

A Youth Club? For countless years we have had a weekly youth club in the village hall. Julie Dunn ran it for most of the time and handed it over a while ago. Now it sadly has faded away. There is still a limited amount of equipment at the hall . Is there anyone keen to try again? Are there children looking for a regular place to meet? Now there's an interesting project!

Housing for Senior members of Village Thank you to everyone who returned their questionnaire. Over 70% of respondents supported the idea, so we have formed a small working group of 6 to develop and investigate the viability of the concept. Initial thoughts are that it should be a mixed development for not only older members of the village, but also younger members, and it should be a mixture of houses or flats for both sale and rent. The location is always going to be a problem, and we may have to wait until the Neighbourhood plan is made, before any decision is finalised. We are currently contacting several bodies to investigate how the project may be approached and funded. If anyone is interested in joining our small band of 6, please contact Graham Wise or email gpwise@sky.com.

Barnwell Neighbourhood Watch is up and running.

An official Neighbourhood Watch framework has now been established to allow the village to be within the network of groups allied to, and co-operating with Northamptonshire Police. We are assisted and coordinated by NHW staff based at Wellingborough Police Station and we are able to receive local intelligence, national alerts and practical advice. We are also able to flag up and respond to local incidents and concerns, using the network to help us foster a greater sense of resilience and security within the village particularly as a means of providing reassurance and guidance to vulnerable residents. We would like to encourage people to become members of the local scheme, to be able to develop it within the village, allowing us to maintain Barnwell as a safe and secure place. You can join Neighbourhood Watch by logging on to: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk> and going to: find my local scheme. Our local scheme is: Barnwell (E0224). We are researching a non digital way of joining. John Forest 01832 742000.

BARNWELL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021/22

Dear Barnwellian,

First of all I would like to wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and New Year on behalf of all the members of the Parish Council.

Last year was hard for many but I think through the efforts of many individuals and the care and share group in particular the Barnwell spirit shone through. Helma and Caroline with the help of others have done amazing work. I would like to also pay tribute to the several village stalwarts whom are no longer with us and who we miss terribly. I hope their families will gain some comfort from knowing that our thoughts are with them and their contributions to village life have not gone unnoticed. We must move forward and hopefully use their devotion to our village as inspiration

We have some keen new Barnwellians who are getting involved and I hope they will feel able to continue to step forward but I realise it can feel like a closed shop. All village organisations which I know about are looking for new blood and will welcome you. There will hopefully be something in which you are interested included in the reports elsewhere in this newsletter.

I wanted to explain, clearly if I can, how the Parish Council gets money and where it goes. Skip this bit if you are aware! The Parish Precept is gathered by the North Northants Council as a small part of your Council Tax. Our Precept next year will be £ 10,785 . Last year we decided to keep the village Precept the same but this next year, with so many expenses going up, we have reluctantly decided we will need to raise the precept roughly in line with the North Northants rise namely 4.75 %

Where do we spend it? If you look at the Parish Council Website our very efficient clerk has put on a full breakdown of last year's expenses. Under Heather's leadership and with our clerk's help we have been able to obtain grants and gifts which have enabled the construction of the playground and

preparation of a Neighbourhood plan. We hope to use grant money already obtained to install more facilities at the recreation ground, village entrance gates and speed cameras (which work!). Another activity, probably taking up most Parish Council time, is the lobbying, emailing, cajoling of authorities to do things we feel are important. Finally we try to act as a pump primer/encourager for village activity. For example we hope to support the Jubilee Jollies group to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and support the newly formed Environmental Group along with organising a litter pick, Christmas lights and so on.

After 10 years of hard work and devotion to the job of Parish Council Chair Heather has passed the baton to me. I guess I should have known how many hours it takes, having been Chair before, but time may have made my memory fade. Heather has not only kept the council together but has been proactive on so many projects that there is not enough space to mention them all here. The councillors presented Heather with an Afternoon Tea Platter voucher and a book of Barnwell Photographs. Thank you Tim and other contributors.

Finally thanks to all who volunteer to help out in the village. This includes my fellow members of the Parish Council whose hours of work behind the scenes often go unnoticed. Particular thanks to Ted Croft who has kept the village green tidy for many a year, Julie and Dave among others for their litter picking, and to Mick Burns and his grandson for clearing the drains on Hemington road as well as his work keeping an eye on our many local footpaths. We have asked the council to clear leaves and summer debris from the Hemington road drains but fear this may be again down to voluntary work.

The council welcomes your input and ideas. You can find out when the next meeting is on our website or if you have an idea or question please send an email to the Parish Clerk, Nicki Phillips at barnwellparishclerk@gmail.com.

Best wishes *David Brown*

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The Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is moving forward and the next stage (No 8 out of 10!) is to submit the plan to North Northants Council. Thank you to those who sent in comments, the steering group has tried to incorporate your ideas as much as possible. There will be a final village vote once the plan has been passed by the local authority. Our volunteers have given many hours of their time to prepare the plan which sets out the village's aspirations, for the future.

It is promised that it will give the Parish more say on planning issues in the future.

A consultant has been employed but you need to know that grant money has been used for the cost of this exercise not the Barnwell Precept.

Barnwell Village Hall Committee 2021

It has been another fairly quiet year for Barnwell Village Hall mainly due to still having some Covid 19 restrictions in place, but we have had some bookings at the Village Hall, and some Hirers met on the Hall Field.

We had our first Committee Meeting in September 2021 and it was nice for the Committee to meet in person. It was decided at this meeting to postpone the Barnwell Committee Bonfire and Firework Event that we hold annually until November 2022 when hopefully all restrictions will be lifted and we will not be restricted on numbers.

Barnwell Village Hall is now open again for Bookings. For Enquiries regarding Hall Hire please contact: Caroline Marriott on 01832 273220.

Barnwell Bonfire Sunday 6th Nov 2022

We are always very impressed by the tremendous work put in by at least 50 volunteers at the bonfire event before, during and after the event. A great communal effort and achievement. We hope you will be able to help out again next year. It has become a big event and that brings its worries but we hope to divide up the preparation work more in the future. There is a lot to be done but we still feel that raising about £10,000 would take a lot of jumble sales!

David Brown & John Foster

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The Recreation Field

After the successful trial of growing wildflowers this year on the Field the Parish Council continued to seed another area! The wildflower seeds were funded by a donation from East Northants council and seed donated by Ashton Estate. Lately we have moved the mats again so the soil on the third area will also be ready for sowing in the spring.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Community group the PC is soon putting in a wooden bench on the field for people to sit and enjoy the surroundings. There is a further project on the way, where the Parish Council are installing some gym equipment along the edge of the recreation area so all you Barnwellians can get very fit. No excuses any more. Just watch this space!

Flooding Matters.

Following the flooding last December there has been a good deal of activity. Individual households at risk are more prepared, some drain repairs have been carried out along by the Old Reading Room and the Environment Agency have, at last, agreed to remove some silt from around the bridge area. The Parish Council is preparing an emergency plan which will include emergency measures for flooding. It is probably worth just saying now that if we get a reoccurrence (cross fingers we won't) then folk living up the "top" of the village would be encouraged to park at the Village Hall (if coming from Thurning) or on Church Hill (if coming from Oundle). When walking through the floods we need to be very cautious and avoid the areas where manholes could have been moved by flood water.

A book exchange in the phone box.

On a brighter note, it is hoped to set up a book exchange in the phone box and possibly a seed exchange as well depending on demand. We hope you will find this useful and reusing is a great environmental gain. Once the shelving has been installed we will need a volunteer librarian or two to keep the space sorted. Anyone interested? If anyone is keen then we could add a seed exchange as well.

Painting the bridges

Another idea which would surely have a positive impact on our village is to paint the railings on all the footbridges. There are, believe it or not, 7. This used to get done occasionally by the County Council but the gang who did this no longer exists so it falls to us. I know we set up a workday before lockdown and you may have volunteered then, but now we would probably be best to wait until the spring. If you are still keen or are a new recruit David would be pleased to put you down on the list.

Proposed warehouse development at Titchmarsh and Thrapston

You may well be interested in this development proposal. Here are two links where more information can be found. Link to proposed warehousing development at Thrapston (does not include the Glebe land) - <https://www.givemyview.com/resources/equitespark/boards.nov21.pdf> The STAUNCH website at <https://staunchcampaign.org/>. This is a campaign group. No official application appears to have been made at this point.

Little Elms Nursery.

Little Elms is a busy place bustling with small people and kind Staff. For those who are not aware the nursery and preschool can now accommodate babies and children up to school age in the generous space provided by the Barnwell Primary school building on Church Hill. Recently Little Elms supported the charity Children In Need. Families and staff donated cakes and everyone wore pyjamas on that Friday! They are proud to say that £85.85 was raised. On Thursday 25th November they are going to see a tractor over at the church car park and Rev. Cathy will come along if she can. They visited the local park last Wednesday and it was lovely to greet so many people on the way. Dee, the manageress, told us, "we waved the sticks we found and I made us a star from the sticks for the Christmas display we will have up in our Nursery window." Friday 17th December is a Christmas sing song with all the children and parents at around 1pm, singing the twelve days of Christmas but probably not the original version! Have a look at their website or contact them by phone on [01832 358085](tel:01832358085)

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. Such an occasion calls for a celebration. The Parish Council plans to plant a tree to commemorate the occasion but some of the Jubilee Jollies group who were formed way back, are talking about trying to organise a village event over the weekend of 2nd of June to the 5th but don't just leave it to them. Caroline Marriot would like to hear from anyone willing to help. At the moment they are waiting to check what is going on nationally before making any definite plans. You can phone Caroline on 01832 273220. In the meantime the Parish Council is looking if there are opportunities for any grant money.

Barnwell WI and Char and Chat

Barnwell WI continued to meet during lockdown as we proudly got to grips with technology and enjoyed camaraderie and interesting speakers thanks to the magic and joys of a zoom meeting. As the rules eased we were able to meet outdoors in the lovely space of the village hall field and a fabulous tour of the grounds of Barnwell Manor. We are delighted to be meeting once again in the village hall on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. (Second Thursday in January). New members welcome.

Char and chat is an afternoon session for ladies who no longer feel like turning out to WI in the evenings. We get together in Latham's Chapel for conversation and afternoon tea and activities on the first Monday of the month. (enquiries Kate Whight kate@consult54321.co.uk).

Barnwell Trees

A full inspection and survey of the trees on the recreation field and village green was carried out in January this year to assess their safety and to recommend any necessary works. The County Highways team have confirmed that their contractors will remove the basal growth on some the lime trees adjacent to the brook. This will be in line with the tree management plan agreed with the tree officer some years ago. Branches which came down in high winds on the village green and from the willow tree opposite no. 43 Main Street were removed by the parish council.

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Barnwell Environment Action (Group) or BEA

As a group of local people we have become increasingly concerned about Climate Change and how it will affect all our lives.

We are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful village where we can enjoy the natural surroundings. This environment needs our care and protection first of all. Secondly we should discover where and how we can take action where it is needed. All of us can take steps to improve our local Biodiversity. Anyone, young/old/ not so old is invited to join! We will be in touch!

The BEA will be organising some events and happenings soon. We hope that we can come up with ideas so that all of us can take action at home as well as in the wider community.

From a photo exhibition to protecting and planting trees (a community orchard maybe?) and increase wildflower areas. To share ideas on vegetable growing, collecting seeds, sharing ideas on energy saving, Wildlife gardening tips, making compost and so on.

Later on we are planning to make Bird boxes and Hibernators to attract more bees and insects into our gardens, and have some fun while we are doing it! We are also keen to support the local Parish Council's environmental policies and take part in their actions!

If you need more information or have some ideas that you would like to add please email: jeannemdebock@gmail.com

Environmental Policy

Barnwell Parish Council have approved and adopted an Environmental Policy with the aim of carrying out its activities with environmental efficiency and to ensure that wider environmental impact does not occur. The Parish Council aims to make a positive contribution towards protecting the local and global environment by building environmental concerns and sustainability into all of its policies and planning decisions. An action plan has been agreed and will be reviewed annually. The policy and action plan can be viewed on the website.

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