

# Brocton Paper Chase

Issue 71

Summer 2024

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Paper Chase, which we hope you will find interesting.

Looking ahead to sunny weather:



Please retain for future reference, as there are some important dates contained within, regarding Community Events and Village Hall Events that will be happening during 2024 for your enjoyment.

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## Parish Council Update

The Parish Council was independently audited in May 2024, for the financial year 2023-24. The audit was successfully completed with no qualifications applied.

As parishioners of Brocton, you are entitled to review the Parish Council Accounts, during the Period of Public Rights, which has been set to run from 10 June 2024 to 19 July 2024. If you wish to exercise this right, please contact our Clerk before 19 July 2024, who will make the necessary arrangements by email [clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk) or by phone: 01785 598434.

**Did you know??** The administration of Brocton Parish is as follows: Parish Meeting. Formed 1866, previously township in Baswich civil parish. 1885 boundary changes. 1934 exchange of land with Baswich civil parish, became a Parish Council.

Parish Councils were formed in England, under the Local Government Act, of 1894, named as the Parish Councils Act. Records exist for the Parish from 1894 and are held at Stafford Record Office.

*Information provided by Stafford Records Office, Archives & Heritage*

**New Parish Councillors** – we are delighted to confirm the recent appointment of 2 new Parish Cllrs:

**Jonathan Howell**



Jonathan has lived in Brocton for 25 yrs, is married with 3 sons and is passionate about the Chase, enjoys wildlife, various activities on the Chase and generally being outdoors.

**Lewis Brownlow**



Lewis moved to Brocton in November 2023 and lives with his partner and his partner's daughter. He enjoys cycling, mountain biking, walking and mountain climbing.

The Parish Council now has its full compliment of 7 Parish Cllrs, all of whom are very keen to make a real difference for the Parish they live in. Please see the contact details for your Parish Cllrs on page 15 and please get in touch with them if you have any matters you wish to raise.

**Parish Cllrs visit Mayor's Parlour**

On 4 March 2024, the Cllrs joined SBC's outgoing Mayor and Mayoress at the Mayor's Parlour. The visit was fascinating and an interesting insight was gained regarding how the roles of Mayor and Mayoress were created and how they have remained largely unchanged over many years.



## Parish Notice Boards

One of the main ways the Parish Council communicates with its residents is through the use of our Parish Notice Boards, of which there are normally 3 in the village. These are located, as follows:

- at the top of Sawpit Lane, near to the A34 junction and the telephone kiosk, which houses the defibrillator.
- by John German/Post Office on Pool Lane
- near the bench, on Pool Lane by the turning into The Paddock  
this Notice Board was damaged last year, due to the high winds and had to be replaced. The Parish Council is delighted to have received a financial contribution of £500.00 from our SCC Cllr John Francis towards the purchase of this Notice Board. The new Notice Board is now in place.

Please take the time to check out the information in the Notice Boards. We do have statutory obligations to display certain information, however, we also display information and details about upcoming events that may be of interest.



## Donation to Katharine House

The Parish Cllrs recently agreed a donation of £100.00 to Katharine House for the benefit of Lymphoedema patients and the Parish Council is delighted to say this donation has been used for the purchase of 'Brocton Bras'. Katharine House has posted details about Brocton Bras on their social media platforms – why not take a look for yourself!!

## South Staffs Local Plan Review - Planning Application, land near to Wildwood

Residents may already be aware of the South Staffs Local Plan Review that has recently been published for consultation/comment. Brocton Parish Council was not formally consulted on the proposals contained within the Plan; however, Berkswich Parish Council were. The Parish Cllrs took the time to review the proposals and liaised with Berkswich Parish Council regarding their own concerns. After due consideration, the Parish Council

took the decision to submit its own comments to South Staffs, as the Cllrs felt that should the proposals be approved, there would be significant impact upon the village, in the form of an increase in the volume of traffic using the A34 Cannock Road. In addition, we cited the proximity to the Chase, additional traffic on rural village roads, the growing deer population, Brocton crossroads; inadequate detail provided about the potential impact upon the Cannock Chase National Landscape and the SAC with little detail about the effect on habitats, flora/fauna; along with the additional strain that will be placed upon local services, in particular, health/education.

## Parish Community News

**Reminder: Civic Amenity Visits (Bin lorry)** – The dates are shown below and will be from 9.00am – 10.00am. The lorry will park in the layby at the top of Chase Road.

- 20 July 2024
- 12 October 2024

Stafford Borough Council wish all residents using the bin lorry service to be aware of the following: due to a change in legislation, we will no longer be able to accept sofas or armchairs at the 2024 Civic Amenity Visits. This is due to legislation around Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are found in soft furnishings, these items cannot be crushed (as they would be in the collection vehicle) and need to be collected separately either by arrangement with Stafford Borough Council or taken to designated containers at the Household Waste Recycling Centres in Stafford and Stone.

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**Brocton Cross Roads** – the Parish Council has been advised by our SCC Cllr John Francis that Brocton crossroads has been included in the SCC Highways Community Programme for 2024/25. You may well ask, what does that actually mean and will anything actually be done??

It's a very valid question and residents are already likely to be aware of the major works that SCC have programmed in for the A34, however, these do not currently include the crossroads. It is our understanding that Cllr Francis is trying to ensure the signage advising motorists of the 7.5t weight limit (details included in the September 2023 edition) from Milford, along Pool Lane and Sawpit Lane through to the A34 Cannock Road will be in place by the time these major works commence.

Once the weight limit signs have been erected, residents can report any breaches to the Trading Standards team at SCC, by leaving a voice message on their confidential telephone line. The number to call is: 01785 330356. If you are able to provide a vehicle registration number, a description of the vehicle or the name of the company, this would be helpful. Alternatively, any breach can be reported via SCC's MyStaffsApp.

**Road safety in village** – community speedwatch activity continues to take place within the village. Cllr Mrs Thomson hopes to be able to provide an update on all of this activity for the next edition.

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**Bus stop, opposite Chetwynd Arms** – residents may have noticed that access to the bus stop has been improved

Thank you to SCC Highways and Cllr Francis for getting this sorted.



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## Play Park, Sawpit Lane



### Donated Oak Tree

In February 2024, the Chairman – Robin Bates and resident Anne Parkes planted an oak sapling, which came from an acorn off a tree in Old Acre Lane. The tree guard was kindly donated by the residents of Bank Farm House.

## March and June Parish Litter picks

Thank you to everyone who supported the Parish Litter Picks, sadly, as always, there were numerous bags of rubbish collected:



March 2024



June 2024

The Parish Council was delighted to welcome our 'Litter Pickers of the future'



Lola and Ffion Smith all set and ready to go!!

Harry Fauch – he had a great time and can't wait for the next event!!



wait for



Important Message from Harry

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who joined in and helped to keep the village tidy

**Pool Lane – bus stop sign.** The appearance of a new bus stop sign along Pool Lane caused some interest in the village in the Spring. After investigations with SCC, it became apparent that a new sign had been erected by SCC's contractors, in error. It should have now been removed. For any residents who thought the bus service through the village was being reinstated, we are sorry to confirm this will not be the case.

However, the Parish Council has been investigating the provision of a Community Bus Service over the past few months and you may have seen some signs about this in the Notice Boards and Book Swop. If anyone is interested, please contact our Clerk: [clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk) to register your interest. If you've already made contact, there is no need to do it again, as your interest has been registered. It may be possible to operate a trial service for a period of 3 months, at a cost of £5.00 per return trip. If this does go ahead, details will be shared via our FB page, in the Parish Notice Boards, on our website and in the Book Swop. If the service is not fully utilised during the trial period, then the service is unlikely to be continued. Therefore, if you are interested, it is important that you use it.

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**YOGA – classes are still taking place in the Village Hall.** Classes are for all abilities on Tuesdays, from 10.30am – 12.00noon.

To book a place please contact: Diane Ralphs, British Wheel of Yoga Teacher  
DIP/PRANAYAMA DIP/BWY MEDITATION DIP

Email: [diane.ralphs108@gmail.com](mailto:diane.ralphs108@gmail.com)

Tel: 01785 660417 / text only mobile 07709 613107

**Brocton in Bloom Update.** Our group of volunteers met recently and discussed possible areas of planting in the village and the types of plants to be included at each location. We were very keen to get started but discovered that we needed to obtain a 'Licence to Plant' from Staffs County Council to enable us to create flower beds which costs £200 and is seemingly a lengthy process.

Therefore, to ensure we get the most from this licence the Parish Council is currently identifying **all** areas within the village that might be suitable for planting, which will then be prioritised. This will mean that once we have the permission in place, we can develop the areas as/when we want to. We are hoping the licence will be in place in time to begin planting and sowing seed in the Autumn.



One of our volunteers - Shirley also volunteers for Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and was involved in planting young wild crab apple trees at one of their locations. Shirley asked if they would be willing to donate one to us, which they did! This was planted earlier in the Spring in the grassed area parallel to the A34 at Sherbrook Close and seems to have settled in well. Our thanks are extended to the Wildlife Trust and Shirley, for asking!

Everyone is welcome to join in, please contact Cllr Andrea Pugh - [andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

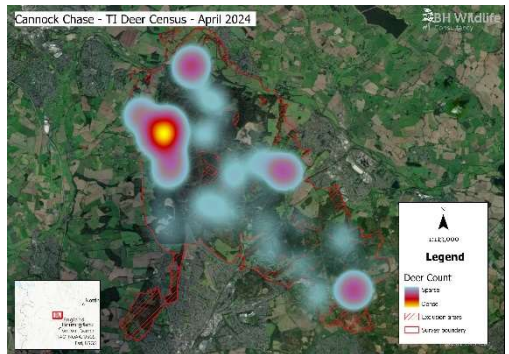
## Deer Drone survey

In April, Cannock Chase National Landscape commissioned a thermal drone deer census, which is done every two years across the AONB.

One of the flight points to cover the area off Old Acre Lane and part of Brocton Hall Golf Course was the play park on Sawpit Lane.



The drone took off at around 7.30am from a fixed position over the play park. From this fixed point, the drone could search an area within half a kilometre, looking for deer. Overall, there is confidence that deer were not double counted, therefore, the total number of deer surveyed (including those just outside the boundary) was 1,254. The further breakdown was as follows: 1,011 Fallow deer (1,010 recorded inside, 1 recorded outside survey boundary) 154 Red deer (147 recorded inside, 7 recorded outside survey boundary) 89 Muntjac (86 recorded inside, 3 recorded outside survey boundary).



## D Day event – June 2024

The joint Parish Council and Village Hall Committee event was a big success with a good turnout from the village, see photos below:



**Brocton Land Girls??**



Residents enjoyed Afternoon Tea and the chance to join in with some games

## Future Parish Community Events for 2024

**Litter Pick** – the Autumn Parish Litter Pick will take place on: **Sunday, 20 October 2024**

Meeting place will be 9.30am at the speed camera on Cannock Road, outside of the Chetwynd Arms. Litter pickers and bags will be provided

**Reminder: Halloween** – pumpkin trail, will take place on **Sunday, 27 October 2024**.  
Save the Date.

Please can we ask all those taking part to ensure any litter is taken home or put into the appropriate bins.

**Reminder: Christmas** – carol singing on village green, on **Sunday, 8 December 2024**.  
Save the Date.

## Village Hall Update

Brocton Village Hall recently held their AGM during which there was a change to the Trustees. They wish to thank Carol, Martin and Helen for their many years of invaluable support and welcome Mike and Jo to the Committee.

### Village Hall events – 2024

Below are details of the current planned events for the rest of the year. Further details will follow on Facebook and using posters in the village.

Why not pop the dates below in your diary now or pull out this page of the Paper Chase and keep it safe!

- 27 July – Annual Family BBQ, from 4.00pm
- 14 September – Last Night of the Proms, from 7.30pm
- 21 September – Rummage Sale, 1.00pm – 3.00pm
- 12 October – Quiz Night, from 7.30pm
- 27 October – Children's Halloween event – details TBC
- 16 November – Christmas Bazaar, afternoon
- 7 December – Christmas Meal, from 7.30pm

Please note dates and events are subject to change.

The Committee have set up a Friends of Brocton Village Hall group who support the Committee with the running of events and maintaining the Village Hall. We are always looking for new volunteers who would be interested in offering help as and when they can, no obligation, no need to attend meetings or become a trustee. If you would be interested in helping to keep our Village Hall running for future generations then please email [chair@broctonvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:chair@broctonvillagehall.org.uk)

We also have a new Facebook page dedicated to sharing what's going on at the Village Hall, please search for Friends of Brocton Village Hall and like/follow our page to keep up-to-date with the latest news.

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 please email [info@broctonvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:info@broctonvillagehall.org.uk) OR ring 01785 662868.

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## Information from Staffordshire County Council:

**Highways crews from Staffordshire County Council will be going the extra mile to repair more roads and drainage over the next 12 months.**

With last winter being one of the wettest and stormiest on record, crews have seen a major increase in reported defects compared to previous years.



Now, the county council has launched a year-long focus on fixing the county's roads, which will see more money and crews carrying out pothole repairs and tackling drainage issues over the next 12 months.

The plan means nearly £8 million will be invested into getting potholes repaired more quickly, and reducing the amount of defects in the system.

Money will also be spent on improving drainage, and work aimed at preparing for more extreme weather events in the future.

It will also ensure that crews can keep using the latest technology, such as the JCB Pothole Pro, Roadmaster and Thermal Road Repairs to repair defects quickly and efficiently.

This is in addition to the £53 million being spent on a range of major projects, vital road improvements and general road maintenance in 24/25.

## Main Stafford road reopens after major improvement scheme

**A main road leading into Stafford has reopened after a 12-week improvement scheme.**

The A449 Wolverhampton Road is now fully open following completion of the scheme, which has seen resurfacing and improvements to pavements and kerbs. Work has taken place on the section between the A34/A449 roundabout to Ingestre Road and the railway bridge.



The £650,000 investment will give the road a long-term lifespan of between 20 and 30 years.

During the scheme, a one-way closure was in place, with traffic able to travel northbound, and some full closures were also needed.

Work has been completed ahead of other significant schemes in Stafford including A34 Gaol Square and A34 Weeping Cross.

## General Information

### Cannock Chase National Landscape Annual Conference

This took place on 25.4.24 in the Aquarius Ballroom, Hednesford and Jane Christopher kindly attended to represent the Parish Council. Some interesting projects were discussed, as follows: Cannock Chase Adder Conservation; Connecting Cannock Chase; Wood Pasture Restoration; Purple Horizons and 30 by 30 projects. More details about all of these projects, and more, can be found by visiting the website at [www.cannock-chase.co.uk](http://www.cannock-chase.co.uk)

Focus is on looking to the future, increasing resilience, larger scale implementation, joining up at ground level and establishing a funding base to deliver a longer-term plan. The appointment of 2 new SAC Wardens has taken place, who will be a visible presence to help raise visitor awareness of important species and how to behave responsibly when out/about on the Chase.

Thank you to Jane for attending and providing valuable feedback to the Parish Council.

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**Location of Defibrillators in the village.** For residents who may not be aware, Brocton village has access to 2 defibrillators and they can be found:

- BT Phone Kiosk at the top of Sawpit Lane, near to the A34 Cannock Road junction (owned by the Parish Council)
- Outside the Village Hall on Old Acre Lane (owned by the Village Hall Committee)

**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](mailto:Robin.bates@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk)

Vice Chairman: Cllr Bethan Smith  
[Bethanbroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Bethanbroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Cllr Emma Faunch  
[Emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Cllr Georgina Thomson  
[Georginabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Georginabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Cllr Andrea Pugh  
[Andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Cllr Jonathan Howell  
[jvhbroctonpc@gmail.com](mailto:jvhbroctonpc@gmail.com)

Cllr Lewis Brownlow  
[lewisbrownlowbroctonpc@gmail.com](mailto:lewisbrownlowbroctonpc@gmail.com)

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

## **Stafford Borough Council Representative**

Cllr Peter Edgeller  
*Phone contact details to follow*  
[pedgeller@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:pedgeller@staffordbc.gov.uk)

## **Staffordshire County Council Representative**

Cllr John Francis  
01785 665490  
[john.francis@staffordshire.gov.uk](http://john.francis@staffordshire.gov.uk)

## **Member of Parliament**

Details to be confirmed

<p><b>WHO DOES WHAT:</b> 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><b>Staffordshire County Council:</b></p> <p>Births, Deaths, Marriages &amp; 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 &amp; weeds</i>)</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Telephone: 0300 111 8000 Email: <a href="mailto:contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk">contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk">www.staffordshire.gov.uk</a>.</p>	<p><b>Stafford Borough Council:</b></p> <p>Planning Applications &amp; Advice</p> <p>Recycling, bins and waste</p> <p>Council Tax &amp; Benefits</p> <p>Car Parking Road Closures,</p> <p>Abandoned Vehicles</p> <p>Street cleansing, litter &amp; graffiti</p> <p>Parks, sport &amp; fitness</p> <p>Housing &amp; Neighbourhood complaints</p> <p>Business Rates, Licensing, permits &amp; advice</p> <p>Environmental Health</p> <p>Community Safety</p> <p>Voting &amp; Elections</p> <p>Customer contact: 01785 619000 Email: <a href="mailto:info@staffordbc.gov.uk">info@staffordbc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk">www.staffordbc.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Brocton Parish Council:</b></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 Swap – 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: <a href="mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk">clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.broctonpc.co.uk">www.broctonpc.co.uk</a></p>