



Chairman's Message. From Wayne Jackson

Given below are the results from the questionnaire distributed earlier this year.

A large majority of people want to maintain the status quo and limit future development of residential development. However there are several comments about the village becoming a "museum" or "dormitory village".

- 2. Significant minority support for the provision of low cost housing and several comments about the affordability of housing for young couples.*
- 3. Strong support for priority being given to local people for the allocation of rented property (i.e. The Apiary).*
- 4. There is quite a lot of concern about traffic levels and the provision of a decent bus service.*
- 5. Strong support for the development of agricultural employment opportunities and, to a lesser extent, recreational activities.*
- 6. Divided support for "light industrial" employment.*
- 7. Significant support for the encouragement of the re-opening of retail outlets in the village e.g. a convenience shop and post office.*

The views expressed will be taken into account by the Parish Council when considering issues affecting the village. Thank you to everyone who responded.

Best Wishes to everyone for the Festive Season.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman

Cllr Wayne Jackson; Tel: 600500

Vice Chairman

Cllr John Pigott; Tel: 601455

Cllr Robert Booth; Tel: 600100

Cllr Gwyneth Lloyd; Tel: 600705

Cllr Simon Moulton; Tel: 601388

Cllr Tony Rigby; Tel: 600602

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The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 3rd February, 2014 at 8pm at Bretherton Endowed C of E Primary School. Press and Public are very welcome and time is set aside to enable residents to raise concerns

The Gordon Gregg Memorial Bench.

We are pleased to confirm that the bench has arrived and it does look very attractive so a big thank you once again for all those who donated towards the memorial for this well loved man. A special thank you must go to Brenda and Brian Anderton who have purchased an Oak Tree and offered to flag the area, plant the tree and install the bench as their very generous donation to the cause.

BANK HALL UPDATE

Since the last news item, we have held two successful events assisted by the Awards for All funding referred to in our last News item.

These were a Country Crafts event in September and the Haunted Autumn event in October. The picture shows two visitors talking to one of the Wood Turners.



Our next event will be on New Years Day when we open in the afternoon between 1.30 and 4.00 pm for seasonal refreshments a winter walk around the grounds and a warm by a bonfire. Snowdrop Sundays will follow in February but please do keep an eye on our website concerning these.

The Volunteers Open Night was well organised and well publicised but sadly not many turned up for this event although as a result of it we do have two new Volunteers. There were two PowerPoint presentations, a number of Artifacts were on display and our Members were present to talk to those who came. We are proposing to repeat this event in March.

The Main Project is currently on target with our schedule and our supporters should again keep an eye on our website for news concerning this and The Potting Sheds Project. The Potting Sheds project has now been out to Tender and at the time of writing this we are currently in the process of appointing the Contractor. Both projects should now be starting soon.

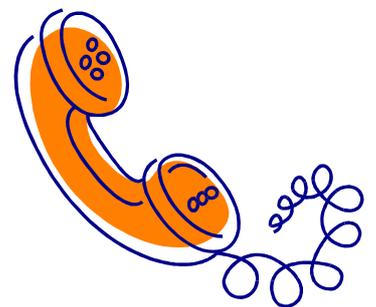
Once again thank you to all who continue to support this Project.

A BIG THANKYOU; Over the last 12 months, the Newsletters have been produced free of charge by Chris Naylor. Whilst this arrangement has now come to an end, the Parish Council are very grateful for Chris' support and wish him well for the future.

Consumer Alert

Lancashire Trading Standards Service are warning of a telephone caller purporting to be representing Lancashire County Council and offering energy surveys. They seem to be targeting the elderly. The caller asks for personal information such as if they own their own property and which energy provider they are currently with. However, none of these traders are working with or on behalf of Lancashire County Council. Trading Standards strongly suspects this is a scam call and residents should not give any information out to the caller. Trading Standards advice generally is not to do business with cold callers, be they on the doorstep or by telephone.

Contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on
08454 04 05 06



School News from Nick Ward-Head teacher.

Two of our Y6 children, Ben Jackson and Rosie Zak, as well as many members of staff, represented our school at The Congregational Chapel for the village Remembrance Day service. The children placed a wreath by the War Memorial after the service at 11:00am. The whole school observed the 2 minute silence on Remembrance Day.

We had lots of little additions to our school family recently, when we took care, as baby chicks were hatched from their eggs, but they have returned to their farm now. It was a really special experience for everyone.

Our families showed great generosity once again by raising a grand total of £270.70 for our recent Children in Need/Philippines Disaster Fund. Thanks to Rupert Miller and Bridget Murphy for supplying home made cakes

I am delighted to finally officially 'launch' our new website www.brethertonschool.org.uk Our Y6 children already have some fantastic posts on their Class 4 blog .

The whole school had rugby coaching sessions from Wigan Warriors, who also brought in their recent trophies for us all to see. Y5 and Y6 children enjoyed an informative 'Cyber Bullying' interactive drama workshop in school.

The children have once again each planted a daffodil bulb and decorated a pot. This is to raise awareness of the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity.

Our annual Christmas Fair was a great success and a lovely atmosphere. Our Class 1 and Class 2 children are getting ready for their nativity 'Humph the Camel' and the decorations are up!

Don't let frozen pipes knock Christmas out cold

United Utilities' essential tips for avoiding winter woes are:

Lag your pipes so they are much less likely to freeze

Find and label your stop tap – the tap which controls water supply to your house, so you know where to turn the water off if you do get a burst.



BIRDS IN BRETHERTON;

The birds seem to have bred really well this year thanks to good weather in the Spring and Summer.

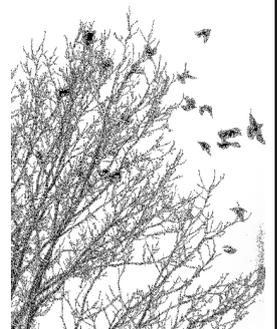
The bumper fruit and berry crop means there is plenty of food so there should a good chance of surviving Winter.

I haven't seen many birds on our feeder recently probably because of the supply of natural food still available.

I have heard tawny owls calling almost every night for the last few weeks - I occasionally see a barn owl hopefully they have thrived this year.

Early in Autumn there were large numbers of geese feeding on the fields but there don't seem so many now either flying over or feeding.

I've not seen any large flocks of thrushes yet but there seem to be plenty of individuals and smallish groups feeding on the hedgerows.



If you have any comments or observations you would like to share please contact me.

John Jolley, South View Tele No; 600896 Email; jolley@johnjolley.plus.com



Gardening News from Marguerite.

Bretherton Newsletter
Christmas 2013

The year may be nearing its end but there are still jobs to be done in the garden which will reap rewards in the months ahead.

This is the key time to mulch your borders with your home made compost or animal manures. Local stables are an excellent source of horse manure but make sure that it is well rotted. Mulching will add nutrients to the soil, act as a weed suppressant and break down heavy clay soils. If you have a wood burning fire, the ashes can be scattered around your plants as they are rich in potash, a key element to encourage plants to fruit and flower.

In this run up to Christmas, don't be tempted to tidy up the garden and cut everything back. Leaving some old top growth on herbaceous plants, protects them over winter and the visual impact of frost on the foliage of plants such as sedum can be stunning. The seed-heads that remain on your plants will attract wildlife to your garden, goldfinches are particularly fond of the seeds of teasel, echinops and inula.

You will also find in your garden at this time of year, that you've got plenty of material to make natural Christmas decoration. Stems from birch & willow are great for forming into circles for the base of a wreath.

Still thinking of ideas for Christmas presents? Here are some that any gardener will appreciate -

Bypass secateurs – Felco are the premier brand.

Good gardening gloves.

Garden wildlife related gifts – birdtables, feeders, bug hotels.

Garden magazine subscription.

Garden note book and planner.

Plants – choose something with multi seasonal interest – holly, sorbus, witch-hazel, and late flowering roses are a good choice.

Garden Jobs for the winter -

Choose a Christmas tree – Glenroyde Nursery has a good choice.

Prune birches and acers.

Take hardwood cuttings.

Protect poinsettias from from cold.

Make winter baskets – hardy cyclamen, skimmias, hellebores, gaultheria and violas work well.

Plant bare root trees and shrubs.

Sow hardy peas and broad beans.

Improve the soil.

Plan beds & borders.

Plant winter aconites and snowdrops in the green.

Check overwintering plants.

Add some plants for winter colour such as mahonia.

Feed birds and ensure that they have a water supply.

Ensure that ponds don't freeze by putting a floating ball in.

Repair broken fences and trellises.

Just to finish off let me tell you about the wildlife recently seen around the Doles Lane area – four deer trotting up the lane, tits and finches in the hedgerows and an owl that hoots all night. My smallest cat caught a stoat (or weasel) but after a tussle had to let it go.

