



# Pateley Bridge Town Council (PBTC)

## Autumn/Winter 2023 Newsletter

### Message From the Mayor

As our time of Christmas festivities approaches, my wife and I are more than halfway through our year as Mayor and Mayoress of Pateley Bridge. What an amazing time it's been so far. Starting with the celebration of the coronation of King Charles the III, we attended so many memorable events in our local primary schools, the park, a service at Ripon Cathedral by the Dean and Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire and attended a garden party at the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire's residence.

We also attended civic mayor making services and receptions around what was formerly the Borough of Harrogate. In this first year of the new unitary North Yorkshire Council, these events are now more important than ever for building relationships with neighbouring mayors and North Yorkshire Council, relationships that can only benefit our own community here in Pateley Bridge and the surrounding parish.



*Mayor and Mayoress of Pateley Bridge, Cllr. Chris and Dawn Thompson, with NYC Chairman, Cllr. David Ireton and Sandra Ireton at the NYC Chairman's Civic Charity Dinner on 20 October in Skipton.*

Brimham Rocks saw the installation of a piece of stone artwork engraved with a specially written poem by the Poet Laureate, it was such a privilege to meet the Laureate, and represent our community at this event. If you haven't already seen the installation and read the poem, next time you're at Brimham Rocks, do go over and view it. Talking of stonework, we were also invited to the Nidderdale Museum, along with North Yorkshire Council chair Cllr. David Ireton, to greet the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Bradford to mark the installation at the museum of a stone carved model of Angram Dam. This stonework has been kept by the descendants of the masons who carved it, and who worked on the construction of the dam. The family wanted it to be returned to the Nidderdale, and so generously donated it to our museum with some assistance from Yorkshire Water. Do go and see it outside the entrance to the museum.

It was a huge honour to travel over to Rotherham to represent our council, and our town and parish at this year's Yorkshire Day. To be part of a procession made up of hundreds of Mayors from across the counties that make up Yorkshire was incredible. It made us realise what a responsibility it is and that, here in Pateley Bridge, through the office of mayor, we are part of a much larger civic family.

Perhaps the most poignant events we have attended so far are our community and school events. We have such a rich family of performing arts groups with the Nidderdale Dramatic Society, The Nidderdale Community Orchestra, The Nidderdale Community Choir, and the Nidd Chorale. Then we have so many art and crafts groups, friendship groups, church groups etc. Then we have volunteer groups like Nidderdale Plus, Nidderdale Youth Council, Pateley Bridge & Bewerley Memorial Hall, Glasshouses Village Association, The WI, etc. the list goes on and is far too long to name every group here. I believe that it these groups and groups like them that, along with our schools, shops, and businesses, take this place from being somewhere beautiful we live and work, and make it a thriving vibrant community. Thank you to everyone for giving so much of your time and skills this year.

My wife and I wish you a peaceful Christmas, and a blessed 2024.

Kind Regards Cllr. Chris Thompson - Mayor of Pateley Bridge

### Remembrance Day Parade and Service in Pateley Bridge





Mayor of Pateley Bridge and Chair of Bewerley Parish Council lay wreaths.



Members of PBTC were pleased to take part in this important event at the War Memorial, with the Mayor laying a wreath. Thank you to the Royal British Legion and to the volunteers at the Memorial Hall, who put on a delicious buffet afterwards. Bewerley Parish Council (BPC) and PBTC are increasingly involved in organising this event now. The Council pays tribute to and honours the memory of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the wars.

In early November, after a long process of obtaining consent, BPC and PBTC had handrails installed on the steps up to the war memorial. These handrails ensured that veterans and parishioners could safely and independently access the memorial to lay wreaths this Armistice Day. Our thanks go to Chiltendale Architectural Wrought Ironsmiths in Summerbridge for

the quality workmanship and elegant design. Thank you too to the NYC Locality Fund for the grant that paid for it and NYC Councillor Andrew Murday for his considerable help in securing the necessary permissions and funding.



### Pateley Bridge Civic Service

On Sunday 10 September, PBTC held a Civic Service at the Methodist Church, followed by a Civic Reception at the Memorial Hall.

The primary aim for the reception was to show off our town and parish to those present, which was achieved admirably. Building relationships with local officials helps to ensure that Pateley Bridge has the connections it needs to prosper, to be properly represented, and to have a voice on matters of importance to our parishioners.

It was also PBTC's opportunity to recognise and thank the people in Pateley Bridge who work tirelessly for local good causes and make significant contributions to our community.

"Given the present cost of living crisis, we needed to do this as cost effectively as possible, with a limited budget, and at a time when food and catering has never been more expensive. This was reflected in the fact that the catering was more frugal than at previous receptions, but all our civic guests are in the same situation and understand this, and indeed complimented the catering that was on offer. So, I think we got the balance about right, and did it well under budget." – Mayor of Pateley Bridge.

Thanks go to everyone who was involved in putting on this successful event, including the Methodist Church, the Memorial Hall, the Nidderdale Community Choir, and the Royal Oak, who did the catering.



From left to right: Mayor of Knaresborough - Cllr. Hannah Goslow, Deputy Mayoress of Knaresborough – Cllr. Helen Westmancoat, Mayor Of Pateley Bridge – Cllr. Chris Thompson, Mayoress of Pateley Bridge - Dawn Thompson, NYC Chairman – Cllr. David Ireton.

### Pump Track at the Millennium Green?

PBTC is exploring the possibility of raising funds to install a Pump Track at the Millennium Green. This would replace the existing BMX track, which has deteriorated significantly.

A bicycle pump track is designed to create a safe, fun, and inclusive playground for all users regardless of age, gender, or type of bicycle. They provide a community focal point, where people can exercise and improve skills such as balance and coordination.

PBTC is at the very early stages of looking into this and benefits from the help of one community enthusiast, Will Askew, who approached us about this. The first step is to apply for funding for a feasibility study.

### Glasshouses Play Area

PBTC is carrying out work to improve the appearance and safety of the playground. The goal posts and netting have been restored and replaced. The basketball net has also been renewed. PBTC is currently investigating replacing the safety surfaces.

## Highway and Footpath Maintenance

Recently there have been numerous issues arising in and around the parish. While it is not PBTC's duty to organise the repairs or maintenance, our councillors do report any matters to North Yorkshire Council and, if necessary, chase them to get the work done.

## Pateley Bridge Christmas Lights



PBTC hopes that you are enjoying the festive lights in Pateley Bridge. PBTC would like to thank the North Yorkshire Council (NYC) for supplying the Christmas trees. At the time of going to press, we are optimistic that NYC will continue to grant money towards the Christmas lights, as Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) used to. However, we understand this may be the last year that they do.

PBTC would like to thank local businesses and members of the public who have always generously donated towards the lights via the shop collection points at Dales Market Corner and The Spar, as well as the Just Giving webpage. Installing, dismantling, maintaining, and storing lights is always very expensive and we continue to need your support. If you are able to donate even a small amount, we would be very grateful.



<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/PateleyXmasLights>

We have replaced some lights that were nearing the end of their lives, but there are still others outstanding. We hope to be able to continue this programme of replacement in 2024, subject to having enough funding.

We will always do our best to ensure that residents and visitors to Pateley Bridge can continue to enjoy the festive display into the future.

## Awarding of Town Shield

PBTC was delighted to award a Town Shield to community star, Joyce Liggins. She was honoured and thanked for her considerable church and charity work and everything she did to help people in need, including making them delicious food. Joyce is well known by parishioners as a caring, giving person who goes above and beyond to support and contribute to the community.



*Cllr. Thompson presents Joyce Liggins with Town Shield*

## Local buses: A Reminder to Keep Using Them!

Thanks to the low fare policy supported by Government intervention, bus number 24 is being used more regularly.

Indeed, the busiest services, which serve the schools, are often overcrowded. We have asked Transdev if they can put double decker busses on at those times, which they have committed to do whenever possible.

The bus policy is constantly under review. There are no guarantees that the low fares will be here to stay.

PBTC recognises the importance of the buses to those sections of our population who do not own a car. Some elderly residents may feel very isolated without them.

The future of this bus service continues to depend on how many passengers use it. Therefore, we ask that, if you value the bus service, you use it as regularly as possible.

## Nidderdale Youth Council

The Nidderdale Youth Council was established in April 2023, following a push from Member of Youth Parliament, Brando Halloum, to increase the number of opportunities available to young people in more rural locations. Chloe Thwaites, the Youth Voice and Creative Engagement Officer for Craven and Harrogate, alongside Councillor Andrew Murday, met to discuss this proposal and designed a collaborative assembly for Nidderdale High School students. Following this, a founding membership of 5 young people gathered to begin the process of setting up their youth council. 6 months on and the group are working on their first campaigns in the area "Tackling All Forms of Discrimination." Their first campaign is called 'Inclusive Pateley,' and aims to combat discrimination in Nidderdale, with a focus on creating more inclusive opportunities and to improve accessibility in Pateley Bridge. Their next steps are to write and distribute surveys to visitors and locals in Pateley Bridge to identify the areas that their campaign can best support, and they look forward to working with local people and businesses to achieve their goal of creating a welcoming and accessible town. They hope to continue to recruit a larger base of Youth Councillors, connect with local business owners and plan events specifically for the local youth. If you know of any young people between the ages of 11-18 who would be interested in having their voice heard, the Youth Council would greatly appreciate any new members ensuring that they feel welcome and included.

Anyone interested should contact Chloe Thwaite on [chloe.thwaite@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:chloe.thwaite@northyorks.gov.uk) or 07973762347. North Yorkshire Council is also seeking adult volunteers to help facilitate the youth council meetings.

### **Mitigating Flood Risk**

Pateley Bridge Town Council and Beverley Parish Council worked together to create the Community Resilience Plan, which will guide the community response, in the event of an emergency, including flooding. The Joint Liaison Emergency Committee is currently updating the plan in negotiation with specialist emergency response officers at North Yorkshire Council. We have been advised to carry out a drill to determine how effective the plan is.

During the recent Storm Babet in October, the emergency committee, together with other valued community volunteers, were on high alert for a potential flooding event. Thankfully this did not occur.

### **Council Changes**

PBTC has recently welcomed four new councillors. These are James Critchley, Christine Skaife, Jonathan Wardman and John Ward. Cllrs Critchley, Skaife and Wardman were elected at a by-election on 20 July 2023. Cllr Ward was co-opted at our August meeting.

These new councillors bring a welcome breadth of experience and insight, which PBTC very much appreciates.

Cllr. C. Skaife - 'Being a councillor for me is about being able to have the knowledge to assist the residents of Pateley Bridge if they have an issue or need to find a solution to a specific issue. This has taken place just recently in relation to the heavy rainfall that residents had to endure and the detritus that was left behind. This includes attending the meetings with a more 'hands on' approach and being able to help shape the functions of the Council in a more proactive manner. Since being elected back on to the Council, I have been honoured to receive lots of positive comments regarding being elected and I will do my best to ensure that I serve the community to the best of my ability.'

Cllr. J. Critchley - 'As a member of the Town Council I shall do my best to represent the residents and visitors of Pateley Bridge, in the interests of all.'

Cllr. J. Wardman – 'I have re-joined the council to try to serve and help the community.'

Cllr. J. Ward – 'My wife, Sarah, and I moved back to Yorkshire to Pateley Bridge in December 2019. We are keen to integrate, become involved in, and contribute to, the local community. I felt that becoming a councillor would help me become more aware of how things in general operate within my home patch. Hopefully it will also enable me to be involved in decision-making and therefore make a contribution to the area.'

Jim Benson has recently resigned as the parish caretaker, although he does continue to do grass cutting work. PBTC would like to thank him for all his hard work over the years. After a tender process, PBTC has employed James Johnson as its new caretaker, and we commend him on a job well done so far.

### **Council Meetings and Public Representation**

Pateley Bridge Town Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber on King Street. Members of the public are always welcome to attend, either to observe the meeting or to take part in the two short sessions for public participation. Representations can be made at a meeting or in writing at any time. PBTC works hard to represent the views of local residents, and to provide support.

Meeting agendas are published in advance on the website and publicised on the Council's social media accounts. You can find out more information about meetings and the work of the council at [www.pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk) or on the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pateleycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/pateleycouncil).

### **Contact the Council**

Main contact Suzanne Smith, Clerk: Tel: 07751 571 374, Email: [clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk)

The contact details for individual PBTC councillors can be viewed on [pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk). (Scan the QR code opposite to go straight to the relevant page.)



**Members of Pateley Bridge Town Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**