



Brizlincote Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 31 Autumn/Winter 2020

The Chair's Message

Without question the effects of the Covid-19 virus global pandemic have been unprecedented. Our community and individual experiences will vary in severity, but no-one has been left unaffected. We offer our deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones during this period.

Locally and in other parts of the country we have seen that communities come together to support each other on a one-to-one basis where possible or in groups. This has been evident within Brizlincote Parish as various Facebook, WhatsApp and other social media or word of mouth activities which promote connection between residents have taken place.

Many residents have been working or relaxing in their gardens during the summer months and I think that many of us have taken the time to re-discover or learn new home-based skills or interests. Parents have had to become teachers, but many have also benefited from the time spent with the children and vice versa.

It is heartening to see that a deeper sense of community has thrived and we are thankful to be living in such a beautiful area with access to Green Spaces, the Nature Walk, the Hollows and Stapenhill Gardens.

Comments abound regarding our renewed connection with the environment and wildlife seems to have flourished with the reduction in pollution – even the skies have seemed clearer! Equally we recognise that “the new normal” is something which we need to embrace as we aim to return to a functioning society.

We would also like to thank local groups, shops and businesses for supporting us all during the last few months once they were able to open again. We recognize the important work which keyworkers continue to provide.

Brizlincote Parish Council is the 1st tier of local government and comprises a group of people from different walks of life and skills. Due to the current situation, meetings will continue to be held on the Zoom platform. Our aim is to work on behalf of the community in which we live to improve the wellbeing of residents in whatever way is deemed to be important by the community. Our working parties (see webpage) try to address local concerns and develop community engagement. We welcome your input regarding any projects which you feel may benefit the locality.

Finally, Councillor Peter Marston has recently resigned from the Parish Council and we thank Pete for the work done on behalf of the Parish during his time with us and in particular with regard to his activities in relation to Speed Controls, Open Spaces and Planning. We wish Pete well in the future whilst we recognise that this leaves a vacancy for a Parish Councillor – please contact clerk@brizlincote-pc.org.uk if you feel you can use your skill set to enhance the lives of others .



Kindest regards

Councillor Lynne Campion

Brizlincote In Bloom Winners



Best Front Garden



David Brown



Best Floral Display



Clive Croxall



Best use of sloping garden



Julie & Roger Green



Best Rear Garden



Malcom Boston

Congratulations!



Judging was held on Sunday 26th July by Mayor Colin Wileman and Parish Councillor Bob Bidgood.

The judges were made most welcome every step of the way.

The number of entrants was fewer than in previous years perhaps due to the impact of the Covid19 pandemic situation. The quality and standard of gardens was high which reflected upon the effort put in by Brizlincote residents. It was a tough choice for the judges but after much discussion and deliberation the final decisions were made.

This year's presentation of shields, garden vouchers and certificates will be made at the winner's homes to ensure social distancing.

A big thank you to those who took the trouble to take part and in many peoples eyes everybody's garden is a winner.

Stay safe, take care and stay healthy.

Grafton Road Culvert Update

The work on the culvert which runs along the side of Grafton Rd continues at a pace.

The removal of a number of trees by ESBC contractors is now at an end. The work had been delayed due to the forestry commissions concerns about the amount of trees lost. This was resolved, also of course Covid-19 restrictions further delayed progress. ESBC have now authorised a contractor to carry out work on the drainage sumps which it is hoped will eventually ease the problem with flooding. Long term, when the work is finished I hope we can allow the whole area to naturalise with wildlife and wild flowers back in the area which is part of the Brizlincote Nature Walk.

Borough Cllr Colin Wileman

Brizlincote 2020 Covid-19 Time Capsule

“Your place in our local history”



We are very conscious of the difficulties, stress and devastation experienced during these unprecedented times. Very few people alive today has ever experienced anything like this before and 2020 will go down in History. Future generations will be learning about social distancing, lockdown and the coronavirus in their History classes.

Time capsules have been found from as early as 1874 in the UK with photographs, letters and diaries describing daily events.

With the coronavirus pandemic, we are all living through an important moment in History. We would like to help future generations learn about this time by developing a time capsule full of as many of our experiences as possible, for example:

- Pictures – paintings, photos, memory cards
- Letters, postcards and diaries
- Newspaper articles – not just about the pandemic but amazing achievements such as that of Captain Sir Tom Moore, his Knighthood – articles that mean something to you individually.
- DIY mask-making instructions
- Getting out and about and exploring nature
- New skills acquired— cooking, DIY, learning a new language, writing/being creative or artistic
- Clap for carers
- Voluntary tasks – mask and/or scrubs making as part of a group, shopping for vulnerable neighbours and family
- VE day celebrations – there were a lot of socially distanced tea parties and activities in many streets
- In fact, anything at all to show what life under lockdown/during the pandemic, has been like.

Many schools, organisations and communities are either already contributing to their time capsule or looking to start one – as we are now.

There are many websites with articles and suggestions on what to include in a time capsule. There are also age specific free resources available on the internet such as at whatmomslove.com, rowanhighschool.co.uk, parkview.com and many more. Some of you will, no doubt already have accessed these resources and activities and completed many with your children

Please send your ideas and contributions to: clerk@brizlincote-pc.org.uk requesting postal address/drop-off point for your hard copies.

What Have We Been Up To?

Good Neighbour Award: Earlier this year Brizlincote Parish Council invited submissions for candidates who live within the Parish and who have “gone the extra mile” to help or support individuals or the greater community locally. As the final date for nominations was 30th September, we have been unable to publish any details in this newsletter but please check our Facebook page, Website and next Newsletter for further information.

Speeding: The Parish Council is still looking into options that may help reduce speeding throughout Brizlincote.

It has been recognised by Staffordshire Police that Violet Way suffers from extremely high speeders, however, a safe place to park a Police Safety Vehicle (Camera Van) could not be identified. Rest assured that other alternatives are being investigated.

Meanwhile the Parish Council still has a number of 30mph roundels available to attach to recycling bins, to obtain two please contact the Clerk with your name and address.

Easter Egg Hunt: A “Tiny Tots Easter Egg Hunt” for under 5-year olds organised by Brizlincote Parish Council was due to be held over Easter, but was unfortunately cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Parish Council would like to thank the following local businesses and shops who supported the event by donating additional Easter Eggs:

Mario’s HQ; The Grove Public House, The Hair and Beauty Boutique Ltd.; Stapenhill Fish Bar, Stapenhill Post Office (Gifts and Coffee Bar); Indigo Hair Salon; Vee Jays Barber shop; The Elms Public house.

As we were unable to hold this event the Easter Eggs were given to the YMCA and the local Co-Op for distribution at their respective food banks where they were supplied over the Easter period to those families with children.

Keeping Brizlincote Tidy: As you walk around Brizlincote you may notice overfull litter bins, blocked or overgrown drains, trees or bushes hanging over the pavement, broken signs, fly posting, illegal dumping, litter, dirty and faded street name plates and a host of other things. Please advise the Clerk to Brizlincote Parish Council with full details including where, what and when and we will notify the appropriate authority.

Community Events: We have many ideas for future events and are very excited about Brizlincote’s first Christmas Lights Extravaganza (see back page). We invite your ideas for community activities and events with the potential to apply for a grant to be considered by the Parish Council with regard to supporting these. For further details on how to apply please see page 7 - “Can We Give You Money?”



The Parish Council is delighted to have had the bench next to Stapenhill Post Office refurbished, please enjoy.

North Stapenhill Allotment through Covid-19



It was a relief to us all at North Stapenhill Allotments when we learnt that we were still able to visit our plots. Not only has it meant we could grow but also still be a part of the community and say "Hi" from a distance to other plot holders. We have plot holders of all ages from all areas of our community and being able to visit has done wonders for people's wellbeing. Growing fruit and veg has given people a focus through lockdown and being out in the fresh air and sunshine has also done wonders for people's mental health. We grow all kinds, potatoes, tomatoes, even gala melons! Due to the distance between plot holders allotments all over the country were able to stay open as long as the rules were followed. We put in place our own safety measures to ensure plot holders remained safe. It is so easy to feel isolated through the unpredictable times such as Covid-19 and we are all thankful we could tend to our plots and to prevent weeds and feed the chickens. We had many plans for 2020 to invite our wider community from Stapenhill and Brizlincote in for our open day and other events, but due to the law and social distance restrictions we have had to put everything on hold. At the start of the year we successfully applied for a grant from the Parish Council to fund some women's portaloos which we managed to have on site before the virus occurred which has been great. We are looking forward to the time we can continue with our plans to enhance the allotment. We are also looking forward to the time when we can welcome our community back in to visit us for events we wish to hold and see you all. We hope this happens soon. Until then we thank you for all your local support for our local allotment through this unprecedented time and wish you all good wishes. Stay safe everyone.

The Friends of Scalpcliffe Woods

In early Spring, as part of our group's long term plan, we planted 300 saplings in the lower area of the woodland. Over a period of two days we planted a mixture of Rowan, Holly, Oak, Beech and Yews. They are all native species and will eventually help to provide shelter and food for the wildlife within the woodland. We are closely monitoring and recording the tree growth and we're delighted to report that we have achieved a 85% success rate. Our group members generously donated all the saplings.

We have also been able to undertake a survey of the flora in the top field. It was good to find and identify a wide variety of plants and on a sunny June day it was very pleasing to see the number of insects flying amongst the wild flowers. We will be looking at ways to manage the brambles in some areas before they smother plants and reduce the biodiversity.

During lockdown it was good to see an increased number of people exploring the woodland and discovering new paths in their locality. Unfortunately, there were some who didn't always respect the environment, leaving unsightly amounts of litter and broken glass. We held a successful litter picking activity in July using litter pickers purchased with part of the grant we were fortunate to receive from the ESBC Councillors Community Fund. Thanks must also go to the Brizlincote Parish Council for the grant they gave to help us with the setting up of our group. We are most grateful for the continuing support from all our local Councillors.

We are already planning our Autumn activities and welcome new members. If you would like to join us in helping to protect and manage the woodland for the community to enjoy, please contact our secretary at:

foswde15@gmail.com

Junction Improvements & Road Closure

In 2012 the Model Dairy Farm development was approved by the local planning authority, East Staffordshire Borough Council and as a condition of the approval, the developer was required to fund improvements to the junction at Grafton Road/Beaufort Road/Violet Way.

The current situation with the mini roundabout is quite dangerous in that many drivers do not slow down to negotiate the junction. The new proposals funded by the developer will remove the roundabout and insert a raised table which will act as a traffic calming measure, slowing vehicles down on the approach to the junction. The new layout will be a T-junction. The road in the area will be narrowed making it easier to cross the road into Woods Lane which is a popular route for those wishing to walk/cycle into town.

The work will take approximately 4/5 weeks and will require a full road closure whilst the work takes place. At this stage, the exact date for the works is not known but given the disruption that this will cause, I wanted to let residents know that the current proposals suggest a start date in January 2021 – exact date to be confirmed. Although this isn't until the New Year please do take the time to think about how this closure will affect you and your family. I can confirm that pedestrian access will be maintained so walking/cycling to school shouldn't be a problem.

In respect of buses, the Midland Classic service will be re-routed - full details to be confirmed. I have requested that this information is also provided as a notice on the bus stops affected.

I am very happy to answer any questions about these works. These are best sent to conor.wileman@staffordshire.gov.uk. Any further information I receive about the works will be passed to Brizlincote Parish Council and Brizlincote Residents Facebook Group so that as many residents as possible are aware of the works in advance.

Best wishes

Conor Wileman – County Councillor for Brizlincote

We have all seen the news surrounding local lockdowns in Leicester and other parts of the Country. In Burton, the local authorities, NHS, businesses and residents have worked tirelessly to try and contain the spike in Covid-19 cases in the wards of Anglesey, Eton Park, Horninglow and Shobnall. We have seen how quickly cases can rise and what impact this can have on a local community, we all have a responsibility to ensure that we follow the Government's most current Covid-19 guidelines. Please wear a face covering if you are going to a shop, try and maintain social distancing and please continue to wash your hands as frequently as possible. Let's not get complacent and undo the good work of the past few months, we must continue to support each other as a local community throughout this pandemic.

Cllr Bernard Peters Ward Councillor for Brizlincote



We recognise there is a problem in relation to parking on pavements and pedestrian access within the Parish. This is partly due to car owners struggling to park in narrow streets and limited parking. Users of wheelchairs, mobility scooters, parents with prams etc. experience potential hazards from these restricted, sometimes blocked pathways. We would ask residents to follow the link to <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking> and respond to the governments discussion on pavement parking .

East Side Summer Arts Competition 2020

The Arts competition is run by Brizlincote Parish Council via local schools and usually takes place during the Autumn term. It was agreed that, due to the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic, the preferred option for 2020 was to bring this forward and invite our young artists to participate in a Summer Arts Competition which could be worked on at home - both during and after lockdown.

Themes:
 "What I did during lockdown"
 "Summer flowers, birds and insects"

Each entry will be recognised with a certificate
 All entries will be included in our newly planned Parish Time Capsule
 Categories will be all four Key Stages

It has been necessary to adapt the way we will be judging the competition this year and short listed entries and winners will be shown virtually on our website and Facebook pages so please look out for these and "like" the efforts which our local pupils have made.

Can We Give You Money?

Brizlincote Parish Council has limited funds available to assist non-profit making community organisations located or operating in Brizlincote for the benefit of local residents.

Any group, club or society wishing to apply for grant aid must make a written application using the Council's Grant Application Form. This will be discussed at a Parish Council monthly meeting against set criteria. The Form can be downloaded at: www.brizlincote-pc.org.uk.

Brizlincote Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Robert Bidgood	01283 511788	Brian Judd	01283 533052	Rita Page	07857 676099
Lynne Campion	07540 600111	Robin Ludford-Brooks	01283 535254	Walid Qneibi	07810 808895
Adrian Cowan	01283 530472	Barry Marsden	07774 128780	VACANCY	
Karen Hyde	07968 849050	Sarah Moss	07539 069538		

ESBC & Staffordshire County Councillors' Contact Details

<i>Bernard Peters</i>	<i>07870 976589</i>	<i>bernard.peters@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk</i>
<i>Colin Wileman</i>	<i>07572 685741</i>	<i>colin.wileman@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk</i>
<i>Conor Wileman</i>	<i>07907 182477</i>	<i>conor.wileman@staffordshire.gov.uk</i>

Brizlincote Parish Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. They are currently on the Zoom platform with a "Public Session" starting at 6.00 pm.

Log-in details are available from the Clerk.

Can We Have Your Feedback Please?

Clerk, Brizlincote Parish Council; email clerk@brizlincote-pc.org.uk
 web: www.brizlincote-pc.org.uk .

Editorial Committee

Adrian Cowan, Robert Bidgood, Karen Hyde, Sarah Moss

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Nature Walk



The Nature Walk continues to be popular with residents and your Council have been looking at ways to keep it easily accessible throughout the year. To this end a contractor has been engaged to maintain accessibility of the 'wild' part from Grafton Road to the footbridge. This regular maintenance will start in October and continue throughout the winter and next spring and summer. We can't do much about the muddy field the path goes through, but we can keep the vegetation from stopping you enjoying your walk! The fields the path goes through belong to the farm that has recently been put up for sale. What effect, if any, this will have on this part of the Nature Walk we do not know but rest assured your Council will keep a careful watch on the situation.

Other parts of the Nature Walk have had problems, not least of which has been some vandalism to the finger posts and, in one incident, an information board. To help keep this damage to a minimum, if you notice vandalism please report it to the police, either through their website as below, or by phoning 101. This registers the incident and helps the police build a picture of what is happening in the area so they can formulate a strategy for dealing with the problem.

<https://www.staffordshire.police.uk>

Christmas Event!

Brizlincote
Parish Council

**2020 Brizlincote-
Christmas Lights Extravaganza**

"Tis the season to be jolly!" -something we all need after such unprecedented times. The last few years has seen a range of amazing, potentially award winning Christmas Lights displays across the Parish. We are proposing an extravaganza where residents submit their entry to be included on a Christmas lights display map. These maps will be available for all residents and visitors to enjoy all of the displays, together with an opportunity to vote for their favourite. The aim will be for an overall winner and two runner ups. (full terms and conditions on our website)