

BRACEBRIDGE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Bracebridge Heath community annual reports 2022

21st Lincoln Scouts
Friendship Club
Toddler group
Rainbows
Village Hall Management Committee
Women's Institute
Allotment Holders' Association
St John the Evangelist Church
St John's Primary Academy
Neighbourhood Watch
Cricket Club
Brownies
Phoenix United
Preschool
Community Library
Events group
Hurricane Sports
U3A

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Bracebridge Heath Allotment Holders' Association

A quiet year as far as the Association has been concerned, yet again dictated by the effects of the pandemic with only the A.G.M. being held in June when all current issues were discussed. However, it is gratifying to see that vacant plots have been taken over, are gradually being worked on and the whole site is looking much improved.

We are grateful to all those who help towards the general maintenance of the site and the running of this association, both fellow plot holders and to the Parish Council (Stacey, Rachel, Sue M. and their assistants). Our allotments form an integral part of our village and heritage, their cultivation brings many benefits to both the plot holder and the environment, especially with climate change. We remain members of the National Association to which £3.00 of our £5.00 annual subscription goes, giving us regular updates on legislation, insurance and current affairs. Our Facebook page is proving a welcome source of communication, as is the notice board which is regularly updated. We are a friendly diverse group of plot holders, (and lovely to see children being involved), always enjoying a chat, seeking/passing on advice, swapping plants etc. who hopefully look to the future for the enhancement of the site and its amenities whilst furthering that positive community spirit. Details for obtaining a plot may be found on the Parish Council website, our notice board or by speaking to our secretary Ed if visiting on Plot 12a.

In closing it is hoped we will be able to meet again for our A.G.M. on Saturday 11th June - details nearer the time.

Sue Shaw - Chairman

Bracebridge Heath Brownies

It's been a year of slowly getting back into the swing of things with the Brownies. Last summer term saw us return to face-to-face meetings full time and our group of girls grow with new Brownies joining us. We were sad to see the older ones move on but we know they will/are having a fabulous time at Guides.

With the autumn/winter term came the return of residentials, so we packed up our things and had a snowy, Christmas themed weekend at Seagull House in Trusthorpe. The weekend saw the girls enjoy some Christmas crafts, a Christmas dinner and of course a visit from Santa.

The new year brought with it some more challenges as we faced our annual membership bill. The unit will be looking to fundraise going forwards and have unfortunately had to increase our termly fees slightly in order to offset rising costs for the next year as we already know our membership fees will be increasing once again. Unfortunately, Covid hit us hard financially with little income whilst we weren't meeting regularly but we are already planning for the next year and ways to use our existing resources etc. This summer term will be spent celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee and our clever leaders have managed to tie in some of our unit activities to complete 2 more badges.

We have really missed not being able to attend events such as Remembrance Sunday as a unit so we are hoping this may be possible later this year. We are also hoping to get away for another residential soon.

Donna Hutton – Brownies Leader

Bracebridge Heath Events Group

Our first event was the annual Scarecrow Trail held over the last weekend in September 2021. There was no theme and so the entries were varied and imaginative and the weather was very kind to us again.

We decided that the Community Carols would be virtual as last year, and we had local duo 54 North performing on our behalf with their monthly folk ensemble.

We have been active with our planting activities, starting on 10th December 2021 when along with volunteers from the Parish Council and community we planted fifteen saplings which we had obtained free from the Woodland Trust. These comprised rowan, crab apple and hazel and were planted in the green area between The Homestead and Hospital Cottages.

At the end of February we spent a sunny but cold afternoon planting five trees, two cherry, two apple and one cotoneaster on the Sycamore Grove/Oakdene Avenue green. This was our contribution to the 'Queen's Green Canopy' to mark the jubilee.

Further planting was done during the first week in March when we planted bluebells, snowdrops, aconites, lily of the valley, irises, hellebores and others in the area where we had planted the saplings. These bulbs and plants, totalling over £200, were purchased with our Co-op Community Champions funds. They will take time to naturalise and spread but we hope that it will make a lovely spring display each year to be enjoyed by all including the wildlife that will benefit.

Easter Saturday in April saw the return of the Easter Egg Hunt after a two-year break due to covid restrictions. A beautiful sunny day brought families out to take part. There were Easter egg prizes for the first, second and third correct sheets out of the hat as well as two for the winners of our games. These were presented outside the Co-op on Easter Sunday.

A successful year despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. We now look forward to our 'Royal' themed Scarecrow Trail in September.

Best Wishes

Karen Thomson on behalf of The Events Group

Bracebridge Heath Community Library

Once again it has been a “stop/start” year in the library. At the beginning, due to Covid restrictions, it was only possible to offer a Click and Collect service for books reserved online during limited opening hours.

Later, as restrictions were relaxed, it was possible to open more fully and allow four borrowers plus the two volunteers into the library at once. One of the public computers was also made accessible. At all times, the government’s guidance on mask wearing, hand and surface sanitising and ventilation were strictly followed.

Due to the availability of volunteers, it was only possible to open the library for the reduced opening hours of Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, whilst Monday afternoon was added later. During the year, the Parish Council agreed to purchase a second computer for the volunteers to use which has made a big difference to their working practices and the service they are able to offer to customers

Usage was beginning to pick up as it became known that the library was open again when, unfortunately, due in part to the bad winter weather, a leak in the roof forced the library to be closed temporarily in February. Repair work on the porch and the roof is ongoing but confirmation from Lincolnshire County Council on the internal repairs needed is still pending. It will not be possible to re-open the library until everything has been checked and made safe.

The continued support of our dedicated volunteers through this most difficult of years is very much appreciated. We have been able to recruit and train six new volunteers and there are three other people waiting to start when the library re-opens. This is particularly pleasing in the light of the most recent Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) annual report on the state of public libraries nationally which reported that volunteer numbers fell during the pandemic by over 25,700, a drop of around 50%. The first volunteer meeting for over two years was held in November.

Thanks are also due to Stacey, Peter and Rachel of the Parish Council and Judith Hibbitt, the Library Development Officer from GLL (Greenwich Leisure) for their continued support. Going forward, it is hoped that the library will be able to re-open in time to run the Summer Reading Challenge which has been so successful in previous years and that, with more volunteers available, it will be possible to revert to the pre-pandemic opening hours.

Miss Alison Peden, Volunteer Co-ordinator for Bracebridge Heath Community Library

Bracebridge Heath Friendship Club

Following the relaxation of the Covid restrictions the club re-opened on 28 July, much to the relief of our members. Although it had been some time since we had last met, we soon settled in and normal service was resumed. This meant that we could again start going on trips and outings, which we certainly did! We started off with a trip to the Springfield centre and then on to the Organ Collection at Burtey Fen for an afternoon of musical entertainment, together with tea and biscuits. Our next visit was to the New Theatre Royal for an ABBA tribute act, much enjoyed by all. A few weeks later we returned for The Country Superstars show, preceded by a meal at William Foster's. On 27 October we had a Diamond Anniversary Buffet at the club where we were all fed and watered well! Our next trip was to Nottingham for a cruise on the River Trent, with lunch, a very popular afternoon with our members. With Christmas approaching, we made our annual visit to the Thursford Spectacular on 14 December. The following day we had our very successful Christmas party at the club, with professional entertainment. On to 2022, and another visit to the theatre for the Adult Panto. Slightly risqué, but nevertheless very funny. February and time for our AGM. Prior to the meeting, which is very routine, all members were invited to a carvery meal at The Bull - very popular.

We then had another trip to Nottingham, this time for a cruise with a difference. Although the day was sunny and warm, there was quite a strong wind - so much so that it prevented the boat leaving the quay side! Nonetheless, we all enjoyed a meal looking at the water and rocking to and fro.

Quite an extensive programme, and we are already arranging trips for the rest of this year. Our club is open to anyone over 55 and living locally and we are always ready to accept new members. Our weekly meetings are held in the former Methodist church on Grantham Road, Wednesday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm.

John Kerrison, Secretary

INTRODUCTION

The Heath Christian Partnership began to be set up three years ago and is a partnership between St. John the Evangelist Church, the Lincoln Methodist Circuit and the United Reformed Church to serve the growing needs of the growing Bracebridge Heath community. As well as seeking to do outreach, its core aims are to create space for community cohesion, (particularly with new families) and to begin a new 'Fresh Expression' style church to serve the developing building project. For just over a year now we have employed Matt as a community minister who works with volunteers from the community but also local Christians and churches to deliver the Partnership's aims.



PREVIOUS YEAR

The last year has seen us slowly start to engage with the community in a number of small ways. Early in March 2021 we spent time on the Rec, asking people to reflect with us on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of multiple lockdowns (both negative and positive) on their lives. We've also hosted two Dads' and Kids' mornings. In the first, Matt and Jacqueline (the Vicar of St. John's, one of our partner churches) set up some games and activities in the park on Grantham Road and in the second Matt led a small group of guys on a short nature walk around the area, followed by hot drinks from The Pantry Café.

Jacqueline and Matt have also hosted some mid-week Prayer and Worship evenings at St. John's, inviting local Christians to gather to pray for and to seek a blessing for the community. In the second of these, we sent our teams to pray around the community having spoken to some (not all) of the local businesses beforehand to find out what their needs and prayer requests for (which was generally well received).

Most recently, the Partnership has established a Community Drop-in on a Wednesday morning, held in the Methodist Church. This was in response to the request for space for members of the community to meet other members. We've been working to create a friendly and welcoming space, serving free refreshments and aiming to cater for the entire demographic of the Bracebridge Heath community.

Hopefully, the time this report comes out, we will also have engaged some community outreach on Good Friday, handing our free hot cross buns to people in the community.

UPCOMING

In an effort to create more community interaction on the St. John's estate, Matt, Jacqueline and Methodist Minister Jennifer are currently planning a series of community picnics on the Rec. We are hoping these will help families (particularly new families) to meet and develop friendships in the community.

The partnering churches are also organising a family-friendly prayer event for Sunday 22nd May at 4pm. This will be a time for anyone and everyone who is interested in prayer or is seeking a deeper spiritual life to engage creatively with prayer as we seek God's blessing on us and our community.

We are also thinking about how we might engage the community in exploring the Christian faith. We may look at running an Alpha Course or holding a non-committal, relaxed 'Park Church', both of which provide the opportunity to bring their questions, doubts, objections and ideas about faith into a place of open and honest discussion.

As far as how else we might serve the community, the Partnership is flexible and adaptable and wants to partner with other local organisations and businesses as much as possible to bring a blessing to Bracebridge Heath. New ideas about how we might do this and offers to run joint events/projects are most certainly welcome!

Bracebridge Heath Preschool and Nursery

We moved from our former residence at the hub within the grounds of St Johns last June. Lincolnshire county Council bought the former Police Station for us to move to due to the due to the operational and capacity issues we had, due to the amount of growing young families in the village. We had to pay for all the renovations ourselves, our savings pot was depleting rather quickly and outside grants which LCC thought we may have been able to acquire did not happen, as every grant applied for had to be 'covid' related which was not the case. LCC ended up giving us a grant for 25K in order for us to complete the renovations and unforeseen maintenance work required. Everything went to plan and we moved into the property in June 2021.

The preschool and nursery is thriving, and we are full, this has helped by us now taking children from one years old and opening from 7.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday all year round. and at present unable to accommodate spaces for some children in the village. We have had the opportunity to increase our staff members too.

We were unable to gain any grants from the Parish Council this year due to our accounts not being updated in time and another grant application was not successful due to our builder not submitting the quote in time. We are hoping to be able to apply again and fund raise to renovate the former outside maintenance and repair garage into a more functional outdoor classroom/play area for all our age groups.

We would like to be part of any celebrations the village will be doing for the Queens Platinum Jubilee if someone could contact us. We will be decorating the building and are doing relevant activities with the children.

Carol Lynn - Preschool & Nursery manager

Heath U3A

Despite the severe limitation of two years of covid restrictions, we enter our 13th year of existence in reasonably good health.

To 'Learn, laugh, live' was our goal throughout the covid pandemic, and by March 2022 we have largely achieved it. Operating as a charity under the over-arching body of the 'Third Age Trust' our membership of those no longer in full-time employment, draws from Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln, Waddington, North Hykeham and surrounding villages.

Having largely returned to us it currently stands at 138, from a pre-covid figure of 165, and continues to rise. We now have 29 interest groups led entirely by volunteers from within our membership, from a total in 2020 of 32, encompassing crafts, games, languages and History to more physical activities like bowling, table tennis and walking groups of varying lengths. Meetings are increasingly well attended, currently in the order of 45/50 and we have resumed our speaker program.

Our finances are strong, with good balances and we have not had to increase our membership subs which continue at £12.00 per annum.. We are still able to meet in our long-term venue at Grantham Rd. Methodist church and our committee is healthy and stable.

So, all-in-all we appear to have weathered the storm intact. Whilst covid rules have largely disappeared, we are constantly mindful of those in our midst who may still be vulnerable and try to make them feel safe and comfortable where distancing and/or masks appear desirable.

We go forward into 2022 with optimism, having endeavoured to restore what our members want from their U3a.

Adrian Peill, Chair

Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Watch

As for many other groups, the pandemic has certainly had a deleterious impact on the NHW group activities along with the dissolution of the local Police Community support office in the Nettleham headquarters and the struggles experienced by the NHW District Association.

Although the NHW group is open to all ages, our main demographic is at the higher end of the age spectrum where the most Covid-19 vulnerable groups are, hence the reluctance over the past couple of years to hold in-person meetings either as coffee mornings or coordinator meetings. There have been online meetings, but not all coordinators are techsavvy (or want to be!) and so this tends to exclude some of them. We have had two NHW coordinators' meetings during the past year via 'Zoom', but other activities have been suspended.

In April we had our Annual General Meeting in person, which re-elected the current committee members to keep their current posts for another year, which were accepted. Due to the Police cutbacks at Nettleham, the information on the Alert system is of a much more general nature and although there are occasional Police requests for support on the NextDoor app, these are very much more infrequent than before.

We are intending to have a presence at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event in St John's church in BBH. We are also aiming to recruit more NHW co-ordinators via the Parish News and to promulgate the benefits of having a NHW, one of which is the potential for reduced household insurance premiums.

Guy Simpson, Chairman

St John the Evangelist Church

Preparing for today I reflected on how, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, life changed drastically for us all. My heart goes out to you all and your own particular struggles, losses and challenges over the past couple of years.

We opened our church building to weekly private prayer from Wednesday 31st March last year and weekly 10 am Worship from Sunday 4th April, Easter Sunday and have remained open for the past years continuing to build our community and congregation life, gathering as church and community for weekly and special services, Harvest and Christmas. We have also opened the church for prayer and reflection in these difficult times, most recently for weekly Thursday prayers for the people and situation of the Ukraine.

In November, as a result of Covid-19 and the continuing difficulty in ensuring safety of the large numbers in attendance a service of Remembrance was held in the St John's Hospital burial ground.. Representatives from St John's Church and other organisations took part in an act of wreath laying at the village war memorial in honour of lives lost. Members of our community were invited to place poppies, wooden crosses and other momentos at the war memorial in their own acts of remembrance. St John's Church displayed a splendid arrangement of crochet poppies courtesy of the Bracebridge Heath WI.

The switching on of the village Christmas Tree lights and Carol Service is becoming a popular event each year. This year St John's were delighted to be able to offer Christingle packs to the children and adults attending.

Though unable to produce and deliver the monthly Parish News this publication remains available on the Parish Council and Church Facebook pages and by request by email.

After 70+ years serving the community of Bracebridge Heath and St John Church, our church hall was condemned 2 years ago. Since then Revd Jacqueline and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have been working towards arranging the demolition.

Work began on **Monday 28th March** with Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services continuing. Thank you to Sue Manders for the huge amount of time she continues to put into this project.

The vision for the church hall site.

- a. To leave an area to grass so that an extension can be built onto the church at a future date to provide a reasonable sized church hall for community use.
- b. A memorial garden for quiet reflection. This will be a low maintenance garden in which we hope to provide the means for villagers to have a plaque in memory of loved ones.

If you have any thoughts on a possible layout of this project or where we can access grants or donations, please contact Revd Jacqueline and any member of the PCC.

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Please look out for further information on all that is happening at St John's in Heathcliff view, Parish News publications, our church noticeboard, Achurchnearyou.com and Facebook pages. God bless,

Reverend Jacqueline Bell, Vicar.

St John's Primary Academy

It has been an extremely tough year for our school with the continuing pandemic. We have been very close to having to close on several occasions. At one point we had 21 staff members off work. However, our staff were determined not to close and took on responsibilities well outside their normal remit to ensure our pupils could come to school, including our Business Manager donning a tabard and being a Midday Supervisor and Mrs Marcer cleaning the toilets. Our staff are 'unsung heroes' in the eyes of the governors and school community and they deserve our thanks; although they would not see themselves in that way: "just doing what was needed to ensure our pupils can come to school to learn and be with their friends."

We are now starting to open up our school clubs and visitors are allowed back into school and some school trips are taking place.

Despite the pandemic there has been a lot going on this year at the school. Mrs Marcer our Headteacher has decided to go part time. We now have a Co-headship. We appointed Mrs Jarish as the other Co-head but unfortunately, she had to take sick leave, so Mr Thornton has temporarily stepped up as co-head. Our thoughts are with Mrs Jarish. We welcomed three new Governors to the Governing Board –Mrs L Robinson, Mr P Drury, and Mr D Willars and two new Members Mr P Kenton and Mr S Mann. Our thanks go to Mr C Smith and Mrs M Batley who have left our Governing Board this year.

We have improved the school estate again this year. The flat roofs have now been replaced. A new classroom, staff kitchen and intervention area has been built onto the southern side of the two-storey building. This allowed another ground floor classroom to be changed into a nurture room with a separate sensory room. This nurture room is staffed throughout the day and can be used by any pupil who for whatever reason needs a period of time away from others to cope with the demands of everyday life. It is well used and has helped many pupils already.

The new build and internal restructuring has released a large area in the centre of our building for a new library and intervention space. It will be developed over the next few months as the school community decides how it will be set out. The conversion of the old caretaker's house is nearly complete and will be used for meetings and Pandas (before and after school club). This year as part of the Queen's Jubilee Forest we have planted a small woodland which will be used for many different outdoor lessons such as outdoor reading, science and life skills.



I said last year that we were expecting an important visitor from OFSTED to look at our Caring2Learn set up as we are one of the leading schools in country, but that it had to be postponed because of the pandemic. However, the visit was rearranged and on 4th March we were delighted to welcome Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education Angela Spielman to our school. (Angela is in the centre)

Our school now has a Facebook and Twitter account to go with its website and we hope this will make it easier for people to see what we are doing at school.

We are looking forward to inviting our community back into the school for all sorts of events in the coming months.

Sue Manders, Chairman of Governors

Bracebridge Heath Women's Institute

Last April we kicked off our membership year with an amazing feat we didn't even know was possible until last year. We had our first hybrid annual meeting with some change about of the committee and a new president elected in Katie. We moved into the kitchens in May for The Great BBH Bake-along where we made scones and had a giggle. June was even more squishy with air dry clay, and some amazing creations were poked, prodded and teased into shape. July brought our first in-person meeting with a treasure trail around the Bailgate – how we missed those epic rain showers that night I'll never know! The annual summer social took place in August with a temporary home at the Bracebridge Heath Pavilion, lots of fun was had alongside Pimm's and Cream Teas. Moving on to September saw us moving to our new home, in the Bracebridge Heath Methodist Church and we had the lovely Joannah from the Lincoln Eco Pantry to talk to use about some simple swaps to be a little more eco-conscious in our daily life. Lynsey needed our help to support her work with the Woolly Woodland's Many a yarn and felt poppy were made, donated and affixed to netting. This poppy-bombing was so proudly displayed at the altar of St John's Church throughout Remembrance week, and even featured on the NFWI Facebook and Instagram feeds. We went back to being eco—conscious again in November with our upcycled Christmas crafts – we made beeswax wraps, candle holders, paper baubles and brown card gingerbread houses. In December we didn't have a normal meeting at the church but enjoyed a trip to Belton for the Light Display, with many thanks to the funding from Bracebridge Heath Parish Council. 2022 kicked off with a very interesting talk of the history of our village from village historian, Sue Manders. February had us all moving and grooving with a little bit of chair Zumba and a lot of laughing. We rounded out the year by working together to creating some upcycled bunting ready to be used for our refreshment stall for the Jubilee and to decorate the hall each month alongside the tablecloth that is going on behind the scenes by some of the amazing committee member sewists.

Phew! For a year still dogged by COVID, we still managed to pack a lot in and I'm so proud of us all. The committee have worked so hard with securing speakers, organising trips, setting up refreshments and so much more, I cannot thank them enough. Alongside this, being able to see our members every month, whether through a screen or in person, has shown us what we do all of this for. So, I thank you all and I cannot wait for next year to begin.

Our trip to Belton lights was very kindly funded by our Parish Council grant this year. 14 members attended the evening and had a wonderful time to marvel at the different light structures across the gardens as well as the chance for much needed socialisation whilst staying COVID safe in the outdoors. We feel this was an invaluable chance for our members to get together at the end of a tough year. We are very grateful for this opportunity and look forward to further opportunities in the future.

Katie Mcloughlin and the BBH WI Committee