

# **BRACEBRIDGE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **Annual reports from Bracebridge Heath village organisations**

### **Contents**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Bracebridge Heath Brownies</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Lincoln Scouting Group, Bracebridge Heath</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Allotment Holders' Association</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Bracebridge Heath Community Library</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Bracebridge Heath Events Group</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Bracebridge Heath Friendship Club</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Watch</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Bracebridge Heath Pre-school</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Bracebridge Heath Women's Institute</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Heath U3A</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Hurricane Sports Foundation</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>St John the Evangelist Church</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Village Hall Management Committee</b>	<b>16</b>

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

2017 has been a busy year for 1st Bracebridge Heath Brownies, we've been busy completing some interest badges, attending events and enjoying a weekend away.

The girls have been working hard towards completing a number of interest badges including an evening of sporting activities to gain their Agility badge, inflating balloons with vinegar and baking soda for their Science Investigator badge and taking part in various seasonal activities throughout the year for their Seasons badge. Along side this the girls also work on their Brownie Adventure badges depending on their age.

The girls have proudly attended St George's Day Parade at the Cathedral and Remembrance Day Parade in the village, they have also just recently had the honour of being the only Brownie unit across our Division to Parade our flag at this years inaugural Thinking Day service in the Cathedral.

November last year saw us join up with other girls across our District for a trip to Sheffield Arena to watch Disney on Ice, we all had a fabulous time and returned with lots of happy but tired girls. Our thanks go to the Parish Council for their grant towards the cost of transporting everyone there and back.

The first weekend in January saw 4 leaders and 18 Brownies visit Butlins, Skegness for Starburst 2018, a large gathering of Brownies from across the country. The girls all got to participate in some great activities including crafts, a disco, the fun fair, swimming and a game show. It may have taken our leaders a few days to recover from some of the girls driving on the bumper cars but we had a brilliant weekend and are already looking forwards to the next one hopefully in 4 years time.

This year we have a lot planned including some more badge work, trying some new activities, water sports nights at Altham Terrace and hopefully our first outdoors camp. We are always on the lookout for volunteers to either come and run a session with the girls or become a regular helper with us. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to get in touch if you are interested.

*Mrs Donna Hutton, 1<sup>st</sup> Bracebridge Heath Brownies*

## **21st Lincoln Scouting Group, Bracebridge Heath**

The Scouting Group is the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation. We change lives by offering 6 to 12-year-olds (and in the greater communities up to 25 years) fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that we make a positive impact in communities.

Scouts helps children and young adults reach their full potential. Scouts develop skills including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment. We help young people to get jobs, save lives and even change the world.

Here in Bracebridge Heath we have two groups Beavers and Cubs running in the Scouting Hut (behind St Johns Church). Supporting in total 36 children, to become well rounded individuals. However, this couldn't be achieved without Adult Volunteers, over 90% of Scout volunteers say that their skills and experiences have been useful in their work or personal life.

*Mrs Lynsey Sidney, 21<sup>st</sup> Lincoln (Bracebridge Heath) Scouting Group*

## **Bracebridge Heath Allotment Holders' Association**

Whilst anxiously waiting for an improvement to the present weather we did find that last year's frequent rain showers did enable the improved harvesting of our produce and as usual many benefits were derived from the working of our plots. It is most gratifying to know that there is a gradual take-up of vacant plots, especially seeing the range of ages of the plot-holders, We continue to hold quarterly meetings, kindly hosted by Maureen Burton; at our A.G.M., usually held on the last Saturday in January we were pleased to welcome the Parish clerk, new members and especially Graham Heath who has taken on the role of secretary; our annual subscription remains at £3.00 and with being a member of The National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardens Ltd. we do receive regular updates of current matters.

We would like to thank the Parish clerk and her assistant for their input into the smooth running of the allotments, the Parish Council for their continuing support when we apply for grants which assist in the provision of items for the upkeep of the site, the input from Councillor Jim Ward, our P.C. representative, Colin the village handyman for his cutting of the boundary hedges and the sterling work undertaken by Geoff, John, Alan, Peter and others for the overall appearance of the site.

The 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 the tenancy of the present allotment site will be safeguarded.

*Mrs Sue Shaw, Chairman of the Allotment Holders' Association*

## **Bracebridge Heath Community Library**

Bracebridge Heath Library has had a successful year thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers with appreciated input and direction received from Lincoln Library Development Officer, Judith Hibbitt, Parish Clerk, Stacey Knowles and Volunteer Coordinator, Alison Peden. The monthly Wednesday story time has been enjoyed by children and readers alike and will become a monthly event in Saturday's library sessions starting 10th March. Many of these sessions will include craft events.

The latest themed event was a Harry Potter night which was supported by numerous children and volunteers attending in fancy dress. A great evening was had by all and is proof that our Library will only get better and stronger and benefit all Bracebridge Heath residents.

## **Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club**

Firstly, a big thank you to the Parish Council for the very generous grant award in 2017. Once again, this has been a valuable help towards the cost of coaching, a help for which we are very grateful.

On the non-playing side, there have been some administrative changes. We now have a smaller, more focused Management Committee, with several new faces coming on board in key roles. We have welcomed a new Treasurer, a new Secretary and a new Welfare Officer. Some of these new faces have replaced long serving volunteers who had decided to step down at the end of last season. We thank all of those who have served us admirably and we thank those who have newly offered their commitment to the club.

There are numerous other roles within the club that are not part of the Management Committee. From the people who run our 200 Club to the Youth Manager, from the scorers to all those who run teams and who coach. Without their invaluable contribution, we could not exist. Well done all!

One of the volunteers who retired from their duties was Vic Newman. Vic had been our groundsman for a lot of years. He is also a former player and coach. Recently, Vic has not been in the best of health, so we were all glad to see him celebrate his 80th birthday with a gathering of family and friends at the club. Congratulations Vic, enjoy the free time and we hope to see plenty of you at the ground when there is some cricket on.

On the Senior playing side, we fielded two Saturday teams and two Sunday teams. On the Youth side, we had Under 9s through to Under 17s. That equates to a lot of fixtures each week, plus regular coaching sessions. New last season was the ECB All Stars scheme which has been devised for 5 to 8-year olds, as a fun introduction to the game of cricket. The numbers attending this each week was very pleasing. We hope this scheme will continue to grow and that it encourages more youngsters to take up the game.

Honours wise, the Seniors had another profitable season. Not only did they win the ECB Premier League (that's 11 times now in 15 seasons), but they also won the Albion Cup, the Steve Bradford Cup and a floodlit T20 competition. The Youth teams all competed very well in their age group leagues. Collectively, the club was thrilled to be nominated, and then to be announced as winners of the Sports Club of the Year award at the Lincolnshire Sports Awards 2017 event at the Lincolnshire Showground. The award that recognises the efforts of the club's volunteers.

Our social scene continues to flourish, with three big events being the backbone of our season. First up, we host a Minor Counties Day where club members and visitors have the opportunity to enjoy some top-quality cricket. It's a popular day that always pulls in a good crowd. This year, the date is 20th May. Next is our annual Gala Day on 27th May. From 2pm until 9pm, we are open for food, drinks, fun and games and hopefully a few other activities. This year is our 20th anniversary so we will have a small display of pictures and cuttings for visitors to view. We get a good crowd and if the weather is kind, it's a great day. Lastly, our biggest event, the live music night, which this year is on 23rd June. We love the Stolen Fridays here at BHCC and we are delighted to welcome them back again this year. Rumour has it that they are already booked for next year too. Fingers crossed that rumour is true. As well as some truly fantastic live, outdoor music from the band on the lorry trailer, guests enjoy a selection of fine catering and can take advantage of an extensive bar in the marquee. All of this is included in the very reasonably priced ticket. This event gets bigger each year and it is one that we all look forward to immensely.

All three big events are open to the public and we will start advertising them online and locally soon. We look forward to seeing plenty of Bracebridge Heath residents. Social members are encouraged at our club and membership for the year costs £5. We intend to hold several, smaller events (such as quiz nights) throughout the season.

I hope this gives everyone a small glimpse into the world of BHCC. It will be the start of the season soon and we cannot wait to get started. If anyone would like to know more about us, we are on

Facebook and we also have a website. Just carry out the usual online searches and we are easily found. Better still, come and see us on a matchday. We will be happy to see you.

*Mr Tim Everett, Secretary for Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club*

## **Bracebridge Heath Events Group**

Hello and Happy New Year from Bracebridge Heath Events Group.

The past year has been a challenge with only six committee members to organise events. However, we have continued to provide a variety of events for the whole community.

The ever- popular Easter Egg Hunt was held in April with many families taking part. An excellent time and fun morning was had by all.

The Car Boot Sales were again held monthly on the Recreation Ground from April to September. Many thanks go to departing member Andy Blades for all his help and especially with the Car Boot Sales.

September saw the ever-popular Scarecrow Trail and again this year it was held over two days to allow people more time to view the Scarecrows with the theme of 'Historic Events.' Refreshments were also available at The Pantry and in Shepherd's Court.

We were made very welcome at St John's Church for our annual Community Carols. It was great to see so many of you there singing heartily to the accompaniment of local musicians Heather and Crauford and we all enjoyed the wonderful performance by St John's School choir conducted by Mrs Ballard.

The mulled wine and mince pies were welcome on a cold blustery evening.

Of course, none of these would have been possible without the help of so many people: the committee members and all those who stepped in to help, the staff and pupils of St John's Academy, The Community Library, The Homestead, The Bull, Lincolnshire Co-op and St John the Evangelist Church.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported our events over the last year and hope that you will continue to support us next year. Keep up to date with forthcoming events via Facebook, the Parish News, Heathcliff View and Parish Council notice boards.

In addition to community events we also organise the monthly village tidy up sessions which now take place on the second Saturday of the month.

Please remember that volunteers are always welcome to join the Events Group and that you can commit as much or as little time as you like.

*Mrs Karen Thomson, Secretary to Bracebridge Heath Events Group*

## **Bracebridge Heath Friendship Club**

The Friendship Club provides a meeting place for elderly village residents to meet and interact in a friendly, social environment.

Mainly self-funding, during 2017, in addition to our weekly meetings on a Wednesday afternoon, our members have enjoyed meals out, theatre visits, coach trips and 'in house' buffets and entertainment.

Unfortunately, there is still an ongoing problem with the setting out/putting away the necessary furniture for our meetings. With many of our members in their 80s and 90s, this is not a task that they can undertake.

This club is a village amenity; an asset that has been in existence for over 50 years. It is literally a lifeline for some of our members and it would be a great social injustice if it were forced to close.

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

## **Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Watch Group**

The Group would like to thank the Parish Council for the PC Grant 2016/ 17– we have limited opportunity to generate revenue and this money is vital to keep BBH NHW as a going concern. The two coffee mornings per year, aimed at being a community information resource, are significantly helped by the PC grant. We are also currently pursuing the acquisition of new NHW lamppost signs for parts of the village that have a coordinator, but no signs e.g. Durham Close.

Thankfully, we have a very low reported crime in BBH – however, we have to remain vigilant, working with the Police and PCSOs, to ensure this remains the case. 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.

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 NW coordinators, (already with some success), and promulgate the benefits of having a NHW, one of which is the potential for reduced household insurance premiums.

*Mr Guy Simpson, Chairman of Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Watch*

## Bracebridge Heath Preschool

The preschool is thriving and full, and at present unable to accommodate spaces for some children in the village, due to the amount of growing young families in the village. The preschool receives enquiries for places almost on a daily basis. We direct families to the family support services and Lincoln central, Waddington and Bracebridge children's centres until a space becomes available. The centres are available for everyone and provide support for aspects of family life. However, many of our parents do not access these services as they are out of the village. I did attend a children's centre cluster meeting where it was mentioned that they were looking into a 'pop up' service in maybe the pavilion. Preschool will endeavour to support this if it goes ahead. We currently have 37 children on the waiting list. We also share the 'hub' with pre and after school service which makes the 'Hub' a very busy place.

We currently employ 9 staff one of which is the treasurer. All staff are up to date with mandatory training and also attend additional training to enhance the quality of the preschool.

We would like to thank the Parish Council again for the monies received to enable us to put it towards the water cascade. The resources will help to develop fine and motor skills, imaginative play, literacy and maths with quantities,

The Preschool continues to have strong links with St John's Academy. We were able to hold our sports day on the school field and the children benefit from a transition programme to help with starting in the reception classes.

*Mrs Carol Lynn, Preschool Manager*



## **Bracebridge Heath Women's Institute**

The WI in Bracebridge Heath has just celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday, however the organisation has been around for over 100 years. The WI originally had two clear aims: to revitalise rural communities and to encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then the organisation's aims have broadened and it is now the largest women's voluntary organisation in the UK.

Amongst WI aims and activities are providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, enabling them to take part in a wide variety of activities, campaigning on issues that matter to them and their communities.

The BBH WI meets monthly in the Village Hall and are known regionally as 'the young ones' and pride ourselves on having an eclectic range of subjects, to entertain and educate our members who age from 21 to 90 years of age.

*Mrs Lynsey Sidney, President of Bracebridge Heath Women's Institute*

## Heath U3A

2018 sees the 10th anniversary of Heath U3A and during those years we have gone from strength to strength. Currently, at the time of writing, we have 184 members - an increase on last year's number of 165. 119 members are women and 65 are men - a gender ratio of approximately 2 women to each man! We draw our members from Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln and the surrounding villages.

The current annual subscription is still £12 per year per person - of which a capitation fee of £3.50 is paid to our central body - the Third Age Trust. The Third Age Trust publishes a central magazine called Third Age Matters, which highlights U3A's across the country and provides a forum for matters U3A, and a magazine on resources called Sources; both of these are mailed directly to members, if they have opted-in to receive the magazines, and the Branch currently covers the annual fee of £2.60 per address.

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.

Heath U3A currently has 35 active interest groups and across each month, if we split each day into am and pm, then there are activities on each day apart from 5 afternoons. So nearly an activity for every day - morning and afternoon. Activities are funded by the members of an interest group. For further details of what's available look on the website - [heathu3a.org.uk](http://heathu3a.org.uk) under the heading 'Groups.' Most groups meet on a once a month basis and take place in a place appropriate for the activity/interest. This can range from members' homes, Methodist Church, a pub for lunch and the Great Outdoors that we call Lincolnshire. We have 3 groups that meet regularly, week by week, and they are French, Snooker and Table Tennis - of which the latter has had some interesting experiences at Birchwood Leisure Centre recently whilst Lincoln City Council have been refurbishing the site. Two groups - Art and Raise Your Voices meet on a 2-weekly cycle and interestingly RYV is also seasonal, only meeting in the winter months (autumn and spring terms in 'old money'). Our other seasonal group is Garden Visits, which only takes place in the summer months.

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 is why we have 3 groups called 'The Way We Were.'

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

*Mr John Thorneycroft, Chair of Heath U3A*

## **Hurricane Sports Foundation**

### Hurricane Striders

- Striders is the HSF running group. It is now affiliated to England Athletics as an official Club.
- The club has 74 members with 38 from BBH Postcodes
- HSF have sessions on a Tuesday evening with a regular group of 20-25 now in attendance.
- Sessions used to start and finish from the Recreation ground as part of the link with the BBH council unfortunately these sessions had to be moved from the Recreation ground as a meeting point due upon request from BBH Council and the request for payment to start and finish sessions from the centre
  - We didn't use anything other than the footpaths or fields so what are we paying for?
- Ideally, we would like to return to the recreation ground as this was a fantastic meet point

### Holiday Clubs

- Summer holiday figures were pleasing around 15 -18 children per day
- Other holiday periods numbers fluctuate but around 10 children per day
- Summer works better as facility booked for a full week(s)

## **Community Programmes**

### Active Rounders

- Rounders was delivered from Easter – September 2017
- Numbers gradually grew
- Mainly families attending and it was pleasing to see family engagement
- We had 30 people registered across the period with 20 regularly attending
- Sessions stopped due to lighting – would have continued if flood lighting was available

### Dodgeball

- Sessions had over 80 different children registered
- Regularly had 45 people attending during the summer
- Numbers dropped when indoors due to size of the hall (20 max)
- Unfortunately, sessions stopped as ball games aren't allowed indoors

### Over 50s Get Active

- Sessions started in January 2018
- Sessions are on a Monday 10-11am
- Sessions have been gradually increasing with 18 registered and 12-15 attending weekly
- Requests to deliver a 2nd session a week in BBH

*Mr Gary Johnson, CEO of Hurricane Sports Foundation*

## **St John the Evangelist Church**

St John's Church, along with the Methodist church, provides a focus for Christian worship in our community. 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 and the Parish Council website. Our dedicated team continue to produce and distribute with the Methodist Church the monthly Parish News with its current circulation of around 600.

As part of a continuing initiative to increase the visibility of St John's church in the community, work which had been delayed by recent snow fall begins in April to landscape the church frontage and erect a new notice board. We are thankful to the Lincoln Diocese and Parish Council for funding towards this project.

In addition to our regular, annual services and community activities throughout 2017 we welcomed the Bracebridge Heath Community Carol Service in church for the first time. We look forward to providing refreshments to the community during the community egg hunt on Easter Saturday.

In September Bishop David visited our church and community. During his visit the Bishop met with leaders in our community, including a Parish Council representative, to hear of the forthcoming plans for development in our community and the implications of this for us all. The neighbourhood plan display is currently in church.

As part of our continuing service to the community work continues to refit space in church for public/church use. We thank the Parish Council for their contribution to this project.

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.

*Revd Jacqueline Bell, Vicar.*

## **Bracebridge Heath Village Hall Management Committee**

It has been a difficult year for the Management Committee. We started the year with 3 Trustees who were regularly attending meetings, Mr Clements, Mrs Humphry and myself together with Miss Robinson the Secretary\Treasurer who was also handling the bookings. Mr Craven was very poorly and couldn't attend meetings and therefore Mrs Craven was unable to attend too. Mr Thorne the Neighbourhood Watch representative resigned in March and our thanks goes to him for his time and help.

In January 2017 the Secretary\Treasurer told the Committee that the Charity Commission were undertaking an investigation of the VHMC which would take about 6 months to complete. We hadn't had sight of any correspondence relating to this and a year on the Management Committee still haven't heard anything. You can draw your own conclusions.

Between April and October almost no agendas or minutes of meetings were produced despite constant reminders from the trustees that they were needed. The Secretary\Treasurer hadn't kept any financial accounts.

In May, after 6 months of trying to change the signatories with no access to the bank accounts held with Lloyds Bank other than to deposit cash\cheques (correspondence from the bank was reportedly being sent to the previous Secretary\Treasurer and mandates had also been lost by the bank) the Management Committee were finally able to write cheques with Mr Clements and Miss Robinson becoming the new signatories.

The Secretary\Treasurer had told the Committee that users of the hall could not be members of the Management Committee because they would have a conflict of interest. This was questioned at the time and later confirmed as incorrect when a copy of the Lease and Trust deeds was given to the trustees later in the year by Mr Stanley, the Parish Council Clerk.

The 2016\2017 end of year accounts were finally sent to the Charity Commission in August but they required the Auditors report. This was sent in October, accepted and was published on their website.

Also, in August, an EGM was called at which a resolution was passed to request that the Parish Council step in to assist the Bracebridge Heath Village Hall Management Committee with policies and procedures, a bookings and an invoicing system and financial affairs.

In September we heard of the sad passing of Mr Craven who had been a member of the Committee for a number of years. It was soon after this that Mrs Craven resigned.

In October Cllr Lowery temporarily joined the Committee to help with the accounts. Miss Robinson the Secretary\Treasurer resigned due to ill health. Cllr Lowery took on the role of Treasurer and agreed to hold the diary to enable him to send out invoices, some of which were outstanding from the beginning of the year. HMRC were contacted and confirmed that the cleaner was under the threshold to pay income tax.

In November the Chairman Mr Clements resigned from the Committee. Mr Fletcher and Mrs Humphry became the new signatories. Mrs Outteridge was formally elected onto the committee. The Acting Treasurer discovered that 2 cheques had been cashed each for £1000 with no explanation of what they had been spent on. Hallmaster the online booking system were offering a 90 day free trial which the Committee registered to and paid the £180 initial setting up fee in February for permanent use. Mrs John became the new weekday cleaner.

In January 2018 the bailiffs visited the village hall chasing a payment for £788.89 for business rates owed to NKDC for business rates for 2016\2017.

The Management Committee are grateful to the Parish Council who funded the replacement of the boiler in December and had the ceiling in the table\chair storeroom repaired.

The Country evenings held once a month were a continual success raising money which they donated to the Village Hall to help with its running costs. It was reported at a recent Parish Council meeting by a resident of the village and attendee of these nights that up to £2500 had been donated to the Village Hall. This cannot be accounted for in the VHMC accounts and is now part of an investigation by the police and therefore we cannot make any further comment. The Country nights have cancelled their bookings and have found another venue.

In ending, I would like to thank the current members of the Village Hall Management Committee Mrs Humphry, Mrs Outteridge and especially Mr Lowery for his help with the accounts, Hallmaster and the many other things he has done, to Mrs John the weekday Cleaner and to Mr and Mrs Humphrey for their commitment to the weekend cleaning free of charge. Thanks also to Mrs Primm the previous weekday cleaner for her services and patience during this year.

The Village Hall Management Committee will be holding its AGM at 7pm on Wednesday 28th March in the committee room at the village hall and are asking for users of the hall to send a representative who would be prepared to become a Trustee. Inhabitants of the community over the age of 18 are also permitted to attend and vote and are also invited to join the Committee.

*Mr Gary Fletcher, Trustee of Bracebridge Heath Village Hall Management Committee*