

VILLAGE UPDATE

An important current subject to us all is the planned works in Brookley Road. As we write this Newsletter, our Parish Council and businesses are at odds with Hampshire County Council's plan to close Brookley Road and the village car park for in excess of six weeks starting 22nd April and including the two May Bank holidays.

Whilst FoB recognises the importance of repairing the drainage we support our Parish Council in their effort to find a compromise to these closures. It would be inappropriate for us to comment further. However, FoB would encourage residents to support local businesses.

STOP PRESS - latest updates www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/atfbrockenhurstimprovements

VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL

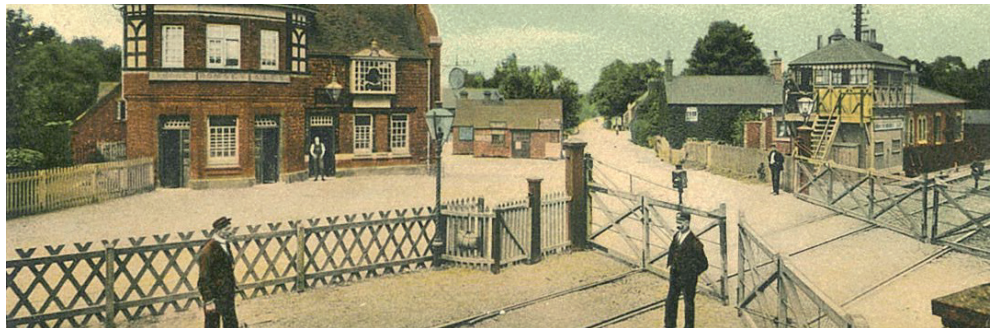
The village War Memorial records those who lived in the village and lost their lives serving the country. Mainly those named are soldiers, sailors and airmen from the first and second world wars. However, its come to light that there's a missing name - Charles Godwin. The family home was in North Weirs.

Charles was the Police Commissioner for Penang Province in Malaya, then a British colony. In May 1954 he was ambushed by communist guerillas as he drove his car and killed. He is buried in Penang and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission recorded "killed on active service".

FoB came across Charles's name whilst doing other research. Since then, the Parish Council, the Royal British Legion and the church and others are supportive of his name being added to the war memorial. FoB are actively involved and have pledged £500 for this to happen.

SPRING MEETING

In 1847 the railway arrived in Brockenhurst. It transformed our village bringing communication, prosperity, employment and visitors to enjoy the New Forest. But it was an accident. David Bennett will talk, supported by pictures, about this key part of Brockenhurst heritage as part of the national Railway 200 events.



Friday 9th May 2025

Main Hall, Village Hall, Brockenhurst

Drinks & Nibbles from 7.00pm

Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Guest Speaker - David Bennett

"Steaming into Brockenhurst - a history of the station and its effects on the village."



OTHER NEWS...

Friends of Brockenhurst were delighted to sponsor the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races once again, organised by the Parish Council Event Committee, back in March. There was a fantastic turn-out of all ages and some great races. We presented the winners with environmentally friendly wooden medals.



The VE Day 80th Anniversary Community Picnic takes place on Saturday 10th May, 2.00-5.00pm at St Saviours, Brockenhurst. Organised by the Parish Council Events Committee the afternoon includes live music, a WWII sing-along, photo display, tea & cake, games, ice cream - plus a free glass of fizz. Just bring your own picnic!

BrockStock, the family friendly music festival will run again at Brockenhurst Football Club on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th May. There is a great line-up of music across the two days, plus a variety of food & drink, along with games, kids inflatables and a range of stalls. For more details visit:

www.brockstock.co.uk



The New Forest Show is back for 2025 with another fantastic line-up and three days of great displays, attractions and events. Dates for the show are 29th, 30th & 31st July. Tickets are on sale now via the website:

www.newforestshow.co.uk

FLIGHT PATH

We have received correspondence from villagers regarding the increased noise coming from planes flying in and out of Bournemouth airport. However, the messages have not all been against the increased number of flights.

The airport told us that there is a flight path that passes just to the north of Brockenhurst. Traffic has returned to pre covid levels and the number of passengers exceeded one million for the first time in 2024. The introduction of Jet 2 this year is bound to add to this traffic.

A committee of local authorities, Bournemouth Airport Consultative Group, are able to liaise with the airport. It appears that other bodies, such as parish councils, have to make any representation through this committee which includes the National Park Authority. The NPA represent all the parish councils in the national park. Our Parish Council made a representation to the NPA objecting to the planes not keeping to the flight path but flying directly over the village. FoB supported our PC.

The NPA, as a member of the Airport Consultative Committee, has raised our concerns. We await to see whether anything can be done. Might be another example of don't hold your breath.

In the meantime, if you feel strongly about this you can contact the Environment Officer at Bournemouth Airport: environment@bournemouthairport.com



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIR

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

Your committee strives to protect and improve our Village and support concerns that have been brought to our attention by members and residents. Some of these matters are mentioned in this Newsletter.

We have continued to give financial support to local events such as the Brockenhurst Pantomime and the annual Parish Council Pancake Races. We have also committed a future donation to the addition of the missing name on the village War Memorial (which features in this Newsletter).

We are grateful for the support of our members. If you are not already a member, please join with us to help preserve our wonderful village for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Rachel Smith
President

David Eley
Chair

email: info@friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk

www.friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk



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PLANNING REPORT

We see the word “extension” crop up all the time. However, a look at 2024 showed that, although extension was the most popular form of planning application, it only represented just over 40% of all applications in Brockenhurst for that year. No more space left in our village?!

As always, it is more interesting to talk about our objections in the period under review. There were basically three. Two were applications for changes and extensions to properties that we deemed to be just too big for the area. These applications were also objected to by neighbours and the Parish Council. One was withdrawn, the other accepted.

We were disappointed, from a planning perspective, that a plot of land in Sway Road, which had a chequered history with planning permissions, had its latest application for continued use for car storage approved. This plot would have been ideal for use as affordable housing.

We examined the National Park Authorities review of the Local Plan. In our view, the existing Local Plan appears to conform to the statutory duty of the NPA – nature and heritage conservation and recreation. The review aims to cover up to date views on local travel throughout the New Forest.

The Martins Road footbridge is due to be closed. The bridge is owned by Forestry England and administered by Hampshire County Council. FE say that the bridge is in need of repair but seem unable to agree on the way forward. Hence closure.

Our Parish Council are leading the fightback to keep the bridge open and have said that they are willing to accept responsibility for it in the future. Many villagers have lent their voice to keeping the bridge open with some saying saying that repairs are not necessary. We hope that our PC will be able to access FE’s deaf ear.

FoB positively supports our Parish Council.



FLOODING

Brockenhurst is well known for its flooding issues. FoB has commented on this before and has hosted Peter Hebard of the Brockenhurst Flood Action Group to describe some of the issues.

Waters Green is one such issue. It’s not called Waters Green for nothing. When we experience heavy rainfall Waters Green floods and often affects the A337 around the Careys Manor area. The A337 is a major thoroughfare from the M27 through to Lymington and beyond.

The sheer volume of water comes from the Weirs Tributary. A culvert under the A337 near Careys is designed to let the water flow into a stream and then into the Lymington River. The stream is partly on private property so is the responsibility of the owner. The culvert is the responsibility of Hampshire Highways(“HH”) – as a recent Parish publication told us.

Last summer the stream was cleared of detritus by interested parties. After a degree of badgering, HH jetted out the culvert. So far so good you would have thought. However, when further flooding occurred, Peter Hebard’s help was enlisted and found that the culvert was blocked with roots. HH were informed but could not promise help.

Interested parties employed a specialist firm to clear the culvert of roots and the immediate result was a drop in the water levels and a better flow of water. Such work may not stop flooding but it will certainly help. A recent storm saw a large amount of rain fall on Waters Green – 44mm in 24 hours, one of the worst in the last year. However, the A337 was clear and surrounding flooding reduced.

FOB - THINKING OF THE FUTURE

Your committee regularly question their role and the role of FoB.

FoB was formed in 1957. At that time the Parish Council showed little interest in planning so the founding fathers of FoB took an interest in how they thought our village should look. This evolved over the years to become the FoB of today.

The Parish Council has also evolved and has had a Planning sub-committee for many years. However, FoB still takes a strong interest with planning, expressing our views to the PC and the National Park Authority.

Today’s FoB still takes an interest in planning but also aims to achieve a lot more than that.



It hopes to bring to villagers’ attention subjects of interest to Brockenhurst. This is done through our website, our biannual Newsletter and our biannual meetings.

Our meetings allow issues relevant to Brockenhurst to be aired. For example, in recent years, views of the fundamental character of our village have been presented. These views have included traffic management, pedestrian safety and comfort and the look of the village centre.

We are supportive of the Parish Council but express different views when necessary. They, by their constitution, are the elected body representing our village. However, sometimes villagers find us, as a less formal body, easier to approach.

So much for the past. Where do we go from here? What are your views?

Your committee has “refreshed” itself in the recent past such that its average age is somewhat reduced. There is a feeling among the younger members that we should involve all members more in the work done by FoB. Should this be done by holding more events or workshops?

We currently try to argue for certain aspects of our village by doing our research and presenting to villagers. Should we become a more campaigning body where we use the soap box and loudspeaker more than present?

FoB has a good and loyal membership. However, we are not complacent and would love to continue to attract new members who have a love and passion for our village.

These are some of the things that your committee regularly discuss. We would love to hear your views. Please do not hesitate to contact us:

info@friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk



COMMITTEE

President: Rachel Smith | Chair: David Eley
Hon Secretary: Paul Ledger | Treasurer: Tim Angel
Planning Secretary: Philip Butt

Additional Committee Members:

Gerald Parker, David Bennett & Jonathan Doughty

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The Society exists to protect, improve and develop the character and amenities of Brockenhurst and the surrounding forest area for the benefit of the residents of the village and of the wider community.

It shall concentrate especially, but not exclusively, on matters relating to planning, environment and the welfare of the community and will seek to influence local and other government bodies to advance its objectives.

In particular, it shall carry out regular and detailed reviews of all regional, structure and local plans, together with significant local planning applications, making representations as appropriate.

The Society also aims to invite speakers on matters of interest to its AGM and Spring meetings.



email: info@friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk
www.friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk

BECOME A MEMBER...

Membership of the Friends of Brockenhurst is open to all residents of Brockenhurst and the surrounding forest area. Our annual subscription is currently a minimum of just

£7.50 per single person OR £10.00 per family

Subscriptions in excess of the minimum are always very welcome, and we thank those that continue to do so.

Membership forms and Standing Order forms are available to download from our website and can be returned to us or taken to Pot Pourri Gift Shop in Brookley Road:

www.friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk/membership