

Brocton Paper Chase

Issue 64

April-May 2022

SPECIAL EDITION QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE



See pages 6 - 10 for full details

This is a special edition of the Paper Chase, so that we can inform the village of the plans that are in place to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

There is some other Parish Council news to share before we get to the details of the plans, which we hope you will find interesting.

Parish Council Update

Annual Parish meeting – this meeting took place on Wednesday, 23 March in Brocton Village Hall and we were delighted to be joined by guest speaker, Sarah Bentley, SCC's Head of Environment and Countryside.

Sarah delivered an interesting update on Cannock Chase and all of the activity being undertaken by SCC – a copy of the presentation and responses to the questions raised by residents, who attended the meeting, can be seen on the Parish website;

<https://broctonpc.co.uk>

There is also a copy of the Chairman's Report, giving details of Parish Council activity for 2020/21 and 2021/22, along with a DRAFT Financial summary for the year 2021/22 – which is currently unaudited. The Parish Council will be independently audited in May.

Parish Council website – the Parish Council has a new website: <https://broctonpc.co.uk> SCC have developed this website for us, to ensure we remain compliant and they will host the website on our behalf. The Parish Council believes using SCC as our hosts will ensure greater resilience and longevity, which will ultimately provide better value for money for our parishioners.

Parish Council FB page – as we continue to embrace new technology and modernise our communication approaches with our community, we wanted to update you all with details of our own Parish Council FB page. This can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/Brocton-Parish-Council-103250108834956>

Please take time to visit and like the page.

Moving forward - we will post details and updates on both our website and our FB page and we'd be interested to hear your feedback and comments about both of the above.

Replacement defibrillator – as many of you will know, the defibrillator housed in the phone kiosk at the Cannock Road end of Sawpit Lane was vandalised and stolen before Christmas last year. The Parish Council has had to submit a further insurance claim in order to be able to get the defibrillator, a valuable piece of life saving equipment, replaced. Our insurance company has recently approved our claim and work is now ongoing to get a replacement defibrillator installed. However, before this work is completed, we are liaising with AEDdonate regarding the installation of anti-theft devices, as we cannot have this equipment stolen again. Once the anti-theft devices have been agreed and purchased, the replacement defibrillator will be installed, along with the anti-theft devices.

We would like to ask our community to please take time, when you are in the area, to check the defibrillator and if you see any suspicious behaviour report this to the Police as soon as possible. We all need to do our bit to support the community in ensuring this life saving equipment remains safe and available for use should it ever be needed in an emergency. Thank you for your support.

Parish Community News

Civic Amenity visits (Bin lorry) – this very valued service has now resumed, as many of you may already be aware. The lorry will visit on Saturday morning, from 9.00-10.00am and the dates for the whole of this year are as follows:

- 19 March, 30 April, 2 July, 13 August, 1 October, 3 December

The lorry will park in the layby at the top of Chase Road.

Notification from SBC - The Saturday Civic Amenity Visit is for excess general waste only that cannot be disposed of using the existing options in place (blue, green and brown bins, use of household waste recycling centre). Please be aware that items collected on these Civic Amenity visits are not recycled or reused due to contamination issues caused by the unknown composition of waste deposited on each visit. This service is not for business/commercial waste.

For more details visit: www.staffordbc.gov.uk/binday

Parish litter pick – the Spring litter pick took place on Sunday, 3 April 2022. 11 Councillors and volunteers took part and between them they filled 24 bags of rubbish and collected some car parts too. This was a brilliant effort and thank you to all who willingly gave up their time to help keep the village looking tidy.



<https://broctonpc.co.uk>

Sadly though, litter continues to be a huge problem, as does **fly-tipping**, which was a topic raised with Sarah Bentley at the Annual Parish meeting by residents. Sarah advised that SCC are keen to keep on top of this, supported by District and Borough Councils. Sarah asked that any incidents of fly-tipping on Cannock Chase country park be reported to the Rangers. Residents can do this by using the reporting tool accessible on the SCC website: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Waste-and-recycling/flytipping.aspx>

Keeping your village litter free – following recent monitoring of discarded rubbish in the village and surrounding area it was noted that the far end of the village (towards Milford) did not have a rubbish bin, despite this area being a popular route for visitors, residents and dog walkers.

The Parish Council are pleased to announce that following recent discussions with Stafford Borough Council, led by Cllr Mrs Thomson, a bin has now been placed just off Pool Lane, on the corner of Brook Lane, at the Milford end. It is hoped that this will encourage people to use the bins to remove their rubbish from the area. Thank you to Cllr Mrs Thomson for her work on this.

Dog Fouling – sadly, there appears to have been an increase in dog excrement and used dog poo bags found on many routes onto the Chase from the village. We are proud to have many dog owners and walkers that use these routes to exercise, however, we wish to politely request that everyone is mindful of the impact that waste and rubbish can cause to the environment. Therefore, **Please bag it and bin it!**

Village Speed Watch – as always speeding through the village remains a concern. However, we are pleased to announce that six local volunteers have come forward to get involved in future speed watch initiatives. We will shortly be sending them details of training to be undertaken with Staffordshire Police. Once this is completed, we will begin to plan our initiative to slow traffic through the village. Thanks to the volunteers for coming forward and for helping us keep our residents, visitors and animals safe.

Open Gardens - are you proud of your patch? Is your garden a glorious kaleidoscope of colour? Are your vegetables a feast for the eyes? Would you be willing to share your personal patch of the village with others?

The Parish Council is looking into the possibility of an Open Garden event one afternoon in the Summer and would love to hear from you if you would be interested in opening your garden to visitors. We are not looking for plots worthy of a place at Chelsea (although they would of course be welcome), but if you love your garden, then so will everyone else!

At this stage, if you would be interested in taking part, please email your contact details to the Parish Clerk clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk **by no later than 31 May 2022.**

Wildplay event – held on 12 April 2022

Brocton Went Wild! - Children, parents and grandchildren thoroughly enjoyed the Wildplay Event run by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust in the playpark on Tuesday 12 April, despite the weather.

Everyone had a go at making a wooden bird box - even the youngest participants used the hammer to hammer in the nails - which will soon be put up on the trees in the park.

There was also den making - these were really tested in the rain and we found that using the climbing frame really helped to keep us dry - along with natural art, mud kitchen play, clay rabbit making, a nature trail and a bug hunt. We found lots of exciting things in the park, including some mushrooms and a VERY big worm!

Thank you to everyone who attended. The Parish Council are thrilled that everyone enjoyed the event (even with the very wet weather) and it is lovely to hear that the children are still talking about the bird box making and den building.

The event was possible due to a grant received from Cannock Chase AONB Sustainable Development Fund which was also used to purchase two bat boxes for the park.

We have more exciting plans for the park over the next couple of years so do watch this space. Our next project is to build a bug house in the playpark and this has started with the two pallets currently in the park. If your children or grandchildren would like to add twigs, cones, leaves or stones to the bug house, in between the pallets then please do so and we can keep adding to it.



Parish Community Events – 2022

The update you have been waiting for

Queens Platinum Jubilee June 2022

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Brocton Thursday, 2 June 2022 – Sunday 5, June 2022

Brocton Parish Council, together with the Brocton Village Hall committee would like to welcome all parishioners of Brocton to join together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the course of the weekend of Thursday, 2 June to Sunday, 5 June 2022.

We will be keeping residents up to date on the above events by using the Brocton Parish Council website and Facebook page, as mentioned earlier. Remember to like us on FB.

Thursday, 2 June 2022 – Beacon Lighting

The village will be taking part in the **Beacon Lighting** where more than 2,022 beacons will be lit throughout the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK overseas territories and the capital cities of the Commonwealth.

This is a 'once in a lifetime event' and one which is a going to ensure that Brocton goes 'down in the history books'. BBC Stoke Radio may even be broadcasting from this event!

As part of the celebration, the Village Hall committee will be having a BBQ which will sell food (hotdogs & burgers) and drinks, and this will be cash only.

Time – 7.30pm – 10.15pm (with the Beacon Lighting at around 9.45pm)

Location – Playpark on Sawpit Lane

This is a free event but for insurance purposes, it is ticketed so please request tickets using the form included in the Paperchase.

Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult and this is an alcohol-free event (so please do not bring your own).

There is no parking available at the park so all residents are encouraged to walk to the event or arrange to be 'dropped off' near the park, so as to avoid parking at or near the park.

If anyone wishes to join us but may have difficulty getting to the playpark (no matter what the difficulty!) then please contact the Clerk (clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk) and we will do our very best to find a way to get you there.

Friday, 3 June 2022 – Coffee Morning

The Village Hall will be holding a **Coffee Morning**, which will be a lovely opportunity for the community to come together. The memory boards (more details below) will also be available to view during this event so why not pop in for a cup of tea/coffee, a scone and a chat with friends.

Time – 10.00am – 4.00pm

Location – Brocton Village Hall

Saturday, 4 June 2022 – Time to Party!

The Parish Council applied to SCC for a road closure around the village green on Saturday and Sunday and we are delighted to say that our application has been approved, which also has the support of affected residents. This will allow for the village green to be a focal point for celebrations over the 2 days and all residents are encouraged to take the opportunity to safely congregate on the village green to enjoy themselves, there will be music available – follow the Brocton Community FB page for more information about the music, which a local resident has kindly offered to provide, as you may be asked to help create a ‘Jubilee’ playlist. The village green will be ‘decorated’ to reflect the celebrations.

To ensure that all ages can celebrate the Jubilee we are holding a **Children’s Party!** This will include games, music (with a DJ) and crafts. There will also be: -

- a royal fancy dress competition so please come dressed as a Queen, King, Princess, Prince or even a Jester!
- A Crown Parade – so please bring your own Crown (or even make one)

Time – 2pm to 3.30pm

Location – Brocton Village Hall

This is a free event but for insurance purposes, it is ticketed so please request tickets using the form included in the Paperchase. If your child has any dietary needs then please include this in the ‘special requirements’ section on the ticket form.

Please note that there must be at least one responsible accompanying adult, who stays for the entire event, to every three children.

In the evening, why not join your fellow residents to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee with a showing of the **‘Platinum Party at the Palace’** at the Village Hall. There will be a bar and bacon butties available – come along to see the world’s biggest entertainers join together to perform in front of Buckingham Palace.

Time – 7pm start

Location – Brocton Village Hall

This is a free event but for insurance purposes it is ticketed so please request tickets using the form included in the Paperchase. This event is for both children and adults.

Please note that the bar and food purchase is cash only.

Sunday, 5 June 2022 – BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

We are rounding off a weekend of celebrations by taking part in the **BIG JUBILEE LUNCH**. We are inviting all residents to take a lunch, picnic or afternoon tea outside to celebrate with friends and neighbours in the village.

As part of this, entertainment will be available at: -

- Village Hall – memory boards/history talk about the local area
- Playpark – Bubbles

Again, further details of the entertainment (including additional entertainment) will follow on Facebook.

An ice cream van will also be travelling between the 'sites' for an extra special treat so don't forget some change.

Time – between 12pm and 4pm

Location – the Parish Council are going to recognise the following 'sites' for the BIG JUBILEE LUNCH, however, parishioners are also encouraged to hold their BIG JUBILEE LUNCH (picnic or afternoon tea) in their garden or on their drive: -

- Playpark on Sawpit Lane
- Village Hall
- Green at Sherbrook Close
- Village Green
- Brook Lane (Milford end) – near to the barrier onto Cannock Chase
- Old Acre Lane – the end towards Brocton Pool

Please ensure that when using any of the 'sites' or setting up your own location for the BIG JUBILEE LUNCH you keep everyone safe and away from roads or vehicles – we do not have plans to shut any main roads within the village.

<https://broctonpc.co.uk>

As part of this celebration, the Chetwynd Arms will be delivering Afternoon Teas. These will include a selection of finger sandwiches, cakes, scones, clotted cream and jam for a cost of £10.95 per adult and £7.95 per child (including delivery). Please contact the Chetwynd Arms directly to book.



Again, if anyone wishes to join us but may have difficulty getting to the playpark (no matter what the difficulty!) then please contact the Clerk: clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk and we will do our very best to find a way.

Weekend Celebrations

Over the weekend we would like to encourage parishioners to decorate their house or business to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Please also feel free to attach Jubilee or Union Jack decorations to the tree on the village green anytime from the end of May, ready for the weekend's celebrations.



The Village Hall will be showcasing 70 years of memories from Brocton throughout the weekend – these will be available to view during the weekend of events.

If anyone has any memories, they can add to the board please email these to:

photos@broctonvillagehall.org.uk

From Thursday, 2 June 2022 to Sunday, 5 June 2022 there will be a 'Brocton Badger Beacon Trail' through the village! Follow a map around the village, find the Badgers holding a Beacon and collect the letters to make a letter or phrase! To register for the trail please email – clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk. Further details are shown on page 10.

Could you design the Brocton Badger Beacon Trail mascot?!



As part of the Brocton Badger Beacon Trail, the Parish Council are running a competition to design the Brocton Badger to be used in the trail! This competition is open to all children (aged 18 and under) living in the village, and the task is to design (on an A4 piece of paper by drawing, colouring or painting) a **Badger holding a Beacon – see example.**

Please take a scan or photograph of the design and send it to our Parish Clerk at clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk

All entries must be submitted asap and the winner will be chosen (by either our SBC or SCC Councillor) during the next Parish Council meeting.

The design will be used by the Parish Council for the Brocton Badger Beacon Trail! The design may also be used on any memorabilia designed by the Parish Council, or for other events being run over the weekend!

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General Information of Interest

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Staffordshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/staffs> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Staffordshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

<https://broctonpc.co.uk>

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking.



Showing our support for the people of the Ukraine

The humanitarian situation in Ukraine is increasingly desperate as people are forced to flee their homes because of conflict or live in fear for their lives.

To show our support for the people of Ukraine we would like to invite residents of Brocton; adults and children, to add Ukrainian flags, messages of peace and blue and yellow or sunflower (the national flower of Ukraine) arts and crafts around the truck of the tree on the village green, alongside the yellow daffodils already on display. Please free feel to attach your contributions now.

Across the country, everyone wants to do their bit to support the people of Ukraine affected by the conflict. Below are details of how you could help:

Financial donations – if you want to donate money, there are a number of charities providing humanitarian relief in Ukraine including:

- Ukrainian Red Cross – <https://redcross.org.ua/en/donate/>
- Unicef – <https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/donate-now-to-protect-children-in-ukraine/>

To check if other charities are reputable enter the charity's name and registration number at <https://www.gov.uk/find-charity-information>

Donating essential supplies – organisations accord the UK are gathering essential supplies, such as clothes, first aid and sanitary products. Many charities and community groups will have lists of items they need. A Stafford Facebook group called 'Stafford and Surrounding Towns Supporting Ukraine' has been set up to help local people and businesses donate all sorts of things and funds. This is the link, if you wish to join the group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/635452931077047/>

<https://broctonpc.co.uk>

Apply to be a sponsor – the Government will be launching a new sponsorship scheme to make sure that Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homes have a route to safety.

The scheme will match people, charities, businesses and community groups to Ukrainians who do not have family ties to the UK. More details on the scheme can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine>

Updates from Staffordshire County Council

“Aiming High” programme

The County Council is relaunching its “Aiming High” programme of activities and short breaks for children/young people aged 0-18 years with a special educational need/disability (SEND) who live in Staffordshire.

The great news is that the children do not need an Educational Health and Care (EHP) to book onto the activities. It is recognised that many families are struggling to get a diagnosis. The activities are designed to build confidence and independence and cover a range of abilities from autism to being physically disabled.

Some activities are open to the whole family while other activities are suitable for children and young people to attend independently. At least one free activity is available every month with extra during the school holidays. Activities include sensory experiences, day trips, sports, youth clubs, nature and outdoor activities and much more. For more information, please visit

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/aiminghigh

Information has already been posted on:

- Facebook SEND Local Offer page: [\(8\) Facebook](#)
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/StaffordshireCC/status/1509802774682345472>
- Instagram: [Staffordshire County Council \(@staffordshirecountycouncil\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Spring into learning something new



A whole range of new community learning courses have been released this month for any adult resident aged 19+

The mostly free courses cover all sorts of exciting topics, including art, gardening, digital skills, computers and IT, woodworking and crafts, sign language, family history, animal care, outdoors and nature as well as specialist courses focussing on skills to help people into work, nab that big

promotion or start a business of their very own.

And not forgetting our collection of family learning courses, designed for families to learn together, and which have been shortlisted for a national award.

More details can be found by visiting: <https://staffordshirecommunitylearning.org.uk/>

Commonwealth Games coming to Staffordshire

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games are set to take place from 28 July to 8 August. Staffordshire will play its part by hosting two events:



3 August 2022 – mountain bike event at Cannock Chase Forest.

4 August 2022 - part of the cycling time trial event will be welcomed in South Staffordshire.

Both events will bring some of the best athletes in the world to our county.

<https://broctonpc.co.uk>

We're working with Cannock Chase Council, Forestry England, South Staffordshire Council, and the team at Birmingham 2022 to prepare for the games.

There will be opportunities for our communities to get involved in this amazing summer festival of sport on our doorstep. Sign up to receive email updates:

<https://publicgovdelivery.com/accounts/UKSTAFFORDSHIRECC/signup/31816>

Useful Contact Numbers:

Staffordshire Police Non-Emergency Number: 101 www.staffordshire.police.uk

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111 you can call this number anonymously with information about crime.

Neighbourhood Watch Membership Local co-ordinator: Cllr Robin Bates – Tel: 01785 661518

Staffordshire County Council: www.staffordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 111 8000

Stafford Borough Council: www.staffordbc.gov.uk Tel: 01785 619000

Deer Casualties: Telephone Staffordshire Police non-emergency number: 101

Good Neighbour Scheme. 07599 956939

To report fly tipping: grimewatch@staffordbc.gov.uk or call 01785 619402.

Who do I call if there is a power cut? If you need to speak to Western Power Distribution in an emergency, perhaps because you are experiencing a loss of power supply, you can use the following numbers: 105, from a landline or mobile or 0800 328 1111 from a landline or 0330 123 5008 from a mobile. * *calls to 0330 numbers cost no more than a local rate number from a landline or mobile.*

<https://broctonpc.co.uk>

Should you require any help or assistance with any matter you can contact any of the people below who will be happy to try to help:

Brocton Parish Councillors

Chairman: Cllr Robin Bates

Robinbroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Vice Chairman: Cllr Bethan Smith

Bethanbroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Cllr Emma Faunch

Emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Cllr Georgina Thomson

Geogrinabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Cllr Andrea Pugh

Andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Stafford Borough Council Representative

Cllr Andy Cooper

01889 881895

ACooper@staffordbc.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council Representative

Cllr John Francis

01785 665490

john.francis@staffordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Theo Clarke

Tel: 01785 252273

Email: theo.clarke.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.theo-clarke.org.uk

Clerk to the Council - Jill Davies,
29 The Crescent, Stafford ST16 1ED
Tel. 01785 598434,
Email: clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk

<p>WHO DOES WHAT: There are 3 tiers of Local Government in this area and 3 Local Councils with separate responsibilities, Councillors and budgets. The main services for each authority are:</p>		
<p>Staffordshire County Council:</p> <p>Births, Deaths, Marriages & Civil partnerships Business Advice, Support and care for adults Care for children and families Children and early years Community Education and learning Environment Health, wellbeing and leisure Heritage and Archives Libraries and Arts Roads and Highways (<i>including grass cutting & weeds</i>) Transport</p> <p>Telephone: 0300 111 8000 Email: contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk Website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Stafford Borough Council:</p> <p>Planning Applications & Advice Recycling, bins and waste Council Tax & Benefits Car Parking Road Closures, Abandoned Vehicles Street cleansing, litter & graffiti Parks, sport & fitness Housing & Neighbourhood complaints Business Rates, Licensing, permits & advice Environmental Health Community Safety Voting & Elections</p> <p>Customer contact: 01785 619000 Email: info@staffordbc.gov.uk Website: www.staffordbc.gov.uk</p>	<p>Brocton Parish Council:</p> <p>Grass cutting – throughout the village and at the Village Play Park on Sawpit Lane Village Play Park – maintained and owned by the Parish Council. Regular inspections of the park supported by volunteers Noticeboards – 3 located at various sites within the village Book Swop – owned and maintained by the Parish Council, with volunteer support Defibrillator – located in the phone kiosk, located at the crossroads with Sawpit Lane and the Cannock Road. Owned and maintained by the Parish Council, with volunteer support Planning – statutory consultee Village Green – owned and maintained by the Parish Council, with volunteer support Bus shelter – located on the main Cannock Road, owned and maintained by the Parish Council Community Speed devices – 2 devices, located along Sawpit and Pool Lane. Owned by the Parish Council with regular battery changing carried out by volunteers Community Speed Watch – equipment owned by the Parish Council</p> <p>Telephone: 01785 598434 Email: clerk@brocton.staffsc.gov.uk Website: www.broctonpc.co.uk</p>