



# Pateley Bridge Town Council (PBTC)

## Autumn/Winter 2024 Newsletter

### Message From the Mayor

As our time of Christmas festivities approaches, my wife and I are more than halfway through our second year as Mayor and Mayoress of Pateley Bridge. What an amazing time it's been so far.

We have attended civic mayor making services and receptions, many local events, Glasshouses May Day, a Summer BBQ, and the MG and Vintage Car Owners rally in the Showground,

It was a huge honour to travel to York and represent our council, town, and parish at this year's Yorkshire Day celebrations. Marching in a procession of hundreds of mayors from across Yorkshire's counties was an incredible experience. It served as a powerful reminder of our responsibility and the significance of our role here in Pateley Bridge. Through the office of mayor, we are part of a much larger civic family.

We are very blessed to have so many active groups enriching our community. From performing arts organisations like the Nidderdale Dramatic Society, Nidderdale Community Orchestra, Nidderdale Community Choir, and Nidd Chorale to numerous arts, crafts, friendship, and church groups, our area thrives with creative and social engagement. Then there are our essential volunteer and community organisations—Nidderdale Plus, Pateley Bridge & Bewerley Memorial Hall, Glasshouses Village Association, The Allotment Society, the WI, and the Nidderdale Museum, to name just a few. Together with our schools, shops, and businesses, these groups transform our town from a beautiful place to live and visit into a vibrant, thriving community. Thank you to everyone for giving so much of your time, effort, and commitment this year.

Indeed, the awful fire in King Street showed just what a great community we are. People came together to do whatever they could to help both those who lost their livelihoods and the resident who lost his home. Some very brave young people rescued that same resident who was trapped in his backyard by the fire.

We attended the "A Taste Of Syria" in the Memorial Hall. This is where our Syrian refugee family put on a magnificent meal for the community. It was enthusiastically supported and completely sold out. With some linguistic help from his eldest daughter, Dad and husband Mohamad gave a short, illustrated resume of his family's story. Pictures of their home (and surrounding neighbourhood in Aleppo) before and after it was completely reduced to rubble by arial bombardment, made many of us realise the desperately horrific situation this family had had to escape from. According to House of Commons Library, as of 2022, 6.5 million Syrians have been displaced by the war, and of those who have been granted legal refugee status in the UK, this one family, after experiencing many horrors of war, have found some peace here in Nidderdale. At that meal, the genuine care and compassion shown to this family by so many in our community was clear for all to see. Another event may have to run in the future to meet demand.



During the summer we held a music and beer festival to raise money for the Mayor's Fund. This fund makes small grants to support local community groups and charities and relies on donations. The event was a huge success, thanks in no small part to the Memorial Hall team, the musicians, a small army of volunteers, and our very generous businesses and individuals who donated prizes for the evening. Thank you to all of you, and to all who came and supported this event, some from as far afield as Scotland and even one couple on holiday here from New Zealand!

As the preparations for the seasonal festivities begin in earnest, my wife and I wish everyone in our amazing community a peaceful Christmas, and a blessed 2025.

Kind Regards Cllr. Chris Thompson - Mayor of Pateley Bridge

### Remembrance Day Parade and Service in Pateley Bridge



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 always put on a delicious buffet afterwards. The Council pays tribute to and honours the memory of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the wars.

### **Fox's Head Well – “We Will Remember Them” Armistice Display**



PBTC commissioned Nidderdale & Pateley Bridge Men's Shed to create an Armistice display for the Fox's Head Well at the top of the High Street in Pateley Bridge. PBTC would like to say a huge thank you to the members who designed, built and painted it. The councillors were delighted and very moved by it.

The new display echoed the silhouette style of an earlier design seen here over previous years. It made a nod to more recent conflicts, with Spitfires from World War II and an illustration of the Royal Marines “yomping” in the Falklands, beautifully painted by a member of the Wednesday morning art group that meets in Studio 6 at the King Street Workshops.

PBTC hopes that you will enjoy the Fox's Head Well Christmas display which is in production at the time of going to press.

### **The Mayor's Music and Beer Festival**

Back in August, the Mayor held a Music and Beer Festival to raise funds for The Mayor's Fund. The Mayor's Fund is a small grant scheme aimed at supporting local organisations and events that promote and deliver cultural, sporting, heritage and community activities in Pateley Bridge and the surrounding area.

Visitors to the festival enjoyed live entertainment by the Nidderdale Community Choir and Nidderlele Ukuleles. Then they danced the night away to acclaimed local group The Merlins, a four-piece band playing pop, rock, funk, soul, reggae covers. They could enjoy local craft beers not available in the local pubs, as well as a wide range of other drinks.

The event was a huge success, with everyone saying how much they enjoyed it. It raised £1,154 for The Mayor's Fund.

### **Mayor's Fund Awards**

In November, the Mayor's Fund Committee committed to providing £200 of funding to Lofthouse Table Tennis Club for a competition table tennis table.

The committee also awarded £247.49 to Pateley Badgers Junior Football Club for a replacement line marking machine.



*Mayor and Mayoress of Pateley Bridge, Cllr. Chris and Mrs Dawn Thompson, dance to 'The Merlins' at The Mayor's Music and Beer Festival on 10<sup>th</sup> August in the Memorial Hall*

### **Pateley Bridge Civic Service**

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, PBTC held a Civic Service at St. Cuthbert's Church, followed by a Civic Reception at the Memorial Hall.

This event builds relationships with local officials and helps to ensure that Pateley Bridge has the connections it needs to prosper, be properly represented, and have a voice on matters of importance to our parishioners.

This 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.

Thanks go to everyone who was involved in putting on this successful event, including St. Cuthbert's Church, the Memorial Hall, and the Royal Oak, who did the catering.

### **Bicycle Pump Track at the Millennium Green**

PBTC continues to work on a feasibility study for a Bicycle Pump Track at the Millennium Green. This would replace the existing BMX track, which has deteriorated significantly.

PBTC is very grateful to local bike enthusiasts Will Askew, Andrew Devine and James Thornton for the voluntary time they are committing to advancing this project.

### **Glasshouses Play Area**

PBTC is considering whether to apply for funding to add to and replace some of the equipment at the play area. The reason for this is to modernise and expand the range, while also making it safer and more accessible for children with disabilities. This will only be possible if we can evidence that there is strong demand among residents. If you feel strongly that we should upgrade the



equipment, please let us know by emailing [clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk). The Council is looking at options such as a multi-sensory play panel, wheelchair accessible roundabout, OXO Play panel and an inclusive springer. However, these are just possibilities at the moment and the council is open to suggestions. If we receive enough emails, we will hold a consultation on this to gather the evidence that we need to approach grant providers.



### **Volunteer Day - Footpath Maintenance**

On 25<sup>th</sup> October, on behalf of PBTC, Cllr. Mike Holt organised a volunteer day to upgrade 175m of the riverside footpath running from Nidd Walk in Pateley towards Glasshouses. Those that took part scraped, dug, weeded and lay down chippings vastly improving the accessibility and usability of this previously degraded footpath. The project was a complete success.

PBTC would like to thank Cllr. Holt and all 18 volunteers, including 13 from RAF Menwith Hill and others who came through Nidd Plus. The Council is also very grateful to Sarah Whitley at Birchfield Farm, who lent the volunteers hordes of wheelbarrows for free. The job would have been impossible without them.

### **Awarding of Town Shields**

In October and November, Pateley Bridge Town Council awarded town shields to four very worthy recipients:

Margaret Nines - for her generous community spirit and unstinting, selfless service. Examples of things that Margaret does on a voluntary basis include providing meals for the sick, cooking Christmas dinner for anyone on their own and baking Christmas cakes for the community.

Nina Carroll – for her leadership of Nidderdale Community Choir over many years in the face of significant personal hardship.

Kieran Moyles and Chloe Rathmell – for their brave actions rescuing a resident from the garden of his burning home on the night of the fire in King Street.



*The Mayor presents Chloe Rathmell and Kieran Moyles with their town shields at Pateley Bridge Town Council meeting.*

### **Round-up of Key Highway and Footpath News (not exhaustive)**

Panorama Walk – this footpath is still officially closed, while the legal team at NYC looks at who owns the collapsed and collapsing walls bordering it and seeks to enforce their repair. Please don't use this path, it is getting increasingly dangerous.

Extension of 20mph Zone further along Ripon Road B6265 – PBTC has called for the stretch of road heading out of Pateley Bridge from the top of the High Street which is currently 30mph to be reduced to 20mph. This is because the road is very narrow and potentially dangerous for pedestrians, as well as motorists. North Yorkshire Council initially refused saying they deemed it to be safe enough but may now consider this again.

Breach of Glasshouses Dam – we understand that the dam is incredibly difficult to repair and wait to find out what its future will be. Meanwhile, the wildlife continues to thrive at the site.

Sandy Steps – PBTC sought to establish who was responsible for maintenance of this footpath as it was in a poor state. North Yorkshire Council has now undertaken some maintenance work.

Streetlights not working – PBTC is aware that many streetlights in the town and parish are not working – either out completely or not functioning correctly. PBTC is compiling full details to work with North Yorkshire Council on getting them restored.

### **New Defibrillator for Wilsill**

PBTC and the Parochial Church Council at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Wilsill have agreed that a defibrillator should be mounted on the side of the church. Funding is in place, with PBTC contributing towards it, and the final stamp of approval rests with the Diocese of Leeds.

### **Railings Around the Bowling Green at the Recreation Ground**

The Joint Liaison Committee, which consists of members of both PBTC and Beverley Parish Council, is considering a request by Pateley Bridge Bowling Club to install 3ft railings around the bowling green at the Recreation ground. The club deems the railings to be essential to the future viability of this community group, with all other bowling clubs that they compete with already having them in place. They would be similar in style to the railings around the playground to ensure they are in keeping with the rest of the Recreation Ground. The respective councils will separately consider the recommendation reached by the Joint Liaison Committee. The Bowling Club can apply for funding for the railings once both PBTC and Beverley Parish Council have given their approval for the project.

### **Millennium Green**

Pateley Bridge Town Council, as sole trustee of the charity The Millennium Green Trust, intends to replace one of the picnic benches at the Millennium Green with a new wheelchair accessible one. This will be in place by the Spring.

## Pateley Bridge Christmas Lights



PBTC hopes that you are enjoying the festive lights in Pateley Bridge. We know that this is the final year that we will receive guaranteed funding from North Yorkshire Council towards the cost of putting on the light display. PBTC would like to say thank you for the grants received this year.

PBTC would also 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, renewing 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/pateleyfestivelights>

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.

### GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTS 2025-2028

The Town Council contracts for grass cutting at various locations are due for renewal.

The three-year contracts will run from April 2025 - March 2028.

Anyone interested in applying can download the schedules and tender documents from [our website](#).

Alternatively, contact the Clerk to the Council on [clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk).

All applications to be received by Monday 20th January 2025.

Applications are to be made by sealed tender, with the envelopes marked 'Grass Cutting'.

The Town Council reserves the right to publicise the amount of the successful tender.

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/pateleycouncil).

### Contact the Council

Suzanne Smith, Town 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.)

PBTC welcomes comments or thoughts about any of the items in this newsletter and requests that these are made by email to [clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk).



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