



The Broughton Social Group Newsletter

Issue No. 81

April 2021



Nicky Bramble decorated the church porch for Easter with additions made from some of the children. Thanks to all.



If you are new to the village you may not have heard of the Parish Council's speed watch initiative. Speeding, especially in the main road, has always been a concern and has been talked about in many a meeting. Back in March 2019 Broughton, together with Hornton, Swalcliffe and Tadmarton Parish Councils, purchased speed watch equipment. This is a "radar" box which measures the speed of vehicles and this is shown up on a "tablet". However, volunteers are required to note the registration number and also the make and colour of the vehicle. Our first session in March 2019 recorded 187 people doing over 34mph with a maximum



speed of 45mph. The local PCSO then arranges for warning letters to be sent to the culprits.



We have not been able to do speed watch during lockdown, but have been advised by our PCSO, Lana Smith, that we can start again on 12th April. Thank you to the people who already volunteer and if you would like to join us please contact Sue Leech sue.leech1now@btinternet.com or 07891 467656. It will be for one week and we usually do an hour in the morning and an hour in the late afternoon/evening. Hi Viz jackets are also provided.

The Parish Council has purchased a defibrillator that will be placed on the wall of the Saye & Sele Arms pub. Thanks to Paul Hawkins-Row and Martin Fiennes for their permission. It should be fixed by the end of April.

When we had a village poll, 68% were in favour of purchasing a defibrillator and 81% in favour of providing a first aid course for villagers (some people voted for both). The Parish Council paid for 20 people to do a course on 6th April 2019 and they had planned to arrange another one last year until the pandemic intervened. Once it is safe to do so, another course will be arranged, both for basic first aid and how to use the defibrillator.

Results of the 100 Club Draw

1 st Prize	£60	Margaret Allan	No. 3
2 nd Prize	£40	Christine & Fred Lyons	No. 39



Most of you will probably have heard that Time Team will be coming to Broughton to film the excavation of the Roman Villa first identified by Keith Westcott when he found a piece of hypocaust tile in a field on the Broughton Castle estate. These tiles were used in the central heating systems of upmarket Roman homes. The villa is thought to be almost as large as Buckingham Palace. To date, three test trenches have been dug and these excavations and geophysical surveys indicate the presence of a courtyard villa of around 85m x 85m that may have been the grandest in Roman Britain. Following surveying later this year, Time Team will continue to revisit the site.

An aerial view showing the outline of the villa



In Spring 1963, a farmer was ploughing a field in Broughton when his tractor hit a large stone. He investigated and found a hole had been made in the stone so he reached inside and pulled out a human bone. It turned out that it was a sarcophagus and was the tomb of a high-status woman who died in the third or fourth century. She was in her 30s, just over 5ft tall and was buried in the lead lined stone coffin.



Detectorist and historian, Keith Westcott said it was the key to his discovery of the Broughton Roman Villa which is one of the biggest ever found in Britain. We were lucky enough to have Keith come to Broughton in March 2019 and tell us all about the two weeks spent digging the trial trenches to evaluate the site. During the subsequent trial dig 178 items were found, including coins depicting Romulus and Remus, high status samian-ware, a shard of a flagon and a piece of earthenware which, as a specialist heating engineer, he recognised as part of a hypocaust tile, the sort used to carry hot pipes up the walls of high-status Roman buildings.

Keith also told us about the Broughton Hoard. In 1966 with the permission of Lord Saye & Sele, he started to explore around the long-gone eastern bridge over the moat at Broughton Castle and almost immediately found some sixteenth and seventeenth century coins within a very small area. He consulted the Ashmolean who gave their approval to him exploring further. In all he found 16 coins which were declared Treasure Trove at a coroner's inquest in the following year. This collection was eventually acquired by the Ashmolean Museum where it is now on permanent display.