



Autumn 2017
Issue 53



BREHERTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Future meetings of the Parish Council

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of the month at Bretherton Endowed Primary School apart from the months of January and August.

Monday November 6th

Monday December 4th

Welcome to the autumn village newsletter. The summer, such as it was seems to have flown by and the nights are now drawing in.

The Parish Councillors are happy to welcome Councillor Kevin Wigley who has filled the vacant position on council. Kevin stood for election in 2015 when there were eight nominees for six positions. When a vacancy arose due to the resignation of Mr Bob Bertram, the two unsuccessful candidates were approached and Kevin was happy to fill the position.

We now await the results of the Best Kept Village Competition. The tidy village group has been doing its best to keep the village looking tidy but the task is made increasingly difficult when cars and cyclists seem to think it is acceptable to jettison their rubbish into the grass verges and hedgerows. Most Bretherton residents take a great pride in the appearance of the village and it is such a shame when people travelling through abuse it in this way.

In November the newly refurbished war memorial will be re-dedicated and used to remember the fallen soldiers from the two World Wars. We urge all residents, if they can, to attend the annual service and give thanks for those who sacrificed their lives to give us the freedoms we enjoy today.

Finally, big thank-yous to all those who have organised activities and events in the village during the year and to R & E Bamford Ltd., for their sponsorship of the newsletter for a further four editions.

There is a lot going on in Bretherton, if you have not become involved before or if you are new to the village why not make that all important step.

Barbara Farbon Chair

Boundless Networks

Further to the article in the summer newsletter, there is currently work afoot in Bretherton to explore a Network Design Package in the village to provide superfast broadband. With many people working from home and properties being more saleable if there is good broadband coverage, it is certainly something to consider. If you would like more information about this scheme we would like to know. If sufficient interest is expressed then we may be able to move forward with it.

Wayne Jackson

All information in this newsletter is correct at the time of printing. Bretherton Parish Council take no responsibility for the content of any of the articles included.

DOG FOULING

Please also take responsibility for your dogs when walking them through the village. It is an offence to allow your dog to foul the highways. Dog faeces can carry parasitic toxocarasis which can lead to blindness in humans. Remember to 'scoop the poop' and dispose of it safely!! Please note, dogs are not permitted in the children's playground or on the field of the recreation ground.

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VISIT THE BREHERTON WEBSITE

www.bretherton.org.uk

Bretherton Endowed School

Summer has passed and at the start of our autumn term, we are delighted to have welcomed back our children, who all seemed to have grown, and our new starters who are just beginning their Bretherton journey. We are all excited to plan for and watch children's progression through this year - expecting every pupil to achieve their best and fulfil their potential is absolutely what we do. Staff are confident to offer motivating lessons which challenge our children whilst providing nurture and love so that each child can thrive. Our Christian values underpin all that we do and our children articulate how they help them live their lives. Our results were strong for our year 6 class last year and we would like to congratulate those children who have now moved onto high school with confidence and enthusiasm.

We value our pupils and their 'voice' is incredibly important to ensure we are on the 'pulse' of what children want from school. Through the Archbishop Young Leaders Award in Year 6, by developing new school links with a school in Pakistan and the school council's focus on local charities, our children will develop their understanding of charity and compassion. Our parents are fantastic and work hard to support their children and our school and we are grateful for the trust that they place in us each day. We have an exciting year ahead, with a calendar of themed weeks linked to wellbeing, world faiths and art and design. If you feel you can support these in any way, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. This brings me to volunteers. We are always looking for people who would be happy to give some of their time to supporting reading in school. From an hour to an afternoon, if you feel that you can help, we would love to hear from you and would encourage you to come and meet us and our amazing children and staff- You'll love it!

Finally, involvement in our community. This year we have plans to be a bigger part of our community events, from Remembrance Day, Harvest, Christmas and in particular Bretherton walking day. If you have any other ideas of how we can be involved, we would love to hear from you. From visitor into school, to school worship, to toddler group, to preschool, to lettings and to our successful PTFA events, our school is your school and we invite you to visit.

Film Society

The 2017/18 season of films is now underway. The season started on 15th September with **THEIR FINEST**.

Films to come:

HIDDEN FIGURES – Friday 20th October with Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monae

MAUDIE – Friday 17th November with Sally Hawkins, Ethan Hawke and Karl Matchett

THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES Friday 8th December with Joan Collins, Pauline Collins and Franco Nero

If you would like to be included on the email contact list, please contact brethertonfs@btinternet.com or phone John or Maggie on 601455 or Gwyneth on 600705.

All films will commence at 7.30 pm. The doors at Bretherton Endowed School open at 7.00 pm when refreshments, including wine, will be available. We very much look forward to seeing you then.

Nature Notes

Many of us will have noticed the pretty, pinkish froth of helmet-shaped flowers that has established itself along the banks of the River Lostock, and also elsewhere in our village. The plant is Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), and was first introduced into gardens in 1839. It has since naturalised throughout the UK, particularly in damp climates such as ours. An annual, growing 180cm or more in a season before flowering and dying, each plant can produce 800 seeds which, when ripe, are shot up to to 7m from the parent plant. The seeds can survive for two years before germinating, and are also spread along moving watercourses and on human and animal feet. Himalayan balsam is related to "Busy Lizzies" and is a late-season source of pollen and nectar for honeybees. However, this tough, shade-tolerant beauty (which has no natural enemies in the UK) is a dangerous thug. It is so successful that it out-competes many native plants, causing them to fail to germinate, or to die from lack of light and space. This leads to dramatic impoverishment of the habitats where it grows - in other words, our own wildlife (which cannot make much use of the invader) is deprived of home and food for the greater part of the year. One or two "pioneer" seedlings can rapidly colonise any uncared-for corner of garden, field or roadside verge. The weed was the subject of an article in the Royal Horticultural Society magazine this month, and of a question on BBC Gardeners' Question Time this week.

So serious is the threat to our natural environment that, from August 2018, it will be subject to strict controls and it will be an offence to sell Himalayan balsam. More importantly, gardeners and landowners will be at risk of prosecution under the Invasive Alien Species Regulations unless they control the plant on their property and prevent it from spreading to their neighbours' land.

The best way to control it where there are only a few plants is to pull them or cut them down as soon as you spot them. For larger infestations, seek advice from the Environment Agency or your local conservation body (eg Lancashire Wildlife Trust). Using chemicals near watercourses or ponds is not advisable because of the risk to water-living creatures and plants. In some areas, groups of volunteers set out on "balsam bashing" expeditions to destroy the plants early in the season before they get a chance to reproduce - that sounds like fun!

For more information visit www.nonnativespecies.org or www.rhs.org.uk.

John Jolley

Future Newsletters

If you are responsible for a village event or organisation please send me your details so that I can contact you for a short article in a future newsletter. We would also like to recruit more people to help with delivering the newsletter.

Call Barbara Farbon on 600750.

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Cricket Club

After a tough start to the season for Bretherton CC, things (much like one of Gary Naylor's deliveries) turned around on the pitch. The 2017 campaign didn't start well. Crucial tosses were lost, players were alarmingly unfit, batsmen slipped out of form. All this left the skipper, Adam Fletcher, a broken man. A season that had started out with such optimism and positivity had given way to consecutive defeats, culminating with the side fielding nine players (only six of which were fit) in an away Cup fixture at Sutton St Helens. A heavy defeat followed. This was enough for the beleaguered skipper who promptly resigned as captain. In his last game in charge, a galvanised side ended the losing run to leave the bailing skipper a happier man. Whilst the on-field results weren't going to script, things were happening behind the scenes. Plans are afoot to upgrade the club's facilities and potentially change divisions.

The work is ongoing, but such improvements come at a cost. The club has recently bought a new mower, with thanks due to all those who sponsored the club in the last year. The difference has been massive, with the outfield looking better than it has done for years. Sights (-screen) are firmly set on modernising the changing rooms and installing running water and electricity. This would then enable the club to offer a junior set-up which young people in the village and surrounding areas could utilise. To enable all of this change, the club has now signed up as leaseholders at the South Road ground, costing an extra £800 a year.

The results started to pick up mid-season, with four consecutive victories arriving at the tail end of June and start of July. Players regained form, one or two new recruits were added to the fold and the new skipper – Jamie Ashton - had a bit more luck with the flipping of the coin.. With seasoned veterans wondering if they'll get back into the side and competition for places as fierce as it has been for years, who knows, perhaps the return of the second team is on the horizon. Despite a rainy summer only one fixture fell foul of the weather. The other games saw more encouraging results and with talisman Andy Turner playing much more in the second half of the season, defeats were few and far between. One particular match-winning innings when the chips were down showed his all-round abilities - 'Bretherton's Botham', cried the swooning crowd. As the season came to a close with a narrow and closely fought defeat to new champions Merseyside Commonwealth, talk was already starting about next season. Wannabe vice skipper Shaun 'Trigger' Parkinson, throwing all sorts of ideas into the mix (some of them, surprisingly good). Watch this space, and keep up to date with player biog's, and videos, which should be available at the start of the 2018 season.

For the statisticians amongst you, the new skipper, Jamie Ashton, came out on top with most runs scored and most wickets taken - he also scooped the award for most games played. The coveted award for the most ducks (an innings which fails to trouble the scorers) will this season be shared by Gary Naylor and Adam Fletcher, with six ducks apiece.

Significant progress has been made over the last couple of years. There are a few people that never gave up when the club very nearly folded. We started again, laid down some new roots. The transition was never going to be seamless, but it shows what can happen when people pull together. I, for one, am once again hooked on the game of cricket.

Finally, we hope you will all support our annual bonfire – this year on Friday 3rd November.

David Whillis

Open Gardens

This year has been our most successful to date, with the four Bretherton Gardens raising a total of £8250 for the nursing charities supported by the Scheme. Thanks go to everyone who helped, including neighbours throughout the village for their patience and understanding. In 2016, the Scheme donated £2.7 million to Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Queen's Nursing Institute, Parkinson's UK, MS Society and others. 2017 is the 90th anniversary of the Scheme, and the Lancashire region of the NGS are aiming to raise a combined total of £90,000.

The Congregational Church and the Women's Institute raised further sums for their valuable work in our community by providing teas, and Paul from Moorhey Cottages opened his outdoor model railway to visitors to raise funds for the Manchester Appeal (after the terrorist attack) and the Railway Children Charity.

Together with the great sum of £1900 for Queenscourt Hospice raised by Tom, Jacky, Gary and Debbie in June, the total for this year's garden fundraising comes to well over £10,000 - an achievement for our whole community to be proud of!

Kris and John Jolley Hazel Cottage
John and Gwenifer Jackson – Pear Tree Cottage
Richard and Barbara Farbon – Owl Barn
Sue and Terry Riding – Glynwood House

Boules

Well we have come to the end of our 2017 Season. We have had some great games this year and close scores with a lot of the games being lost to 12 (you play first to 13).

As a result of this we shall receive a trophy at presentation night "the fanny" which will hold pride of place in the institute. This is the trophy given to the strongest team in the league who hold all the others in place (we came bottom of the league).

The league has been won by The Grapes at Croston (previous Lord Nelson team).

We entered the competitions during the season with one second place and a few semi-final places too.

Ready to do it all again next season, roll on 2018!

Clare Hughes

Autumn in the Garden with Marguerite

Autumn has now arrived and you may feel that your garden is looking a little weary and drab. Planting some late flowering perennials will immediately give a boost of colour and these plants will come back year after year. I'd recommend Asters (Michaelmas Daisies), King George and Monch are two very hardy and mildew resistant types and Japanese Anemones, Pamina and Honorine Joubert are a couple of my favourites and well suited to Bretherton clay and shade.

Here are some garden tips for Autumn and preparation for Winter and Spring

Housekeeping –

Ensure that you are not storing up problems for the future by employing sensible housekeeping methods to eradicate pests and diseases. Clean out the greenhouse and pick up any dead plant material which is a potential source of fungal diseases. Check tender plants which are going to be overwintered indoors. Remove leaves from any plants affected by powdery mildew. Check plants for signs of vine weevil. Keep removing empty plant pots, compost bags, wet leaves etc that will provide a winter home for slugs and snails.

Beds and Borders

Get soil prepared and weed free for autumn planting or new borders. Plant shrubs and hardy perennials for autumn colour and winter interest. Lift and divide congested herbaceous perennials and replant

Plant bulbs and take steps to protect and overwinter tender perennials. Sow hardy annuals and make a leaf bin. Empty out the compost heap ready for a new influx of compostable material from your autumn clearances. If your compost is not ready to add to the garden, make a new heap with it. Remove the stragglers. Plant evergreens. Plant shrubs that berry. Tackle weeds

Lawns

Carry out key autumn lawncare – Scarify, Aerate, Top Dress and feed. Repair bare patches. Lay turf or sow seed

Remove fungi before it develops

FINALLY – make garden planning notes for 2017/18

Marguerite Hughes

Key dates

Cricket Club Bonfire	Fri 3 rd Nov
Parish Council	Mon 6 th Nov 8pm
WI	Thur 9 th Nov 13 th 7.30pm
Remembrance Service	Sun 12 th Nov 10.15am at Congregational Church and 11am at the War memorial Refreshments in church after service.
Film	Fri 17 th Nov 7.30pm
Parish Council	Mon 4 th Dec 8pm
Film	Fri 8 th Dec 7.30pm
WI	Thur 14 th Dec 7.30pm

Bowling

The last match of the season has now been completed, leaving players with time to reflect on what might have been and how they can improve their game in 2018. There is a fine spirit within the club which now boasts over seventy members. New members are always sought and can be assured of a warm welcome. Eight teams play regularly in local leagues as well as a developing junior team. Particular thanks go to our new president, Barbara Wilson, our excellent groundsman, Barry Chambers, other helpers and especially to all the ladies who so willingly provide food and cakes on numerous occasions.

Success on the green has been limited this season. The ladies team in Division One (Chorley League) and the men in Division One (Burscough League) both managed to finish in third place and were our best achievers. Unfortunately two other teams are likely to be relegated, one in Leyland, Division Three and the other in the Veterans League, Division Two. All other teams gained moderate success by finishing around mid table. Special mention should be made of our juniors who achieved their first match win due to the expertise of Joan's coaching.

Two open competitions, one singles and one doubles competition proved very popular and attracted many of the best players from the local leagues. We thank our generous sponsors for their help in promoting them. Fortunately good weather prevailed, as it did in all our internal competitions throughout the season. Members and spectators alike find these events most enjoyable and they provide good opportunities for social interaction and relaxation. Of all the competitions the Men V Ladies is the most keenly fought. Therefore it is fitting to report that this year the Ladies recorded a handsome win and thus were able to celebrate both loudly and gleefully. Finally the club is grateful to all team captains, especially those new to the task, for accepting their thankless and difficult tasks with skill and enthusiasm. Without exception they are already looking forward to the next season in order to develop and improve their respective teams.

Bob Coupe Bowling Club Secretary

W.I.

The next meeting of Bretherton WI is on Thursday 12th October, which is our Annual Meeting. This is social occasion when we will be sharing a "Jacob's Join" supper and enjoying the chance to have a chat and get to know each other better (with the aid of a game or two). We will also be electing a committee for the coming year, and making plans for the running of our WI and future activities. If you are a woman living in Bretherton or nearby, and have been wondering whether to come and join us, this would be the perfect meeting to choose, as it will give you an opportunity to hear all about what we have achieved over the last year, and our plans for 2018. We have just enrolled our sixtieth member, and aim to offer something for all age groups. In addition to our monthly meetings we have a walking group, theatre group and 'grub' group, with new ideas in the wings, so do feel free to come along and find out more. You will be made very welcome. We meet at the Congregational Hall on South Road at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of each month. For further details call 601495 or visit our website www.brethertonwi.co.uk

Jane Elphick, President.

