

Parish Council

WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS AT ITS JUNE MEETING



BRYMPTON ALLOTMENTS UPDATE



2022 SCHOOL AWARDS



YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN

NEWSLINK

Brympton Parish Council School Awards

The Brympton Parish Council represented by the Chairman Graham Pritchard, Vice Chairman Bob Brookes and the Clerk to the council, Marie Attrill attended the Preston Primary School assembly on 8th July 2022 to present this years school awards to 4 pupils nominated by Headteacher Mrs. Claire Hodgson. Each pupil received a certificate and a £25.00 Amazon voucher.



Seri -Ann Merrick and Ellen Chaffey were nominated for their work in raising funds to support the work of the Halstock Hedgehog Rescue.

Olivia Wytrykowska and Ivy Rich were awarded for their work with the Little Princess Trust

BPC Chairman Graham Pritchard said " It is so important to reward young people when they step out to think of, and work for, others in the wider community! As a Council we are happy to support the schools in our parish whenever we can."

Brympton Parish Council News Update

At its meeting on the 22nd of June 2022 the Council filled its two casual vacancies by the co-option of.

Roger Simonite

Paul Herbert

Both Roger and Paul are residents of Brympton.

Also, at its meeting on 22nd June 2022, the BPC awarded a grant of £300 to the Thorne Coffin Jubilee Hall for the upgrading and repair of the double glazing as some of the panes were damaged.

A grant award of £499.80 to the Brympton Golden Oldies was made at the 27th July council meeting to assist with funding a coach for a day out to a garden centre near Taunton for those who have been unable to venture out much in recent times plus improved signage of the coffee morning events at the Community Centre

Brympton Allotment Association



The Brympton Allotment Association (BAA) is a members run allotment site located on Balls Hill. The site currently consists of 30 plots that are full size plots measuring 5 x 15 metres and 20 half size plots for members who prefers to grow on a smaller scale.

Located in a rural site with running water it is an ideal place to grow and tend tasty fresh vegetables and flowers for members tables.

The BAA aims to promote the interests of the members regarding proper cultivation, good management and enjoyment of the allotments. To maintain and improve the facilities and the condition of the site and to encourage and educate others to do the same. To promote and encourage members to cultivate the site with respect to the environment and the surrounding area through management of water use and recycling/composting as far as reasonably practical.



More News from Preston Primary School

At the end of another academic year, the Preston Primary School Year 6 leavers once again presented their now traditional stage performance.

This year it was Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and it was a truly scrumptious performance. After weeks of rehearsal, pupils performed in front of parents, teachers, and their peers. It was an amazing performance with lots of laughs throughout. They had worked hard to capture the essence of a classic story, giving it their own unique style with an hilarious child catcher and super spies. They sang and danced their hearts out. The Year 6 pupils should be very proud of themselves, and I am sure readers would want to wish them the best of luck for the future in all that they do.

You Are Never Too Old to Learn

There is certainly truth in the adage that “it’s never too late to learn” as the following tale, will, hopefully, encourage others to take up a new and rewarding challenge in their later years.

One of our community who at 73 years old decided that she wanted to keep her brain active. She had read somewhere that learning a foreign language or learning a musical instrument would help to achieve this goal. So, suitably inspired, she decided to learn the piano.

Having armed herself with a couple of adult teach yourself piano books and, of course, a piano, without which, this whole venture would be doomed to failure, she launched herself forth into the world of musical home entertainment. These books were very helpful and started her on the right path, slowly moving from the sound of Les Dawson to the sound of music.

Having progressed down this path for about a year, the conclusion was reached that having a piano teacher would be more beneficial. These structured lessons would help with the theory and the techniques needed to play better. And so, following a lot of hard work and practice, last year she took the Royal School of Music ABRSM Grade 3 exam and passed with merit.

In the next couple of months, she will be taking Grade 4. Learning music theory is ongoing, there is always some new challenge to master. Learning music takes a lot of dedication and practice but is also very rewarding and fun. So as the title suggests “You are Never Too Old Too Old to Learn”.



Lufton Community Hall An Update

It is hoped to have Lufton Community Hall open for use by the first week of September.

The Hall is situated inside the grounds of Kingfisher school. After a torturous process of taking on the lease, we are slowly working our way forward to opening and managing this asset for residents of Alvington, Augusta Park and the Lufton communities.

We are in need of volunteers who can commit to helping in the management of this unused valuable community building.

In particular we urgently require a booking clerk, to create and manage a system by diary and phone, for all user groups who wish to make use of the hall. Full support from the Parish Council will be given for this post.



LUFTON COMMUNITY HALL AT KINGFISHER SCOOOL LUFTON

On Being a Clerk

(NEWSLINK extends its grateful thanks to our Parish Clerk, Marie Attrill, for this revealing insight into her vital role within the community)

I have now been in this role since January 2021, where do I start??

Everyday poses a new challenge, some issues are easier to deal with than others, but I try my best. At the end of the day, I am only human, just like everyone else! In fact, only the other day I had an email thanking me for the work I had put into trying to answer a query. Trust me, when I have spoken to fellow Clerks, praise and thanks are a rare occurrence, so it is nice when received as we are all too often in the firing-line.

Many people rarely understand the role of a Clerk and we can be the first port of call for all manner of enquiries including for people just wanting to 'offload' about something unrelated to the parish. I usually start the day – at 8.30am with a coffee, going through the mails sifting out spam and junk, then make of list of importance.

The number of emails vary from day to day, for example, following a week's holiday the number was 200. On a daily basis the Clerk liaises with district and county council, passing on queries and sometimes complaints. Next on the list is to answer voice messages on the telephone, which depending on the telephone message dictates the time of the call. Telephone calls and emails go on throughout the day.

In the meantime, I prepare the agenda and research if necessary for the next scheduled meeting and then distribute the agendas to the councillors and to those that request a copy. The day that the agenda is sent to the councillors, then I go around all 10 notice boards and display the meeting and agenda (which is a legal requirement) and put up any extra notices that need to be displayed. Occasionally the extra notices don't always come through, meaning a double trip!

The day after the meeting, and I have taken the minutes these are then written (not always an easy task after some meetings) and follow-on emails and letters are sent. The minutes are then uploaded to the website to be displayed as draft until formally approved at the following meeting.

Occasionally a Parish council has a separate RFO (Responsible Finance Officer), but in my case it is a joint job. So, amongst the day-to-day clerking role I have the finances to deal with, and the annual finance audit. To be honest, I dreaded the first audit, but now that I have completed the second audit, I am not so fearful, if all the checks and balances are correct throughout the year, it is easier to understand.

I have regular meetings with the chairman, to discuss any problems.

I aim switch off the computer and put the phone on silent at 3.30pm, but unfortunately that is not always the case, as sometimes parishioners and councillors (and some residents who are unsure of the parish boundaries) think you are on call 24/7.

Last year, the parish council voted not to continue renting the parish office and like many Clerks I now work permanently from home, the same as during the lockdowns. This has many positive effects. Including travelling to and from work- meaning a reduction in travel time. It is also much quieter to concentrate at home (no children at home) and like many people I do find that it very easy to work longer than intended. But more importantly it is a safer, comfortable environment. By

not renting the office and telephone means that the parishioner's money can be spent more effectively within the parish

Oh, and before I forget, there is the bonus of having coffee on tap!



Just Another Day at the Office

With yet another cup of coffee !!!



Welcome Back Barbara

At the recent local election on 14th July 2022, Barbara Appleby was elected as a member of the SSDC representing the Brympton Ward. Barbara is an active member of the community having previously served, firstly as a member, then later as Chair, of the Brympton Parish Council.

Barbara will only be in post until April next year as the SSDC will then be swept up into the new unitary Somerset Council.



Barbara's message to NEWSLINK is:

Whilst the term of office is for less than 1 year I would like to progress community & play facilities in Augusta Park and generally ensure services, and facilities in Brympton are maintain to a good standard.

My first thing will be to look at the S106 funding for the Lufton site and find out why things have not progressed.