

Brassson *Banter*

A Newsletter for Brassington
Spring 2016 Issue 1

Welcome to the first issue of Brassson Banter

Inside you'll find lots of news about a wide range of activities. We hope you like it and find it interesting. The newsletter is being put together by a group of happy volunteers but will depend on your input to liven it up and to make it a newsletter for the whole parish. It can become a great place for ideas and debates, opinions, experiences and memories.

This is a bumper issue as

like to see in the next issue.

The newsletter is being paid for by a community grant (see page 19); this grant should help the newsletter get going during its first year. After that, we hope it will become self-sustaining through advertising and sponsorship. Because of this, we don't have to charge for it.

We intend to publish regular contributions from organisations within the



*Brassington is a great place to live, work and visit
Photo courtesy of Ralph Browes*

we have had lots of great contributions. Please keep them coming.

Send us your letters, articles and photos or just talk to us about anything you would

parish, such as the Parish Council, Church, School etc. but it's also a place where individuals can express their ideas, opinions and experiences. So don't be shy. Let's hear from you!

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Useful contacts



Allotments:	Darren Rippon	540348	
Art Group:	Von Maddox	540251	
Avon Representative:	Julie Kirkham	540519	
Boules:	Sue Genders	540242	
Brasson Banter:	Anna McGuire	540924	brassonbanter@gmail.com
Brassington FC:	Jo Wragg	540676	
Brownies:	Wendy Slater	540482	
Fish/Game Van:	R.G.Morris	01298 72458	(in Brassington 4pm Friday)
Grocery Van:	A.R.Bentley		(in Brassington Tuesday pm - Greenway 3pm and then Maddock Lake 3.30pm).
Milk delivery:	Paul Johnson	01246 863094 / 07974 527096	
Miner's Arms:	Ian & Sandra	540222	
Neighbour'h'd Watch:	Sandra Atkinson	540628	
Netball:	Sam Mason	540520	
Newspapers:	Peter - MSR News	01335 343943	msrashbourne@gmail.com
Over 60s:	Liz Fargent	540469	
Parish Council clerk:	Brenda Kirkham	07916 298107	brassingtonclerk@gmail.com
Peak Advertiser:	Becca Rippon	540348	
Photographic Club:	Richard Wilson	540214	richard.wilson@w3z.co.uk
Pre-school:	Andrea Brandon	540855	brassingtonpre-school@gmail.com
Primary School:	Liz Moorsom	540212	enquiries@brassington.derbyshire.sch.uk
PTA (FOBS):	Louise McKeown	540498	lemck@btinternet.com
Royal British Legion:	Liz Fargent	540469	brassingtonroyalbritishlegion@gmail.com
Recreation Ground:	Andrew Mason		brassingtonrgca@outlook.com
St James' Churchwarden:	June Baldwin	540818	
St James' Newsletter:	Caroline Prince	540475	carrod.prince@btinternet.com
St James' Rector:	Canon David Truby	822858	
Tea and Toast:	Anna McGuire	540924	anna.mcguire@w3z.co.uk
Village website:			brassingtonvillage.org
Village Hall:	Lucy Wilson	540214	
Whist Drive:	Joan Slater	540482	
Ye Olde Gate Inn:	Peter Scragg	540448	

If you'd like to be included in this list, please send in details of your group to carrod.prince@btinternet.com
(or see back page for contact details)

What's on and Events

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What's on

Brownies Mondays, 6pm-7.30pm, Village Hall

Yoga with Viv Tuesdays, 7pm-8.30pm, RBL (not running 22nd and 29th March)

Whist Drive 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1.30pm, RBL

Brassington FC football training Wednesdays, 7.30pm-8.30pm, Wirksworth Leisure Centre

Mini-Monkeys Fridays, 1.30pm-3.00pm, Village Hall

Tea and Toast Thursdays Come along from 10.30am – 12 noon, every Thursday in the RBL. Everyone is welcome.

Events

Tuesday 1st 7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall

Saturday 5th 10.30am Brassington Community Litter Pick To coincide with the National 'Clean for the Queen' weekend of 4-6 March 2015 - which is a campaign to clear up Britain in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, which will be officially celebrated in June 2016. If you would like to join in please ring Bill Carr or Sue Genders (540242), or meet up at the bus shelter opposite the church.

Monday 14th 2.30pm Over 60s meeting in the RBL: 'Tax Care and Toy Boys'.

Thursday 24th - Easter Service at School

Thursday 24th - End of Term for School, Pre-School, Brownies & Mini Monkeys

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 9th April - IT workshop held by Andrew Mason. Andrew will be happy to cover any technology questions you might have. Time and venue TBC.

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th June Open Gardens see page 24 for more information.

Over 60s Club

The Over 60s club is open to everyone – regardless of age! This year, as usual, there is a fantastic programme of activities and trips, organised by Liz, Jean and Janet. It'll cost you £1 to attend a talk or activity if you are a member and it's £2 for non-members. Bus trips cost £8. Membership of the Over 60s is £6 a year. You can find this month's activities in the events column above. Contact Liz on 540924 if you would like to go on any of the trips.

The 100 Club

Would you like to join the St James' 100 Club? It is open to everyone. The rules are: you choose a number between 1-100, which isn't already allocated to anyone and pay £12 a year. There is a monthly draw for which the prize is £20. Any funds raised at the end of the year go toward the upkeep of the Church. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact annbarry13@gmail.com or tel 540599.

Pub Quiz

Every Wednesday evening, starting at 8.30pm, there is a pub quiz in the Miners' Arms. Everyone is welcome to participate; just turn up. Any team size is allowed and there is no charge to enter. The winners set the following week's quiz!

Please send in details of your group to carrod.prince@btinternet.com (or see back page for contact details).

EASTER SUPPER & QUIZ EVENING

Brassington Village Hall
on Friday 15th April – 7.30pm for 8pm

Teams of 4

Chicken in white wine sauce & scrummy puddings
Vegetarian meal available by request
Bring your own drink & glass

TICKETS £7.50
available from:
Jenny Jack on 540553
In aid of St James Church

Brassington can be very proud of its primary school. Ofsted says that the children's behaviour is outstanding. They enjoy working hard, look after each other and are polite and friendly. Brassington children achieve excellent results, with the school ranking first equal in Derbyshire this year and in one area coming top out of the all the schools in England - that's quite an amazing achievement for a little school in the Peak district.



Eco-Club and the Great Daffodil Plant

Eco-Club do a very important job in school, reminding us to take care of our environment by re-cycling and re-using. They have just taken delivery of two VERY large sacks of daffodils from the Ashbourne 50+ Forum. Bags of daffodil bulbs are available free for planting in your gardens as soon as you can. (They are not for wild planting). Send the school a photo when they flower and we will make a poster of the Brassington daffodils.

If you would be interested in supporting the primary school we are looking for a new Governor from the local community. Please contact the school 01629 540212 to find out more.



Dragons Class, the youngest children are learning all about bicycles and building a bicycle workshop in their classroom.

So what are we up to at the moment?

Riddles from the Older Children (answers on page 6)

Where am I?

Man-ignite,
Decelerate-drivers,
Pub-pair,
Rocking-rec
Super-school
Lost-lead-mine
Cakey-countryside
Wet-weather
Tudor-construct
By Dan Y4

Where am I?

Walking-wonder
Stone-sanctuary
Mining-mania
Sacred-stones
Alone-home
Double-pub
Stone-fingers
Where am I?
Alex Y5

What am I?

Worldwide-killer
Legendary-creature
Longship-leader
Serpent-reptile
Viking-transporter
Fire-breather
Evie Y4



Brassington Football Club play in a summer league, so matches don't start for a while yet. The team trains on a Wednesday evening from 7.30-8.30 on the small astro at Wirksworth Leisure Centre until the end of March. New players always welcome! Contact Jo Wragg on 540676, Jojo.karl@hotmail.co.uk

Brassington Netball – by Susan Reeves

After the opening of the recreation ground, Ian Dipaolo from Village Games – a project which works to develop sports and activities in the Derbyshire Dales – set up a 'Back To Netball' group at the new facility.

We were provided with a coach, bibs and balls and Sam Mason took up the unenviable task of 'managing' the team. An enthusiastic bunch of budding netballers soon became a regular fixture on court on a Thursday evening.

Most of us hadn't played since school - and for some of us that seemed a very long time ago! But that didn't matter as all ages and abilities joined, from both the village and from surrounding areas, and even now the rules are still a mystery to some. Our coach Wendy and her daughter were fantastically committed and put us through our paces each week with ball skills, games and plenty of running about.

As the nights drew in, we



had to finish the session until spring, although a small group have kept up the ball skills combined with a workout in the village hall through the winter.

The team will reconvene on Thursday 14th April, when we have light again in the evenings, on the recreation ground, 6:30pm - 7:30pm. What better way

to get fit, have fun and use our fantastic facilities in the village all at the same time? So come and join us - everyone over 18 is welcome, men and women. For more information contact Sam Mason on 540520 or email s.l.mason@outlook.com. Keep an eye on noticeboards for any changes to the date.

6 Brassington Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground opened in April 2015. The new home of Brassington FC was sponsored by a range of grants, local organisations and fund raising and the football club played its first season on the pitch during summer 2015.

MUGA

(Multi Use Games Area)

The **netball** group, championed by Sam Mason, has been a real success. A netball post is left up at

the far end for anyone who would like to practice. The hire for netball has so far generated £200 income towards the running costs. We look forward to seeing the netball court being played on again from April. **Tennis** sessions ran during the warm dry Fridays in 2015 for kids of all ages, using equipment purchased with help from the parish council. We would also like to setup a tennis ladder and social evening. We are in need of a tennis champion to take this



forward; contact Andrew on 540520 if you are interested.

Kids' football, walking football, rounders, cricket.

... it would be great to see these sports developed in the parish. Could you volunteer to take one forward? If you're not sporty but would still like to help, volunteers are needed to help keep the court tidy and to run fund raising for future projects to improve the facility further, such as lighting and Astroturf.

Get fit in 2016

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Pricing (subject to change):

- Football pitch is £40 per game
- Fund raising events: 50% of funds raised

MUGA:

- £2.50 per person (under 16 is £1) per hr
- Organised use: £10 per hour (netball, tennis, birthday parties, football etc)
- Membership per year:
 - Adult £30
 - Child £15
 - Family £70

This provides unlimited use when available. To ensure specific availability, please book. If you haven't booked it, please leave the court if someone turns up that has.

There will be an honesty box installed next to the gate to the MUGA.



Use of recreational facilities

So that everyone can enjoy the facilities, please be aware that this is a dogs on leads area, and a no-smoking area. All rubbish should be removed. If using the MUGA:

- The court should be left with the tennis set up, but the net not tensioned, and a netball post installed at the far end.
- If you would like to play tennis please remove the netball post and lay it down in the goal (but not right against the fence as this causes damage to the Tarmac).
- If you are playing netball please remove the tennis net and reinstate, untensioned, when finished.



Answers to quizzes and riddles

How well do you know Brassington?

(on back page - p28)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Tudor House, | 8. Shellboards Farm, |
| 2. Jackdaw Cottage, | 9. Ivanhoe Cottage, |
| 3. Browntop, | 10. Dragon Barn, |
| 4. Hope Cottage, | 11. Wash Hills Close, |
| 5. Royal Oak Cottage, | 12. The site of the old Wesleyan Chapel, |
| 6. South of Ivy Bank, | 13. Rake House Private, |
| 7. Cameron House, | 14. West End Manor, |
| | 15. Kilncroft House. |

Riddles

(on school page - p4):

Where am I?
Both are Brassington.

What am I?
A dragon.

Book the parish recreation facilities:
To book, email: brassingtonRGCA@outlook.com

The Parish Council is keen for you to be fully informed about PC decisions and activities, to inform us of any issues or concerns you may have. We would also like to celebrate positive achievements in the parish.

How to get in touch:

- **Parish Council Meetings** are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall from 7pm. The agenda is published in advance and you are encouraged to attend and to contribute at the start of the meeting.
- **Parish noticeboards** and website are regularly updated, and we will submit a quarterly update article to the Brasson Banter.
- **Facebook:** You do not need to be a regular Facebook fanatic to receive information. Just sign up, request to join the Brassington Parish Council page and you will receive an email when anything is posted.

- **Email:** We are keen to set up an email database for quick communications. Please email the clerk if you would like to be included.

To ensure that all communications are transparent and professional, we ask that you contact the Parish Council through our clerk:

Brenda Kirkham: 7 Ashes Lane, Fenny Bentley, Ashbourne DE6 1LD

Tel: 07916 298107. Email: brassingtonclerk@gmail.com

The current Parish Council is approaching its first year anniversary.

Some of the actions carried out so far, with much support from previous councillors and others in the parish . . .

- 1) Parish Council draft minutes are now published before they are reviewed and approved by the council. This makes them quickly available.

- 2) More information on social media – e.g. agendas and key planning issues.
- 3) Working groups have been set up to move the Community Plan forward.
- 4) Supporting the proposal for new right of way linking Wirksworth Dale with the High Peak trail.
- 5) Working on the registration of parcels of unregistered land which the parish has been maintaining for many years.
- 6) Setting up a quarterly Finance Working Group to review parish finances.
- 7) Safety improvements carried out in the Play Area.
- 8) Help to ensure Superfast Broadband was delivered to the parish.
- 9) Half year full review of the roads and pavements in the parish
- 10) Improved ties with Brassington School

Pot holes? Overhanging vegetation? Abandoned or poorly parked cars? Dog fouling? Poor pavement wear? Speeding? General maintenance issues?
PLEASE LET US KNOW!

Submitting a planning application?
Parish Councillors are available to discuss your application prior to submission. You are advised to attend the PC meeting when your application is submitted.

Cost cutting:
The Parish Council is always looking for ways to save money. Can you identify a saving? Can you volunteer to do a job so we don't have to pay for it? Let us know your ideas.



Playground

The play area is now more than a decade old, and significant remedial works have been carried out by the last council and this one. This includes: a new bench and seats, delivery of a large amount of bark to top up to legal standards, pointing of the slabs and removal of a trip hazard around one of the pieces of equipment. New swing chains are also due. This valuable resource is a continuing source of expense, and we are keen to establish a Friends of the Playground Group. In particular, a repainting job will again be required this year and this is something we can do without vast expense if we have volunteers. Can you help?

Precept

After very careful consideration the council felt that in order to continue

to support the community and to balance the books, the precept, which is the amount the parish receives from council tax, needed to be increased from £10,000 to £12,500. This decision was certainly not taken lightly. In real terms this means that a Council band 'D' property will pay an extra £9.87 per annum, which equates to 19p per week, higher banded properties will pay slightly more, lower banded properties slightly less. Single occupancy and people in receipt of some benefits will pay 25% less. Information is available on noticeboards, the website and on Facebook, or please contact the clerk for a copy.

Housing

Derbyshire Dales District Council, in partnership with the Housing and Development Working Group and the Parish Council, has just completed

a survey to assess the need for affordable housing in the Parish, and the results are being analysed. Potential housing sites are currently being explored, prior to eventual public consultation.

Griffe Grange

Griffe Grange Windfarm: This project is currently at the appeal stage. The company would now like to erect three wind turbines. Following representation objecting to the project at the November 2015 meeting, the PC has sent a formal letter of objection to the planning authorities.

Wind Farm Funding for Parish Groups

Every year, Brassington Parish receives £4,100 in funding from the Carsington Wind Farm Project. Any group operating within the parish can apply to receive some of this funding, which will be allocated from April/May. Last year, applications exceeded funding available, so there will be a scoring system used to evaluate applications. The parish council is looking for volunteers with no personal interest in an application to help decide on funding awards. If you would like to apply for funding or to be considered as a volunteer, please contact the clerk to the parish council brassingtonclerk@googlemail.com

10 Brassington Community Plan – What's happening and where next?

Community Plan Adopted by Parish Council

Brassington's Community Plan was adopted by the Parish Council on 21 April 2015 following extensive consultation with local residents, businesses and organisations. All the work on the Plan was undertaken by local volunteers, with funding from the Parish Council and support from Rural Action Derbyshire. A big thank you to everyone involved, to all residents and business people who completed surveys, gave their views or came to meetings.

Please Join the Action!

Putting the Plan together was only the first step. The Plan will only work if local people and businesses get involved. **Four working groups** have been set up to take forward parts of the Plan and more people are needed to join these groups. Please get in touch with the group contact, details below.

Community Facilities Working Group

Looking at how we can improve and further develop Brassington's community facilities. Contact: Marcus Field tel: 07793 009932; email: fieldtooth@btinternet.com.

Communications Working Group

Developing and publishing a new quarterly "Brassington Banter" - looking at other ways of improving communications. Contact: Heather Leach tel: (01629 540801); email: heatherleach6@gmail.com.

Message from Chair of Parish Council

"Brassington's Community Plan gives the Parish Council and the whole community a programme of activity which will help to make Brassington an even better place over the next few years. We need your support and help to make it a reality. The Plan includes a wide range of actions and activities, so maybe there is something in it which would really interest you. Quite a few local residents are already involved in the Community Plan or other local activities, but if you have time to help, even in small ways, we would love to see you. If you are a local business and can help, we would warmly welcome you. Please get in touch!"

Andrew Mason.

Please get involved and join the action! Your contribution will be very welcome!

The Plan in brief

The Plan is divided into 4 areas of activity.

Community life: support for Brassington Primary School; improving and developing community facilities in the village; improving communications; developing more social activities. **Local environment:** protecting and conserving the Parish landscape; keeping the village and Parish clean; tackling speeding traffic; developing a Village Design Guide. **Housing and sustainability:** working for more affordable housing for local people; investigating the possibility of small-scale mixed development; supporting appropriate conversions for residential use. **Local economy:** helping stimulate small businesses; supporting the visitor economy; doing what we can to help local people's access to employment.

MY BRASSINGTON – A great place to grow up in – by Pat Horrocks

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I was born in July 1944 and lived with my parents, grandfather and uncle at Dale End – my father owned 'Brindley's' shop across from the Church which he had taken over from his father and which eventually passed to me.

My father sold groceries, hardware, sweets

perishable was rationed and we had to keep all the vouchers that were exchanged for food to send to the Ministry.

It wasn't until I was much older that we had our first Walls freezer - the ice cream originally came on the train to Longcliffe station

packed in large, black, insulated boxes with 'magical hot ice' inside. In later years Birds Eye provided us with another freezer for their goods – the first Fish Finger to invade Brassington!

There were four other shops in the village, along with the Post Office that was located next door to our shop. The other shops were: a Cooperative general store first located at the Gables, West End which relocated to Well Street from where I remember it. 'Little Brindley's' at Dale End, run by my father's sister who sold haberdashery - knitting wool and sewing utensils. Taylor's shop was also at Dale End, which is where we took the old fashioned glass batteries to be recharged – I



Photo: Brindley's shop, early 1950s, courtesy Pat Horrocks.
Left to right: Mr W.T. Brindley, Mrs K. Coxon and Mrs I.M. Brindley

and tobacco. He had an old Fordson van and delivered round the Parish and to Hognaston, Parwich, Bradbourne, Middleton, Longcliffe and Aldwark as well as to many outlying farms. I remember as a child, weighing sugar into blue bags from a large wooden barrel. There was also a machine for slicing bacon and boiled ham, which my mum had cooked. We sold big blocks of cheese and massive blocks of salt which many farmers bought to cure their home-reared meats and also large, half-stone bags of flour to bake bread with. Until 1953 everything

remember it being very dark in this shop, the ceilings were almost black and Mr Taylor always had a Park Drive cigarette stuck in his mouth. There was another general store shop at West End and 'Aunty Violet' sold sweets and tobacco from her cottage at Dale End. Eventually bread was delivered twice a week by Dykes or Steeples which were both bakeries in Hognaston. Ouslams sold petrol and paraffin and also, behind their house, had a large wood yard and made coffins and joinery items. Ouslams is now Steve's garage and the other shops are houses.



Brassington Pre-school is a thriving, friendly pre-school established in 2003, located in the Village Hall. Highly qualified staff offer a personal, caring environment to make the children's time happy and stimulating. There are strong links with Brassington Primary School and other local schools and to facilitate this journey visits are co-ordinated between the pre-school and the children's new schools.

The pre-school curriculum gives a good grounding and, along with the personal and social skills, a smooth

and easy transition is ensured for children as they move on to the next stage of their education.

The downstairs room is used for activities and learning, while the large hall upstairs is used for riding bikes and



scooters and the well-equipped garden area has a mud kitchen and much loved guinea pigs, Annabelle and Lemonade.

The children learn through play and tailored activities and the pre-school makes the most of its beautiful rural location to extend

and enhance the learning experiences of the children. Learning is through current and other themes. Recently, the children have looked at and talked about animals that hibernate. The children also learned how to look after animals and birds that don't hibernate and have made sure that the bird feeders were always full, alongside taking responsibility for feeding the pre-school's guinea pigs.

In early spring the Staff are hoping to have lambs and chicks brought into the group to look at new life and growing themes. An Easter Egg hunt is also planned

near the end of term as this was enjoyed so much by the children last year. Hopefully the Easter Bunny may make an appearance again this year too!



Tel: 01629 540855

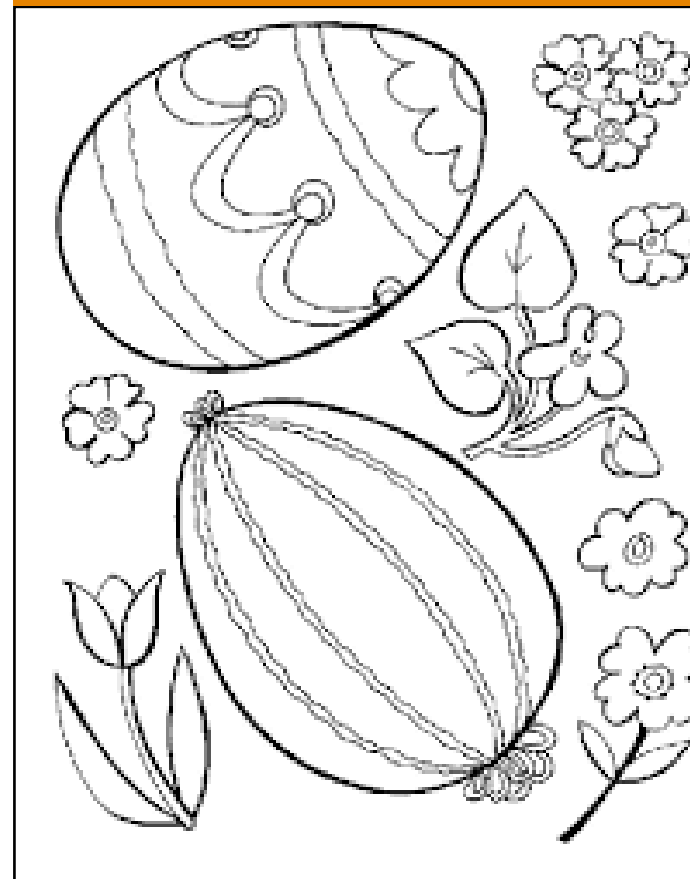


Current sessions: Monday morning, all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and Friday morning during term time. On full days a hot cooked meal can be provided to enable children to extend their session. Children can join from age 2.

Contact details: <http://www.brassingtonpreschool.co.uk> Tel: 01629 540855.

Speak to Andrea, the Manager, Charlotte, or Sally.

Easter Egg Colouring



Farmyard animal word search

s	j	w	v	y	w	n	m
h	d	h	o	r	s	e	k
e	n	q	l	p	i	g	j
e	g	m	z	z	b	t	t
p	o	f	l	n	t	l	h
t	a	c	o	w	q	h	e
z	t	v	m	f	m	z	n
n	f	c	c	t	k	l	z

cow
goat
hen
horse
pig
sheep

words go across
and down only

Spring Sudoku

		A	
L			
			B
	M		

Each row,
column and mini
grid must contain
the words **LAMB**



Easy Chocolate Fridge Cake



Please ask an adult to help

300g dark chocolate broken into chunks

100g butter diced

50g white chocolate

140g golden syrup

140g mini eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

200g biscuits roughly chopped

100g sultanas

85g Rice Krispies

Line a 20 x 30cm tin with baking parchment. Melt the dark chocolate, butter and golden syrup in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, stirring occasionally, until smooth and glossy. Add the vanilla, biscuits, sultanas and Rice Krispies, and mix well until everything is coated.

Tip the mixture into the tin, then flatten it down with the back of a spoon. Press in Mini eggs, and put in the fridge until set. When hard, drizzle all over with the melted white chocolate and set again before cutting into chunks.



How it started

There had been whispers of folks in the village wanting to try and get an allotment up and running for several years. (I think that the previous allotments in the village finished in the late 1940s and were situated where the Meadow Rise bungalows are now). So early in 2012 a few of us decided to take it to the Parish Council to see if they could help us find a plot. We formed a committee with John Yuill (treasurer), Toni Rippon (secretary), and myself as chairman and discussed it with the Parish Council. We looked at several different sites in the village and ended up with a short list of three possible locations. After a lot of debate we decided to get the planners to come along and give their opinion which is why we went for the Middle Lane site where we are now.

Cutting the first sod

We were very lucky to have an offer from Mr and Mrs Don Charity of a ten year lease on the site with the option for the village to purchase the field in that time, so in 2013 we started to mark out the plots to try and get the site ready for



spring 2014. In September of 2013 we had the opening ceremony with Mr and Mrs Charity cutting the 1st sod of turf. Over the winter the Parish Council helped us to apply for planning for the sheds and site access and we had a £150 grant from County Councillor Irene Ratcliffe for the gateway and were kindly supplied with aggregates from Ben Bennett's for the car park. Myself and my father-in-law, Brian White were kept very busy getting the plots marked and cut out, ready for spring 2014.

Getting growing

We now have 16 plots in various sizes. Our first year was very hit and miss with weeds and grass which kept coming back through, but during the second year everyone has had a lot more success with lots of produce being grown. We are



currently trying to get water onto the site but fortunately during the first two years nobody has struggled as we have managed to catch and keep sufficient water from the sheds and water butts. During the first six months we had lots of problems with rabbits, they

thought we had opened up a new free Tesco for them! But now, as you will notice, nearly all the plots have got their own fencing in place to overcome the problem. We are hopefully going to start our own small produce show this year and the plot holders all seem to be

swapping plants and seeds with each other so it's all going great. All the plots are currently taken and we have a waiting list, but if people would like to put their names down they can contact me.

Thank you!

I would like to take this chance in the new Brassington Banter to thank Mr and Mrs Charity, the Parish Council and everyone else who has helped. The list is too long to mention all those that have come on board and spent time helping us in getting this wonderful project up and running.

**Contact: Darren Rippon,
Chair of the Allotments
Committee.**

**01629540348 or
07776247381 or at
darrenrippon@yahoo.co.uk**





Welcome to the page for the Brassington Brownies and Guides (Guides are soon to be formed, more below).

Here you will find news of lots of the things that the Brownies and Guides have been doing, their exciting future plans, new challenges and community initiatives.

Firstly, though, a little bit of Brassington Brownie history. The Brownies were set up in April 1985, 31 years ago and initially the meetings were in the primary school with 13 girls. Many leading local "lights" (you know who you are) helped set up and run the group. Although some surrounding villages and communities Brownie Packs have folded, (often through lack of leaders) Brassington Brownies went from strength to strength, eventually moving to meet at the Village Hall. Today the pack is 30 strong and draws girls from all over the Mid and North Derbyshire dales and even include children of the first generation Brownies who help to carry on this wonderful legacy.

New Guide Unit

As numbers have grown, the current Brownie leaders have taken the decision to form a Guide Unit and the aim is to start this in the Spring with about 9 members. The



Guides will help to formulate their own programme of activities including their service to the community and will be helped and facilitated by the Group leaders. Good Luck and every success to the New Unit we look forward to seeing what you have been up to.

What Brownies have been doing:

We meet in term time at Brassington Village Hall on



Mondays from 6.00 -7.30 pm and along with traditional badges we have been doing the "I can be a Civil Engineer badge" building structures with spaghetti and marshmallows

- "The Stargazer badge" included a human model of the solar system, and the stories of the constellations, as well as star gazing.
- The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Guides initiative "In her shoes" learning about health, education and lifestyles of girls from different cultures.
- We decided as part of our community project that we would plant and maintain the large tub planters in the cemetery.
- We went to Thinktank Birmingham to take part in the Science Investigator Day, and had a 'Matilda' themed sleepover in Chesterfield.



- Around the time of the General Election we looked at 'what democracy is' and the history of suffrage.
- We went to the Peak Camp at Chatsworth as part of the International Scouting and Guiding



Camp; over 7,000 in total attended this wonderful event which takes place every 5 years.

- We took part in the Remembrance Day service on Remembrance Sunday at St. James Church.
- A great Christmas party was enjoyed by all along with other celebrations to end 2015, a fabulous year.
- We started 2016 with a fun Games Night including human Hungry Hippos and Jelly Babies table football

Our Future Plans include:

- The weekend Pack Holiday in April at Pax Tor, Darley Dale
- World Thinking Day with

other Brownies from the District

- Disability awareness
- World Traveller Badge
- Trip to the Lord Amory in London - The Dockland Scout Project
- The Main Brownie Camp will be in August

Watch this space to find out how we get on and what fun and adventures we have.

Information

If you require further information about membership, waiting lists and volunteering to help please talk to, contact any of the Brownie Leaders below, or go to: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Finally

On a final note, Brassington does not have a Rainbow Group (Rainbows are girls aged 5-7). If you are interested in running or helping to run this group, please talk to one of the Brownie Leaders mentioned below.

Brownie Leaders are:

Brown Owl (and District Commissioner): Wendy
email: wjlater@aol.com

Snowy Owl: June
email: junebaldwin1@hotmail.com

Tawny Owl: Louisa
Barn Owl: Karen

18 Welcome to a series of gardening suggestions by Bill Fargent

As I put my wellies on and look out across the patio to the fields beyond, the ground on this March morning is covered in white. My first thought is, 'Sod this for a game of soldiers', and I retreat to the warmth of the fire, have a coffee, (with whisky of course) and think about what I could/should be doing. I'll have to shape up as these few months are the busiest in the gardening calendar. Where to start?

Now, where are those catalogues? It really is worthwhile comparing prices. For example, the 'Pennine Collection' of chrysanthus from D.T. Brown is £8.95 whereas from Woolmans it's £10.95! In the veg section, larger quantities are invariably cheaper but who really wants 1,500 lettuce seeds? Often the variety packs are good value - especially for the smaller

veg patch. For a change, I like to try new varieties or the older varieties which are almost forgotten. 'The Real Seed Catalogue', is a good starting point for these. Last year I tried 'Telephone', a climbing pea that reaches 10 foot tall, good cropper and tasty to boot. Good hunting.

Now is also the time to plan for what goes where. If space allows, it's always best to rotate crops to prevent disease. If you haven't done it already, seeds can be started in the greenhouse, (or on a window sill if you haven't got a greenhouse). Broad Beans can go into pots in a cold greenhouse or cold frame, also early crops of lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower and spinach. The ground really does need to be covered with polythene if you want to plant early crops outdoors, and with all the rain this year it's going

to take some drying out and warming up. Also, now's the time to chit those early potatoes if you haven't already done so.

Indoors, if you notice leaves on your pot plants yellowing it's almost certainly overwatering. Cacti in particular are almost dormant and as such should hardly require any water at all.

In April and May things really gather pace. Seed beds should be ready, the heaters on in the greenhouse, all the seeds bought and tubers be ready for planting out after the last frost - by the way how do we know which is the last frost? A mistake I always make is sowing too many seeds - especially tomatoes. I'm determined this year to be more circumspect, we'll see!



Happy Gardening, and don't forget the whisky

Your letters page

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Please write to us about local issues, village life, opinions, suggestions, appreciations, moans and groans. We welcome all letters but are not able to publish anything anonymous, offensive, or libellous, and reserve the right to shorten if necessary.

Drop in or email your letters to the editor.

Thank You

Brasson Banter wishes to thank Derbyshire Dales District Council and Derbyshire County Council, for providing a start-up grant to help us establish the newsletter and to the staff at Derbyshire Dales CVS for help in preparing the application. We are also grateful to Brassington Parish Council for allocating us a small grant. Of course, these grants are mainly paid for through council tax, so we also want to thank you, for paying yours!

Brasson Banter would also like to thank our sponsors for 2016: Hoe Grange Holidays, Longcliffe Quarries Ltd and Massey Bros Transport.

Dear Brasson (or should that be Brass'n) Banter,
Let me first congratulate you on a great new publication. It is just what the village needs and long may it prosper.

I must admit, however, that I was somewhat confused by the title of the newsletter. As I understand it - and as supported by numerous sources, including Visit Derbyshire, PeAak District Online and Peak District View - the abbreviated version of the village name is surely Brass'n and not Brasson.

Would it not be more appropriate, therefore, to re-title the newsletter, THE BRASS'N BANTER? Not only would this be more accurate, but it would also put one less in mind of a metal cleaning product. Maybe other readers - especially those born and bred in the village - could let us know what they think?

Notwithstanding this, keep up the excellent work!!

Bill McGuire - Ivy Bank House

Dear Brasson Banter,
Having decided to do some shopping at the RSPB shop at Carsington Water I was amazed to find that I had to pay £2.50 for the privilege. Surely to help retain their businesses it would make more sense to have a special 30 minutes free shopping ticket particularly in the winter months when the visitor numbers are lower. What do other people think?

Vanessa Smith
Rose Cottage

More please! - Send us your letters.

20 Willoughby's Barn, Hillside Lane

Tiramisu or Trifle?

"You can't have your cake and eat it!" So my old Mum used to say. In fact it was kind of our family motto, not a very optimistic one admittedly and, being an optimistic person, I have spent most of my adult life trying to prove Mum wrong, God rest her soul, by squeezing every last drop from life.



But I suppose it was a choice of 'cake' that brought us to good old 'Brasso'. Me and Bridget got to a point where our kids had flown the nest, we had reasonably well-paid jobs and had inherited a bit of money from my parents. We considered buying a small house in our beloved Italy, but felt that, by moving from the suburbs of Chesterfield to the Derbyshire

Dales, we would be able to enjoy a more relaxed way of life, a little refuge, all year round. So, if you like, a choice between Trifle and Tiramisu.

Stunning setting and special folk

We have never looked back! We consider ourselves very lucky to have moved into Brassington. Not only is it in a

stunning setting, but we have been made to feel welcome from day one. We have pondered many times what it is about Brass'n folk that makes them so darned special, and we can only guess that it is something to do with shared values in our love for the countryside and its lifestyle.

We fell in love with the village when we first came to view another house on a sunny day one February. Our reasoning was that, if the

village could look this good in February, then it must be stunning, as indeed it is, in Summer. The first house we looked at would not accommodate our motorcycles, so we had to wait for another and Willoughby's Barn not only had space for the bikes, but felt like 'home' as soon as we walked through the stable-



style door. It was definitely a 'heart' decision.

So we moved in just over eleven years ago. Well, to tell the truth, Bridget moved in, with the help of our kids. I am ashamed to say that I was interviewing the day of the move and couldn't take the day off. Soon after, we adopted our dog Bruno from Just For Dogs. He has really enhanced our lives and means we make the most of getting out into the surrounding countryside.

Lady Corringham's Ghost?

Willoughby's Barn belonged to next-door West End Farm up until 1984, when it was sold off and was converted in 1985. Its first occupier was, we are told, an eccentric lady by the name of Shirley Corringham, locally known as 'Lady Corringham'. She was the widow of a retired Doctor from Cromford. She was said to have had a white, baby-



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A little taste of Tiramisu; our family holiday last summer to celebrate my 60th. Bella!

grand-piano and was also said to have been found dead at her beloved piano. As tends to be the case in such stories, this is a bit of an elaboration, as we have a copy of her death certificate and she actually died in the old Derby Royal Infirmary. Shirley certainly left her mark on the house though. She was known to love the colour white and there are still many white features to the house such as the white paint to the rendering and the white climbing rose by the French Windows, but the white '80s-style kitchen had to go!

There might be some truth in the story about Shirley's demise, as we had two strange and spooky incidents just after we moved in. One morning we got up to find all of the 'Welcome to Your New Home' cards

on the mantle-piece had been turned around and, I quite painfully discovered some pins, that Bridget had removed from the curtains, in my right slipper. Bridget denies putting them there. Shirley must have grown to like us though, as we have not 'heard' from her since. I am convinced she approves of our love of music!

Magical Memories

Our fondest memories over the intervening eleven years are probably the many Wakes Weeks we have enjoyed and the Jubilee street party, although being first local in the fell race also stands out. We are incredibly happy here and still get a warm glow when we have been away, approach from the south and see the village spread across the hillside, on a sunny day, shrouded in

snow or lit-up at night. The tranquillity of Brassington also attracts family and friends and Willoughby's Barn has hosted many gatherings of the Bateman clan.

Still tempted by a small taste of Tiramisu, we would like to think that one day we might 'have our cake and eat it' by spending more time in Italy. But, for the foreseeable future, there's no place like home and home, to us, is Brassington.

If you would like to feature in a future article about your house, its history, any special memories and the printable stuff about your family, I would be happy to write a piece with you, please contact me on 540990, and I will put you on the waiting list.

Phil Bateman



The Wirksworth Team Ministry

Lent is a time when Christians have traditionally “given things up”. The other evening I had a brief conversation with my son, who suggested that he was going to give up alcohol for Lent. “Yes”, I said, “it always puts weight on for me”—assuming that he was giving up drink simply to lose a bit of weight. “No, he said—“I’m not giving it up to lose weight; I’m giving it up because I like it.”

I was a bit shocked, not because he likes the odd pint, but because I had fallen into the trap of assuming that he wanted to give something up to achieve a further “gain” for himself. This is a very modern assumption. Traditional Lenten fasting was to achieve a spiritual reward rather than to look good.

Good luck to him. In the meantime I need to think of what I can do to make Lent a meaningful experience.

One thing that seems to have gained ground in recent years is Tearfund’s carbon fast. Tearfund is a mission organisation, which has recognised that those in the developing world will continue to suffer if climate change continues at its present rate. The carbon fast is an attempt to reduce our carbon emissions during Lent. It requires some thought and action—another of those things that Lent is about. They have a good website at [http://www.tearfund.org/Campaigning/](http://www.tearfund.org/Campaigning/Carbon+Fast.htm)

Carbon+Fast.htm which talks about how we can be “ordinary heroes” by

changing the way that we think and acting to make a change.

As Lent begins, Churches Together in Wirksworth and District will meet at 7.30pm each Tuesday from 16th February until Easter to look at the big issues which impact on our lives today. I will be speaking about a Christian perspective on belief, politics, science, economics, conflict and climate change. We will meet at the United Reformed Church on Coldwell Street in Wirksworth. There is parking adjacent to the Church and everyone is welcome to come along.

***With my best wishes to all readers of “Brasson Banter”.
David Truby, Team Rector -
Wirksworth Team Ministry.***

	Flowers	idesmen
28 Feb	No flowers	Rita Charlton
6 March	No flowers	Barbara Paine
13 March	No flowers	Ann Barry
20 March	No flowers	Brian Barry
27 March	June Baldwin	Audrey Seals
3 Apr	Liz Fargent & Jean Gerrard	Rita Charlton

The Wirksworth Team Ministry Office is open weekday mornings: Mon – Thu 9.30-12.30 and Fri 9.30-12.00 (closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday)

Brassington Tea Towel



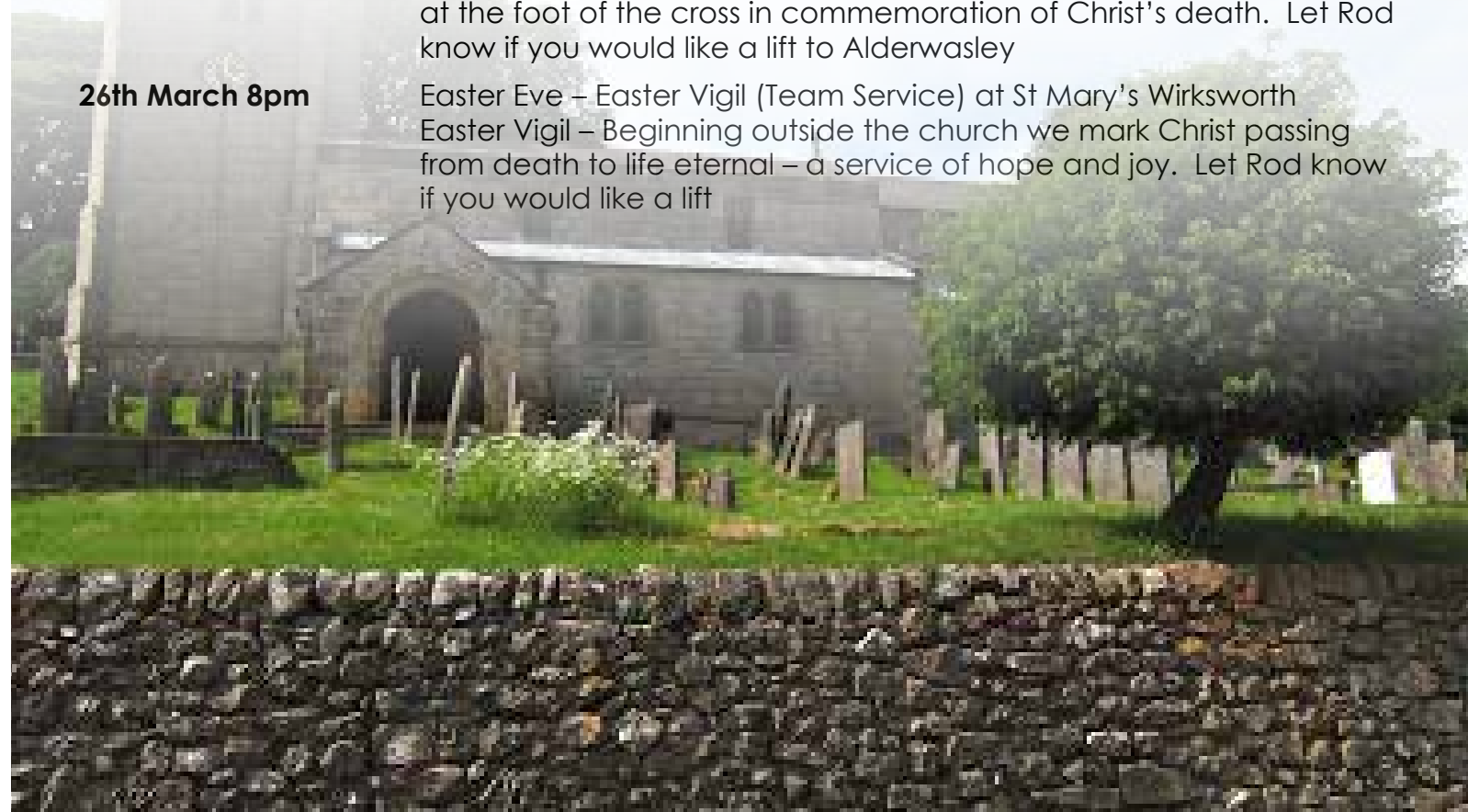
Designed using pictures of buildings around the village which were drawn in August 2015,

the tea towels have been printed in green on undyed linen. The tea towels are being sold in aid of St James’ Church. They will be on sale to visitors over the Open Gardens weekend but should you not want to wait until June, you can get one for £5 from Anna on 540924.

28 February 9.30am	Eucharist – Kara Werner
6 March 9.30am	Mothering Sunday – Eucharist - David Truby Mothering Sunday – we celebrate all those who have shared with us the love of a mother including Mother Church
13 March 9.30am	Morning Worship – Rod Prince
20 March Palm Sunday 9.30am Palm Sunday	Eucharist – Kara Werner We mark Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem as he begins the final week of his life on earth and His journey to the Cross
27th March 9.30am Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday – Eucharist – Bob Rhodes & Rod Prince Join us for Holy Communion as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. All are welcome. Don’t forget to bring some daffodils to “Thatch the Cross” during the service
3rd April 9.30am	Eucharist Keith Orford

Easter Services

24th March	Maundy Thursday 11am – Blessing of the Holy Oils Service at Derby Cathedral
Maundy Thursday	Service of Holy Oils – Priests, deacons and readers renew their vows in a service where the oils used for baptism and anointing of the sick for the year ahead are consecrated
24th March 8pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper (Team Service) at St Mary’s Wirksworth
25th March 2pm	Good Friday – The Watch at St Margaret’s Carsington
Good Friday	Service of The Watch – a quiet reflective service in which we watch at the foot of the cross in commemoration of Christ’s death. Let Rod know if you would like a lift to Alderwasley
26th March 8pm	Easter Eve – Easter Vigil (Team Service) at St Mary’s Wirksworth Easter Vigil – Beginning outside the church we mark Christ passing from death to life eternal – a service of hope and joy. Let Rod know if you would like a lift



At the Open Gardens in 2014, we sold tickets to 456 visitors, but was it the superb home-made cakes, cream teas, yummy ice creams and lunches or the splendid views that brought the visitors? Of course, we were very lucky with the weather. We usually have more than 20 gardens open to visitors. We made over £3,000 in aid of our beautiful Church.



St James'

The Church will be open to visitors over the weekend, with a concert on the Saturday evening. (As advertised in last month's Parish newsletter, we are thinking of using home grown talent if possible. So, if you have a talent for, please let us know).

Can you help?

We need people to open their gardens. This isn't just big gardens; people love to see the little gems that are hidden away from view. And they don't have to be perfect gardens. Don't they say that if you sort out the lawn it makes the place look cared for – or am I thinking of beds? Of course, we do have a lot of very keen gardeners in the village and even I do try and get rid of the stinging nettles.

We need people to sell tickets at the bus stop on the weekend itself and of course lots of people kindly sell refreshments to our visitors. This brings in almost as

much as the ticket sales, so is much appreciated. We also have a raffle to run and ice creams to sell. And we need some help with putting signs up beforehand and organising publicity. If you have any other ideas about how we can raise money during Open Gardens then we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Do you have a field that we could use for car parking? We could also do with some 'parking



attendants' to patrol some of the narrower roads, to encourage people not to park in awkward places and to direct them to drive a little further along the road.

If you would like to help with Open Gardens 4th / 5th June 2016, please contact Anna McGuire on 540924 or email: anna.mcguire@w3z.co.uk



For many years, not too long ago, snow-covered slopes close to the village were alive with skiers. During the 60s, 70s and 80s, right up to the early 90s, a few locals and members of Derby ski club took advantage of Brassington's winter wonderland – not as high as the Alps or the Pyrenees maybe, but cheaper and closer, without the avalanches!

Judy and Don's memories of skiing in Brassington

Brassington residents, Judy and Don Charity, who were members of the ski club, remember that there used to be between 50 and 70 skiers, 'Skiing was in its early stages in the 60s and 70s and we

hadn't got a lot of money, so it was great to be able to get out for a day when the snow was thick on the ground. There were two or three good fields, the one opposite Horrobin's farm up at Longcliffe, and Eric Spencer's field and Miss Slater's field on either side of Wirksworth Dale. In some years the snow was up to the top of the walls and so it was marvellous. We had portable ski-tows which we brought in the back of a car, and then Alan Robinson of Longcliffe built a permanent ski tow up at Longcliffe which was kept in a box near the trail. You just grabbed on and were pulled up to the top. We even had night skiing, lit with floodlights.'

'At lunch time we all piled into the Gate. This was

before they did food and so we brought our own sandwiches but the pub did a good trade in drinks. It was mainly popular with people from outside the village but a few Brassington people did get involved, the Robinsons in particular, plus one or two local children. One local boy made himself skis out of planks and was later rewarded for his enterprise by the donation of a pair of skis to go on a school skiing trip.'

Could it happen again?

Why not? One snowy winter perhaps somebody will show a bit of enterprise and set up a ski run and tow on a field again. Hire out the skis to locals and visitors alike, offer hot chocolates and hot toddies in the Miners and Gate as après-ski, and maybe Brassington could become the new Chamonix of the Derbyshire Dales.

Based on an interview with Judy and Don Charity Heather Leach. January 2016



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Viv Senior (FRYOG qualified tutor)

01629 540392

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PORSCHE



28 Advertising and sponsorship

We welcome adverts/sponsorships from businesses that are based in or directly serve the village, as well as those from outside the village that are not in competition with village businesses.

Advertising Charges:

Box Ads - 1/9th of a page (portrait)- £20 for four issues.

Classified Ads (commercial) - £10 for four issues (£3 per single issue)

For Sale and Wanted Ads – free to residents

Sponsorship (see page 19 for our sponsors to date)

Business Sponsorship

Whole issue - £90

Two Thirds - £60

One Third - £30

Commercial sponsors will be offered space in that issue according to the amount donated.

Individual Sponsors

Any donations welcome – grateful thanks printed in newsletter

Brasson Banter Editorial Team:

Anna McGuire 540924

Heather Leach 540801

Sue Genders 540242

Jacqui Lansley 540968

Michelle Walsh 540737

Vanessa Smith 541832

Caroline Prince 540475

Deadline for inclusion in June's Brasson Banter: 1st May 2016.

To: the editor, preferably by email in MS Word: brassonbanter@gmail.com or drop off at Ivy Bank House, Church St.

The deadline for inclusion in the April Parish Newsletter is Friday 18th March.

Please send or drop items and dates to Caroline Prince, Red Lion Hill. Tel: 540475
Email: carrod.prince@btinternet.com

Editorial Policy: We welcome news, views and articles on any interesting topic, provided that they are not anonymous, libellous or offensive. The views expressed in articles or advertisements are not necessarily those of the editorial team. Items may be condensed where necessary.

Publication schedule:

Parish news: Jan & Feb, Apr & May, Jul & Aug, Oct & Nov:

Brasson Banter: Mar, Jun, Oct, Dec

Did you try our previous quiz? It was on the publicity flyer of October 2015

Congratulations to Mary Heald for getting the most right answers. Just in case you missed it, here it is again! Answers at the bottom of page 6.

How well do you know Brassington?

1. Did Henry VIII live here?
2. Where does the black bird live?
3. What colour is best?
4. The optimist's dwelling.
5. A regal tree's abode.
6. Which direction does this plant rely on?
7. Do Dave and Sam live here?
8. A bomb to pin notices to grow crops.
9. Did Sir Walter Scott live here?
10. A legendary creature with an agricultural habitat.
11. Rinse the summits nearby.
12. Where can you read 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us'?
13. An implement with a full card, but not public.
14. The show must go on at this estate.
15. An oven with land to store.