



PARISH OF
BROOKTHORPE
- WITH -
WHADDON

COMMUNITY NEWS

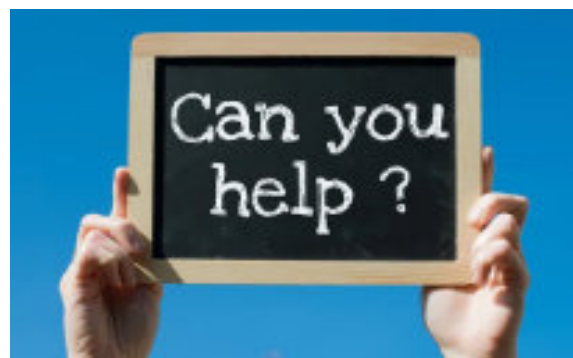
October 2024

HELLO! ...

Another edition of our newsletter - you'll find information on what's next on our 'To Do' list for the Hall, an update from both the Parish Council and St Swithun's Church.

We have our Xmas Fayre on Sunday 1st December and would love to see as many people there as possible. The Church are also looking to hold a Carol Concert on Weds 11th Dec. Details of both further on in this newsletter.

Finally...Kate Hughes who lives in Brookthorpe is doing a 5 day trek in the Himalayas to raise money for breast cancer - read her story and find details of how to donate.



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.

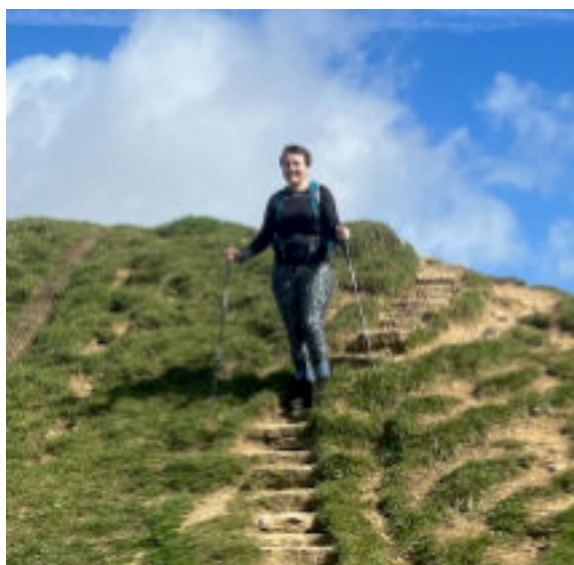
Like to learn more or offer your services? Email: brookthorpevillagehall@gmail.com





CoppaFeel 5 Day Trek to the Himalyas - Kate Hughes

On 9th November I fly out to the Indian Himalayas to take part in a challenging 5 day trek for the charity CoppaFeel with 120 other people, including a number of celebrities. My team captain is Emma Willis, other celebrities taking part are Giovanna Fletcher, Sara Davies, Angela Scanlon and Olympian Erins Kennedy.



CoppaFeel is an amazing charity which raises awareness of breast cancer, especially in young people to stop late diagnosis and give everyone the best chance of survival.

This is going to be particularly challenging, both mentally and physically for me as I was diagnosed with Stage 2 Grade 2 breast cancer in January 2023, and subsequently had surgery to remove the tumour and my lymph nodes, 5 months of chemotherapy and 15 sessions of radiotherapy before I received the all clear! We moved to Brookthorpe in July 2023 in the middle of my treatment.

Any donations for CoppaFeel would be absolutely amazing and they all help motivate me to get out there and get moving!

Please visit Kates justgiving page:

www.justgiving.com/page/kate-hughes-1704822538262

Hopefully in the next newsletter we will be able to report on Kates amazing journey. Good luck Kate!

Latest Village Hall Improvements



Progress on the Hall has slowed down whilst we try and raise more funds.

Our next big job is to repair the stone mullion window surrounds and frames as these are currently letting out a lot of heat. We then need to replace our current heating system to a more effective and economical one. All of this ideally before it gets too cold, as the Hall really does lose a lot of heat and is not great when we need to hire it out all year round.

Unfortunately we have not been successful with our National Lottery application. We were asking for a lot, so knew this would be a challenge especially with so many other organisations/charities etc needing help too. However, we remain positive and will keep trying to raise funds, albeit smaller amounts - which means things will have to be done in stages with the most important being done first.

If anyone knows of any funding/grant opportunities or would like to lend a hand in helping raise the funds, please do let us know as we are only a committee of 4 now, so any extra help is always welcome.

Some good news though - we now have a temporary kitchen which is working well and means we have been able to hire out the hall on many occasions since we had the floor done.



WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL

Sunday 3rd November (11am) - Dream Garden are hiring the Hall for a Psychic & Craft Fayre. This is not a Village Hall fundraising event but we wanted to let everyone know this was happening and you are more than welcome to come along.



Brookthorpe Village Hall, Stroud Road, Brookthorpe, GL4 0UR.
Sunday 3rd of November 2024. From 11.00am to 5.00pm

Psychics
Mediums
Crafts & Jewellery
Therapeutic Massage
Tarot
Palmistry
Healing

Mobile number: 07580 957 437
Email address: janetandjohncopestake@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL

Wreath Making - 8th December: Rebecca hired the hall last year for her wreath making classes and they were a huge hit. She is coming again and has asked that we let everyone know so you can book direct with her now. There is an adult session in the evening and a family session during the day. Details on how to book are below:



WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL

Sunday 1st December - Please come along to our annual Xmas Fayre. It will be great to see as many of you there to help raise much needed funds for our Hall.

Please note, that this year we will still be doing a raffle but it will be slimmed down. There will be about 10 prizes and tickets will be available to buy on the day.

We will sell some tickets door to door but unlike previous years, we may not be able to get to everyone. Our committee has reduced to just 4 now and we do struggle to find the time to organise the fayre and sell tickets too.

We are aware that the raffle generates a lot of money for the Hall, so if anyone would like to sell tickets on our behalf then please do let us know by emailing: brookthorpevillagehall@gmail.com. Any help is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to buy tickets prior to the event and no one has come to your door - again, please just email and we will endeavour to get them to you.



WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL

Outdoor Play Sessions for 1 - 4 Year Olds - Every Tuesday and Thursday there will be outdoor play sessions for 1- 4 year olds (babies welcome) - starting Tuesday 5th November at the Village Hall.

Sarah is hoping this will become a regular thing as we have an amazing and safe outdoor space for young ones to enjoy.

If you are interested or know someone that may be please get in touch with Sarah (details below) as it would be great to help make this a success.



In The Garden



Well, what a summer! Hot, cold, wet, dry. Some things loved it and others not so much.

Generally apples did well, as did the plums, but the pears had nothing on them! Obviously something was missing this spring!

Many plants seemed to do their 'thing' very quickly but also re-flowered later in the season. The roses are still trying now in mid October.

The sedum are HUGE and flowering madly; covered in bees and hover-flies.

The broccoli is doing well, the cauliflower not so much; possibly too close together but the sheep enjoy the outer leaves. They may be getting more!

I had a good crop of tomatoes in the greenhouse, for that all important tomato salad (just add salt and olive oil), and I've taken to growing little cucumbers; they are prolific and ripen much quicker than the big ones AND don't go squishy in the fridge quite so quickly!

Now is the time for bulbs. Snowdrops, crocus, daffs, tulips, iris, allium, garlic, onions. Get as many in as possible, wherever you can. In the garden or in pots. They are one of the first things to appear in Spring, giving you that glimpse of the year to come; hope for the year ahead and confirmation that life is just under ground, ready to burst forth.

Wrap up warm and enjoy the nights in front of the fire. Plan your garden for next year and hopefully you've planted *something* to look at during the darker months!

Happy (thinking about) Gardening!

Gill



Parish Council News

www.brookthorpewithwhaddon-pc.gov.uk

Blocked Public Rights of Way

Unfortunately the situation with the blocking of EBR 25 and EBR 26 continues despite the Parish Council's best efforts. These blockings effect both landowners who cannot access their land and members of the public who legitimately wish to use the Public Right of Way.

Efforts are continuing with regular Multi Agency meetings taking place to try to find a solution.

Upton Lane

It appears that there are fewer large lorries using Upton Lane to access the building site at Matson. However, the problem with speeding continues. The Parish council are working with the Police on this matter.

Local Plan and Whaddon Fields

The Parish Council has until 23rd October to reply to consultation on junctions 12 and 14 on the M5 in relation to housing increase projected and the new targets under NPFF.

National Rail want to know the timeline for the closing of the level crossing at Naas Lane which is part of the S.23/2428/OUT application. They require the Public Right of Way to be closed before any occupation of the new home take place. They also require that the agreement with Network Rail is looked at before making use of the bridge for pedestrian use.

Clerk to the Parish Council

After 21 years of serving the Parish as Clerk to the Parish Council I am standing down at the end of November. A new Clerk has been appointed (please see next page).

It has been a privilege to serve your community and hope that a new Clerk will enjoy the position as I have over the years.

Anne Szabó

Clerk to Brookthorpe with Whaddon Parish Council

Parish Concil News

The Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 5th November will be the final meeting that the Clerk to the Parish Council Anne Szabo will be undertaking before her retirement at the end of November.

Anne has been our Clerk for 21 years, commencing her employment on 1st July 2003. She has been an able Clerk and has kept the Parish Council in good order and ensured that we are always operating and making decisions within the legal framework that Parish Councils are required to operate.

During her time there have been some major issues, inevitably around Planning Applications that have been very time consuming. The M5 Services being one, the Travellers site at Mount View, Nass Lane (a site that continues to have issues), and of course the proposed Whaddon Housing Development of 2500/3000 homes.

The Parish Council wish Anne all the best in her retirement.

Fortunately, the Parish Council has a replacement Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer starting employment on the 1st November. Tina Balgobin has previous experience as a Parish Clerk and is familiar to the workings of a Parish Council and we wish her all the best in her new appointment.

There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council and if you feel you could support your community and be coopted as a Parish Councillor then please contact the Parish Clerk or speak with one of your Councillors.

Information is also available on the Parish Council website:

www.brookthorpewithwhaddon-pc.gov.uk

Paul Gaze (Vice Chairperson)

St Swithun's Church

A meeting was held at the Village Hall on the evening on Wednesday 16 th .October at the Village Hall which was attended by a number of people living in the parish together with Meriel O'Dowd and Isobel Milne from the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT).

The purpose was to discuss long term aims for the building, ways of raising the necessary funds (estimated at £1.3million) to restore it to a good state of repair and also raising awareness of the needs of the church to the locality and wider area.

The CCT had commissioned a full structural survey, work on which had already begun.

It was noted that the church had been closed for some time due to safety issues – it was felt that firstly efforts should be made to try to organise some events.

As a first step in this direction, it was decided to try to organise a Christmas Carol Service on **Wednesday 11 th December commencing 7.00pm.**

As the church will not have been cleaned for some time, it will be necessary to have a working party to carry this out. It was suggested that this should take place during the day on **Wednesday 4 th December**. I would ask that if anyone has some spare time on that day – please come along around 10.00am.

Carol Services in the church have been held on many occasions in the past and have been both well attended and enjoyed by those who have come along. Events don't just happen – they require effort and commitment from those in the community. Could I ask that everyone gives this some thought – both in terms of the cleaning preparatory work and the composition of the service. For the latter we need people to read lessons, recite appropriate poems or contribute music. Most of all, I feel, we require contributions from children and young people.

Please get in touch with me if you can help or have any ideas.

Let's hope we can achieve a successful event for the whole community.

Nigel Bone

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