



# The Brock News

Issue 39

SUMMER 2010

## Your Parish Council

**Chairman:** (01590)  
Gordon Taylor 624275

**Vice-Chairman:**  
Thorold Masefield 624565

**Councillors:**  
Adrian Burks 624112  
Maureen Holding 622780  
John Korbey 623427  
Martin Lockwood 622913  
Harry Oram 622500  
Russell Horne 624389  
Ruth Rollin 622277  
John Wingham 622292  
Kevin Whittle  
(Wootton) 01425 - 615381

**Parish Clerk:**  
Mary Pattison 622829

**Groundsman:**  
Kevin Baker



QUALITY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL

Parish Council meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month, except August, in the Village Hall at 7 pm. Time is allowed for the public to raise any concerns and ask questions at the beginning of the meeting.

## Chairman's Notes

I would like to begin by paying tribute to the retiring Parish Council chairman; Councillor Thorold Masefield. (See outgoing Chairman's notes). Cllr. Masefield has worked tirelessly over the past three years, and leaves the business of Parish Council in excellent shape for the incoming Chairman. I am grateful to Thorold for agreeing to stay on as Vice-Chairman to help the 'New Boy' settle in.

We are pleased that the contentious issue of proposed jousting events to be held at Black Knoll appears to have been resolved in a spirit of good judgement and common sense. The Parish Council's objections to the licence for this activity on the grounds of public nuisance and the threat of compromised public safety were supported by the NFDC at a hearing on 6th July, and the application was subsequently refused. We made it clear at this meeting that Council is supportive of tourist enterprises in general, provided that they are appropriately sited and allow Brockenhurst residents to go about their daily lives without disturbance. We believe that the proposed site for the activity does not meet these criteria.

The Parish Council offices are rapidly coming to the end of their useful life, and we are currently in discussions with the Village Trust to investigate the possibility of new office accommodation on the Highwood Road site, either as a stand-alone building or as a separate extension to the existing Village Hall complex.

Finally, during my period of Parish Council Chairmanship, I have a personal ambition to bring about a greater appreciation within the wider Brockenhurst community as to the positive contribution made to the village by Brockenhurst College in general, and the college students in particular. The economic benefits brought by the students to local businesses are easy to see, but a less tangible although equally important contribution is quite simply the variety, colour and youthful enthusiasm that the students bring to everyday life in and around the village during term time. The Parish Council and the College have regular liaison meetings, and I intend to work closely with college principal Di Roberts to maintain and build upon the mutually beneficial relationship between Brockenhurst residents and College students.

**Gordon Taylor**

## Police Surgeries

As reported in the previous newsletter, we are now holding our Police Surgeries on the third Wednesday morning each month at 11.30 am in the meeting room at the Parish Council office.

Come to talk to the Beat Officer about any issues which concern you or to make reports to him. In the meantime, the Police

would like to know your views on the priorities for them to deal with. Send your comments by email to [lymington.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lymington.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) with Local Policing Priorities June /July - Have Your Say (NL09) as the subject line. If you have not got email please pass your comments to the Parish Clerk for forwarding.

## Parish Council Annual Report

Much of the work of the Parish Council over the past year has focused on preserving our heritage. Work has been done to tidy up the Watersplash and the area immediately around it. Further areas of the village, including the watersplash have been included in an expanded Conservation Area. We have put much pressure on the National Park Planning authorities to beef up their enforcement programme and procedures. In the context of development control, despite the major improvements made to the final documents for the vision and objectives of the National Park, we are concerned that the current proposals retain the damaging concept of Defined Villages (including Brockenhurst) and remove the protection hitherto provided for a large part of the village identified as "Areas of Special Character". We continue to fight this battle on your behalf, and we shall take it before the Government-appointed Inspector later in the summer. We would urge you to add your individual and collective voices.

We have endeavoured to mitigate the effects of aircraft noise on the approach to Bournemouth Airport. We have gained assurance that the Hampshire Fire Service's plans to re-organize some of its approach to tackling fires, will not affect the wonderful service provided by our dedicated Brockenhurst team.

There has been considerable work at the Churchyard which is maintained to a very high standard by our excellent groundsman, Kevin Baker. We have had to construct a new, very solid shed to try to counter a number of attempts to steal maintenance equipment stored there. Unfortunately, there have also been break-ins at a number of the sheds on the allotments. At the churchyard we had a cold but impressive ceremony to re-dedicate the newly restored grave

of a very distinguished soldier originally buried there in 1897.

A major part of our work is devoted to trying to make the environment in which we live, safer. We are engaged with Hampshire Constabulary in discussions designed to help residents to provide for a regular structured review of priorities for the police in Brockenhurst, and to enable them to respond better to those issues of concern to residents.

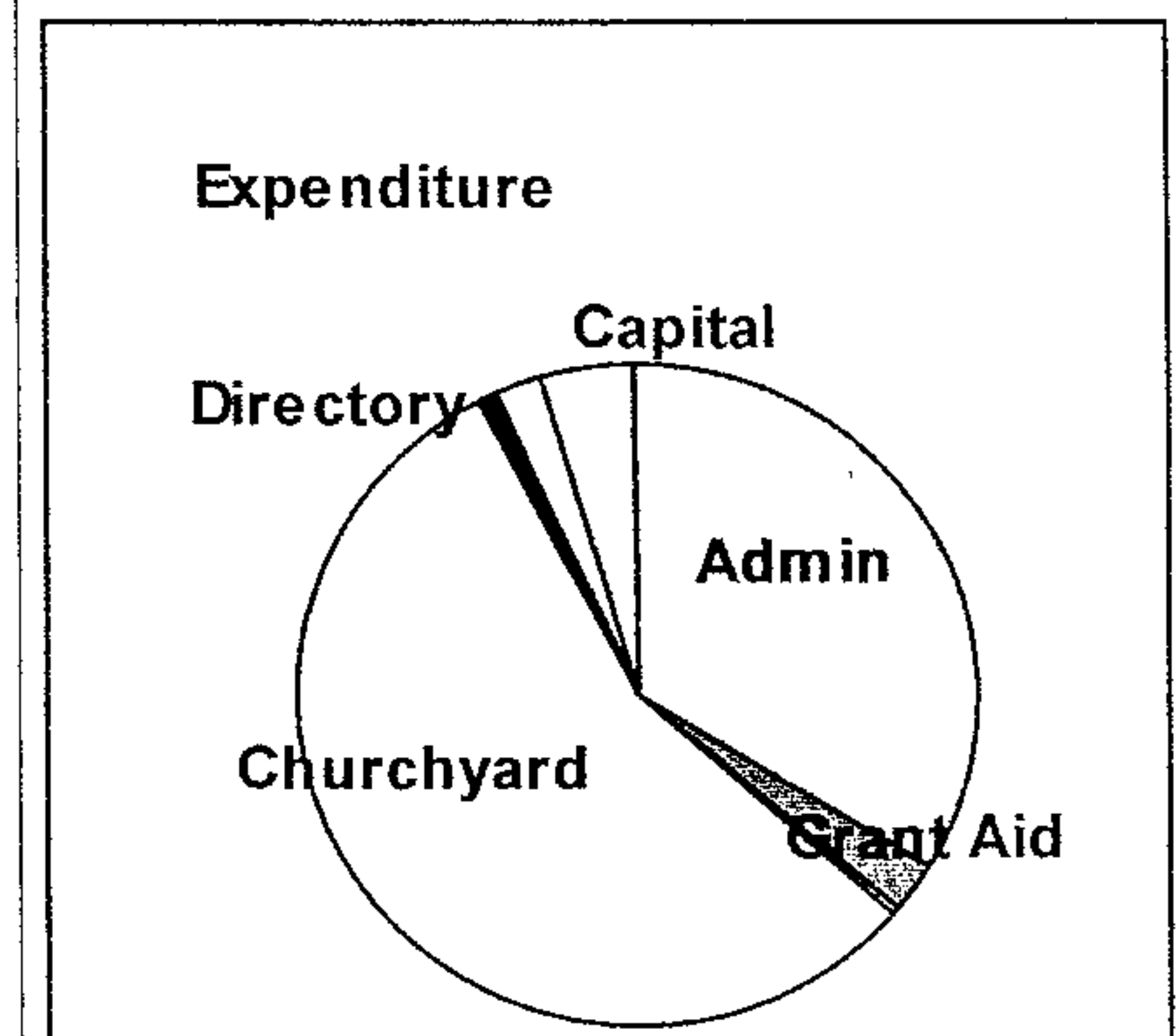
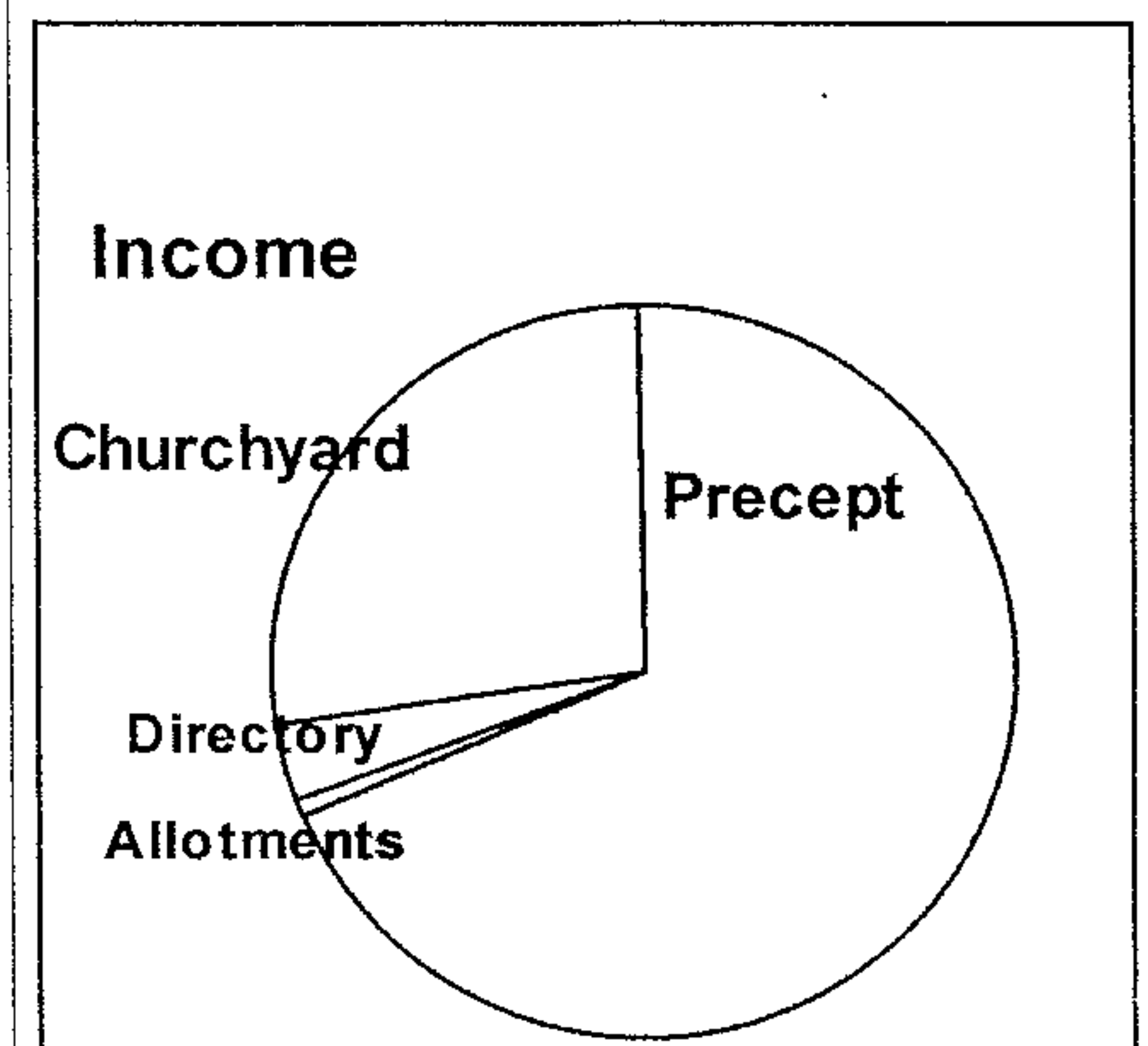
Extended 30 mph limits have been put in place on the A337. The repairs to the railway bridge have had a beneficial effect in slowing traffic along the Sway Road as vehicles pull away from the traffic lights. A major objective now is to extend the 30 mph limit along the Burley Road where pinch points are to be installed after discussion with the Parish Council, local residents (principally through SWAGS) and Hampshire County Council, as well as the Friends of Brockenhurst.

Nothing yet has been done to implement the plans to make Brookley Road safer, or to extend the footpath for the whole length of the Rhinefield Road, although plans are in place for both. In the same vein we have kept up the pressure to improve and extend the network of cycle routes within the village to provide safer cycling to our shops, schools and amenities and to enable our visitors to access the cycle routes on Forestry Commission land. Meanwhile, we have played our part in getting pot holes filled, ditches cleared and footpaths kept passable. We seek improvements for the future. In particular we would like to re-site as well as to refurbish the playground. We have made disappointingly slow progress in pursuing the possibility of using some of the developers' money available to us to acquire land for the benefit of the community to be used for recreation. We have not lost sight of the increasingly urgent need for new Parish Council offices.

We continue to make small donations to bodies who provide services for Brockenhurst residents. We want to

help ensure that the village has a modern and tasteful set of Christmas lights to replace the current out-dated set.

All that we have done in the past year and plan to do in the coming 12 months is being done without any increase in the precept, ie, what you pay through your



Council Tax for Parish Council expenditure. The Council has been awarded Quality Status and the Power of Well Being. This gives us greater flexibility in spending your money for the benefit of the village.

Councillors and especially the Chairmen of Committees have had a very full and busy year. Our very sincere thanks go to all those who distribute our quarterly newsletter.

We have your interests at heart, but we need your support and input.

## PLANNING UPDATE

Our refusal to support the licensing application at Black Knoll has already mentioned in the Chairman's report and we have objected to planning applications where relevant. The latest application for a sign facing the Rhinefield Road was deferred by the National Park Development Control Committee pending the outcome of the licensing meeting on July 6th. The issue is the location for the jousting. Were it to be in an area where public safety would not be jeopardised by increased traffic etc, it could be a useful tourist attraction.

Brockenhurst College have applied to use Brock House, near the football ground, for their children's nursery instead of the Highwood Road site. We did not wish to see this changed use

because we need some small commercial units in the Village, and the intrusive effect on the nearby residents. The National Park Development Control Committee refused the application on the Chairman's casting vote.

Hampshire County Council has been remarkably silent on their plan to build a pre-school unit onto the Village school. There may well be problems satisfying planning criteria for the proposed unit so there may be some merit in re-examining the use of the Highwood Road site, perhaps in combination with the Brockenhurst College children's nursery.

We continue to press the National Park Authority for more effective enforcement action where work has been carried out without planning permission. We are well

aware of the tortuous procedure which has to be carried out but we are assured that an increase in effort should help the situation.

The new Government has reviewed a number of planning policies and are issuing revised Planning Policy Statements (PPS). PPS-3 on housing now gives local planning authorities the freedom to prevent over-development of neighbourhoods and "garden grabbing". We must wait to see how this and other new policies will affect us. In this context the National Park Core Strategy has been submitted with the inclusion of "Service Villages" and the removal of the "Areas of Special Character" from Brockenhurst. We intend to continue to oppose these changes when the plan comes before the inspector and perhaps the new PPS-3 will help us in this respect.

### Brockenhurst Village Hall

Over 30 superb scarecrows in front gardens signalled Brockenhurst's first Scarecrow Week involving many village organisations including the Church, Football Club, WI and the Village Hall, plus the many individuals who kindly opened their gardens to the public all to raise funds for the Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance. On a warm and sunny Sunday lunchtime at the football ground those at the barbecue were treated to a visit from the Air Ambulance. Photographs of the event are being placed on the Village Hall website [www.brockenhurstvillage.org.uk](http://www.brockenhurstvillage.org.uk). Do take a look or visit the display in the Village Hall.

Heartfelt thanks go out to the many organisers and helpers who put in so much effort. Next year the scarecrows move to Sway returning to Brock every other year. The Open Gardens raised just over £3000 for the Air Ambulance and the Scarecrows raised £210 for the Village Hall. The winning Scarecrows were the Fitness Instructor, the Telephone Engineer up on the telegraph pole and Postman Pat.

The new stage, now known as The Highwood Theatre, at the Village Hall, is also proving popular with classical music concerts, children's drama, and professional stage productions

taking place on it. The most technical one yet will be 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Musical Galaxy' being produced and performed by Milton Musical Society in November this year; watch this space!

### **FUTURE EVENTS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Saturday 14th August**  
Brockenhurst Horticultural Association 2pm Summer Show in the Village Hall

**BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

Contact:

**MARY PATTISON**  
Parish Clerk

The Parish Council Office  
Highwood Road  
Brockenhurst SO42 7RY.

**Phone:** (01590) 622829

**Email:**  
pc@brockpc.freemove.co.uk

**Website:**  
www.brockenhurst.gov.uk

Your Parish Council Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 10 am - 12 noon. Other times by appointment.

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**Playground Plans**  
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The successful playground company has been chosen from a shortlist of three to provide the new equipment in the playground in Highwood Road. We are negotiating to have some changes to the design at present and the scheme will be made available to view soon. Please watch the website or contact the Parish Clerk for the date later in the summer. We now have to get confirmation of funding and planning permission.

**!! LOST DOLLY !!**  
*A lovely pink and white soft dolly was dropped in Highwood Road on Wednesday 16th June. She is in the Parish Council office but she wants to go home!*

**Footpath Volunteers**

The surface of some of the village footpaths could be improved and grant funding is available towards the cost of the gravel. The Parish Council is looking for volunteers who would be prepared to spend some time at a weekend helping to lay the gravel on the paths. The work can generally be supervised by the HCC footpath team but they haven't got the labour to carry it out. If you would be interested in helping out please contact the Parish Clerk. The paths I have in mind at present are: between New Forest Drive and Forest View, Angel Valley and between Avenue and Partridge Roads for starters. Please let me know of others!

**Hampshire Food Festival**

This year's Hampshire Food Festival celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a packed programme of events throughout July (1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>), showcasing the fabulous food and drink grown, reared and produced here in Hampshire! 'Celebrity chefs' taking part include James Martin, Raymond Blanc, Atul Kochhar, Alex Aitken, John Burton Race, Ed Baines and vegetarian food writer Rose Elliot. Join farm, brewery and vineyard tours, cookery demonstrations, workshops for adults and children, open days, tastings, Hampshire Farmers' Markets, Festival dinners and more. Download the Festival programme and sign up to receive local food news at [www.hampshirefare.co.uk](http://www.hampshirefare.co.uk), pick up a programme at Hampshire Farmers' Markets, libraries and information centres or call 0845 603 5638 for your free copy.

**National Cycle Route Hythe - Brockenhurst**

A Cycling event was recently held in the village to mark the completion of the section of the National Cycle Route. The Parish Council does not support the route via Mill Lane as we consider it to be too dangerous for cyclists. It is very bendy and narrow, and is a 40 mph limit. We are trying to have the route re-designated as via Balmer Lawn Road as we consider it to be safer.

**Adders**

Adders are once again becoming active and there seem to be a lot more of them around than usual this year. Please be vigilant, particularly when walking in areas of long grass.

**Battery Recycling**

We are pleased to let you know that you can now recycle batteries in a Battery Back bin at the Parish Council office. All types of portable sealed batteries are accepted. Please don't forget that you can also recycle printer cartridges and mobile phones at the office too.

**Allotments**

If you would like to put your name on the waiting list for an allotment at Black Knowl please contact the Parish Clerk by phone or email. The allotments have a thriving community spirit and it is an inexpensive and very sociable way of enjoying fresh produce.

**Chairmen of Parish Council Committees**

Amenities: Harry Oram Planning: Russell Horne Personnel & Resources: John Wingham