

Parish Focus is brought to you by  
North Claines Parish Council

# PARISH FOCUS

Spring/Summer  
2018



**Bevere Island Bridge**  
built 1844

Pages 4 and 5

*Good  
news*

## **NORTH CLAINES PARISH COUNCIL**

*Meeting dates for 2018*

12<sup>TH</sup> June

2<sup>ND</sup> July

3<sup>RD</sup> September

1<sup>ST</sup> October

5<sup>TH</sup> November

3<sup>RD</sup> December

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and are held in the  
Baptist Church, O'Keys Lane, Fernhill Heath.



**Meg Farmer**



**Andy McManus**



**Margaret Drinkwater**



**Bob Hollis**

## Your Councillors

**Councillors not pictured John Carter & Peter Phillips**

### Chairman's Speech – April 2018

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has made contact with the Council, spoken to any of the Councillors directly, by phone, letter or by attending one of the parish Council meetings. So many local people have also supported all the various activities that the Parish Council have backed or been part of. All of this is greatly appreciated and helps make North Claines the superb community that it is.

The Council cannot function efficiently without our parish clerk Clare Shinner, who guides and steers us in the right directions and works extremely hard to ensure that everything is dealt with. Her endless patience is much appreciated. Things also run very smoothly thanks to the support and backing of the elected councillors who give up their time to attend various meetings and work hard behind the scenes to get things done so that our community can function and flourish. We are also grateful for the input, advice, insight and support from district Councillor Tony Miller. Thank you to every one of you.

As always, one of our largest areas of budget responsibility is for maintenance right across the parish. The team at Top Cut, under the leadership of Mike's son Daniel, keeps the area in top condition and well maintained. Mike has now retired and we all wish him well in that retirement.

In some ways it has been a challenging few months. After being on the Council for over 7 years each, several councillors felt that due to other work and family commitments they could not give the time they would like to continue with Council work. The Councillors who have left over the past 6 months are Mark Sainsbury who was a great chairman and his humour and relaxed manner is much missed. Sam Routledge who served on many of the committees and did so much work to oversee the lovely playground on the Brum, Kevin Savage who was also on various committees including helping to put together the neighbourhood plan as well as getting the Parish Focus magazine together, and Paul Maybury, who worked closely alongside our contractors Top Cut, to ensure parish maintenance was carried out where needed. My grateful and genuine thanks go to each one of them.

The Parish council have been pleased to support the various events which are now becoming annual events – Bunnies, Fun and Christmas on the Brum. Alongside these there has been Fernhill Heath in Bloom, Open gardens and a Scarecrow competition. At all these events there has been a huge feeling of good community spirit and support.

In February of this year, I was elected Chairman of the Parish council which is a huge honour. I am determined that we shall all continue to maintain North Claines as the parish we all love and enjoy living in.



**Keep up to date with all the events and news at  
[www.northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk)**



## North Claines Parish Council needs 3 more Councillors to serve on the Parish Council

**Are you interested in serving your community?  
Have you been to a Parish Council meeting?**

**What is North Claines parish council?** It is a civil local authority and is the lowest tier of local government.

**Who funds it?** Parish councils are funded by levying a 'precept', which is collected with council taxes paid by residents of the parish.

**What does a Parish Councillor do?** Parish councillors are unpaid. They are elected by people within the parish voting and serve for 4 years. If that councillor wishes to continue, they can stand for re-election at the appropriate time. If there is a vacancy between elections and if an election is not called, then a Councillor may be co-opted on to the Council, and this is what is happening in North Claines at the current moment. Any interested party submits an application to the Clerk and the Council then decide if they wish the applicant to become a Councillor.

Councillors represent all sectors of the community and have a dual role.

**Firstly they play a vital part in representing the views and concerns of the communities they serve to the parish council itself and through it to the district and county authorities.**

**Secondly they report back to residents on issues affecting the parish.**

**Individual councillors do not have, and cannot be given, powers to make decisions on behalf of the council.**

**It is the councillor's task to bring local issues to the attention of the council and help it make decisions on behalf of the local community. Through this they can help to improve the quality of life and the environment in their local area.**

**Councillors help to influence and shape the long term development policy for the parish, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications in the parish**

**What powers and duties does North Claines Parish Council have?** They have the power to tax their residents to support their operations and to carry out local projects. They (within reason and where possible) provide local services – i.e. children's play areas, maintenance of closed churchyards, control of litter, clearance of ditches, etc. Subject to county council consent they also oversee e.g.: provision of bus shelters, lighting of footpaths, signposting of footpaths etc. They can also, as we proudly have done, create a neighbourhood plan which amongst other things, helps protect against large building developments unless they were agreed prior to the plan being approved or were identified for future development within the plan. All planning applications within the parish are brought to the parish councillors for discussion and approval or rejection. On this point, parish councillors can make their decisions and the reasons behind it, but ultimately Wychavon district council make their own decisions and can over rule local decisions.

**Can anybody go to a parish council meeting?** Yes they can. The agenda for each meeting is displayed on the parish noticeboards in advance of the meetings and on the website. During the meeting there is time allotted for the general public to ask questions regarding matters of concern.

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk for an application form on **01905 770226** or **clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk**

#### **YOU MUST BE;**

a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or, a citizen of another Member state of the European Union;  
be aged 18 or over  
be registered as a local government elector for the parish; or in the past 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish; or work in the parish (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the parish boundary.

#### **YOU MUST NOT BE**

declared bankrupt.  
be a paid employee of the council that you are standing for;  
convicted of a crime and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than three months within five years before the date of the election.  
disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices.



# Brian's Super Sounds goes to the Palace!



## HEAD RETIRES

The head of Hindlip school - Ms Carolyn Tew will be taking a much deserved early retirement at the end of the summer term, after a teaching career of almost 30yrs. Ms Tew has been head of Hindlip school for the past 9yrs, and due to her leadership and the hard work of all the staff, has seen the school rated by both OFSTED and SIAMS (church school inspection) as an 'Outstanding School'. Ms Tew says she is looking forward to spending time with her family and friends.

Many people who attended Hindlip school will instantly recognise Mrs Thomas. Lesley Thomas originally trained in Wales, lived in Cornwall and then came with her husband to Worcester in 1987 where she took up a post at St Barnabas school. In 1997 she joined the staff of Hindlip school starting off part-time to fit in with her young family. Gradually this changed to full time and 8 yrs ago became deputy head and is now teaching second generation children! Lesley will be taking early retirement at the end of the summer term and has plans to travel and enjoy life. She said that Hindlip has a wonderful and strong team working there and she has really enjoyed her career.

The Parish council would like to wish Lesley and Carolyn well in her retirement and thank her for helping so many of our children who attended Hindlip School.



In December 2017 Brian and Philomena Green received a letter to say that they had been nominated to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in recognition of the work they have done within the community. In 14 years, this amazing couple who are well known for their ballroom and sequence dances, have raised over £62,500 for St Richard's Hospice. The garden party was held at the Palace on Tuesday May 15th in glorious sunshine.

Although there were 8,000 people there, they managed to see some of the beautiful palace gardens as well as her Majesty the Queen and Prince Andrew. Afterwards, Brian and Philomena said it had a wonderful and memorable day and they felt so privileged to have been nominated.



The Allen family are taking part in a Marathon during May for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) The months challenge is to complete the 26.2 miles and the whole family, including Angus the dog, is taking part. Bobby, their eldest son who is 7yrs old, has SMA type 3. Bobby will be wheeling round to achieve his miles and hopes, with help, to do a step over the finishing line.

SMA support UK are a fantastic charity and have supported the family so much. Money raised during the marathon will be given to SMA

# Good news

## Neighbourhood Planning

The Neighbourhood Plan has been in effect for just over 12-months and has become a critical policy for both the Parish Council and Wychavon District Council when determining permission for planning applications. The Parish Council is currently undertaking a review of the Plan to determine where resources are best placed to achieve priorities for everyone living in the Parish. This is a good time to focus on the Parish Council's ambitions for housing, the environment and transport as the South Worcester Development Plan (SWDP) is also undergoing a review.

The SWDP is a joint plan between Wychavon, Malvern Hills and Worcester City Councils that aims to ensure future developments across South Worcestershire are well planned and managed effectively, whilst having a positive impact upon the environment. The review will look at the policies within the plan to ensure they remain valid and update any that are required; look at the potential of new policies that will respond to changes at a national level and ensure the infrastructure is in place to deliver the plan as a whole.

The Parish Council are fully engaged in the consultation of the review and we will share opportunities to consult with members of the public in due course, via our website.

## Unexpected Find At Local Church

When builders were carrying out renovations to Fernhill Heath Baptist Church they found a time capsule which had been placed to mark the laying of the Foundation Stone of the church on 3rd September 1903!

It contained a copy of the programme for the stone laying service, a magazine from Worcester Baptist Church recording the occasion and an 1885 coin.

Minister Jeff Porter explained that was the year that the Worcester church started to regularly worship in the village. Subsequently a plot of land was donated and a building erected - the estimate for its construction being "£300 plus seats and fittings" - no VAT in those days! The building was extended over the years and Fernhill Heath became an independent church in 1993.

Rev. Porter remarked "We had no idea that the capsule existed and it is amazing that it was discovered just as we were about to celebrate 25 years as a separate church!"

The church is planning a series of events for the anniversary year, details of which are on the church website [www.fernhillheathbaptist.org.uk](http://www.fernhillheathbaptist.org.uk) where there is a link to the church facebook page.

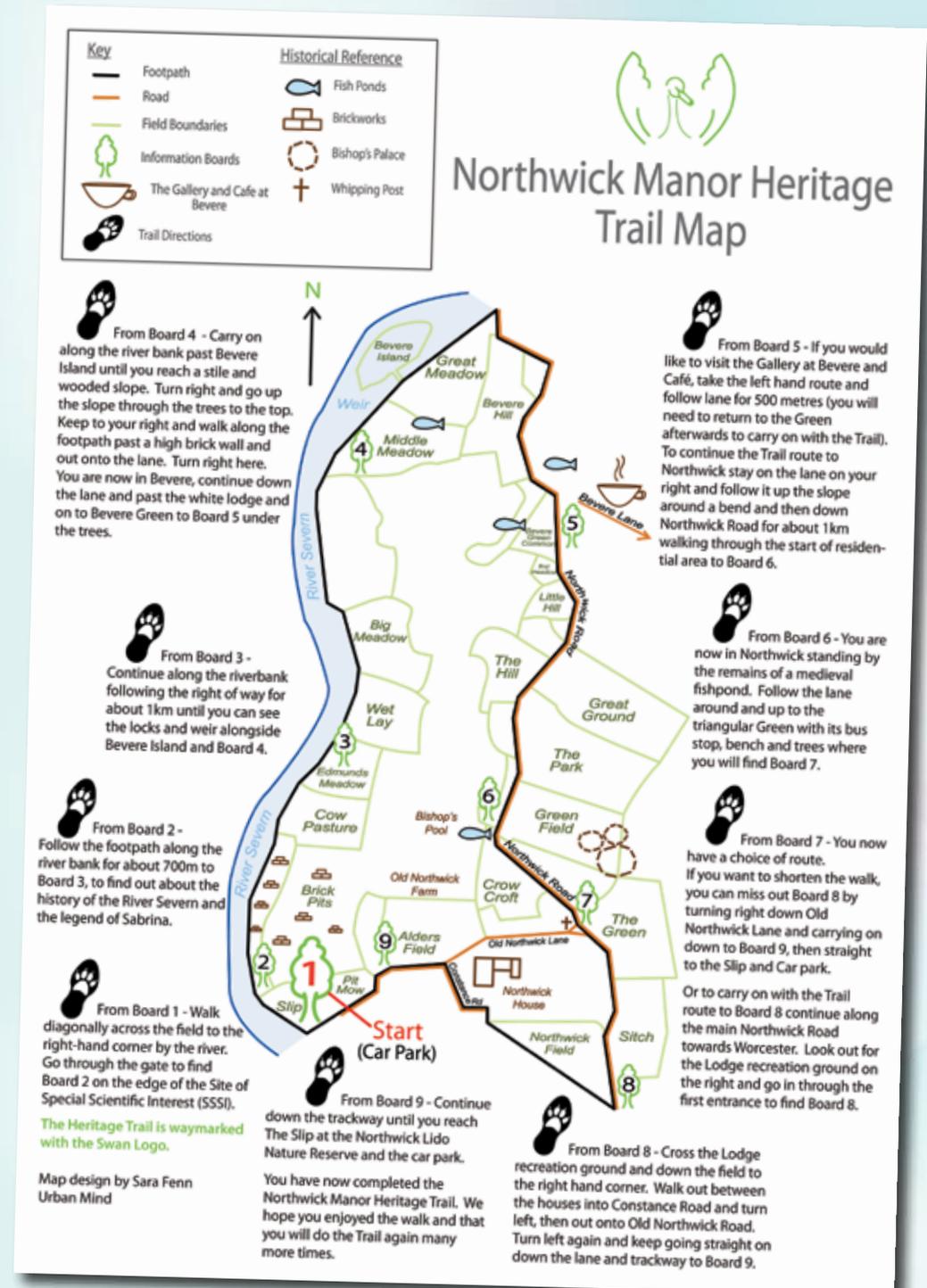
## Virgin Money London Marathon – Thank-you

I just wanted to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to everyone who has kindly sponsored me to run this year's Virgin Money London Marathon on behalf of St Richard's Hospice, particularly the Parish Council who donated so generously.

It was a great day, with thousands taking part and even more people offering support all the way around. There really is nowhere on the 26 mile route where friends, family or complete strangers are not cheering on the competitors. However, it was such a hot day, very different to training in winter and sadly many people suffered from the heat and exhaustion of taking part. I was just glad to cross the line and get my medal!

I have raised just over £2,600 for St Richard's, so only have a short way to go to reach my £3,000 target. St Richard's is a great charity and I saw at first hand the dedication and commitment of the staff and volunteers when Rodney Ghose passed away at the Hospice in February 2016, after a short fight against cancer. It costs £15,841 a day to run St Richards and they receive no government funding, relying entirely on the generosity of volunteers and donations from the public.

Please share my story with friends and family and anyone can donate via the JustGiving webpage by searching for Andy McManus. Many thanks.





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