

BRACEBRIDGE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Bracebridge Heath community reports

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1st Bracebridge Heath Brownies

1st Bracebridge Heath Brownies have had a busy 2018. The unit continues to be full to capacity with a waiting list and we have some brilliant leaders working hard to provide a fun filled programme.

The Brownies spent the term after Easter having some fun completing some badge work and taking part in taster activities ahead of Girlguidings new Programme launch at the end of July. September saw the brownies embrace the new programme, which is made up of six staged Theme Awards comprising of Interest Badges, Unit Meeting Activities and Skill Builders. If a brownie completes all 6 Themes they can earn their Gold Award. As part of the transition period 2 of our older Brownies have finished their Gold Awards and will hopefully be presented these in the coming weeks before they leave us for Guides.

In October we took 20 Brownies to Seagull House, Trusthorpe for a weekend Pack Holiday. The girls had a fantastic time making crafts and visiting the beach. We are hoping to schedule another weekend away before the summer holidays.

This year the unit has attended St George's Day Parade at the Cathedral and Remembrance Day Parade in the village, we are always proud to take the girls to these parades and would like to thank everyone involved in assisting with the road closure last year. We also enjoy attending events with our local Rainbow, Brownie & Guide units, most recently a trip to the pantomime in December and to celebrate Thinking Day in February where we learnt about India, the home of Sangam - one of our World Centres.

This years activities will hopefully include a cinema trip, pack holiday, completing some Theme awards and a leaders trip to India to visit Sangam. We once again extend our thanks to the Parish Council & Clerks for their support of the unit. Without support from the local community the unit would be harder to run and possibly less enjoyable for all.

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.

Donna Hutton, 1st Bracebridge Heath Brownies

21st Lincoln Scouting Group, Bracebridge Heath

Scouting is the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation. Scouting changes lives by offering 6 to 17-year-olds fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that we make a positive impact in communities.

Scouting helps children and young adults reach their full potential. Scouting develops 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 a Beaver Colony (6 and 7-year-olds) and a Cub Pack (8 to 10½-year-olds) both of which run in the Methodist Church. Unfortunately, at this time we do not have a Scout Troop due to the lack of adult volunteers. We currently support 30 children, both boys and girls, helping them to become well rounded individuals. However, this couldn't be achieved without adult volunteers; over 90% of volunteers within Scouting say that their skills and experiences have been useful in their work or personal life.

Over the last year the Group has been busy with many activities, as a Group, we have taken part in the St Georges Day parade in Lincoln and the Remembrance Sunday parade in the village. We also we did a joint Beaver and Cubs camp at the end of May. Great fun and enjoyment was had by all of the young people.

Beavers have been working on lots of badges and taking part in many activities including; code breaking, collecting for the food bank, communication, den building, first aid, healthy eating and looking after your body, knots - camp craft activity, learning sign language, making Mother's Day cards, navigation, poppy making, putting up tents and the space badge.

Cubs have been working on several badges and taking part in lots of activities over the year including; athletics, communication, first aid, healthy eating, kite making, local knowledge, navigation, team working and learning about using the internet safely to name but a few.

We are always looking for new young people to join Scouting so please get in touch if you know someone who wants to join. We always need adult volunteers both as Leaders to help run Scouting evenings and events and as members of the Executive Committee, without whom the Group can't exist. Everyone is welcome in scouting, so why not get in touch and volunteer?

Mr Robert Gibbins & Mrs Lynsey Sidney, 21st Lincoln (Bracebridge Heath) Scouting Group

Allotment Holders' Association

A season of varying results due yet again to the weather conditions - rain one year followed by the heat of last summer but at least there was a gradual harvesting of produce.

We continue to hold quarterly meetings, kindly hosted by Maureen Burton and at our A.G.M. held in January it was decided to increase our annual subscription to £5.00. - £3.00 of which goes to The National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardens Ltd.as we are members giving us regular updates on legislation and current affairs.

We would like to thank the clerk and her assistant for all their input into the smooth running of the allotments, especially over the change of date in taking over a plot, the payments of our rent and the Annual Tenancy Agreement. The provision of the two skips allowed the removal of unwanted items and with the sterling work undertaken by Colin the village handyman in cutting the hedges and strimming vacant plots the site is much improved. However, there are still plots not being worked. and thanks must also go to Geoff, John, Alan, Peter and others for their on-going help. I would like to add my thanks to Graham for all his secretarial input.

In closing, 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.

Sue Shaw, Chairman

Bracebridge Heath Community Library

Ran by 20 volunteers, the Bracebridge Heath Community library has gone from strength to strength since 2015 when it reopened as a volunteer led hub. The library currently opens for 16 hours across 4 days each week and provides a valuable library service to our community as well as regular events for children and adults to get involved in.

Our successful children's story times are held on a Wednesday and Saturday once a month and are often held alongside children's craft events. Throughout the year we have held book events with children's author Julie Flanighan and historical fiction authors Joanne Major and Sarah Murden. The library also hosted a book launch for Samantha Maw's 'Goat on a Bike' poetry collection.

Recent events include our very successful Harry Potter night in February 2019 when the library welcomed many aspiring wizards and witches to make potions and learn spells. We also participated in the Summer Reading Challenge during the school summer holidays in 2018. This was really successful and many children from the local primary school took up the challenge to read six books over the summer. It is a pleasure to encourage young readers and hear about their favourite books.

In October 2018 our library was refurbished inside with a new layout, shelving and seating. Our customers have been very complimentary about how modern it looks and we are pleased that we have a flexible space to use for events.

As well as the events and regular new book stock the library also offers printing and photocopying services as well as access to public computers. To find out more about our online services please come into the library and talk to the volunteers.

We look forward to welcoming our customers, existing and new, over the next year and hope that they continue to enjoy the services and events on offer.

Mrs Stacey Knowles, Clerk to Council

Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club

On the non-playing side, our Management Committee continues as last season with only some minor role changes but we welcome Russ Binnington into the club as our Cricket Manager. Russ will be overseeing all cricket at the club, from training to playing and the progression of our youngsters into senior cricket. He brings a wealth of experience with him, along with a great deal of enthusiasm.

It isn't just the Management Committee where you'll find our volunteers. They perform a wide variety of very valuable roles, such as our 200 Club, scoring, officiating, team management, coaching and helping us out with the facilities and the ground. Even staffing the BBQ when required. We thank everyone who volunteers as without them, we just wouldn't exist.

We reported at the last AGM that our former player, coach and groundsman had retired from duties at the club due to ill health. Vic Newman had been involved with the club for many, many years and sadly, he passed away not long after celebrating his 80th birthday at the club with family and friends. It is a sad loss and we miss him dearly. He will forever have a special place in the heart of the club

On the Senior playing side, we continue to field two Saturday and two Sunday teams. Our Youth sides competed at Under 9 through to Under 17 level. That's a lot of cricket and it takes a great deal of work to prepare and maintain the ground and playing area to the very high standard that we've come to expect at our club. The hot, dry weather made it somewhat challenging and although the turf was extremely dry and parched, we managed to keep it in a playable state.

The Seniors were very successful yet again. 2018 brought us the ECB Premier League title, the Albion Cup, the Winkworth Cup and we were champions at the Lindum CC Floodlit T20 knockout. On top of all that, we reached the quarter finals of the Vitality Club T20, a national competition, with the prestigious final held at a County ground. Despite being knocked out by Hanging Heaton CC (a very strong Yorkshire club) we were immensely proud of our achievements and we had a brilliant, well supported day at the club. It felt like another step up so hopefully we will be able to attain those heights again this season.

The Juniors continued to progress, and we are pleased that we have so many young players. Infact, in the Under 13 and Under 15 age groups, we will be putting out two teams to ensure everyone gets plenty of game time. It would be great if all these youngsters carried on developing and were able to pack out our senior teams in years to come. That's the challenge for us as a club and I know everyone involved will be working as hard as they can to achieve this.

For the youngest of the youngsters, we once again ran the ECB All Stars scheme. Devised for 5 to 8 year olds, it's a fun introduction to the game of cricket. We will be running All Stars again in 2019. Fixtures are starting to come in and all the squads are coming together ahead of the outdoor season starting in April. Outdoor training also recommences in April. If you, or a family member, wants to play cricket then get in touch with us and we can advise you of the best way to proceed. We are always looking for players of all ages.

Socially, we ran our regular events. June saw us host another Minor Counties match. The weather was great, and a large crowd came along to watch some fantastic cricket. The date for us hosting the Minor Counties match this year is 2nd June. We played host to the Stolen Fridays, our annual big outdoor event. A bumper crowd had a truly wonderful time and this year, on 15th June, we'll be doing it all over again. We even have an extra act booked to entertain the crowd at the start of the evening. Our Family Gala Day was also blessed with some great weather. Good numbers of locals came along for a relaxing family day in the sunshine. We will be running it again on 7th July, but it may be in a different format. For full details of all these events in 2019, follow our Facebook page or check our website. Even better, for just £5 per year, you are very welcome to join as a social member. You can watch plenty of cricket and take advantage of the reasonably priced refreshments in our clubhouse. We would love to see plenty of residents joining us at the club.

Mr Tim Everett, Secretary for Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club

Bracebridge Heath Events Group

The past year has again been challenging with only six committee members to organise events. However, we have continued to provide various events for the whole community.

We started in December with the Community Carols which were held in the church where pupils of St. John's Primary Academy entertained us with their beautiful singing.

The ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt was held in April and despite the adverse weather conditions approximately 200 people took part. An excellent time and fun morning was held by all.

Unfortunately, due to the low numbers on the committee, we were again unable to hold the Village Festival this year.

September saw the very popular Scarecrow Trail, and as last year, it was again held over two days to allow approximately 500 people to view the 33 scarecrows. Refreshments were made available by the Guides in the Pavilion, St. John's Church and Mrs H Yates, Whitehall Crescent.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the help of so many people such as the committee members, Lincolnshire Co-op, Parish Council, Neil at Tesco Express for the donation of three prize eggs, Jacqueline for allowing us to use the church for our Community Carols, Lesley Woodley for the donation of the Odeon Family ticket and finally Crauford Thomson and Heather Benson.

I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to everyone who has supported our events over the last year and hope that you will continue to support them next year. Without your participation, none of these events would be successful. 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 have monthly tidy up sessions.

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.

Ms Carola Goodwin, Chair of Bracebridge Heath Events Group

Bracebridge Heath Friendship Club

The Friendship club meets weekly in the Village Hall and provides a social environment for local residents to meet with their peers. The benefit of the club and its role in alleviating loneliness cannot be over-emphasised.

Although we are largely self-funding, grants from the Parish Council and a spell as co-op community champions have enabled our members to enjoy several excursions during the year. These have included a visit to the National Memorial and Arboretum, a cruise on the River Trent, a visit to the Burtey Fen collection and to see shows at the Theatre Royal and the Drill Hall. These are in addition to our weekly meetings and enable our members to enjoy experiences that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

We have seen an increase in our membership this year, which is most gratifying, and hope that we will continue to provide a valuable village amenity for many years to come.

Mr John Kerrison, Secretary for Bracebridge Heath Friendship Club

Bracebridge Heath Preschool

It has been another busy year for Preschool, with the highest numbers of children attending to date. We had to turn many families away, especially those who had two-year-old children. This has an impact on the following year, as some of these families have found places elsewhere, mainly out of the village.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for the £250 which we have used to help renovate our sensory garden.

The preschool works in collaboration with the local community and services, which include supporting the village library and taking part in making poppies for the 100-year commemoration of the first world war, which we have displayed at the war memorial. We had great fun finding the fairy doors, which lead to making up stories and using the children's wonderful imaginations.

The children visit the St John the Evangelist church where we hold our Christmas concert.

The preschool has strong links to the village's primary school where the children take part in transitions where the majority of our children transfer to.

Mrs Carol Lynn, Preschool Manager

Bracebridge Heath Women's Institute

The women's institute or WI is a worldwide charitable organisation whose main aim is to educate women of all ages.

We hold monthly meetings and cover a wide range of subjects, from practical crafts and informative speakers. We have members in their 20s through to their 80s and pride ourselves on being inclusive. The national WI have yearly projects such as 'Plastic Soup' to raise awareness on pollution in our seas. On a smaller scale, the BBH WI have monthly charities to support the local community. Previously, we have collected Chocolate Advent calendars for the food bank and knitted dementia mittens for Lincoln County hospital.

We have special "extra" meetings which the committee provide in addition to the required minimum meetings. This year, with a grant from the Parish Council and went to the Tealby Tea Rooms and had a lovely walk around the village. We have some great plans for this year as well.

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

Heath U3A

At last year's meeting I reported that 2018 would see the 10th anniversary of Heath U3A and during those 10 years we had gone from strength to strength. By December 2018, we had broken the 200 barrier for membership and finished the year with 210 members. Membership is renewed over the months of January and February, and currently, at the time of writing, we have 179 members compared to 184 at this time last year. Of our current membership, 118 members are women and 61 are men. We draw our members from Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln, Waddington and North Hykeham plus the surrounding villages.

The current annual subscription is still £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. Our current programme includes topics : Fifty Shade of Graham; When Birds Sing; MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) - the airline of the church; Music from the 60's; The role of women in the war; Chatsworth House Estate; 'The big blue' - Whales and other sea life; A visit to the World's most secretive country - North Korea; The Workhouse Storytellers - from Southwell Workhouse (National Trust); Ghost Talk by Lincoln's Town Crier; The theatre and the London Palladium and Lincoln's own Ukulele Band.

Heath U3A currently has 33 active interest groups, 2 virtual groups and 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's available look on the website - heathu3a.org.uk under the heading 'Groups.' Last year I reported that our Table Tennis group had had some interesting experiences at Birchwood Leisure Centre when Lincoln City Council had been refurbishing the site. The group has now relocated to Canwick Village Hall where they have been able to expand and now run four tables in the hall.

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.'

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 having been a member since 2010.

Mr John Thorneycroft, Chair of Heath U3A

Hurricane Sports Foundation

Hurricane Striders

- Striders is the HSF England Athletics official Club.
- The club has 90 members with 43 from BBH Postcodes
- Sessions on a Tuesday evening with a regular group of 20 now in attendance.
- Sessions still move around

Holiday Clubs

- Summer holiday figures were pleasing around 18-21 children per day
- Other holiday periods numbers fluctuate but around 12 children per day
- Summer works better as facility booked for a full week(s)

Community Programmes

Active Rounders

- Rounders was delivered from May – July 2018
- Numbers gradually grew
- Mainly families attending and it was pleasing to see family engagement
- We had 35 people registered across the period with 22 regularly attending
- Sessions stopped due to lighting/weather – would have continued if flood lighting was available

Dodgeball

- Delivered May 2018 – July 2018
- Sessions had 35 different children registered
- Regularly had 20 people attending during the summer
- Unfortunately, sessions stopped as ball games aren't allowed indoors and light/weather restricts the session

Over 50s Get Active

- Sessions have continued since January 2018 when they were initially set up
- Sessions are on a Monday 10-1130am
- Sessions have been gradually increasing with 23 registered 12-15 regularly attending weekly

Gary Johnson, Chief Executive Office - Hurricane Sports Foundation

Remembrance Parade, 2018

Following changes to legislation and Lincolnshire policing structure, 2018 saw the first occasion that Bracebridge Heath organised its own Remembrance Service. This was the first time that this event would be managed and marshalled by volunteers from the Bracebridge Heath communities and Parish Council. Because of the traffic systems and road layout at the site of the memorial, the task of managing traffic safety and stoppage for this event was going to be challenging, as a Lincolnshire Police and highways safety consortium acknowledged.

Two Parish Councillors and I attended a training session provided by the road safety consortium in order to learn and be suitably qualified to plan, organise and enact an event-related road closure. Later meetings were held between our Parish Councillors, Reverend Jacqueline Bell and representatives from Lincolnshire County Council Highways and me to coordinate between the parade, service and stoppages. Closer to the time, volunteers were sought from the community to assist with marshalling the event. Two training sessions were provided to enable volunteer event marshals to learn how to safely stop traffic, learn basic two-way radio use and to allocate roles on the day.

A close eye was kept on the long-range weather forecast for the day; although we discussed the possibility of inclement weather, the volunteers agreed that they would attend and carry on their roles in all but the most inclement of weather. Thankfully, we were blessed with a fine Sunday morning for the event. The Remembrance Service passed smoothly and without difficulty. The event marshals responded admirably to their roles, as did drivers when the stoppages were put in place. General feedback after the service together with thanks given to the volunteers by attendees showed the operation to be successful; some commented on how safe they felt whilst walking in the road and gathering at the memorial.

Acknowledgements.

As a community member and Veteran, my personal thanks and acknowledgements go to the following people and organisations for their input and assistance in enabling our first self-managed Remembrance Parade and roadside service to be successful and safely conducted:

Bracebridge Heath Parish Council
Lincolnshire Road Safety Consortium
Councillor Clive Lowery
Councillor Mrs Kate Trought
Reverend Jacqueline Bell
Stacey Knowles, Parish Clerk
Rachel Fraser, Assistant Parish Clerk
Members of the Women's Institute providing refreshments after the event.

Special thanks go to the 18 volunteers who stepped up as marshals, without whom this event could not have happened.

Mr Darren Parr, Event Marshalling Volunteer

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. We are thankful to the parish Council for funding of £200 towards the cost of producing the 4600 free December Parish News distributed to our community each year.

In addition to our regular, annual services and community activities throughout 2018 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.

In 2018, sadly, the church hall was closed for Health and Safety reasons. Originally an ex-forces building purchased after the last war it was for many years the only such facility in the village and was heavily used by many village organisations. The Scouts and Cubs continued to use the building until moving to the Methodist Church hall after its closure to all further use in September 2018.

In November 2018 community volunteers 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 thoughtful poppy display and 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 Methodist Church and Parish Council in a Carol Service on the Green to switch on the lights of the village Christmas tree. This year as last we look forward to once again providing refreshments during the Events Group Community Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday, Children will be invited to help create the Easter Garden and take part in fun activities

As a new year begins we are delighted to welcome local choir 'Seventeen' to St John's. The choir will gather on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm to 9pm and welcome newcomers.

Church is now open to all between 9am and 5pm each weekday.

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

Our school continues to do extremely well academically, but we also believe that there is much more to education than academic subjects. To that end we try and give our pupils a wide range of experiences including trips and bringing people and exhibits into the school. Recently we had the mobile planetarium set up within the hall. Our pupils are involved in raising money for charities such as the British Legion, Lincoln Larder to name but two. Through our 'St John's Values' we endeavour to encourage and foster a very good community spirit. Have you seen the new sculpture at the entrance to the school building? The leaves on the sculpture show the 'St John's Values'

Our sports teams had an exceptional year. Our netball team and two cricket teams reached the regional finals. One of the cricket teams become county champions. We have a wide range of clubs for the children to enjoy, ranging from gardening to sports and the arts.

With the increasing emphasis on the mental health and welfare of pupils we have been looking at ways we can increase the number of smaller working areas and provide dedicated areas for our lunchtime nurture groups. Some progress has been made and the next step is to look at the costs of extending our buildings to provide extra space for small groups. We are still looking for grants and other funding to achieve what we want. Our close relationship with St John's the Evangelist church next door has led to an arrangement where the church can be used on occasions for meetings or other activities.

There have been three changes in the Governing Body since last year. Mrs Tasker, Mr Newman and Mrs Hemmings resigned due to work commitments. We thank them for their service. In December we appointed two new parent governors Mrs Footsoy and Mrs McCloughlin. We still have one governor vacancy which we hope to fill in the near future.

For the second year running we have had to set a deficit budget despite cutting costs where we can. One of areas of spending that is increasing, is on the number of staff that are being appointed and trained to help pupils on a 1:1 basis. Any costs incurred before additional funding is agreed is not refunded to the school.

The governors of St John's would like to thank all those who continue to support and help our village school to thrive and be part of village life.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Parish Council for its grant towards replacing our production lighting in the school hall which has seen better days and has become 'temperamental' in its old age.

Sue Manders, Chairman