

VILLAGE GREEN

We would like to extend our thanks to Ted Croft who has continued voluntarily to mow the village green. To maintain the green to this standard would add considerably to the Parish expenses.

Thanks also to John Foster who helped David Brown to install the Christmas lights on the green and yet more thanks to Bob and Margaret for generously allowing us to plug the lights into their mains supply.

RECREATION FIELD

The Parish Council is keen to encourage more use of the Recreation Field. If you have any ideas for facilities which would be suitable for the field please contact any of our Councillors. We do have a few irons in the fire already such as the installation of football posts and creation of a pitch, but we are always open to suggestions, bearing in mind that our budget is severely limited unless we can obtain some grants.

OUNDL & DISTRICT CARE

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas appeal for Oundle & District Care we had 20 envelopes back (not a great number I agree but better than 4 last year) and we raised £215 the most for the last few years. The money goes to many local charities which as a community we benefit from eg first responders, heart stop etc. If anybody wants any equipment please contact me, Tess Foster, on 01832 274450.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman: Heather Hanlon
Vice Chairman: David Brown
Graham Wise
Geoff Shacklock
Nick Bould
Chris Soans

Parish Clerk: Nicki Phillips barnwellparishclerk@gmail.com

Many thanks to everyone who contributed articles for this newsletter.

BARNWELL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

Dear Barnwellian,

It is perhaps a little late to wish you all a Happy New Year, but nonetheless I hope that 2020 will be a good year for you all.

There are lots of informative items for you below which I hope you will find interesting, but unfortunately we start on a melancholy note. Sadly, Ron Rutterford passed away on Christmas Day after a long illness borne with bravery and stoicism. Ron and Pat ran the Post Office and village shop for many years and I know that he will be remembered by all in the village with great affection for the many kindnesses he showed to people. He is sadly missed and our sympathy goes out to Pat who cared for him so wonderfully during his illness.

This year we have unfortunately lost one of our Councillors from the Parish Council. Phil Holden has left us due to work commitments and we shall certainly miss the skills he brought to the table. We are due to have an election on 07 May this year and will need to fill this vacancy, but we are also keen to get some new blood in the Council. If you are interested in standing as a Councillor please contact our clerk or myself for details on how to apply. We hold bi-monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of the month starting in January.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Past and present Council meeting agendas and minutes, along with other information can be viewed at: www.barnwellparishcouncil.org.uk

Heather Hanlon (Chair Barnwell Parish Council)

BARNWELL WI

Barnwell W. I. continues to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall. We proudly boast members whose ages span 6 decades. This year's activities and topics vary from astronomy, to fascinator making, staging a musical, the history of Barnwell Manor, leather work and paella cookery. There are also added extras such as skittles evening and trips to the dogs and the theatre. However mostly we are about fantastic refreshments and great friendships.

New members always welcome just turn up on the first Thursday of the month.

For our former members who are no longer able or willing to turn out on cold dark evenings there is also our spin off get together in Lathams Chapel, Char and Chat takes place on the first Monday of the month.

THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH BARNWELL TRUST

A vacancy has arisen for a Trustee. The Trust is responsible for complying with Charity Commission objectives and also the administration of the Princess Alice Centre. It is a rewarding and worthwhile position being involved with an important building in our village. Experience in law and business would be helpful.

For more details please contact Judith Cowan, Trustee/Clerk telephone 273492, email judith.cowan@btopenworld.com or Pat Rutterford, Chairman telephone 272496 email patandron@myepost.co.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The draft plan is now nearing completion. We have been fortunate in obtaining a technical support grant to put together a heritage appraisal of the village which will be integrated into the plan. This work is now underway but could take a while to complete.

BARNWELL COMMUNITY GROUP

has organised community events during the last eight years to bring the community closer together. As a sub committee of St. Andrew's PCC, where surplus funds are raised, it has in recent years endeavoured to split these equally between promoting and supporting the Barnwell churches, and other suitable community initiatives. In January, the BCG proposed and the PCC approved the latest distribution of funds allocated to other community initiatives, totalling £3,550:

- 1) Church floodlighting £1,500 - St. Andrew's church had floodlighting for many years and it was appreciated by many. It was dismantled several years ago due to health and safety precautions. These funds, together with other contributions, will enable the floodlighting to be re-established.
- 2) Village entrance enhancements £1,000 - in the neighbourhood plan questionnaire concerns were expressed around the speed of traffic in the village. These funds will help support a Parish Council initiative to provide a more welcome entrance to the village whilst improving safety concerns.
- 3) Village bench £800 - to complement existing benches in the village.
- 4) Church wall £250 - a wall has collapsed and needs immediate repair as it is impacting graves in the churchyard and to avoid any damage to the property next door. The PCC are looking at the best ways to meet the costs of repair in full.

Geoff Shacklock, Chair of Barnwell Community Group

VOLUNTEER ACTION - www.volunteeractionoundle.org.uk

A representative from Volunteer Action has been invited to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on May 19th 2020, this is your chance to find out more about this organisation and how it can help to support the community.

BARNWELL ENTERTAINERS

This year's production from Barnwell Entertainers a comedy "Sandcastles" by Bob Larbey will be performed at Barnwell Village Hall on 26th, 27th and 28th March. 2020. Tickets are available from The Montagu Arms Barnwell and Lower Farm Bed and Breakfast and online from Oundle Box Office. Bob Larbey's other works include "Please Sir", "The Good Life" and "Ever Decreasing Circles".and the cast will include a number of new faces this year.

Sand Castles Synopsis

An Englishman's home is his sand castle. William and Margaret Patterson and Stan and Bernice Billet have holidayed in their respective beach huts for years. They don't exactly rule the waves but they have turned the area around their beach huts into a cozy little fiefdom. Then along comes Doug, the 'renter' of the middle hut, and his two nubile 'nieces' who just want to have fun in the sun. The regulars try to teach Doug and the girls their unwritten 'Laws of the Hutters' but they don't seem to give a hoot for beach hut protocol. Meanwhile, ordinary holidaymakers encroach on the 'Hutter's' beach space. Confrontation is inevitable..... will there ever be calm again?

BARNWELL BONFIRE THANKS

Great Show! Fantastic event! Fun and safe, Yummy food, Absolutely loved it!

These were just some of the comments about Barnwell Bonfire 2019. Congratulations to all the numerous helpers and everyone who supported the event in any way. We rely heavily on our local farmers for use of equipment and land so special thanks to them.

The end result was a walloping profit of £8,500. Barnwell can be very proud that it is able to put on such a successful event. You can view Barnwell Bonfire on Youtube thanks to Thelma's film making skills.

VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN – date to be announced – look out for posters!!

BARNWELL TREES UPDATE

Most of our trees, including the limes on the brook side are the responsibility of Northants County Council. The county have recently agreed to trim back some of these on the west side to allow better access down the village for lorries and vans so we are expecting some action soon. We are also asking for some loose hanging branches to be removed. This may cause temporary road closures.

We will again undertake some limited trimming of the basal growth ourselves as it has proved impossible for some time to get this work done by the council. If you would like to help with this please contact David Brown. In the meantime the P C have recently had the village green trees, for which we are responsible, checked and passed as free from fungus and this year we will again be employing a tree surgeon to remove any dead or dangerous boughs.

GRITBINS - If a problem is spotted with either of the bins maintained by Barnwell Parish Council please notify the Clerk. Please remember that the grit is for use only of public roads and paths and is not for use on private property. Problems with the bins maintained by NCC including requests for refilled can be made via FixMyStreet.

SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES

In response to residents' concerns over the speed of vehicles passing through the village, particularly during periods when hold ups on the A605 lead to traffic using the village as a rat run, the Parish Council has identified ways in which we might be able to reduce this problem.

In autumn last year we entered a bidding round for funding from Northamptonshire Police Commissioner's Office to assist local communities in reducing traffic nuisance and speeding. We are pleased to announce we were successful in securing sufficient funding to purchase and install 2 Vehicle Activated speed signs. These signs will be activated by vehicles passing through the village in excess of the 30mph limit and are intended to reinforce the legal limits, particularly in areas where drivers may not realise they are entering or are still within the village 30mph limit.

Concerns raised by residents have identified two areas where the signs will be initially located. In the vicinity of the cottages on Armston Road and on Well Lane at the junction with Castle View. These areas are particularly prone to speeding traffic passing through the edge of the village and this problem is made far worse when any problems occur on the A605 and drivers resort to using these roads as a rat run. The signs themselves will be solar powered which will enable us to vary the direction of the sign as required and to locate them in any other areas of the village where problems are identified.

In addition to the vehicle activated signs we are progressing the installation of Village Gateway features to more effectively demarcate the boundaries of the village and the beginning of the 30mph limit. These features tend to be a timber fencing structure on both sides of the road where possible, perhaps incorporating the village name and the 30mph sign. White lining can also be marked on the road and possibly a large 30. These features are well suited to a rural environment whilst often reducing the clutter of multiple signs at these locations.

Once installed the overall effect is to give both a reinforced sense of entering a built area and psychologically, a narrowing of the carriageway encouraging drivers to slow down. Working with Northants County Highways, site visits have taken place, the rationale and suitability has been approved and we are currently awaiting a design and costing from NCC.

The Barnwell Community Group has already pledged £1000 towards the cost of these gateways, and the Parish Council wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the Community Group for their very generous donation which will provide significant seed corn when raising the additional funding required, and it is hoped that once we have the detailed design and cost we can raise the remainder of the funding required fairly quickly. The Parish Council would also like to thank the Rifle Club for their kind donation of £500 towards our speed calming project.

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We are confident that once all of these measures are in place traffic entering and passing through the village will do so at a more appropriate speed thus increasing safety for all residents and visitors to Barnwell.

WANTED

Do you care about Barnwell?

**Do you want to do something positive
for your community?**

Can you think, listen and act locally?

**Elections to Barnwell Parish Council
will be held on 7 May 2020***

Why not consider becoming a Councillor?

To find out more please visit

<http://www.barnwellparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Or contact the Clerk

barnwellparishclerk@gmail.com

*Applications must be submitted by 8 April 2020

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