

# BRACEBRIDGE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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## Bracebridge Heath community annual reports 2020

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  
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## **1<sup>st</sup> Bracebridge Heath Brownies**

It's been a busy year for 1<sup>st</sup> Bracebridge Heath Brownies. We have seen a few girls leave us for Guides and have welcomed some new starters and some Rainbows into the unit. We have also said farewell to one of our leaders who has moved to the USA.

The past year has seen the unit really get stuck into our new programme and enjoy themselves immensely at various events. The girls took part in our District Gang Show last April where they amazed us with their dance routines. The summer term was all about completing one of the six Theme Awards. The girls all worked together to complete Unit Meeting Activities and Skill Builders with many also earning the Theme Award by completing an Interest Badge outside of Brownies.

In September we all dressed smartly in our uniforms and attending one of our Leaders, Karens, wedding at St Johns Church where we sang for the congregation and had our photo taken with the Bride and Groom. It was lovely to be a part of their special day.

Pack Holiday was next in October. We had an amazing Harry Potter themed weekend with Wand Making, Golden Snitches, a Sorting Hat and an Escape room. We also enjoyed an impromptu camp fire with some local cubs and our leaders taught us some fun camp songs. Congratulations go to Maddie for organising a wonderful weekend away and gaining her Going Away with Brownies Award. Our next weekend away is planned for June with a summer holiday theme.

We finished off the Christmas term with a District trip to Theatre Royal to see the Panto, Robin Hood. One of our Brownies got to go on stage at the end to help with a song.

The start of 2020 has been quiet with the girls working towards a new Theme. Last weekend we attended our Annual Thinking Day event where we learnt about Mexico, the home of one of the World Centres Our Cabana. The Brownies made Day of the Dead headbands and learnt to Salsa.

This year our District celebrates its 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday, to celebrate we are going to visit Yorkshire Wildlife Park in July and hold a mini party there. One of our Brownies came joint first in the design a badge competition for the trip. We look forwards to seeing her design on our camp blankets.

Our Leaders are all volunteers and have their own skills but sometimes we are limited in what we know. If anyone feels that they have a skill or interest that they would like to share with the Brownies then please get in touch. Our email is [bbhbrownies@hotmail.com](mailto:bbhbrownies@hotmail.com)

We would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support of the unit and look forwards to another fun filled year with plenty of activities and adventures.

*Donna Hutton, Leader*

## **Allotment Holders' Association**

A quiet year as far as the Association has been concerned with only one meeting having been held – and with the A.G.M last year voting to hold 2020 A.G.M in June (rather than the usual January) we are hoping to then encourage an increased attendance. Our unpredictable weather hasn't been conducive to working our plots and poses many challenges but hopefully we will soon see action and improvements, especially on those plots recently taken over.

Our thanks are due to our Parish Clerk, her assistant, Colin the village handyman, to our Parish Council representative and on the site – Geoff, John, Alan, Peter and others who together all contribute to the smooth running and upkeep of the Bracebridge Heath Allotments. We are sorry to see Geoff step down from managing the bonfire (N.B. all must now dispose of their own waste) and Graham our secretary – both being thanked for their sterling contributions.

We remain members of the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardens Ltd. To which £3.00 of our £5.00 annual subscription goes, giving us regular updates on legislation and current affairs. Our allotments form an integral part of our village and heritage, their cultivation brings many benefits both to the plot-holder and the environment and it is hoped that the present allotment site will be safeguarded.

In closing, our next meeting is our A.G.M at 11.00 am on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> to be held courtesy of Maureen (with grateful thanks) at 163. Grantham Road.

A warm welcome awaits you!

Sue Shaw, Chairman

## **Bracebridge Heath Community Library**

The Library continues to be well used and is valued by the community with many positive comments being received both in person and on our Facebook page. It has now been managed by the Parish Council for four years and, going forward, the contract with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) has been renewed on a rolling year-on-year basis.

Monthly Wednesday and Saturday Story times have continued throughout the year and there have been ongoing attractive displays created by our volunteers, sometimes tying in with national or local events.

Last year's major refurbishment has paid dividends in creating not only a very welcoming environment for everyone but also providing a more flexible space for a wider range of events to take place. Once again, we participated in the Scarecrow Trail and, most recently, held a very successful Harry Potter event on 6 February. The Library has also been used by village organisations and Parish Council meetings are now held there.

The remainder of the capital grant from LCC was used to purchase a small shed which has been sited at the side of the library and is used to store both library and Parish Council equipment.

Public Wifi is available which enables users to access the internet from their own devices and just last week, the Peoples Network and Volunteer computers have been upgraded by Greenwich Leisure on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. Volunteers will shortly be using a new Library Management system to carry out library transactions and all of them will require re-training.

As part of the IT upgrade, there is a new multi-function photocopier/printer. This is a service that is already very well used, being the only public photocopier in the village and generates considerable income for the Parish Council.

During the year, we have recruited several new volunteers who have become assets to our team. It is due to the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of all our volunteers that the library continues to operate so successfully. Their contribution is much appreciated by the Parish Council. So much so that last autumn the Clerk and Assistant Clerk nominated them for an award in the Arts and Culture category of the North Kesteven Community Champions Awards. They were selected as finalists and in October, at a prestigious Awards Event at the International Bomber Command Memorial, they were proud and thrilled to be announced as the 2019 winners in that category. The trophy and certificate are on display in the library.

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

## **Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club**

Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club (BBHCC) would like to thank the Parish Council for the grant we received which will help with the renovation of our beloved "iconic" scoreboard with the unveiling at the start of the season of our new electronic scoreboard. During March work will take place on the scoreboard which needs a total repaint too and this will be undertaken by our volunteers along with many other jobs including fundraising events in preparation for our first match on Saturday 18th April.

Events planned so far:

13th March 2020	A Gin & Rum Tasting Evening
18th April 2020	Sat 2nd XI v Messingham Followed by a Silent Disco in the evening
23rd April 2020	Junior outdoor training starts
9th May 2020	Race night
14th June 2020	Lincolnshire Minor Counties v Hereford
20th June 2020	Stolen Fridays Music Night
10th July 2020	BBH Golf Day @ Blankney

Last year we ran 4 men's cricket teams, 6 junior teams and our All Stars programme (4-8 year olds) together with many successful social events. Our Stolen Fridays music night in the summer attracts many people from the local community and we welcome you all to the cricket club where you can come and enjoy watching cricket matches every Saturday and Sunday and you will always be welcome.

For any further information you can contact us through Facebook or message Rachel Moor by email - [rachel@bracebridgeheathcc.co.uk](mailto:rachel@bracebridgeheathcc.co.uk)

*Rachel Moor, Secretary for Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club*

## **Bracebridge Heath Events Group**

We have had a good year and have managed with a small group to fulfil our three main activities, all with the aim of bringing people together and encouraging community spirit in the village. The Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Saturday in the woodland was popular as usual with lots of families following the trail, hoping to win one of three prizes. All the children taking part also had a chocolate treat or two on completion of the trail.

The Scarecrow Trail in September was very well attended over the weekend, the theme being Sports Personalities, once again chosen by the St John's pupils. It was great to have so many having a go at making a scarecrow, the fabulous creations never cease to amaze us. There were prizes once again of family Kinema in the Woods tickets for the winner of the trail and winner of favourite scarecrow.

We were joined by an added attraction this year with the Woollen Woods which looked brilliant and really enhanced the day; thank you to all who created those and look forward to seeing more this year. There will be no theme this year so you can really let your imaginations go!

Community Carols in December at St John's church was well attended and all enjoyed a good sing accompanied by local duo 54 North. Mince pies and mulled wine brought the evening to a pleasant close.

We were delighted to be chosen for the Co-Op Community Champions scheme for the Environment Quarter during the summer. We will be buying some gardening equipment as well as plants and compost and would love to see you at one of our planting and tidy up days on the second Saturday of the month, beginning again in March.

A big thank you to all who have helped, especially Lincolnshire Co Op, St John's church and St John's Primary Academy and to all who support our activities. Look out for us on Facebook and contact us via [bbheventsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:bbheventsgroup@gmail.com).

See you at this year's Easter Egg Hunt, 10am in the woodland on Easter Saturday.

*Karen Thomson, Secretary of Bracebridge Heath Events Group*

## **Bracebridge Heath Friendship Club**

The Friendship Club provides a weekly meeting place for local elderly people to socialise. Following a short period of interaction, club members' business and enrolment takes place. Members then chose to play bingo or whist for about an hour. After this, refreshments are provided and general social activity takes place. On special days and when a member's birthday actually falls on a club day, cakes or a buffet are provided instead of biscuits.

In addition to the weekly meetings, outings and trips are also arranged. In the previous year, these activities have comprised meals out, theatre trips to Lincoln and Newark, river cruises on the Trent, including lunch, our annual mystery trip and the Thursford Christmas spectacular.

The value of this club cannot be underestimated. Many of our members are practically housebound and welcome the opportunity once a week to meet with their peers. It also affords them the opportunity to travel further afield or to take evening trips which they would not normally be willing, or able, to undertake.

We generally get a small grant each year from the Parish Council, for which we are most grateful. In 2019, this money went towards a visit to the Burtey Fen organ collection and recital and also towards the mystery trip. Apart from that, the club is wholly self-sufficient.

Once again, our membership has increased this year, which is most gratifying. We are still open to new members and welcome the continuing support for this undoubted village asset.

*Mr John Kerrison, Secretary for Bracebridge Heath Friendship Club*



## Heath U3A

We are now entering our 12th year as an organisation, we continue to see our membership stabilize. Membership, which is renewed over the months of January and February, is currently, at the time of writing, 165 members compared to 179 at this time last year. We draw our members from Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln, Waddington, North Hykeham and surrounding villages.

The current annual subscription remains £12 per year per person - of which a subscription fee of £3.50 is paid to our central body - the Third Age Trust. The Third Age Trust provides service to each independent U3A in the form of insurance and negotiates licensing for various media facilities at a much reduced rate. All U3As are designed to meet the needs of those people who have entered that period of their life when they are no longer, raising a young family or following a paid profession/occupation; or are at the other end of the spectrum in finding themselves alone. Each local U3A has interest groups, run and organised by its members for its members.

Heath U3A meets once a month as a 'Branch' at The Methodist Church, when we conduct Branch business, such as, organising group membership and listening to a guest speaker from a varied and balanced programme. We currently have 30 active interest groups and 2 virtual groups; a virtual group is where the group members meet 'on-line.' In addition we have 3 practical help groups majoring on use of (i) the computer, (ii) E-bay and (iii) iPad/iPhone. These practical help groups can be tailored to individual needs, which are often negotiated between group leader and individual on a one-to-one basis. Activities are normally funded by the members of an interest group. For further details of what is available look on our website - [heathu3a.org.uk](http://heathu3a.org.uk) under the heading 'Groups.' Our policy as a committee, is that if we fill a group with members, then we try to open another group to take the 'overflow.'

This year has been a time of change : we were required to register as a charity with The Charity Commission, since a change in regulation which was brought about by consultation with The Third Age Trust (our central body) and HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs). This led to our financial turnover being redefined and thus our breaking through the lower level of the requirement to register with the Charity Commissioners. Also the closure of the Methodist Church as a place of worship and the subsequent management being transferred to Lincoln Central Methodist Church office, meant that we have been 'trailing' a 'new' management of bookings etc with a distant landlord as we use the building for our main Branch meeting and associated group interest meetings. We are grateful for all the assistance that Lincoln Central Methodist Church office have given us over this first three months out of the current year's agreement until August 2020.

So there appears to me, to be good value still to be had, and friendship to be found, in Heath U3A, but then I'm probably biased.

Finally, on a personal note, I step down as Chair of Heath U3A at next week's AGM, having completed my maximum term of 3 years in office, as laid down in our constitution, so there should be 'a new kid on the block' next year.

*John Thorneycroft, Chair*

## **Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Watch**

The Group would like to sincerely thank the Parish Council for the PC Grant 2018/ 19 – we have very limited opportunity to generate revenue and this money is vital to keep BBH NHW as a going concern.

In this instance, after some enquires about the probable costs, an application for a PC grant was made to support the acquisition of new NHW signs to either replace those that were worn out (or illegible), or to be put up in new areas that have a NHW coordinator for the street, but no NHW signs. Fifteen of these signs have now been acquired and the process of mounting these should be well underway by the time of the Parish Council AGM. Needless to say, that the appropriate guidelines for mounting the signs are being followed!

We have had three NHW coordinators' meetings during the year and held two coffee mornings, in April and November. These coffee mornings are aimed at being a community information resource, which are helped by the PC grant. Information about access to the Lincolnshire Alert system and local crime statistics is made available at these times. Recent talks have included Sergeant Broughton raising awareness of scams – how to recognise them and what to do, and Gary Burr from the British Heart Foundation. These gatherings are held in the Village Hall (if available) or alternatively in the Methodist Church Hall on Grantham Road.

In April we had our Annual General Meeting, which re-elected the current committee members to keep their current posts for another year, which were accepted.

We continue to use the Lincolnshire Alert System to gain up-to-date information on local incidents for the neighbourhood and on more general advice concerning fraud that is a daily threat to residents via post, 'phone, text or email.

Thankfully, we continue to have a very low reported crime rate in BBH – however, we have to remain vigilant, working with the Police and PCSOs, to ensure this remains the case. At this point BBH NHW would like to acknowledge the excellent support received from PC Pete Hanson over the years and would wish him a long and happy retirement.

We are hoping for further opportunities this year to have a presence at any major public gatherings in BBH that may be planned. We are also aiming to recruit more NHW coordinators 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**

As the Anglican Church in Bracebridge Heath we continue to be here for you for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Details of weekly worship and events can be found in Heathcliff View, Parish news, Facebook and the Parish Council website. Our dedicated team, thanks to Churchwarden John Robinson, continue to produce and distribute the monthly Parish News with its current circulation of around 600. This year, as every year, we were able to distribute 4600 free December Parish News to our community.

We continue to be involved in many ongoing projects.

This past year has involved working collaboratively with Parish council and other organisations. St John's, Methodist Circuit and Lincoln United Reformed Church have united with a view to appointing a Pioneer Minister to work within our growing community alongside the established church here. I will keep you posted as an appointment is made.

Fully supporting the Parish Councils Neighbourhood Plan we have written, as a church, to NKDC and developers about our concerns regarding community cohesion for existing residents and people arriving in the area. Alongside our general concerns we have highlighted the importance, as we see it, for provision to be made for a community building in the early stages of the development.

Looking back on a busy 2019 for Bracebridge Heath we were pleased to provide refreshments during the Events Group Community Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday, Children were invited to help create the Easter Garden and take part in fun activities.

St John's once again took part in the Scarecrow trail, thanks to Churchwarden Sue Shaw's hard work. We welcomed many to refreshments in church over the weekend and held a successful Summer Fair in the church carpark in August.

The annual service for those we remember who have died took place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. This year the service was followed by a service of Remembrance and Memorial on the St John's Hospital Burial ground. This will continue annually.

On Remembrance Sunday community volunteers once again assisted with road closures for the Centenary parade of Remembrance. Revd Jacqueline, Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank all concerned for their commitment to this. They would also like to thank uniformed organisations for their contribution to this very important service and the WI for providing refreshments.

In December we welcomed once again the Bracebridge Heath Events Group Christmas Community Carol Service in church. We were delighted to join the Parish Council in a Carol Service on the Green to switch on the lights of the village Christmas tree.

Thank you to the Parish council for monies towards purchase of a mobile sound system to use at outdoor events and services.

In the day to day life at St John's addition to our regular, annual services and monthly Community Coffee Morning we have introduced a few more free community activities: Butterflies a social group monthly opportunity for ladies to meet for tea/coffee and cake, home-style pamper treatments, craft activities and conversation.

Our growing monthly Crafty Club and Games4all offer the same chance for activity and conversation.

Prayer Breakfast continues to meet on the second Saturday morning at 830 am offering an opportunity to meet and pray, or walk and pray, for all needs, personal, community, national and International.

As we look ahead to 2020, we have been invited by the Parish Council to take part in the village VE day celebrations on 7<sup>th</sup> May. We look forward to holding a 'Praise through the Generations' – Songs of Praise service at 2.30pm on the Recreation Ground and are inviting people of all generations in our village to choose a hymn and share a few words on its significance to them. If you would like to be involved in this please let me know.

Church continues to be open to you all between 9am and 5pm each weekday for quiet time and reflection.

We at St John's look forward to what the next 12 months will bring for us as church and community as we work together.

*Reverend Jacqueline Bell, Vicar.*

## St John's Primary Academy

It has been an exciting year for St John's with some great achievements both educationally and with government building grant bids.

We were awarded the Caring2Learn GOLD award. It was recognised that we already do all that was required to achieve this award. The concept of a caring school is divided into four sections

- ethos and leadership;
- a child centred approach;
- working with carers;
- working together with other settings, agencies and professionals.

Delivery of these aspects provides support for the pupils in our care, so that they are able and ready to access learning opportunities.

Our Headteacher, Mrs L Marcer, has also been recognised for her work with our pupils as she has been appointed one of the Caring2Learn Education Champions and now advises other schools.

In March 2019, we were informed that our government grant bid for £750,000 to completely renew our school heating system and become more energy efficient had been successful. The only snag was that we had to spend it within a year or the money would have to be returned. This meant that everything had to be ready for the contractors to move in at 5pm on the last day of the summer term. Our immense thanks must go to our Business Manager, Mrs J Williams, for all the hours of work she put in to ensure that everything went smoothly and that we got the most we possibly could out of this bid. Thanks also need to go to all the school staff, family members and governors who ensured that all the furniture and teaching materials were removed and stacked in the centre of rooms before the contractors arrived. On the last day of the summer holidays they also cleaned and replaced everything back into position ready for the start the new school year.

We have put in another grant bid for this year with regards to our flat roofs. At the time of writing we do not know if we have been successful.

The school is also considering making other changes to the school estate. Our Estate Manager has moved out of the caretaker's house and we are now considering what we can use the building for and what improvements it needs. The new build of one classroom and associated small group working area which will give us the flexibility to cater for the needs of various groups of pupils is progressing. We would also like to thank the Parish Council for the grant to enable us to furnish our infant withdrawal/nurturing room.

Two teaching staff left in July. Mr Barlow took early retirement and Miss Connell left to take up a promotion to Senior Teacher. You will still see Mr Barlow around as he has volunteered to help out with trips. We are pleased to welcome two new teachers Mr Morris and Miss Porter to our school.

Our school does have a few pupil vacancies at the moment mainly in Early Years but most other classes are full.

The school continues to do well both academically (SATS) and in sport especially in netball this year. At sporting events the staff are often complimented on the good behaviour and sportsmanship of our pupils. Pupils have been involved in community events throughout the year including Christingle, coffee morning, and musical events.

Our school has been very successful at keeping its feel of being the village school where the pupil is at the centre of all we do, and we need to thank all those involved with the school for helping us in continuing to have this ethos. Thanks also need to go to the Friends of the School, for their continuing support and help and without whom all the 'little' extras would not be possible.

*Sue Manders, Chairman*