



LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*
The great Horned Ostrich
Horned - Kudu, gazelle and kudu
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Bradworthy Parish Council Spring 2021 Newsletter

It seems like a long time ago since we put out a Parish Newsletter. It is almost a year, and what a strange year it has been for all. We have been lucky in Bradworthy and although there have been losses and huge changes; we seem to have remained fairly fit and very resilient as a Parish.

Changes have affected all of us. No social events, no carnival, beer festival and for some an incredible change in their working environment and indeed no work at all for others. Worrying times. Bradworthy is lucky that the predominant industry is farming and for the most part that has continued unaffected. Hopefully now spring is coming we can start to get back to normal and get on with our lives.

We have said goodbye to some old Bradworthians in the past year. Dear Walter Dayman, the history that he has taken with him and the parish stalwart that was Trevor Sillifant - very different men but both adoring their Parish in different ways. There was also the sadness of losing Rachel Clarke (nee Grills) so young and so loved. The village farewells to these people will remain with us forever. What an amazing community we have in difficult and sad times.

The Parish Council has had to embrace a new way of meeting via Zoom and this has proved challenging for some. Not an entirely satisfactory way to meet and maybe what we all really need is some human interaction again. Reaching out to a computer screen is no replacement. It would be sad if meeting remotely becomes the new normal. Our community groups, the Church and Chapels need to start reaching out in person again and start doing what they do best, giving us light, hope and companionship to those who need it most.

War Memorial

Mr Garfield Bond very kindly left the Parish Council a bequest and with his families approval the War Memorial is going to have a spruce up. It seemed a fitting way to remember him and we will be placing a plaque to mark the refurbishment that he is kindly allowing us to undertake.

Church Clock

As some will already know the Parish Council is responsible for the Church clock and its workings hidden away in the Church tower. Every year this clock gets an overhaul and this year some mechanical issues were detected. It was decided that for the clock to keep working properly some of the timbers that support and keep the clock mechanism level would need to be replaced. This has put the Parish Council in a difficult situation, as the Council is not able to give money to the Church. After much discussion it has been agreed that as the support timbers are part of the working element of the clock the Parish Council will pay for the timbers to be replaced. Although not a cheap fix it will enable the clock to continue to be a part of our lives into the future. We are looking forward to hearing it strike again and keeping good Bradworthy time.

Planning

There are pressures in the Parish in the form of housing applications. Torridge District Council now finds itself again in the position of not being able to demonstrate enough land for housing. What this means for Bradworthy is that we will be expected to absorb housing not just for our Parish but also for the surrounding areas yet again. As expected there has been a flurry of applications. At present there are 77 houses that have permission yet have not been built and 23 waiting to gain permission. It is a lot of housing. It puts pressure on the Parish Council to try to advise Torridge Planning to deliver the type of housing that the Parish actually needs. This also puts huge pressure on our Primary Academy and the

doctors surgery which in turn puts pressure on the Parish Council to make sure these services get the financial help they need from each application where community contributions should be forthcoming. It is an unenviable position to be in and one that can't keep everyone happy. The draft Neighbourhood Plan showed that one area that needed addressing was lower cost housing to enable our young people to stay here or indeed get that first step onto the property ladder. We may have to look at undertaking another Housing Survey to establish if that need has grown since Collacott Close was delivered. The full list of housing applications is on the Parish Council website or available from Christine Kett, the Parish Clerk (details below).

Traffic Speed

We would also like to undertake a Traffic Speed Survey within the village. We have been made aware of initiatives in other Parishes where speed restrictions (i.e. 20 MPH limits) are now being investigated. This would need us to survey the whole Parish to enable us to get a balanced view on what the Parish actually wants. We need to give this some thought on how we approach this survey and what questions we need to ask you. If you want to get involved in this as a Community Initiative please let the Parish Clerk know. We have a Parishioners Post box on the front of the Memorial Hall to take any items you wish to pass to the Parish Council or you can email bradworthyparishclerk@gmail.com. You can of course also contact any of your Parish Councillors (details below).

Devon County Council

Some of you will be aware that Barry Parsons our County Councillor is not standing at the next election in May. Barry is going to be missed hugely by our community. He has always given us the best from himself whilst remaining extremely humble in those efforts. We know it was a decision he did not make lightly and we wish him well.

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