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| Brocton Paper Chase |
| Issue 72  **Autumn/Winter 2024**  **Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of the Paper Chase, which we hope you will find interesting.**    Holiday Wallpapers - Top Free Holiday Backgrounds - WallpaperAccess  **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 the remainder of 2024 for your enjoyment.**  **The Parish Council would like to wish all its parishioners a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year**  **Contents**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Pages 2-8** | **Parish Community News** | | **Page 8** | **Future Parish Community Events: Christmas 2024** | | **Page 9** | **Village Hall Events** | | **Pages 10-11** | **Information from SCC** | | **Pages 12-13** | **Information from SBC** | | **Page 13** | **Information from Staffordshire Libraries** | | **Page 14** | **General Information** | | **Page 15** | **Contact details** | | **Page 16** | **Who Does What** |   **Parish Community News**  **Weight limit between Milford and Brocton**    The Parish Council is sure that all residents will now be aware that the 7.5tonne weight limit is in force, despite some rumours that were circulating over the summer months. We are pleased to be able confirm that these were just that, rumours. After further enquires, our SCC Cllr John Franics confirmed that there had been a slight delay in the furniture delivery required for the signage to be installed.  The signage is now in place. Therefore, should you become aware of any breach please report these 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 also be reported via SCC’s MyStaffsApp.  The above has been discussed with Staffs Police, who are aware of the weight limit restrictions and have confirmed they are willing to monitor this, with support from the village Community Speed Watch volunteers. Staffs Police, at the request of the Parish Council,  have been in contact with a particular ‘offender’ to advise them of the weight limit and the consequences of failure to adhere to it. Let’s hope things will begin to improve.  **Road safety in village** – community speedwatch activity continues to take place within the village, albeit things will be scaled down for the Winter period. The Parish Council has secured the support of our local Police, who have confirmed they will attend future speedwatch activities if they are able.  The Parish Council will be looking for more volunteers in the New Year, so if you are willing to give up a small amount of your time, to help support your local community by helping reduce speeding through the village then we want to hear from you.  519314674-HVolunteers cannot carry out speedwatch activities until they have received the relevant training, which is provided by Staffs Police. Unfortunately, due to illness, the ability of the Police to provide the training has been affected and it is unlikely that training will become available until the Spring 2025. However, please do not let this deter you from volunteering because as soon as things are back to normal at the Police, training will resume.  Please contact our Parish Clerk, [clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk) who will confidentially retain your details and get in touch with you when training is back up and running.  Many residents are concerned about the speed that traffic passes through the village, so why not step forward and help the Parish Council and our current volunteers tackle this issue for the benefit of all, you will be helping making the village a safer place to live in.  We look forward to hearing from you.  **……**  **Play Park, Sawpit Lane**  Some new fencing has now been installed in the park, which it is hoped will deter the deer from entering the park and help reduce deer accidents/fatalities.  Below are some photos:    Work in progress    Work completed.  The Parish Council was very grateful to receive a financial contribution from a local resident towards the purchase of the new fencing.  Over the Summer, several Cllrs have been reviewing the play equipment in the park and ideas are being formed with regards to improvements that can be made. Replacing any of the equipment in the park is a very costly activity and we will be looking to secure grants and other funding, where possible.  If there are any local businesses or residents who may be willing to support the Parish Council with this project, then we’d be delighted to hear from you. Please contact our Parish Clerk, [clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk) or contact any of your local Parish Cllrs.  More details on this will follow as the ideas are developed.  **Community Bus Service update**  The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that a trial arrangement has been put in place, with the support of Community Link. The trial began on Tuesday, 8 October and will continue for 1 day per month on **Tuesday, 5 November and Tuesday, 3 December.**  The shuttle bus will travel through the village along Sawpit Lane, picking up at the phone kiosk (housing the defibrillator) at 10.00am, next pick up at the Post Office and final pick up at the Parish Notice Board, on Pool Lane (where the original bus shelter was, now replaced by a bench). The bus will then turn around at Deer Hill and travel back through the village along Pool Lane and Sawpit Lane before making its way into Stafford.  Return from Stafford will be from 1.30pm at Marks and Spencer and 1.35pm at the Gatehouse.  Cost will be £5.00 per return journey, per person and can be paid by cash or card.  In December the Parish Council will review the success of the trial and make a decision whether or not to continue with the service. If you would like to see this service continue for the benefit of parishioner’s, please help spread the word.  We would like to hear your feedback on the service, please contact our Clerk, [clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk) OR your Parish Cllrs.  **If you are interested in this service, it is important that you use it.**  ……  **Litter Pick – October 2024**  The last litter pick for 2024 took place on Sunday, 20 October. A small number of volunteers braved the elements on a very wet Sunday morning and 10 bags of rubbish were collected in total.    For safety reasons, owing to the sheer volume of traffic using Teddesley Road (quite possibly due to the road works at Radford Bank) and the wet conditions, the decision was taken to abandon the litter pick early, at the A34 end of the village. Volunteers continued to litter pick in other areas of the village.  Thank you to all who came to support and help keep the village and surrounding areas free from litter, it is always appreciated.  **Halloween event – 27 October 2024**  On behalf of the Parish Council, thank you to all who turned out for our annual Halloween trail. There were so many amazing decorations and Halloween carvings. The event was enjoyed by all who entered.    Some photos for you to enjoy:        Remember, this is an annual free event in the village for all to enjoy. One of our Parish Cllrs enjoys it more than her children!!!  **The Parish Council wishes to say a special ‘thank you’ to John German Estate Agents and the Chetwynd Arms for their generous support of this event.**  **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.**  We are pleased to say that this project is progressing well and we hope to be able to apply for a Licence to Plant soon. Cllr Mrs Pugh is leading on this project and is very grateful for all of the support being received from willing volunteers.  Once the Licence to Plant has been applied for and granted, the busy task of planting up will follow and we will be calling upon support from willing volunteers to help.  More details will follow.  **Future Parish Community Events for 2024**  **Reminder: Christmas** – rumour has it that Father Christmas may pay a visit to the village again this year, as he had such a fun time in 2023. We hope to welcome him on **Saturday, 7 December 2024.**  The rumours are true, he will be coming to the village, on **Saturday, 7 December.** Let’s all be ready and keep an eye out for him travelling through the village in his sleigh. He will be starting at **Sherbrook Close, from 4.30pm** and will be stopping at various points throughout the village.  Carol singing on village green, on **Sunday, 8 December 2024.** Everyone is welcome and you are invited to join us afterwards in the village hall for mince pies, chocolates for the children (maybe adults too!!) courtesy of the Parish Council. The bar will also be open for your enjoyment and hot mulled wine and hot chocolate will be available to purchase.  We hope to see lots of residents on the village green for some festive carol singing.  **Village Hall Update on events - 2024**  It's been a busy few months at the Hall with our Annual BBQ, Last Night of the Proms and the Autumn Rummage Sale. Thank you to everyone for supporting these events, be it attending, donating or volunteering, especially the Rummage Sale which was a huge success!  We are busy planning our events diary for 2025 and would love to hear from you if there's something you'd like us to consider, contact [chair@broctonvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:chair@broctonvillagehall.org.uk).  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:   * 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.  ……  **Information from Staffordshire County Council**   |  | | --- | |  |  More than 1.7m square metres of roads surface treated in Staffordshire Surface Dressing taking place in Fauld Lane, Draycott in the Clay, in August.  Our highways crews have surface dressed 762 roads, covering over 1.7 million square meters of roads between March and October. This amounts to approximately 239 football pitches.  Thanks to their efficiency, 98 additional projects from next year have been completed early.  Surface dressing involves structurally repairing roads from end-to-end before applying a new smooth top surface.  This vital highway treatment is carried out on roads before they deteriorate too far and require more costly repairs. It reduces the risk of potholes and can prolong the life of roads by up to 15 years.  **…..**  **Doors to new Staffordshire History Centre to open next month**    People interested in exploring over a thousand years of Staffordshire’s history can do so when a new heritage centre for the county opens to the public on Wednesday 6 November.    The new £8.7 million Staffordshire History Centre project has been delivered by Staffordshire County Council and funded byThe National Lottery Heritage Fund with a grant of £4,858,699.    Combining three important collections from the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service, the County Museum, and the William Salt Library, the new History Centre will offer visitors the chance to access and research fascinating archives and artefacts that tell the story of Staffordshire’s past.    Located on Eastgate Street in Stafford, the centre includes modern search rooms, strong rooms capable of holding a further 55 years of archives and collections and a bright exhibition space for displays and exhibitions. The centre will be open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm.    The adjacent restored William Salt Library building, part of the new centre, showcases William Salt’s unique collection and the history of the library itself, which has been cherished by local residents for decades.    An exciting programme of activities and touring exhibitions will also take history into local communities right across the county.    Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture at Staffordshire County Council said: “We’re all incredibly excited about the project and delighted to be able to announce the opening date as 6 November.    “We’re extremely grateful for the funding from the Heritage Fund and we can’t wait to welcome residents and visitors alike to research and learn more about the rich history and culture that has shaped our great county.”    **A Hub for History and Learning**    The new centre is not just a place for historical collections. It features a remodelled research room, perfect for local historians, genealogists, and academics to delve deep into Staffordshire’s past.    The new education and learning space will host a range of school programmes, workshops, and events designed for all ages. During November and December there will be a range of activities for visitors to join in with including walking tours, spotlight talks and family friendly festive crafts.    [People can stay up to date with any more news on the Staffordshire History Centre blog.](https://staffordshirehistorycentre.blog/publications/)  **……**  **Information from Stafford Borough Council:**  **£200K boost for Stafford Borough businesses**  Businesses in Stafford Borough are again being asked to think BIG with a new £200,000 pot on offer to help them build on their ideas.  SBC has launched the scheme for small and medium businesses to apply for grants of up to £25,000 to help support their ambitions to grow.  Already small and medium enterprises have received more than £320,000 over the last few months after the first round of fund from the Business Innovation Grant (BIG) earlier this year. Now more are being encouraged to get on board with the launch of BIG2.  The Business Innovation Grant is funded as part of the £4.5m the local authority secured from government after successfully putting forward schemes to help regeneration, climate change and culture.  The £200,000 pot is earmarked for businesses across the Borough who receive most of their income from sales to other businesses.  Grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 are available to help develop new products and services – with the fund closing on 31 December.  You can find more information, and apply, from [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/business-innovation-grants](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/business-innovation-grants) The fund covers a large variety of sectors across the Borough – including manufacturing, construction, agriculture and professional services. It can be used for a variety of purposes, such as marketing, training, financial advice and capital investments.  There will also be business advice available from the local authority as part of the application process. A series of Going for Growth workshops are being delivered by experts ETC at Aston Marina where advice on applying for grants is one of the topics covered.  Cllr Ant Reid, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning, said: We have some tremendous small and medium businesses in the borough and we want to help them grow and thrive.  I’d encourage any business looking for extra funds to grow their enterprise, bring forward new ideas, improve the service they are already delivering or promote themselves to a wider audience, to start the ball rolling by applying for a grant.  Whether you pursue this grant bid or not, if you are a local enterprise please do get in touch with the team and learn more about the support and advice available to you.  More information on eligibility and how to apply from [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/business-innovation-grants](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/business-innovation-grants) or contact a member of the Councils Business Growth Team by email [economy@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:economy@staffordbc.gov.uk) or telephone 01785 619584.  ……  **Staffordshire Libraries** ****New Sparks Junior Writing Group at Cannock Library**** Aged 7-11?  Do you enjoy creative writing or would like to try it out with the support of a professional writer?  We are pleased to be working with West Midlands Writers’ Network to offer a monthly Sparks Junior Writing Group at Cannock Library starting in September 2024  This group is aimed at young people in school years 3 – 6 (aged 7 – 11).  Led by writer Alex Townley, with an assistant writer, the group will meet in Cannock Library from 10.30am – 12.30pm on the following Saturdays:  16th November,14th December 2024  18th January, 8th February, 8th March, 5th April, 17th May, 14th June 2025  Book your young writer a place now at [Cannock Junior 24-25 - Spark Young Writers (sparkwriters.org)](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.sparkwriters.org%2Fcannock-junior-24-25%2F%3Futm_medium=govdelivery%26utm_source=email/1/01000191aef7124b-e453fbc6-f2e5-4637-a1ee-7dca1a50ab7f-000000/md6yQ35ybKHsX8VuopbIL-9cd0ESJhkVvoXb3VX9TiQ=368)  £9/session but FREE for young writers who qualify for pupil premium/free school dinners  **General Information**  **Cannock Chase Visitors Centre**  Are currently recruiting for volunteers to join their teams at the Milford Information Hut and at the Great War Hut on Marquis Drive near the Cannock Chase Visitor Centre. If you are a bit of a history buff or you just like meeting new people and have good customer service skills then send an email with your details and telling them what role you are interested in and they will get back to you with more information: [cannockchasemarquisdrive@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cannockchasemarquisdrive@staffordshire.gov.uk)  Whether you are a company looking for volunteers or you want to be a volunteer yourself Support Staffordshire could also help you to find the right role for the right person. Take a look at their website to find out more: <https://supportstaffordshire.org.uk>  **Hedgehogs R Us Highways Project**  In the Summer, the Parish Council became aware of this project and are interested in exploring this for the benefit of the hedgehogs. We will be providing some information about this Project at our Annual Parish Meeting, which will be taking place on **Wednesday, 30 April 2025.**  If you want to see our hedgehogs protected, why not come along in April 2025 to learn more OR if you can’t wait until then, please visit: [**https://hedgehogsrus.co.uk/hedgehog-highway-project**](https://hedgehogsrus.co.uk/hedgehog-highway-project)  You can also follow the Project on FB: Hedgehogs R Us   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **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)  Voce Chairman: Emma Faunch  [Emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)  Cllr Bethan Smith  [Bethanbroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Bethanbroctonparishcouncil@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](mailto:john.francis@staffordshire.gov.uk)  **Members of Parliament:**  **Stafford Constituency**  Leigh Ingham  Email: [leigh.ingham.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:leigh.ingham.mp@parliament.uk)  Tel: 07562 918814  **Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge Constituency**  Sir Gavin Williamson  Email: [gavin.williamson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:gavin.williamson.mp@parliament.uk)  Tel: 01902 846616 | | |

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| **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:** | **Brocton Parish Council:** | **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**  **Telephone: 01785 598434 Email:** [**clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk**](mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk)  **Website:** [**www.broctonpc.co.uk**](http://www.broctonpc.co.uk) |
| **Stafford Borough Council:** | **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**  **Customer contact: 01785 619000 Email:** [**info@staffordbc.gov.uk**](mailto:info@staffordbc.gov.uk)  **Website:** [**www.staffordbc.gov.uk**](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk) |
| **Staffordshire County Council:** | **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 (*including grass cutting & weeds*)**  **Transport**  **Telephone: 0300 111 8000 Email:** [**contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk**](mailto:contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk)  **Website:** [**www.staffordshire.gov.uk**](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)**.** |