

BRIGSTOCK

NEWS

EDITION 21 – WINTER 2019



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 or sent to 9 Woodyard Close, Brigstock, NN14 3LZ

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BRIGSTOCK SUNNYSIDERS	01536 373383	
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HARPERS COURT BINGO. Eileen Coles.	01536 373168	

Front Cover Photo

A Winter Tree by Sally Wilks

If you have a suitable photo for the cover, let us know.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- 29 Panto, Dick Whittington. PFA Village Hall 7-15pm
30 St Andrews Church Christmas Fayre, 10 - 12
30 WPHSA Christmas Fayre , Village Hall, 2pm
30 Playgroup, Wreath Making Evening, Village hall 7pm

December

- 1 Advent Windows start, Village Hall, 6.45pm
4 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
5 Scrabble, June Small Room, 10-30am
6 Equata Christmas Craft Fayre, Village Hall, 6 to 9pm
7 URC Xmas Coffee Morning, 10am
7 Cricket Club Quiz, Village Hall, 7-30pm
8 Hall Hill Carols, 6-00pm
9 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
10 WI Xmas Party, WI Hall, 7-30pm
12 General Election, 7am to 10pm, Village Hall
12 BINGO, Harpers Court, 7-30pm
16 Ladies Leisure Group, Bring and Share Xmas Lunch, J S Room, 12-30pm
18 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm (check if on)
18 Historical Society Xmas Party, WI Hall.
22 URC Carol Service, 3pm
24 St Andrews Church Christingle Services, 3pm and 6pm
29 URC Carol Sing-Along 10-30am

January

- 2 Scrabble, June Small Room, 10-30am
6 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
8 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
14 WI "Tales of the Met Police", WI Hall, 7-30pm
16 Scrabble, June Small Room, 10-30am
16 BINGO, Harpers Court, 7-30pm
17 Film Night, "Fishermans Friends", Village Hall 7-30pm
20 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
20 Ladies Leisure Group, Quizzes and Games, June Small Room, 1.30pm
22 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
22 Historical Society, "Lyveden New Bield", Village Hall 7-30pm
25 Village Hall Quiz Night, 7-30pm
30 Scrabble, June Small Room, 10-30am

February

- 3 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
5 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
8 PFA Curry Night, Village Hall, 7-30pm?
11 WI "Composing in the 21st Century", WI Hall, 7-30pm
13 Scrabble, June Small Room, 10-30am
17 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
19 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
20 BINGO, Harpers Court, 7-30pm
21 Film Night, "Red Joan", Village Hall 7-30pm
22 St Andrews Church Race Night, Village Hall 7-30pm
27 Historical Society, "History of Dovecotes" Village Hall, 7-30pm
27 Scrabble, June Small Room, 10-30am

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

The construction work at the Village Hall I now complete and the two new cupboards are in use. We have managed to remove nearly all of the chairs and tables from the annex making this a much safer and useful room to use. The new padded chairs have arrived and will give a more comfortable seat while attending events at the hall.

The new curtains are up, the carpet down and the new kitchen equipment available.

The last bit to do is the replace the sinks in the two toilets.

All in all we have spent around £60,000 and have gained £55,000 of this from grants for which we are most grateful.

VILLAGE HALL CLASSES

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— certain Friday and Sundays each month

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

There are still free times available for you to book.

Village Hall Quiz 25th January at 7.30pm

Teams of 6 Max.

Tickets £7 - Supper - Bar

Tickets from Chris Allen, Steph Beckett, Sally Wilks

01536 373059

All profits to village hall improvements.

BRIGSTOCK'S GOT TALENT

Time to start thinking of your act.

The Village Hall is promoting BGT next March on
the 21st.

Solo or group entry— all welcome

Village Hall committee for more information.

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 BONFIRE NIGHT

What a display of fireworks we had this year! Many people said that it was the best that they had seen..

There was a great bonfire which nearly had a tractor and trailer included in it, While building the fire, the tractor bringing the firewood just sunk into the grass and would not move about 40 metres from the fire. The willing workers then had to manhandle the wood from the trailer and onto the fire. Even then it would still not move and needed a front loader to pull it out. I am sure the outfield will recover by next season.

The van bringing the fireworks also managed to sink in the grass and needed pulling out. They still managed to get set up on time and give the wonderful display.

Thanks to all those who sold tickets, collected firewood, built the fire, fire marshalled, sold hotdogs, run the Cricket Club bar and collected money on the gate. Without these people, we would not have a show. It's great to have another event where we work across the village groups and welcome in new volunteers. Thanks to the Parish Council for taken the responsibility for the whole event.

We have already booked the fireworks for next year. If you'd like to be involved in the organisation of next year's event or on the night, please let Sally Wilks, Rosie Briggs, Chris Allen or Paula Addison-Pettit know.

FRIENDS OF FERMYN WOODS COUNTRY PARK'

Watch this space - a date for your 2020 diary.

Supporting Fermyn Woods Country Park, the Friends will be having a Quiz Night on Friday evening 20th March 2020 in the Village Hall (new seats are in use) More details to follow

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

will take place

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

At 6.00 p.m. on Hall Hill

Please join us for carols around the tree, and a visit from a special guest!



BINGO

We are nearly "full house" as Bingo is proving ever more popular!

The Christmas Bingo is on Thursday December 12th. Great prizes and Christmas goodies raffle.

Thursday January 16th and Thursday February 20th for your winter evenings of 2020.

Harpers Court Lounge 7.30 pm. Transport can be provided. Call Eileen on

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. Can't be many bras left in Brigstock!!

- 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 Shoes and clothes are collected and should be in plastic bags. Three Cocks is for Planet Aid and Co- op is for Salvation Army.

There is now a set of four draws at the back of St Andrews Church where donations can be placed as follows:

Bras – All Africa Charity

Jewelry including broken or parts – Alzheimers Society

Spectacles

None perishable food and toiletries – Corby Foodbank



Looking Glass Theatre

With the PFA, present:

"Dick Whittington"

Friday 29th November at 7.15pm

Village Hall.

Tickets - Adults £7, £25 family of 4, £30 family of 5

Tickets from Rosie 373579, Sarah 373191,

BRIGSTOCK LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR 2019

The village will be presenting the 7th Living Advent Calendar starting on December 1st.

Each household participating will host a seasonal display or event at the listed property. Unveils or events are at 6.45pm each evening unless stated. There are many new contributors this year and there will be a competition for children to enter.

The Living Advent Calendar is about **community and creativity** but we do make a collection nightly which will be split between the local **Air Ambulance** and the fundraising for a toilet to be installed in the **village church**, to make this special building suitable for more local events. As well as nightly collections, donation envelopes will be available for those who prefer to make a one off contribution.

Look out for updates on the Brigstock Living Advent Facebook page where there will be a downloadable map.

<https://www.facebook.com/BrigstockAdvent>

and FOLLOW on Instagram `brigstock_living_advent`

Please wear light or high viz clothing and take care of children at the unveils.

* Saturday 22nd Christmas Cabaret theatre production full details will be on the facebook page! TWO performances 6.30pm & 8pm

**Monday 24th - The window will be unveiled at the Christingle service. Ticket info and timings to be confirmed

Thanks

Jane @28High Street

SUNNYSIDERS CLUB

Sunnysiders is a club for men and women over 60. We meet in the lounge at Harpers Court in Park Walk, Brigstock on Tuesday afternoon at 2 till 4 pm. Entertainment is prebooked and quite varied.

For further information please telephone Maureen on 01536 373383.

BRIGSTOCK LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR 2019

This is the list of the locations for the windows. These start at 6.45pm unless stated otherwise (14th at 6pm). Thanks to all the volunteers.

1	Sunday	Knit & Natter at the Village Hall
2	Monday	The Cooperative, High Street
3	Tuesday	Brigstock Latham's School
4	Wednesday	7 Park walk
5	Thursday	16 Mauntley Avenue
6	Friday	2 Stable Hill
7	Saturday	Windmill Cottage, Stanion Road
8	Sunday	12 Hall Hill following the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony
9	Monday	6 Park Walk followed by bell ringing in St Andrew's Church
10	Tuesday	Crochet Group @Brigstock Surgery
11	Wednesday	8 High Street
12	Thursday	33 Mauntley Avenue
13	Friday	The Green Dragon, Hall Hill
14	Saturday	9 Sudborough Rd NOTE: at 6pm
15	Sunday	15 High Street
16	Monday	2 Church Street
17	Tuesday	WI @Brigstock WI Hall, Park Walk
18	Wednesday	Mill Lodge, Mill Lane
19	Thursday	12 Latham Street
20	Friday	30 Back Lane
21	Saturday	Brigstock Theatre group @The Old Forge, High Street 6-30 and 8pm
22	Sunday	25 High Street
23	Monday	21 Benefield Road
24	Tuesday	St Andrew's Parish Church— 7pm

BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL 2019



The 15th annual Brigstock Beer Festival (BBF) was held on the 20th-21st September. Following the success of Oktober Fest in 2017 and the Latino Fiesta in 2018, the BBF committee decided that this year's festival would go "Stateside" with a US theme. The Festival commenced on the Friday with the ever popular comedy night featuring 3 first class comedians (2 of which has been seen on TV including "Live at the Apollo") and a compere. On the Saturday there was a variety of US style entertainment including mule rides, bucking bronco, "dawg" agility, flea circus, cheerleaders and even Elvis made an appearance. American style refreshments were also available. Other attractions included live music, "Punch and Judy", circus skills, duck race and mini-steam engine rides. The entertainment continued into Saturday evening with the excellent local rock n roll band "T100".

During the festival over 20 different beers, including a variety of American ales were enjoyed. The festival beer was peanut butter and jelly flavour which most connoisseurs found "interesting". More Cider than ever before was sold over the weekend along with the usual range of wines, lagers and a gin tent which was hosted by Two Birds.

There was a real "festival" atmosphere throughout the week-end which was helped by the glorious weather and the beer and cider that was consumed.

Many of the readers will be aware that the Beer Festival initially arose whilst a group of friends were enjoying a pint over 15 years ago. I am sure nobody at that time envisaged that it would become such a popular and established annual village event. The aim of the festival then, as it is now, was to raise money for local charities and groups by providing a variety of different beers, refreshments and entertainment for all the family. The previous 14 festivals have raised over £84,000. This year the festival was particularly popular and BBF are pleased to announce that over £8500 was raised by us and the other charities and groups there. The East Midlands Air Ambulance Service was nominated as the main charity for this year's festival so an equal share of the money raised from the BBF activities will be donated to them and a variety of Brigstock groups/charities.

The BBF committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this year's festival. They would like to say a particular "thank you" to Rob Leening for undertaking the role of Chair for the last 3 festivals and to Pete Marsdon Finley who is stepping down from the committee after many years of support . Plans for next year's festival are already underway i.e. the tradition of discussing ideas over a pint continues. If anybody would like to become involved in the organisation please contact Brigstock Beer Festival's new chairman, Justin Mumford 07977560198, or any of the committee members.

www.brigstockbeerfestival.com and on Facebook

Brigstock Theatre Group presents...

ANNIE
The Musical

Audition dates:
Saturday 1st
/ Sunday 2nd
February 2020

Come along to a meeting on
19th January 2020 at 4pm at
Brigstock United Reformed
Church to find out all about
Annie, and to sign up for auditions
or to help backstage. If you can't
make the meeting, please email
brigstocktheatregroup@gmail.com
to find out more.



Brigstock Film Night 2019/20 Season

Brigstock Film Night continues its season of films for your Friday night entertainment at the Village Hall after the Christmas and New Year break.

All welcome to come along – it's a sociable night, with drinks and refreshments available before the film and during a short interval.

Film nights are now benefitting from a new projector and sound system and -# drum roll #- new chairs!!

Friday 17th January 2020 – Fisherman's Friends (cert 12a)

Inspired by a true story, ten fishermen from Cornwall achieve a Top 10 hit with their debut album of Sea Shanties after they are signed to Universal Records by a cynical London music executive.



Friday 21st February 2020 – Red Joan (cert 12a)



Joan Stanley (played by Judy Dench) 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.

Tickets: £5 per person on the door – advance booking not required.

Doors open at 7:15pm and films start at 7:45pm.

For any information please contact Alison Millen on 373028 or Emma Poole on 370142.

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 4th Wednesday of each month. Please join us.

Brigstock Historical Society Programme 2019-20

27/11/19	The Princess and the Gunpowder Plotters <i>Malcolm Deacon</i>	Everyone knows the story of the Gunpowder Plot but few are aware of the part the princess played in the conspiracy.
18/12/19	<i>Christmas Party with Magic</i>	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.
22/01/20	Lyveden New Bield <i>Susan Lees</i>	Lyveden New Bield is our nearest National Trust property. This talk will cover the building and the history surrounding its construction
26/02/20	The History of Dovecotes <i>Colin Ray</i>	An illustrated talk looking at how dovecotes were used and managed from Norman Castles to modern uses and conversions

Next year is the 400th anniversary of the founding of Brigstock Latham's School. We shall be organizing some activities with the school and any old photos you have to do with the school would be greatly valued. We can make copies and return them.

We now have quite a comprehensive collection of local history books available for borrowing from the village hall. An email list is available from Sally Wilks.

Sally Wilks 373428.

Brigstock Cricket Club 2019

Winter has well and truly arrived and the meadow is certainly rehydrated after weeks of prolonged rainfall. Looking back on the season I pleased to report the club is in good shape both on and off the field. The first X1, in only their second season in the Northants premier league finished mid-table, which is the club's highest ever league position and I am sure they will be looking to improve on this position next season. The second X1 only lost one game all season and won their league by 70 points and I am sure James Steward will be looking for back to back promotions next season. Off the field the new nets were installed in October and will only improve the training facilities we offer. The old nets will be dismantled in the spring and the pile of top soil will be levelled and the area re-seeded. Within the pavilion a new kitchen has been fitted and we will also be looking to refurbish the toilets and bar over the winter months. Next year the club will be celebrating its 125th anniversary and as part of the planned celebrations and after a ten year break we will be holding a summer Ball on Saturday 4th July 2020, for further details of the event please refer to the advertisement within this newsletter. We are also opening the pavilion on Friday 6th December 2019 for a pre-Christmas drinks from 7.30pm and I look forward to seeing you then.

On behalf of all the players, committee and members we wish all the readers a very merry Christmas and thank you for your continued support.

Simon Andrews – BCC Chairman.

Brigstock Bell Ringers

Brigstock Bell Ringers practice every Monday 7 – 8pm.

If you enjoy hearing the Brigstock church bells, why not come along and see how old our bells are and how they work.

We are also ringing during the St Andrews Christmas Fair on 30th November where you are welcome to watch. There is also a special ringing for one of the Advent window unveiling.

We wish you a very happy festival season and hope you enjoy the ringing.

Brigstock bell ringers If you have any questions email stephen8591@googlemail.com or call 373373.



save the date
04.07.20



Brigstock Cricket Club
SUMMER BALL
celebrating 125 years of cricket

TICKETS £65
further information to follow

Reserve a ticket / table now: Elaine 373353 or elaine@fall-line.co.uk

Remembrance by Bill Simons

Each year we remember the sacrifice of those who died in war at our Remembrance Day service but we should also pay tribute to those, who although they survived, also suffered greatly in the service of their country and carried the scars of physical and mental wounds for the rest of their lives. There are no memorials to these millions but local newspapers give us a few glimpses of what they suffered. Here are a few from Brigstock.

Kettering Leader 11th January 1918

Brigstock Sailor in Hospital

We regret to have to report that Mr John T Humphrey, Back Lane, Brigstock has received news that his son, Able Seaman John George Humphrey, is in hospital in France suffering from trench feet. Much sympathy is felt for the parents in their anxiety.

The family received even worse news a few months later when they learned that their eldest son, Charles, aged 31 had died of wounds in France on 24th May 1918. John was only 20 when he was taken to hospital.

Kettering Leader 4 August 1916

Brigstock Soldiers Wounded

Mr Jackson, School Lane, Brigstock, has just received news that his son John Jackson in France has been wounded in the recent fighting and is at present in hospital in England suffering with a wounded knee. The following letter from the Rev. R.D. Harrison, Chaplain to the forces in France has been received by Mr and Mrs Wells regarding their son Charles “ No 3 Canadian General Hospital, France July 26 1916, Dear Mrs Wells Your son Charles has asked me to write you that he is here in hospital wounded I am glad to say that his wound is not serious, it is in the right knee and he hopes to be sent across to England ere long. He will write you himself as soon as he feels strong enough.

Unfortunately John Jackson did not survive the war but was killed in action on 16th October 1918, aged 28, less than a month before the cease fire. The report gives Wells as Charles’ surname but this is a mistake, as was the chaplain’s opinion of the injury. The surname should be Wills as the following report indicates,

Remembrance—cont’d

Kettering Leader 11 August 1916

Brigstock Man Wounded

Mrs S. Wills, Rose Villa, Brigstock has just received the following letter regarding her son, Pte C. Wills Northants Regt. who was recently wounded in the “big push” in France. “Unfortunately he has not been quite so well the last day or two and it has been found necessary to amputate his right leg at the knee. He quite understands That it was necessary in order to make him well again and the dear lad does not complain but is brave and patient. The amputation took place this morning and he has been feeling easier ever since. Of course he is a very sick lad but his chances of recovery are considered excellent. R. D. Harrison, Chaplain, No 3 Canadian General Hospital, France.

Samuel Wills, Charles’ father, was a butcher in Brigstock and the war brought a lot of suffering to the family. A few months after Charles, aged 23, was seriously wounded another son, Foscuet, aged 22 was killed in action on 17 October 1916 and in 1918 another son was taken prisoner of war. As if that was not enough tragedy for one family, Stella Wills, aged 2 years 8 months, the daughter of Samuel and Harriet, was drowned in Harper’s Brook in February 1917.

One soldier from Brigstock did receive recognition for what he had been through, although I doubt there was any financial compensation to help him and his family to cope with life after the war.

Kettering Leader 1st November 1918— Certificate of Honour at Brigstock

Pte Fred Beal of Brigstock has been awarded a Certificate of Honour from the King for service during the war. Pte. Beal, although only 17, enlisted in the Northants Regt. on Oct 6th 1914. He was wounded by shrapnel in thirteen places on Oct 15th 1916 and was sent to England, receiving his discharge on 20th August 1918. He was employed by Major Wallis Wright at Farming Woods Hall, Brigstock, before joining up. Pte. Beal has one other brother serving in France and another called up for service, and also a sister in the Q.M.A.A.C. They are the sons and daughter of Mr and Mrs T. Beal of Brigstock.

Fred’s brother is probably Walter John Beal, killed in action on the 4th November 1918, one week before the end of the war which seems to sum up the futility of all that suffering.

BRIGSTOCK SCHOOL PFA

Fire yourselves up for the Christmas season with the village Panto by the ever-excellent Looking Glass Theatre, with the equally ever excellent Dick Whittington. It's on Friday 29th November at 7.15pm in the village Hall. Tickets available from Rosy Briggs and Sarah Owen. Price £7 each, discount for family tickets. There will be Christmas sprit (and beer and wine) for sale. Oh yes there will!

The school's advent window is Tuesday 3rd December with a theme of books, which makes sense for a school. Again, the PFA will provide yet more Christmas spirit so do please join in as part of the very villagey month-long Advent window series.

Anyone who has been into school will have seen the extra garden space with the chalet (not a shed) now set into place and already being used by classes. The garden around it is the next project with a pond going in, plus different themes for the various year groups to nurture and enjoy. So that's what the money's for - and we're raising the next batch through the medium of curry!

Yes, the curry night cometh in February, on the 8th, so ready your recipes and start grinding those spices. As always, all are welcome to produce a favourite homemade cuzza and if you want they can be entered to enshrine the creator as the Curry Queen or King of Brigstock.

Tickets and details to follow, and anyone interested in contributing please let Richard Fincher know - 373353.

Coming up next year is the 400th anniversary of Brigstock Latham School, so expect activities and events to celebrate this throughout the year with a big focus on the fete.

Have a wonderful Yule, whatever that is, and see you at the events!

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

Knit and Natter Club

For the second time since we first formed our Knit and Natter Group (at the then Post Office) we were made homeless, having to leave The Olde Three Cocks after its closure. We have happily moved to our new venue at the WI Hall, Park Walk and enjoying our new location.

You will have noticed that the poppies (made last year by Brigstock ladies) at the War Memorial have now been erected kind thanks to the men volunteers who have put them up for us all to enjoy.

We have been furiously knitting for Christmas projects.

Firstly for our K&N Advent Window on Sun 1st December. Our grateful thanks goes to the Village Hall committee for accommodating us and for providing the refreshments and some entertainment for everyone. So do come and support.

Secondly we have made lots of "Bobby Bears" which have gone off to the police to distribute to children when attending incidents. Our grateful thanks goes to ladies from SunnySiders and other village ladies who have also made these little bears.

Thirdly we have been knitting to expand Brigstock Christmas "Yarn Bombing" project, with additional surprises that will decorate Brigstock over the festive period. We want to thank ladies of the village, especially those from SunnySiders, who have helped us make knitted "paper chains".

More recently we have made key rings from some of the poppies that will not be used in this years display. £77.10 was raised from the sale of these and the money has been donated to the Royal British Legion. Knit and natter thank Brigstock residents for buying these poppy keyrings



In the New Year we will be making little knitted hedgehogs for Jen Woodward to raise funds for Jen's Hedgehog Rescue. If you would like to help with making these hedgehogs, please pop in to the Knit & Natter group and we can provide you with a pattern.

Want to learn to knit/crochet, or already knit/crochet and want to join our friendly group, we meet every Wednesday at WI Hall, Park Walk from 10am to 12 noon. Cost is just £2 for unlimited tea and coffee and biscuits.

Glenda Stephen

BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk

It was **World Kindness Day** on **Wednesday 13th November**. For the fifth year of supporting this event many WI members spent the morning of 29th October making little posies to leave around the village or deliver to someone's door.



It is a day where individuals and organisations can join together to promote good deeds and pledge small acts of kindness. If you happened to pick up



a small posy we hope it made you smile, or perhaps someone you knew welcomed the cheery gesture.

A big **Thank You** to everyone who took part in or came along to our Alternative Horticultural Show in September. The judges were very complimentary and spent a long time deliberating over the many competition entries. We really appreciate their time and expertise and hope they enjoyed their jars of our special recipe WI jam by way of a little thank you.

Plans are well underway for our members' Christmas party on **Tuesday 10th December**. We are hoping Santa may just have time to drop by (with his two very special helpers!) and I'm sure our resident entertainers (you know who you are!) have got some new tricks up their sleeves!

Our advent unveiling is being held at the WI Hall on **Tuesday 17th December**. You are welcome to join us on this special evening and to come inside for a warm up and some magical edible treats! There will also be a very special performance from our WI members who attend the drama group. So do come along and enjoy the entertainment, we look forward to welcoming you.

A recent joint venture with both our WI and the Brigstock Knit and Natter group has been to make Bobby Bears for our local Police Force. Our police often attend incidences where there are young children present. The children often feel very confused, vulnerable and can be traumatised by what has been going on around them. However, the police have found that giving them a little teddy (who has been lovingly made) at this difficult time can help offer a little reassurance and comfort. So a big thank you to everyone who has taken part in this initiative.

BRIGSTOCK WI cont'd

The **Associated Country Women of the World Charity (ACWW)** aims to connect and support Women and communities worldwide. Our WI has recently relaunched our support by starting to collect jars of pennies and small change in the "pennies for friendship" initiative. We hope that this small gesture helps to make a big difference. Jill Pettigrew.

Brigstock WI What's on

Tuesday 10th December 2019

Brigstock WI 7pm Members' "Bring and share" Christmas party at the WI Hall.

Tuesday 17th December 2019

Brigstock WI - 6.45pm - Advent unveiling followed by entertainment and refreshments in the WI hall please come and join us!

Tuesday 14th January 2020

Brigstock WI Meeting at 7.30pm, WI Hall. Colin Hill-Tales of being a Metropolitan police officer. Visitors welcome.

Competition: The most unusual Cockney Rhyming slang.

Tuesday 11th February 2020

Brigstock WI Meeting at 7.30pm, WI Hall. Karl Reutter- Composing in the 21st century-the stories behind the music.

Competition: A piece of sheet music in any format.

If you require any more information on the events listed please telephone 01536 - 373672/ 373987 or 370015.

Best wishes for the Season from all of us at Brigstock WI.

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 everywhere at once. Contact the Parish Council.

Fermyn Woods Country Park

Well here I am on a rainy October's day thinking about what to put in my article for the December edition of the newsletter. By now the leaves will be well in to there autumn colours and dropping ready for winter. We have already started our habitat work round the park, the hay meadow, grass maze and plateau have been cut by our colleague from Sywell Country Park and his tractor and with help from volunteers they have been raked off and put into grass habitat piles with the help of Northamptonshire Community Payback team for grass snakes and small mammals. I have been going round other areas of grassland around the park brush cutting and raking off to improve areas for wildlife especially the butterflies in the spring/summer.

With help from our team of volunteers we have been making repairs to the play area and around the park and unfortunately we have also been having to deal with vandalism and unauthorized fires in the park which have been causing damage in wildlife sensitive areas and at times spoiling it for other park uses.

We have also had our regular team of Butterfly conservation volunteers come out and clear Alder regrowth in Reedy marsh and also begin to remove Hawthorn/Blackthorn on the bank behind Reedy marsh as well.

The wet weather we had during October was beneficial for fungi with shaggy ink cap and parasol mushrooms seen round the park to name but a few. The winter migrants of Redwings and Fieldfares arrived at the park in mid-October and can be seen around the park and woods but as they were arriving there was still the odd Swallow around seemingly reluctant to make the big journey back to Africa. Ravens have been heard around the park and woods and there has been plenty of signs of Fallow deer in the park with hoof prints seen on the main route and in the Thickets. The Jays were busy burying acorns and of course the Red Kites are still lazily gliding over the park looking for a tasty meal and as the temperature got colder there was an increase in Buzzards seen as well. There have still been the odd sighting of a peacock or red admiral butterfly, both species look for dark dry places to hibernate over winter.

The ponds have now filled because of the heavy rain that we have experienced. Hopefully they will stay topped up now ready for the frogs, toads and newts in the spring. Watch as you approach the ponds as you could

Fermyn Woods Country Park - cont'd

well see kingfishers or herons fishing on them.

It is a brilliant time of year to come down to the park for a nice Autumn/Winter walk and see what you can find round the park and in the woods, why not stop off in the Skylark Café afterwards for tea or coffee and slice of homemade cake.

The Ranger team

Winter times for Café and over Christmas

From Monday 4th November, Café winter opening times will be 11am-3pm (weekdays), 10:30-4pm (weekends). The café will be closed from 2pm on 24th December and will reopen at 11am on 2nd January 2020

Join a Toddler group with a difference.

Explore Nature through the Seasons with the Ranger

Irchester Country Park - 1st Wednesday of the month (Not in winter)

Barnwell Country Park - 2nd Wednesday of the month

Fermyn Woods Country Park - 2nd Thurs of the month

Sywell Country Park - 3rd Tues of each month

Brixworth Country Park - 3rd Wednesday of the month
(Term-time only) **BOOKING ESSENTIAL!**

£3 per Toddler if paid in advance or £3.50 on the day.
Price includes Nature walk, craft activity & refreshments.

Please email jthompson@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Or find details on www.northamptonshireparks.co.uk

Telephone 0300 126 5933

WILD 'n' WOODY FOREST SCHOOL

FERMYN WOODS COUNTRY PARK 24th FEB - 30th MARCH

10am - 12 noon. For pre-school children 2yrs upwards

Forest School offers an inspiring outdoor experience for your child over a programme of 6 weeks. £30 per child

Please ring 0300 126 5933 or jthompon@northamptonshire.gov.uk

BRIGSTOCK

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL		
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Mrs Margaret Smith	Vice Chair	01536 373209
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Mrs Terry Towns	Councillor	01536 373861
Mr Ken Motion	Chair Planning	01536 373598
Ms Julie Lemmy	Councillor	

BONFIRE

Many thanks to all of you who helped make Brigstock Bonfire Night such a success once again. The display raised about £2000 for local village organisations. We appreciate the trouble animal owners take to remove their animals from the vicinity for the benefit of the community.

NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

At this time of year we have to look forward and discuss our budget for next year. Our precept at present is £21,200 but we have estimated that this will not cover all our projected outgoings next year. We are therefore proposing to increase the precept to £26,000. To put this in perspective contributions would increase from 78p to 93p per week for the average Brigstock household. This is comparable to other villages of a similar size, for example Kings Cliffe.

We listen to residents' suggestions and concerns and try to react accordingly. For instance we now spend a significantly larger amount on grass cutting and strimming round the village. The cost of keeping the verges cut, the cemetery and churchyard hedges trimmed etc is about £9,890 and will only

PARISH COUNCIL

keep on rising in the coming years. We have identified that the cemetery needs more attention and we estimate that this will cost in the region of £2000 next year. Many of you will have noticed that a large branch has split from the sycamore tree in the churchyard. .

Because this has a tree preservation order on it we have to get specialist advice and the cost of removing the branch will be about £400.

We have made considerable savings to the cost of our electricity bill by having Led lights installed, but we had to dip into our reserves and borrow the remainder in order to pay for the new lighting. The loan will be repaid in three years' time but until then the repayments are £4,200 per annum. Other costs include the clerk's salary, rent for the Meadow, accountancy costs, maintenance of the website, subscriptions and other sundry expenses. We have been very fortunate in obtaining grants for large capital items such as the MUGA but these things also increase our maintenance and insurance costs.

We would welcome suggestions from residents about what we should be spending money on in the future. Come along to a parish council meeting and let us know what you think. We always have ten minutes "public forum" at the start of each meeting so that residents can have their say. Or write to our clerk, Nigel Searle, with your ideas.

NOTICE BOARDS

Finally, I hope you have admired the new interpretation and noticeboard at the end of Church Walk. Now that we have so many places to display posters to advertise village events might there be fewer posters on telegraph poles?

Dog Owners!

Please can you make sure that you pick up poo even in the grass verges. The mowing contractors have had some very unpleasant experiences this summer when dog poo has been caught in the strimmer or mower and splattered the operators.

Brigstock United Reformed Church

Everybody says it; "Where's this year gone? How is it nearly Christmas again?" Looking back on 2019 we seem to have packed a lot of activities and events into it and there are still four of the busiest weeks to go!

We have, as usual, been doing a lot of fundraising for essential repair work to our buildings, but this has been postponed until the Spring and hopefully-warmer weather. We are also waiting to hear about other sources of funding and grants which we have applied for. Meanwhile, we have enjoyed our usual coffee mornings, served Fathers' Day teas, held a Beetle Drive, a Barn Dance and taken part in the Beer Festival, and these activities serve two purposes; to keep our church maintained and open to everyone for worship, and to be a part of the community. We are happy to have recently welcomed two groups who now meet regularly in our June Small room, the Men's Group and the Scrabble Group. Our room is warm, modern and has a fitted kitchen and facilities for disabled people-ideal for small groups.

We are looking forward to starting the Advent season on December 1st by sending our "knitvity" set to visit friends and neighbours, replicating the journey of Mary and Joseph all those years ago. On December 7th we have our very popular Christmas Coffee morning from 10-midday, with cakes to buy, tombola and a raffle, plus Yvette's "Open the Box" game which proved so successful last year. The prizes are excellent, but remain a mystery until you get the chance to open a box! Why not come and find out more, and enjoy coffee and mince pies in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Just forget the Christmas shopping for a few hours.

Our traditional Carol Service will be at 3pm on December 22nd and on Christmas day we have a very short, informal celebration of Christmas at 10.00 in the June Small room. To give everyone another chance to enjoy singing carols old and new, we have our Carol-sing-a-long on December 29th at 10.30.am. Please join us if you can, you will be most welcome.

We wish everyone in a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy 2020.

Christmas at the United Reformed Church

Sunday Dec 22nd Carol Service at 3pm

Wednesday December 25th A short Christmas celebration 10.00

Sunday December 29th Carol Sing-a-long 10.30am



Christmas Quiz Night 2019 !

7:30 for 8:00pm Saturday 7th December
In the Village Hall
Team tables of max 6
£7 per head including Cheese, Wine, dips and Snacks
Raffle
Bar

Could team hosts please contact Peter Hedges
peterhedge@aol.com 07702425363, Pete Burdett
judyburdett@aol.com 01536373478 or John Udall
judall65@googlemail.com 07786866323
by 30th November

So that we can plan for numbers



Hosted by the Brigstock Cricket Club Committee



BRIGSTOCK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th December
at the chapel
Mill Lane, Brigstock
10.00am – 12noon

Coffee and Mince Pies
£1.50
Cakes, Tombola, Raffle,
Special prize game – 'Open the Box'

MERRY CHRISTMAS



St Andrews Church

We are continuing to work hard to reach out to the community and to help make 'Church' feel less daunting to those who have yet to join us. Our recent Harvest Festival service was very special with many people, including children from Brigstock school, turning up to celebrate with us concluding in a very tasty bring and share tea. At our recent session of Messy Church we had over thirty-five children and their parents/carers it was a great fun filled event. There will not be a session in December but we are planning to start again in January so watch out for the posters and book bag flyers.

As always we have a packed calendar for Christmas starting on the 30th November with our Christmas Fair where there will be stalls and refreshments. Brigstock bellringers will also be with us so if you like to listen to the bells or are interested in learning please come along. We look forward to seeing you and sharing some Christmas cheer.

A new service this year is the Christmas Story and Carols which is aimed at families and the young at heart please come along and join us on Wednesday 18th December at 3.30 p.m. (straight from school) in church for a gentle start to all of the seasonal hustle and bustle. As in previous years we will be having two Christingle services on Christmas Eve, one at 3.00 p.m. and one at 6 p.m. For safety reasons numbers will be restricted to 200 per service. Admission will be by way of tickets, which can be obtained from the beginning of December (free of charge) from Barbara Platt 4 Bridge Street 01536 373240, Jean Caswell 10 Woodlands Close 01536 373517 or Allison Porter 5 Stable Hill 07933 804432. Our advent window will be unveiled at 7 p.m. after the 6 p.m. service.

If you want to attend a service on Christmas day you have the choice of two, one at 9.15 a.m. at All Saints Church Sudborough and one at 10.00 a.m. at St Peters Lowick.

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>

If we can help you in any way please do not hesitate to get in touch: beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com or Rector - The Reverend Heather Lowe 01536 263550, Churchwarden – Carl Hector 01536 373410

Benefice Administrator – Allison Porter 07933 804432

St Andrews Church—cont'd

Below is our full programme of services for the Christmas and New Year period in Brigstock.

Wednesday 18th December	3.30 p.m. (Straight from school) Christmas Story
Thursday 19th December	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion 2.30 p.m. Brigstock school nativity in church
Sunday 22nd December	9.15 a.m. Holy Communion
Tuesday 24th December	3.00 p.m. Christingle 6.00 p.m. Christingle 7.00 p.m. Unveiling of Advent Window 11.00 p.m. First Holy Communion of Christmas
Wednesday 25th December	Christmas Day services will be at All Saints Sudborough at 9.15 a.m. and St Peters Lowick at 10.00 a.m.
Thursday 26th December	No Holy Communion Service
Sunday 29th December	10.00 a.m. Benefice service. Quiet, reflective, spoken Holy Communion service
Thursday 2nd January 2020	No Holy Communion Service.

30th November CHRISTMAS FAYRE at the Church, 10-12

2020 EVENTS

We have started to fill our fund raising calendar for 2020 and here are some of the events you can look forward to.

22nd February 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall – Race night including supper, details to follow.

28th March 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon in church – Spring Fair

17th – 20th April in church – 'Umbrella Festival', community event details to follow.

6th June 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. in and around church – Plant Sale

3rd – 4th October Art/Craft exhibition – community event details to follow

Timely thoughts from the Associate Minister and the Rector

Dear Friends,

I am writing this having just returned from the Sunday Remembrance service at St Andrew's and the Act of remembrance at Hall Hill which I found very moving. And it reminded me how November seems to be a month when we do a lot of remembering collectively.

As we celebrated All Saints Day, on the 1st November we remembered the Saints triumphing over evil. The day before used to be known as All Hallow's Eve from which get the word Hallow E'en. On All Saints Day we remember well known Saints like St Andrew, Saint Peter and Saint George but we also remember all the other less widely known saints whom we have valued knowing personally. The saints written with a small s rather than a capital S. At this time of year churches often hold services for those who have been bereaved to remember and light candles for their loved ones.

Remembering reminds us who we are, where we have come from and at it's best where our future is headed.

On November 5th we say, "Remember, Remember the 5th of November, gun powder, treason and plot" as we remember Guy Fawkes failed attempt to blow up Parliament, and then, as I already mentioned on Remembrance Sunday we remember all those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

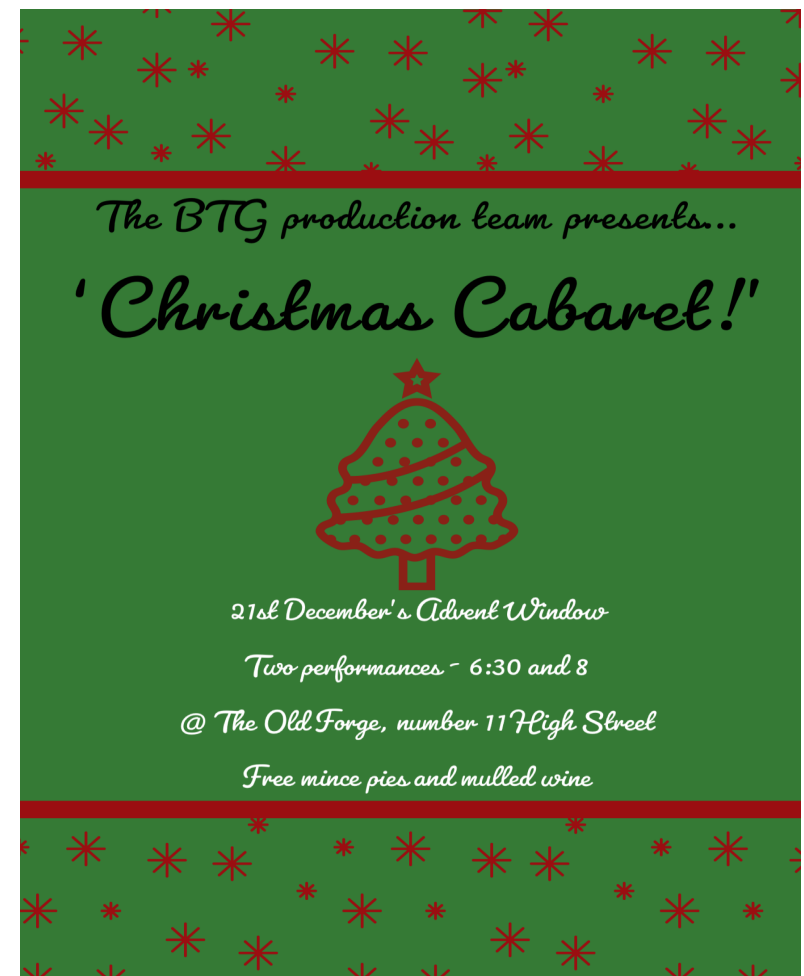
So, by the time we get to advent and the count down to Christmas, maybe we feel we've done enough remembering? In church in the four weeks before Christmas we remember the pioneers of our Christian faith; Abraham and Sarah; the prophets who foretold the coming of Jesus; John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Christ and of course Mary the mother of Jesus. But perhaps the majority of us think of advent as the time we look forward to Christmas, as we eat our daily chocolate from the advent calendar window, rather than as a remembrance of our Christian heritage and story?

And then finally the moment we've all been waiting for arrives and we celebrate, but amidst the turkey, crackers, beautifully decorated trees, sparkling lights, cards, presents, wine, beer or gin and wonderful gatherings it can sometimes be hard to remember what it's all about, other than "It's Christmas" to quote Noddy Holder! And we can easily forget to remember that the greatest present to have ever been given to us is Jesus.

This Christmas my prayer for us all is that we can find time to stop, amidst the busy- ness and the baubles to remember the importance of God's wonderful gift to us in his Son, which for many of us could be a timely reminder of what we used to know so well. You are most welcome to come to any of our services, or chat to my husband or myself or sit in the quietness of the open church. Remember Jesus will still be with you long after the baubles are back in their box.

May God bless you, so you have the most memorable, peaceful, joyous, meaningful and wondrous Christmas ever.

Happy Christmas. Rev'd Heather and Captain Alan.x



VILLAGE PROJECT MEETING

Earlier this year we had high hopes of receiving a monetary prize in the Best Village Competition! Sadly we were out of luck. We decided to then seek suggestions from villagers as to what else Brigstock needed. We did not get many suggestions as many people think this village has so much to offer and love living here.

What did come up was the possibility of having planters in the village. There were a few people willing to tend them. Initially we hope to have them at the Thrapston and Stanion ends of the village below the signs but other places have been suggested too.

We called a meeting of interested villagers and it was agreed that this would make a good project. We had people willing to tend planters and even people to build them.

What we don't have is any funds as we are just a group who compile the Best Village entry. However to every problem there is a solution. We are now in the process of seeking funding. We have been very lucky to be given some funds from the Beer Festival Committee, but we still need to find some more. Any offers?

Other suggestions were

A board game club (suddenly as if by magic somebody started a Scrabble club) Details in the newsletter

Litter picking twice a year rather than once

Cleaning Village signs

A village weeding day

We will be holding a further meeting early in the New Year to action some of these suggestions.

Thanks to Stuart Malcolm for donating a magnetic board and Bradley Burbidge who fitted it (both at no cost) the notice board at the village hall is magnetic. No more pins or staples!!

Best Village Group

Sally, Liz, Glenda and Steph

Ladies Leisure Group

Ladies, if you are looking for a couple of hours of relaxation, activities (not too difficult), friendly chatter, tea and cake, then this may be the group for you! We only meet once a month, on the third Monday, from 1.30-3.30pm, and to give you an idea of what we get up to, this year has seen us moving-gently!-to music, creating decorations for Easter and Halloween, enjoying our own version of horse racing, complete with posh frocks and hats, and sharing an excellent Christmas lunch with everyone contributing some food -(that's in December but it's always delicious). We have also had a fascinating talk about Guide Dogs, been entertained by the WI drama group and visited the Country Park and Lyveden for excellent lunches. So, if any of that appeals to you, please come to our next meeting on January 20th in the June Small room at the URC in Mill Lane when we shall be organising our programme for the year and enjoying games and quizzes. You won't be asked to be on a committee as there isn't one; we organise each event ourselves and take turns to provide refreshments each month.

We look forward to welcoming you there! Meanwhile , we wish all our friends in Brigstock a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

December 16th Our Bring-and-share Christmas lunch 12.30pm

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



*The Joint Masters of
The Pytchley with
Woodland Hunt*



*Warmly invite you to the Boxing Day Meet
11am in The Square at Brigstock.*

We would be delighted to see as many of you as possible at the Boxing Day meet in the Square. Please come and support this important tradition for the village. Your support is much appreciated and will be for many years to come.

*Brigstock
Christmas
Fair*

at
Brigstock Village Hall

Raffle
Gift stalls
Christmas music

FREE ENTRY

6pm-9pm

6th
December




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Tel 01536 373238

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



BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S
SCHOOL

Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School

We are now well into the new academic year, and the Summer seems a long time ago! We said farewell to our Year 6 leavers at the end of the last term, and they certainly had so many happy memories to take away with them. They all enjoyed sharing their truly memorable performance of 'Rock Bottom', and as ever amazed us with their range of talents- we felt so proud of all of them.

Over the Summer holidays we were all excited to be involved in the first phase of our garden development, and we are very grateful to our PFA who raised the money to make this possible. We now have a fantastic outdoor classroom, and a garden space that we can use throughout the year. The focus for our current Day 10:10 unit is 'The Great Outdoors', and our children have been involved in a range of outdoor learning projects to develop the space further. We have an opening event at the end of November and we are excited to share all that we have achieved.

Our new Reception class have settled in so well and are really enjoying their new start. They have already enjoyed 'Toy Day' and 'Colour Day', and they all look forward to 'Muddy Monday' each week. They have enjoyed sharing their very first Harvest Festival with the whole school community and have shown us that they are great performers already!

Our children in all year groups have been working so creatively in their classrooms. Already this year we have had Roald Dahl Day, Victorian Day and a 'day at the seaside'. Our Key Stage 2 children have all been to visit Peterborough Cathedral, and our Year 5 and 6 children have had a trip to Rutland Reservoir.

As a school we have been doing lots of work to improve our reading, and to develop reading skills in creative and interesting ways. Our children are currently completing their own reading journals, and have again impressed us with their creative and committed approach. We have also enjoyed a really successful sponsored read event which has enabled us to buy a story-teller's

Brigstock Latham's Primary School—cont'd

chair and some outdoor seating for the story area. Again, we want to thank our children and parents for their commitment and generosity.

A lot of children have joined the many clubs that are on offer at school, and are enjoying extra-curricular art and sport- and a whole range of other activities, too. Our Art Club had amazing success at the Open 19 art competition at the Alfred East Art Gallery in Kettering, and won first prize in their category. Their work has been on display throughout the month of October and we are so proud of them. They are currently working on the Advent Window project which will be unveiled on Tuesday, December 3rd- hopefully we will see many of you there.

We always enjoy being part of village events and are proud to be involved whenever we can. A group of children took an active part in the village Harvest Festival, and shared poems and prayers- and helped Reverend Heather tell her story! Messy Church is also a regular event and brings together our church and school communities each month. Our pupil leadership team represented us at the village Remembrance Service, and we are always proud to share our own school Remembrance with our wider community.

We are already planning for a special celebration later on this academic year, as 2020 marks 400 years of education in Brigstock. We hope that many people in the village will join us in celebration, and there will be regular updates on our plans as the year progresses.

BRIGSTOCK MEN'S CLUB

The above continues to progress well and meets on Mondays every two weeks at 10-30am in the June Small Room at the URC 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 9th December and then 6th January and then every 2 weeks at the URC. New men are welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

Des Robinson 01536 373090

Brigstock Latham's Primary School—400 years old

Did you know that Brigstock's School first opened 400 years ago in 1620, founded by Nicholas Latham who was born in Brigstock. He set up five local schools and an alms house in Oundle which is still open and supporting the community.

The school have decided that that is something to celebrate BIG! The plan is to incorporate a day that is tied into the Fete and includes celebrations all around the village that matches the wonderful Pied Piper weekend event 10 years ago.

It may be Brigstock Latham's School's birthday but we would like to use this as the catalyst to celebrate Brigstock through this period. We are calling upon all Brigstock residents and local groups to get involved. If you or your group is interested, have some ideas of how you/your group would like to get involved or have any information to help us find out more about the school/village from 1620 to today please contact Elaine Fincher – 01536 373353 or elaine@fall-line.co.uk.

Our proposed date for the celebration is the 13th June 2020

BRIGSTOCK MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS MEMORIES

May Day celebrations have been a highlight of the year at Brigstock School for over a century. The style of the event that continues now first started in the early 1900's.

As part of our 400 year anniversary festivities we are setting ourselves the challenge of collecting photos of as many years celebration as possible. Can we name 100 May Queens? How many photos can we find? There are surprisingly few records at school so this is going to be a BIG project.

Do you have any photos or memories to help us? Were you a May Queen or King?

If you can help by lending a photo or sharing a memory, please contact Jo Boyers, JBoyers@brigstockprimary.org.uk or leave a message at school on 01536 373282. Please spread the word to past pupils if you can. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jo Boyers, Brigstock Primary School

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CHIPS IN BRIGSTOCK
VISIT THE FISH AND CHIP VAN
EVERY TUESDAY
4-30PM TO 7 PM
ON SUDBOROUGH ROAD, BRIGSTOCK**



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BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

This is it! You're all invited to the first public meeting of Brigstock Archaeological Group (BAG). Absolutely no digging experience is required – just bring along your passion for past.

If you'd like to get involved in our inaugural community archaeology project, we'd love to see you in the meeting room in **Brigstock Village Hall** at **4pm** on **Saturday 7th December**. We'll be outlining the aims of the group, what's happened so far, discussing your ideas and – hopefully – signing up new members. It's completely free.

You don't have to have any special skillset. Sharp eyes for field walking or a willingness to clamber into muddy holes, clean finds or research online are enough to play a part in many archaeological projects. We'll also be looking for volunteers who'd like to be more involved with organising BAG, which has been established in association with Brigstock Historical Society.

Exciting developments ahead of that meeting have been keeping BAG busy. Brigstock Primary School has become the latest organisation to show an interest in taking part in a community big dig day as part of its 400th anniversary celebrations next year. Offers have begun arriving as potential sites for test pits; please do keep them coming.

We've already had a healthy level of interest in BAG registered by phone, letter, email, on Facebook and through our website at www.BrigstockArchaeologicalGroup.co.uk, but we're always keen to hear from more of you. Past, present and future residents of the parish or anyone with an interest in archaeology are all equally welcome, so please spread the word.

Meanwhile, Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), one of the UK's leading archaeology and built heritage practices, is now on board as part of its community outreach initiative. BAG is lucky to have secured an offer of advice and some practical support to help establish the group, develop appropriate skills and guide it through its initial projects.

If all of that wasn't enough, plans are also under discussion to seek grant funding for equipment or specialist support as part of an application for a wider project looking into the parish's history.



BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP—cont'd

BAG would love to secure funding or, even better, training for our own volunteers to undertake geophysics surveys of key sites around the parish.

The original Antiquaries Journal report into our Roman shrine site even hinted at the possibility that there may be more to be found. Imagine what BAG could achieve with the help of our members and volunteers - with your help! Please join us and other first time archaeologists on the first Saturday of December for our first meeting. Truly a day of firsts!

Or if you can't make it on the day, sign up on our site or Facebook page, or register an interest by emailing BrigstockArchaeologicalGroup@gmail.com or calling Peter Walker on 373635.

SCRABBLE LADDER.

Are you at a loose end on Thursday Mornings? Would you like to give the old brain cells a bit of a work out? Then come and join us for a game of Scrabble.

We meet every other week at 10-30am in the June Small Room of the United Reform Church. We are usually greeted by Pete Burdett manning the kettle. Tea, coffee and biscuits are on offer. It's all very informal and fun, so don't be put off if you haven't played for years or, even, not at all. You will be paired with someone willing to help you along. If, however, you are one of those competitive types, I am sure that we will find someone to give you a run for your money. Speaking of money, we all chip in £2 to pay for the room hire.

The first meeting is on the 5th December and it would be lovely to see you there. We break for Christmas and start again on the 2nd January 2020.

John Smoker.

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

BLETSOES



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Historic Churches Bike Ride.

2019 RIDE & STRIDE

It was a bright September day and I met many friendly greeters and climbed a few hills (especially around Bulwick!) on this year's churches bike ride. I completed a total of 37 miles and visited 15 Churches.

My sponsorship reached a total of £225 and I am grateful for all the contributions from my many supporters.

Thanks also to Steph Beckett, Judy Burdett, Carl Hector and others who have been involved in the cycling, church greeting and local administration for the 20 years I have taken part in.

This reminds me that it was David Bailey (Head Teacher of our Primary School and Church Warden of St. Andrew's) who 'twisted my arm' to take part for the first time in September 1999. He was killed in a car accident in March 2000 while I was abroad cycling for charity in Chile across the Andes (he sponsored me for this event). Sadly, he will never know how much I have enjoyed doing the Church event every year since!

Mike Simpson

BRIGSTOCK SWIFTS NEED YOUR HELP

In this last edition, I wrote about the plight of the Swifts that we happily have in the village during their short summer. They need help in finding new nesting sites as the available number gets reduced by new roofs remove the access points.

I have had several people contact me who are interested in trying to help. This will be looking for locations where we can put up new boxes on houses to provide extra places for them to nest.

We will be meeting shortly to see if we can make some boxes or buy some in.

If you are interested in joining us, or want to know more, or have materials we can use, please contact me.

Chris Allen, chrisallen043@gmail.com, or Tel. 07471502952

BENEFIELD ROAD ALLOTMENTS

It has been a strange growing season this year, with some dry weeks in spring followed by some good wet weather. But we had cold nights till quite late which slowed the early growth right down and reduced germination. The early summer crops were poor, with cabbages and cauliflowers not developing till very late. Sweetcorn grew tall with the rain, but did not have many cobs on them.

Several of the allotment holders entered into the WI Alternative Show and managed to take some of the prizes!! Well done to them for arranging the show.

The very wet Autumn means that winter digging is being delayed, but there is still plenty of time till spring arrives and we think of sowing again.

If you would like to start with an allotment, there are a couple of vacant ones which need so loving care to get round.

We also have a petrol generator for sale that we used to run our borehole pump but is now redundant due to our solar powered one. It is a 2.5kw unit. Contact as below for more details.

Chris Allen, Chairman, Benefield Rd Allotment Association.

07471 502952 chrisallen043@gmail.com

Brigstock Pre-school Playgroup

At the AGM held in October, we welcomed 3 new members to the committee, and at half term we said goodbye to Suzie who had been with us for 2 years. She will be missed for her ideas and good humour. Good Luck Suzie.

We have 9 children so could hold more. So, if your child is aged between 2 and 5 come along any morning from 9.15am to 12.15pm during school term time and have a chat about starting with us. The more the better as the children socialise more. There is funding available for 3-year olds and you may qualify for 2-year old funding so have a word with our manager Sarah.

This term is very exciting for the children with Christmas on the horizon and a visit from the man himself at the party (if everyone is good).

Thank you to the village hall committee for providing a brand new storage room which we can access from inside so staff don't have to go out to set up in the mornings.

To fund raise we are holding a **wreath making night** on Saturday 30th November at 7.30pm the. The cost is £25.00 which includes all materials, but bring your own scissors.

Next year we hope to organise another garage sale on Saturday 4th April so put it in your diary.

Liz Searle (secretary)

PLAYGROUP needs children aged 2-5 years old.

We are a small village playgroup which meets very morning in term time from 9.15am-12.15pm in Brigstock Village Hall, Bridge Street.

We have a large hall and only a few children so would welcome more. The setting is well stocked both inside, and a safe outside area which is used every day. We have very friendly and well qualified staff working with the children on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Enquiries to Sarah on 01536 373672 or mobile 07708977714 or

Email: brigstock-playgroup@outlook.com

BRIGSTOCK KURLING GROUP

The dates for the Kurling Group meetings over the Winter will be December 4th (and possibly 18th), January 8th and 22nd, and February 5th and 19th, all weather permitting. Please note that the January dates are the second and fourth Wednesdays, rather than the normal first and third, as we didn't think anyone would want to play on New Year's Day! As usual, we will meet in the Village Hall from 2 to 4 p.m., and it will cost you £2, including tea or coffee and biscuits, and we provide all the equipment you will need.

By the time you read this, we will either be looking forward to, or having been on, our annual trip to the ice rink at Beckworth's garden centre to have a go at the real game of curling, not the "new age" version we play here.

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.

Regards, Liz Searle.

Month	Organisation
December 2019	URC
January 2020	Cricket Club
February 2020	Playgroup
March 2020	PFA

WI RECIPE PAGE

TRIPLE GINGER AND SPICE TRAYBAKE (Many thanks Laura!)

Ingredients

250g butter
250g black treacle
250g muscovado sugar
300ml milk
2 eggs
100g stem ginger (from jar in syrup) finely chopped
375g plain flour
2tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp allspice
2 tsp ground ginger

For the icing

3 tbsp ginger syrup from the jar
5 tbsp icing sugar

To decorate

Tiny pieces of stem ginger (optional)

Method

Grease and line a 23cm baking tin Heat oven 160C/ 140C fan/ gas no.3.

Melt butter, sugar& treacle in a saucepan over a low heat until everything has blended. Stir in the milk (mixture should be warm to the touch)

Beat the eggs. Sieve all dry ingredients into a mixing bowl. Mix in the chopped ginger and make a well in the centre. Add eggs, pour in the melted mixture, and gradually stir in the dry ingredients, until blended into a thick batter.

Pour into the prepared tin and bake for approx. 1hr. Poke a skewer into the middle to check it is cooked (this will come out clean if this is the case)

Leave to cool in the tin. When thoroughly cool sift icing sugar into a bowl and add the gingery syrup for a smooth runny icing. Pour over the cake.