



Your Newsletter

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

Published by Peasedown St John Parish Council

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New Police Recruits in Peasedown St John



Carrying out speed checks for
"Operation Thunderbolt" on Bath Road

You may have noticed our new Police recruits in the village! "Mini Police" is a fun interactive volunteering opportunity for children aged 9-11 years. This nationally recognised program was piloted last year within Avon and Somerset Police. It's a fun and engaging scheme that aims to enable children and young people to have a confident voice and some enjoyable experiences associated with policing.

PCSO Tony McIntosh and I started the scheme at Peasedown St John Primary School at the beginning of the year. Year 5 pupils applied and were interviewed and 20 children were selected to take part.

The children were supplied with a uniform and meet up with myself and Tony weekly, accompanied by teaching staff. They take part in activities including first aid, fire & water safety, problem solving and engaging with the community.

The children named one project "Operation Thunderbolt". It was a speed awareness event which took place in May on Bath Road, Peasedown St John. The Mini Police carried out speed checks and gave advice to drivers who exceeded the 20 MPH speed limit past their school.

PCSO Louise Jones

Parish Council "Gold Sponsor" of Party in the Park

Despite a very windy start, we were pleased to see plenty of local residents at this year's Party in the Park. Parish Councillors Audrey Gillard-Sprake, Simon Kidd, Claire Parfitt, Les Sprake and Kathy Thomas manned the stall on the day and enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with local residents.

Younger residents were able to take a photo using our "selfie frame" and fun props and there was a free quiz, where participants had to identify some local landmarks and find them on our big map of the parish. Congratulations to Karen James who won the prize of a £20 voucher for identifying the most!



Cllrs Simon Kidd and Kathy Thomas at the Parish Council stall

Thoughts from the Chair



The elections are over and I am very pleased to have been elected again as Chair of Peasedown St John Parish Council. I look forward to working with my fellow councillors. As with all councils, we have had our bumpy times, but it was heartening that the 12 councillors who stood for re-election were elected. Of the 5 other councillors elected, 3 of them had served as Peasedown St John Parish Councillors in the past. At a recent training session it was mentioned that we do not need to be known as Peasedown St John Parish Council. Why would we want to change our name and what should it be? Some people think that parish councils are associated with the Anglican Church, so a more appropriate name would make the distinction quite clear. We could be a town council with a mayor, but we are not a town. A community council might better describe us. There are no plans at the moment to change, but it is something we can consider. This year we shall be deciding how to manage the land that is being transferred to the parish from Persimmon Homes; there are approximately 20 separate pieces of land. One tract of land is between the Red Post and Wellow

Lane, we look forward to being able to tidy that and other areas to improve the appearance of the green spaces in our village. We shall also be holding more councillor surgeries this year - the first will be at **Beacon Hall, Friday 26 July 2019, 4-8pm**. Further dates will be published in due course, so please look out for the dates and come along to meet your councillors. I hope that you enjoy the summer and that it is neither too hot nor cold, or wet or dry. With best wishes, Kathy Thomas, Chair, Peasedown St John Parish Council.

Summer Planting

Flower beds, hanging baskets and tubs are all planted-up ready for another beautiful display over the summer. We have changed to a different supplier this year, and the plants look very healthy and ready to grow! Very many thanks to our planting volunteers who gave up their time to help make the village look lovely. The photo shows (L to R) Parish Council staff Luke, Drew and Jim with volunteers Adam, Calvin, Dianne and Aubrey. If you would be interested in becoming a planting volunteer, please contact the Parish Office.



Focus on Waggoneers MCC

For those of you who don't know, the Waggoneers MCC was founded in January 2009 at the Waggon and Horses pub, Peasedown St John. In 2012 the club adopted the Peasedown rocker, we wear this on our waistcoats as a way of showing we are proud of where we come from.

While many things have changed over the years one thing that hasn't is the club's support of various charities including the Air Ambulance. We have just undertaken our 10th annual May Bash raising money for the various Air Ambulance charities which serve our area. It was a fantastic event which was well supported by the local community and we raised a large amount of money for the Great Western Air Ambulance.

As bikers we are very aware that at any point in time one of our members could need the Air Ambulance and unfortunately this became a reality back in November 2009. I was travelling on my motorbike when I was hit by a car causing significant, life-changing injuries to my right leg. Luckily, I made a full recovery, but I know for a fact that had the Air Ambulance not been available to me then the outcome would have been very different.

This year, we became aware that we would not be able to receive the usual support from our friends from the biker community just a week before the event. Our President, John, made an appeal to the people of Peasedown to support the event and raise the much-needed funds for the Great Western Air Ambulance. We were overwhelmed by the support we received from every part of Peasedown and the amount of new faces we saw. It is thanks to the village that we were able to raise a massive £2250 for the air ambulance and to take our cumulative fund-raising total to £40250 since the clubs founding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people and local businesses who supported this event and contributed towards our fundraising total. This included Daily Bread, Tesco Express & Arleens; all of the bands who gave up their time free of charge including Dan, John Hughes, Dodszy, Dick Dynamite and the Blues Blasters & Tight but Loose; Mike Culley for bringing his Ferrari and giving rides around the village and to Woodborough kennels who put on a fantastic security dog show.

Peasedown St John is a special place and I know I speak for the entire club when I say that we are proud to be a part of this community and to display Peasedown on our rockers.

Liam Burke, Vice President, Waggoneers Mcc



Vandalism on the Rec Ground and Beacon Field



We are sorry to report that there has been some vandalism on the Recreation Ground recently. One of the Parish Council litter bins was set on fire and was partly destroyed, with damage to the surrounding grass (see photo left). The new youth shelter has also had graffiti and fire damage and there has been further fire damage to a bench on Beacon Field (right).

If you have any information about who may be responsible for this vandalism, please contact the Parish Office or call Avon & Somerset Police on 101.



Scouting in Peasedown St John



Scouting in Peasedown St John is thriving, with all three sections (Scouts, Cubs and Beavers) running, and over twenty young people involved in each.

The Scouts have recently returned from the District Scout Camp. Eight Scouts attended the "Tough Mudder Challenge Camp". The main activity at this event was an assault course on the Sunday, where seventy scouts from around the district, tackled different obstacles designed by the groups themselves. These included running through a river at Chelwood, climbing over and under obstacles, through a "spiders web" followed by a scramble up a water slide, over some hay bales and under a scramble net. The base that Peasedown Scout Group made and supervised was a 2 metre-high cargo net, which the scouts had to climb over (see photo on the left). This was constructed using lashed-together "pioneering poles", which were part-funded by a grant from the Parish Council. Peasedown Scouts were the only group to cook all their meals on an open fire, with leaders and scouts eating together.

Coming up, the Scout Section have a Summer Camp booked at Rhydd Covert Scout Campsite in the West Midlands. Here they will live as a patrol: cooking, eating and washing up as a group. There will be badge-work and activities throughout the week, with the highlight being a visit to the nearby West Midlands Safari Park.

The Cub Section have their District Camp booked for June, with twenty Cubs expected to attend. Lastly, the Beaver Section will have a "Beaverie" in September.

Getting out and about and having fun is a very important part of growing-up and Scouting, especially Scout Camps, are a good way of bringing this to young people and teaching them new skills whilst they have fun. There are always vacancies for adult volunteers within the group, either on our Executive Committee or helping the young people directly, especially in the younger sections. If you feel you can give any time, then please get in contact.

Karl Kilburn, Group Scout Leader

1st Peasedown St John Scout Group.

Defibrillator Training at Beacon Hall



There are now four public-access defibrillators (AEDs) in the village: one at the Red Post Inn, one outside the Co-operative, one at The Prince of Wales and one outside Beacon Hall. The Parish Council has responsibility for two of these and we carry out regular maintenance checks.

We will be holding a 3-hour Defibrillator Training Course at Beacon Hall on the afternoon of **Friday 4th October 2019**. Each participant will be given the opportunity to use an AED on a mannequin and there will also be theoretical instruction and participants are able to ask any questions. The course will give the first aider the confidence to use an AED in a stressful emergency. Whilst this training is primarily for regular hirers of Beacon Hall (as well as councillors and staff), we are offering the remaining places free of charge to any local residents who might be interested.

If you would like to attend, please contact the Parish Office. Places are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Your Parish Councillors



Barbara Bailey: "I have lived in Peasedown St John for over 10 years now, and also have family working and attending school in the village.

I was born and brought up in West London. I worked for the GLC until I married and had my family. I was a foster parent for five years, and then moved into working for local government with the children and families team, supporting vulnerable children and young adults. Until recently I volunteered with Cruse bereavement care as a counsellor for over 20 years. I also trained and worked as a Family Group Conference Organiser, and as a mediator. I trust that these life experiences may come in useful as a Parish Councillor."



John Bailey: "My background is in management in Blue Chip, Financial Services companies, and I have worked voluntarily with local sports clubs, Young Enterprise, Age Concern and Cruse Bereavement Care. Three generations of my family live in Peasedown, enjoying the quality of life here. I work as a Parish Councillor, with no political affiliation, to help Peasedown become an even better place for everybody to live, where all age groups can participate in and enjoy the benefits of a strong, well run community."



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 in, 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 Secretary. Since 2005 I've also been an active member of various groups including St John's Church, Mercy in Action, Party in the Park and the Fund for Peasedown."



Richard "Tex" Clarke: "I've lived in Peasedown for the last 15 years, and have been active in the 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 am part of the Residents' Association. I've also been a regular volunteer at Party in the Park and have helped raised funds for the Fund for Peasedown, Mercy in Action Charity Shop and St John's Church. As a resident of Albert Avenue, I will enjoy representing the views of the residents on the estate at Parish Council meetings."



Jo Davis: "I've lived in Peasedown for 15 years, although my extended family has lived here for the last 100 years. I want to bring Peasedown St John Parish Council into the 21st century by making it welcoming, easy to contact, active and responsive to all of the villagers – the Parish Council is responsible for spending over £100,000 of our money each year! I want each resident of Peasedown to feel fully represented by their councillors at all times."



Audrey Gillard-Sprake: "I have lived in Peasedown St John for the last 25 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 as a Steward meeting and greeting. Also on the Education team helping children to learn the areas 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."



Gemma Gotts:

"My name is Gemma and I'm 36, I've lived in the village for 14 years and would like to have an input into what could help improve Peasedown and to make it a better place to live for all residents of all ages.

I'm hard working and I put my all into the things I want for myself and others."



Gavin Heathcote:

"I grew up in Cheshire, have a degree in youth and community development but now work in transport management. I'm married to Sam and have one daughter who attends Peasedown St John Primary School. I'm a keen dog walker and feel this is a great way to interact with people regarding local issues."



Samantha Heathcote:

"Having lived in the village for the last 7 years and having a young daughter I am keen to ensure our village remains family focused with appropriate provisions in place that are accessible to all. Family is the heart of Peasedown and a community that continues to flourish and be welcoming - all of which I'm keen to support as your parish councillor."

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS! - Next Councillor Surgery will be at Beacon Hall, Friday 26 July 2019, 4-8pm.

Your Parish Councillors



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 can be done quickly, cheaply and effectively."



Andy Larcombe: "Originally from Cornwall, my 36 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, 18 years ago. Having seen my family grow up in the village, I aim to use my experience as a parent and resident to enhance the village for all who live here. I am proud to be an independent councillor allowing me the freedom to represent my village with my own moral compass of treating everyone fairly, acting with integrity and always aiming to ensure every decision we make as a council delivers progress to a better life for those we serve, the residents of Peasedown St John."



Ray Love: "I am a retired Insurance Manager with the Prudential Assurance and I moved from Winchester to Peasedown in 2013. Whilst in Winchester, I was a City Councillor for 16 years and was a founder of a mental health befrienders charity, a founder and Trustee at the Women's Refuge, a Trustee and volunteer working with homeless young people with drug and alcohol problems and a Secondary School Governor for 17 years. Since coming to Peasedown, I have become the Press Officer for Peasedown St John Methodist Church and a Governor at Writhlington School. Moving to Peasedown was at first a daunting decision, as I had never lived in a village before, but I need not have worried as the people have been friendly and welcoming and I look forward to my future here"



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 am now working for Somerset Football Association as their Marketing and Communications Officer and studying a further sports industry Masters qualification. Working in the football industry has given me a great interest in this area, and combined with my pride in our village I hope to be able to make a positive contribution whilst I am on the Council."



Claire Parfitt: "I have lived in the village for the last 30 years having moved from Bath. I am mother to five children and grandmother to two. I have strong family ties within the community - four of my children attended Peasedown Primary School, as did their father, aunts, uncle and grandparents. I run my own photography business, which is thriving, and my interests include photography and animals. I feel strongly that Peasedown St John should remain a village and that we should work on making the facilities we have the very best they can be."



Jonathan Rich: "I am pleased to say that I have lived in Peasedown St John all my life. I went to the local primary school & attended Writhlington school. I am passionate about my community and previously served for nearly 12 years as a Parish Councillor until Jan 2011. I was the vice chair for 4 years. I am determined to bring about positive change for all within my neighbourhood and I want to use my experience to ensure that the Parish Council is equipped to properly serve the people of Peasedown St John. I believe that Peasedown St John deserves a consistent Parish Council which puts people's needs first."



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 45 years, and during that time have seen many changes. There have been many improvements; the village is now well regarded. I am particularly interested in the care and development of our public open spaces and I am looking forward to continuing to serve the residents of the parish. My priority during my time as Chair will be to ensure that we improve our communications within the Parish Council, between Councillors and Staff and between the Parish Council and the public."

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