

Brocton Paper Chase

Issue 66

November / December 2022

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS??

FATHER CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO BROCTON
SEE PAGE 9 for details



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Parish Community News

Remembrance Day

As many of you will know the Remembrance Poppy is an artificial flower to commemorate those who died for their country. Let us not forget our fallen heroes.



Thank you to Brocton WI for their wonderful display on the Village Green.

Brocton Parish Council has donated a Poppy Wreath which has also been displayed on the Village Green tree.



Brocton Free School Foundation - the Trustees of Brocton Free School Foundation are considering making a grant award to those young persons who have decided to carry onto further education – 17 plus (not 6th Form). The proposed grants would be to help with the purchase of books, etc. Grants would be in keeping with the funds available and would be a one-off payment.

To determine your eligibility, the questions to ask yourself are: -

1. **Are you a permanent resident of Brocton Parish?**
2. **Are you 17 plus and going forward to further education?**
3. **Are you already in further education and have not yet received a grant from the Foundation (this could be even up to your Final Year)?**

Brocton Free School Foundation is governed by strict rules of application and does not guarantee any applicant an award for applying. Should you fall into categories 1, 2 and 3, you would be wise to apply. If you are interested in being considered for such a grant, please write with full particulars, in confidence to: -
Mr R Mudway, 11 Pool Lane, Brocton ST17 0TR
Marking your envelope "Brocton Student".

If you have any queries, please phone: 01785 662868

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Parish Litter Pick – the Parish Cllrs held their Autumn Litter Pick on Sunday, 9 October and the total weight of litter collected was 65kg.



A good effort by all who attended – the Parish Cllrs were supported by volunteers and members of Stafford Litter Heroes.



Thank you to everyone for your support with this activity, even the young ones can help keep the village tidy, which is lovely to see!!

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Exciting News – YOGA has returned to the Village Hall.

From TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2022, Yoga returned.
CLASSES FOR ALL ABILITIES 10.30am to 12.00noon

To book a place please contact:
DIANE RALPHS BRITISH WHEEL OF YOGA TEACHER DIP/PRANAYAMA DIP/BWY
MEDITATION DIP

Email: diane.ralphps108@gmail.com
Tel: 01785 660417/ text only mobile 07709 613 107

Play Park Refurb – Sunday, 2 October

Several Parish Cllrs came together, on a lovely sunny Sunday morning in October and willingly gave up their free time to help refurbish some of the play park equipment and carry out some general maintenance. There was also some support from local residents, to help with tree maintenance, for which the Parish Council was very grateful. The park equipment certainly looks much better from a dose of TLC, as you can see from the pictures:





All those who helped were treated to home-made brownies, courtesy of Vice Chairman Cllr Beth Smith and the Parish Council wishes to say 'thank you' to those who came along to help.



More work is ongoing at the play park, as the Parish Council works to address matters that were raised during the Annual Inspection of the park. We have made arrangements with our grass cutting contractor to address some trip hazards that have been identified around various pieces of equipment and to re-turf the area of the goal mouth. In addition, a new metal basketball net will be installed at the basketball post.

In addition, we are delighted to inform residents that Lesley Badger has very kindly donated a bench to the Parish Council in memory of her husband, Lewis Henry Badger, who was a Parish Councillor for Brocton for many years. The bench will be located in the park and the work for the installation has started.



The Parish Council wishes to express its tanks to Lesley for her very generous donation. A plaque will be added to the bench to commemorate Lewis' contribution to the village of Brocton over many years.

Village Hall

Village Hall events – Brocton Village Hall Management Committee have advised of the following events that will be taking place for your enjoyment:

Christmas Bazaar – Saturday, 19 November from 2pm. Local craft businesses; Knightley Alpacas; cakes and cookies, a tombola and a raffle; pre-loved Christmas presents and a children's Christmas craft workshop with Brocton Parish Council. This sure to be a great afternoon for the family and we look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Meal – Saturday, 10 December from 7pm (for 7.30pm start). Tickets are available from the Post Office soon at a cost of £15 per person, which includes a Christmas Dinner.

Brocton Village Hall welcomes enquiries about hirings, both on an ad hoc and more regular basis, depending upon availability. Anyone wanting to hire the Hall should use the links available on the Contact Us - BVH (broctonvillagehall.co.uk) page or ring 01785 662868.

Civic Amenity Visit (skip lorry)

The skip lorry will visit the village on Saturday, 3 December, from 9.00am – 10.00am and will park in the layby at the top of Chase Road.

This is the last visit for 2022. Dates for 2023 have not yet been agreed, as soon as these have been confirmed, details will be included in the Paper Chase, the Parish Council website and the Brocton Community FB page.

Parish Councillor vacancies

There are currently 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. We need the support of local residents to help. 4 out of our 5 current Parish Councillors have busy jobs and 3 have young families and it is very difficult for them to juggle all of their other commitments alongside volunteering for their Parish Council, but they do it as they are committed to helping their community. If they can do it, why can't you – you only need to give up a small amount of your time to help?? Our Councillors say a commitment of approx. 2 hours per week, plus attendance at monthly meetings would cover what is needed. Please contact our Parish Clerk to express your interest clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk

Parish Community Events – 2022

Halloween – certainly came to the village and what a wonderful effort was made by all who joined in with the fun, well done everyone.



The children's prize was won by Imogen Taylor.

The adult's prize was won by David Hill.



Christmas 2022

Carol singing on the Village Green – the Parish Council have secured the support of members from the Berkswich Parish choir to join in with a festive carol singing activity on the village green. The date for this event is **Saturday, 3 December** from 4.30pm – 5.30pm and all residents are welcome to come along to join in.

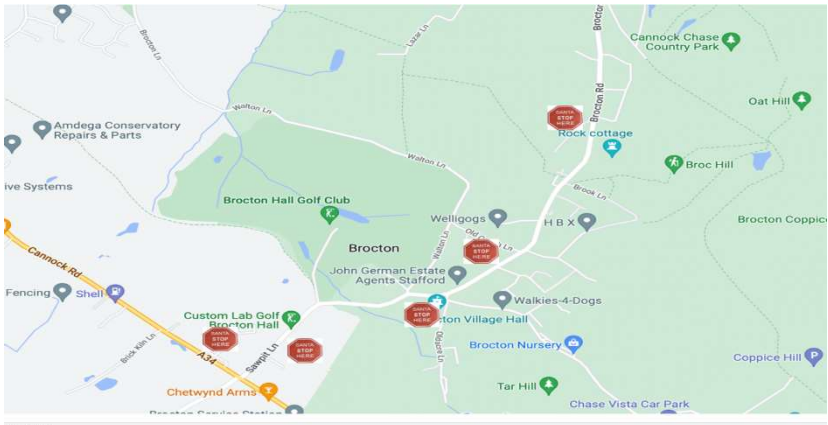
From 5.30pm, the village hall will be open for mince pies and chocolates for the children, courtesy of the Parish Council. The bar will also be open where you can purchase some festive drinks to help get the festive period started. All are invited to attend.

Christmas tree and Father Christmas

The Parish Council will be providing a Christmas tree for all of the residents to enjoy and help decorate. This will be installed by the Book Swop and as you will have already seen on the front page - Father Christmas is coming to the village – how exciting is that!!!

Father Christmas will be travelling along Sawpit Lane and Pool Lane towards Milford, on Saturday, 10 December between 4pm and 5.30pm and wants to meet as many residents as possible. He will be stopping at designated points along Sawpit Lane and Pool Lane, please see the map below for details. Christmas baubles will be handed out for all to decorate the village Christmas tree. Why not make sure you are out, along Sawpit Lane/Pool Lane to collect your bauble, which will also contain a treat to enjoy. Happy decorating!!!

Father Christmas will be supported by his elves, who are excited to meet as many residents as possible.



There will also be a Christmas competition for all to enter, details as follows: **Santa decoration competition.** Use your imagination and artistic skills to design your decoration and make sure you deliver it to John German, who will be displaying them all in their shop window. The competition is open to all age groups, adults and children, so make sure you add your contact details and age to your decoration, so that the winners can be contacted. John German colleagues will be judging the best ones and the lucky winners will receive a prize.

All entries must be handed into John German by no later than 10 December.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk via email clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk

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General Information

Staffordshire Libraries - There's always a warm welcome at Staffordshire Libraries

Did you know Staffordshire Libraries provide safe, warm, and welcoming spaces with access to lots of great services, such as FREE books and electronic resources. With a Staffordshire library card, you can download eBooks, eAudio books, eMagazines, eComics, and eNewspapers on the go!

At Staffordshire Libraries you have access to Wi-Fi and desktop computers and can use a range of subscriptions such as Ancestry, Driving Theory Test Pro and Go Citizen and much more, FREE across our 43 libraries.

Staffordshire library staff and volunteers can signpost you to information and services in your local area - getting you the help and support you may need. Many of our libraries can help with online applications for Bus Passes and Blue Badges, and our Business Start-Up Hubs can provide anyone looking to start a business with information to get them on the right path. Looking for something to do? We have a huge range of activities and events from Baby Bounce and Rhyme time for little ones, Coffee and Chat sessions, Local History activities, Craft sessions plus lots more.

So, what are you waiting for! Why not Discover Your Staffordshire Library Today! And Join Up. Join In. Discover. Explore. Create.

Find out more about Your Staffordshire Library Service here: [How to join your library - Staffordshire County Council](#)

Or find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube – search Staffordshire Libraries and follow us for updates.

Cannock Library Bereavement Help Point is here for you - Bereavement Help Points are there to support you when you are grieving.

We offer:

- Information on how to manage your grief following the death of a loved one
- Advice on how to support yourself and where to receive further help if you need it
- A listening ear, because sometimes all you need to do is talk things through with people who understand
- Library book stock from the Reading Agency Grief and Bereavement Collection is available to borrow

Why not drop in for a cup of tea and a chat with one of our trained bereavement support volunteers. A partnership between St Giles Hospice & Staffordshire Library & Arts Service At Cannock Library, every Monday 10:30am-12:30pm.

Contact Cannock Library on (01543) 334525 or St Giles Hospice on (01543) 434 535 or at ian.leech@stgileshospice.com for more information

Start-Up Hubs

Are you ready for an exciting opportunity to start working for yourself?

Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service have received Arts Council England funding to work with Business Enterprise Support (BES) to set up Start-up Hubs in all libraries across Staffordshire.

This is an information awareness service available to anybody who is interested in working for themselves.

You can find information on self-employment and a dedicated space allocated for start-up promotional materials, leaflets, business related reading books and information fact sheets. Hubs are now available at Cannock and Rugeley and others will be coming online throughout 2022 and 2023 across our Library network in your area.

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Seasonal vaccinations



If you have a weakened immune system, you can receive a further COVID-19 vaccination this autumn for extra protection.

Covid-19 is still with us and is still making people very ill. If you have a weakened immune system due to a health condition or medical treatment, Covid-19 may affect you more seriously.

Your protection from previous doses of the vaccine may now be lower and will continue to decline.

To book online, visit nhs.uk/get-vaccination

If you can't book online, phone 119 free of charge, 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday or 8am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

Alternatively, you can find a walk-in vaccination site near you at www.nhs.uk/vaccine-walk-in.

Flu

Flu can be very dangerous and even life threatening for some, particularly people with certain health conditions.

The flu vaccine is safe and effective, and its offered every year on the NHS to help protect people at risk of getting seriously ill from flu.

For more information on seasonal vaccinations, go to: www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination and www.nhs.uk/flujab

Information from Staffordshire County Council:

Here to Help: As a county council we know that many people are struggling with rising food costs and energy bills.

That's why we have launched our Here to Help campaign today to help make it easier for you and your family to find out what extra help maybe at hand.

On our website you can find lots of information about benefits, schemes to help, reducing energy costs, keeping warm and of course, keeping well this winter.

Visit: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/heretohelp

Warning issued as scammers exploit cost of living pressures



Residents are reminded to be scam aware as concern grows over the increasing number of scams relating to rising energy costs.

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Information from Stafford Borough Council:

Residents of Stafford Borough are being asked for views on future plans in Stafford.

A major consultation on a new 'Local Plan' for Stafford Borough was launched **on 24 October and will run until 12 December**. The Local Plan 2020-2040 – Preferred Options document is seeking views on draft policies and proposals for new development across Stafford Borough over the next 20 years.

The Preferred Options document includes:

1. New levels of housing and employment land requirements, and how these will be distributed across the Borough through a new settlement hierarchy;
2. Proposed development allocations including Stafford Station Gateway and a new garden community at Meecebrook near to Yarnfield, Stone and Eccleshall;
3. A range of draft planning policies on topics such as climate change, economic development, housing provision, transport and the environment.

To view the full Preferred Options document, a Non-Technical Summary, the Communications Plan and a range of evidence reports together with additional information, please visit <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/local-plan>.

The Parish Council has been reviewing the proposals and it would appear that the majority of housing development is in Stafford town centre and towards Stone, therefore, we do not feel that a formal response to the Consultation is required. However, if residents do not agree, please inform one of your Parish Cllrs or the Clerk, as we will be more than happy to submit comments on behalf of the Parish, if required. The closing date for comments is noon on 12 December 2022.

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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 in an emergency, perhaps because you are experiencing a loss of power supply, you will now need to contact National Grid and 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.

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
Robin.bates@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk

Vice Chairman: Cllr Bethan Smith
Bethanbroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Cllr Emma Faunch
Emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Cllr Georgina Thomson
Georginabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Cllr Andrea Pugh
Andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com

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

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

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