

THE BILBROOK BUZZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF BILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL



BILBROOK PAYS TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY

Bilbrook along with the rest of the world was saddened by the death of Queen Elizabeth II. On the evening of the 18th of September around 100 residents joined Rev'd Simon Douglas from Holy Cross Church and Parish Councillors on the Village Green for a thanksgiving service, This was followed by a reading of the Proclamation of the new King by Bilbrook Parish Council Chair, Sue Adams.

LONG LIVE THE KING!

At the time of writing, we're eagerly awaiting news of the date of the Coronation of King Charles III. We are already making plans to celebrate the Coronation in Bilbrook with an event for the whole Community. We'll bring you news as soon as we can, and we look forward to another great celebration in Bilbrook.



Bilbrook Remembrance
Sunday 13th November 2022

IN HONOUR AND GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF BILBROOK PARISH WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN DEFENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY, AND FREEDOM FROM OPPRESSION.

9:50 am for 10:00 am - Service of Remembrance at Holy Cross Church, Bilbrook
10:45 am - Procession from Holy Cross Church to Bilbrook War Memorial
11:00 am - Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, Bilbrook Village Green
Anyone wishing to lay a wreath at the Act of Remembrance, please contact the Parish Clerk. tel: 01902 840007 or email: clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk
To purchase wreaths please email the Royal British Legion Codsall Poppy Appeal at codsallpoppyappeal@gmail.com

COST OF LIVING CRISIS NEED ADVICE?

Many people are going through some tough times at the moment. Please be wary of criminals who are trying to scam people with bogus schemes. Two organisations that you can go to for genuine guidance on debt, housing, benefits, and many other challenges you may face are the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and Staffordshire County Council (SCC).

CAB hold a drop-in session at the South Staffordshire Council Offices every Thursday between 9 am and 3 pm. You can find them in the main reception next to the Cafe in the Community Hub. Alternatively, you can find advice by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/BPCCAB> or following the QR code below.

SCC has a dedicated cost of living support page on its website which contains tips and information for those who need help <https://orlo.uk/2Dhho>

Here to Help

Information and advice to help you as the cost of living rises



CAB





PLAYPARK UPGRADE

The upgrade to the Playpark is progressing really well and it's already looking fantastic. Work is continuing and we're looking forward to giving you a date for reopening. Pop down and have a look! Thank you again to Veolia Environmental Trust for the grant to cover the improvements.

BILBROOK AT CHRISTMAS '22

We're getting excited about Christmas! If you're a Community Group and would like a stall, please follow the link to register at <https://tinyurl.com/BPCXmas> or call 01902 840007.

Bilbrook at Christmas

Friday 25th November 2022

From 6:00pm

Father Christmas
Fun Fair
Refreshments
Stalls

Christmas
lights to be
switched on
by Wolfie!



Bilbrook Village Green

Don't forget to bring your letter to Father Christmas!

Organised by:



BILBROOK

NEW ALLOTMENT WATER TANKS (IBC)

The Parish Council would like to thank Staffordshire County Council for the grant towards environmental improvements, helping to combat climate change. The council used the grant to provide additional water harvesting tanks for the allotments.



PAT QUIRKE

Bilbrook Parish Council was saddened to hear of the passing of Bilbrook resident, historian, musician and author Pat Quirke. A plaque in memory of Pat will be installed on the Twentyman Playing Fields this month.

BILBROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who completed the Neighbourhood Plan survey. The results have been collated and can be viewed and downloaded by scanning the QR code below.



If you would like a paper copy of the survey results please call 01902 840007.

FURNITURE & OTHER LARGE ITEM RECYCLING

This sofa was dumped on our playing fields after a well-meaning resident left it outside with a "free to good home" sign on it. Please can we request that you don't

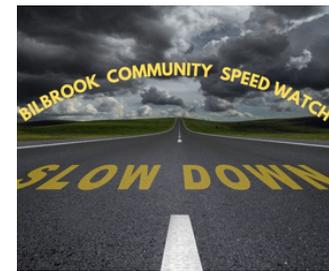


leave items outside your home this way. Often pranksters take it and it ends up "trashed" and dumped on our fields. It means our workmen have to take it to the tip so it doesn't end up recycled. Staffs County Council offer useful advice for the disposal of larger items which can be seen by scanning the QR code below:

And don't forget, the Second Chance shop in Bilbrook will buy second-hand items that can be resold.



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (CSW)



Thank you to everyone who signed up to promote road safety through CSW.

It's not too late to sign up!
Tel: 01785-232702 or email michelle.shaker@staffordshire.police.uk



Bilbrook Parish Council gives out grants each year to community organisations that help make life better for Bilbrook residents. The latest grant was given to the Bilbrook Coffee Pop-in group which meets at Holy Cross Church on a Thursday at 10 am. If your organisation needs help, follow the link below to check if you are eligible for funding.
<https://tinyurl.com/BPCGrants>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

In the last year, things have been returning to normal after the coronavirus pandemic. This year has been a busy one for the Parish Council. At the start of the year, the Parish Council successfully gained the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme. This is awarded to councils that meet the requirements for operating to best practice.

Congratulations to our Parish Clerk on obtaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification which means that we now have the general power of competence. Welcome to our new Assistant Clerk and two Parish operatives. This means the Parish council now employs seven part-time staff.

Remembrance Sunday – we were able to meet again at the War Memorial on the village green to remember those who gave their lives in both world wars and other conflicts. There was a large number of residents in attendance.

Christmas Lights Switch on – A very successful event with large numbers enjoying the evening. Luckily the weather was kind to us for a few hours.

Neighbourhood Plan – Thank you to the many residents that completed the survey. We can't stop houses from being built but we can influence the process. You told us how much you value the rural surroundings and green spaces of Bilbrook, and the importance that you give to local infrastructure and services such as schools and health facilities. This information will be used to create a draft plan.

Bilbrook Village Green – We have received several grants that have allowed us to improve the Green, this has included new plants, planters and the replacement of a damaged memorial bench. We also planted an oak tree for the Platinum Jubilee as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

Climate Change – We have continued to plant trees, create areas of wildflowers and endeavour to reduce the volume of paper we use. We are making more use of social media, however, we will continue to send out the Buzz as we know many residents do not have access to social media.

Platinum Jubilee – We celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne in June. We were blessed with lovely weather and big crowds were there to enjoy the fun. It was a lovely event, and in light of the Queen's sad passing, we are hoping to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty Charles III with a similar community event.

Playpark – Thank you to Veolia for the grant to upgrade our Play Park. Work is almost finished as we go to print.

CCTV – Thanks to a grant from the Staffordshire Police Commissioner's People Power Fund, new CCTV is now in place covering the Village Hall, the playpark and the playing fields.

Going forward the focus of the Parish Council is planning to focus on improving the centre of the village. We are also hoping to start a Youth Council so that young people have a voice in the Parish. If there are any issues you would like the Parish Council to consider, please contact us (see page 4 for our contact details) or even better, stand as a Parish councillor at the 4th May 2023 Parish elections!

BILBROOK BUZZ

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr M Adams - West Ward
Cllr S Adams - West Ward (Chairman)
Cllr M Barrow - East Ward
Cllr G Burnett - West Ward (Vice-Chair)
Cllr V Chapman - East Ward
Cllr A Hill - West Ward
Cllr D Hutchinson - East Ward
Cllr P Hutchinson - East Ward
Cllr S Leedham - West Ward
Cllr J Michell - East Ward
Cllr B O'Connor - East Ward
Cllr G Price - Lane Green Ward
Cllr D Williams - East Ward

All councillors can be contacted via the Parish Office. (see details on page 4)

PARISH MEETINGS

Full Parish Council Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm (except in August) at Bilbrook Village Hall

KEY CONTACTS

South Staffordshire District Council
01902 696000
www.sstaffs.gov.uk

District Cllr G Burnett
g.burnett@sstaffs.gov.uk

District Cllr I Sadler
i.sadler@sstaffs.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council
0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Staffordshire Highways
0300 111 8000

County Cllr Bob Spencer
bob.spencer@staffordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament Gavin Williamson
gavin.williamson.mp@parliament.uk

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Staffordshire Police - 111 for a non-emergency or 999 for an emergency. www.staffordshire.police.uk

CrimeStoppers - report crime anonymously on 0800 555111

Staffordshire Smart Alert - Sign up for Police Alerts - www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk

Bilbrook Medical Centre - 01902 847313

Bilbrook Village Hall bookings: 07511 339598

Holy Cross Church Hall bookings: 01902 212405

QUICK LINKS

No. 5 Bus timetable - <https://tinyurl.com/Bilbrook5>

South Staffs Council Blue Bags - <https://bit.ly/37y6AdP>

Report a pothole - <https://bit.ly/SCCHighways>

Allotment waiting list - <https://bit.ly/AllotmentWaitingList>

News on Bin Collections - www.sstaffs.gov.uk/waste

Passionate about Bilbrook?

Want to help make it a better place?

Got some skills to share and time to spare?

JOIN OUR TEAM AND BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR



What is a Parish Council?

Bilbrook Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government and is closest to the community it serves; it can take decisions and spend money on matters that make a real difference to Bilbrook. (For Bilbrook the other two tiers are Staffordshire County Council and South Staffs District Council)

What does Bilbrook Parish Council do?

It represents Bilbrook, tries to improve the quality of life in Bilbrook & provides services to meet local needs such as allotments, the Christmas illuminations and switch-on event, the annual act of remembrance, flowers and planters around the Village, the Jubilee walks, play areas and play equipment, street furniture, Bilbrook old & new village greens and Bilbrook war memorial

What are Parish Councillors?

They are democratically elected councillors who work hard to represent and engage with their local community. Bilbrook Parish Council is made up of 13 unpaid Councillors who hold office for a 4-year term. To become a councillor you must be eligible, not disqualified, follow the 7 principles of public life and be able to attend Council meetings on the first Wednesday of the month.

Interested in becoming a parish councillor?, You can:

- Check out the Website of the Electoral Commission which explains the Parish Council Election Process for England including the need to be nominated by two electors and the forms that need to be completed and submitted. www.electoralcommission.org.uk
- Contact the Parish Council and express your interest.
- Keep an eye out for vacancies on the Parish Council website, noticeboards or newsletters.

Visit South Staffs District Council website for notification of elections.

And if you aren't interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, you can still nominate and vote for councillors who consider your interests.

Eligible?

Over 18

a UK, Commonwealth or EU citizen.

a Bilbrook elector, or live or work in or within three miles of the Bilbrook boundary.

7

Principles of Public Life

Selflessness.
Integrity.
Objectivity.
Accountability.
Openness.
Honesty.
Leadership.

Disqualified?

Work/hold paid office for the Parish Council

Have have been declared bankrupt in the past five years and have not repaid debts.

Have been convicted of a criminal offence & sentenced to not less than 3 months imprisonment within the past 5 years.



BILBROOK
PARISH COUNCIL

BILBROOK BUZZ

Bilbrook Village Hall Joeyes Lane, Bilbrook, WV8 1JL

Tel 01902 840007

Email clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/BilbrookParishCouncil/

