

Hazelbury Bryan Bytes

Parish Council Newsletter – Issue 41 - May 2022

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

How prepared are we as a village to cope with an emergency?

The strong winds of Storm Eunice in February saw a number of the roads around our village blocked with fallen trees and many people were without electricity for several days.

Houses on Partway Lane were recently flooded following heavy rain.

This got me thinking about how as a village we could be more resilient in times of emergency by, for example:

establishing and equipping the Village Hall to be an emergency shelter

purchasing electrical generators and water pumps

understanding where our vulnerable residents live

knowing who might have chain saws to clear fallen trees or snow ploughs to clear the roads of drifts

Whilst the police, fire brigade and ambulance service are equipped to deal with emergencies there may be circumstances where they may be overwhelmed and we need to work things out ourselves.

So where do you come in.....do you have organisational, medical and/or practical skills or own equipment/kit that would be useful in an emergency.

If so, please contact Malcolm Wilson, parish clerk at hazelburybryanpc@outlook.com or contact me on 07468 599211.

Steve Murcer

Chairman

Hazelbury Bryan Parish Council

Climate and Ecological matters:

Village hall: The **PC's Climate Group** is working on projects to turn the hall into a renewable energy generator, and to decarbonise the hall's heating and lighting systems. The first of those two projects will involve the installation of solar PV panels on the roof. The electrical energy they generate will be used in a variety of ways. Some of it will of course be used to replace the electricity drawn from the national grid, providing an immediate saving in the cost of running the hall. When it's not immediately needed for heating or lighting the hall, the electricity will either be stored in a battery system for later use, such as in the evening, or sold to the national grid. When electricity is sold to the grid the system will be earning money to pay for itself, as well helping to satisfy the nation's urgent need for clean energy.

The second project will involve the installation of external air source heat pumps, to replace the present oil-fired heating boiler. These use refrigerants to extract heat from air, just as a domestic fridge or freezer does. In winter they will extract heat from the outside air (even when outside temperatures drop below zero) and pass that heat to air conditioning units situated inside the hall that will gently blow warm air around the rooms. In summer the system will work in reverse. The heat will be taken out of the air inside the building, and the air conditioning units will then blow cool air around the rooms. This will particularly benefit members of exercise groups. At present in summer the hall can be uncomfortably warm even with the windows wide open!

Eco Open Day: The drop-in event on 26th April was a pleasing success, with a constant flow of local residents dropping in to discuss the pros and cons of domestic renewable energy installations. The 4 topics that the event focussed on were solar PV generation, battery storage, heat pumps and electric vehicles. Thanks go to the team of fellow residents who came along to talk about their own experiences of such systems, and answer any questions. A number of people asked to be included in the group discount scheme for solar PV installations, which now stands at over 45 households. There's room for more if you're quick!

Residents might be interested in a publicly funded scheme called Healthy Homes Dorset that provides free and impartial energy advice. Eligible Dorset residents who meet certain criteria can be provided with free cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, and possibly new or replacement heating systems. There is a Freephone number that residents can call, and a website as follows:

<https://www.healthyhomesdorset.org.uk/>

Ken Huggins

Farming life in Hazelbury – a seasonal update:

Everyone likes spring...but farmers REALLY LOVE spring. Winter is tough for livestock farmers, most animals are housed and need feeding, bedding and possibly milking every day, including Christmas when everyone else seems to switch off for a few days. So, when spring finally comes, and the animals can be turned out to the fields to graze it is as if we have got our lives back. You may even see a farmer smile!

The weather plays a large part in a farmer's life, their working conditions and profitability depend on there being just the right amount of rain at just the right time and the sun shining, but not too much that it causes a drought. Speak to most farmers and they will probably have at least two weather apps on their smart phone, just so they can choose to the one that gives the most desired weather for that day.

The weather this April was just about perfect for growing grass, warm and moist. Cows have been grazing well for over a month, and a decision now has to be made which fields to be cut for silage as either they are too far away from the farm buildings to graze easily, or the grass is just too tall for the cows to make the most of. If the grass is too tall and stalky when the cows try to eat it they will not be able to eat it all and will just leave a messy field behind them. Weekly grass measurement of every field on the farm is often carried out, the results input onto a simple computer spreadsheet to aid a weekly decision where to graze the cows and which fields would be best conserved as silage to be fed to the cows in the winter.

Liz Stockley, farmer and parish councillor

Neighbourhood Plan: Our Neighbourhood Plan came into force three years ago and the work and effort of the volunteers and our planning consultant have proved their worth with applications for over 100 new homes being turned down since then as the sites aren't in the Plan. The Plan runs until 2031 but there is an anticipation that it might be refreshed during its life. A full review involving more or different site allocations would be a daunting task, effectively doing much of the work again and leading to another Inspection of the Plan and a referendum. There is no appetite or need to do this and no grant funding to cover the costs. Instead, a small working party is going to review the Plan and assess how well it is able to demonstrate it is meeting the targets in the Plan if a developer comes along to challenge its validity and effectiveness. When Dorset Council's new Local Plan is completed then again it will be sensible to check that our Plan is compatible.

Malcolm Wilson, parish clerk

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The whole-village is invited to a celebratory party on Alec's Field on Sunday 5th June. Details will be advertised locally and on the Parish website. We are encouraging streets, neighbourhoods, cut-de-sacs etc to arrange their own local parties on Friday 3rd June. Try chatting to your neighbours to see what would work for you / what would appeal to you.

Chris Jervis (cjervis7@gmail.com) on behalf of the Parish Jubilee Committee

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