



Your Newsletter

For residents of Braysdown, Carlingcott,
Peasedown St John and Woodborough

Published by Peasedown St John Parish Council

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Peasedown St John Celebrates the Coronation



Thanks to all those who attended the celebrations to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. We began by planting a commemorative oak tree at the Recreation Ground, which we hope will be enjoyed by residents and wildlife alike in the coming years, and followed this with our Community Coronation Picnic outside Beacon Hall. We are particularly grateful to our many helpers and stall-holders who helped to provide residents with a fun afternoon to remember. Everybody had a wonderful time and we received some very positive feedback. Congratulations to the winners of the village quiz - the Fraser family and the Schuster family. The quiz (and answers) are available on our website, if you would like to give it a go!



Your Parish Councillors



Gill Auld: "I am new to the village having moved from Kent in March of 2021. I am a Homeopathic Practitioner and have been a complimentary therapist for over thirty years. Over the years I have also worked as an advocate for vulnerable adults, organised a voluntary complimentary health group and was a regular on the volunteer beach cleaning group where we lived. As a new resident I am keen to get to know the village and become involved in projects that help the environment and bring people together."



Fiona Carr: "I live in Peasedown St John, where I am an unpaid Carer for my husband, John, a stroke survivor. I am a campaigner for Britain's growing numbers of unpaid Carers. As a villager, my priority is to reverse the decline in public services, starting with transport."



Mandy Clarke: "Being an active member of the village has always been something I've believed to be important. We all have a responsibility to look after the community in which we live, which was why I decided to become a councillor back in 2011. Over those years, and before, I've helped set up the Peasedown Residents Association, where I currently serve as joint Vice-Chair. I'm also an active member of various groups including St John's Church and the Friendly Bees."



Richard "Tex" Clarke: "I lived in Peasedown for 20 years, and moved to Clandown in 2020, and have been active in the Peasedown community for most of that time. I was part of the project team that helped to transform The Green area in Frederick and Albert Avenues, and today I serve as joint Vice-Chair of the Residents' Association. I'm also an active member of St John's Church and a founding member of the Friendly Bees. I enjoy representing the views of the residents at Parish Council meetings."



Jo Davis: "I've lived in Peasedown for over 24 years and have been a Parish Councillor for 12 years of that. I'm proud to have been part of bringing in the many improvements in Peasedown over the last decade or more, including the new skate park, the play parks upgrades, the multi use games facility, along with being a member of committees in that time, including Finance & Planning. I'm looking forward to getting more work done in the next few years to make our village the best it can be."



Audrey Gillard-Sprake: "I have lived in Peasedown St John for the last 35 years, my family live in the village also I am married to Mr Les Sprake. I worked in our local Pharmacy for eight years. I volunteer at Radstock Museum on the Education team helping children to learn the area's history. I would be happy to concentrate on things to improve the future of the village for everyone. Planning for new homes or parks, gardens or the environment I will find interesting."



Howard Hartley: "We moved to the village only 15 months ago, having lived and worked most of my life in London. Prior to my retirement in 2022, I was employed as a Director of Sales in one of London's most prestigious hotels and travelled extensively for work to the Arabian Gulf, India and Japan. We have found the village to be very welcoming and I am eager to take on responsibilities and activities to benefit the residents of Peasedown St John. I enjoy meeting people and hearing how we can make a difference to the environment we live in. My passions in life are wildlife gardening, baking and history and I look forward to demonstrating and sharing these skills during my time as a Parish Councillor."



Gavin Heathcote: "I live with my wife and daughter here in Peasedown a village we fell in love with over 10 years ago. I sit not only as a parish councillor but also as ward councillor for Peasedown on BANES Council. I have and always will continue to do what is best for the community with the help and support of residents we can keep Peasedown an amazing place to live."



Simon Kidd: "Originally from the Teesside area, I went to University in South Wales and moved to Peasedown St John in 1995 and have lived here ever since. My children were born and raised here, and I consider Peasedown my home. I am particularly keen to look at the communications between the Parish Council and the community. To make the best use of differing communications media to reach the majority of people and create a public facing, open council. In particular internet publishing and how to deliver information quickly, cheaply and effectively."

Your Parish Councillors



Andy Larcombe: "Originally from Cornwall, my 39 year career in branch banking with Barclays has taken me to many parts of the West Country until I settled in Peasedown, with my wife and daughters, 22 years ago. Having seen my family grow up in the village, I aim to use my experience as a parent, resident and councillor (since 2012) to enhance the village for all who live here. I retired in 2022, so I'm now able to give more time to the community in my role as an independent councillor."



Ray Love: "I'm a retired Manager with Prudential Assurance and I moved from Winchester to Peasedown in 2013. Whilst I lived in Winchester, I was a City Councillor for 16 years where I was the founder of Winchester Mental Health Befrienders, a founder and Trustee at the Womens Refuge, a Trustee and volunteer working with young people with drug and alcohol problems and a Secondary School Governor for 17 years. I came to Peasedown to be near my stepdaughter who lives in the village. I'm a member of Peasedown Methodist Church and a Season Ticket Holder at The Rec home of Bath Rugby. Moving to Peasedown was at first a daunting decision as I hadn't lived in a Village before but everybody has been welcoming."



Conor Ogilvie-Davidson: "I have been fortunate to live in Peasedown my entire life, going to school in Wellow, then Writhlington and progressing to study Marketing at Bath Spa University to Masters level. I went on to study for a further Masters qualification whilst working in the sports industry, but now I am the Town Clerk of Glastonbury. With my pride in our village and understanding of local government, I hope to be able to make a positive contribution whilst I am on Council. I am particularly proud of leading on the design and installation of the Coal Mining Cart Planters, the Refurbishment of the Bath Road Telephone Kiosk and the Platinum Jubilee Garden."



John Ogilvie-Davidson: "Although originally from Aberdeen Scotland, I have lived in Peasedown St John for 36 years, moving into this wonderful village in an old terraced house just off of the main street in 1988 with my wife. We have 2 children who were born and have lived here all their lives. I have extensive experience in project and financial management and now being partially retired have time to devote and use my skills as part of the Parish Council, giving back to the community and residents a service that this village deserves."



Jonathan Rich: "I'm proud to say I have lived in Peasedown St John all my life. I went to the local primary school & attended Writhlington school. I am passionate about our community and served for over 15 years as a Parish Councillor. I was vice chair for 4 years and I am delighted to be re-elected as the Chair of the Council. I am determined to build on the successes and to bring about positive change for all within the village. I want to use my experience to ensure that the Parish Council is equipped to properly serve all the residents Peasedown St John. I believe that by working together we can achieve so much more for all living in Peasedown St John."



Les Sprake: "Originally raised in Dorset, I spent most of my life in Somerset. I am now retired after 25 years working as a Facilities Manager for an American Mintoil Company in Frome. I have been married to Audrey (my second marriage) for the last 13 years. We live in the Eckweek part of the village, close to the cemetery. I am a dog owner and keep an eye on the village when walking my dog around the area."



Kathy Thomas: "I have lived in the parish for 50 years, I am a small holder with a few sheep and by profession a radiographer having worked in senior roles managing staff and implementing new systems of work. I am particularly interested in the care and development of our public open spaces and pleased with the improvements made such as the new paths on the Recreation Ground. I believe that access to the open spaces is a particular responsibility for councillors and am proud of the work we have done installing accessible gates on all areas. I look forward to continuing to serve the residents of the parish."



Daniel Walker: "I am a 33-year-old father of two young boys and have lived in and around Peasedown all my life. I went to Beechen Cliff secondary school and spent 7 years as a chef, before joining Curo 8 years ago. Since joining Curo I have worked my way up to the position of Agile Business Analyst. I have experience in data analytics, project management, waste vs value analysis and customer engagement among many other things. It would be good to understand what we should be working towards over the next 5-10 years by creating a strategic vision for the village and the council."

Thoughts from The Chair



It's been another busy time for the Parish Council over the last few months! The election on 4th May saw 11 existing parish councillors re-elected, together with two new councillors - Fiona Carr and John Ogilvie-Davidson. The remaining four vacancies were filled by co-option, with two going to some familiar faces - Jo Davis and Gill Auld, and two to new councillors Howard Hartley and Daniel Walker. At the recent Annual Parish Council meeting I was given the honour of being re-elected as Chair for the forthcoming Council year - with many thanks to my fellow councillors for their support. I'm greatly looking forward to working with you all, and thank you for all your hard work. Sadly, we have said farewell to former councillors Barbara and John Bailey who have decided not to stand for re-election or co-option, so that they can spend more time with their family. We are grateful to them for their efforts on behalf of our community over the years, and for their continued support, especially with planting activities. With best wishes, *Jonathan*.

Community Grants

We were pleased to award Peasedown St John WI with a community grant in 2022, to pay for two promotional banners to use at events (pictured on the right). The WI have helped at many Parish Council events, including the recent coronation celebrations, and are an excellent example of a group that makes a real difference to our community. Peasedown St John WI meets in the Acacia Room at The Hive at 7.30pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month.



Visitors and prospective new members are very welcome. Attendance at your first meeting is a no cost taster, just turn up. We'll be reporting on other organisations that will be receiving a grant in 2023 later this year. We have a grant scheme which is open every year with a budget of approximately £4,000. If you run an organisation that benefits our community and would like to know more, please contact the Parish Office on the telephone or email on the front page of this newsletter.



Somer Valley Walking Festival 9th & 10th September 2023

The Somer Valley Walking Festival is a yearly event which aims to introduce walkers of all abilities to the natural landscape, wildlife and industrial heritage to be found in the area around Radstock Westfield, Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Timsbury and Peasedown. This year the Festival will be held on Saturday 9th September and Sunday 10th September and will feature short village and town walks on Saturday plus an introduction to Nordic Walking as well as a longer walk following the course of the Somerset Coal Canal. Also on Saturday there will be a Family Walk that is pram friendly in Midsomer Norton through the Town Park

and up to the cycle path, ending at the Amphitheatre, where there will be nature-themed family entertainment.

On Sunday 10th there will be a series of walks of between three and ten miles starting out from the Conygre Hall in Timsbury, and Nordic Walking will also be on offer again. All the walks are free and equipment for the Nordic Walking will be provided and will be led by experienced walkers. None need to be booked in advance except for the Coal Canal walk and the Nordic Walking.

Come along and join in the Festival and experience a small part of the "Wild Isles" and step in Clare Balding's footsteps around Timsbury's beautiful countryside. For the full programme visit www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk or look out for printed brochures distributed in local libraries, shops, cafes etc. *Sue Robinson* (Chair of the Steering Committee).