

# The Braybrooke Gossip

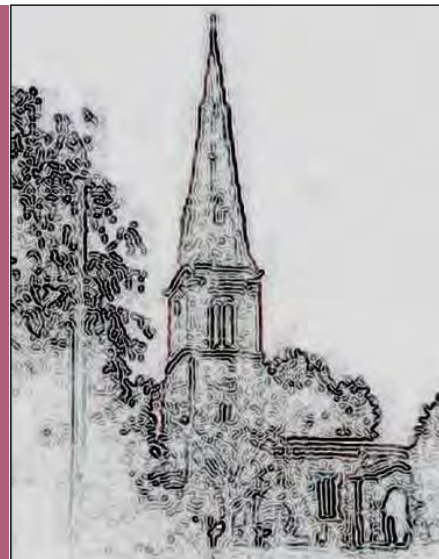


Choose any two dishes from our pub classics menu for £24.

Tuesday – Thursday, lunchtimes and evenings.

Available until 29 February.

Book today: 01858 462754



## Braybrooke Fete – 22 June 2024

Plans are underway for this year’s event. This is a chance for villagers to get together and raise money for our village organisations.

The Bric a Brac stall always makes a great contribution to the funds. If you are having a de-clutter this Spring, save your treasures. They can be taken to the village hall sometime in April, look out for the date. In addition, any items for the tombola stall can be taken to the hall on the same date.

Our home produce stall is always well received. Therefore, if you are making marmalade, jams and preserves, please save a jar to donate to the stall. Also, if you have any plants to donate to this stall (maybe from splitting plants this Spring) save those to donate as well. Crafting, cards and gifts will also be most welcome. Requests for cakes etc will be made nearer the time.

In addition, there will be a competition for young people to design the front cover of the fete programme. The winner will receive a book token plus there will be a prize for the runner up.

All the usual traditional games will be available, plus the Braybrooke Morris Dancers, Gretton Silver Band and Animal Corner. Reinstated for this year, a fun Dog Show.

New this year will be a drum making workshop for young people, with a drumming performance at the close of the Fete for those who wish to take part.

Look out for the pre-Fete Duck Race on 15 June.

If you would like to be involved with the Fete planning, the next meeting is 26 March at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

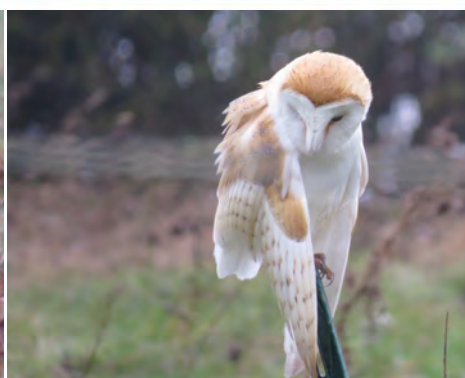




## ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

**Braybrooke Village Hall**  
**March 16th      Doors Open 7pm**  
**Live Music - The 2 Of Diamonds**  
**Tickets £10      Supper Included**  
**Call -**  
**John 456244 Rob 462782 Marc 434178**





*A Barn Owl in Braybrooke – photographed by the Glasscocks back in December*

## Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday 3rd March 2024, 2–4:30pm  
 Braybrooke Village Hall

Fill in the Annual Parish Survey:  
[braybrooke.news/aps](http://braybrooke.news/aps)



## Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday 3rd March

We are delighted to invite you to our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, 3rd March (2 - 4.30pm). This event, organised by the Parish Council, is a key moment in our community calendar, where we come together to share ideas, discuss future plans, and make decisions that shape the outlook of our parish.

This year's meeting promises to be particularly engaging. Arising from the Neighbourhood plan, we are excited to host Chris from 'Aspects', who will present the 'Top Orchard / Top Yard' development plan, with whom the Parish Council are discussing the development of a housing project and community space within the heart of the village. Alongside this, Lucy Hawes will discuss the Greenway Strategy for North Northamptonshire, opening discussions for a new pathway that will connect Braybrooke and Market Harborough.

In addition to these presentations, the meeting is a fantastic opportunity for you to connect with various local groups and organisations that contribute significantly to our community. These interactions are vital to maintaining a breadth and vibrancy to our parish.

We also encourage you to complete the Annual Parish Survey whether attending the meeting or not. The link to the form is provided here: [braybrooke.news/aps](http://braybrooke.news/aps). Your responses are crucial in gathering community thoughts on matters recently raised in the Neighbourhood Plan. This year we are inviting the children of the parish to 'air' their own views as to the opportunities that the parish offers. This input will guide the Parish Council's approaches in the coming year, ensuring that our actions reflect the community's needs and aspirations.

The importance of our local community has never been more evident. In times where life can feel increasingly dispersed, gatherings like the Annual Parish Meeting play a vital role in bringing us together, reinforcing our community bonds, and ensuring that our parish remains a lively and supportive place for everyone.

Please join us for an afternoon of fruitful discussions and community building. Refreshments will be available, providing a perfect backdrop for engaging conversations and new connections.

We look forward to seeing you on the 3rd of March and hearing your valuable insights, as we work together towards a bright and prosperous future for Braybrooke.

*Cllr. Hitchcock*

## Braybrooke Morris Dancers

On Saturday 13th January for the first time in 10 years the side danced at the Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival. This is a traditional Plough Monday event which was revived in 1980 and is held annually in the town of Whittlesea, a few miles from Peterborough. A man is dressed from toe to head in straw, resembling a bear and is led around the town on a chain. Some of the Morris sides come from East Anglia and dress in the Molly tradition, that is men dressed in outlandish costumes to resemble women, similar to pantomime dames. Braybrooke Morris joined the procession of Morris sides following the plough and then danced in various locations in the town. For several of our new members it was the first time dancing out in public and as the festival draws a large crowd, it was a bit of a baptism of fire. Being in the Fens, Whittlesea is normally very cold at this time of year, but luckily on this Saturday it was unusually mild.

Please contact us at:

<http://www.braybrookemorris.wellandgood.uk>.



## Braybrooke Singers

The Singers held their pre Christmas concert at the beginning of December.

Many thanks to all those who attended. We raised £153 for the Centrepoint Charity, which supports young homeless people.

## Chairobics

Chairobics class starting on Tuesday 6 Feb in the village hall at 10am.

This class will be a full workout whilst sitting.

Cost: £2 per session.

## All Saints Church, Braybrooke

### Services

- 4 February – 10:00am – Holy Communion – Village Hall  
18 February – 10:00am – Valentine Service – Village Hall (Tea & Toast)  
10 March – 10:00am – Mothering Sunday – Village Hall  
24 March – Time tba – Palm Sunday – 3 villages service at Brampton Ash (with donkey)  
31 March – 10:00am – Holy Communion – All Saints Church  
7 April – 10:00am – All Age Service – Village Hall

The service on 18 February will begin at 10:00am with tea and toast and a chance to chat. This will be followed at 10:30am by an informal act of worship.

The **Nativity** on 10 December was a very pleasant occasion and thanks go to all the children who participated, particularly the young readers. The standard of reading was most impressive.

The **Christingle Service** on Christmas Eve was as always a popular occasion for Braybrooke families and friends. £221.57 was collected for the Children's Society.

The evening of 7 January was cloudy, so sadly **"Follow the Star"** was disappointing in that we were unable to view the stars through binoculars or telescope. However, Mike Munn saved the day with his interesting and informative talk on the stars which was followed by a quiz. Thank you Mike. Afterwards we all enjoyed hot soup and bread rolls.



The Parochial Church Council would like to thank all villagers and friends for their support over the Christmas period. The church looked beautiful thanks to the ladies of the flower rota.



### Floodlighting of All Saints

Thank you to all who sponsored the floodlighting of the church over Christmas and to Robert Jeacock for setting up the lights. This is much appreciated by villagers and friends and raised £335 towards the floodlighting. There is a need for new lights which are more sustainable and will reduce running costs. Thanks go to FourTrax Automotive and Martyn Noble for their donation and to those who purchased raffle tickets towards the cost of new lights. £260 was raised. Thank you to all those who organised this money raising effort.

### Dates for your Diary

- 18 February at 10:00am** – Please come along to our first "Tea and Toast" service.  
**10 March at 10:00am** – Join us to celebrate Mothering Sunday. This will be a cafe style service. There will be posies for children to present to their mothers and croissants and coffee will be served.  
**9 April at 7:30pm** – PCC Annual Meeting – All Saints Church

## Braybrooke Floods



*Flooding in June 1980. The water reached the Baptist Chapel door.*

I first came to live in Braybrooke with my parents in June 1976, just before the start of the long hot summer. When it broke in September there was heavy rain and we woke up one morning to find flood water on Newland Street just below our house, (No.10). Mr Hakewill's barns, which stood where numbers 7, 9, 11, 15 and 17 now stand were under water and old railway sleepers from the barns were floating down the road. It all came as a bit of a shock.

The stream, now called the River Jordan, probably always flooded, but the construction of two features in the Middle Ages affected the flow of water through the village. Before the early 14th century, the stream meandered through its natural valley course, but when the castle fishpond was built the stream was diverted through a wide trench, now known as the Slip, which would have speeded up the flow of water. The Desborough Road stone bridge was completed in 1402 with three arches but Bridges History of Northamptonshire, which was published in 1791, recorded "A small brook, rising in Desborough Field, waters the town and to the north of it passeth under a stone bridge of four arches. Upon sudden rains it swells to a great depth". The four arches must be a mistake, there is only evidence for three arches, but it also confirms that it was known then that the water level could quickly rise. The third arch appears to have been blocked in the 19th century, when it became part of the Old Sun Inn yard.

Some of the worst flooding in the area followed the thaw after bad winters like 1947. The *Harborough Advertiser* recorded the adventure of Rev. Loxton, vicar of Braybrooke and Oxendon, but then living in Oxendon, who on Thursday 13th March 1947 had to travel 31 miles around Harborough district, avoiding floods to take a funeral in Braybrooke. The vicar was unable to reach Braybrooke because of flooding at Little Bowden so he went through Harborough and up to Desborough, but got stranded in flood water a mile from the village. He transferred to another car which was pulled through the flood with a horse and reached the church just in time for the funeral. Afterwards he got a lift in a horse and cart through the flood and returned to his car. Unable to return to Bowden he eventually got home via Dingley, Great Bowden and Harborough. The funeral was for 62-year-old Mr George Kemp, known in the village as larchie, a well-known character in the area, who had taken part in radio broadcasts playing simultaneously the harmonica and banjo.

Perhaps it should be remembered that until comparatively recently the floods were more of an inconvenience than a problem. Horses and carts were not held up by floods and in a time when the village had no sewers to contaminate the water and houses had fewer possessions and no fitted carpets, clearing up after was not such a problem. Fortunately, since Anglian Waters 1996 flood alleviation scheme in Castle Field, no houses have flooded in the village. However, as we saw recently on 3rd January this year and 23rd December 2020 the floods can still stop traffic and cut the village in two for a short time.

*©Geoff Pitcher*

Our Christmas gathering on 11 December began with an entertaining talk by John Wood on "Festive Fun From The Past". He rekindled many memories of entertainers of years gone by. The talk was followed by a sumptuous buffet provided by all members.



The speaker for our first meeting of the new year on 8 January was Amy Ducker from the Leicestershire Wildlife Centre. Amy is very enthusiastic about her work and clearly very dedicated. She gave us an enormous amount of information about the work of the Wildlife Centre whose aim is to rescue, rehabilitate and release casualties brought to them. This may include treatment and long/short term hospitalisation. The centre treats a wide range of animals including birds of prey, deer, foxes, hedgehogs and garden birds. It receives no government funding and relies totally on public donations.

#### Future Meetings

- 12 February – Susan Drage – Recycling With A Difference
- 11 March – Annual Meeting

Visitors and new members are always welcome. Anyone interested in joining WI should contact Lisa Templeton (01858 461028).

#### Braybrooke Baptist Church

*A CONTENT AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL*

The candlelight Carol service was led by village families and as several carols are lullabies the congregation remained seated, but stood for the concluding triumphant 'Ding dong merrily on high'.

We were enchanted by our new neighbour Hemma's recollections of Christmas in her home country Austria; she was supported by her sons.

Phillip's giant cracker story was well received with able strong youngsters to help him expose its contents.

Seasonal refreshments after the service were served by the children, which gave us all an opportunity to catch up with each other's Christmas plans before we went home to continue our own Christmas celebrations.

#### UPDATES – Under Pew Heaters

We are very grateful to Gill Mitchell for her ready encouragement and support researching suitable heating to replace the dangerous suspended heaters.

Between us we successfully acquired a charitable contribution and together with the generosity of villagers and businesses, 16 have been installed so far which provide an all round comforting warmth.

#### VILLAGERS' SUPPORT

Without you all we would not be able to keep the chapel door open and grateful thanks go to the ready helpers who help preparing the chapel for the special services – you know who you are. The cleaning, decorating and clearing up, refreshments preparations, photocopying ..... and so on.

Not forgetting the families of course.

Thank you Alison Ullman for your help with chapel accounts.

New villagers are showing interest and support too, coming forward to help. This ensures the continued presence of the 240 yr old chapel for all of us to use and enjoy.

#### WILD FLOWER PROJECT

We'll be looking out with great interest to see how the seeds and plants introduced to the daffodil patch grow this spring. A few primroses are doing their best, will the cowslips return? The snowdrops opposite the chapel are giving us all joy and hope. Feel free to continue adding your seeds and plants; with luck, the corner will give pleasure to walkers for years to come.

#### THANK YOU ALL.

The Gossip is distributed every 2 months.

If you have anything you would like to be included in the next edition (or you would like to be added to the list of receivers of the PDF edition), please send an email to [news@braybrooke.news](mailto:news@braybrooke.news).

The next deadline for contributions is likely to be **Wednesday 27 April 2024**.

To sign up to the Braybrooke News email list, please visit [braybrooke.news/signup](http://braybrooke.news/signup).

#### Gossip – Sponsorship and the Future

The Gossip is currently funded by a donation from the fete committee and sponsorship (in theory). In Issue 135 in August, I made you aware that the Swan has been covering the difference in the cost of printing for almost every issue of the Gossip for the past few years due to the lack of recent interest in sponsorship.

This is sadly unsustainable, and unfair on the Swan; not only do they have many other local charitable responsibilities, they're also feeling the effect of increasing overheads that every other business – and local resident for that matter! – is dealing with.

The Gossip is already sent as a PDF document to a mailing list of interested-but-not-necessarily-resident people – one option for the future would be to make the Gossip **digital only**. Another option would be to produce the Gossip **less frequently** than bi-monthly.

Please let me know your thoughts at [news@braybrooke.news](mailto:news@braybrooke.news), or alternatively, I will be at the Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd March, where I'd be happy to discuss ideas.



*An AI's visual interpretation of the cost of printing*



**BEER would like to thank all who made the event happen, travelling Santa around the village calling to a new record of over 20 children.**