



PARISH OF
BROOKTHORPE
- WITH -
WHADDON

COMMUNITY NEWS

August 2024

HELLO! ...

Another edition of our newsletter and in this one we have an update of the building work that has been going on at the Hall and a coffee morning being held in September. Gill has written another 'In the garden', Nigel has shared a local walk and the Parish Council have a paid job opportunity.

If anyone would like to contribute to this newsletter then please do. We always welcome news from anyone within the community for the community - just email:

brookthorpevillagehall@gmail.com



We are looking for people to help maintain our Village Hall

It is such a fantastic building for the community but like with all old buildings, it needs to be kept maintained and unfortunately the cost to do this is increasing.

Do you have a skill or trade? Would you be willing to spare your time to help out with any odd jobs that need doing? Are you a qualified electrician, plumber, carpenter, decorator...anyone that would be happy to spare a little time as they can, to help keep this Hall open - would be great.

We are also always looking for new members to come and join our committee. We know people are busy - but it doesn't have to take up a lot of your time.

Please help us keep this historic building open, so it can be used and enjoyed by everyone.

Like to learn more or offer your services? Email: brookthorpevillagehall@gmail.com



Latest Village Hall Improvements



A lot has been happening at the Hall recently - you may have noticed a skip outside the last few weeks.

We have had to have the flooring under the old kitchen removed - replacing all the joists and floorboards as they had completely rotted through with damp. This has been a main priority for the committee to get fixed as it was a health and safety risk. We are pleased to say it is now done and ready to be sanded and varnished in the next few weeks - this was all possible due to funding received through the Build Back Better Councillor Scheme and the Community Infrastructure Levy fund - so a massive thank you for this.





I'm sure you will agree that it all looks a lot smarter - and safer!

It does mean that we now don't have a kitchen - but we intend to install a temporary one so any hirers will still have access to a sink, microwave and kettle etc.

If there are an qualified electricians or plumbers willing to volunteer and help install a small commerical stainless steel sink and heater that would be great!

So what are our next steps?

We need to repair the stone mullion window surrounds and frames as these are currently letting out a lot of heat

Replace our current heating system to a more effective and economical one (before winter sets in!)

Put a new kitchen into the store room

All of these are extremely expensive, so unfortunately can't be done straight away - however, the committee are currently applying for more funding through a number of grants. Applications have been submitted and more will be made over the next few months.

The process is slow and involved but we hope to be able to raise some of the funds to start the windows next.

If you would like to get involved in any way or are interested to learn more about our plans then please come along to our next meeting being held **11th September at the Village Hall.**

In The Garden



Summer 2024 – a bit of a wash out but look on the bright side; not too much watering to be done!

In Both early May and June we had a scorcher of a day – too hot to do much, but the rest of the months were poor. On the positive front the garden loved it. Everything was blooming and the greens were lush. The grass grew madly and finding a dry day to cut it proved interesting!

The saying goes ‘Oak before Ash, a bit of a splash. Ash before Oak, we’re in for a soak’. But the Oak was in full leaf before the Ash this year so no-one told mother nature. All trees, now fully leaved, look lovely and cooling on the those few hot, sunny days,

Late June and everything started growing. Beetroot, Onions, Runners, all shot up; Strawberries ripened and Red & Black currants too. The roses were full of flower and some are still blooming now. Herbaceous perennials shot up and flowered profusely. Geraniums and Geums had their ‘Chelsea Chop’ and have rewarded me with another mass of flowers.

July started as a bit of a washout, and chilly! But the sun has shown its face a few times and the garden is blooming regardless. Oddly the onions started to rot at their bases even though the ground was dry so they had to come out but this gave room for the Cauliflowers and Broccoli that were straining in large pots. Some late rows of chard and I’m set up for the early part of the winter and into February with the broccoli.

The ‘late’ summer flowers are now filling the garden. Verbena, Buddleia, Lavender, Alliums, and the climbing roses still going strong. And getting ready for later are the Sedum and the plums.

If anyone should want some Sedum ‘Autumn Glory’ please ask; mine grow madly and I’ll have to split them this year to stop them taking over!

Happy Gardening!

Gill



FANCY GOING ON A LOCAL WALK?

Nigel Bone has kindly shared details of a local walk you may want to try:



Brookthorpe / Harescombe (3 miles approx.)

1. From Fagins, walk a few hundred yards up Horspools Hill.
2. Approaching Styles Lane look out for public footpath sign on the right. Go over the stile and walk diagonally across the field to another stile.
3. Go over over the stile – cross the road; go over another stile.
4. Follow the hedge on the right until you come to a stile – go over it.
5. Follow the hedge (now on your left) until reaching a footbridge
6. Cross the footbridge and follow the path across 2 fields until you reach a farm gate which is opposite Harescombe Church.
STOP FOR BREAK
7. From the church follow the road for about 100 yards until you see a footpath sign on the right.
8. Follow the path down some steps and into the field.
9. Turn right and then straight on – keeping the hedge on your right.
10. After ½ mile or so after crossing some stiles you will come to Daniels Brook Cottage.
11. Cross over Haresfield Lane via a stile – follow the line of Daniels Brook on your right.
12. Cross a footbridge on your right; then turn left which will take you to another stile.
13. Make for metal gate a few hundred yards across the field.
14. Go through the gate and turn left – make for kissing gate.
15. Go right through the kissing gate; head for another gate.
16. Go through the gate; then another kissing gate which leads to St.Swithun's churchyard.
17. Come into Stroud Road turning right which will bring you back to Fagins.

WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL

Sunday 8th September (10.30am) - We are holding a coffee morning and cake sale. A great opportunity to meet your neighbours (new and old!), see the improvements made to the Hall and raise some funds.

COFFEE MORNING & CAKE SALE

A chance to meet your neighbours & see
the changes made to the hall so far!

**Sunday
8th September
10.30am - 12pm**



Parish Council News

The Parish Council currently have a paid job opportunity - details below:

BROOKTHORPE-WITH-WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Salary within grade SCP 15 – 21 - £13.45 - £15.02. per hour.

Part-time 8.5 hours per week – (flexible working hours if appropriate)

Location – Home

The Parish Council is seeking highly organised and committed applicants to undertake this key role which is responsible for all day-to-day organisation and management of the Council's services, facilities and finances. You are expected to be enthusiastic, flexible and community-focussed with excellent leadership, management, administrative, inter-personal, accounting and IT skills in order to work successfully with Councillors, external organisations, stakeholders and the community. Ideally you should possess the CiLCA qualification and have a sound understanding of local authority organisation and management, however training can be provided. Some evening meeting attendance is required. We offer excellent nationally based terms and conditions of employment for this part-time post which involves evening and very occasionally weekend attendance.

Please email [brookthorpe@gmail.com] for more information and an application form.

Closing date for applications: 27 th September 2024

Interviews will take place during the week commencing 7 th October 2024

Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon Parish Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Parish Concil News

www.brookthorpewithwhaddon-pc.gov.uk

WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF MORE COUNCILLORS

We really need your help.

Following the recent Local Elections held on May 2nd , there were four individuals who stood as Parish Councillors for Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon Parish Council. There are positions for six Councillors. The four nominees were appointed as Parish Councillors as 'unopposed'. We can appoint a further two Councillors as 'Co-opted Members' if anyone feels they could support the Parish Council and should they qualify.

Our 'Quorum' for meetings is three Councillors, so only having four is a bit thin should Councillors be unavailable.

Your Councillors are:

John Hendry – Chairperson

Paul Gaze – Vice Chairperson

Rhodri Rhys – Councillor

Eric Hibbert - Councillor

If anyone can spare the time and would consider stepping forward to support your community - please do. There are many challenges ahead - not least the proposal to develop Whaddon Fields with up to 3,000 home - and without the Parish Council we will have no voice.

If you would like more information or to speak to one of your Councillors please contact:

clerk@brookthorpewithwhaddon-pc.gov.uk

Call: 01452 536940

Or go to our website (address above) for more information

Paul Gaze, Vice Chairman

The Parish Council are looking for quotes for the repair of the bus shelter on the NORTH side of the A1473 at Whaddon (near Pound Farm) If you or someone you know maybe interested in quoting for this work, a full work scheme can be obtained from the Clerk at brookthorpe@gmail.com References will be required and followed up.

We Hope You Have Enjoyed Our Newsletter!...

Any budding reporters out there?...of any age!

If you have any articles you think would fit well into this newsletter then please email us on: brookthorpevillagehall@gmail.com

Or even if you have any ideas to improve it - we welcome your thoughts, as this is a newsletter for the whole community.

Thank you for reading this and keep an eye out for our next one