

## **Happy Birthday to the Grand Village Fete 21 this year!**

### **Organiser, Liz Peters tells us the history of the Fete**

In 1988 Holy Trinity Church, Brimscombe was planning for its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Several members of the church led by Liz Peters, thought up ways to make 1989 a memorable occasion.

Steve Podolski designed T-Shirts and sweatshirts. Mugs were designed by Martin Pearson and a GRAND Church Fête was organised.

The Fête took place on the Thrupp Playing Fields on 27 May 1989. It was such a success it was agreed to have another fête in 1990, but this time the Church would take a back seat – so the Fête was called the GRAND Village Fête.

Minchinhampton, Chalford, Thrupp and, of course, Brimscombe joined in the festivities. It is now 21 years since the first Fête.

The event has gathered momentum, and in the last 4 years has been open from 10:45am till 11:30pm! Originally it was just a few fair ground rides, competitions, arena events and a tea tent.

The Brimscombe and Football Club have joined in with the use of their car park and their facilities; local schools take part in arena events, the tea tent has grown and there is now an all day bar; Punch & Judy reign supreme and this year Air Training Corps band will be performing.

Initially the Fête raised £1,500 but it now gives away over £4,000 to local charities. To date the Fête has donated £46,000 to local causes. These have been – Cotswold Care Hospice, Minchinhampton Centre for the Elderly, Nelson Trust, Pied Piper Appeal, Cheltenham Cobalt Unit, research into Parkinson Disease, Brimscombe and Thrupp Schools, Brimscombe and Thrupp Football Club and the Social Centre, and a Mobility Scooter for a young lady born with cerebral palsy.

This year the Fête is raising money for Brimscombe & Thrupp Social Centre, Thrupp School, Brimscombe & Thrupp Football Club, Thrupp Nursery, Rock Café and Rock Club.

*Editor's note: Thank you Liz and team for your continued efforts, making the Fete such a fantastic day. Let's hope it continues for at least the next 21 years!!*

*It would be great to include some Fete Memories in the next newsletter. Please send any photos or written memories you have to the Parish Clerk (contact details at the back of this newsletter.)*

## KEEP YOUR ADVICE BUREAU OPEN



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Website: [Strouddistrictcab.org.uk](http://Strouddistrictcab.org.uk)

### And be a Proud Stroud CAB Sponsor

Without your help, we will soon need to make cuts to Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau's services. Our grants from Stroud District Council, and other local councils have been a great help to us, but many of them have frozen over recent years. At the same time the demand for our services keeps going up and up.

However, enough people donating £5 a month for this truly worthwhile service would secure your local CAB. Will you be one of our sponsors please?

We are a lifeline, giving many people from all walks of life the information and practical help to deal with their problems, when they don't know where else to turn. The advice is free, confidential and available to all. Will we still be around when you need us, or will the door be closed?

#### Some of the queries we have dealt with recently;

"I'm about to be evicted, can you help me keep my home?"

"I am a student and want to work abroad. How do I go about it?"

"I've had a stroke, but now I've returned to work, my manager is trying to get rid of me. What can I do? My family depends on my income"

"My ex-partner won't let me have contact with my children. How can I get to see them?"

"Can I bring my 85 year old neighbour in to see you? She doesn't seem to have enough money to manage on and has stopped using her fire."

"I have been made redundant and now can't keep up with my debt repayments. How do I pay my creditors?"

"How can I get an Enduring Power of Attorney?"

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Stroud and District CAB is a registered charity and it relies on local fundraising to survive.

There are fewer than 5 full-time paid staff to keep the entire service running.

More than 40 CAB volunteers give their time entirely free of charge each week.

4000 people from across the district came to us for help last year.

#### HOW TO HELP

What will help us MOST, is on-going payments made by Standing Order; we then know that we can maintain our present service year by year.

Please do not hesitate to contact our website if you need more information. Standing Order and Gift Aid Forms are available from the Parish Clerk or [www.strouddistrictcab.org.uk](http://www.strouddistrictcab.org.uk).

Our local contact is Garry Strudwick— 01453 883125 if you would like to know more.

## **News from Martin Whiteside, District Councillor**

### **1000 houses for Brimscombe and Thrupp?**

Thank you to all the people who contacted me and wrote into the Council objecting to the Core Strategy “option” for 1000 extra houses in Brimscombe and Thrupp.

I, like many people, am in favour of redevelopment of the brownfield sites along the valley floor for jobs and homes – it is the scale of the proposals that is so worrying. It would mean practically every green field along our valley covered by houses, combined with a loss of some of the jobs in the valley bottom. I think this would be a big mistake and I will do everything I can to oppose it. During the consultation we managed to get a front page spread in the Stroud News and Journal which helped raise the issue and I was interviewed several times on the radio.

So what happens next? About 800 people from across the District responded to the consultation about where development in the District should be concentrated. The results are currently being analysed. The responses will then be used to develop one or more ‘Preferred Options’ for another round of consultation in the autumn. Hopefully our response to the first round will have been sufficient to exclude our area from excessive development – but if not we will need to join together to oppose the plans once again.

### **Post Office—use it or lose it!**

I have been working with the PO regional management over many months to try and keep the Brimscombe Post Office open. It now seems that a permanent solution has been found, with the PO services being moved into the Brimscombe Newsagent from 14<sup>th</sup> June. We are promised that the counter in the newsagent will be able to handle 85% of the transactions currently undertaken by the PO. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have helped to maintain services at the old PO and to wish Siva in the newsagent the very best with the new counter. Our local PO counter will only remain if we all use it!

### **Brimscombe Port – when will something happen ?**

The canal regeneration is ever so slowly heading in our direction. The biggest change will be in Brimscombe Port – which could be the jewel in the whole regeneration crown. But will it be a new heart to Brimscombe, providing a community centre, café, jobs and housing for the local community and a real expanse of water mirroring the historic port that the local community wants? The future is likely to be decided in the next year. Discussions with at least one developer are going on. It seems likely that the community will need to fight hard to get most of what it wants – including a new multi-purpose community centre in the heart of the Port. Compromises will be necessary – but I certainly will be pushing for a scheme that meets our vision as a community rather than just lining the pocket of a developer. Once I hear more I suspect we will have a public meeting – so everyone can feed-in their ideas. Watch this space.

## Parish Council grants

Each year, the Parish Council give grants to local organisations. A specified sum is available from the Council budget each year and is usually paid in March.

This year grants have been made as follows:

Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau	£200.00
Petra Fellowship (Youth Club)	£250.00
Time & Place	
Working to save young lives on the road)	£50.00
Hedgehog Hospital	£50.00
Grand Village Fete	£200.00
Thrupp Primary School	£150.00

If you are a local organisation and would like to apply for funding, please contact Tina Balgobin, Parish Clerk for more information. Contact details are on the next page.

### When will Highways see the problem?

When will County Highways listen to Parish Council concerns about the A419? A call for a 30mph limit on London Road is being ignored. There have been a number of accidents in the past few months and yet we still cannot even have a traffic survey to assess the issues.

Children and adults cross the busy road near to Ham Mill—the Parish Council agreed a plan for a new crossing here over 2 years ago. Why is it still not in place? No one has died!!!! Do we really have to see people killed before the authorities will take us seriously—the point is to try to avoid such a tragedy.

A 30mph limit is to be installed, along with calming measures near Blue Boys Corner in Minchinhampton. This is following a traffic survey. A great result for Minchinhampton, but excuse me, why are we not being given the same service? Surely, the A419 is busier and more dangerous than the Common road.

The Parish Council will continue to communicate with Highways on behalf of residents. If you have any particular concerns, we would like to hear from you. You may also wish to contact our local County Councillor, Charles Fellows.

### Andy Murray—Neighbourhood Warden in Brimscombe and Thrupp

#### What can the warden service do for me?

The warden service undertakes a wide variety of roles within the community, this requires a dynamic and often innovative approach to dealing with many issues, including but not exclusively the following:

- Community first responder
- Anti-social behaviour
- Environmental issues. Including fly tipping, fly posting, littering.
- Abandoned vehicles
- Fear of crime
- Assisting vulnerable members of the community
- Working with community groups

Andy can be contacted on 07795 840730 or [andy.murray@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:andy.murray@stroud.gov.uk)

## **Brimscombe School saves the Planet!**

Brimscombe Primary School will soon be a step closer to achieving the Eco Schools Award with solar PV panels being installed on the school roof during July.

These panels will generate electricity for school use, with any surplus being fed back into the national grid. We have been awarded 50% funding from Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP) which means the panels will pay for themselves in half the time! Let's hope it is VERY sunny summer and the panels will be working overtime during our holidays!!

The children on the Eco Committee are also looking at ways in which the whole school can improve its green credentials. A full week has been set aside for Eco issues to be discussed, culminating in a Recycled non-uniform day.

The school is always on the look out for new and exciting ways to be eco friendly, so if you feel you can help, please get in touch!

### **Yew Tree Way Playing Field**

Those of you living in Thrupp Lane may have noticed work has started on levelling the Yew Tree Way playing field. This project has been in the pipeline for a number of years, with lots of people working extremely hard to get to this stage.

The school will use the field for sports and outdoor play. Community groups will also be able to use the facility for organised sports sessions.

The Parish Council and the School are working together to agree the best ways for the community to enjoy the benefits too.

### **Petra Christian Fellowship Meetings**

**Sunday Morning Celebration & all age Sunday Schools  
10 - 11.30am Brimscombe & Thrupp Social Centre**

**"Rootz" Church Youth Discipleship Group  
Monday evenings 7 - 8.30**

#### **Community Events**

**"Rock Club" (term time only)  
Village youth club, ages 8 -11  
Friday evenings at the Social Centre from 6.15 - 7.45**

**"Rock Café" (term time only)  
Village youth club, ages 11-16  
Friday evenings at the Social Centre from 8 - 9.30**

#### **"The Well"**

**Ladies! On the first Saturday of each month (except August)  
you are warmly invited to relax with coffee, conversation and a light lunch.  
Activities for children provided. 10.30am – 1.00pm, at the Social Centre**

**For further details on any of the above, call Steve or Katrina Woodcock 885089**

**Open Gardens—Saturday 19 June**

Bell Gardens, Brimscombe Hill, Burleigh GL5 2PU will be open from 2—6pm on 19 June as part of the National Garden Scheme.

Admission is £2.50 for The Bell and Bell Cottage Gardens

**Jellybeans Music Marathon Festival**

Saturday 3 July at Brimscombe School

10am - 10pm

A non-stop entertainment and musical extravaganza  
in aid of

Brimscombe Primary School's nursery, Jellybeans.

For more information, contact the school office 01453 882474

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