



**Volunteer Newsletter 6**

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

**Hello,**

We hope this find you well in this rather strange time between lockdown and normality – it certainly seems a good time to reflect on the events of the last 14 months and wonder what the “new normal” might look like. The Steering Group have been doing some thinking around the future of BradTog, and so we’re writing to let you know where we’ve got to.

**Bradninch Together Community Interest Company**

In January 2021, Bradninch Together became a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC), with six volunteer Directors (who will continue to be known informally as the Steering Group): Anthony, Sophie, Sue, Glenn, Sally and Kate. The aim of this organisation is twofold:

- To continue to coordinate mutual aid activities to support the wellbeing of our community as required. These include the practical support, BradAid and Mental Health Matters initiatives.
- To support the development of other local initiatives for the people of Bradninch Parish by providing guidance and help together with a legal and accountable platform for the holding of funds and organisation of activity. In other words, if you have a great idea for a community project but aren’t sure where to start, BradTog will endeavour to help you and can offer a formal “umbrella”.

Covid has made it difficult to meet, so to help put faces to names we’ve created an introductory video which we’ll circulate around social media soon. You can be first to see it here <https://vimeo.com/552125231> More information and docs will appear on the [website](#) in a week or so.

**BradTog Mutual Aid Activities**

*Practical Support*

Activity levels have been very low across the six activity zones in recent months, although there are still some folk using and appreciating the support that we offer. We envisage the practical support offer remaining active for the foreseeable future. Going forward, it may be that the network we’ve developed proves helpful for different circumstances, such as a future Beast from the East...

*BradAid*

To date, BradAid has made 56 grants to people in financial need and requests continue to come in. That’s £2,800 donated by the community for the community. The fund remains available to anyone who needs it and accepts donations. Thanks are due to Bradninch Arts group for allowing us the use of their account over the last year. We now have a new bank account as a CIC to which donations can be made.



The new details are:

Lloyds Bank

Sort Code: 30-98-97

Account:29695662

Name: Bradninch Together Community Interest Company

### *Mental Health Matters*

The Mental Health Matters (MHM) interest group now numbers nearly 50 people who receive and contribute to weekly postings (also available on our website and social media) and have started meeting informally on a monthly “drop-in” basis for conversation about all things wellbeing and mental-health related. They have also organised, often in partnership with others, several training opportunities for Bradninch folk; see below for details of a current offer. If you’re interested in joining the MHM interest group, please email [mentalhealthmatters@bradtog.org.uk](mailto:mentalhealthmatters@bradtog.org.uk)

### **Current Events and Opportunities**

- There are places available on free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training organised by BradTog Mental Health Matters and the Town Council which will be delivered over two days by Network Rail. For details and booking see: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-first-aid-course-mhfa-2-tickets-154845812995> If you have any other queries please e-mail the group as above.
- We’ve been thinking about how to commemorate the past year and celebrate the fact we can gather again in a physical sense. To that end we think it would be good to revive the historic tradition of the Bradninch Town Fair which can contain many things under its umbrella . If you’re interested in getting involved, we’d love to hear from you – see the parchment below for details.

### **Website Help**

We are looking for a volunteer with some modest tech knowledge to join the BradTog website team. If you are willing to help please email Kate

Beith: [website@bradninchtogether.org.uk](mailto:website@bradninchtogether.org.uk)

We hope to be able to get volunteers together to actually meet each other at some stage, and will let you know when we can set this up. For now, enjoy the sunshine, when it comes.

*From Anthony, Glenn, Kate, Sally Sophie, and Sue.*

NB. If you no longer wish to receive communications from BradTog, please reply to this mailing.



# Bradninch Together

*In 1208, the charter of King John granted the burgesses of Bradninch all such liberties and free customs as enjoyed by Exeter, together with a four-day fair at the feast of St. Dionysius.*

*In 2021, as we emerge from the trials of the last year, we're exploring the idea of reinstating this tradition, starting small with a single day of community merriment. We think this could take place on Saturday 11th September, which falls between the feasts of St. Disen and St. Denis.*

*If Bradninch Town Fair is to happen, we need enthusiasm for the idea and active involvement from folk interested in putting together a unique celebration for our unique community. Please let us know, by dropping an e-mail to [sophie@bradtog.org.uk](mailto:sophie@bradtog.org.uk):*

- 1. What you might imagine happening at Bradninch Town Fair. Think entertainment, feasting, stalls, perhaps an appearance from the Town Crier...*
- 2. Whether you'd be interested in joining a Project Team to make it happen.*

*Watch this space for news of developments!*

