

## Your council

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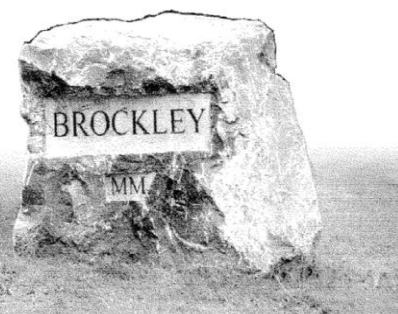
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# Brock's News



## THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

May 2023

Issue 21

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

#### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

The 129<sup>th</sup> APM was held at St. Bridget's Church on 27<sup>th</sup> March, and it was good to get back to a face-to-face meeting!

#### Chairman's Report

Welcome to this Annual Parish Meeting, the latest in an almost unbroken series since the first one in December 1894, held in Brockley Church with 10 people present.

Your Council has met 9 times in the last year, meeting in St Bridget's during the winter and St Nicholas in the Summer. We are grateful for permission to use the two churches for these meetings and for today's meeting as there is no other suitable place in the parish. There are 6 places on the Council and a part time Clerk. We have been very grateful for the input from our District Councillor, Steve Hogg, who, despite having many other commitments, has attended a number of our meetings and provides us with a valuable link with North Somerset Council Officers.

4 councillors are standing for re-election in May: Me, Tessa Jarman, Bryan Smith and Mike Fishwick. We will be saying goodbye to Martin Jarvis and Karen Bailey, and we thank them for their work on the Council. This leaves us with 2 vacancies and only 1 person has committed to stand so far. If you are interested in joining us please apply by 5pm on 18th April. We are particularly in need of someone to represent the Chelvey Batch/Main Road part of the Parish. Any place still vacant after April 18th can be filled by co-op-tion.

Looking back over the past year there are several activities that have not reached fruition, but a significant amount of preparatory work has been done.

I mentioned last year that that we had submitted a plan to erect slow signs on Chelvey Road and Brockley Lane to try to reduce the speed of vehicles on these two main through routes. These will now be installed next year.

There are a number of old finger posts in the parish and a cast iron boundary post on the A370. These are on the list for renovation by North Somerset Council

but await the allocation of funding.

The New North Somerset Local Plan to 2038 which will replace the existing out of date plans has been going through its consultations and will be adopted in December 2023

The appeal against the decision to allow Bristol Airport to expand to 12 million passengers per annum lodged by the Bristol Airport Action Network Coordination Committee (BAANCC) was rejected and the associated compulsory purchase of various plots of land near the airport has been approved. However, in his judgement the Judge was not unsympathetic to the appeal but considered that environmental decisions were for the government. BAANCC are therefore planning to appeal to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of environmental law and are seeking funding of £10,000 for this. Barristers don't come cheap!

**On the positive side**, we have obtained a grant from the Airport Community Fund for £1071.46 for a new notice board which has been installed outside Brockley Hall entrance and this has been popular with parishioners living in this part of the parish.

Last year we planted an oak tree to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and decided that the 4 established oaks should have similar plaques which have now been installed. They commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, King George Fifth's Coronation in 1911, Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee in 2002. We will discuss planting one to commemorate King Charles' Coronation but are running out of space!



As you will know there are a large number of houses being built in Nailsea and this will inevitably increase the traffic through our parish. Your Council decided that we need to have some baseline figures of traffic in Brockley Lane and Chelvey Road so that we could substantiate any future complaints of an unacceptable increase. We are fortunate in that a comprehensive study was carried out in July 2018 as part of the District Council's quiet lanes initiative and the relevant figures have been archived for future use.

Our footpath Network is in a good state and we are grateful to North Somerset Council for continuing to replace the old wooden stiles and kissing gates with metal gates. If you have any issues with footpaths, please tell Bryan or any Councillor.

We are, sadly, seeing more and more Ash die back disease in the parish and North Somerset Council took pre-emptive action to remove diseased trees along the A370 from the crossroads to the parish

boundary with Cleeve. It was unfortunate that this action, which involved closing the road for a few days, coincided with the flooding caused by the drains in Brockley Combe failing to take the flow from Greater Pot's Hole due to lack of maintenance since the last flood in 2012, which in turn caused Brockley Lane to be closed. The response from Gregg Brake of North Somerset Council was impressive and Brockley Lane was speedily repaired and reopened.

Parishioners have complained about the poor state of the bus stops on the South side of the A370 from the crossroads to opposite Brockley Stores. We have raised this with the Council, and they have promised to improve them. There is much emphasis being placed on bus usage in place of private cars to reduce CO2 emissions and you will be hearing about and seeing a number of new initiatives to encourage this. We are fortunate in that our local District Councillor, Steve Hogg, is intimately involved and will be giving a talk on this subject shortly.

Brockley Parish, which includes Midgell, Chelvey Church, Chelvey Pumping Station and Chelvey Batch, as well as Brockley Hall and St Nicholas Church area, approximately 120 dwellings, is rather spread out and as it only has the two churches as meeting places has tended to do things as separate units. The last time we had a Parish wide get together was the VE Day 50th Parish Picnic in 1994 which was a great success so we have decided to do it again for the Coronation of King Charles III. More about this later.

As usual at this time of year, Mike is organising a Litter Pick. Please

come and help, there was a tremendous response last year. It is on Saturday April 1st and we are meeting in the yard at Manor Farm at 10 AM. Some reflective jackets and pickers will be available.

The budget hasn't been published yet but if anyone is interested, Andy has provisional figures.

Finally, to end on a personal note, I have been Chairman of the Parish Council since 1998 during which time there have been 5 Clerks and I think 25 years is quite long enough, so I shall be standing down from that post in May. I shall remain on the Council unless voted off! I have enjoyed my time as chair, even if sometimes I felt a bit frustrated at how much influence we really have. The new Chair will be elected at our meeting on May 15th, please give them, and the whole Council, your support in looking after our lovely parish.

**Julian Ridge**

THE FULL SET OF DRAFT MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON THE WEBSITE.

### *Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) Bus Service*



At the Annual Parish Meeting District Cllr Steve Hogg gave an overview to the Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) Bus Service launched in North Somerset on 3 April 2023.

Operated by WESTlink, the DRT is a public bus service of 16 minibuses which can be booked to travel anywhere within its operating zone with no fixed routes or timetable. Journey booking is app based but with a phone option for those without smart phones.

"On demand" or book up to 24 hours in advance.

Not door to door but uses nearest actual or virtual bus stops.

Can link to existing rail routes and bus services, replace car travel and provide a service where buses not available.

Along with the BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan) initiative various road improvements are planned which will enable improvements such as making the X1 service between Bristol and Weston a 15 minute service. The initiative is planned to run for an initial 2 years to prove it's worth.

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST BRIDGET'S



The parish church of Chelvey and Brockley has been transformed by the renewal of the lighting system and suddenly looks lighter and lovelier than ever. "This glorious gem in our midst" is how the Dean of Wells described it on a recent visit. It does still require a great deal of support each year to pay its way not only for the building itself but to cover its Parish Share in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Our

regular services are at 9.15 am on the first three Sundays of each month. Please also check on the noticeboards or in the Backwell and District Magazine in case there are special services for festivals. Our website will also be a useful guide.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Parish Council meetings take place on the first Monday of the month (except August and December) and are held at 7pm. Venues will be either St Bridget's or St Nicholas. This is subject to change so check our website for up-to-date information.

### 2023/24 dates (subject to change):

5 Jun 2023	3 Jul 2023
4 Sep 2023	2 Oct 2023
6 Nov 2023	8 Jan 2024
5 Feb 2024	4 Mar 2024

Agendas and minutes are available to view on the website. **ALL WELCOME**

## 2023 Litter pick



Like many other parish councils, we organised an annual litter pick that took place this year on 1<sup>st</sup> April. We would like to thank the seven hardy souls who braved the wind and rain and gathered at Manor farm to discuss tactics and to get bags, a litter picker and a high-vis jacket. Chelvey Lane and Chelvey Road were impassable owing to flood water and yet eight full bags were still collected from other parts of the parish. Thank you also to those who could not attend but who still join

in by collecting litter on an alternative day and to those who collect throughout the year whilst out walking. If people see litter, they are more likely to think it is ok to drop more and so keeping on top of it means the annual pick is easier, but more importantly, our environment and wildlife benefit. Please note that fly-tipping can be reported on NSC's site

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/parking-travel-roads/street-cleaning/fly-tipping/](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/parking-travel-roads/street-cleaning/fly-tipping/)

**Mike Fishwick**

*Some memories of the time the American Army was stationed in Brockley*

In 1935 my grandparents, Walter and May Mitchell, together with my mother, Jean, came to live at Brockley Hall as caretakers. Mum told me they moved out when the war came as the Hall was being fitted out as a Maternity Hospital. That changed when the American Army came in. They had a transit camp in the field between Brockley Gardens and the Main Road, with the officers billeted in the Hall.

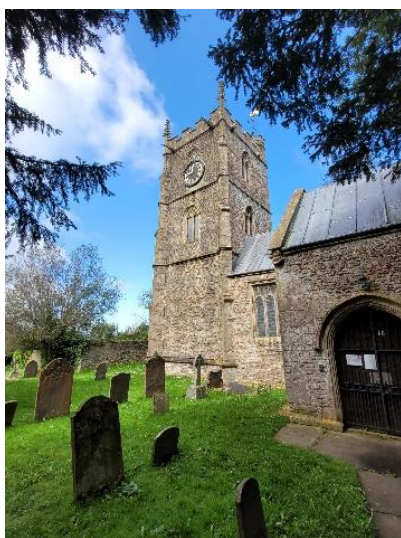
Grandad still looked after the grounds and kept an eye on things. One day he went in to find some of the troops had taken all the doors off their hinges and were about to remove the stair rails with the intention of breaking them up for firewood. He quickly made sure everything was put back where it belonged!

In 1942 my grandparents took over the Market Garden (in the old kitchen garden). There were quite a few daffodil beds around as they were one of the flowers picked for sale. One day Grandad came across some of the troops digging up loads of bulbs thinking they were onions which they planned to cook and eat! Not a good idea as daffodil bulbs are poisonous!

I remember being told about an air raid during the Bristol Blitz, Granddad went up onto the roof of the Hall and swept incendiaries off with a broom. During another raid, Nan was walking home from a friend's house in Littlewood Lane when a lone plane dropped bombs in the fields nearby to lose weight before returning home, Nan promptly dived into the ditch which, unluckily for her, was full of water!

**Claire Whiteway**

## *ST NICHOLAS CHURCH BROCKLEY*



Our local church is beginning to find its feet as a venue for performing arts, lectures, music and other niche community events that can benefit from its unique ambience and location. There was considerable concern that unless the local community became directly involved with the building, it would deteriorate and despite the annual December service could soon fall into disrepair. Any meaningful use as a religious centre is now unlikely and 'The Friends of Brockley Church' decided to promote the building as a low-cost community venue, but to maintain its ambience as an historic building and to actively maintain it in the condition it was

when it became redundant. The building is owned by the Churches Conservation Trust and The Friends' activities are dedicated solely to the maintenance and restoration of the church and the promotion of the CCT's aims, which fit nicely with our plans. To date we have had lectures and workshops on the way the church would have been used in mediaeval times, a lecture on Guy Fawkes, several talks and local walks relating the local legends and ghost stories, modern theatre, musical and storytelling evenings. The last event was a 'Chilli and Crumhorn' evening that was a full house with superb home cooked food and a wonderful group playing crumhorns, including the biggest crumhorn in the World! That evening alone raised £775 for funds and although the main aim of The Friends is to get the church used, the events are beginning to build a war chest for future projects. We have also held a maintenance day and done a large number of small jobs that greatly improved the church both internally and externally, and the recent kitchenette has enabled refreshments to be more easily provided.

There is now a small grant scheme available that is aimed at helping new projects and ideas for events. This is intended to cover basic costs of running a low-key event in the church as 'seed corn' funding to get an idea off the ground.

We have a Facebook page, a website is being built, we have an email address and there is a regular monthly newsletter distributed by email. If you would like to go onto the mailing list for the newsletter, please contact 'The Friends' at the address below. If you have an idea for an event or would like to use the

church as a venue for a small project, please do get in touch. As well as the regular Festival of St Nicholas (Patronal Service) in December, we hope to hold a Harvest Service in the Autumn. Details of events are in the Newsletter and on the Facebook page.

Although the intention is to have the church used as a community venue, it still remains a consecrated building and the overriding intent of the project is that everything done will be in keeping with the traditional ambience and use and that all activities will be mindful of its past history and respectful to those who have gone before.

Facebook :

[Friends of Brockley Church](#)

Email :

[enquiries@stnicholas-](mailto:enquiries@stnicholas-brockley.co.uk)

[brockley.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stnicholas-brockley.co.uk)

### *New Notice Board*



We are delighted to report that we have installed a new Parish Notice Board near to the entrance to Brockley Hall.

This has been made possible through a generous Grant from the Bristol Airport Environment Improvement Fund.

### *Stop Press!*

Following the recent elections our new Chair is Tessa Jarman and we are delighted to welcome Emma Folkes as a new councillor. We also express our gratitude to Julian Ridge for serving Brockley as Chair for the last 25 years.