

# BRIGSTOCK

# NEWS

EDITION 6 – SPRING 2016



PRODUCED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

## BRIGSTOCK NEWS

Journal of Brigstock Village Hall Association

Brigstock News is produced by the Village Hall Association on behalf of the village and uses articles produced by local groups or individuals.

The articles need to reflect your thoughts and wishes. So the Committee welcomes contributions on subjects of local interest but reserves the right to edit or omit articles without notice at their discretion. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Committee and advertisements published in 'Brigstock News' are subject to individual agreements between advertisers and readers and the Association cannot be held responsible for the quality of goods or services supplied.

Articles for inclusion in 'Brigstock News' should be emailed to [chrisallen043@gmail.com](mailto:chrisallen043@gmail.com) or sent to 9 Woodyard Close, Brigstock, NN14 3LZ

**SUMMER - Published 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Copy by 20<sup>th</sup> May**

**AUTUMN – Published 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**WINTER – Published 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 -**

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

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BRIGSTOCK VILAGE HALL SECRETARY	01536 373059
BRIGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL (CLERK)	01536 373672
BRIGSTOCK CRICKET CLUB	01536 373478
BRIGSTOCK PFA	01536 373353
BRIGSTOCK PLAYGROUP ENQUIRIES	07580 115380
BRIGSTOCK PLAYGROUP FUNDRAISING EVENTS	07766 573400
BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY	01536 373428
BRIGSTOCK WI	01536 373672
BRIGSTOCK FILM NIGHTS	01536 373028
BRIGSTOCK URC	01536 373225
BRIGSTOCK ST ANDREWS	01536 373965
BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL	01536 373059
BRIGSTOCK SUNNYSIDERS	01536 373383

**Front Cover Photo - Bridge Street with the old Mill Pond**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH

- 8 WI Mr Peter Barratt: A Suffragette in the family 7-30pm
- 10 Nature Tots, Country Park 10am
- 12 Village Hall Assoc— BRIGSTOCK'S GOT TALENT—7-30pm
- 14 Community Choir, URC 8.15pm
- 18 Film Night "Kinky Boots" 7-45pm Village Hall
- 20 Tea dance, Village Hall 2pm
- 20 Playgroup Easter Egg Hunt
- 23 Hist Soc "The Naval Hero: Our local man : Roy Smart", VH 7-30
- 25 Ballroom dance, Village Hall, 8pm
- 28 Country Park Fun Day, 12 noon

### APRIL

- 11 Community Choir, URC 8.15pm
- 12 WI Mr Kevin McGrath "Troubles in Northern Ireland" 7-30pm
- 14 Nature Tots, Country Park 10am
- 16 WI Barn Dance at the Village Hall
- 17 Tea Dance, Village Hall, 2pm
- 22 Country Park Friends—"Owls to Behold" at Village Hall 6-30pm
- 23 Village Litter Pick, Village Hall car park, 10—4pm
- 27 Hist Soc, "The Past in Pictures, by N Bushy and E Franklin"
- 29 Ballroom dance, Village Hall, 8pm

### MAY

- 9 Community Choir, URC 8.15pm
- 10 WI Resolution Evening 7-30pm
- 15 Tea dance, Village Hall, 2pm
- 25 Hist soc "Sweet Memories—K Varty"
- 26 URC present "Raunds Ukulele band" at Village Hall 7.30pm
- 27 Ballroom dance, Village Hall, 8pm at Village Hall 7.30pm
- 27 Cricket Club Caribbean Party

### JUNE

- 12 Cricket Club Youth Day
- 14 WI M Parry," History and Making of Candles" 7-30pm
- 19 Cricket club, Calnan Challenge Cup

### JULY

- 16 Village Fete— Rectory Green

### SEPT

- 3 URC Barn dance, Village Hall
- 16/17 BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL - Village Hall

## Brigstock Kurling Group

The kurling dates for the next three months are: 2nd and 16th March, 6th and 20th April and 4th and 18th May, all 2-4 pm at the Village Hall. If you haven't tried kurling previously, don't worry, you'll probably be just as good at it as those of us who have played for some time! You don't need any special clothing or equipment, it will cost you £2, including tea and biscuits, and we would be very pleased to see you. Short mat bowling is also available if enough people want to play. Please ring Judith Beeby on 373367 if you would like more details, or just turn up on any of the above dates

## BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is still being booked up for many events and courses. Do support these as they are laid on for your enjoyment.

The hall is funded from the revenue raised from hiring the hall and also from its own fund raising events. We are constantly looking for new events and help to run these. If you would like to help with the Village Hall and get involved, do come and join our committee, or just offer to help with certain projects.

If you are thinking of holding an event, look at what the Village Hall can do for you.

## Brigstock's Got Talent 12<sup>th</sup> March - Village Hall.

**Do you want to show your own or your family's talents?  
Contact Sally Wilks to get into the show. 01536 373428  
Tickets are now on sale from the Post Office or the  
committee.**

# St Andrews Church

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January The Reverend Colin Simpson took his last service in St Andrews Church. Parishioners attended from his other churches in Lowick, Sudborough and Stanion to say farewell to Colin and his family as they prepared to leave for the Benefice of Coker Ridge near Yeovil in Somerset.

The Benefice is now in interregnum, which basically means a period without a vicar however we are being looked after by Assistant Priest The Reverend Canon Julian Bowers and a number of other willing, local, clergy.

As far as is possible 'normal service' will continue. We have a Thursday morning Holy Communion each week at 10 a.m. followed by refreshments. Sunday Communion services are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month at 9.30 a.m. and an All Age Worship service at 11.00 a.m. on every second Sunday. We are a warm, welcoming and supportive congregation, please come along and join us.

During the interregnum, for pastoral matters such as bereavement, please contact The Reverend Canon Julian Bowers on 01536 525520, for other matters Penelope Escombe on 01536 373213. Or there is also an email, which is monitored seven days a week [beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com](mailto:beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com)

21.3.16	7.00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
22.3.16	7.00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
23.3.16	7.00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
24.3.16 Maundy Thursday	7.00 p.m.	Holy Communion, Last Supper and Watch
25.3.16 Good Friday	11.00 a.m.	All Age worship
	2.00 p.m.	An Hour of Devotion before the Cross and Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.
26.3.16	7.00 p.m.	Holy Vigil, New Fire and First Mass of Easter
27.3.16 Easter Day	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

## BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL 16<sup>TH</sup> AND 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016



Last years festival was a very successful with over £7,000 raised for various groups and charities.

Plans are in full swing for this years Beer Festival. We are arranging the Comedy Night for the Friday evening with a good range of comedians and a compere. This will also be the opening of the bar with the wide range of around 25 real ales. This year we are looking to get a better range of lagers and speciality bottled beers.

Saturday afternoon will be a family funday with an assortment of entertainment and stalls. The evening will conclude the Beer Festival with an adult only session with music.

More details will be coming out in the next edition and tickets will be on sale in July.

If you would like a stall for your group on the Saturday afternoon, or would like to help on the bar or with other duties, contact any of the committee.

Get the date in your diary now, and keep the weekend free.

Chris Allen, Chairman

**[www.brigstockbeerfestival.com](http://www.brigstockbeerfestival.com) and on Facebook**

## SUNNYSIDERS CLUB

Young at heart senior citizens meet every Tuesday from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. in Harpers Court Lounge. Various activities are pre-arranged for the afternoon and a few outings take place throughout the year. Members pay a weekly subscription of £1.50 to cover activities, subsidised outings and meals etc. New members are always welcome so why not come along and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

# NEWTOWN REMEMBERED

Ask the majority of residents in Brigstock the whereabouts of "Newtown" and in most cases they will tell you. Situated to the north of the village it comprised of nine Victorian red bricked terraced cottages fronted by what could only be called a glorified cart track, producing more dust in the summer than you could imagine, and with the onset of the motor car, it became more and more intolerable.

Bordering the road was a number of, what was then we'll cultivated allotments, but over a period of twenty or more years they were left to deteriorate and mother nature took over. Everything became overgrown with trees and shrubs, and a vast area of BlackBerry bushes which produced possibly the largest Blackberries in the county.

Unfortunately over this period flora and fauna took over completely and became very invasive to neighbouring properties. Inevitably lurking in the wings was the ever present property developer waiting to pounce, and after a period of fourteen years permission was granted to put into place plans to create new homes.

In February of 2015 the first site machinery moved in and week by week a dramatic change started to take place and by midsummer major construction was almost complete and everything was on schedule. Shortly before Christmas 2015 the road was eventually constructed which really was the icing on the cake after a hundred years or more of dust and filth

The first resident moved in prior to Christmas and will be succeeded by others over the next few months. What was once an uncharacteristic part of our lovely village has now been transformed into what is now a very new and quiet residential part of our village community and blends perfectly into the surrounding area.

This is possibly the end of an era which could have culminated in the transition from the original village stonework, to brick built dwellings still around today, and now well into the future.

Although not widely known all nine existing cottages were all occupied by people all linked to the same family but more recently new fresh young blood is in the neighbourhood which leaves my wife and myself the oldest, consistent, and original codgers on Newtown.

Still what do they say:

"That's Progress".

Barrie Tiney



## Busy Bodies Baby & Toddler Group



For those that are not aware 'Busy Bodies' is a baby and toddler group that meet at the Vicarage Rooms, St Andrews Church, Brigstock, every second Friday from 9.00 - 11.30am.

It is a friendly group, run by parents and carers, for children from birth to three. There are lots of different toys for the children to enjoy that suit each stage of learning. For the adults – it's a great place to meet other parents and carers and have a much needed cuppa while the children play!

We ask for a donation of £2.50 per family, this helps to cover the cost of room hire etc and includes drink and snack for the children and tea/coffee for the adults.

If you live in Brigstock or the surrounding villages / towns then please feel free to come along and join the fun...

If you would like to know any more information please feel free to contact Emma on 07939581963 or join our group on Facebook so we can notify you of the next meeting date.

## GREEN DRAGON PUBLIC HOUSE AND RESTAURANT

The Green Dragon is back open under new management and has the restaurant open serving good food most evening and a carvery at Sunday lunch time.

There are also special themed evenings, so do check out their diary and support your local business.

There are also bed and breakfast rooms upstairs to book if you want friends to stay locally.

## Brigstock WI - Park Walk, Brigstock

Work, to install the sewerage, by F J Morris is now complete all thanks to **Big Lottery Fund**. We trust that the work didn't inconvenience local residents too much and Brigstock WI wish to thank you for your patience. Brigstock WI would like to thank Nicky Newbury for providing hot beverages for the F J Morris workmen. We are still waiting to hear about funding for the inside works, so we are keeping all fingers and toes crossed.

If you'd like to join Brigstock WI, the membership for the year is £37.50. To find out more information about what we get up to, please call either Liz on 01536373672 or Glenda on 01536373987

### Meetings for Spring is - all visitors welcome:

**Tuesday 8th March at 7.30.** Peter Barratt talk on "A suffragette in the family". Competition is A photo of a suffragette in action.

**Tuesday 12th April at 7.30.** Kevin McGrath talk on "The Troubles of Northern Ireland". Competition is Small flower arrangement in orange and green.

**Tuesday 10th May at 7.30.** Resolutions Evening with Sue Kendal.

**Tuesday 14th June at 7.30.** Marianne Parry talk on "The History and making of Candles". Competition is A decorative candleholder.

### Social Evenings.

No minutes, no business, just come along for a social evening. Visitors can meet other WI members and find out more about what we do.

**Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30.**

**Tuesday 26th April at 7.30.**

**Tuesday 24th May at 7.30**

**Tuesday 28th June at 7.30**

### Fundraising Events:

**Saturday 16th April - Barn Dance** at Brigstock Village Hall Tickets £7.50 including supper. Tickets from - Brigstock Post Office or 01536 373672 or 01536 373987



## Brigstock Film Night – Season Finale

### Kinky Boots (12) Friday 18 March, Village Hall

Doors open at 7:15pm, film starts at 7:45pm

Our season ends with this feel-good Britcom based on a local true story. It's a likable cast with a standout performance by the versatile Chiwetel Ejiofor.

After his father's demise, Charlie Price (Joel Edgerton) inherits the family business, a shoe factory in Northampton. He is not interested in shoes, and the factory is in dire financial straits. However a fortuitous encounter with a transvestite cabaret singer (Chiwetel Ejiofor) inspires Charlie to save the factory from closure by producing erotic footwear, much to the chagrin of the workers.

Kinky Boots has also been adapted to a musical, with its London premiere at the Adelphi Theatre in August 2015.

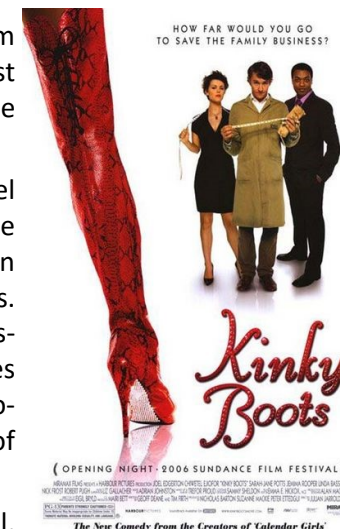
**Tickets:** £4 on the door, including free popcorn, with refreshments (tea, coffee, wine, beer, soft drinks, and cornetto-style ice-creams) on sale from the kitchen.

**2016/17 Season** – please let us know if there is a film you'd like us to consider for next year's programme.

## Calling all budding Projectionists!

The small crew that organise these events are looking for someone or a couple of people to take on the role of projectionist. It's not as technical as it sounds - if you can work your DVD player at home, you can be our projectionist!

More information is available from the Film Night crew on the night – please feel free to ask without obligation. Alternatively if you would like to help (and you're over 16) then please contact: Alison Millen on 373028 or Emma Poole on 370142.



## **Who's Who in Brigstock:- Jim Clark**

Jim Clark has been a Brigstock resident since 1987 when he came here with his wife, Jean, on his retirement after 48 years service in the grocery business. The couple came to the village to be near their daughter and son-in law who live in Stanion. He has recently passed his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday and has been a widower for 18 years but still takes an active part in the community.

He was born and brought up in the small village of Euston, near Thetford, which reputedly is where the name of the famous London station originated. After leaving school at 14 he started work as an apprentice in the grocery trade but after three years, in December 1942, he was called up to serve his country during the Second World War. Following basic training and a 6 week driver's course he went for battle training in Lincolnshire. He then embarked with the Norfolk Regiment, arriving in Bombay and then on to the army dispersal camp at Deolali, an unpleasant location, which affected some soldiers' mental and physical health and which gave rise to the phrase "sending you doolally". He was transferred to the King's Regiment at Jhansi, which was part of the Chindit force, which operated in Burma, behind the Japanese lines, a dangerous mission, blowing up bridges and railways and disrupting enemy supply lines. Before going into Burma during a parade there was call for all trained drivers to come forward. Jim thought this was alright, he was going to drive a truck, but instead was put in charge of a mule, the only means of transport through the jungle. He spent 5 months fighting in Burma before being pulled out in June 1944 with an injured knee and suspected diphtheria. During his service with the Chindits many of his comrades were killed or injured. Jim was one of the many heroes of that conflict, ordinary young men who did extraordinary things in their country's service.

It was not until the end of 1946 that Jim finally came home to England and he was not demobbed until 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1947, nearly two years after the end of the war. He was then able to go back to civilian life and resume his career.

He had management positions in the grocery business and moved over the years to a number of locations, including Wisbech, Wells-next-the-sea, Kings Lynn and Newmarket, finally retiring from his job at Haverhill in 1987. He met Jean in the course of his work as she was employed by same company and they were married in 1950.

Jim became a member of Brigstock Sunnysiders soon after he came to the village and has been involved with them ever since, serving as Chairman for about 12 years. He was also a founder member of the Brigstock Lunch Club, helping with transport and serving for many years as Treasurer and Chairman of that social group. Until last year he organised the annual Big Coffee morning at Harper's Court to raise money for the MacMillan Nurses. He is interested in bell-ringing and was one of the bell ringers at the St Andrew's Church for 10 years, although he has now retired from that activity. He also has a keen interest in photography and is President of Corby Photographic Club, which regularly meets in Stanion Village Hall.

Of course, Jim never forgot his wartime comrades and is an active member of the Burma Star Association, the Burma Star being one of the medals that he won for his service, and is vice-chairman and treasurer of the Peterborough branch of this organisation. He was also a member of the Chindits Old Comrades Association. Over the years he has attended many reunions and commemorations all over the country, including three garden parties at Buckingham Palace. Last year was particularly busy, with commemorations to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war. On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 the Chindits Old Comrades were officially retired at a special function at Clarence House attended by Prince Charles who spent time with all the members who were able to attend. The ending of the Association must have been an emotional occasion for all those present, bringing back memories of their comrades and friends who were left behind in Burma.

Article written by Bill Simon



## LATHAMS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

The children continued the Day 10 project work through the latest PSHE theme of friendship, which was entitled "You've Got a Friend in Me." The children worked on units linked to Cyber Bullying; Playground Games; Friendship Songs; Friendship Quotes from Literature; Art work linked to the story Lost and Found and finally, a Tree of Trust was created through children using their hands as templates and writing names of adults they can talk to on the fingers! The next theme for Day 10 is science!

Children from Year 5 and 6 attended the village Service on Sunday 8th November to lay a wreath on behalf of the school community. On Armistice Day we had an assembly in school and listened as the names of the fallen were read out in assembly.

The school walked to the memorial for 11:00 am and marked it with a 2 minutes silence. Poems and prayers were read out by staff and children. Representatives from each year group laid the wreath.

The Art Club created a troop of green monkeys for the bank at the front of the school. The green monkeys represent 'Resourcefulness' which is one of our four learning values. They symbolise creative learning and are also an inspiration for some story writing in Year 3 and 4. Look out for the red tortoise of Resilience which will be joining them soon...

### **Advent Window**

The children in Year 5/6 art club designed the window. We have chosen a very traditional nativity scene. Every child in the school created a star and we proudly unveiled the window on the 10th December after our Christmas play performances. Many villagers enjoyed taking part in the scene by dressing up as a character and posting their photos on Twitter.

Reception and KS1 brought in their favourite toys to begin their unit of work on toys. The children created masterpieces and had a picnic with their toy friends. They have completed some fabulous writing and art on the theme of toys.

## BRIGSTOCK LATHAMS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

It's a good time to look at what the PFA has done over the past few years; after all, many of you have supported us by attending the fete or enjoying a play. What has all this jollity done for the children?

If we start by looking back a few years, the unusable earth bank running down from the playground to the stream was turned into an outdoor theatre - not used as much this term, but when it's warmer the first three school years now have classes outside. The environment in that secluded area, surrounded by willows with the old mill sluice just downstream, is perfect for children to enjoy outdoor learning. Given that we live in a village surrounded by wonderful countryside, It's superb news that outdoor classes can now be a part of the school week. The Beer Festival had a big part to play in making this happen, and it's radically changed the amount of useable outdoors the school has available.

The school library was completed by the start of last academic year and has added both space and an increased focus for reading. Giving the children space and opportunity to read and select from a large choice of books is clearly a great way to stimulate the ability to learn. Watching children scanning the shelves and plucking their next book in a relaxed way is a pleasure. It's a lovely space and is quite unique for a smaller village school.

The latest infrastructure project - that makes it sound like Crossrail, but to the school it's considerably more important - is the sound system in the school hall. Robert Leacroft - Brigstock's Mr Son et Lumiere - has taken this completely in hand and we are now in the superb situation of being able to hear the tiniest mites deliver their lines in assemblies, readings and school plays. It's wonderful.

So that's what we've been up to on top of the steady supply of bus journeys, theatre trips and ice cream which keeps life that little bit more invigorating.

**Thank you for your support - hope you enjoyed the Curry Night and the Village Fete will be on 16 July!**



# Brigstock

## Pre-school Playgroup

What a busy year its been at playgroup already!!

The children have been enjoying a wide range of activities including learning about our families, the weather and helping to paint our new mud kitchen! Its been a lot of fun and we are all looking forward to the next couple of months which will include themes such as World Book Week, Mothering Sunday and Easter.

As demands from work/life are ever increasing we have recognised a potential need for longer sessions. The trial began on our return from the Christmas break and will run up to Easter when we will review how many children are utilising the sessions and the financial implications of offering this on a permanent basis. The longer days are currently running on a Monday and Thursday (8.45am – 2.45pm) and so far seem to be popular with both parents and children. This really is something we want to continue with going forward and encourage as many people as possible to take advantage of the increased hours to allow us to do so. We are looking forward to receiving any feedback from Parents already using the service and if anyone would like any further information please contact Sarah (Playgroup manager) as detailed below.

As we are a charity run Playgroup we are always trying to hold fundraising events to raise additional money for use within our setting. Thank you to everyone who has previously supported our events and hope that you will continue to do so. We are going to start holding regular fundraising meetings again and are looking for any willing volunteers to join us. The meetings are informal and the next one will be held in the Green Dragon Pub on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 8.00pm. Please come and join us or if you would like any more details either contact a member of staff or Emma on 07939581963.

Our next event it scheduled for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March with a family Easter egg hunt. Please look out for more details which will follow soon.

If you would like any information on the playgroup visit our website [www.brigstockplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.brigstockplaygroup.co.uk) or contact us on 01536373197 07708977714 or by email – [contact@brigstockplaygroup.co.uk](mailto:contact@brigstockplaygroup.co.uk)

## GLADMAN DEVELOPMENT, OFF BENEFIELD ROAD

A developer, Gladman, submitted a planning application for 110 houses on fields between Benefield Road, Woodyard Close and Old Dry Lane. This application was rejected by East Northants Council in March, but Gladman have now submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against this decision.

There will be a Public Enquiry set for the 18th July where the application and evidence will be considered. The Planning Inspector will make his recommendation to the Secretary of State for a final decision. The Enquiry is open to all to listen to and some residents will be able to make representation as well. Keep an eye on the Planning website and there will be an update in the next newsletter.

## THE JOYS OF CLOG DANCING

Clog dancing is traditionally from the north west of Britain, most notably associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century Lancashire cotton mills. Initially it tended to be men who would dance and, later, as its popularity grew to its peak between 1880 and 1904, they would compete professionally in music halls. However, women also participated and later their dancing, too, became popular in music halls. They would also dress up colourfully and dance in local villages, carrying sticks to represent the bobbins in the cotton mills.

But what has all this to do with Brigstock you might ask? Well, Cobbled Together is a small friendly group of clog dancers who rehearse during the winter months on a Tuesday evening in Cranford village hall, to learn new dances and develop the ones they know. Then, from around April to August, they dance outdoors at venues such as local pubs, village fetes, East Carlton Park, at the Cross in Geddington and, annually, on the front in Hunstanton. Sometimes they also join up with other groups such as the Braybrooke Morris Dances for these events.

Clog dancing is a lot of fun, gives you some exercise and leads to making new friends. Cobbled Together always welcome new members, so if you would like to give it a try, please give Judith Beeby a call for further details on 01536 373367. You don't need to have any clogs to have a go!



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY—LOCAL HISTORY

### The great Isaac Newton probably visited Brigstock. What could have brought him to our village?

Isaac Newton was born at Woolsthorpe in Lincolnshire on Christmas day 1642. His father had died a few months earlier and his mother brought him up with his grandparents until she married the Rev Barnabus Smith in 1646. Unfortunately the Rev didn't want Isaac so he was left with his grandparents until he was 10 when his stepfather died and his mother returned to Woolsthorpe with Benjamin, Mary and Hannah his three half-siblings.

Hannah Smith grew up and married Robert Barton, gentleman of Brigstock. She was his second wife and Robert already had seven children. The family probably lived in the rectory. Hannah bore him a further 3 children – Robert, Catherine and Margaret. In 1693 she called upon Newton for help when she was “overwhelmed with sorrow” after Robert died. It is very likely that Isaac visited her in Brigstock upset by her grief. Hannah was apparently Isaac's favourite half-sibling. He always took an interest in family matters and was reputed to have been very generous.

Catherine Barton, Hannah's daughter, later became Newton's housekeeper after he moved to London. She was reportedly a great beauty as well as a woman of charm and wit who became friends with Jonathan Swift and Charles Montagu, Lord Halifax.

She eventually married John Conduitt, Newton's successor as Master of the Mint.

So next time you walk past the church you may be following in the footsteps of one of our greatest scholars and scientists.



Catherine Barton

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Programme March – May 2016

23/03/16	<b>The Last Naval Hero: Our Local Man</b> <i>Roy Smart</i>	<i>The extraordinary story of the rise of David, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Beatty from humble cadet to First Sea Lord and public hero of the Great War. The speaker will also describe his personal life style of great riches, marital strife and scandal.</i>
27/04/16	<b>The Past in Pictures</b> <i>Neil Busby and Eric Franklin</i>	<i>This illustrated talk by Neil Busby and Eric Franklin from Thrapston Historical Society will demonstrate how Thrapston and the surrounding villages have changed over the years.</i>
25/05/16	<b>Sweet Memories, but don't talk to me about Wagon Wheels</b> <i>Kevin Varty</i>	<i>Kevin returns to Brigstock to give our members another entertaining and amusing talk, this time on the history of sweets, with the bonus that the audience can eat the props at the end of the talk.</i>

We meet at 7.30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month from September to June. Please come and join us.

Later on this year we are hoping to organise some archeological digs in the village starting with the village green on Hall Hill, site of the old school.

# BRIGSTOCK

# PARISH COUNCIL

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL		
Mrs Sally Wilks	Chair	01536 373428
Mr William Millen	Vice Chair and planning	01536 373028
Mr Nigel Searle	Clerk	01536 373672
Mrs Dorothy Solesbury	Councillor	01536 373574
Mr Charlie Koris	Councillor	01536 373558
Mrs Margaret Smith	Councillor	01536 373209
Mrs Elizabeth Searle	Councillor	01536 373672
Mr Stuart Malcolm	Councillor	01536 373384
Mr Colin Johnson	Councillor	01536 370003
Mrs Jill Schofield	Councillor	01536 373907
Mr Ken Motion	Councillor	01536 373598

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas celebrations. We had a good crowd for the turning on of the Christmas tree lights and carols. Having Father Christmas arrive in the pony and trap made it a very special occasion once again - thank you Tom and Carl. Well done Jane Jones and everyone who organized the Advent Calendar windows. There were so many positive comments from people walking round the village and looking at the different displays.

A comprehensive survey of the street lighting in the village with the aim of converting all lights to LEDs is now underway. We have to get at least two quotes before we can go ahead. Once again your comments are welcome about the style of lighting you would like to see, particularly in the Conservation Area.

Results are now in from the Housing Survey conducted before Christmas showing what additional housing supply the village needs, and these are as follows:

- 1 x 3 bed house for open market/private sale
- 2 x 2 bed bungalows for open market/ private sale
- 5 x 2 bed houses for shared ownership
- 1 x 2 bed bungalow for rent 1 X 2 bed house for rent.

These results will feed into our neighbourhood plan and we will be having discussions with the Northamptonshire Rural Housing Associations representative.

Many residents are concerned about parking in the village particularly along Lyveden Road near the Country Park and Grafton Road. The Parish Council is liaising with the local police and they will be actively looking at the possibility of prosecuting those people who are parking irresponsibly and blocking the pavement. The police have suggested a public meeting to discuss the issues so keep an eye out for dates on the website or the village noticeboard. See elsewhere in the newsletter for a copy of the Police letter which has been sent out to some residents.

Similarly we have had the usual complaints about dog mess. We shall now be looking to prosecute those few repeat offenders. In the first place you will be issued with a warning but you could be fined up to £1000 for allowing your dog to foul the pavements. Please use the dogbins provided or the public litterbins and not residents' waste bins.

If you are in the countryside "stick and flick".

**Please don't throw dog poo bags in the hedgerows!**

**Please note that the footbridge from the village hall carpark to the Meadow will be closed in March to allow the grass to recover. This is not a designated right of way.**

**Don't forget to fill in the Neighbourhood Plan Survey.**

If you would like to add items to the village calendar please contact the parish clerk, Nigel Searle, on **373672 brigstockcouncil@aol.com**.

**[www.brigstockcouncil.org.uk](http://www.brigstockcouncil.org.uk)**

# THE HOP

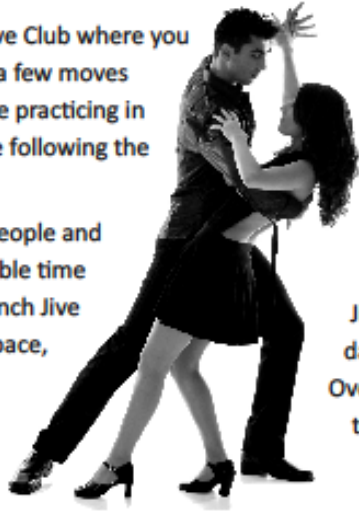
*Jive Club*

## JIVING AT THE HOP

Your local Jive Club where you can pick up a few moves and continue practicing in the freestyle following the lesson.

Meet nice people and have a sociable time learning French Jive at a steady pace, to a mix of medium tempo music (not fast). Very easy to learn and keeping you fit at the same time.

The lesson is given by Jan and Tony on Wednesday evenings at Brigstock Village Hall. You will need a dance partner as we do not ask you to change partners during the lesson, as feeling comfortable with one person is often preferred. Please bring along your own drinks.



Doors open 7.15pm until 9.00pm. Admission £5.00 per person. If you would like more information please ring 01536 267031.

A little bit of the history of Jive, back in the 50's we were dancing Rock 'n' Roll (6 beat). Over in France they had slowed this down to (4 beat) dancing on the beat. Hence the term 'French Jive' uncomplicated and fun. Hope to see you soon



# CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

To celebrate The Queen's 90th Birthday, the Parish Council along with the WI and other village groups are holding a litter pick around the village on Saturday 23rd April starting at 10am until 4pm, starting at village hall car park to collect bags and pickers. Various parts of the village will be "picked" and cleared.

All people interested to meet at the Village Hall car park.

## KNIT AND NATTER

The knit and natter group meet each Wednesday in the PO. Following their Advent window display, they gave their mice a way in exchange for a donation to Air Ambulance. £90 was raised.

In March they have knitted bunnies, egg cosies and other Easter novelties. Donations this time will be for Macmillan Nurses. Do support us. Please contact Steph Beckett, Glenda Stephen or ask at the Post Office.

Donations of surplus wool gratefully received



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## Brigstock Living Advent Calendar 2015

December 2015 brought to the village, the third **Brigstock Living Advent Calendar**. Once again, this social and creative event was well supported.

Each evening at 6.45pm a crowd followed the map kindly produced by Tracey Sharp @Nothing but Lovely, assembling outside the designated property for the 'unveil' of the daily window.

This year the bar was raised even higher with the most wonderful collection of ideas, ranging from simple themes to the most complex and creative.

The opening night from the Knit and Natter ladies was a testament to their skill and got the event off to a great start. Although I can't list all the 24 contributors due to space limitations, there was something wonderful about each and every one and a lot of hard work in the preparation by those taking part. The final 'window' focussed on the Christmas crib in St Andrews at the Christingle service.

The photos were uploaded to the Facebook page nightly and if you missed any, take a look by liking the page and clicking on "Photos". We have almost 400 followers!

[https://www.facebook.com/BrigstockAdvent/photos\\_stream](https://www.facebook.com/BrigstockAdvent/photos_stream)

The hospitality of those involved was amazing with nightly offerings of mulled wine, mince pies, hot chocolate, sweets and biscuits, at warm and lovely, highly social gatherings.

Although not aimed at fundraising, a very 'gentle' collection raised £300 for the Brigstock Sunnysiders annual outing, so thank you to everyone who contributed.

Thank you to Ellie Webster for helping with the nightly write ups and for everyone for their support and involvement.

We hope to see you next year..... some groups are already planning their themes.....

Jane Jones

**AND— Thank you, Jane Jones, for all the effort you have put into this event as well**

## Brigstock United Reformed Church

After the recent warmer weather and all the early Spring flowers it seems strange to be talking about Christmas, but last Christmas we enjoyed seeing a lot of people at our Christmas coffee morning which raised £550 for our funds. Our Carol service was lovely — candlelit and with contributions from the children who read, acted and sang. Every year we give the offering from this service to a local charity, and we are pleased that we were able to send £200.62 to Cransley Hospice.

Another year, and a lot to look forward to. We have plans for village children in the summer holiday—more information will be available in the next newsletter. Meanwhile we are preparing for our Easter Coffee morning, when you are all welcome to join us for hot drinks and hot-cross buns, try to win a prize on the tombola and raffle, buy a cake or just sit, relax and have a good chat. This will be on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 10-midday.

On Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> the Raunds Ukulele band will be entertaining us in the Village Hall at 7.30, so keep the date free. Other entertainment is also being planned for the evening so look out for the posters nearer the time with more details.

By the time you read this, we will be halfway through a Lent course entitled "Praise Him", together with friends from our sister church in London Road, Kettering and from St Andrews church here. We have enjoyed the occasions when the two churches have combined for various activities during the past few years, and we hope it may continue in the future as St Andrews look to appoint a new rector.

If you are looking for a large room to hold meetings or a family party, why not consider the June Small room behind the URC in Mill Lane? It is central, warm, comfy and only costs £5 an hour to hire, complete with fitted kitchen and facilities for the disabled. Phone Sheila on 373225 for more details.

Finally — save the date! - we are holding another Barn Dance on September 3<sup>rd</sup> after last year's was so successful. We look forward to seeing you there.

# BRIGSTOCK CRICKET CLUB 2016

The Cricket Club plays an important part in Village life and this year will be no exception.

Our first team gained promotion into Division One of the County League and will now be taking on first teams from the likes of Overstone, Weekley and Warkton, Geddington and Burton Latimer. The second team narrowly missed out on promotion so will again be in Division 9. With these regular Saturday fixtures and shorter limited overs and youth games throughout the week there should be plenty of excitement, interest and a warm welcome at the Meadow so do come down and watch.

There were some excellent, well supported social events last year - the Youth Fun Day, the Hog Roast and Bucking Bronco party for example, as well as small private parties. Check the calendar page in this Newsletter for important dates to set aside this year.

Friday nights will again be Youth Coaching for keen and enthusiastic youngsters and of course the bar will be open. (Youth registration evening Fri 8th April).

We always welcome and will find a game for new Players of any standard and would encourage anyone who wants to get involved in the life of our Club, be it as Player, Coach, Committee Member or Volunteer, to get in contact with a Club Member.

Pete Burdett. 383478

## Dates For Your Calendar

Sat 26 March. Cricket Force Day. Prepare Cricket Club for new season  
Fri 8 April. Youth Cricket Registration Evening at Pavilion  
Sat 9 April. Cricket Club Golf Day at Oundle Golf Club.  
Contact Peter Hedges 07702 425363 if you are keen,  
Fri 27 May. Cricket Club Caribbean party.  
Sun 12 June. Cricket Youth Fun Day  
Sun 19 June. Calnan Cup - invitation Challenge Match  
Sat 9 July. Hog Roast and Bronco party

# BRIGSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE YET??

The Neighbourhood Plan process has reached a crucial point with the questionnaire being sent out to all the residents of the parish. Hopefully you have either completed the paper copy or did it on line. The results of this survey will be used to guide the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan

If you have not completed one yet, you have a few days left to submit one. Either go to the Parish Council website and follow the link, or use the paper copy that you were sent. If you don't have a copy, you can get one from the Post Office or contact any of the NP committee.

Once we have analysed the results, we will start to draft planning policies that give the village the control and protection that it needs over future developments. The next step will be to complete the Plan and then gain the approval of the Parish with a formal referendum. Hopefully this will be completed by next Christmas.

So, do complete a questionnaire, if you have not done this yet.

Chris Allen, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

# DANCES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Dances are held regularly at the Village Hall. Below are the dates for the next 3 months.

Tea dances from 2 — 4.30pm:£4.00 on the door

Sunday 20th March

Sunday 17th April

Sunday 15th May

Ballroom and sequence dance 8-11pm £5.00 on the door.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 29th April

Friday 27th May

All are welcome. We can be contacted via email ([guido@derosa.me.uk](mailto:guido@derosa.me.uk)) or on 07711171007. Joan DeRosa

## BRIGSTOCK POST OFFICE

34-36 High Street, Brigstock, NN143HA  
01536 373 924

### The Best place in the village for:

- A full range of Post Office services - open every morning
- Daily papers and magazines in stock and delivered daily from 6-30am
- Fresh Breads, Vegetables and Meats
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**Come and visit us to see what we have to offer you**

## P Vincent Plumbing and Heating

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All types of plumbing and gas work undertaken

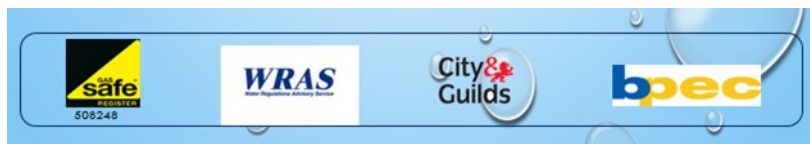
Inc. boiler services and landlord certificates

Brigstock based; no call-out charges for locals

All work insured, guaranteed and delivered with care

Gas Safe registered, WRAS, C&G and BPEC qualifications

Recommendations available



## Road Harm Article

In the summer of 2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner, Adam Simmonds, visited 100 different villages and parishes across Northamptonshire and the number one concern raised throughout conversations with residents was road related problems.

To help tackle this issue, Adam has recently announced the launch of a brand new service for victims; **Voice: Road Harm**.

The new service offers support for victims of serious road traffic collisions, an area which the Victims Code until recently did not support. **Voice: Road Harm** will give support to both victims and their families who have suffered distressing road-related trauma, such as face-to-face therapy, and a telephone helpline offering emotional and practical support.

Talking about the new service, Adam said: "Putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system has been one of my main aims since being voted in to office and I'm delighted that we can offer further specialist support to victims with the launch of Voice: Road Harm. With the creation of the Voice: Road Harm service we have significantly improved the support we are able to offer victims, witnesses and those affected by crime, and Voice: Road Harm is another strand to this that will see people receive a better standard of care when they need it. Too often road victims have been ignored and this service aims to address this imbalance"

The key objectives of Voice; Road Harm is to ensure that all victims and witnesses of serious road traffic collisions receive a service that is tailored to their needs and preferences; that they receive appropriate information, advice and support to enable them to cope, recover and thrive; are treated in a respectful, sensitive, professional and non-discriminatory manner; and are supported, where appropriate, through their participation in criminal proceedings.

Further information regarding this service can be found on the Voice website: [www.voicenorthants.org](http://www.voicenorthants.org)

**From the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire**



## GARDEN MACHINERY SPECIALISTS

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NEW AND USED MACHINES IN STOCK FROM :-

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ROVER : AGRI FAB: SCH

YAMAHA QUAD BIKES AND ACCESSORIES

## COLLINGS BROTHERS

### BRIGSTOCK

SUDBOROUGH ROAD BRIGSTOCK,

Tel 01536 373238

Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm Fri 8am-4pm

## Fermyn Woods Country Park March to April Events 2016

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 10am-11.30am. Nature Tots.**

Join a Parent and Toddler group with a difference! Come exploring with us on a nature walk and get creative! Suitable for children from 18 months up to school age. Pre-booking is required for all sessions. £3.50 per child which includes all activities and refreshments. Please phone Ranger Jo on 07703 160878.

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 10am-4pm - Easter Egg Quiz.**

Join our annual Easter Egg Hunt, can you spot all the wooden Easter eggs hidden around the park? Each egg has a picture of a Country Park critter to test your wildlife knowledge. Pick up your quiz Sheet from the Skylark Cafe. £2 per person including a fluffy Easter Prize.

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 12noon- 3.30pm - Easter Monday Funday.**

Easter fun at Fermyn Woods Country Park, Easter Egg Quiz, and the ever popular Chicken Chuckin' (with rubber chickens!). From 50p to £2 entry including prize.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10am-11.30am Nature Tots.**

Join a Parent and Toddler group with a difference! Come exploring with us on a nature walk and get creative! Suitable for children from 18 months up to school age. Pre-booking is required for all sessions. £3.50 per child which includes all activities and refreshments. Please phone Ranger Jo on 07703 160878.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 6.30pm-8.30pm @ Brigstock Village Hall - Owls to Behold.** Come along to Brigstock Village hall to learn about Owls and their habits and habitats. Tony of Owls to Behold will be accompanied by his rescue birds, and with their help educate people about these wonderful birds of prey. This event is brought to you and funded by Friends of Fermyn Woods Country Park. Ticket only event £2.50 adults, £1.50 children. Refreshment will be on sale. Tickets on sale from Fermyn Woods Country Park or Brigstock Post Office.

For more details ring 01536 373625 [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/parks](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/parks)

## BRIGSTOCK COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Choir is now meeting regularly at the URC on the second Monday of the month. We are learning some new songs as well as singing popular ones. If you would like to come along and join us, just turn up at 8-15pm. If you can't read music, that's no problem either.

Check out the Brigstock Choir Facebook page for updates or contact Julia Staniforth.

## WOODLAND SCENES

Spring has Sprung!! In some instances, it has come far too early and has really confused the plants and animals. Daffodils were very confused—some flowered before Christmas, with others flowering at their normal time in February. Some Snowdrops also started early, with the main crop coming in February. So far the Bluebells are sticking to their proper timetable. Time will tell what the impact on other plants and animals will be.

After the very wet winter, February has been quite dry with only 21mm of rain. January had 80mm. We were lucky to miss the big storms that Scotland and the Lake District got. To get 450mm of rain in 2 days would be horrendous, and we would also see floods where we just don't expect it.

Lately, the Fallow Deer seem to be forming larger herds, with groups of 30—40 gathering on the fields, or sheltering against the hedges. They will soon be dropping their young and keeping well hidden.

Keep a look out for the Red Kite nests as they are starting to rebuild them ready for egg laying in the next few weeks.

Do keep feeding your garden birds— this is a very hungry period for them without insects or seeds. We have a great range around the village and they need helping most of the year.

## DO YOU WANT AN ALLOTMENT???

The **BRIGSTOCK CONSOLIDATED CHARITY** manages the allotments on Benefield Road, the income from which goes towards supporting the charity's purpose. If you are interested in having an allotment please contact the charity's secretary, Sally Wilks, 373428 or Chris Allen the Association Chairman on 01536 373059

## BRIGSTOCK TREE SERVICES

- All aspects of tree surgery
- Hedge Trimming
- Forestry Works
- Seasoned Firewood
- Fencing
- NPTC Qualified
- Fully Insured for peace of mind
- Free Quotations

Contact Steve on 07901503501 or 01536370081

Steven.rainbow@yahoo.co.uk



## MOBILE FOOT HEALTH CARE



Corns - Callus - Cracked Heels  
Fungal Nail Infection  
Nail clipping service (Fingers and toes)  
MediPed - Involved Nails

Advice concerning In-growing toe nails and Verrucae

Professional treatment in the comfort of your own home

**Joanne Palmer**

Registered Foot Health Practitioner  
S.A.C. Dip FHPT S.A.C. Dip FHPP

**Tel: 07599 297 095**







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**Are you aged 50 and over ?**

**We can give free help and advice on:**

- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Support groups**
- **Money and financial worries**
- **Reducing energy costs**
- **Social activities in your area**
- **Transport**
- **And much more.**



**COME AND TALK TO US. SHARE ANY CONCERNS.**

**OUR MOBILE UNIT IS VISITING BRIGSTOCK !**

**Thursday 17th March, 21st April & 2nd June**

**10.30am—12.30 pm - next to Co-Op**

**For more information call: 07808 330549 or 01604 825883**

**Email: [linda.hook@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:linda.hook@northantsacre.org.uk)**

**Visit: [www.northantsacre.org.uk/ruralwellbeing](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk/ruralwellbeing)**

**Charity No : 1080038 Company No: 3937576**

## Winter Months at Fermyn Woods Country Park

During the winter we have been undertaking making glades in the thicket. The aim is to encourage regeneration of Black Thorn to improve the habitat of the Black Hairstreak butterfly.

The Black Hairstreak, *Satyrrium pruni*, is one of the UK's most elusive butterflies found exclusively in blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* thickets in a small part of the East Midlands (Asher et al., 2001). The adults reside in the canopy of trees and dense scrub, feeding on honeydew secreted by aphids and rarely descending. They are at their peak of activity between 12.00 and 14.00 on warm sunny days during their short flight period from mid-June to mid-July (Asher et al., 2001). The work has been undertaken by the rangers in conjunction with Beds and Northants Butterfly Conservation. (Photograph by Doug Goddard)



<http://www.bedsnorthants-butterflies.org.uk/>

## Friends of Fermyn Woods Country Park

The friends are a small group dedicated to supporting our local Country Park - which is one of the most diverse in the area.

They raise money at various events throughout the year which goes to help with maintenance and improvements within the park.

If visitors to the park have any ideas how the park could be improved please speak to a ranger or put your thoughts on paper and hand to a member of staff in the Skylark Cafe.

I promise that all suggestions will be considered by the friends.

Alan Foster - Chair

Below is a copy of the letter sent to some Brigstock residents concerning parking. This may affect other areas, so we are circulating this wider.

## POLICE WARNING

### PARKING ISSUES - BRIGSTOCK

It has been brought to my attention over the past couple of months that residents are parking in a way that causes obstruction to other road users and pedestrians.

May I remind you that pavements are for the use of pedestrians, wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs, and pavement users having to step out into the traffic to go around a parked vehicle is not acceptable.

Where a vehicle is blocking the pavement preventing the pavement from being used is classed as an obstruction which is a ticketable offence.

#### Some other points to remember

Do not park within 10 meters of a junction – This is one cars length

Do not obstruct a dropped kerb or someone's driveway

Do not park within the confines of a pedestrian crossing

Do not park on double yellow lines

Do not cause unnecessary obstruction

Please remember when parking that an emergency vehicle may need to pass through.

The above still applies at school drop off and pick up times.

More yellow lines have been suggested but I feel this will just move the issue around the village. I suggest that people contact the local council and highways to come up with a solution as to where people CAN park, as I understand it is difficult from some of you. Brigstock is a growing village so this issue will only get worse! I would like to help find a solution before I have to start issuing tickets.

If you have any questions/idea's or wish to inform me of any re-offending vehicles then please speak to me when I'm on patrol in the village or email me [Alison.Wallace@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Alison.Wallace@northants.pnn.police.uk)

Also call 101 for any vehicle obstructions as I may not be in and they can deploy another officer to deal with it.

PCSO 7074, Ali Wallace

## REIKI

*The ancient art of Reiki will help to restore the natural balance of your mind, body and soul. Introductory and full treatments available by fully qualified and insured Reiki Practitioner.*

*For further details or to book contact Sue Bailey at Contemplation*

*Tel 01536 373789 Mob 07787 932451*

*Mail:contemplation25@gmail.com*

## RECYCLE YOUR PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Thank you to all those people who have given me their used printer cartridges and old mobile phones. I have raised over £100 for the Cure Parkinson's Trust. If you would like me to collect please phone 373428 or leave items on my doorstep at 7 Park Walk.

Sally Wilks

## CABINVIEW LAMB

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It can be butchered to your requirements.

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