



# Briercliffe Parish Council

Autumn/ Winter

[www.briercliffeparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.briercliffeparishcouncil.co.uk) 2019 October/November 2019

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## Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2019

**"At the going down of the sun and in the morning.  
We will remember them."**



"Every year the nation unites to make sure that no-one is forgotten and to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom."



There will be a service starting at 10am in Hill Lane Baptist Church to which everyone is most welcome!

The Commemorative Service to be held later at the Briercliffe War Memorial by the Bowling Green will see people gather from approximately 10:45am for 11am, delivered by Mr Iain MacIver from Hill Lane Baptist Church.

Cllr. Frost is organising wreathes which will be laid on the behalf of Briercliffe by Parish Council Chairman Russell Hawkes; by representatives of churches in the Parish and by other organisations.

The Bowling Green Committee would like to welcome those attending the service into the grounds where refreshments will be provided by Briercliffe Parish Council.



**Jury's Out...** *On the back of Parishioners sharing their tangible Policing concerns at monthly Parish Meetings or directly with Councillors, the following letter will hopefully elicit a positive way forward on a number of growing concerns.*

Dear Chief Constable Rhodes,

On behalf of Briercliffe Parish Council I am writing as advocate representing the views of people contacting us with issues which could do with remedial investigation and action on the part of The Police.

At Parish monthly meetings and through direct contact Councillors are constantly bombarded by complaints about the 101 reporting service. People are left waiting for inordinate amounts of time and simply hang up. I, other Parish Councillors, PC44 Nagina Ahmed, PCSO 7326 Mark Hill, County and Borough Councillors have advised people to report online, but a sizeable proportion of those affected by nuisance behaviour are elderly and do not have access or skills to use this facility. The many and growing unacceptable occurrences instigated by large "gangs" of minors, currently happening in and around Briercliffe at night, and especially at weekends, is not accurately being reflected. As a result policing strategies become misinformed and therefore are not able to be appropriately adapted to meet the needs of this increasing problem.

*(Continued on p.4 & 5)*



## Queen Street Mill

It has been an exciting and eventful season at Queen Street Mill. Since opening at Easter we have steadily built visitor numbers and have been thrilled that people have travelled from far and wide, not just the length and breadth of this country but from Europe, USA and Australia.

The enforced closure in August, because of the Kings Mill chimney, was unfortunate and very disappointing as we were on target to welcome more than 500 visitors that month. Family workshops that we held were well attended and the mill was buzzing with local children enjoying print and puppet making. We weren't held back for long, and although very last minute, thanks to our staff team we were ready for "Heritage Open Day..." and it's been non-stop.

Since I came to Queen Street Mill last December I have been supported by many wonderful people locally and across the county and our extensive programme of events has only been possible thanks to their time, skills and commitment. I am very grateful for their support and the welcome they have given me.

QSM has enjoyed a great partnership with Briercliffe Community Hub who coordinated a fabulous community led "Fun Palaces" event which was very well received by local people, and generously supported by local community groups such as Royal Preston Morris Men, Rossendale Ukulele club and others who all gave freely of their time.



We hosted the celebration event for the Heirloom Exhibition and have worked in partnership with UCLan Fashion and Design department to deliver this exciting project as part of the British Textile Biennial, which culminates this month. The personal histories of men associated with the weaving industry have been interpreted by the creative team into a series of heirloom shirts made from the calico woven here at QSM. Gawthorpe Textile Collection was the inspiration for the needlework and we have been loaned some of their heritage pieces as part of this fabulous exhibition. Visitors and invited guests, including Lord and Lady Shuttleworth, representatives from Burnley Bond holders and Visit Lancashire all came to support this amazing endeavour.

We are on the itinerary for visiting VIP groups to the British Textile Biennial and have hosted a series of VIP visits from the British Council. The Crafting Futures programme, which supports the future of craft around the globe and strengthens economic, social and cultural development through learning and access, sent a delegation for a tour around the mill. Representatives from countries such as India, Nepal, Chile and Vietnam were all very excited to see QSM and hear about the Art in Manufacturing programme, which has inspired the work of the artists exhibiting here at Queen Street Mill.



For the first time in November 2019 we will host a Victorian Christmas for school groups which we hope will encourage further and future school visits. We close on 2 November for tours of the mill but are hoping to provide a winter programme which will include a further community conversation, themed family workshops, a Saturday matinee programme, a film evening with Briercliffe Hub, a series of talks and a pop up restaurant. Full details will be released through the usual local channels and via social media. It only remains for me to thank everyone for their support and to look forward to welcoming you all to our future events.

Kary Backhouse, Museum Manager.

*Some might think it's too early to be thinking about this, but organising "The List," especially after checking it twice, takes time. Every year Briercliffe Parish Councillors visit residents of Briercliffe who are 80 years young, or over, with a small present and Christmas wishes.*

### Coming Soon - Christmas.



If you know anybody living in Briercliffe who is an octogenarian, or more... then please contact either Pam Vincent on 01282 546782 or Russell Hawkes - [russell.hawkes.bwepc@gmail.com](mailto:russell.hawkes.bwepc@gmail.com) ...who will update "The List" for 2019. Oh and a "Merry Christmas to All from Briercliffe Parish Council."

# RE~~V~~OLUTION



## OPENING TIMES

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Wednesday 9am-5pm  
Thursday 10am-7pm  
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References on request.



## Jury's out...

(...Letter to The Police )

Over successive weekends there have been large groups of children (between 20 and 30) in one crowd terrorising people (and yes I use this word intentionally) across the village with activities ranging from: goading by shouting at them through their letterboxes which has made people fearful, worried and ultimately scared in their own homes or conversely for others more likely to take matters into their own hands ; setting fire to builders skips outside houses (the Fire Brigade were in attendance); and pulling security gates and levelling fencing erected at the Queen and Kings Mill site intended to stop access to a potentially dangerous area due to possible building structural weaknesses and the danger of falling masonry.

PC Ahkmed delivered a report of recorded reported incidents from PCSO Mark Hill at our September's Parish Council Meeting which covered the period 16th July to 15th September: 22 nuisance logs mainly ASB, Queen Street a hotspot, Police have suspicions of those responsible and are checking CCTV; 7 personal logs including a skip fire, 3 youths have been put on Community Protection Notices following the tipping of a bin, residents asked to share CCTV images with the Police; 3 burglaries with 1 Domestic Violence related; 4 thefts; 3 criminal damage; 6 vehicle crimes and a number of parking issues.

Thanks to PC Ahmed's valuable presence and delivery... also to PCSO Mark Hill for their combined official report (each month) and efforts in the field - very much appreciated. (Continued on p5)

Last month a (stolen) car was burnt out next to Parish Council garages and (possibly unrelated) the same secure garage compound was later that month targeted again, resulting in doors needing fixing and tenants property being damaged... but thankfully due to an uncompromised perimeter fence and secured gate contents of the garages could not be removed.

Drivers have been experiencing children riding up and down roads and paths on bikes and older children on trial motorbikes without regard for traffic or pedestrians or indeed themselves (no protective gear). Teenage car drivers have been racing on the main road all the way through the built up areas out into the countryside beyond, often with cars making intentionally high levels of noise.

Harrison Street allotments and garages have been attacked mainly suffering vandalism, with one vintage car being "trashed." A pensioner has been subjected to a flasher at her window... The row of shops which includes the pharmacy/ takeaway and Spar has had multiple incidents of verbal abuse and some physical damage to buildings as well as cars being parked erratically - some at ninety degrees to the road/pavement not parallel to it. Also noted is that there have been drugs sold from cars at various locations throughout the village and out in the adjoining countryside...

A few months ago we had to deal with arson of a newly built community viewing platform... Thanks are extended to PC 6215 Dan Healey who investigated and (with PC44 Nagina Ahmed) interviewed suspects, but unfortunately these inquiries could not gather enough evidence to bring the (youth) perpetrators to justice. At the time a major campaign for "restorative justice" was undertaken by Community groups, (contact was made regarding this with the Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw).

I recognise all of these instances are in themselves not the most serious "wrong-doings" the Police are being asked to deal with, but week in...week out, growing concerns are being magnified due to a regular build-up of relentless low level antisocial problems, with some comments on certain Facebook sites alluding to sorting these problems out! Some individuals have had to install CCTV around their properties as they regularly get targeted being end houses on terraced rows...one such lady was very upset at a Parish Meeting as this constant barrage was making her feel ill in her own home and her pets terrified.

We are aware and thankful that Borough Councillors have been talking with "Supervision" to set in place revised and increased patrols and that a Policing Plan has been devised to prevent incidents, but this is inherently and effectively misinformed due to lack of reporting and therefore these new plans are not having the desired reduction in incidents.

Is there any current initiative which could be worked on to combine Police/community effective efforts in identifying culprits through, for example, a community/ Police CCTV system at key flash points such as the Spar/ Queen Street down to the mills /Bus turning circle maybe? I have been asked: Do the work patterns/ hours of PC's and PCSO's assigned to Briercliffe match the times most major problems occur especially at night over the weekend and during weekday nights? Are there any other joint initiatives the local community and Police can work together on?

Thank you for taking the time to digest and I hope respond with possible positive ways forward.

We await eagerly your reply which will be shared at our Parish Meetings, in our Newsletter and through our Community Notice Boards and online.

Kind regards,

Russell Hawkes.

Chairman of Briercliffe Parish Council

## Revisiting Summer



## Blooming Briercliffe 2019

"Overall Best Planted Garden for 2019"  
Shelagh Limmer

(Awarded with Briercliffe Parish Council trophy; certificate and voucher)

- "Best Garden in Bloom 2019" - Barbara Thompson
- "Best Back Yard in Bloom 2019" - Michelle Mason
- "Best Front Garden in Bloom 2019" - Wendy Doherty
- "Best Back Garden in Bloom 2019" - Gwynneth Clarke
- "Best Small Garden 2019" - Craig Hewitson

"Best Street in Bloom 2019" - Netherwood Street (Community Street)  
(Awarded with a plaque and certificate)

- "Best Vegetable Garden 2019" - Linda and Terry Hinton
- "Best Children's Garden 2019" - Teddy (and Jill)  
(Awarded with a trophy; certificate and voucher)

• "Best Allotment 2019" - Karen Ninnis  
(Awarded with a certificate and voucher)

- "Highly Commended TROPICALLY Planted Garden" - Derek Holmes
- "Highly Commended Family Garden for Socialising" - Jennifer North  
(Awarded with a certificate and voucher)



### "Blooming Briercliffe" and at the Flower Show

We were overwhelmed this year with entries to our annual competition. Councillors visited over 27 gardens, allotments and streets in bloom. It was a difficult decision judging these inspired "pride and joys."

Trophies, certificates, prizes and acknowledgements were presented at the Briercliffe Flower Show. Thanks for sharing and making Briercliffe Bloom! We look forward through the grey days and, who knows, maybe some crisp white months ahead... towards spring / summer 2020.





## CHARITY CHRISTMAS MARKET

16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 10:30 -1:30

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### Borough Councillor Report and Contact info.

We had a second meeting to support and advise residents from the Standen Hall Drive area regarding the new build housing planning application which will go to the November Development Control meeting.

Recent heavy rain caused flooding from Standen Hall Drive onto the back of Rockwood Close. This adds further concerns relating to the proposed housing development which would feed in to this already swamped watercourse. Although it was on a Sunday we did manage to get some sandbags for the affected residents, with the help of our County Councillor Cosi Towneley. Borough and Parish Councillors will continue to try and find out whose responsibility this stream (and foliage/trees) is, but all the authorities claim it's someone else's problem...

During the heavy rainstorms recently some drains failed to cope causing concern, especially on Holgate Street where the water channelled down to Granville St.

This was reported to LCC and asked that all drains be cleaned.

All residents who have been allocated new bins should have them by now and the collections have taken place. Generally they have been welcomed and we haven't been made aware of any specific problems. Next year we will have the opportunity to look again at the detailed allocations.

Both Borough and Parish Councillors continue to get frequent complaints about overgrown footpaths in the Parish and around the Ward. We have contacted LCC about every one, but they are unable to tackle them due to restricted budgets. It is not always possible, but recognition must be paid to Briercliffe Parish Council's Lengthsman who has addressed some of these well used footpaths.

We have been continuing to talk with the new management at the Briercliffe Medical Centre and have taken up a few specific problems which we believe have been addressed. The new system appears to be settling down well with a few improvements. We're also working with the practice on improving communication with patients and looking at the process of tendering for a group to take over the running of the practice from next Spring.

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07753 253040

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07778 271177

**Maggie Lishman**  
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## Briercliffe Community Centre - November Update

Our Community Centre is run by a very small group of volunteers and receives no grant money except a small amount from Briercliffe Parish Council which pays the insurance. The only other income is from regular user groups and children's parties at weekends. Rent has stayed the same for 5 years because the committee want the centre to be available for local people. However, the Centre is under used during the week. If you have a hobby or an interest, maybe you could get together with others and form a club or just get together to chat. The weekly programme might already have something you'd like to find out more about.

Come along and use your Centre!

**Monday:** Available all day and evening

**Tuesday:** Available during the day. 6:00 - 7:00 Yoga class with Dave Sutcliffe  
Briercliffe Society 2<sup>nd</sup> evening in the month ( Contact Cllr. Roger Frost for details)  
7:30 Parish Council 3<sup>rd</sup> evening each month

**Wednesday:** 9:30 - 10:30 Baby Bounce and Rhyme  
2:00 - 4:00 Wednesday Club. ( 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> each month)  
Contact Janet for details on 07947217947  
6:00 - 7:00 Pilates with Isobel

**Thursday:** 2:00 - 3:30 Breast Feeding Friends Support Group  
Available in the mornings and evenings

**Friday:** Available all day and evening

**Saturday and Sunday:** Available for children's parties and events.

For weekday bookings contact Anne Kelly Tel: 01282 438328  
For weekend bookings visit the Village Store on Burnley Road

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At our September Meeting disgust at a lack of rectification measures on perceived safety issues along Todmorden Road, (leading through Cockden and past Roggerham Gate Inn then on to Extwistle Road terminating at Worsthorne), were passionately raised by a worried Parishioner.

An emphatically depicted analysis of this route concluded it as a dangerous death trap, unfit for purpose due to surface issues and lack of visibility due to poorly kept hedging. The national speed limit was also raised as inappropriate for the type of road with blind spots on hills and around corners which lead to reports of races being held by young drivers at weekends along its length. On home football match days traffic is "relentless as the Police direct it this way to ease congestion" in and around town. Pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders were also cited as at risk due to this inadequately maintained highway.

As you are aware from attending Briercliffe Parish Council Meetings this has been a constant issue raised over many months... (if not years). I would appreciate it if you could look into this issue and get back to me with any maintenance works and dates LCC/Highways has planned on Todmorden Road so that I can pass on the information to a concerned community.

### Todmorden Road - Concerns Dear Chairman,

This issue has been raised by myself many times and I have indeed arranged for the Head of Service & Portfolio holder to do a site visit next month.

You cite your concerns but I would point out that I have yet to see any complaints past directly to LCC through the 'Report it' mechanism. It would appear that concern over this route fails to extend to actually contacting LCC directly.

Perceived danger is very different to actual danger and it is somewhat telling that I can find no records of actual damage or accidents on this stretch of highway. I shall continue to search in case I have missed something. (I am not counting the accident at the cross roads as this is attributable to poor driving by someone failing to take note of clear signage).

There will be no speed restrictions applied for the simple reason they are unenforceable and the road itself would not fulfil the criteria under which such a policy would allow such a change of designation. The fact the hedges are growing out into the road does, to a greater or lesser degree, deter cars from speeding, as do the pot holes. Highways do have powers to make the adjacent landowners take care of the hedging and I shall continue to push for this.

Whilst I shall continue to work towards remedial work on this road, I fear any such will only make it faster & more unsafe for all vulnerable road users. Regards, Cosima Townley (Lancashire County Councillor).

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