julian reminded parishioners of council meeting dates and venue as well as website details. He thanked councillors for their loyal attendance over the past year and District Councillor, Deborah Yamanaka, and North Somerset Council (NSC) Parish Liaison Officer, John Wilkinson, for their valuable contributions.

* Planning: NSC's Core Strategy designed to provide planning strategy for the District until 2026 had been adopted. The West of England Joint Spatial Plan looking to provide 105,000 new dwellings to 2036 was still being formulated and could well result in a review of the Green Belt.

Of more local concern, are plans to build an additional 865 homes in and around Nailsea. The PC would continue to object to any development in the town that threatened to increase the traffic burden on Brockley and Chelvey's rural lanes.

* Footpaths: Julian reported the Parish PRoW's are in good condition. (See more on footpaths below).

* Bristol Water pipeline: Most of the pipes for the new water main have been laid with Brockley Lane closed for three weeks from 24 April while work is completed in the vicinity of Brockley Hall Lodge.

* St Nicholas Church water project: Progress has been slow on the plan to connect the church up to a water supply primarily due to the uncertainty over the future of Brockley Court. A potential buyer is currently engaged in negotiations and there is a hope for a desirable outcome!

* Chelvey Lane verge cutting: NSC has assured the PC that Chelvey Lane verges will only be cut once a year in Autumn to avoid a repeat of last year where the magnificent display of wild garlic was prematurely flailed.

* Budget 2017/18: Copies of the budget were made available. The precept has been increased marginally to £4,300 in order to maintain a reasonable reserve.

Other reports: Deborah Yamanaka explained that increases in commitments to adult social care, numbers of children taken care of by the Council and waste costs together with Government funding cuts, was putting severe strain on Council budgets. £150,000 had been slashed from the gullies budget alone.

All of the District's schools were looking to convert to Academies in an effort to increase their flexibility to spend on areas where NSC had been forced to make cuts.

Public Questions: The dangers faced by residents living along Main Road, attempting to exit their properties, was raised as a serious concern. A discussion followed around possible remedies including a request to NSC to review the speed limit, warning signs or a vehicle activated sign.

In answer to a question raised, Julian confirmed the PC had supported NSC's decision to reject the Devolution Deal offered to the four West of England authorities as it was the PC's view that an elected Metro Mayor would add an unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy.

Guest speaker: Rob Ellis and Natasha Clarke of Bristol Water and Jamie Edwards and Grace Budge of Kier presented a very interesting and engaging talk on the environmental aspects of their work, with particular reference to the pipeline passing through the parish.

Following an overview of the project, the team detailed measures that had been taken to ensure Protected and Important Species and hedgerows and significant trees were safeguarded during the pipe laying process. Work is ongoing to improve the quality of biodiversity on Bristol Water sites and includes a number of community projects such as nest boxes, bee orchid transplantation, cave spider protection, "Spawn to be Wild" and the owl project.

Jamie Edwards has kindly written a piece for the newsletter that explains it all a little more.

Bristol Water Pipeline - Southern Resilience Scheme

The £27 million Southern Resilience Scheme is now well under way with more than 9km of main already laid. The scheme, which sets out to improve water supply to 280,000 customers across the Bristol Water region, will see contractors, Kier, laying 30km of 700mm new main between Barrow Gurney and Cheddar via Banwell. Large areas of the Brockley Parish have already been laid with only the road crossing at Brockley Lane outstanding. Following its completion this section of pipe can then be pressure tested to ensure there are no leaks or failings in joints.

The work won't stop there! Bristol Water and Kier share the same values when it comes to the environment and always strive to improve it whenever works have an impact. The Environment Team have been working with Chris Sperring of the Hawk and Owl Trust to help set up an owl nest box scheme along the route. Both Bridgwater College and Churchill have been engaged too and are helping to build owl nest boxes which are hoped to be placed in mature trees along the route, setting up a large linear scheme and giving declining species a much needed boost. If you are a land owner along the route and would like to participate in the scheme then please come forward.



Other activities for improving biodiversity will include, tree planting with school children, creating additional habitat with bug hotels and standard bird and bat boxes and helping to improve pond habitats for newts and eradicating invasive plant species. Engagement with schools, conservation groups and local charities is

key and it is hoped that volunteers will be able to help with these enhancements, helping to promote a wider understanding of the local environment and its species. **JE**

2017 litter pick

Thank you to the six parishioners who attended the official annual litter pick on 25 March and who collected six bags and one tyre! Thank you also to those who could not attend but who chose to collect litter on alternative days. I believe that there is less litter in the parish than has been seen in previous years. This could be due to the good work undoubtedly done throughout the year by parishioners out walking and (hopefully) by a reduction in the deplorable act of throwing cans out of car windows. **MF**

Recycling

The new waste contract came into force on 1 March and has meant some changes to the way we recycle.

Green waste is now collected on a subscription only basis and green wheellie bins are available from NSC at a one off cost of £25.

For further information on recycling and waste, call NSC on 01934 888 888 or visit n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/waste

Backwell Refuse Tip

Summer Opening Hours

(1 April – 30 September 2017):

* Mon, Tues & Fri – 10:00 – 16:00

* Saturday – 09:00 – 16:30

* Sunday – 09:00 – 16:00

* CLOSED Wednesdays and Thursdays

Brockley Lecture 2016

The tenth Brockley Lecture was given in St Nicholas' Church, Brockley, on the evening of 10 September 2016. The lecturer was Prof. Russell Foster, F.R.S. of the University of Oxford and his lecture was titled "*Body Clocks*".

The lecture was excellent and the subject, fascinating. It appealed to the audience partly because of Prof. Foster's ability to bridge the gap between high quality science and everyday human problems. We came away with a proper appreciation of the importance of adequate sleep and some of the dire consequences of sleep deprivation and disturbance of the natural diurnal rhythm.

The level of interest was obvious in the questions from the audience which Prof. Foster answered in masterly fashion. The weather and the meal after were of the traditional and expected quality. It is remarkable that, for every lecture in this series, the evenings have been sunny and dry!

This was the last of this series of Brockley Lectures as Conny and Antony Ridge are stepping down. Julian Ridge gave a very kind vote of thanks and Antony praised the magnificent lecturers and supportive audiences in an endeavour that could have failed, but didn't.

This is not the end as it is hoped and planned that the Brockley Lecture will

continue under the organisation of Blair Chadwick of the Churches Conservation Trust, with help from local people. Conny and Antony wish them every success with this venture! **AR**

What's On

St Bridget's Church plays host to a group of talented creatives during the **North Somerset Arts Week** to run from 28 April to 7 May 2017.

There is a rare opportunity to view the **contents of the Armada Chest** in St Bridget's on Saturday, 20 May during a coffee morning at the Old Rectory from 10:30 until 12:00.

A **Strawberry Tea** is being held at Youngwood Farm on Saturday, 22 July from 14:30 to 16:30.

St Bridget: The development of the English Parish Church: A talk by Sir Paul Britton, distinguished civil servant and expert on churches to include a buffet supper on Saturday, 17 June. For tickets or any further information on the above events, call Tony on 01275 853138 or Kathy on 01275 463702.

Footpath News

Three old stiles are due to be replaced in the next few weeks with self-closing, pedestrian gates and one with a kissing gate on two of our most used footpaths, greatly improving accessibility. One stile is to be replaced along footpath LA4/6 north of Brockley Way close to the pond. The others are situated along LA4/11 that runs NE alongside Manor Farm off Brockley Lane making a 90° turn to the SE to intersect Main Road.

Thanks go to Mr Baber and Julian Ridge for undertaking to install the gates, and to NSC for providing two of the gates at no charge.

On our website, you are able to view and download a map of the 6.3km network of footpaths throughout the parish.

Parish signs and boards

You may have noticed some new additions around the parish in the last few weeks.

The PC have replaced the wooden noticeboard on Chelvey Lane with a larger, weather resistant board that can take two A4 pages so no more magnifying glasses required to read the minutes!



A new sign has been installed on Brockley Lane approaching Brockley Hall from the traffic lights to warn motorists and cyclists alike of the concealed entrance to the left. It is sincerely hoped that this will reduce the number of serious near-misses that have been reported of late.

Parish Church of St Bridget's

Recent improvements: With Spring upon us, it is good to report that the extended facilities within the church are already proving useful. The organ was

moved from a central position in the Tynte chapel to its new home inside the Tynte Pew, thereby creating an open space equivalent to a small hall available for use by both the church and the local community. Already, the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council have met there. It will be hosting five exhibitors during the North Somerset Arts Week as well as the Harvest Festival Lunch on 2 September.

Over the last ten years, the one thought in the PCC's minds has been to provide a living church with a well maintained building fit for purpose for many years to come. These much needed enhancements come at considerable cost so it is essential we continue to ask for support from the Parish we serve.

The church as a venue: With a catering-sized kitchen, toilet facilities, good heating and lighting, and a beautiful lawn area large enough to accommodate a marquee for 100 people with fantastic views of the countryside, the church is the perfect venue for functions, meetings and events!

If you would like to book the church or discuss what we can offer, please call Tony on 01275 853138. **TS**

General election

The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming general election on **8 June** is Monday, 22 May. To check if you are registered, contact electoral.services@n-somerset.gov.uk or 01934 634909.

To register to vote, please go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Royal British Legion

Did you know the following services are offered by the Royal British Legion to anyone (or their official carer) who has completed a minimum of 7 days' paid service in any of the armed forces?

* **Admiral Nurses** – specialist dementia nurses supporting patients and families

* **Benefits, Debts and Money Advice**

* **Independent Living Advice**

* **Handy Van Service**

* **War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme** – help with claims related to injuries during service

* **Outreach**

* **Free Will-writing service**

To enquire about the support and services on offer, please call the Contact Centre on **0808 802 8080**, available seven days a week from 8am to 8pm.

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.

2017 dates: 2 May, 4 July, 5 September and 7 November 2017.

Agendas and minutes are available to view on the website and are posted on the noticeboards at Brockley Stores, Chelvey Batch and Chelvey Lane.

ALL WELCOME