

SPRING 2024

Issue 75



**BRETHERTON PARISH
COUNCILLORS**

Dear Residents and Friends

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Parish Newsletter. Spring has sprung and, as always, the village looks bright and beautiful with the many displays of daffodils nodding their heads in the breeze. I'm looking forward to the lighter evenings and longer warmer days to come.

The persistent rain has dampened the spirits and prevented essential repair work on the recreation ground and on replacing the fencing around the boules pitch due to waterlogged ground.

Many activities such as cricket, bowls and boules will restart in the village for the summer season and they welcome new participants and spectators. We wish all the teams good luck in their league matches and competitions.

As a community we are extremely fortunate in having a wide range of activities and pastimes available to us in the village. The Film Club, which has been running for 20 plus years, has nearly completed another successful winter season. The Parish Institute continues to hold monthly bingo socials and has started a quiz night, also held monthly. It hosted 2 competitive domino teams throughout the winter season as well as snooker league matches. The WI is flourishing. The Congregational Chapel held Warm Wednesday gatherings and hosts the Brigade for young people. Pilates classes have begun recently.

We have seen changes and challenges recently with Katie Wignall leaving the Parish Council due to her new work commitments. I would like to thank Katie for her service to the village; it was refreshing to have a younger person's viewpoint on issues raised. However, on a very positive note, we have been fortunate to appoint a new councillor, Simon Ellison, to join the team. Simon has already made valuable contributions in delivering the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the questionnaire which has been delivered to each household in the village.

We still have one vacancy for a new councillor; should you be interested in joining our Councillor Team, please contact Glenys Southworth, our clerk.

It's pleasing to see the Blue Anchor Pub reopened again and the Mill Café, and we wish them much success.

Bretherton is participating again in the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition and all help is appreciated in keeping the village tidy and litter free.

Gwyneth Lloyd
Chair.

CHAIR

Cllr Gwyneth Lloyd
01772 600705

VICE CHAIR

Cllr Stephen Mercer
01772 601512

Cllr Simon Ellison
07359532715

Cllr Barbara Farbon
01772 600750

Cllr Karen Wait
07714100614

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Glenys Southworth
12 The Avenue
Penwortham
PR1 0SU
01772 746178
email: brethertonpc@yahoo.co.uk

Future meetings of the Parish Council

The Parish Council usually meets on the first Monday of the month at Bretherton Endowed Primary School apart from the months of January and August.

All meetings start at 8pm except AGM (May) which starts at 7.30pm

Next meetings

Monday 8th April (usual date would be bank holiday)

Monday 13th May (usual date would be bank holiday)

Monday 3rd June

All information in this newsletter is correct at the time of printing. Bretherton Parish Council take no responsibility for the content of any of the articles included.

This edition has been jointly funded by our sponsors **Bamford's Top Flight, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and GA Pet Food Partners** in association with the **Parish Council Energy Group.**

Village news pp 1,2,7,8;

Neighbourhood Plan pp 3 &4;

Energy Group pp 5 &6



HEDGES

We regularly receive complaints from pedestrians about overhanging hedges. Some pavements are very narrow and it is very disconcerting for pedestrians when the hedge sticks out across the pavement, causing them to have to walk into the road. Parents of children in push chairs also find this very concerning. If you have a hedge it should be fronted to allow safe passage of pedestrians and push chairs along the pavement. Many people are concerned about disturbing nesting birds but pedestrian safety **must** come first. Similarly you should not allow your hedge to conceal a road traffic sign.

WI

WI members have been intrepid at keeping warm and active despite the weather over the winter months. Our walking and dining groups have been out and about, the gardeners have enjoyed Bank Hall snowdrops, the Book Club members have been reading, and there has been a visit to an Escape Room. The Craft Group were super busy, leading our February meeting with "taster sessions" of different crafts for all our members to try. In March, we also heard about the challenges faced by our Rivers Trust, which linked to the National WI resolution this year campaigning for cleaner rivers.

If you are not a member but wish you had been part of all this, please do check our website www.brethertonwi.co.uk or contact Jane Elphick, President, on 01772 603360. We meet on the second Thursday of each month, at 7.30 pm, normally at the Congregational Hall, and we welcome visitors.

Coming up, we have 'My life as a Tiller Girl' on 11th April and on 9th May we have a Resolutions meeting and social with a Jacobs Join.

BREHERTON ENDOWED SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Registered Charity No 526314

BURSARIES APPLICATION

ELIGIBILITY

The Trustees, known as Feoffees, may award cash bursaries to promote the education (including social and physical training) of persons who

- ~ are aged under 25
- ~ have attended Bretherton Endowed Primary School

~ have completed an application form
~ have provided evidence (normally a photocopy) of their confirmed acceptance on the course, apprenticeship or Gap Year programme they intend to follow.

OBTAINING AN APPLICATION FORM

To obtain an application form,
e-mail gwynethlloyd@hotmail.com or ring 01772 600705.

Gwyneth Lloyd – Trustees' Bursary Secretary

Best Kept Village Competition

The competition starts in June and we hope that you will want to get involved in keeping the village looking good. We have already started having clean up days again. Please join us. The dates to come will be:

Saturday 13th April

Saturday 11th May

Saturday 1st June

During June and July we hope that everyone will be even more zealous about tidying as this is the first stage of the judging process

WI Fundraiser in aid of St Catherine's Hospice and Read Easy Preston

SOUL NIGHT

Brought to you by DJ Andy Curtis – Mr SOUL
from Southport

Saturday 20th April 2024

at Bretherton Endowed Primary School
Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Ticket £15 including supper)
Please bring your own drinks and glasses

For tickets ring:

01772 600750

or email:

brethertonwi@btinternet.com

Dog Fouling

There have been several complaints of dog fouling on South Road. The Parish Council does its best to provide dog poo bags for **emergencies** but dog owners should take responsibility and carry their own bags with them. It has been particularly alarming to regularly find dog waste in close proximity to the school.

We will endeavour to keep the poo bag bottles supplied with emergency bags but we appeal to all dog owners to be responsible. All the Chorley Council bins in the village accept dog poo bags. Please do not bag it and leave it in the hedgerows or on walls.

BAG IT and BIN IT

Bretherton Draft Neighbourhood Plan Drop-in Consultations

Saturday 6th April from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Saturday 27th April from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

At Bretherton Endowed Primary School

In mid March we began our consultation on the draft document. You have already received information in an envelope that was delivered to you at the start of the consultation period. If you have not yet sent us your views please do so before 15th May which is the end of the consultation period.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan and all the associated documents that are referenced in the plan can be accessed on the Neighbourhood Plan website:

<https://www.brethertonneighbourhoodplan.com>

Hard copies of the full draft Neighbourhood Plan document are available to view in the Village Institute and The Mill Café at Bretherton Corn Mill.

We will also have some copies to view at the on 6th and 27th April.

If you wish to view other versions of the document or need help completing the consultation please telephone 01772 600750 or contact

bretherton.np@btinternet.com

After much hard work over the last few months, the steering group has produced a first draft of the neighbourhood plan which is now out for consultation.

At the beginning of March each household should have received a copy of the questionnaire and a flyer giving some further information about this consultation.

The draft plan is a 52 page document and it is therefore, in the interests of the environment, available as a pdf document which we hope most residents will be able to access on computers, ipads and phones. We realise that this may be difficult for some residents and, in order to accommodate all, we have placed copies at the café and the institute which may be read in those places. We will also have copies at the drop-in consultation sessions. In addition, if any resident wishes to request a printed copy they should email **bretherton.np@btinternet.com** and we will ensure that you receive a copy.

After the consultation period, there will be changes made to the document to take into account the points raised by residents and businesses before we start the official process of inspection and mandatory consultation on the final document and move towards a village referendum which we hope will happen at the beginning of 2025.

The main focus of any neighbourhood plan is issues related to planning but our proposed plan contains other aspects that the steering group felt were important to village life such as transport and services. Those issues will be part of the plan but may help the Parish Council in determining an action plan for future work.



www.brethertonneighbourhoodplan.com

Implementation of Asland Walks Energy Park provides a ground breaking opportunity for Bretherton village.

Bretherton Energy Partnership: Delivering the benefits to our community.



During the last few months, massive progress has been made in making the Bretherton Energy Project become a reality.

In particular:

- GA Pet Foods Partners (GA) have indicated that they will fund the capital cost of batteries to support the supply of electricity to the Bretherton supply network.
- Electricity North West are pursuing the feasibility of connecting the batteries to the supply network for almost all households in the village. (The few exceptions will be supplied directly from Asland Walks Energy Park).
- A series of assessment projects are underway to help us understand the impact of the Asland Walks Energy Park including noise, aviation and battery requirements as well as wind and solar energy levels.

Our Road Map.

We also now have a “road map” for the delivery of the project with a target date for implementation of late 2026 - that could be just over 2 years away but there is a lot more work to do in the meantime!

The submission of a planning application will be dependent on the allocation of the Asland Walks site in the neighbourhood plan and community support for the scheme.

Following the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment and the planning application to Chorley Council there is likely to be a 6-month consultation period.

If approved by Chorley Council, a legally binding Section 106 agreement will be prepared before the six month construction project can commence.

Bretherton Energy Local Club.

We are now focusing on establishing the organisation to manage the delivery of energy to **all Bretherton households and businesses** through the setting up of a local energy club.

Bretherton Energy Local Club would receive, free of charge, 5% of the energy output from the Asland Walks Energy Park batteries, currently twice the current usage of the village. This would then be sold to Energy Club Members at an agreed “Match Tariff” rate. Energy not used by the community, will be sold to GA Pet Foods or the grid and the proceeds will be used to fund projects in the village.

Bretherton Energy Local Club:

How it would work.

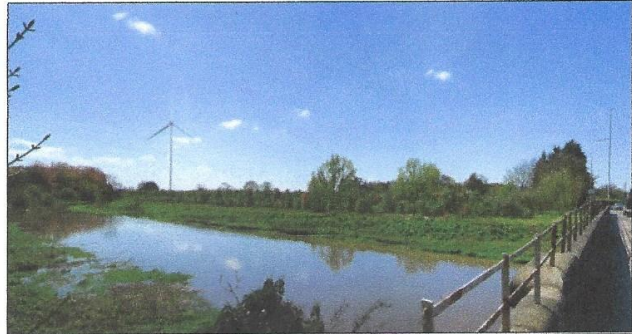
- A “not for profit” organisation open to all households in Bretherton.
- Nominal membership fee (e.g. £4 pa per household).
- Managed by up to 9 directors
- Accountable to an accessible AGM for decisions & annual accounts.
- Agree the Match Tariff (i.e. unit cost to members).
- Electricity supplied though an existing provider (e.g. Octopus) and all members would need to install a smart meter.
- On-going education & support to members in maximising the benefits towards achieving “net zero” for individual households.
- Agree the distribution of funds for community projects

Could you help make BRETHERTON ENERGY LOCAL CLUB a reality?

Contact John Pigott - email john.pigott@btopenworld.com or phone 07946 880281

Asland Walks Energy Park begins to become a reality as preparations for the development gather pace.

Asland Walks Energy Park Progress Update



Artist's impression of the view of Asland Walks Energy Park from Bank Hall Bridge including the proposed wind turbine.

The Bretherton Energy Partnership continue to make progress on the development of Asland Walks Energy Park. The energy project goal is to replace grid-based power with cheaper locally sourced renewable energy. Electrical power would be generated from wind and solar, stored in batteries on-site, and then transferred down the existing infrastructure to residents and GA.

In order to fully evaluate the planning impacts of the project, there are numerous enabling projects and environmental assessments to be completed, progress on which is detailed below;

Noise

During a 4-week period in March 2024, noise recording devices are being located in four agreed residents' gardens to the north, east, south east and south west of the Energy Park.

Electrical Grid Connection

Discussions continue with Electricity North West (ENWL), to develop a policy which will allow the proposed battery storage to be linked to the supply network,

Aviation

An operational impact assessment has been completed by Blackpool Airport and concluded that there were no objections. Discussions with Warton Airport continue.

Wind and Solar Monitoring

- Wind monitoring over a 12-month period has shown an average wind speed at 131 meter height of 7.7 m/s, meaning the proposed wind turbine would be very efficient and generate optimum energy. Wind speed monitoring will continue until the end of 2024.
- A solar monitoring and weather station is being installed on site to provide solar and meteorological data for further energy assessments.

Planting

- Planting for the Winter 2023/24 has now concluded, with a further 5,500 trees and shrubs planted, making a total of 11,575 on the Asland Walks site (shown in green on the site plan).
- Planting along the river and canal to increase the biodiversity and to visually add to the walk around the Energy Park.
- The remaining section to the north of the field will be planted in Winter 2024/25.

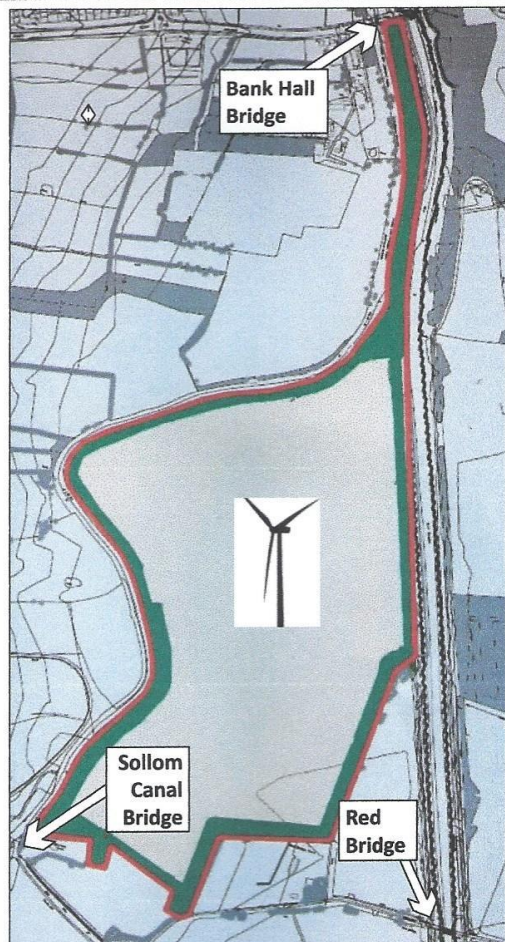
Academic Study

University of Central Lancashire will carry out an Asland Walks Energy Park social and economic impact study.

Battery Storage Study

Consultants will carry out a power battery sizing study which includes assessment of the Bretherton battery. It is expected that all assessments to evaluate the energy project will be completed in the next 6 months. A pre-planning application would then be submitted to Chorley Council in Autumn 2024; this will be followed by a scoping application to detail what needs to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

If you would like further information on assessments or energy related matters please contact David Colgan, Environmental and Energy Manager at david.colgan@ga-petfoodpartners.co.uk.



To learn more about how renewable energy will be delivered to Bretherton overleaf & at www.brethertonenergy.co.uk

Bretherton Endowed Primary School

We are full of the joys of Spring at Bretherton Endowed, with our baby chicks hatching and the planting of seeds and flowers for summer. We are celebrating 'The Arts' this year with Class 2 performing in a dance competition and our drama group performing a version of Romeo and Juliet. Arts Ambassadors watched the dance group 'Diversity' at The Lowry and our Ethos group visited Blackburn Cathedral for a textile art exhibition. We are planning a 'tidy up' of our school grounds after the wet weather we've had and would love our community to help. The date will follow. This will assist our participation in the Best Kept Village competition.

In addition, we are looking to recruit an after school club assistant for a great job two evenings a week- Tuesday and Wednesdays 3.15 -6.00. If you can help, please call the school office 01772 600431 and if you would like to volunteer, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Remember any families with toddlers, our Friday Toddler group is here for you, please come down for a play and refreshments.

Alison Moxham Head Teacher

Advent Windows

I'm sure you will agree that the Advent windows throughout the village were rather wonderful, once again! A big thank you to everyone who took part in creating delightful and imaginative Christmas scenes and characters for us all to enjoy.

Anna Bradley

Village Fete

Bretherton Village Fete 2024

Following the success and very positive feedback from last September's Village Fete, I am delighted to announce that we will be holding another one this year, on Saturday 14th September. So time to get sowing and growing, ready for those friendly fruit, veg and flower competitions for all ages. More information in due course. If you would like to be involved or have ideas for this year's fete please send me an email.

Anna Bradley (Chair of the Village Fete Committee)
annabradley2011@gmail.com

Sip and Stitch

Sip and Stitch has returned to the Mill Café at The Corn Mill Antiques Centre. We welcome Julie the new café manager and her son Jamie who is the chef.

Future dates for Sip and Stitch: 10th April; 24th April; 8th May. (Fortnightly on Wednesdays at 2pm)

St John the Baptist C.E. Church

As spring approaches we are hoping to start our wildflower project in the graveyard again. Our last attempts have not been very successful so we are hoping to start a St John's gardening club to involve the wider community. We would like to assemble a group of both congregation and community members with a mix of gardening skills and abilities to turn our wildflower garden ideas into a reality.

If you have a love for gardening or would like to get involved our volunteers meet every Tuesday 10.30 - 12 at St John's, we would love for you to pop in and say hello!

Bretherton Congregational Church

We are delighted to announce that we have recently appointed Anna Bradley as our new church Pastor! Many of you will know Anna, she has lived in the village since 2011 and takes a large part in community life here. You may recognise her from the Village Fete, her involvement in Bretherton Endowed C of E Primary school, her role on the WI committee or just from her walks through the village with Hugo the labrador! We are excited about the future of our Church and confident that Anna will lead us forward and grow our Church community.

Everyone is always very welcome to come along to our church service at 10:30am on a Sunday morning which also has a friendly Sunday school for children to attend for part of the service if they wish.

Bretherton Film Club

The last film in our 2024 Spring Season will be on Friday 19th April at 7.30 pm when we will be showing **ONE LIFE (109 minutes, Cert 12A) Starring Helena Bonham Carter, Johnny Flynn, Anthony Hopkins & Lena Olin**. This much acclaimed film tells the story of British stockbroker Nicholas Winton who visits Czechoslovakia in the 1930s and forms plans to assist in the rescue of Jewish children before the onset of World War II, in an operation that came to be known as the Kindertransport. (Genre: Biography, Drama, History). All films commence at 7.30 pm (doors open 7.00 pm) and are held at Bretherton Endowed School. Entrance £4.00 (cash only). Refreshments available (including wine). We would like to thank everyone who has attended our film nights this year for their support. Thank you also to Film Society Committee and those who voluntarily arrive early and stay late to help set out, put away chairs and tidy up etc. We look forward to welcoming you all again in September for Autumn 2024 Season.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list or if you have any suggestions for films, please contact:

John Pigott & Margaret Simmonds by email at
brethertonfs@btinternet.com.

Boules

Bretherton Buzzards and the Wanderers are the 2 Bretherton home teams who go to make up the 11 teams in the Croston & District Boules League.

April 9th will see the first of the weekly matches of the 2024 season played on the boules pitch alongside the Parish Institute in Bretherton.

The Ian Blythe Charity Pairs Competition will be held on Sunday, the 14th April, hosted by the Bretherton Buzzards.

If you are interested in watching or playing the matches **start at 7pm**

The Food Bank collection box is now situated outside 97 South Road. Liz Ellis will deliver the donations to the Leyland Food Bank. Thanks to all who have supported this. Please continue to give generously. The CoVid crisis may have subsided but food poverty is still affecting many families in Lancashire and the UK as a whole.

Open Gardens

Six gardens in the village will be open as part of the national Garden Scheme which benefits several medical charities including Parkinsons UK; Macmillan Cancer Support; Marie Curie: The Queens Nursing Institute; as well as several other garden and health charities.

This year the group openings will be on **26th May, 9th June and 14th July 12noon to 5pm**

Refreshments will be served at the Congregational Church Hall as usual.

Hazel Cottage (South View) , **Owl Barn** (Flag Lane), **Palatine** and **Laneside** (6 and 10 Bamfords Fold respectively) will open on all three group dates.

Hazelwood (North Road) **will not open on 26th May but will be with the group on the other two dates.**

In addition, **Glynwood House** (Eyes Lane) will open on **Sunday 7th July from 11am to 5pm**

Key Dates

APRIL	
Warm Wednesday at the Congregational Hall	Wednesday 3 rd April (morning)
Neighbourhood Plan Consultation 'Drop In'	Saturday 6 th April 9:30 – 12:30
Parish Council	Monday 8 th April 8pm
Start of the Boules Weekly Matches	Tuesday 9 th April
Sip and Stitch	Wednesday 10 th April 2pm
WI	Thursday 11 th April 7:30pm 'My life as a Tiller Girl' Speaker Bez Cooper
Village Clean Up Day	Saturday 13 th April – meet at 9:30am on the Institute Car Park
Boules – Ian Blythe Charity Pairs Competition	Sunday 14 th April
Warm Wednesday at the Congregational Hall	Wednesday 10 th April (morning)
Film Club	Friday 19 th April
WI Fundraiser Soul Night	Saturday 20 th April
Sip and Stitch	Wednesday 24 th April 2pm
Neighbourhood Plan Consultation 'Drop In'	Saturday 27 th April 1pm to 4 pm
MAY	
Warm Wednesday at the Congregational Hall	Wednesday 1 st May (morning)
Sip and Stitch	Wednesday 8 th May 2pm
WI	Thursday 9 th May 7:30pm Resolutions and Jacobs Join
Parish Council	Monday 13 th May
Warm Wednesday at the Congregational Hall	Wednesday 15 th May (morning)
End of Neighbourhood Plan Consultation	Wednesday 15 th May
Churches Together	Sunday 19 th May at Congregational Church
Bretherton Open Gardens (NGS)	Sunday 26 th May
JUNE	
Anniversary and Induction service at Congregational Church followed by lunch	Sunday 2 nd June
Parish Council	Monday 3 rd June
Bretherton Open Gardens (NGS)	Sunday 9 th June
WI	Thursday 13 th June A talk about Houghton Towers by John Ball
Walking Day – service at parish Church 11am – Refreshments at Congregational Church	Sunday 23 rd June
JULY	
Parish Council	Monday 1 st July
Glynwood House Open Gardens (NGS)	Sunday 7 th July
WI	Thursday 11 th July Summer Party
Bretherton Open Gardens (NGS)	Sunday 14 th June

SAVE THIS FUTURE DATE ON YOUR 2024 CALENDAR

Village Fete Saturday 14th September 2024