

# BRIGSTOCK NEWS

EDITION 23 – AUTUMN 2020



## 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

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2021 SUMMER Published 1st June 2021

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BRIGSTOCK PFA		01536 373353
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
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HARPERS COURT BINGO. Eileen Coles.		01536 373168

**Front Cover Photo -**

**Brigstock War Memorial on VJ Day**

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

PRODUCED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 12 Historic Churches Ride or Stride
- 23 Historical Society, "Dickens of a Genius", Village Hall 7-30pm

Sorry that this is so short, but we have very few certain dates so far.

**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.

As you will have noticed, we did not publish a June edition of the Brigstock Newsletter. This was because we were in lockdown and there was very little happening and we did not know when groups may be meeting again.

So we are now producing this edition which includes thoughts and reports from the lockdown period, and plans for the future.

Many groups are unsure how or when they might be meeting, but they are all still there and waiting to get going again.

The next edition will be in the run up to Christmas and hopefully we should be a little more free to meet socially and we can enjoy the village, its friends and groups as we used to do.

All stay safe and if you need help do ask your neighbours or any of the groups who I am sure will be only too willing to assist you.

### **Brigstock Village Hall changes**

Due to lockdown, we had to stop all classes and events in the Village Hall from the end of March. This has meant that it has been very quiet and empty over the past few months. However we have been able to have a good clear out and tidy and with the Playgroup now finished. They have removed all their equipment and the annex has had all the tables and chairs moved into the store cupboards, making it a much more useful room.

We have also had the roof to the hall repaired to stop the leaks and to refurbish the dormer pitches. This was funded by a grant from East Northants Council for which we are very grateful.

Our next project is to convert the rear play area into a more useable seating area for all hall users. We probably need a further grant for this, so it may take sometime to arrange.

# BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

## NEW BOOKING OPPORTUNITIES

Since the Playgroup has closed we are now able to take bookings for any time during the day especially the mornings. This could open up a wide range of options for more exercise classes, slimming clubs, education courses etc. This could be using the main hall or one of the smaller rooms, all at very reasonable prices.

If you are interested or know a group that might, please contact Rosie Briggs on [rosybbiggs@btinternet.com](mailto:rosybbiggs@btinternet.com) or on 01536 373579 for availability and prices.

These could be for one off events or for regular bookings.

Also check our website for more details.

## VILLAGE HALL CLASSES

We hope to get the classes back up and running as soon as the legislation allows us. Please look out for further information in the next weeks / months.

The classes that were running and should again soon are:

- Clubbercise every Monday evening
- Ballet every Tuesday in term time 5—8.30pm
- Ulekele classes every Thursday 7—9pm
- Kurling Wednesdays 2—4 pm (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)
- Brigstock Archaeology Group - 7-30pm every third Tuesday
- 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

We do not know when these will start again, so watch out for more information

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

# BRIGSTOCK'S GOT TALENT

This was another victim of the lockdown. Back in March, we had a great selection of individuals and groups ready to perform to a sell out audience., but had to cancel at the last moment.

We do intend to run this again when we are allowed to get a hall full of people back in. Watch out for updates.

So start thinking what you can do to entertain??

The Village Hall Committee

## LOCKDOWN AND TECHNOLOGY

Well weeks of lockdown certainly got more people using social media. 6 months ago we would have been saying Zoom? Teams? Never heard of them.

There was a rapid increase of use of the Brigstock Information Face book page. Things that people were disposing of and also advertising all the wonderful charity fundraising efforts that were happening appeared regularly. We must thank Andre Saint for his sterling work in keeping the page up and running.

Thank you from all the villagers.



## 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.



## BINGO

At the present time no Bingo sessions are arranged due to Covid regulations. When we are able to go ahead we will post on Brigstock Information and put up posters.

We would like to thank our Bingo caller Chris who has put his Bingo calling skills to good use by doing a Bingo session for Swan Ave residents sitting on their drives. This

was much appreciated.

We will be back as soon as possible to get you entertained again.

## Collectors Corner

Many thanks for the amazing amount of bras and jewellery that you have contributed. Since Christmas you have contributed 56 bras and 3 jiffy bags of jewellery

**Bras** (Smalls for All African Charity.) Please give to any WI member

### Stamps

Hi everyone I am still collecting used postage stamps and forwarding them to Macmillan Cancer Support Group, where they are able to sell them for £7.50 per kilo. As it is something we would throw away or put on the fire it worth tearing them off and saving them!

If you pop them through my door at 16 Hall Hill when you have collected a few, and I will send them on., Thanks, Claudette

**Jewellery.** It does not matter if damaged or broken.

Steph at 13 Swan Avenue for Alzheimer's Society.

**Salvation Army** - Co-op car park

**Batteries** - Co-op

Containers in St Andrews Church for Bras, jewellery, spectacles and food bank items.

## **Brigstock in Lockdown**

### **In the beginning:**

Back in March it was becoming apparent we would be going into lockdown. Jane, a very active villager, immediately compiled a newsletter to say how the village would be setting up a support mechanism for anybody that may be isolating or having difficulty leaving their homes. Before we could even get letters out, lockdown was in place, but we managed to drop leaflets to more than 600 properties in the village. The village was divided into zones and a coordinator allocated for each street. There was a contact number for each street resident to contact their street coordinator and central telephone number and an email address.

### **Actively supporting Isolators:**

Straight away we were galvanised into action collecting and delivering shopping and prescriptions. Brigstock has its own local pharmacy at our GP surgery; it was like a drive thru McDonalds. Press the bell on the window and shout a name. A hand would appear and had you your medication. A wonderful service!

### **Co-ordinator Networking:**

We then set up a WhatsApp group so that all the street coordinators were in touch with each other. This enabled people to pass on requests if they were unable to fulfil them themselves.

### **Social Media became invaluable:**

We also set up a FaceBook page "Isolators Group", for those people who have social media, but were unable to leave their homes due to shielding. This gave them a very welcome contact with others in a similar position. It also contained lots of useful contact numbers. We had quite a big take up and suddenly the scheme started to enlarge and other groups in the village came on board.

### **The Village Pantry** (foodbank):

The village hall became the home of Brigstock Pantry. It was becoming evident by then that some families were struggling financially. The aim of the Pantry was, and still is, to provide groceries and other essential items to those in need. As well as store cupboard foods and essentials, cash was also donated by village folk. At the end of each day, the newly opened Bake & Brew tea shop gifted unsold bread and cakes, which was distributed to elderly residents who were isolating.

## **Brigstock in Lockdown - cont'd**

### **Special treats for those isolating:**

The Volunteer group then decided to widen its activities and give gifts to people who were isolating. Villagers named it "The Gift Fairy". Villagers donated items and cash. These were nicely presented in gift bags and were very much appreciated by those who received them.

### **Village Initiatives**

Brigstock residents have pulled together in an amazing way. Some of these initiatives will continue

### **Supporting Local Charities:**

Not leaving the village became everyday life for most people. Gradually other stalls started to spring up in the village. It started off with knitted rainbows which were sold for a Dementia charity.

As people were not leaving the village to avoid unnecessary car journeys the village became ever resourceful. People had time to have a clear out. With charity shops and the local tip closed, stalls starting springing up on driveways. Most of these were either given away or to raise money for various charities. To date £7,797 has been raised for local charities and £757 for much needed funds for our two churches. One could buy plants, books jigsaw puzzles, jam, marmalade and bric-a-brac.

### **Craft Project for everyone:**

One enterprising villager then started a CD weaving project to make a wall hanging for the village hall. Weaving packs was provided, or you could design your own. The idea was to weave onto a CD or create your own design to depict your lockdown experience. More than 100 have been produced by boys, girls, ladies and even the men got involved. This now hangs in Brigstock Village Hall.

### **Scrabble Competition:**

A very elderly resident set up two Scrabble competitions which could be done alone, and the answers submitted. Money raised was given to Brigstock School.

## **Brigstock in Lockdown - cont'd**

### **VE Day Celebrations:**

By VE Day the village needed some light relief and what a great day it was. One street decided to hold a Street Party and by the end of the day there were other street parties planned around the village. The volunteer Group went and sang to the elderly folk outside the sheltered accommodation and another street held a bucket collection for the British Legion. One enterprising street made cakes, which were sold to raise money for a local hospice.

### **Yarn Bombing:**

The Knit and Natter group made knitted flowers for the planned church Umbrella Festival. Due to lockdown the festival is postponed until next year. With flowers already made for their display, the group decided to put the flowers to good use and decorate the village square to cheer people up, with well received feedback from residents.

## **Supporting the NHS**

The village came together to show their support for the NHS in many different ways

### **Scrub Bags, Knitted Hearts and Face Masks:**

The knit and natter group sprang into action immediately, making scrub bags for local nurses. They also knitted hearts for KGH intensive care units. They have since turned to making masks. Some have been sold to raise funds for local charities and some were given to the Brigstock Pantry to hand out to those in need.

### **Knitted Nurses:**

Several villagers made knitted nurses, which were placed around the village in recognition of their work.

### **Community Clapping:**

Thursday night clapping became a ritual as to which street could make the most noise. One of the clapping nights, the local Co-op store invited villagers to social distance along the high street. All the staff came out and sang in praise of the key workers, which was captured on video.

On a separate occasion, after the clapping, an organised sponsored head shave took place to raise funds via "Just Giving page" for the NHS. Two men and three very brave women took part with over £2,000 raised.

## **Brigstock in Lockdown - cont'd**

Brigstock gardens look amazing this year or they did until the torrential downpours! With garden centres closed and travel restricted there was a mad scramble for plants. Lesley French and Jane Steward came to the rescue with their plants sales for charity. Well done Ladies.

A few other plant stalls sprung up and some villagers were giving away free garden produce. We seem to have had rather a glut of rhubarb and courgettes which seemed to spring up on several driveways with a help yourself notice!

Well done to everyone in the village for your hard work and friendship.

## **BRIGSTOCK LIVING ADVENT 2020**

### **from Jane Jones**

Due to Social Distancing during the current corona virus pandemic, it will not be possible to hold the Living Advent Calendar in the same way for 2020.

Nightly window opening gatherings and hospitality will not be safe this year.

However, it would, in the light of such a disrupted and isolated year, be lovely to still host a calendar and produce a programme of themed 'windows' to be opened nightly during December.

Families and individuals can wander round at their leisure. and we will still photograph the and feature on social media.....I think we all need something to look forward to!

It is also possible that Santa might make individual deliveries to households who write in and post their letters to our 'postbox'... which will be placed on Hall Hill at the beginning of December.

Look out for more information on Brigstock Village Information and in the December newsletter.

If you would like to be included in the window calendar , please message brigstockadvent@hotmail , inbox via the Brigstock Living Advent Calendar Facebook page or contact me on 01536 373129. The sooner the better as the dates take some organising. Thanks.

## BRIGSTOCK PANTRY & SUPPORT NETWORK



Brigstock pantry was set up with donations from villagers to assist anyone requiring assistance during the corona virus pandemic.

A supply of essential food and personal items is available for anyone in the village who may need some support **for whatever reason**. We can also help with provision of Face masks.

We have some financial support available for specific items but it is intended to pass any remaining funds to the Brigstock Latham Charity in due course.

The best way to contact the Pantry for help is to TEXT 07311965687 or [email :brigstockisolation@gmail.com](mailto:brigstockisolation@gmail.com)

Any requests will be treated with confidentiality. Items can be delivered or collected by arrangement.

The SUPPORT NETWORK set up in March continues to operate and any requests for assistance can be made to your street coordinator or via text or call to the number above.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help at the height of the pandemic and all those who have continued to support other villagers since March.

Jane Jones

**I would like to give a big thank you from all the Village to Jane Jones and her helpers who have worked so hard during the last few months to help others in Brigstock. They have help many going about their work quietly and professionally. We are very lucky to have people like this — it is what makes our village special.**

**Editor.**

## Brigstock Film Night 2020/21 Season



We had a very successful year last season with good turnouts to all the films and an enjoyable set of films.

We hope to do the same this winter, but cannot set any dates yet as the Hall is not able to open for these events and numbers are limited and we are struggling to find a supplier for the films as Oundle Cinema has stopped during lockdown

We hope to start as soon as possible and if we have to limit numbers, may have to make it a prior booking event and if very popular run it over 2 nights.

Please look out for more news on this over the usual channels.

We will be back as soon as it is allowed and safe.

For further information please contact:

Alison Millen on 373028 or Emma Poole on 370142.

## HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE

This Annual event is still on as held outside and can be undertaken solo or in small groups

On Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> you can take part in a sponsored walk or cycle visiting other churches. Many churches are taking part but depending on Covid regs church grounds may be the only part open, although many churches are setting up a process for entry.

Further details from Steph Beckett [sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk)

Half of the sponsor money goes to St Andrews Church and the other half to Historic Churches Trust. Churches may then apply for a grant from the Trust.



# BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL 2020



We have run the Beer Festivals for 15 years and had good weather for nearly all of them. We had not planned to be stopped by a germ named after a Lager.

We have looked at several alternatives to keep it going this year, but with the Village Hall being limited to 30 people and no music, this was not really an option when we get about 700 people there on a good day and a packed hall for Comedy Night. An outdoor event for the Saturday would be very risky from a weather point of view and keeping people at a social distance.

So we have taken the sad decision that we must postpone the Festival to next year.

The good news is that this gives us another 12 months to plan an even better event for next year. We expect to keep the same theme, so you can also plan any stalls that you might want to have.

Do check our website [www.brigstockbeerfestival.com](http://www.brigstockbeerfestival.com) for the latest information. If anybody would like to become involved in the organisation please contact Justin Mumford, the chair for the Brigstock Beer Festival, or any of the other committee members

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

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## SUNNYSIDERS CLUB

Unfortunately Sunnysiders, our Over 60's group, has not been able to meet at Harpers Court for some time and we are unsure when we will be able to meet again. We have missed our fish and chips lunches and just meeting up together for tea and biscuits. We will be back to Harpers Court for a catch up as soon as possible.

For further information please telephone Maureen on 01536 373383..

# BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We have canvassed our members and most of you seem keen to attend our coming season of talks starting in September. As we were unable to complete last season and you missed four talks the membership fee will be £6 for the coming year. Naturally we shall have to make a few changes to the way we set up the hall following the guidelines. This will mean sitting you 2 metres apart unless you are with someone in your bubble. Also, please can you let Robin know if you are able to attend as we are only able to seat 40 - 50 in the hall.

**Steve Dimmer is booked to kick off our season with his talk "Dickens of a Genius" on September 23rd.**

We are not producing a printed programme this year as the future is uncertain and some of the speakers might be unable to give their talks. We will keep you touch about future talks by Email or during our meetings. We have a number talks lined up as alternatives, so if all is well we should be able to complete the season.

We look forward to seeing you again.

## BENEFIELD ROAD ALLOTMENTS

The allotments have been a great place to escape to during lockdown. This was an activity that we were allowed to do as part of our exercise. The very hot weather in April and May with very little rain, gave us a challenge, but with the good water supply, we overcame this. We then had a few good rain periods to get everything growing.

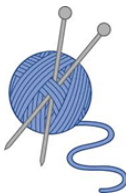
We are now really into the harvest season and crops are looking good. We have had a few unwanted visitors on the allotments in the form of several young rabbits. Although they are nice to see, they can cause such damage in a short time. Young carrots are just too tempting. Hopefully we can persuade them to leave peacefully.

We have let several more plots over the summer and now have very few left to rent. But if you are interested, we hopefully can find one for you.

Chris Allen, Chairman, Benefield Rd Allotment Association.

## Knit and Natter Club

What a difference 5 months make. Who would have thought that when Wilma organised the very successful Coffee Morning for Alzheimer's that there would be a complete lockdown of activities and everything planned would be put on hold indefinitely.



We were no longer allowed to meet at the WI hall, in fact, we were no longer allowed to meet at all. This did not stop us – oh no. Some of us continue to meet via video link on a Wednesday morning at 10am. When we met at the WI hall, most of us knitted and chatted (well more chatting and not a lot of knitting if I'm to be honest). Now it seems we do no knitting during our video link just chat. Knitting does get done honest – see below!!!!

Some of us have had to shield, so this has become a lifeline to actually see and speak to another human being and catch up on the lives of others within our group. Despite everything, we've had some jolly good laughs, swapped tips on making masks, created ideas on how to help with community projects and discussed current news items.

As we weren't hiring the WI hall for our meetings, we decided to donate £100 from our funds to Cransley Hospice, which was gratefully received.

## Helping the NHS and the Brigstock Community

### Scrub Bags:

Offcuts of material and unused duvets were fished out of storage drawers and sewing machines came out of their hiding places and ladies got to work making scrub bags for Kettering General, which were gratefully received.

### Face Masks:

Sewing machines back out to make face masks. Some were given to Jane for her Jordon's Wee Ones stall to raise funds; some were sold for church funds and some were given to the Brigstock Pantry to be distributed to those in need.



### Knitted Hearts:

Sewing machines swapped for knitting needles as K&N ladies made knitted hearts to give to Covid patients at Kettering General.

### Knitted nurses:

Little knitted nurses suddenly appeared around the village in support of our NHS workers. We received a lot of feedback from village folk seeing these little nurses appearing around the village.



### Brigstock's Frontline staff:

One of our members even made one for our own frontline staff working at Brigstock doctor's surgery and another one for our Co-op store workers (dressed in their Co-op uniform) to thank them for their community support.

**Flowers on the village square:** With St Andrews Umbrella festival preparations well under way, our display spot picked and a mock-up already done, it seemed a shame to store the flowers away when the festival was postponed indefinitely. As we already yarn bomb the village at Christmas, one of our members thought it would be a great idea to yarn bomb the village with the flowers we made for the festival, to put them to good use and cheer up people when they walk by.

### Advent Windows??

At this time of year, we are normally planning our advent window, the new items we want to knit for the Christmas (do I dare mention the word) yarn bombing and thinking about the poppy display for November. Summer is still with us with autumn on its way, so the Knit and Natter ladies are making the most of what is left of summer and will concentrate on the winter projects when the darker evenings return.

Since writing this, we have met for the first time. This is what you call "desperation" to sit in the pouring rain, socially distancing of course, and enjoying a good old natter. Note the lack of knitting needles!!!!

*Glenda Stephen September 2020*





## BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk

Looking back at our plans in the last Brigstock News we were looking ahead to so many exciting things. Sadly the pause button has had to be pressed (but not forever!) Who would have thought that the country would come to a standstill with the Government announcing a lockdown and the vulnerable having to shield?

**Monthly Newsletter:** Due to our secretary being out of action, one of our members kindly took on the role of creating a monthly newsletter. Not only did it include WI news, but helpful tips and lots of information about what was going on in the village. This was then extended to include non-WI members who were shielding and not on Facebook and was delivered by the Isolators Group co-ordinators.

### **WI activities:**

The annual Bluebell walk organised by Judith took place, however in a different format due to social distancing and raised £45 for ACWW.

Your song for Lockdown: Hilary asked members which song “summed up” or helped them through Lockdown. So hard to choose one favourite but we are looking forward to listening to the final choices which will be put on a CD.

Birthday Flowers: A big Thank You to Steph who has continued to make up and deliver the monthly posies to delighted members as we were unable to do this at the usual members meeting.

Weeding the War Memorial: With social distancing still in force, this took a different format this year but was completed by the WI in August. With it being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ day it was important to add a few extra touches.

Lady Denman Cup: Have you written your story “What you heard on the bus?” With everyone wearing facemasks this could be tricky!

Weekly Raffle: The weekly raffle continues to take place with 3 lucky winners receiving a voucher to spend at Bake and Brew.

Members Village Quiz Walk: We stayed local this year (for obvious reasons!) With Judy and Steph setting the trail of clues for members to find around Brigstock. Sunhats and lots of water were essential!

## BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk Cont'd

### **WI competitions:**

Alphabet competition - to find as many items as one could around the home.

Anita's walk in pictures - guess where the trail takes you? Helped by some beautiful photos of our lovely countryside.

Sunflower Competition – everyone was given a sunflower seed to plant. Some have been more successful than others! Judging takes place in September and it is starting to get quite competitive!!

Word Competition: How many words can you make from BRIGSTOCK VIL-LAGE WI LADIES? Paula managed almost 2000!!!

Your Interpretation of Lockdown : A painting, drawing, story, poem, craft activity or photo in fact pretty much anything that you have created either during lockdown or depicts what Lockdown meant to you. Entries to Liz by the end of August.

**A quick reminder** – we continue to collect a variety of old / used items to support Alzheimer's research. So please hang on to any unwanted jewellery (costume, broken, odd earrings, watches etc.) Also any old specs or bra's. Please keep at home until Steph is able to send them off.

WI Facebook Page: If you are a Facebook member, you can follow the Brigstock WI Facebook page, where you will find a myriad of photos from past and present events. Just search for Brigstock WI and click on “like” and “follow” the page in your newsfeed.

Fundraising Activities – A huge amount of fundraising has been taking place for a variety of worthy causes including : Cransley Hospice, Riding for the Disabled, The Royal British Legion, Air Ambulance, NHS, URC, and St. Andrews' church funds. Although not WI initiatives, the WI ladies quickly became involved in supporting these Community events to help raise funds for Local charities.

Community spirit: Sally's CD weaving initiative- Janet's Music to Movement via ZOOM (and more recently on the field) – Knit and natter ladies making scrub bags, hearts for COVID patients, face masks and knitted nurses- volunteering on the Isolators Group and Brigstock Food Bank- Joy's memories of VE day- Corona Virus telephone support for shielders , and much, much more.....

## BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk Cont'd

### 200 CLUB DRAW— OPEN TO ALL – NOT JUST WI MEMBERS

Our 200 club draw starts again in September. It is £12 per person to join for the year. With three winners drawn each month (except August due to the Summer break) and two draws in December what are you waiting for? Prizes are 1<sup>st</sup> £30 / 2<sup>nd</sup> £20 / 3<sup>rd</sup> £10.

**Remember open to all, you don't have to be a WI member-** please contact Janet Oldham on 01536 373560 for more information.

**Sadly we are unable to predict when we will get together again but will be listening carefully to the Government guidelines. When the time comes we will be asking the members for their advice on the ways we can slowly start meeting again which people feel comfortable with. Our priority will be to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.**

## Brigstock Pre-School Playgroup

When we closed in March, we thought it would only be for a short time, but with so few parents wanting their children to come back once we could open, it was not possible due to staffing issues.

We officially closed our doors on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July for the summer holidays. We gave the children toy vouchers to say cheerio, gave them their learning logs and over that weekend we held a toy and equipment sale and cleared all cupboards, sheds, and outside area.

It was a very sad ending to the playgroup, having been in the village for over 40 years. It seems that we have not been able to say cheerio to children, parents, staff, committee or supporters properly with no parties nor get togethers. Now, comes the task of winding up the business.

A huge thank you to everyone who have supported us over all the years in any way, either with time or money or both. To past committee members and staff, sorry we could not keep going but we did try.



# History and Culture

## Introduction to Philosophy

wea.org.uk

The question of what Philosophy is and does is part of 'doing philosophy'. This course covers different answers to this question, such as:

- A set of tools for clarifying concepts
- An approach to understanding human existence
- A system of thought

Some pre-reading is required for this course.

When: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

Where: sessions are delivered via Zoom.

How long: 9 sessions

Time: 2pm – 3.30pm

Cost: £43.20

If you receive certain benefits you may be entitled to a free course.

Reference: C2343632

Book today:

enrolonline.wea.org.uk  
0300 303 3464

The logos for the Education & Skills Funding Agency, matrix, and the European Union. Below the logos, it states: 'The WEA is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1112775) and in Scotland (no. SC039239).'



# WEA

## Adult Learning Within Reach

## May Day Celebrations in Brigstock

Yes, I know, Autumn doesn't usually spring to mind as the most appropriate time to mention May Day! However I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contacted me and contributed to filling in the names of Brigstock School's May Day Queens and let you all know what has developed so far.

After the initial urgency to establish home learning and new routines had subsided the opportunity arose for me to spend a bit of time examining and tidying up the School archive including the May Day records. I say "records" in the widest possible sense. I was surprised and horrified to find that very few written details exist – most evidence is confined to a few dodgy photos and yellowed newspaper cuttings, generally un-dated. It proved a much greater challenge to unravel than I expected – especially in isolation without a team of ex-pupils and local historians around the kitchen table.

It seems that May Day has been such an integral part of school and village life that few have considered it necessary to write anything down. Have those involved always thought it was, a) so important that no-one would forget, or b) irrelevant to record names as the event itself was the most significant thing? Discuss!

Even the Headmasters (yes, all men until 2017!) daily logbook, which often appears to have been their main preoccupation in those wild days before computerisation, the National Curriculum and OFSTED, often merely says 'Today was May Day'. Obviously never occurred to them to write down the name of the main player, the May Queen! To be fair, even in the last 20 years since I have worked at school we haven't consistently recorded any details and rely on collective memory – which I can confirm is fraught with contradiction and controversy.

Anyway, thanks to the valiant efforts of those who raided their lofts, rifled through their sideboards and argued with their families and old classmates, the basis of a more detailed record of May Queens (and Kings) since 1930 now exists. The 70's, 80's and 10's are allegedly complete, the 30's and 40's sparse and the 50's, 60's, 90's and 00's each half done. As you can see there remains ample opportunity for those young and old to add to this interesting and locally important archive and resource. I hope that when we finally have the opportunity to safely celebrate the 400 year anniversary of Brigstock Lathams School this information will form a substantial feature for all to examine and amend.

## May Day Celebrations in Brigstock, Cont'd

Meantime if you come across any newspaper clips or photos relating to May Day, or other significant school events or groups, I would be delighted to hear from you at [JBoyers@brigstockprimary.org.uk](mailto:JBoyers@brigstockprimary.org.uk) or via the Village Facebook site.

THANK YOU so much to all who have contributed so far and who have prompted hours of entertainment for many, to lighten those grim days of confinement earlier in the year. I REALLY DO look forward to hearing more from you!

Jo Boyers

## FRIENDS OF FERMYN WOODS COUNTRY PARK.

Supporters of our Country Park are pleased that after an extended period of 'lockdown' the Park is beginning to provide some of the facilities that have been available over previous years. Note that 'social distancing' with consideration for other users still apply. Not all facilities are available – but to enjoy the Country Park do visit it for –

Exercising outdoors – walking, running, cycling, fishing.

A variety of play areas for the young.

An opportunity to understand and see some of the local wildlife.

A chance to relax and enjoy refreshments/Snacks at the Skylark Café – picnic style for the time being. (Use cards for Café payments and coins for parking).

**NOTE** – For more details - See local media sites or contact the Rangers (0300 126 5933) or on [www.northamptonshireparks.com](http://www.northamptonshireparks.com), or see Local Notice Boards.

**And join the supporters** - FRIENDS OF FERMYN WOOD COUNTRY PARK (phone the Secretary (John) on 01536 373376 or e-mail [e4johnl@btinternet.com](mailto:e4johnl@btinternet.com) ).

**This year's AGM** takes place on 9<sup>th</sup> September and may be a 'Virtual' Meeting ('Zoom'). If you wish to join the meeting, send your e-mail address to John.

# 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 William Millen	Councillor	01536 373028
Mrs Elizabeth Searle	Councillor	01536 373672
Mr Stuart Malcolm	Councillor	01536 373384
Mr Colin Johnson	Councillor	01536 370003
Mrs Terry Towns	Councillor	01536 373861
Mr Ken Motion	Chair Planning	01536 373598
Ms Julie Lemmy	Councillor	

Well folks - having said way back in March that it was my last communication as chair of the Parish Council who knew what was about to unfold? It has been a bit like Groundhog Day as I was going to step down when the local elections took place. First they were postponed last year because of the Unitary Authority reorganisation, and this year because of Covid 19. We can only trust that they will go ahead as planned next year.

The last few months have shown just what a brilliant community we live in. Jane Jones and friends were quick to get a village support network going providing help and comfort to those most vulnerable, and then setting up the Village Pantry. I think I can say that no one who wanted help was without someone to call on if necessary.

I must thank all of you who have risen to the occasion including: the Knit and Natter group who have bedecked the village with cheerful knitted flowers, all those of you who have knitted dolls and made other things to support the NHS, all of you who put bright rainbows in your windows and came out to clap for the NHS, our brilliant Co-op whose friendly staff have kept us supplied with necessities and good cheer. There have been so many large and small acts of kindness

# PARISH COUNCIL

As a Parish Council we have had to get to grips with learning to use Zoom for our meetings as we could not meet face to face. We are waiting for advice about when normal PC meetings can resume.

It has been a weird and difficult time for us all but there have been some positives: having time to talk to neighbours and people in the village you may only have nodded to before, a slower pace of life with less traffic, time to tend the garden or allotment, learn new skills, be creative. There is uncertainty ahead and the recession caused by the pandemic will affect many, but I think that our community has become stronger because of what we have been through together.

Please continue to stay safe.

**Sally Wilks Chair Brigstock Parish Council**

**Do you care about trees? Would you be interested in becoming the Parish Council's voluntary tree warden?**

**For more information please contact our clerk, Nigel Searle.**



## TRAFFIC IN BRIGSTOCK

The pandemic has brought attention to what life can be like if people slow down - fewer cars on the road and more thoughtful road users. Now that we are getting back to some kind of normal the usual problems are surfacing again.

Motorists are once again speeding round the village prompting the question - do we need a reduced speed limit within the centre of the village?

Parking on pavements is once again becoming a problem. Please park considerately and allow room for pedestrians, especially those in mobility scooters or with pushchairs.

Enforcing traffic regulations is always difficult in a rural area but we will ask the police to intervene if necessary.

## BONFIRE NIGHT

The Fireworks are booked for Sunday 8th November.  
However we do not know whether we will be able to hold  
this safely.

Please look out for further information nearer the time.

## IN CONTEMPLATION OF SELF-ISOLATION

By John Smoker

Thankfully the death rate figures took a dive,  
I thank you Lord I'm still alive.

I'm writing here in isolation,  
Even from a close relation.

I think my thoughts profane and holy,  
All alone but not yet lonely.

It serves to while away the time,  
As I seek to make my verses rhyme.

A laugh, a joke, a word of wisdom.  
Or perhaps a witticism.

On Sunday, I composed a sonnet,  
I regret today, I have forgot it.

But after lockdown it won't matter,  
We will have a good old natter.

### And now some jokes from John.

(Any complaints, please speak directly to John. The Editor takes no responsibility)

I knew the affair wouldn't last. They met at the tennis club. Love means nothing in the tennis world.

She lost her job at the pharmacy. They dispensed with her.

## WAR MEMORIAL ROTA

Thank you to the groups who have kept the Memorial looking neat and tidy during the current situation. The Knit and Natter group put a small show of poppies on the memorial for VE day and have decorated the chains around with flowers. Poppies were again on show for VJ Day. The next groups to have turns are shown below.

Month	Organisation
September 2020	URC
October 2020	St Andrews Church
November 2020	Parish Council
December 2020	Village Hall

## Litter Pick

Although the village managed to hold their annual litter pick back in March and were donated £75.00, it was the last event the village held as a whole. Most places in England could not hold their events and so the Keep Britain Tidy Group moved the event to September 11<sup>th</sup> -27th. It was discussed at the parish Council meeting in July on whether to hold another large event but it was decided that once a year had more impact

However, we have bought some more litter pickers and hoops with the money we were awarded in previous years and now have 20 of each. So, if you would like to organise your own small litter pick either in that fortnight or at any other time, please contact Liz Searle on 373672 for the loan of the equipment.



# VILLAGE PROJECT GROUP

## New Brigstock Planters & Village signs

In the March newsletter we reported that our [Lottery](#) application was successful and we received additional funding from the [Beer Festival](#) and Chris Allen had kindly volunteered to make the new planters. We had just got it sorted when lockdown arrived which stalled the progress somewhat. As lockdown eased Chris was able to purchase the wood and quickly set to work on making and installing them.

Due to various regulations from Highways Dept, we were unable to install a planter under the Brigstock sign at the Stanion Road end (near the A616) hence the reason why the planter is nicely situated on the grassy area at Bells Close. The other planter is sited at the Sudborough Road entrance of the village. We had enough money left to buy new signs for both sites.

Chris was ably assisted by David Stuart who put his horticultural skills to good use and sourced the plants and kindly planted them up. Our grateful thanks to both Chris and David and the village volunteers who are dead-heading and watering the plants.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Village Planter – can you help?

Our grateful thanks to [Brigstock Sawmill](#) who have recently donated some railway sleepers so that we can put another planter in the village to enhance its appearance. Thanks again to Chris and Dave who have volunteered their services and will be busy again putting it together. Again, with guidance from Highways Dept, the new planter is being constructed at the grassy area on Grafton/Sudborough Road.

**We have a slight problem** (this is where you might be able to help).

When we purchased the two new Brigstock signs, we had no idea that we would be building another planter therefore we have run out of funds.

Due to lockdown there has been no further meetings of the project group.

# VILLAGE PROJECT GROUP - Cont'd

We need £180 to purchase planter fixings, stain, topsoil and plants and to purchase bulbs for all three. We hoping to hold a fundraising coffee morning, but of course this is not possible yet. If you can help, or if you have an idea on how we can raise the money, please get in touch with Steph Beckett or Glenda Stephen – we are determined that we will find a way of financing it somehow.

I wrote in the March newsletter that I hoped the planters would be in place for the Best Village Competition judging in July. They were but the competition has been postponed until 2021.

Thank you to everybody who has supported us. We are very grateful to the **The National Lottery**, the **Beer Festival Committee**, and all the **Volunteers** who have given up their time to build, plant and water, without which we could not have proceeded.



## The Olde Three Cocks PH

Brian and Sue would like to thank everyone for a warm welcome and their continued support through these difficult times.

At the Olde Three Cocks we have a full range of draught Beers and Lagers plus 2 real Ales that change on a weekly basis , we have 30 different Gins to choose from and 10 different Vodkas.

Our Sunday Roasts are now up and running, our menu plus take away will grow on weekly with the emphasis being on Quality Pub Grub at affordable prices.

# Fermyn Woods Country Park

Well what a strange year it has been, because due to Covid 19 the Country Park and Café was closed from mid-March to mid-May. But that did not stop the Ranger team as we carried on with day to day maintenance round the park of mowing, strimming, general repairs, putting woodchip round all the equipment in the main playarea and much more. The wildlife enjoyed the break from people in the park, - the birds seemed to sing louder and the rabbits were more visible.

We had our usual suspect of butterflies this year of Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Silver Washed Fritillaries, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers to name but a few. Due to the dry weather during May there were not so many Dingy and Grizzled Skippers this year. Purple Emperor numbers were also down this season both here and at other sites it is found across the country. It is thought the cold spell we had at the beginning of June and the high winds is the cause of the low numbers.

The Frogs and Toads left spawn in the fishing pond and in many of the ditches and small ponds in the Forestry but were only seen on their big migration to the ponds for a couple of days. The Long Pond had a good number of Newts who could be seen rising to the surface to breath for quite a long period. These were all helped by the very wet winter and spring which raised all the water levels up to where they had not been seen for several years.

The park reopened mid-May and has been the busiest it has been for a long time with people wanting to be outdoors and people discovering the park for the first time. Unfortunately there has been an increase in litter not just at all the Country Parks but at all parks, national parks, beaches and any green space nationwide, which is a shame. Please remember the country code and take your rubbish home and where possible recycle it. Put a carrier bag in you back pack, pocket or car and put your rubbish in that, - litter can be very harmful for wildlife and spoils it for the rest of the people using the park.

The Skylark Café reopened in June for takeaway teas, coffees, cake, sausage rolls, ice cream and more, so check the boards by the café for more options. Again the café has been well supported since it reopened and has been extremely busy.

## Fermyn Woods Country Park Cont'd

The wildflowers put on a good show we had Oxeye Daisies, Knapweed, Meadow Sweet, Hedge Bedstraw, Pyramidal, Common Spotted and Bee Orchids, Viper Bugloss and Birds Foot Trefoil to name but a few.

Also it has been a good season for birds round the park - all the summer migrants of Cuckoo, Willow and Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Whitethroat to name a few all returned to breed. The Red Kites put on a good display when a park visitor left bread scraps on a picnic table. They were coming down very low and putting on some good aerial displays that would make the red arrows jealous!

Please remember when you are visiting the park to observe social distancing guidelines. The Rangers.

## A MEMORY OF KGH

By John Smoker

None could be fairer  
Than lovely nurse Sarah  
The Kettering buttercup.  
None could be faster  
When she ripped off my plaster  
And tore my left buttock up.

## 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. If you see it happening, call the Police direct and report it.

Contact the Parish Council.

## DIPHTHERIA IN BRIGSTOCK 1902

In the summer of 1902 an outbreak of diphtheria occurred at Brigstock. This highly infectious disease, which has today been virtually eliminated from Britain by routine inoculation, is particularly dangerous to children and, as late as the 1930s, was responsible for between three and four thousand deaths a year in this country.

An emergency meeting of Thrapston Rural Council called on August 20th to decide what action should be taken to deal with the situation was attended by Councillors F. J. Steward and J. H. Nicholls of Brigstock. The report of the meeting, which appears in the Kettering Leader, illustrates some of the difficulties faced by local authorities in coping with health matters, for it shows clearly that they had a great deal of responsibility for the provision of all necessary facilities for the treatment of the disease.

Dr Elliott, the Medical Officer of Health, stated to the Council that on August 6th he had been notified by Dr Stokes of two cases of diphtheria and that both had since died. Two days later five more cases had been reported. (One of the two girls who died was Florrie Swan, sister of Mrs W. Spencer). Dr Elliott had then visited Brigstock and found several more cases of sore throats which in his opinion were probably mild attacks. He also reported unfavourably on the sanitary conditions in Brigstock Schools. The report says 'The drains were bad and had been frequently condemned but nothing had been done, the schools were overcrowded, the closets were in fair condition but fowls were kept in a portion of disused closets which he considered should not be allowed.'

Attendance at Latham's school was so poor on August 6th that the remaining children were sent home and the school did not re-open for five weeks when it was recorded in the school log that two girls in Class 1 had died in the summer holidays.

The Council considered that it was essential to isolate the five children who had contracted the disease if that was possible. For this purpose, Brigstock Council had in their possession a hospital tent but, when examined, it was discovered that, although it was supposed to hold four beds, it was, in fact, only able to accommodate two. This awkward situation was alleviated by Mr Beeby who offered 'free of charge, a suitable building which had accommodation far in excess of the hospital tent.' (This was a stone outbuilding adjacent to the Homestead in Park Walk). Mr Gardiner Muir of Fermyn

## DIPHTHERIA IN BRIGSTOCK 1902—Cont'd

Woods also helped by offering to guarantee payment for two nurses engaged to look after the sick. These nurses were local women volunteers, one of whom is thought to have been Bidy Eet. The Councillors agreed that 'given these provisions, the best that could be hoped for in the circumstances, every inducement should be given for the patients to go to the hospital.' In an angry letter to the 'Leader' on August 29th Rev J. P. Sandlands, vicar of Brigstock, describes the distress caused to parents and children by these 'inducements'. 'They have five children in an outhouse one of whom was forcibly taken crying and screaming from his frantic mother.'

Although the isolation ward and the nurses had been provided for by members of the local community, the doctor's bills still had to be paid. One of the Councillors, Mr Jellis, inquired whether those in a position to do so should pay.

The Clerk to the Council clarified the position by reading an extract from the appropriate Act of Parliament which made it clear that payment could be forced by the Council who were the sole judges of who should pay and who should receive free treatment, again emphasizing how much power and responsibility was vested in the local authority. Whether or not any of the parents of the unfortunate victims of the disease were made to pay for the treatment is not known.

The only specific, effective treatment for diphtheria is an anti-toxin injection. This was available in 1902 as Dr Elliott pointed out to the Council, stating that, in German hospitals, the mortality rate had been halved in the 1890s by the use of anti-toxin. Vaccination was a controversial issue at this time and the Council was noticeably wary about recommending its use, and decided that 'the question of its employment should be left to medical men.' It is unlikely that it was administered to the patients in the isolation hospital but, interestingly, it was used in Brigstock at this time. Mr Fred Swan, an employee on the Fermyn Woods Estate, had lost four children in the disastrous diphtheria outbreak of 1893, and one girl, Florrie, in the outbreak of 1902. An agent on the estate, Mr Lake, who was acquainted with Mr Swan, obtained a supply of anti-toxin at his own expense from London which was given to the surviving children of Mr and Mrs Swan.

Winnie Swan, now Mrs Spencer, still remembers being injected in the thigh with the serum and is still grateful to Mr Lake whose generosity she feels may have saved her life and that of her brother.



## DIPHTHERIA IN BRIGSTOCK 1902 - Cont'd

While the diphtheria outbreak in Brigstock may be a relatively small incident on the national scale, it does bring home to us how much the standards of healthcare have improved over the century, and emphasises the importance of the central organisation and financing of hospital services and other health facilities which has enabled the great advances in treatment methods to be made available to all, whether they be rich or poor, or live in a city or a village. It may also temper the nostalgia many of us tend to feel for the 'good old days' of the Edwardian era.

**William Simon. October 1983, Bygone Brigstock Issue 5**

### The Village.....

I have lived here for 30 years and in that time, although enjoying it, I hadn't joined any of the organisations apart from WI for a few years.

Since March, however, my perception and experience has been enhanced by the community spirit here. Thanks to Facebook, the Brigstock Village Information and the Brigstock Isolators Group, we have been blessed with volunteers to ensure villagers were supported both practically and mentally for these difficult times we find ourselves in. Within days, we had leaflets put through our letterboxes informing us what was available and I am indebted to my local volunteer, who updated that information via newsletters.

I think the turning point for me was VE Day when everyone was sharing the celebrations, together with home-made cakes, in their front gardens. There were neighbours I hadn't met before as several properties had changed hands since we all tended to get in our cars to get where we needed to go.

I am amazed at the enterprising efforts that have emerged – exchange of plants, books, bric-a-brac, services etc. with special mention to the thousands of pounds that have been raised for charity.

I think many of us have been forced to examine our way of life during these past months, realising what is important, and moreover, what isn't. In my opinion Brigstock is more of a community now than it has even been.

Eunice Jones, Two Hoots, 2 Swan Avenue

## Ladies Leisure Group

The year started well, with a variety of quizzes at our January meeting (to check that our brains were still functioning after Christmas), and then in February we tried Kurling for the first time. There wasn't a lot of space in the June Small room but we managed very well and had a good time. In March we made Easter cards with Lynda's help and guidance, and the results were very varied and impressive. After that, of course, we were not able to meet at all, and it seems unlikely that we'll be able to meet again this year. It's very sad to miss out on these social occasions; some people, especially those living alone, rely on local clubs for company and, of course, tea and cake.

We had an excellent programme lined up for this year's meetings, so we hope to be able to re-book most of them for next year. When we are able to use the June Small room again, we will use the Facebook village information page to let everyone know. Meanwhile, we hope everyone is keeping safe and well and we look forward to seeing you back at our meetings in the near future.

## Brigstock Bell Ringers

The bell ringing team grew substantially throughout 2019 and looks forward to starting ringing again once we have the go ahead.

Once we re-start, anyone interested in learning is welcome to come along and watch our practice sessions on Monday evenings.

In the meantime, here's some facts about the bells:

Heaviest Bell - Bell 8 - the bell which chimes hourly - weighs 1490 lbs

Oldest Bells - bells 5,6,7 and 8 were cast in 1647

Oldest bell locally - Sudborough - cast in 1350

Steve Todd

## Brigstock United Reformed Church

What a difference a few months can make to our lives. Our newsletter in February was full of hope for the future months, with plans for coffee mornings, a fashion show and taking part in other village events. After the lockdown was announced, we were hopeful enough to think that we might be able to continue with our plans in the Autumn, but that is not going to happen, and now we have to accept a “new normal” way of living.

Since lockdown started, we have been blessed with the village sense of community, with all sorts of people helping out friends, neighbours and especially the elderly and vulnerable, in a variety of ways. Some people have found this time of enforced isolation to be a blessing in disguise; we have had time to enjoy gardens if we are fortunate enough to have one, the weather in the Spring was amazing, the air was fresher with no planes going over and everywhere seemed so quiet, free from traffic noise and pollution. Sadly, the pandemic is still with us, and, although nobody in the village appears to have suffered from the virus, we know there are many people in our area who have lost loved ones and friends. Our NHS staff, including Brigstock residents, have been exceptional in their dedication to keeping us all safe and we are very grateful to them all.

We have really missed being able to hold our usual Sunday services. We did open for four Saturdays in July for anyone wishing to use the chapel for private prayer and reflection. But, on August 2<sup>nd</sup> we were able to start holding services again and 11 of our congregation appeared, fully masked and seated with social distancing. It's not the same without hymns, but our good friend and Brigstock native, Rev. Graham Bell, put us all at ease and it was good just to have 30 minutes of time together in the chapel. We have preachers booked for all of August and September, so do feel free to join us at any of our services-10.30 each Sunday and all are welcome.

The June Small room seems so empty at the moment; normally there is some group activity on several days each week and it is a warm, cosy room for meetings. Sadly, we do not know when we will be able to open it again to any local groups. Social distancing drastically limits the number of people we can safely accommodate and we need to be absolutely sure that there is no risk to any of our visitors before we can start to use it again.

## Brigstock United Reformed Church—Cont'd

We do not know what the next few months, or even years, have in store for us. It would be lovely to think that we could hold our Christmas celebrations as usual this year, but we will have to see what the national and local situations and regulations are at the time. We have been fortunate enough to obtain grants for much needed repair work to our buildings, and this will have been completed by the time you read this, but we miss our fundraising activities which are essential for keeping our premises maintained and our church active in the community.

Finally, a big thank you to those of our members who have been able to help in the community, especially Paula who has been a real star helping people isolating at Harpers Court, and Helen who has collected and banked members' weekly offerings so that we can pay our bills. A big thank you especially to the very generous person who anonymously left an envelope of cash at the chapel in July. We don't know who you are, but we are really grateful for your donation. Let's all hope and pray that when the next newsletter is printed in December, the news will be more positive and hopeful.

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# St Andrews Church

In our last article we were planning for a very busy year in our church life. However the brakes were quickly put on all of our plans as life took a very strange turn for us all. We found our churches closing their doors for the first time since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Even during two world wars there was the constancy and comfort from the welcome church afford to every man, woman and child.

Like everyone else, we had to adapt and overcome. So our Sunday worship got a 21<sup>st</sup> century touch by being accessible on Youtube. Hats off to our Rector, Heather, and Captain Alan for their efforts. I know it has not been easy putting together the services and there was a very steep learning curve for them both. It is hard trying to meet the needs of everyone and of course the services could not always follow the traditional way they are delivered in person in church but I know that many have found comfort in being able to join the virtual worship on a regular basis on a Sunday or when ever they could.

Despite lock down there has been a lot of work being done in the back ground by many from our congregations and supporters. We have had people doing recorded readings and music for the Youtube services and we are really grateful for your input and contributions.

Huge thanks to the ladies who made and sold jam, marmalade and face masks. All proceeds have been greatly received to go towards our church running costs. Yes these continue even when the doors are closed!

We were blessed to hear the church clock strike again recently after a few months silence, a welcome sound that had been missed. Many thanks to Carl, our Churchwarden, for bringing back a familiar friend.

We have continued to produce our weekly News Letter, distributing it far and wide by email and making deliveries to a number of people in our villages that do not have access to email. A special thanks to Steve in Brigstock (you know who you are) for regularly doing the rounds ensuring we are keeping in touch with as many people as possible. Apologies if I have missed anyone who has continued the work of the church over the last four months – you are all heroes!

# St Andrews Church Cont'd

We had to re-schedule all of our weddings until 2021; so a quick shout out to our prospective brides and grooms who have been disappointed but never fear we will make your special day worth waiting for.

Thankfully we are slowly opening our churches and putting in place procedures to allow us to have a Sunday service every week. Of course numbers of attendees need to be restricted to allow for safe distancing and from the 8<sup>th</sup> August the wearing of facemasks became compulsory in places of worship. If you need to know more about how you can attend any of our services, please contact the Reverend Heather Lowe or our Benefice Administrator. Weekly Youtube services will continue for the time being, the videos for recent weeks are available to back view. Follow the link below and click SUBSCRIBE, and you can view them and others to come at your leisure.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSF7745DRm8eiwpdh0TDEAQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSF7745DRm8eiwpdh0TDEAQ?view_as=subscriber)

At the moment we do not know when we will be able to hold our postponed events or what our Christmas programme will look like so please watch this space, keep an eye on our News Letters and Facebook

## **Contact Us:**

**Rector:** The Reverend Heather Lowe [heatherlowe020@btinternet.com](mailto:heatherlowe020@btinternet.com)

**Benefice Administrator & Safeguarding Officer** – Allison Porter email: [beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com](mailto:beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com)

**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>



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## **BRIGSTOCK KURLING GROUP**

We were very sorry to have stopped our kurling sessions back in March. And we expect that our regular attendees have missed them as well.

We are waiting for guidance as to how we can start again .

As soon as we know when we can get going and how we can safely meet, we will let you know.

Ring Judith Beeby on 373367 for more information.

## **FOR FRESH TASTY FISH AND CHIPS IN BRIGSTOCK**

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**BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S  
SCHOOL**

# **Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School**

Everyone at Brigstock Primary School has continued to work so hard during the summer term, in circumstances that have been truly unprecedented due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Since the partial school closure in March, we have worked closely with Stanion school to remain open for the children of key workers, and we have been open more widely throughout June and July for all pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6. Our teachers have worked incredibly hard, providing online learning for all other groups of children and we have also found lots of creative ways to support the learning of children of all ages, including the delivery of boxes of activities to every home.

Many of our usual events and extra-curricular activities could not take place, but we did manage to give our Year 6 children a memorable send-off, with doorstep assemblies and award-deliveries as well as an outdoor celebration to share their poem and their memories of happy times at school.

All of our Year 6 children joined together for the last verse:

**SO WE FINISH THE YEAR WITH THE GREAT MISS KIRBY...WE KNOW  
SHE LOVES US, WE'VE BEEN NO TROUBLE!**

**WE'VE LEARNT SO MUCH ABOUT...EVERYTHING...INCLUDING HOW TO  
SURVIVE IN A BUBBLE!**

**CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN IN 2020**

**BUT HAPPY MEMORIES? WE'VE ALL GOT PLENTY!**

On the very last day of term we had a wonderful commemoration for Mrs Leaning, and we shared our beautiful piece of outdoor artwork with her family. We have designed a mosaic that celebrates our wonderful school and the huge contribution that Mrs Leaning made to every aspect of school life. We will always miss her, but we will also remember all the positive things that she brought to our lives.



## **Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School**

As a staff we all want to thank the whole community for their support and we feel very privileged that we have been able to work so closely with the Leaning family throughout this time. We look forward to sharing the mosaic with all of the children and parents when everyone returns to school in September.



We are, of course, planning our re-opening to all pupils and we are all looking forward to the new 'normal' of whole class bubbles. We hope that we can continue to do all sorts of exciting, creative things and we look forward to sharing our achievements with the school and village community.

Once again, thank you for all your support,

Sandy Ettridge and Luella Manssen

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## BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

For many of us, life has been turned upside down in recent months. Somewhere below – possibly beneath your very feet as you read this – lies evidence of history repeating itself.

Written records tell us how Brigstock was significantly impacted by past pandemics in the late medieval through to the early modern periods. We know less about the physical proof of this though. Abandoned or repurposed properties, declining volumes of material associated with human occupation and environmental archaeology would all help to support our understanding of how the village's population declined over several centuries.

But BAG's embryonic plans to shine more light on this continue – like those of so many community groups – to be overshadowed by Covid-19. Whether we can safely resume any kind of activities programme in 2020; when we can meet face to face again; if there's any point taking out the insurance that membership subs can now cover – we don't yet know the answers to such questions.

However, one of the positives that the 'new normal' has thrown up for many of us is how effective modern tech can be at connecting us and sharing information. So, while **Zoom** can't give us a hug or buy a pint down the Green Dragon, it will let us begin meeting virtually to discuss what we can, should and want to do in the months ahead and into 2021.

We've yet to finalise the date and details, but there's some sense aligning this with the next scheduled BAG meetings (that would be **7.30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> September or 20<sup>th</sup> October**). In the next few weeks, the working group will agree and email/WhatsApp details to existing members and post to Facebook.

You don't have to have a Facebook account to see this – just look BAG up and keep an eye on any new posts. Between us, we should also have enough Zoom experience to help anyone that's unfamiliar with the software to set it up and join the meeting.



## BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP—cont'd

We'll be taking a look at our first test-pit reports, sharing what we learned about the excavation process, discussing members' ongoing research and other ways that tech might offer innovative approaches for BAG to move forward. Would socially distanced fieldwalking or live streaming test-pit activities be possible, for example? Could Zoom offer a safer, cheaper, more convenient way to meet for some types of events in the long run? We look forward to covering all this and more with you at BAG's first Zoom event.

One final thought; in a millennium, perhaps future archaeologists will be puzzling over evidence of how the current pandemic showed up in Brigstock's archaeological record. Maybe a spike in insect populations found in organic samples from 2020 or less takeaway litter along busy road routes. Connectivity apps like Zoom could have such a profound impact on how we work and play in the long run that how communities work and develop might change entirely. And if all digital and written records of our time were lost, how would all this be explained from the archaeology?

Peter Walker

### **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 don't know if or when we can start again, but we will let everyone know when we can. It would be lovely to see you there. John Smoker.

### **BRIGSTOCK MEN'S CLUB**

As other clubs, we have not met since March. It is hoped to start again, but we are not sure when the restriction will allow and people feel safe being out in a group. We will be back at the URC room as soon as possible