



Pateley Bridge Town Council

Autumn 2020 Newsletter

Small Business Saturday – 5th December 2020

Small Business Saturday is a nationwide campaign to promote small businesses and encourage people to ‘shop local’ and support independent businesses in their communities. On the day itself, customers support all types of small businesses, online, in offices and in shops, and many small businesses take part by hosting events and offering discounts. Before then, the SBS campaign bus crosses the country calling at about 20 towns offering free mentoring sessions for small businesses and giving them the opportunity to showcase their businesses to the passing public and be profiled across the campaign’s social media channels. At the time of writing it is expected that the bus will visit Pateley Bridge on the afternoon of Friday 6th November. Pateley Bridge Town Council keenly supports all local businesses, and is even more appreciative of them following the incredible efforts they have made to help residents during the pandemic. We are particularly grateful to Kirsty Hannam, who originally invited SBS to visit Pateley Bridge whilst she was running the Visit Nidderdale website, so huge thanks go to her on behalf of so many local businesses who should benefit from this initiative.

Retiring Councillors and New Faces

At its August meeting the Council was very pleased to co-opt two new councillors. Cllr Paul Anson lives up at Greenhow and previously served as a councillor in Beverley but at the time his work in international facilities management took him away from home too often for him to continue. He has been involved in a number of voluntary organisations over the years including a three-year stint as a Venture Scout Leader and ten years running activity holidays for disadvantaged children. Cllr Neil Thompson, who has a degree in Coastal Marine Biology, lives in the town and works as a SEN General Teaching Assistant at Glasshouses Primary School. He is a School Governor and the Group Scout Leader for Upper Nidderdale Scouts.

The Council now has its full complement of eleven members, and our two new councillors have brought a raft of skills and attributes to strengthen the current team.

Paul and Neil replace two Councillors who retired from the Council earlier in the year, Christine Skaife and Chris Hawkesworth FRGS. Between them they had over 50 years of service to the local community.

In her time on the Council, Chris Skaife held the position of Mayor three times and initiated many new and innovative schemes which improved the understanding of the Council’s role. She instigated monthly town council surgeries at the Nidd Plus hub and coffee mornings in the Memorial Hall for all the volunteers who collectively make our town so unique and special. Her high profile within the town will not diminish as she will continue to be involved in many different aspects of the community including membership of the Memorial Hall Committee and The Friends of the Cemetery & St. Mary’s Churchyard.

Chris Hawkesworth had been on the Council since 1979, serving as elected Mayor on five occasions! Throughout that time he was involved with many council-sponsored projects, including the swimming pool, Glasshouses Playing Field and the Millennium Green. He will continue to act as professional adviser to the Pateley and Beverley Joint Resilience Committee, which he chaired for many years, a role he excelled in which was proven this year during the storms that hit the country in February. Though perhaps a lasting legacy was his idea to have a second river bridge into the Millennium Green, a project which looked financially impossible but with great tenacity was finally achieved and is of benefit to the town on a daily basis. The Council wishes them all the very best for the future and success in any new projects they undertake.

New Clerk

The Council is pleased to welcome Ms Laura Jowett, who takes over as Clerk from Sarah Adamson, who retired at the end of September after eight and a half years. Laura recently obtained the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) and she also works part-time for another town council. She is the first point of contact for the Council and if you need to get in touch with her the telephone number and email address remain the same as before, or you can message her on Facebook or make contact via the website.

Another call for Community First Responders

The Community First Responder scheme is a life-saving partnership between Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust and local communities. When a 999 call is received by the Emergency Services, a First Responder, on call in the local area, can be alerted and asked to assist until the ambulance arrives; in many medical emergencies the first few minutes are critical and if effective treatment can be provided at this time, lives can be saved and disability reduced. Volunteers are trained by the Ambulance Service in basic life support skills, although very often the role is simply to provide reassurance to patients until ambulance clinicians arrive. Further information on becoming a Community First Responder is available on their website <http://www.communityresponders.yas.nhs.uk> or if you prefer to speak to someone, have a word with Cllr Hilary Jefferson.

Christmas lights

The Council was surprised and delighted to receive an anonymous donation of £300 towards the costs of the Christmas lights - whoever you are, please accept our thanks for your generosity, and for such a cheerful gesture after the months of lockdown and the strange lives we have all been living! If the current restrictions on social gatherings have the desired effect, it is heartening to think that we might after all be able to get together and celebrate a traditional Christmas in the town. The Council has already raised some funds and intends to have a new display this year. If you would like to make a donation towards this, then you can do so at the Spar on the High Street, courtesy of the Chandler family, or on the other side of the river at the Dales Market Corner.

Message from the Mayor, Cllr Mike Holt

Re-reading last winter's newsletter brought home to me how much COVID-19 has affected our lives, and how many of our plans have had to change or be abandoned. We still find ourselves in the grip of the pandemic, a situation which will probably continue until a vaccine is developed and successfully tested. So although restrictions are being lifted in certain areas we must all be conscious of the fact that the number of infections will probably rise again over the winter, and be careful to maintain social distancing and follow the Government's guidelines to stay safe.

I have always been amazed and humbled by how much is done locally by volunteers, and I know that over the last few months commentators have recognised the tremendous effort of the community to help friends, neighbours and total strangers in this crazy time, and I am not going to apologise for adding my thanks to not only the volunteers but also to all the shop owners who have stepped up and organised shopping deliveries, and to the Church in the Dale and Nidderdale Plus for administering it all. It goes without saying that I haven't mentioned everybody or every organisation who are helping but rest assured the thanks and gratitude of the Town Council is extended to all of you. I genuinely think that there will be many changes to the way we lead our lives when the immediate effects of this pandemic are behind us, and I hope with all my heart that we will find ourselves considering our fellow human beings in a much more positive and caring way. What so many people are doing now does not have to stop when things get back to relative normality.

Installation of the VAS

The Vehicle Activated Sign is now installed on Ripley Bank. The Council hopes it will remind drivers to reduce their speed before turning down into the High Street. Although the Senior Traffic Engineer identified a site next to Fox's Head Well as an ideal location to warn drivers before they entered the High Street, the Council preferred a location a little further back so as not to spoil the view of the Well. The sign will also be triggered by speeding cyclists. As part of the Agreement with North Yorkshire County Council, the sign has to be switched off occasionally, and the Council has chosen a schedule of three months on followed by two weeks off. All the data – traffic density and speeds – is downloaded on a regular basis so that its effectiveness can be monitored, and it has already revealed some surprises.

Community Resilience

The February storms seem rather a long time ago, but not forgotten, and the Joint Resilience Committee made several adjustments to the Emergency Plan on the basis of the experience. Councillors from Bewerley and Pateley Bridge were immensely grateful to the Parish Caretaker, Jim Benson, and to all those individual residents who turned out to help during the two weekends, and into the early hours. As the river very nearly overtopped the flood gate, it was a frightening experience for everyone. One of the casualties of Storm Dennis was the Mayor's Charity Ball, when the then Mayor, Chris Skaife, had to swap her evening dress and mayoral

chain for a hi-vis jacket and a head-torch! There is a copy of the Council's Emergency Plan on the website. It contains maps of the flood warning areas and useful links to other sources of information, but please do contact the Clerk if you have any concerns or would like to know where to ask for advice about protecting your property. https://www.pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk/Emergency_Plan_26728.aspx. Interestingly there is only one cursory reference in the Plan to 'pandemic' (multi-agency management at regional level) as if such a thing was never going to happen – little did we know.

Council Meetings

These are still being held on Zoom for the foreseeable future, which means that members of the public can continue to observe the meetings or participate during the two short parishioners' sessions. The Agenda is always published well in advance on the website and publicised on the Council's social media accounts. Please email the Clerk if you would like the Zoom link.

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