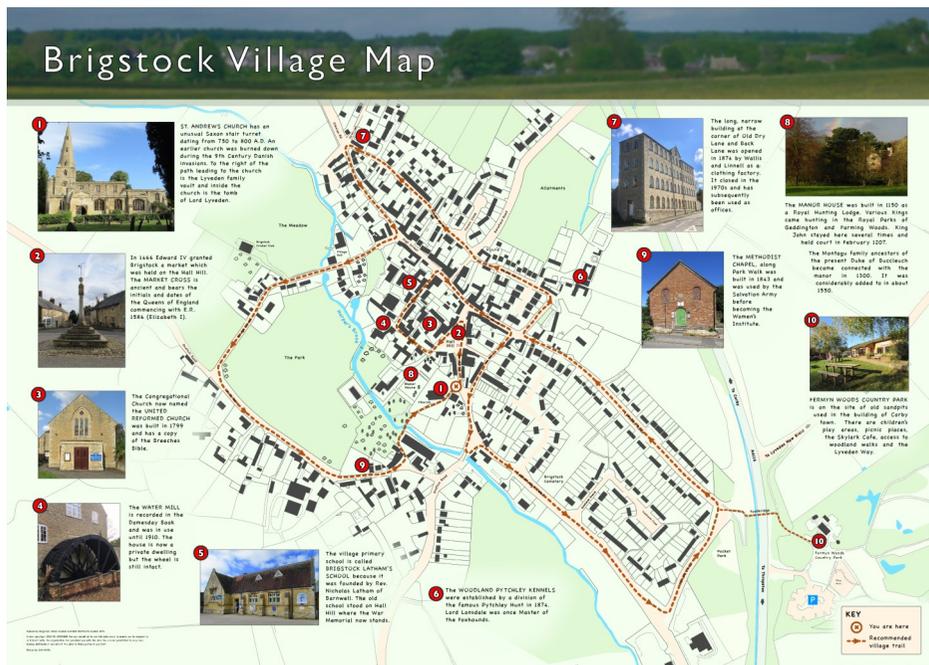


# BRIGSTOCK NEWS

EDITION 20 – AUTUMN 2019



## 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

2019 WINTER - Published 23rd November - Copy by 10th November

2020 SPRING Published 29th February 2020

2020 SUMMER Published 1st June 2020

#### CONTACT DETAILS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	<a href="mailto:rosybbriggs@btinternet.com">rosybbriggs@btinternet.com</a>	373579
BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL SECRETARY		01536 373059
BRIGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL (CLERK)		01536 373672
BRIGSTOCK CRICKET CLUB		01536 373478
BRIGSTOCK PFA		01536 373353
BRIGSTOCK PLAYGROUP ENQUIRIES		07708 977714
BRIGSTOCK PLAYGROUP FUNDRAISING EVENTS		01536 373197
BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY		01536 373428
BRIGSTOCK WI		01536 373672 (373987)
BRIGSTOCK FILM NIGHTS		01536 373028
BRIGSTOCK URC		01536 373225
BRIGSTOCK ST ANDREWS		01536 373410
BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL		01536 373059
BRIGSTOCK SUNNYSIDERS		01536 373383
BRIGSTOCK KURLING		01536 373367.
HARPERS COURT BINGO. Eileen Coles.		01536 373168

#### Front Cover Photo

The new village interpretation board which will replace the old one on Church Walk.

PRODUCED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 2 Mens Group, 3 Cocks PH, 10-30am
- 4 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 7 WI Alternative Horticultural Show, WI Hall
- 9 Bell Ringing open evening, St Andrews Church 7pm
- 10 WI, "Birdwatching", WI Hall, 7-30pm
- 12 BINGO, Harpers Court, 7-30pm
- 14 Historic Churches Ride
- 16 Mens Group, 3 Cocks PH, 10-30am
- 16 Ladies Leisure Group, Movement to Music, JS Room, 1-30
- 18 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 20 Brigstock Beer Festival - Comedy Night - Village Hall 7pm
- 21 Brigstock Beer Festival - Fun Day and Rock and Roll Evening, 2pm
- 25 Historical Soc, "David Livingstone and Twywell V H, 7-30pm
- 30 Mens Group, 3 Cocks PH, 10-30am

### October

- 2 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 6 URC Harvest festival
- 8 WI, "AGM", WI Hall, 7-30pm
- 14 Mens Group, 3 Cocks PH, 10-30am
- 16 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 17 BINGO, Harpers Court, 7-30pm
- 18 Film Night, "Stan and Ollie" 7.45pm Village Hall
- 21 Ladies Leisure Group, Halloween Antics, JS Room, 1-30pm
- 23 Historical Soc, "Stately Homes of Northants", V H, 7-30pm
- 28 Mens Group, 3 Cocks PH, 10-30am

### November

- 6 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 8 St Andrews Amps Wine Tasting, Village Hall 7pm
- 8 WI, "Jen's Hedgehog Rescue", WI Hall, 7-30pm
- 11 Mens Group, 3 Cocks PH, 10-30am
- 14 BINGO, Harpers Court, 7-30pm
- 15 Film Night "Green Book" Village Hall, 7.45pm
- 16 TUDOR BANQUET, Village Hall and WI, with live music
- 18 Ladies Leisure Group, Trip to Lyveden New Bild
- 20 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 22 URC Beetle Drive, June Small Room
- 25 Mens Group, 3 Cocks PH, 10-30am
- 27 Historical Soc, "Princess and the Gunpowder Plot", V H, 7-30pm
- 30 Playgroup, Wreath Making Evening, Village hall 7pm

## BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

Brigstock News is produced on behalf of the Village Hall committee to further the aims of the Hall and to provide a service for the community.

### GRANT FUNDED WORKS TO THE VILLAGE HALL

Work has started on the construction of the extension to the hall. The base is in and the brickwork has commenced. This should be ready in mid-September to take all the chairs and tables making the whole hall so much more usable.

We are also getting new chairs for the hall with comfortable padded seats to make the film nights and other events so much more comfortable. There will be new catering equipment for the kitchen for the autumn, all funded from a grant.

We will soon have new curtains in the hall to replace the faded ones which have been there for several years. We are also having new carpets fitted throughout the upper floor of the hall, again to replace the worn out existing one.

We will soon getting the new projector system for the future film nights to give us better viewing experience. This will be supplemented by a new PA sound system which will be available for users in the village for their outdoor events.

We would like to thank:

East Northants Council

FCC Community Fund

Maude Elkington Trust

Awards for All

Brigstock Consolidated Charity

Rank Foundation.

All these charities have supported us with grants towards the above projects. All together they have awarded us around £55,000 for these works. Our thanks goes out to them for their generosity towards our cause.

If you would like to help with the Village Hall or be on the committee, please contact the Chair, Sally Wilks

# BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall has a range of classes and events on every week and special ones at some weekends.

The classes over the next few weeks are:

- Playgroup meets every weekday morning
- Clubbercise every Monday evening
- Ballet every Tuesday in term time 5—8.30pm
- Kurling Wednesdays 2—4 pm (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)
- Pilates every Wednesday 5-6.30pm
- Historical Society 4th Wednesday most months, 7.30pm
- Dance Wednesdays! 7-9pm (not 4th one)
- Parish Council 3rd Wednesdays most months, 7-30p
- Thursday Morning—Stay and Play Soft Play Sessions
- Dance group, Thursdays 5-6pm
- Dances—4th Friday each month 7.30 to 11pm
- Tea Dances most 3rd Sundays 1.30—4.45p

These dates and times are subject to change and should be checked.

There are still free times available for you to book.

## TUDOR BANQUET

16th November

Joint Village Hall and WI event.

**FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT**

At the Village Hall

Tickets on sale soon, watch for posters

[www.brigstockvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.brigstockvillagehall.co.uk)

# BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL 2019



## SEPTEMBER 20TH AND 21ST SEPTEMBER

Lets hope everyone is having a great summer so far, the Beer Festival committee are putting the finishing touches to this years event so we will all have the 20th and 21<sup>st</sup> of September to look forward to!

As you may be aware, this years theme is the USA so Saturday will see visits from cheerleaders and Elvis amongst lots of other exciting attractions including pony rides and a bucking bronco challenge.

Beer and food has been selected to compliment the theme so hot dogs and burgers washed down with some lovely American style beers.

The Saturday night will be completed by a free entry event with the T 100's Rock n Roll band closing the festival in style. We want to see has many people there as possible!!

Following the success of last year we have again organised a mega raffle with prizes donated from some very generous donations, tickets are available from committee members and on Fri and Sat with the draw taking place on Sat afternoon.

Our main charity this year is the Northants Air Ambulance which is a vital service to us all in the rural community.

Please put the date in your diary and join us for as much of the weekend as you can

There are still some tickets available for the comedy evening so act fast to avoid disappointment.



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



## BINGO

Bingo resumes soon

Thursday September 12th

Thursday October 17th

Thursday November 14th

We meet at 7.30pm in the lounge at Harpers Court.

We look forward to inviting regular and new members in September.

## Collectors Corner

Do you collect any items for charity? Many thanks for the amazing amount of bras and jewellery that you have been sending. The collections continue.

- Bras (Smalls for All African Charity.)  
Please give to any WI member to take to meeting on second Tuesday.
- Stamps—16 Hall Hill, for Macmillan Nurses and Hearing Dogs
- Jewellery. It does not matter if damaged or broken.  
Steph, 13 Swan Avenue for Alzheimer Society.
- Used Batteries -  
Take to the CO-OP and their battery box.
- Textile recycling containers in the car parks of Co-op and Three Cocks PH  
Shoes and clothes are collected and should be in plastic bags.  
Three Cocks is for Planet Aid and Co- op is for Salvation Army.



## The Post Office is back!!

The Post Office will be coming to Brigstock every Friday from 2 until 4 in the old newsagents shop/art studio. Please support this if you want it to continue

## BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP £10 per year otherwise £3 per visit

Talks usually take place at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Please join us.

### ***Brigstock Historical Society Programme 2018-19***

<b>25/09/19</b>	<b><i>David Livingstone and the Twywell connections. Peter and Gloria Wright.</i></b>	One of the heroes of the Victorian era, this Scottish missionary and explorer exercised a formative influence on Western attitudes towards Africa. Find out about his local connections
<b>23/10/19</b>	<b><i>Stately Homes of Northamptonshire. Neil Lyon</i></b>	Northamptonshire is a county of many fine houses. This talk will give an insight to some of its finest
<b>27/11/19</b>	<b><i>The Princess and the Gunpowder Plotters. Malcolm Deacon</i></b>	Everyone knows the tale of the gunpowder plot but few are aware of the part the Princess played in the conspiracy
<b>18/12/19</b>	<b><i>Christmas Party with Magic</i></b>	The BHS party will be in the WI hall again this year and we have invited Steve Dimmer, a member of the Magic Circle, to keep us entertained.

We have not been able to arrange a summer evening outing this year but will look out for suitable venues in the next few months.

## Brigstock United Reformed Church

The weekend of Fathers' Day dawned bright and clear and the June Small room looked lovely-tables set with white cloths, "proper" china and flowers, ready for a new venture-Fathers' Day teas. Not everyone likes a lot of sweet food, so we introduced a savoury option. This was the brainchild of Sharon Eldred who is amazing at helping us organise fundraising events. There was lots of home baking, waitress service and a lovely atmosphere and our customers were very complimentary. It was hard work but very enjoyable and gave us nearly £400 for our funds. Perhaps we'll do it again next year!

We also joined in with the Playgroup's garage sale in July, selling some of our bric-a-brac and making £52. We have some essential repair work to do to our building; the brickwork in some areas is very crumbly and water is getting in, and re-pointing also needs to be done. All this is very expensive and we are hoping to get some grants to help us out, but we have to pay at least half of the cost ourselves, and so we have to keep fundraising. So, our next effort will be at the Beer Festival where we hope to have a good tombola and a game suited to the American theme, devised by Paula. On **September 28<sup>th</sup>** we have our annual **Barn Dance** in the Village Hall-tickets this year are £9 each, £5 for children, and include a ploughman's supper. More details on the poster, tickets on sale now. In November we have another Beetle Drive-and the date has been changed due to a clash of events. The date for the **Beetle Drive** is now **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**, so do put the date in your diary and look out for tickets on sale from early October. The last event this year will be our ever-popular **Christmas Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Aside from all this, we do remember that we are a church, and we have services every week, with a variety of preachers and the occasional service we take ourselves, often in the form of a Songs of Praise or Pizza and Praise. We are a very friendly fellowship and warmly welcome anyone who would like to come to any of our services-at 10.30 in our chapel in Mill Lane. Our Harvest service is on October 6<sup>th</sup> this year, and we usually donate the collection to a charity. We also have a weekly coffee morning on Wednesdays, the Open Door, which is very popular and, as the name suggests, is open to anyone who wants to pop in. Perhaps we'll see you there?!

Yours, Sheila Smith



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**Brigstock URC  
presents**



SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
**BARN DANCE**

★ ★ ★ 7.30-10.30 ★ ★ ★

**BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL  
BRIDGE STREET, NN14 3ET**

KICK UP YOUR HEELS WITH  
**KELLY'S EYE**

**£9.00 adults - £5.00 children**

**TICKET PRICE INCLUDES PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER  
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND GLASSES  
FOR TICKETS CONTACT JUDITH ON 01536 373367  
OR SHEILA ON 01536 373225**

## URC cont'd

### Wheelchair for loan

We have been given a wheelchair in excellent condition and it is available for short-term loans; maybe a family emergency or visiting relatives or friends who would benefit from it. Just contact us on 373225 for further information.

### Room for Hire

If you need a room for meetings-one-off or on a regular basis- or you want to arrange a small party, the June Small room might well be just what you are looking for. We have a fully-fitted kitchen, a small, enclosed garden area with seating, access and facilities for disabled people and there is easy parking on Hall Hill. Hire is £5 per hour. Contact Sheila on 373225 for details, or if you would like to look at the room with a view to booking it.

## **Brigstock bell ringers invite – Open Event**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September from 7pm**

### **Brigstock Church**

See how the historic bells of Brigstock work and for those brave enough, a climb up to the bells. See our oldest bells from 1647 including the one we all hear striking the hour.

There will be demonstrations of individual and team ringing and an opportunity to have a go with a trained teacher.

If you are interested, just turn up and come into the church. All are welcome. If you have any questions email [stephen8591@googlemail.com](mailto:stephen8591@googlemail.com) or call 373373.

Hope to see you there.



# **Brigstock Cricket Club 2019**

As we enter the final quarter of this season I am pleased to report that the first X1 are currently mid table in the Northamptonshire premier league which is more than satisfactory given the teams above them and we should not forget this is only their second season in the premier league. Hopefully with a couple more wins before the end of the season it will see them reaching the higher echelon of the league. I should also add that Tashwin is the leading wickets taker in the league by some distance which confirms the talent we all knew Tashwin has at this level. The second X1 are sitting proudly at the top of division 9 by some 60 points, having lost just one game to date so promotion beckons into division 8 next season and thanks must go to James Steward for his efforts both on and off the field in managing his team, he certainly finds the right blend of youth and experience. I will of course provide an overview of the season in the next newsletter and also some changes to our youth coaching next season. A brief update on our new nets, it is looking likely that construction will start in about 3 weeks' time and will take 2 weeks from start to finish. Once completed the existing nets will be removed, the area levelled and re-seeded. We are also planning on upgrading our kitchen facilities within the pavilion and this work will probably be carried out once the season has finished.

Given this is the last newsletter before the season closes the committee and players would like to thank the village for their continued support, it is appreciated I assure you. Hopefully I will see a few more of you over the coming weeks to thank you in person. Finally, a date for your diaries, after what seems an absolute eternity we are pleased to advise that the Brigstock Cricket Club Summer Ball is making a return next year, the proposed date is **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020**. Further details regarding the format, timings and cost will follow in the village newsletters but please save the date.

Best Wishes

Simon Andrews - BCC Chairman

## BRIGSTOCK BONFIRE NIGHT

Bring all the family to this years Bonfire Night on the Meadow

### Sunday 3rd November

**Gates Open 5-30pm, Bonfire 6-00pm**

**Fireworks 6-30pm**

Tickets £3 adults, £2 children (£4 and £2.50 on the gate).

**BBQ, Mulled Wine, Cricket Club Bar, Guy Competition**

Can you help on the night, build the Bonfire, selling tickets?

Contact Sally Wilks or Paula Addison Pettit

01536 373579

## Neighbourhood Watch

### New Police Office Base To Open In Corby

A new office base in the Corby Cube for Northamptonshire Police will mean local Response officers will be spending more time in and around the town from next month. From September 20, Response officers will use the facilities at the Corby Cube in George Street, in a move which will see the town's Neighbourhood Policing Team also relocate from Deene House.

Corby Cube already houses the Police Enquiry Desk on the first floor of the council building, which is open for the public to visit and get advice, report incidents and traffic collisions or enquire about property amongst other things. The new office base will bring the town's policing resources under one roof in a central location, which will help to increase both the responsiveness and visibility of officers in Corby and surrounding villages.

The move to the Corby Cube will be an interim one while work takes place to create a new joint police and fire hub on the site of the town's existing Corby Fire Station in Phoenix Parkway.

## SUNNYSIDERS CLUB

Sunnysiders Club is for men and women over 60. We meet in the lounge at Harpers Court in Park Walk, Brigstock on Tuesday afternoons at 2-4 p.m. Entertainment is pre-booked and we have tea or coffee and biscuits too. We also enjoy a meal out especially in the Spring and Summer months. During August we just meet for tea or coffee and biscuits and a chat. Our programme starts again in September.

For further information please telephone Maureen on 01536 373383

For more information please telephone Maureen on 01536 373383.

## Ladies Leisure Group

Hats, fascinators and posh outfits were very much in evidence at our "Ascot comes to Brigstock" meeting in June. Of course, we couldn't replicate everything, so the horses were toys and the races won or lost with the throw of a dice, but it was good fun and everyone enjoyed it. Followed by a delicious cream tea, it was a very good afternoon. Continuing with our aim to do something different every month, we went to the country park for lunch in July, and our thanks go to the cafe staff who were very busy serving us all. By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed a visit from the WI Drama Group who have promised to entertain us!

If you like the sound of what we do, please come and join us-no joining fee, no committee but always a varied programme plus tea and cake! We meet on the third Monday every month in the June Small room at the URC, Mill Lane from 1.30pm (unless otherwise stated), and our programme for the next few months is below.

September 16th Gentle movement to music with Janet Oldham

October 21st Hallowe'en antics, with traditional games.

November 18th A visit to Lyveden New Bield for lunch-to be confirmed.

December 16th Our Bring-and-share Christmas lunch.

More details from Sharon-373832, Sheila 373225 or Val 373456

## Meet the Brigstock Ancestors

This article is from a report in the “Kettering Leader and Guardian” published on 2nd March 1928.

### **Skeleton Discovered at Brigstock :**

Archaeologist suggests burial took place over three thousand years ago.

Whist a workman was employed at a sandpit on the land of Mr F. J. Steward of Brigstock, about midway between the village and Stanion on Friday, he discovered, in a cavity, a human skeleton. It was obviously of great age but was in a good state of preservation, the teeth being almost perfect. The skeleton was in a bent position as if curled up when placed in the ground.

No stones were found around the skeleton or ornaments that might lead to any assumption that it was a Roman burial place and there have been, as far as we can gather, no other finds in the immediate vicinity. The skeleton was about four feet from the surface and does not seem to have been encased in anything.

An old inhabitant declares that it used to be said that there was a gypsy encampment not far from the spot about a century ago. On Monday, when our representative mentioned to a Brigstock resident that a well-known antiquarian was going to Brigstock to make an investigation on the spot the reply was “Well, he had better be quick. There is not as much of the skeleton there as when it was first found. Several pieces have been taken away as gruesome souvenirs and if he does not come quickly he will find nothing there except the hollow of the sandpit in which the skeleton was found”.

When first discovered it was a perfect skeleton. Dr Stokes, who has been to see it, came to the conclusion that it was the body of a female. A search in the sand has not revealed any indication of a settlement there.

It now appears that the skeleton is of considerably greater antiquity than was previously supposed. Mr G. Whyman Abbott, the well-known archaeologist of Peterborough, had an opportunity to examine the relics before the vandals got at them and he states:

“The skeleton was found lying on one side, north and south, with the head to the north and in a contracted position, with the arms bent and the hands towards the head with the knees bent and raised.”

## Meet the Brigstock Ancestors—cont’d

This type of burial is always connected with the Early Bronze Age and he suggested that that the date of this particular burial was about 1300 B.C.

On the discovery of the skeleton it was at first thought to be desirable to acquaint the District Coroner to ascertain the cause of death, but, in view of the above circumstances, it was not found necessary.

Provided by Bill Simons on behalf of the Historical Society

## **BRIGSTOCK LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR**

By popular request, the village will be opening a Living Advent Calendar through December.

Each night through the month, at 6.45pm, an Advent display will be revealed at a property in the village. Typically these are window displays but they can be outdoor installations or a performance of a spoken or sung or instrumental piece.

We normally produce a location map of those taking part. Most ‘unveils’ involve a tittle and a nibble provided by the householder but this is not obligatory. Attendance is variable depending on the weather, location and how many family and friends turn out to support you!

A nightly bucket collection is also made for a local charity although the aim of the event is more about community and sociability than fund raising.

**Please would you email [brigstockadvent@hotmail.com](mailto:brigstockadvent@hotmail.com) or text 07771766433 if you would like to take part. Ideally I would like everyone on board by the end of October but the sooner the better!**

Take a look at the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BrigstockAdvent/> to see what we have been up to in previous years.

I would love a volunteer to help with write ups- good role for someone interested in Journalism or Media as it can go on your CV.

Thanks

Jane @28High Street

# St Andrews Church

Since our last jottings I am very pleased to say we have started Messy Church at Brigstock School. Volunteers turned up ready to provide fun activities, healthy snacks, a story, a song and prayers; the anticipation was palpable, as we had no idea if anyone would attend. To our relief we had a flood of children, parents and carers, the session was a great success for all. We have since held another three sessions at school and one in church. At the time of writing we have thirty-three children registered, not all attend every session but we have between 15 and twenty children a time. Whilst principally aimed at primary school age children we also welcome very young children with parent(s) or carers and provide suitable toys, books etc. Refreshments are also available for adults; all we ask is for a small donation towards the cost of materials and refreshments. We are always looking for helpers so if you are interested and will be willing to undergo a DBS check, please contact The Reverend Heather Lowe or the Benefice Administrator Allison Porter – contact details below. Hopefully our next session will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> September in school between 3.30 and 4.45 p.m. but look out for the posters.

Fund raising continues and what a contrast we had between the weather for the plant sale in June and Summer Fair in July. The heavens truly opened for the plant sale, the rain was relentless but undeterred and in good humour (if not a little damp) we all worked hard to make a success of the day. Whilst those who helped on the day are to be praised for their hard work and determination, we cannot thank our customers enough for turning out and spending their hard earned money. It was possible to give a donation of £993 towards church funds.

The summer fair had brilliant weather and whilst we had a change of venue this year thankfully it did not have a detrimental affect on the success of the day. The total raised was £1,900 split equally between the school and church. Thanks to everyone who was involved it was, as always, a successful collaboration and team effort, however, we must give special thanks to Sarah Owen of the PFA for co-ordinating everything with military precision – we couldn't have done it without you.

## Upcoming events –

8 November – Wine tasting hosted by Amps of Oundle 7.00 p.m. Village Hall, tickets £10 per person including refreshments. Look out for posters.

# St Andrews Church—cont'd

7 December – Christmas Fete in the church between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon. There will be stalls with crafts and gifts, cakes, tombola and more. Father Christmas may even drop by, taking a couple hours out of his busy schedule. You can also enjoy a hot drink with a mince pie.

2019 Christian Aid Week - A big thank you to each collector and all contributors to our village house-to-house envelope collection. The £1020 collected will be used to help the poorest, most vulnerable and excluded people of the world both in times of crisis and for a better future. Christian Aid works in 37 countries to promote people's dignity, equality and justice.

If you would like to get involved to assist with the organisation or as a collector in the 2020 event please contact Mike Simpson on 373694.

Other News – Work is ongoing for us to be able to install a toilet and servery in the church. This is a mammoth task that relies on us being able to raise the significant funds required. In the mean time we are extremely grateful to the new owner of the Rectory who has kindly allowed us, in the short term, to continue to use the toilet facilities in the old rectory room.

Keeping you informed - We publish a weekly News Letter giving details of services and what is going on in church, this can be accessed on our website: <https://www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk>

Services - We have a regular Holy Communion service on the **second and fourth Sunday of each month at 9.15 a.m.** On the second Sunday we also have Children's Church (Sunday School), which takes place during the service. There is a mid week Holy Communion service each **Thursday at 10.00 a.m.** All of our services are open to everyone young and old, please come along you might be surprised at how friendly we are and how nice it is to have a chat with people you may not have met before – our doors are always open whether you be a seasoned worshipper or a toe dipper. No experience necessary!

If we can help you in any way please do not hesitate to get in touch: [beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com](mailto:beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com) or

Rector - The Reverend Heather Lowe 01536 263550

Churchwarden – Carl Hector 01536 373410

Benefice Administrator – Allison Porter 07933 804432

## Timely thoughts from the Associate Minister and the Rector

We had a lovely tomato plant outside in the back garden. Full of fruit, not yet quite full or ripe but looking like a prize winner in the making! That was before a storm decided to attack it with torrential rain and gale force wind, snapping its support and lifting it clean out of the ground, would you believe?

A timely reminder that we are not in control of the weather. In fact, so many things are not subject to our plans and hopes. It's nearly a year now since we were reminded of this when an accident left Alan with spinal fractures and a brain injury. He is doing ok and able to do more than he could and has appreciated the prayers and practical support of some of you in Brigstock. Someone once said that '*Life is what happens whilst we are making our plans*'. How true is that!

At St Andrews we have plans and ideas for the future of the church in the village. We spent time last year throwing ideas around and discussing priorities and have begun to try and make some of them a reality. One of our most exciting hopes is to create a servery and toilet inside the church building, in keeping with the beautiful surroundings. This will enable us to do, or host, more things as well as be as hospitable as we are able to be. Plans may change, of course, but having some vision of the way ahead is a good thing.

Our hopes and desires include, of course, more than stone, mortar and plumbing. The Church is the people who make it what it is. It is their plans, prayers and hopes, past and present, which ensure it continues from generation to generation; keeping alive an aspect of the truth of our existence, which others sometimes omit. So Autumn approaches and as ever we have plans. Harvest, Remembrance, All Souls Day (saying thanks for those who have gone before) and Christmas all appear again on the annual horizon. Please join us for whatever you can as it's people who matter most to our plans and those of the God we serve.

*See, I have plans for you says the Lord, plans to prosper you ... \**

*\*a phrase from an Old Testament book written by Jeremiah (a man who suffered from depression!)*

All the best

Alan and Heather Lowe



## Brigstock Film Night 2019/20 Season

We have a great season of films, with something for everyone hopefully!

Kicking off the season with:

### **18th October 2019 - 'Stan and Ollie' (cert PG)**

This gentle, sweet story of two of cinema's most legendary comics is a small delight, a warm hug of a movie with superb, spot-on performances, some big laughs, and genuinely touching moments. Steve Coogan and John C Reilly star.

### **15th November 2019 - 'Green Book' (cert 12a)**

A working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South. A supremely likeable film. Its message might seem obvious and its template overcooked, but it boasts a warm heart, with two astoundingly good lead performances to guide it home.

### **17th January 2020 - 'Fisherman's Friends' (cert 12a)**

Inspired by a true story, ten fishermen from Cornwall achieve a Top 10 hit after they are signed to Universal Records by a cynical London music executive.

### **21st February 2020 - 'Red Joan' (cert 12a)**

Joan Stanley is a widow living out a quiet retirement in the suburbs when, shockingly, the British Secret Service places her under arrest. The charge: providing classified scientific information - including details on the building of the atomic bomb - to the Soviet government for decades. Starring Judy Dench.

All showings will start at 7.45pm and refreshments are available.

Tickets £5 on the door.

For any further information please contact Alison Millen on 01536 373028

## Best Village Entry

Last year saw a very successful clean up of staples from lamp posts and many villagers adopted a lamp post from which they removed old staples and posters. This was in response to the feedback from our entry in to the Best Village Competition.

Glenda Stephen and Steph Beckett approached the Parish Council with a view to having an additional notice board on the Co-op wall and at Brigstock church.

The Parish Council agreed to fund the board at the church as a new interpretation board is planned and a notice board will be included.



Glenda and Steph applied to the Co-op for a grant for the other notice board and their bid was successful. A new magnetic notice board has been installed outside the Co-op shop. Grateful thanks to Rockingham Joinery who constructed the notice board and to Pete Smith Carpentry for their prompt fitting.

There is also a magnetic board available to be inserted in to the notice board at the village hall but we are trying to find somebody who will cut it. A request on Village Face book page has hopefully found somebody. This will be much more convenient than the present position involving staples and drawing pins!

In future village organisations need only put posters on the 3 notice boards as their position means that most villagers pass at least one of them. This will hopefully reduce the amount of litter from posters being blown about and reduce the use of plastics as no laminating will be required.

Well done, Steph and Glenda.

## BRIGSTOCK SCHOOL PFA

A shed of their own...

The PFA starts the new year ready to entertain and delight, with an underlying message of 'we're doing it for the children'. First up we will be working alongside the Beer Festival delivering the US-flavoured barbecue. Don't worry, there will be vegetarian options as well as whole smoked buffalo and Toasted Trump Burgers - an unpredictable surprise in every one!

Later in the term we have the equally unpredictable ferret racing, complete with bar, tote and highly trained racing ferrets. This is a brilliantly funny evening out so keep an eye on Facebook and the village noticeboards for dates.

All this much fun must mean something, and this year we're working towards an outdoor teaching classroom. With the garden space recently expanded, there's a lovely plot available to site a chalet-style building (don't call it a shed) where the different year groups can break out from the main buildings and enjoy a different learning environment. It's a big project, jointly funded by the PFA and the school, and every time your ferret comes home you can fondly think of another larch plank added to the chalet (don't call it a shed).

Brigstock Latham's School Parents and Friends Association

### VILLAGE PROJECT MEETING

The group who entered the Best Village Competition asked villagers on the Brigstock Village Information site what further assets they would like to see in the village.



Some of the replies suggested wildflower planting at both ends of the village and possibly some flower planters. This sounds a great idea.

Following on from these suggestions a meeting has been organised to follow this up and to hear further suggestions. This will be at 7pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> in the upstairs room of the village hall. Do come along and share your ideas.

Steph Beckett/Glenda Stephen

# BRIGSTOCK

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL		
Mrs Sally Wilks	Chair	01536 373428
Mrs Margaret Smith	Vice Chair	01536 373209
Mr Nigel Searle	Clerk	01536 373672
Mrs Dorothy Solesbury	Councillor	01536 373574
Mr Willaim Millen	Councillor	01536 373028
Mrs Elizabeth Searle	Councillor	01536 373672
Mr Stuart Malcolm	Councillor	01536 373384
Mr Colin Johnson	Councillor	01536 370003
Ms Emma Bierne	Councillor	
Mrs Terry Towns	Councillor	01536 373861
Mr Ken Motion	Chair Planning	01536 373598
Ms Julie Lemmy	Councillor	

Some regular users of the Meadow have been asking why the willows along Harper's Brook have been so drastically trimmed this year. About 25 years ago willow trees were planted along the brook as part of the Nene Valley Project. This was instigated to continue the tradition of having pollarded willows along the river Nene and its tributaries. The trees were provided free of charge and planted by some of the children from the primary school with help from Ian Gemmell the ranger at the country park at the time. The Parish Council was successful in obtaining a grant from Tesco towards the cost of the pollarding and we have therefore fulfilled our commitment made all those years ago. You will see that the trees will soon recover and start producing the characteristic willow shoots. Some of you may be interested in using them for basket making as would have happened in the past. We are hoping to organise a willow weaving workshop when the time is right.

I am pleased to report that we have been awarded a grant of £2,605 towards the cost of a new solar powered speed sign to replace the one we have at the moment. We hope to be able to move this one to different locations around the village: Stanion Road, Sudborough Road and Grafton Road. This will be out soon so keep an eye out.

# PARISH COUNCIL

There have been many compliments about the wildflowers on the bank in the Meadow. We hope to extend the wildflower area this autumn so if you are handy with a fork please get in touch. The area will need regular managing so volunteers please!

The new village interpretation board is completed and ready for installation. It will be placed in the old location at the entrance to Church Walk. There will be a space for displaying posters. We hope you like it. Thanks to the Co-op for providing the new noticeboard outside the shop and thanks to Steph Beckett for applying for the grant. We hope people will use the noticeboards to display posters rather than telegraph poles.

Following concern about the removal of salt bins we are pleased to report that some will be reinstated although the PC will be responsible for filling them with the assistance of village residents.

The Council is looking into the possibility of installing some outdoor exercise equipment on the Meadow. If you have any experience of using such equipment please get in touch.

Thank you to all of you who report problems with our footpaths especially those of you who take a pair of secateurs on your walks and keep the paths clear. We have obtained a grant for a new kissing gate in the field next to the Meadow which we are hoping will encourage walkers to use the footpath along the bottom of the field next to Harper's Brook rather than the higher path. If you are a dog walker please "stick and flick" the poo or pick it up in a plastic bag and take it to a bin but don't chuck the bag in the hedges! Although we didn't manage to convince the judges of the Village of the Year competition **we** know what a great place Brigstock is. Thanks to all of you who helped with the application an showing the judges around. Never ones to give up we are already thinking about next year so any ideas and suggestions would be welcomed.

## Litter Picking

We entered the CPRE litter picking awards again this year but did not get anywhere in the awards (perhaps having been awarded money for the last three years they thought someone else should get some), but thank you to all who keep the village tidy and looking good. If people keep the area outside their houses weed free and tidy the whole village would be fantastic.

## Brigstock Lunch Club for over 55's

at The Olde Three Cocks

Every Thursday from 12.30pm to 2pm

Brigstock Lunch Club welcomes back a past member, Gill Darcy – welcome back Gill. We also welcome new members Marlene and Ann.

The club is hosted by proprietors, Paul and Margareta. We are well looked after each week by Jenny, Bridget and Emma.

The aim of the group is to bring people together socially. We meet every Thursday for a two-course meal (a set menu of 2 mains and 2 pudding choices) for just £8.

On the first Thursday of the month we hold a raffle and the third Thursday we hold a bingo session, both of which raise funds for the club.

The group is run by Jim Clark and Mary McDonald, in association with Age UK, Northamptonshire.

**If you are interested in joining our friendly group, please contact Jim on 373717 for further details.**

*Glenda Stephen (Secretary)*



### FLY TIPPING

If you see any fly tipping, you can inform the Parish Clerk who will report it and get it cleaned up. We need your help as he can't be every where at once. Contact the Parish Council.

### NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Thank you to all those people who deliver this newsletter. We do try and get it to everybody, but spare copies are in the CO-OP. If you know of anyone in the village that does not get a copy, please let us know.

If you have any articles or comments, contact the editor, Chris Allen



## GARDEN MACHINERY SPECIALISTS

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BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S  
SCHOOL

## Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School

We have had a busy and rewarding term at school, with so many things going on. We have achieved many wonderful things over the Summer, and we have been especially proud of the involvement of all children and their families in 'The Lost Words' unit of work, which aimed to inspire everyone to engage with Nature in practical and creative ways. We enjoyed Nature Walks, art activities, writing activities and approached each activity with great creativity...as always! Our work has been enjoyed by the whole village, with displays for everyone to enjoy- in the church and on the grassy bank at the front of our school. We thank everyone who supported this unit, which finished with an ambitious and very successful Art Gallery event, attended by the Diocese, the local Art Gallery, visiting head teachers- and so many of our own children and families. Words like 'inspirational', 'amazing' and 'outstanding' were used by all visitors and we felt so proud of all that our young children achieved. The 'Lost Words' book was written in response to words linked to nature being removed from the Oxford Children's Dictionary - and we feel that we have done so much to encourage their use. The author and illustrator of the book both tweeted us, expressing their admiration for all that we had achieved within school.

As well as working really hard in the classrooms, we have also been involved in so many extra-curricular activities. Our Year 5 and 6 children had a wonderful week on the Isle of Wight, enjoying a huge range of activities including exploration of the beaches, castles and stately homes. They all came home very tired...but very happy! Our younger children enjoyed our own country park – on a very hot day! They had lots of fun exploring our local environment and having a picnic in the sunshine.

We were delighted that the Church and School Fete took place on the school grounds, and the event was hugely successful. There was so much hard work behind the scenes but the response was overwhelmingly positive

## Brigstock Latham's Primary School—cont'd

and the event was enjoyed by the whole village community. Again, we want to thank everyone who helped and everyone who came and enjoyed the many activities on offer. The money raised will go towards our garden project.

We finished our term with a truly amazing school play, 'Rock Bottom', with our older children having the chance to show everyone how talented they are- West End, here they come! We also had the chance to say farewell to our Year 6 children with a memorable Leavers' Assembly and a presentation of awards in celebration of the many and varied achievements of our children.

We are now looking forward to a new term and we are very excited to start using our new outdoor learning space. There has been so much work going on over the holiday to develop our classrooms and the new garden space, and we are all excited to get started again in September. We are looking forward to continuing to be a part of many community events in the coming year, and we are already planning many creative ways to commemorate 400 years of education in Brigstock in 2020.

Sandy Ettridge

## BRIGSTOCK MEN'S CLUB

The above continues to progress well and meets on Mondays every two weeks at 10-30am in the restaurant or bar at the Olde Three Cocks Public House where members are well received . Tea, coffee and biscuits are served.

We intend to have some speakers coming in to talk to us on interesting subjects and to arrange some local trips out.

The next meetings will be on Monday 2nd September and then every 2 weeks at the 3 Cocks PH. New men are welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

Des Robinson 01536 373090

## BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk

As Autumn approaches there is still time to enter one of the many categories in our **2nd Alternative Horticultural Show on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019!** The programme (spares of which are still available in the Co-op) lists the various categories and includes an entry form on the back page. Please note however that all the garden sections have already been judged with all winners to be announced on the day, so good luck to any of you who entered!!

The show is open to all our WI members and residents of Brigstock, Stanion, Little Stanion, Sudborough and Lowick.

On the day of the show, judging will commence at 11.30am so any exhibits will need to be at the WI Hall by 11am. Tasty refreshments will be served throughout the day and our auction (which proved very popular last year) will commence at 3.30pm.

**All exhibits complete with entry forms must be delivered by 11am at the latest on the day. Please note that the WI Hall will be open from 9.30am.**

**For more information** on any of the categories, please contact 01536 373987 / 373478/ 370015

Good Luck!

## WI EVENINGS

We have been very fortunate to host a variety of speakers who have covered a vast array of specialist subjects and experiences from the “history of the telephone box” to working as part of the security team for the Royal Family. So keep an eye out for what we have coming up as we welcome visitors to join us on these evenings.

What a lovely evening was had by over 40 of our members at our annual Village Quiz walk recently. We visited the beautiful village of Medbourne on a balmy Summer evening. After an informative stroll around the village with our quiz sheets at hand, we joined together for a tasty pub meal at the end of the evening. Many thanks go to **Steph and Judy** for all their hard work in organising this special event.

Jill Pettigrew

## BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk

**WI Announcement** : Brigstock WI were successful in obtaining a grant and wish to thank **East Northamptonshire Council** through their **Community Facilities Fund** for enabling us to proceed with our project “Alleviating Hearing and Visual Impairment Exclusion”



The aim of the project is to help everyone in the community to feel they can participate in activities in the hall, regardless of their hearing or visual ability.

Many years ago, I attended a workshop for the deaf and partially hearing person, and was able to experience through simulated equipment (although I have sound hearing abilities) the amount of distorted noise a hearing aid can cause. With the aid of the “hearing loop system” a person, when changing to the T setting of their hearing aid, can hear clearly with no distortion of background noises.

Now that we have this new facility, we hope that those who might have felt excluded, will be able to participate in events we hold at the hall.

Glenda Stephen, on behalf of Brigstock WI

## Brigstock WI What's on

Tuesday 10th September 2019

Brigstock WI Meeting at 7.30 pm, WI Hall. Steve Starling - Birdwatching Competition: A picture of a bird or birds you have taken.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Brigstock, WI Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm, WI Hall.  
Followed by cheese and wine.

Tuesday 12th November 2019

Brigstock WI Meeting at 7.30pm, WI Hall. Jen Woodward-Jen's Hedgehog Rescue.

Competition: A hedgehog in any medium (wood, sewn, china, knitted etc.)

## **BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

Love local history? Fascinated by archaeology? Want to get involved? Brigstock Archaeological Group (BAG) would love to hear from you. A new group established in association with Brigstock Historical Society, BAG aims to delve deeper into our parish's hidden past.

Previous archaeological experience or historical expertise aren't necessary, just a passion for the subject. To start with, the group simply wants to hear from anyone who might enjoy participating in community archaeology projects as part of a team of village volunteers.

Not all archaeology is field work requiring physical fitness. Cleaning finds, arranging logistics or researching can often be done from the comfort of a chair. Any age, any skillset, any level of fitness, BAG is keen to draw together as substantial a pool of volunteers as possible.

Once levels of interest are clear, the group will meet to discuss ideas for initial activities, ranging from field walking for material clues about interesting undiscovered locations, to digital research of existing data. The Middle Nene Archaeological Group (MIDNAG) has already kindly offered to outline how Brigstock could undertake a Big Dig event opening test pits at locations around the village.

A spate of finds around the parish in recent years, from coins and broaches to ceramics, suggests a rich, largely lost history spanning the Iron Age through to the post-Medieval period. St Andrew's distinctive Anglo-Saxon tower is the most ready proof of that, but most evidence lies buried below the houses, gardens and fields in and around the village. Few are now familiar with Brigstock's Roman temple digs half a century ago; who knows what else lies hidden? BAG plans to find out.

To sign up, to access BAG's links and start your own research, or simply to keep abreast of what's happening as it happens, visit BAG's website at [www.BrigstockArchaeologicalGroup.co.uk](http://www.BrigstockArchaeologicalGroup.co.uk). Subscription is free. Leave your contact details, mail any suggestions you may have or give BAG some feedback.



## **BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP—cont'd**

Alternatively, find BAG on its Facebook page to cast light on the mystery of a very distinctive tombstone. Remember to like the page to help to spread the word: residents, past residents, friends, family and siblings, professionals and amateurs – all are welcome. The greater the interest, the more BAG can achieve. You could also register an interest by emailing [BrigstockArchaeologicalGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BrigstockArchaeologicalGroup@gmail.com) or call Peter Walker on 373635.

The advertisement features a woman sitting on a lawn, looking at a tablet. A circular callout lists services: Aeration, Scarification, Overseeding & More. Below the image are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, and a list of benefits. At the bottom, there are logos for Direct Debit and Greensleeves, along with contact information for a free lawn analysis.

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## WEA Brigstock Branch

Our Autumn course starts on 26th September. The tutor will be Judith Hodgkinson and the title is **Hogarth to Hockney**.

Every picture tells a story: the print as mass communicator has been around for over 500 years, and those stories, and the often inter-connected lives of the artists, will be explored. Original prints will be studied each week.

The course runs for 9 weeks, every Thursday afternoon from 2-3.30 pm. We meet in the Village Hall, and this term we are using the ground floor room, so no stairs to negotiate. We won't meet in half-term week.

The course costs £54, but those receiving certain state benefits do not have to pay. You can find out more details of this by phoning the WEA on 0300 3033464. You can enroll via the same phone number or online at [WEA.org.uk](http://WEA.org.uk). Regrettably enrolment by cash or cheque on the start day cannot now be accepted.

The course code is C2341617.

Please phone branch secretary Jan Jerwood on 01536 370117 if you would like further information.

### Halloween Joke Corner

*Why is Dracula more creative at night? Because he gets to think outside the box.*

*What's the name of Albert Einstein's evil brother? Frank Einstein*

## Knit and Natter Club

. It is with great sadness that we report that our lovely member, Ann Shrive, passed away recently. Ann will be missed by all of us at Knit and Natter.

Since our last addition, we have started a new project, knitting "Bobby Bears" for the police. The aim of these little knitted bears is to give to a child when police attend an incident. Last year we knitted bears for the fire service. If any of you knitters out there would like to knit some bears please call into our group (details below) and we can email you the pattern, or provide you with a printed copy.



If you want to learn to knit/crochet, or already knit/crochet and want to join our friendly group, we meet every Wednesday at The Olde Three Cocks, High Street from 10am to 12 noon. Cost is just £2 for the use of the pub, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits and £1 if you want an extra cup.

*Glenda Stephen*

## The Olde Three Cocks PH

14 High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire, NN14 3HA

Tel: 01536 373476

**Lots of live entertainment coming up at the Olde Three Cocks over the coming weeks.**

Quiz night every month with lots of Prizes !!

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## Choosing the right estate agency

In the East of England, with the final (not first) listing price versus the sale agreed price differing on average by 3.1% in favour of the buyer, choosing the estate agent that suggests the highest selling price, could leave you feeling deflated and without a sale. So, if you are serious about moving and want to do it quickly, don't be unrealistic about the price at which you market your property.

Having a keen estate agent once you have made your decision is essential, but not if your property is over-priced. Prospective buyers will soon realize that particular agencies have a tendency to over-price and this will impact on the speed with which you sell and the price that you achieve. Therefore, wherever possible do some research before inviting estate agencies to provide a valuation.



Craig Berry, Estate Agency Manager

The likes of Rightmove, Zoopla and On the Market provide sales prices achieved on similar properties in your area. They may also date stamp when the property went on the market, which will give you some additional insight.

When choosing your estate agent, ask them why they feel that the price they have suggested will result in a quick sale without the need to reduce the price at a later date - challenge them.

Be clear about what you want to achieve before inviting agencies to value your property. If you want a sale, haggling over commission rates may mean you end up with an agency that over-prices in order to make more money out of the sale and this may affect your overall objective.

Flying the nest or putting down new roots? Bletsoes estate agents are here to help. Contact: **01832 732188**, [estateagents@bletsoes.co.uk](mailto:estateagents@bletsoes.co.uk), **49-51 High Street, Thrapston, Northamptonshire NN14 4JJ.**

The logo for Bletsoes Estate Agents features a stylized white tree with a thick trunk and many branches, set against a dark grey background. The tree has a small bird perched on one of its upper branches. The roots of the tree are visible at the bottom.

# BLETSOES

Flying the nest or putting down new roots?  
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## Historic Churches Bike Ride.



For many years people from Brigstock have taken part in a Ride and Stride sponsored event. Half of the money raised supports St Andrew Brigstock and the other half to Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. This years event is on September 14th.

You can cycle or walk and a list of all the participating churches is available St Andrews are already undertaking a lot of fundraising to improve church facilities since the loss of the Rectory Room. So if you are able to participate or sponsor somebody who is participating your support would be much appreciated

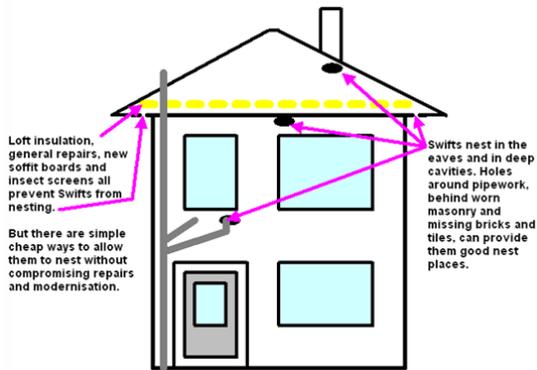
Details from Steph on 373422 or [sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk)

## BRIGSTOCK SWIFTS NEED YOUR HELP

I have been watching the Swifts flying above Brigstock ever since we moved in several years ago. They arrive from Africa in May, soon lay their eggs in roof spaces and then leave again in early September for their 6000 mile journey back to central Africa along largely unknown routes. Winter is spent in the Equatorial and Southern parts of Africa. The birds are silent, flying high and fast and covering large areas in the search for food. They spend all their time on the wing, never landing, except to nest. They are vulnerable to bad weather; there have been mass fatalities following severe storms. The swift population was estimated at 80,000 in 1990, but are thought to have decreased by as much as 50% since then.

I think that we should be doing something to help them when they arrive back in Brigstock next year. They appear to only nest in the older central part of Brigstock in the old stone houses with slate roofs. This is because these are usually the only roofs that have holes in them that the swifts can access to nest.

Where Swifts nest and what stops them nesting



What can we do to help?

- 1 Make sure that any improvements to houses allow for swifts to continue to nest.
- 2 Do not work on roofs where they are nesting from May to August
- 3 Preserve nesting holes or make new ones.
- 4 Swifts do not make nests so there is no mud, leaves or mess as other birds
- 5 If your roof has been sealed, put up some swift boxes to encourage more to nest on your house.
- 6 Any new houses should have swift nests built into them. There are a wide range of materials now available off the shelf. One of the largest colonies of swifts in the country is now on a new estate in Fulborn, near Cambridge, where a whole estate had nests built in or fixed to the outside walls. Lets gets the planning system changed.

## SWIFTS, Cont'd

I would love to hear if you have swifts nesting in your house or you have seen where they are nesting in the village.

If we can find suitable properties and willing owners, we can get some boxes which we can fix to the walls to encourage new nests. I hope to apply for a grant to take this forward but would like some help and support.

If you are interested or have any information that might help, please contact me. Chris Allen, [chrisallen043@gmail.com](mailto:chrisallen043@gmail.com), or Tel. 07471502952

## Brigstock Pre-school Playgroup

Playgroup has had a lovely summer term with a visit to a farm, sponsored walk to the country park and lots of time outside in the sunshine, which seems a distant memory on this dull afternoon whilst writing this.

The garage sale was a success and raised £400 00 so thank you to those of you who had a stall and we hope you made some money for yourselves.

We had to say cheerio to those children going to school and had a farewell party at the end of term. We wish them well in their new school life. So now we need new youngsters to come and fill the spaces so if your child is 2 years or older, we would welcome them at playgroup. We start again on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September and run every morning from 9.15am-12.15pm during school term times, so if you want to come and see us to register your child, please come along to the village hall and see us. If they are not yet 2 still come and register them with us so we know how many there are to come. If there are no children then playgroup can't run which would be a shame after all these years.

To fund raise, we are holding a children's Halloween disco towards the end of October, the date to be finalise after we start back so look out on facebook and for posters. Also on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm there is the popular **wreath making night**. As this is a change of night please make a note of the date. The night is very popular and the wreaths will last until after Christmas so keep the date free.

If you need any more information about Playgroup and their activities please ring us during session time on 01536 373197 or 07708 977714 or email [Brigstock-playgroup@outlook.com](mailto:Brigstock-playgroup@outlook.com) .

Liz Searle (secretary)

## BRIGSTOCK KURLING GROUP

The group will be meeting on the following Wednesday afternoons over the Autumn: 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November, all from 2 – 4 p.m. in the Village Hall. It will cost you £2 including tea or coffee and biscuits, and we provide all the equipment needed.

Some new players have joined us recently, but a few more would be welcome, so why not come along one afternoon and give it a go. If you can't bend too well we have 'pushers' available for you to use, and no-one takes it too seriously.

Please ring Judith Beeby on 373367 for more details, or just turn up at the hall on any of the dates above.

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## WAR MEMORIAL ROTA

Thank you to all the groups who have had their session on the War memorial and to those who will look after it during the coming months. This is a reminder of the forthcoming groups Thank you in advance for this.

Remembrance Sunday is on 10th November. Please come along and support.

Month	Organisation
September 2019	Ladies Leisure
October 2019	Men's Club
November 2019	WI
December 2019	URC

# Fermyn Woods Country Park

So here it is September already, summer seems to have flown by, and it has been a busy one at the park both with visitors and wildlife.

The Blue Tits nested in the café nest box again which was enjoyed by people visiting the café, they laid later this year but managed to raise and fledge 7 chicks. It has also been a good season for butterflies and we have had high numbers of Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Silver Washed Fritillaries, Painted Ladies and Gatekeepers to name a few. The Black Hair-streak was out the last two weeks of June along with the Grizzled and Dingy Skippers in May/June. His imperial majesty, the Purple Emperor, was two weeks late this year and did not emerge till the start of July which could have been because of the cold wet weather we had in June. The Purple Emperor is usually found up in the woods but we do get the odd one come down to the park - this year I found a male in the door way of the gents toilets as I went to lock up. There is a video of it on our Facebook page. Here at Fermyn we get over 31 species of butterfly, there are about 59 species that breed in the UK including migrants like the Painted Lady.

We have had a good show of wild flowers this year. Bee and Pyramidal Orchids were seen around the park along with an increase in numbers of Ox Eye Daises, Knapweed and Birds Foot Trefoil; all being very good sources of nectar for butterflies, bees and insects. There has also been an increase in Yellowhammers around the park and Skylarks singing out in the surrounding fields. There has also been a pair of Kingfishers seen frequently both at the fishing pond and refuge pond which is nice to see. I would also like to mention how nice the raised beds looked this year. They were rebuilt and planted by volunteers last year and funded by the Friends Group. We have had a lot of positive feedback from people visiting the cafe and the insects, bees and butterflies have really benefitted from all the wildlife friendly plants.

With help from our volunteers we have been making repairs round the park from repairing fences, replacing a gate post and repairing the roof of one of the huts in the toddler play area to scraping off the paths where the verges are making the paths narrow in places. Along with our summer programme of mowing and strimming,- we have had events run by our Education Ranger during the holidays and the friendly spider quiz trail round the park.

## Fermyn Woods Country Park - cont'd

The next few months will see the Park change as the weather gets colder and the days shorter. There will still be lots to see, so do dress up warm and come and see what is around. There is always the SkyLark Café to visit for hot food and drinks.

Dan Hurst, Park Ranger



## WILD 'n' WOODY FOREST SCHOOL

AT FERMYN WOODS COUNTRY PARK

**MON 9<sup>th</sup> SEPT - MON 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**10am - 12 noon** For pre-school children aged 2-4yrs

Forest School offers an inspiring outdoor experience for your child over a programme of 6 weeks.

Activities include mud kitchen, den building, bug hunting, basic tool use, camp fire and much more!

**£30 per child for all 6 sessions**

Payment must be paid up front for all weeks of programme.

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

**Please ring 0300 126 5933 or contact**

**[jothompson@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:jothompson@northamptonshire.gov.uk)**



## BRIGSTOCK THEATRE GROUP

Earlier this summer saw an over thirty strong cast taking to the stage along side many others working to produce Brigstock's very own version of "The Sound of Music".

Over two days and three performances, over 400 audience members saw the results of nearly six months hard work. The positive reviews and the commitment from the cast; many who joined the group with some trepidation having never performed in public; made the whole experience both truly rewarding and one we are looking forward to repeating.

In summer 2020 the Brigstock Theatre Group will be performing again (show to be announced soon).

All current and new members wanting to be involved are invited to a 'welcome meeting' on Sunday the 19th of January at 4pm in the village hall.

Auditions will then be held on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of February. With rehearsals running from February to July on Tuesday evenings and over some weekends.

For those who can't wait to see BTG we will be performing at this years beer festival and some of the groups will be providing some festive entertainment as part of the village's living advent window.

We would once again like to thank everyone involved in this years BTG's production and look forward to another success.

Peter, Sophie, Helen

**Comment::** Having attended the Friday evening performance, I have to say that it was a great show and it was good to see such a wide age range involved. The Von Trapp children were superb in their acting and the supporting dancers also gave a wonderful performance. Well done to all the crew and their supporters for all their hard work. Can't wait for next years production.

### HIGGLETY PIGGLETY PLAY - Brigstock 0 - 5 stay and play

Village Hall, Upstairs, 9-30am to 11am, Thursday Term times

£3 for first child, £1 for siblings

## WI RECIPE PAGE

### **Peanut Butter Cookies**

#### Ingredients:

5oz (150G) Plain Flour  
½ Tsp (2.5ml) Bicarbonate of soda  
½ tsp (2.5ml) Salt  
3oz (75g) Granulated Sugar  
3oz (75g) Soft Dark Brown Sugar  
4oz (100g) Butter  
1 egg  
½ tsp (2.5ml) Vanilla Essence  
8oz (225g) Crunchy or Smooth Peanut Butter



#### Method:

- 1 Heat oven to Gas Mark 4 or Electric 350f/180C
- 2 Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda and salt and set aside.
- 3 Cream together the butter and sugar's until soft and fluffy.
- 4 Mix in the egg and vanilla.
- 5 Then add the peanut butter.
- 6 Add to this mixture the dry mix. Ideally sieve this in and mix until you have a dough consistency then chill for about an hour.
- 7 Spoon out the mixture and roll into small balls and place on a greased baking tray. Press down with a fork (not too hard but enough to leave fork lines across the top).
- 8 Place in a preheated oven for 15 minutes. They should be slightly coloured, crispy on the outside and chewy on the inside.

Although you should cool before serving, mine get eaten straight from the oven! Enjoy

*Nikki Wills*