

BRIGSTOCK NEWS

EDITION 22 – SPRING 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 or sent to 9 Woodyard Close, Brigstock, NN14 3LZ

2020 SUMMER Published 1st June 2020—Copy by 15th May

2020 AUTUMN Published 30th August 2020

2020 WINTER Published 27th November 2020

CONTACT DETAILS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

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

Front Cover Photo - Latham School around 1900

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

PRODUCED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 2 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
- 4 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 7 Dementia Coffee Morning, WI Hall, 10am
- 10 WI "Absurdities of Fashion", WI Hall, 7-30pm
- 12 Scrabble, June Small Room, 10-30am
- 13 Film Night, "Yesterday", Village Hall, 7-45pm
- 14 Village Litter Pick, start at Village Hall, 10am
- 16 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
- 16 Ladies Leisure Group, Easter Cards, J S Room, 1-30pm
- 17 Brigstock Archaeological Group, Village Hall 7-30pm
- 18 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 19 BINGO, Harpers Court, 7-30pm
- 20 Country Park Quiz, Village Hall 7-30pm
- 21 URC Spring Coffee Morning, 10am, June Small Room
- 21 BRIGSTOCKS GOT TALENT, Village Hall, 7,30pm
- 25 Historical Society, "Eleanor of Aquitaine", Village Hall 7-30pm
- 28 St Andrews Church, Spring Fair, 10am
- 28 Cricket Club, Golf Day
- 29 URC Lent Lunch, J S Room, 12-30pm
- 30 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am

April

- 1 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 4 Playgroup Village Garage Sale
- 14 WI, "Up the Amazon without a Paddle", WI Hall 7-30pm
- 15 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 18/19 St Andrews Church Umbrella Festival, 10am
- 20 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
- 20 Ladies Leisure Group, Cream Tea at Sonde Arms
- 21 Brigstock Archaeological Group, Village Hall 7-30pm
- 22 Historical Society, "Archive Films of Northants", Village Hall, 7-30pm

May

- 1 URC Fashion Show, Village Hall
- 2 WI Tree to Thee, WI Hall, 10am
- 4 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
- 6 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm
- 12 WI Resolution Evening, WI Hall 7-30pm
- 14 BINGO, Harpers Court, 7-30pm
- 18 Mens Group, June Small Room, 10-30am
- 18 Ladies Leisure Group, Fairtrade by COOP, J S Room, 1-30pm
- 19 Brigstock Archaeological Group, Village Hall 7-30pm
- 20 Kurling, Village Hall, 2pm

June

- 4 BINGO, Harpers Court, 7-30pm
- 13 400 Year School Celebrations.

July

- 4 Cricket Club Summer Ball

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 final part of the planned work has been completed over the half term with new sinks being fitted to the 2 toilets. We have now applied for money to repair the roof of the hall where we get water ingress during high wind and rain.

We also want to upgrade the lighting in the corridors and other minor improvements to the building to keep it up to a high standard. All the money for these works has to be raised by the committee through events or fund raising. If you would like to help with this fund raising or join our committee, please contact Sally Wilks, Chair.

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
- 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
- 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.

BRIGSTOCK'S GOT TALENT

The Village Hall is promoting BGT on March 21st.

The acts for the evening are still being put together, so if you are interested, have a word with Sally Wilks or Steph Beckett.

Not too late to support other villagers who are performing and safe in the knowledge it is not you on stage. This is a fundraiser for your village hall. Tickets £5 from Steph Beckett or Sally Wilks.

Solo or group entry— all welcome

Contact the Village Hall committee for more information.

BEST VILLAGE COMPETITION 2020

I wrote to all village organisations asking if they would put on a small exhibition of photos or posters for judging day for the above competition. I hope I included all organisations and groups but there are so many! If inadvertently missed you and you are prepared to contribute please contact me. Many of you have replied and have started taking photos. Some of you intended to reply but Christmas got in the way. It is not too late!

We are unable to give a date yet but judging is usually in May. What we would need is a small exhibition. One table size and whatever you wish to put on it. If your exhibition is manned that would be superb but we know that won't be possible for everybody. If you cannot provide an exhibition but could provide somebody to talk about your group that is fine too. We will exhibit in a variety of places including village hall, URC, WI hall, Harpers Court and St Andrews church.

Thank you, Steph Beckett sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk



BINGO

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

The next sessions are

Thursday March 19th April NO BINGO

Thursday May 14th Thursday June 4th

Thursday July 2nd (Extra session)

The Harpers Court Lounge 7.30 pm. Transport can be provided. Call Eileen on 373168

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 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 LIVING ADVENT 2019 from Jane Jones

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the 2019 Brigstock Living Advent Calendar!

This year surpassed the previous in terms of creativity and community. Each night a different idea and some real 'living' contributions.

The event started with the Knit and Natter at the village Hall, and there followed an amazing month packed with nightly wonder.

As well as some of our regular contributors - the Co-op-Carla's creations, a fabulous effort from Brigstock School, Alison Millen's Harlequaine and Marc Gummer's simply stunning display on Hall Hill, we were delighted to welcome a number of new contributors - one who actually created a living porch and included a competition with a super Christmas Eve box as a prize, and another who produced a spectacular animated version of the Village! The content was so varied and included recycling and musical history- quite astounding! Three living productions were included this year, a ballet at Mill Lodge (in appalling rain) from two beautiful ballerinas from the Kilburn Dance School, WI's Cinderella and a funny and clever production from the Brigstock Theatre Group. We even managed to include the Bellringers at the local church!

The event ended at a magical Christingle Service in the Parish Church- with a beautiful collage of the Nativity scene created by Val Stout.

If you did not see all the windows there is a record on the Brigstock Living Advent Facebook page and also Instagram Brigstock_living_advent.

The collection was split this year, between the Air Ambulance who were sent £500 and the Parish Church who were given a £200 donation to add towards the fund to provide a toilet for the church. This will make it more widely used by our community in the future.

Thank you so much to everyone who created a window, Tracey Sharp of Nothing But Lovely for creating the map, Simon Brown for helping with the write ups and everyone who supported the nightly unveils.

I'm looking for help and ideas for 2020. As some of you know, I'm now retired and part time living in Norfolk so need support and assistance if the event is to be repeated for Advent 2020. Once it's set up it sort of runs itself but it is a nightly commitment through December. just email me brigstockadvent@hotmail.com or pop in and see me - 28 High Street. I will be delegating the photos and write ups to the contributors next year!

BRIGSTOCK LIVING ADVENT 2019—Cont'd

We must give a big thank you to Jane Jones for all the work she does to bring this wonderful event together. This involves a lot of commitment and organisation and she does this so well.

If you want to see it continue, we do need someone or several to volunteer to help Jane. Please do come forward.



Brigstock Film Night 2019/20 Season

Brigstock Film Night brings you a bonus extra date to end the 2019/20 season.

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

Friday 13 March 2020 – Yesterday (cert 12a)

After a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that The Beatles have never existed. Performing songs by the greatest band in history to a world that has never heard them, Jack becomes an overnight sensation with a little help from his agent.

Stars Himesh Patel – a local lad! He was born in Huntingdon and attended Prince William School in Oundle (according to Wikipedia!)

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

Brigstock Village Hall

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

For further information please contact:

Alison Millen on 373028 or Emma Poole on 370142.



BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL 2020



Cheque Presentation

On the 5th February the chair of the 2019 Brigstock Beer Festival (BBF) Committee, Rob Leening, presented a cheque for £1,830 to the Northamptonshire and Warwickshire Air Ambulance service. It was decided that N&W Air Ambulance Service should be the main beneficiary from the 2019 Beer Festival as this service is responsible for saving lives of people, particularly in rural areas, who have suffered trauma or have acute life-threatening illness.



Due to the success of the 2019 Beer Festival the committee have also been able to make a significant donation to a number of village charities, clubs, organisations and good causes e.g. PFA, Sunnysiders, Fermyn Woods Country Park, Cricket Club, Village Hall, Brigstock Newsletter, planters for the entrances to the villages.

Over the past 15 years the Brigstock Beer Festival has raised over £87,000 for various charities whilst also providing a fun-packed week-end of entertainment. The 2019 US themed event was particularly popular with a real “festival” atmosphere throughout the week-end which was helped in-part by the glorious weather and the beer and cider that was consumed.

The date for this year’s Festival has now been set for 18th and 19th September with the theme “The Caribbean”. Plans for the Festival are well under way. Do check our website 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 2020 Brigstock Beer Festival, or any of the other handsome committee members featured in the accompanying photo.

www.brigstockbeerfestival.com and on Facebook

BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP £5 for the rest of the 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.

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. Tel. 373428.

Brigstock Historical Society Programme 2019-20

25/03/20	<i>Eleanor of Castile and the Eleanor Crosses</i> Chris Rowe	A talk on Eleanor of Castile, the beloved consort of Edward I, and the twelve stone crosses erected in her memory.
22/04/20	<i>Archive Film of Northamptonshire</i>	We have invited Pete Austin back to show more of his archive film of Northamptonshire
27/05/20	<i>The Battle of Naseby</i> Stephen Barker	This was a decisive battle in the English Civil War in 1645. The talk will cover details of the battle and its aftermath

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.

Brigstock Cricket Club 2019

This year Brigstock Cricket Club will be celebrating its 125th anniversary and for those who use the meadow or walk/drive passed you will have noted it is more suitable for growing rice than playing cricket at the moment. It is hard to believe that the new season is only two months away. Hopefully as we approach spring the rain will cease which will enable the club to repair the damage caused by the months of excessive heavy rainfall, including the large ruts adjacent to where the bonfire was. In addition, you will be pleased to hear that we will be moving the stock pile of excavated soil situated by the old nets, whilst we appreciated this is an eyesore to some the ground has been too wet and we would have only caused unrepairable damage to the ground if we had try to move it over the winter months.

Our winter nets for adults and senior juniors who have or wish to play adult cricket will run from 10:00am to 12:00 Saturday's 7th March to 4th April inclusive at Oundle school. This year will also be running separate junior winter nets (also at Oundle School) and these dates will be emailed to the relevant people over the next few weeks so please keep an eye out for the email.

Brigstock CC Golf Day. Peter Hedges and Ethan Delargy have both kindly offered to organise the annual Club Golf Day which will be hosted at Oundle Golf Club and take place on the 28th March from 10.00am. For the golfers amongst you the day will consist of, 3-4 balls, Stableford, full handicap, £38 per head which will include full breakfast, round of golf, snack and prizes etc. For those wanting to play or enter a team then please email Peter Hedges on peterhedge@aol.com

Finally as advised in the last newsletter to celebrate the clubs 125th anniversary we will be holding a Summer Ball on Saturday 4th July 2020 after a ten year break since the last Ball. The event promises to be a fun packed evening which will be held in a marquee on the meadow. For details and ticket arrangements please refer to the advertisements or speak to any member of the cricket club or organisers including Mair Goodson, Elaine Fincher, Tracey Sharp, Patrick Croker or myself.

Thank you for your support.

Simon Andrews – BCC Chairman.



The poster features a light grey background with a bokeh effect of soft, out-of-focus light spots. A large, dark grey silhouette of a cricket ball in flight is positioned on the right side, with its wings spread wide. The text is centered and uses a mix of elegant serif and cursive fonts. At the top, 'save the date' is written in a cursive font, followed by the date '04.07.20' in a large, bold serif font. Below this, 'Brigstock Cricket Club' is written in a serif font, followed by 'SUMMER BALL' in a very large, bold serif font. Underneath, 'celebrating 125 years of cricket' is written in a cursive font. The ticket price 'TICKETS £65' is displayed in a bold serif font, with 'further information to follow' written in a cursive font below it. At the bottom, the contact information 'Reserve a ticket / table now: Elaine 373353 or elaine@fall-line.co.uk' is written in a small, bold sans-serif font.

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

BRIGSTOCK SCHOOL PFA

We've just had a great Curry Night, and it's worth looking at what a special evening it is.

The event is for the PFA, which commits to raising funds for the school. Along with the Ferret Racing and the Fete, it's one of the events we run which everyone in the village can get involved with (as long as you like curry). It really was a good evening, so can we just say how humbled and delighted we were with the efforts made by everyone who got involved.

For the Curry Night to work, several folk have to commit to making a large meal for the village to try, added to the worrisome pleasure of having it tasted and assessed by three judges, and then possibly being voted the Curry Queen or King of Brigstock.

But this is by no means why everyone turns up, whether curry cooker or eater. It's one of those great nights where generations get together, enjoy sharing the skills of those who make the food, muck in with the organisation, support the school and generally make this village what it is. So a huge thanks to all, and we'll see you at the Fete in June, which is also part of the school's 400th year celebrations.

A particular well done to Katja – the Curry Queen for the second year in a row with yet another outstanding vegetarian dish, this time based on cauliflower. There wasn't an ounce of food left by the end, aside from a large overload of rice which went to feed Justin's chickens. We figure that means he owes us an egg. On another note, we should probably collect the recipes together – if anyone would like us to, contact Richard Fincher on 373353 and we'll see what we can do.

Brigstock Latham's School Parents and Friends Association

JOKE CORNER

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. Its impossible to put down!

Did you hear about the guy who invented the Knock-Knock jokes? He won the "no-bell" prize.

I decided to sell my vacuum cleaner - it was only gathering dust.

Knit and Natter Club

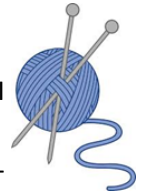
Our Knit and Natter group have moved to a new location – WI Hall, Park Walk and are very happy with our new surroundings.

We took part in Brigstock's Living Advent window (our 7th display). We designed our window, earlier in the year, around The Olde Three Cocks where we used to meet; however when it closed we were at a loss as to where to display our theme. A huge thank you to the Village Hall Committee who came to the rescue and allowed us to display our window(s) there. Not only did they "save the day" they provided the refreshments and even organised Brigstock choir to sing and entertain the crowd.

We sold most of the animals from our Advent display and raised a further £44.50 towards the Air Ambulance appeal. Thank you everyone who bought the knitted pieces.

Wilma has organised a fundraising **Coffee Morning to help support Dementia UK** and all the Knit and Natter ladies have come on board to help her make this a success. [So a date for your diary ladies, gents, boys and girls – See below for details.](#) We hope to see lots of you come and support this worthwhile charity.

If you want to learn to knit/crochet, or already knit/crochet and want to join our friendly group, we meet every Wednesday at WI Hall from 10am to 12 noon. Cost is just £2 each, which includes biscuits and unlimited tea/coffee. *Glenda Stephen 373987*



Dementia UK Coffee Morning

"Time for a Cuppa"

organised by Wilma & her Knit and Natter friends

Saturday 7th March

10am to 12 noon, WI Hall, Park Walk

Meet up with friends for a morning natter over Tea or Coffee with home-made cakes with Luxury Hamper Raffle, Tombola, Craft stall



BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk

With longer days and Spring around the corner it is time to look ahead to the busy programme we have planned for our WI.

Our January Safari Experience evening proved to be a great success with a “virtual safari” followed by a tasty supper. We held a raffle to help support the work of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and with some added donations on the night we raised £140 which is enough to sponsor two elephants for two years!

We will bring more news on this at a later date so watch this space.

“Would you Adam and Eve it?” was the title of the talk given by the return of speaker Colin Hill at our January meeting. He shared many of the experiences from his time as a Metropolitan police officer in the 1970’s and 80’s. As well as some sad and moving tales he kept us amused with many hilarious stories. What an insight it was! If you have the opportunity to go along to one of his planned talks he comes highly recommended.

We are sad to bid a fond farewell to previous members Anne-Marie, Pam and Mary and although we will miss them hope they will still join us from time to time so that we can have a cuppa and a catch up. On a lighter note we welcome Jenny, Paula and Linda as new members this year and look forward to getting to know them over the next weeks and months.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2020 from all at Brigstock WI.

Jill Pettigrew

Brigstock WI What’s on

Tuesday 10th March 2020

Brigstock WI Meeting at 7.30 pm, WI Hall. Patricia Heed presents Absurdities of fashion.

Competition: Photo of you in a “fashion” absurdity.

Tuesday 14th April 2020

Brigstock WI Meeting at 7.30 pm, WI Hall. Gina Starling – Up the Amazon without a “Paddle”

Competition: A souvenir from your favourite holiday

Tuesday 12th May 2020

Brigstock WI Resolutions Evening at the WI Hall 7.30pm.

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

BRIGSTOCK WI Looking Ahead:

1. TREE to THEE

A DEMONSTRATION OF THE VARIOUS PROCESSES FROM WOOD TO CRAFTS

Saturday 2nd May – free entry

At WI Hall, Park Walk, Brigstock 10am to 3pm

Refreshments will be served throughout the day

We are looking for people that would be willing to demonstrate a variety of skills from woodcarvers to card makers, basket weavers to origami enthusiasts and everything in between!

We are hoping people will come along and have a go at the various types of processes used.

If you would be willing to demonstrate a wood/paper craft please call 01536 373987 for more details.

2. Look out BGT!! Fresh from our recent production of Cinderella, rehearsals are now underway for the return of our very talented drama group. We are reliably informed that they will be popping up in the second half on this years Brigstocks Got Talent at the Village Hall, so don’t forget to get your tickets early!

SUNNYSIDERS CLUB

Sunnysiders is a club for men and ladies over 60. We meet in the lounge of Harpers Court on Park Walk, Brigstock every Tuesday from 2 till 4pm. Entertainment is quite varied. On Tuesday 3rd March we are having a talk about the Air Ambulance, on 10th March we will get the kurling set out and on the 17th March we will be having fish and chips (we have this every month cooked outside the building so very fresh) and on 24th March we will be having a go at card making. See what we mean about varied!

For further information please telephone Maureen on 01536 373383..

The Causin Allotments – How they began

The Causin allotment ground has been part of the Brigstock landscape for over two hundred years. It came into existence in 1805 as part of the land allocation after the enclosure of the open fields in Brigstock. An Enclosure Act for Brigstock was passed in Parliament in 1795. The purpose of the Act was to change the traditional system of farming in which parcels of land in large fields was shared out among a number of farmers. This land was re-allocated so that individual farmers would have their own fields and farms separate from their neighbours, the system we have today. This process took ten years to complete and it is easy to imagine the disputes and legal arguments that went on over that time. Scattered among the open fields were areas of land that had been left as charity lands to help the village poor. In the enclosure settlement these were exchanged for an area of land on Benefield Road called Causin Leys, which is the site of the present Causin allotments.

The following is an extract from a report by the Charity Commissioners in 1830 which gives details of this arrangement. The Ladies Fitzpatrick mentioned in the report were the owners of Fermyn Woods Hall and its estate Town Estate: By the inquisition taken by the above-mentioned commission for charitable uses, it was found that certain lands lying dispersedly in the fields of Brigstock had time out of mind belonged to the church and poor of Brigstock and that the same were then of a yearly value of £2 10s; and that two leys in the Park Fields of Brigstock had been formerly purchased with monies given by a Mrs Wath to the use of the poor widows of Brigstock; and by decree of the commissioners it was accordingly decreed and declared that the said lands were parish lands and belonged to the town and inhabitants thereof and that the same and the rents and profits of the lands in Park Lane belonged to and should be employed towards the repair of the church of Brigstock and the relief of the poor; and that the two leys of Park Field should be and remain the use of the poor widows of Brigstock.

On the inclosure which took place in 1805 an allotment of 7 acres 3 roods and 4 perches of land, called the Causin Leys, on which public fairs used formerly to be held, was awarded in lieu of the open field lands and rights of common mentioned in the deed and also of the two leys purchased with the money given by Mrs Wath.

The Causin Allotments – How they began - Cont'd

The allotment called the Causin Leys is let by the trustees of the town estate to the poorer parishioners to be cultivated as gardens, for which purpose the land is divided into 54 plots, 52 of which are let at 10s a year and two at 8s, but an allowance of 2s being made to each occupier for a dinner on rent days and £3 a year being paid to the tenant of the ground belonging to the Right Honourable the Ladies Fitzpatrick, on which the fairs are now held, as a compensation for the same being held thereon instead of the Causin Leys. The clear annual produce now amounts to between £25 and £26 a year.

There is a bed of stone under the Causin Leys and two of the gardens were broken up some few years ago for a quarry of stone, which were intended to be used for the building of a silk factory on some ground belonging to the Ladies Fitzpatrick, by whom it was intended to grant a lease of the ground to the projectors of the factory when the building should be completed, and it is represented that one of the purposes of establishing the factory was to provide employment for the poor. This project however appears to have failed. The ground was broken up under the authority of Mr Daniel Yorke, one of the trustees, who is an agent of the ladies Fitzpatrick, but he neglected to have an account kept of the value of the stone taken, which it seems to us he ought to have done.

Later in the report there is further criticism of the way both Mr Daniel Yorke and Mr Vicars had discharged their duties as trustees and a recommendation that new trustees should be appointed at a meeting of parishioners at Easter 1830 to ensure that the income was properly used for the repair of the church and relief of the poor. Bill Simon.

BENEFIELD ROAD ALLOTMENTS

The allotments are still going from strength to strength with a few left to rent.

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

WAR MEMORIAL ROTA

Thank you to the groups who have kept the War memorial tidy over the past few months especially with the cold weather, it is looking very tidy. The next few clubs to “do their bit” are shown below.

Month	Organisation
March 2020	PFA
April 2020	Historical Society
May 2020	Knit and Natter
June 2020	Ladies Leisure Group

GREEN DRAGON PH

Club Coffee situated in the Green Dragon resting on the historic Hall Hill in Brigstock opened in December last year. Equipped with laptop charge points and free wifi, as well as exceptional freshly made coffee, sandwiches and cakes, this space is an excellent spot to recharge your batteries in more ways than one.

Fancy something cozy on colder days? Why not sit by the fire. Want to enjoy the sunshine after a lovely walk? Perch in our enclosed beer garden. Also, we have an intimate snug that’s regularly used by local clubs but we’d love to see more of you.

Manda is excited to meet so many of her regulars whilst she may not remember their name, she knows their coffee and cake order! *“Our vision is to provide a warm, inviting environment where you feel at home and nothing is a problem. Where you can sit back with friends, work in peace or have a wine at the end of a hard day. We’ve sourced the best coffee and most delicious cakes from John Dwyer. Our sandwich range caters for vegetarians, gluten free, dairy intolerant, vegan and our four pawed furry friends. Eat in or take-away we’ll cater to you”*

We love being part of the Brigstock community and want to get to know you better. Why not follow our Facebook page @TheGreenDragonBrigstock or pop in and chat with Manda? You’ll see all of our special offers and feel free to pop your head in...and the rest of your body will follow.

VILLAGE PROJECT GROUP

New Planters

We have made some progress since the last newsletter in that we now have some funding! The Beer Festival has given us a donation and we were successful in a bid to the Lottery. We now have enough money to install some oak planters at the Stanion and Sudborough end of the village, which Chris Allen has kindly offered to build for us. These would really make the entrances into the village more attractive and bring some colour to the area.

These things take time though as we now have to make sure we speak to all the relevant bodies. The Parish Council is helping us with this.

We have visited other villages to see what planters they have.

Volunteers are in place for the filling, planting and maintenance. We are hoping they are in place when the judges meet us for our Best Village entry. If you think that you can help, please do contact us.

Community Litter Pick:

At our project meeting it was suggested we had two litter picks a year. The first litter pick has been organised by William Millen (Sat 14th March) and details are in this newsletter so we hope as many villagers as possible will turn out. Your reward will be tea and cake at the Village Hall when you return with your litter!

We hope to hold a further meeting when we have more news

New Magnetic Boards:

Our magnetic boards are going well and it is so much easier to remove dated posters now drawing pins are no longer required.

Sally, Liz, Glenda, Steph



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	

This is the last time I shall be writing as chair of the parish council as I shall be standing down at the local elections in May, so I thought it might be a good time to look back at the achievements of your parish council over the past years. Some people ask what is the point of a parish council? Why get involved in boring meetings on cold wintry evenings? To my mind a parish council is the most accessible point of democratic engagement in this country. It has enormous potential to keep a community vibrant. It is an opportunity for you as individuals to shape the place you live in.

What exactly has your parish council achieved? I am pleased to say that we have been responsible for many things over the years and I am going to list some of them here:

The cycle path from Brigstock to Stanion, working in conjunction with Corby BC to get funding for its installation. We are supporting an extension all along the A6116 to make cycling safer.

A street lighting review and replacement with Led lights which has dramatically cut our electricity costs and reduced our carbon footprint.

Our Neighbourhood Plan which sets out how we want to see our village developed over the next 15 years. This includes our Design Statement for developers to refer to when considering what is appropriate in the village.

The successful installation of a bridge across Harper's Brook and our MUGA (Multi-use Games Area).

Bulb and tree planting in the village. Installation of benches.

PARISH COUNCIL

Support for the organisation of our Bonfire Night and Christmas celebrations. Providing grants from the Firework Fund.

Improving footpath provision around the village.

Successfully opposing unwanted development in the parish including Gladman's proposed 110 housing scheme, and a wind farm adjacent to Catshead Farm.

Getting involved with catchment area management of Harper's Brook to improve flood management. Obtaining funding for a floodstore.

Getting an Article 4 direction for the conservation area.

Coordinating village celebrations to mark significant national events such as the Millennium and the Queen's jubilees.

Installation of the village sign and interpretation board.

These are just some of the things your parish council has achieved because people have been willing to become parish councillors and give their time to representing you.

Of course none of this would happen without the support of our clerk, Nigel Searle, who has consistently given over and above the time that he is paid for to make sure things happen and keep us informed. I should like to thank him and all my fellow councillors for their support during my time as chair.

I hope there are some amongst you who will think about standing in the parish council elections in May. We particularly need representation from young people.

If you like living in Brigstock why not think about giving something back to your community?

Sally Wilks Chair Brigstock Parish Council

Erection of satellite dishes within the Brigstock Conservation Area.

Please note that within the Brigstock Conservation Area satellite dishes should not be attached to the front of buildings without planning permission. Further information about permitted development can be obtained from the clerk or by visiting

www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk Article 4 Direction Brigstock

ANNUAL VILLAGE LITTER PICK

The Annual litter pick will take place on Saturday 14th March from 10am. We meet in The Village Hall Car Park at 10.00am. All equipment is supplied but if you have your own gloves, litter pickers then can you bring them so others can have some. There will be free refreshments afterwards. The Parish Council is hoping lots of you will join them to make the village tidy once more. There will be a competition once again for the school children to make a



WOULD YOU LET YOUR CHILD DO THIS?



There are a few anti-social dog owners in the village who think that it is acceptable to allow their pets to foul the grass and pavements along Church Walk and Benefield Road.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR DOG'S POO AND BIN IT

The Parish Council will seek prosecution if you are caught.

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.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Be aware of a new Northants police website for crime prevention. Please see www.protectyourhomenorthants.co.uk.

1. More car break ins of cars parked on roads. Thieves go along a street trying all the cars until they strike lucky.
2. Most thefts from cars are from unlocked vehicles.
3. Police attend all break ins if residential properties. They may not attend if a shed or outbuilding but do still report the details.
4. An expensive bicycle needs more than a cheap chain.
5. Many residential burglaries are through unlocked doors and windows.
6. If you have not seen a police officer recently that may not be bad. It may mean not much crime near you and they are busy somewhere else.

An opportunity for young people from your Parish to become a member of Northamptonshire's OPFCC Youth Commission



The Youth Commission has been set up by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to ensure that the views of young people are heard, and help change services for the better.

My role is to recruit up to 30 young people from across Northamptonshire to form the 2020 Youth Commission. In addition to those young people who might ordinarily apply, I am eager to encourage young people to apply whose voices might struggle sometimes to be heard. I am also keen to engage with young people who have already had experience of the criminal justice system. And of course I want to make sure we have young people involved from right across Northamptonshire.

You can check out information about the commission at <http://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/opfcc-youth-commission/> where you will find an information sheet that can be downloaded, and an online application form for young people to complete.

It would be great if you could raise awareness of the opportunity either on your website/social media, or in your email newsletter.

I also have paper copies of the application form that you can give out if you would find that helpful – just let me know and I'll get them over to you.

Feel free to drop me an email with any questions or leave a message on my mobile phone and I will come back to you as soon as I can.

Dale Willis, Youth Commission, Office of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. E-mail Dale.willis@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk

Brigstock United Reformed Church

At the time of writing there are snowdrops everywhere and daffodils about to bloom, so it's easy to forget that Christmas was just 6 weeks ago. We started the Christmas season by sending off the Knitivity set which visited 20 homes in and around Brigstock during Advent, reminding us of what Christmas is really about. Then we had our annual Christmas Coffee morning, and it was amazing to see the June Small room so packed- everyone was eager to see who were the winners in "Open the Box" and we were thrilled to make over £850 for our funds. It was a lovely morning and a great atmosphere.

At our Carol service on December 22nd we decided to donate the offering to two cancer charities-Cransley Hospice and the Teenage Cancer trust. The teenage Cancer Trust has helped one of our teenage friends, Ellie, after her diagnosis in the summer, and we were able to give each charity £78. Even better, on Christmas Day Ellie showed us her certificate stating that she is now cancer-free. What a Christmas present for her and her family!

We had more good news just before Christmas-we had applied to several organisations for grants towards the cost of our repair work, and we heard that Central England Co-op, of which Brigstock Co-op is a part, have given us £3,000 which means we now have enough to complete essential works. We are really grateful to them for their generosity.

By the time you read this we will have had one of our popular quizzes, and then on **March 21st** we are having a Spring coffee morning, from 10-midday in the June Small room, serving toasted tea-cakes, cakes and coffee, as well as our excellent tombola and raffle. On **May 1st** we are holding a Fashion Show in the Village Hall, courtesy of Heidi's boutique in Wellingborough. The clothes will be for children and adults of all shapes and sizes, so there will be something for everyone. Please join us there for drinks, refreshments and a chance to replenish your Spring wardrobe! Look out for posters giving more details.

. The season of Lent will have started by the time this newsletter goes out, and we will again be holding a Lent Lunch consisting of soup, bread and cheese, with donations going to charities helping those with barely enough to eat. This will be on Sunday, March 29th at 12.30 in the June Small room.

Brigstock United Reformed Church—Cont'd

More details will be available on posters in March, but please let us know if you would like to attend so that we can make sure we have enough soup to go around!

The Open Door has been part of life at the chapel for over 30 years. Every Wednesday morning the June Small room is open for coffee, refreshments, good company, monthly Bingo and a small raffle where everyone wins something. It was started by the Roman Catholic community in Brigstock as a way of thanking us for allowing them to use the chapel for a weekly service, and Eileen Glanville has been one of the stalwarts of the group, always there early to set up the room, put on the urn and serve everyone. Recently she decided to hang up her tea-towel and, as a token of thanks from all the regulars, she was presented with prosecco and a beautiful plant. Nigel, her husband, has also been a great support to Eileen and they now deserve to put their feet up and let others take over. The Open Door is what it says, open to anyone, so if you are at a loose end any Wednesday morning, pop in for a while and join us.

We welcome anyone to join us at our weekly Sunday services, at 10.30. We have a varied selection of visiting preachers as well as our own minister who comes once a month, and we also organise some services on our own. We are informal and friendly!-and we would love to see you here! More details from Sheila 373225, Jean 373468 and Helen 373712.

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 2 March and then every 2 weeks at the URC. New men are welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

Des Robinson 01536 373090

St Andrews Church

As spring is just around the corner we are preparing for another busy year in our church life but I have to start with a community event that we are extremely excited about. An Umbrella Festival that involves groups, organisations and businesses from the village. We are asking them to create and install a display, which includes an umbrella or umbrellas, open or closed. There is no theme so the sky is literally the limit (remembering that it is to be exhibited in church!). We hope that the event will be as successful as the Christmas Tree Festival in 2018 and will attract many visitors from far and wide. The festival will be open to the public from 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 18th April and Sunday 19th April, refreshments will be available so please put the dates in your diary and come along.

The second new event is an arts and crafts exhibition on the 3rd and 4th of October. We are looking for local people who would like to display their art or craft and perhaps demonstrate their skills. Do you paint, quilt, carve, knit, do paper craft or anything else that would be of interest to visitors then please contact Allison Porter on 07933 804432 or by email on beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com for more details.

Don't forget our Spring Fair in church on Saturday 28th March between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.

We will be having a Mothering Sunday service on the **22nd March at 10.00 a.m.** This will be an All Age service, no Holy Communion. Please come along, all Welcome

Our Easter Services are detailed below:

5th April - 11th April. Stations of Cross will be around the church walls. Go into the church during daylight hours to meditate or reflect on the Stations with the notes that will be available.

9th April 7.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday. Share in a re-enactment of the Last Supper.

10th April 2.30 p.m. Good Friday Quiet, reflective, devotional service.

12th April 9.15 a.m. Sunday Easter Day Celebration. All Age service with Holy Communion. .

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>

St Andrews Church - I wonder?

We found ourselves recently having a conversation on how the nights are getting lighter, how we can almost feel the sun again and the solar powered lights in the garden were beginning to work again! You might think we were discussing something we were witnessing for the very first time.

How great to experience old things in a fresh way, like looking forward to new life forcing its way into every nook and cranny. Our sense of 'wonder' is as much a part of our DNA as sight, smell, hearing and touch. We all know, sadly, that those senses can decline, and for some in a life changing way. In a very different way, our sense of wonder can be affected by life's storms too. We can find ourselves looking at nature's wonders with indifference, as though our natural inclination to say 'wow' has been hijacked.

In the 'good book' Jesus makes a point of repeatedly saying things which suggest that we all need to be 'like children' to experience the things of God. What he meant, we believe, is one of our childhood assets i.e. that 'sense of wonder' is something that helps keep our spiritual side alive and active. It's therefore another of our faculties that needs looking after.

As the evenings lengthen again, the buds become shoots and we rediscover warmth on our backs, let it kickstart our sense of wonder, reaching beyond ourselves. Do join us as we reflect upon and celebrate the goodness of God in all its 'wonder'. Mothering Sunday, Easter, Pentecost and many other Sundays and Thursdays in between!

May God help you be aware of the wonders around you, in nature and in other people.

Heather and Alan Lowe (Ministers at St Andrews)

Brigstock Bell Ringers

Bristock bell ringing team continues to grow. Four new learners have now joined the 10 regular ringers aged from mid teens to mid 80's. With a larger team we can start to ring the full 8 Brigstock bells with more interesting variations. Monday night is our regular practice night and we hope Bristock continues to enjoy our efforts.

If you are interested in learning more about our historical bells please come along any Monday evening at 7pm. You don't need to be a ringer.

Ladies Leisure Group

If you've got the winter blues or are just a bit bored, come and join us on the third Monday in each month for a couple of hours. Each meeting is different-see our programme below- and we always have tea, cake and a raffle.

We organised the meetings for 2020 in January and later in the year we'll be having a talk on Fairtrade courtesy of the Co-op, a repeat of our horse racing afternoon-by popular request!- some craft afternoons and some visits for lunch or afternoon tea.

We meet in the June Small room at the chapel, Mill Lane from 1.30pm, and all ladies with some time to spare are welcome to join us-and even if you haven't got time to spare, treat yourself to a break and pay us a visit!

Details from Sharon 373832 Val 373456 Sheila 373225

Mon. March 16th Easter cards

Mon April 20th Cream teas at the Sondes Arms, Rockingham

Mon. May 18th Fairtrade talk by Central England Co-op

BAKE AND BREW COFFEE SHOP, HIGH ST.

We are delighted to announce that our coffee shop, Bake and Brew, will be opening at Easter. Come and enjoy a nice cup of tea or coffee with a slice of one of our delicious cakes. If you are hungry, take a look at our selection of tasty sandwiches made fresh daily. Also available, there will be freshly baked artisan bread supplied daily by a local bakery.



Of course, the post office will still be running on Fridays and our local artist will continue to display his artwork here.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have a suggestion on your favourite cake, feel free to pop in and let us know. Look out for more news soon... Marzena & Chris



GARDEN MACHINERY SPECIALISTS

SALES : SERVICE : PARTS

ALL TYPES OF MACHINES - MOST LEADING MAKES MOWERS
*GARDEN TRACTORS*CHAINSAWS*BLOWERS*BRUSHCUTTERS*

STRIMMERS*HEDGETRIMMERS*SHREDDERS

GENERATORS*DISC CUTTERS* GARDEN TOOLS*ACCESSORIES

NEW AND USED MACHINES IN STOCK FROM :-

COUNTAX: LAWNFLITE : CUB CADET: HAYTER :

HONDA ECHO: STIHL :GARDENCARE:TONDU: MTD :

ROVER : AGRI FAB: SCH

YAMAHA QUAD BIKES AND ACCESSORIES

COLLINGS BROTHERS

BRIGSTOCK

SUDBOROUGH ROAD BRIGSTOCK,

Tel 01536 373238

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



BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S
SCHOOL

Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School

We are all enjoying the Spring term, although we are now looking forward to the arrival of Spring after a long Winter! With the opening of our wonderful new garden space at the end of last term, we are hoping for some warmer weather so that we can enjoy the outdoor learning opportunities that it will bring to our children. Thanks to our PFA we have an outdoor classroom, too, and we have already been using this for a range of creative activities.

All of our children have been as busy as ever. We finished the last term with some really memorable Christmas celebrations and events, and we were all very proud to take such an active part in the Living Advent event. We also took this opportunity to share our love of reading with the whole village, and we hope that everyone enjoyed sharing our window.

This term we are enjoying the preparation for the 'Brigstock 400' events that will mark 400 years of education in Brigstock. Our 'Day 10:10' unit is entitled 'Brigstock through the ages', and our children will have the opportunity to learn about life in our local community over the past 400 years. We began this unit of work with the whole school dressing up for a schoolroom session in either 1620, 1800, 1900, 1950 or 2000. We had a really interesting and enjoyable day, and we all learnt something new about life at school since Nicholas Latham founded the school here in 1620. We have put together a Brigstock 400 Committee, and we hope to involve the whole community in marking this significant event. We have a date for a 'Brigstock Through the Ages' Church and School Fete on Saturday, June 13th, and an all-age Church Service on June 14th at 3pm, jointly led by Heather and the school. We invite everyone to dress up in clothing from any time period from 1620 to the present day. Please save these dates!

Our children continue to work hard in their classrooms, and all are enjoying their units of work this term. We have had a number of visitors to the school, and everyone has been impressed with the positive and creative approach to their work.

Brigstock Latham's Primary School—cont'd

They have been busy with a number of extra-curricular activities, too. We took our Key Stage Two children to the Young Voices Concert in Birmingham, and they enjoyed a really memorable evening of singing and performing. Our Year 4 children are heading off to Derbyshire in the middle of February for an outdoor residential, and the children in Year 5 and 6 have their own residential experience at Norfolk Lakes at the end of March.

Next month we look forward to our involvement in the Oundle Festival, and we are lucky enough to be taking all year groups to the 'KidLit' events with visiting authors. We hope this will inspire our children to read and write even more widely. With World Book Day also coming up in March, it will certainly be a month with many opportunities to continue our school focus on reading.

As always, we thank everyone who is involved with our school,
Sandy Ettridge and Wayne Jones



BLETSOES

Flying the nest or putting
down new roots?
Bletsoes Estate Agents
are here to help.

01832 732188
estateagents@bletsoes.co.uk

49-51 High Street, Thrapston, Northamptonshire, NN14 4JJ

Brigstock Latham's Primary School—400 years old

Plans for the celebration of 400 years of education in Brigstock are well underway. Events will be held over the weekend of 13/14 June 2020 focussed on the school and Hall Hill along with other important village locations.

On the evening of Saturday 13th June we intend to hold a reunion event for ALL past pupils and staff of the school. We really hope that as many people as possible will come along to meet old friends, reminisce, celebrate and have a good time. Although details are still being finalised, we need to publicise the event as widely as possible.

If you are a past pupil or have a strong connection with the school and would like to come along, please save the date and pass the message on. It would be brilliant to get 400 people to come along so please help if you can. If you would like any more details or feel able to contribute to organising the event, your input will be gratefully received. Please contact Jo Boyers at Brigstock School, JBoyers@brigstockprimary.org.uk.

Did you go to Brigstock Primary School ?

It was in 1620 that Nicholas Latham founded the first school in Brigstock on the site where the war memorial now stands. So this year the school is celebrating its 400th anniversary. A rare and great achievement !

As part of the anniversary celebrations the school is interested to hear from any former pupils about their memories of their schooldays here in Brigstock. What were the high, and low, points ? Which teachers do you remember ? Did you go on any trips ? Did you take part in any special occasions such as May Day, Summer carnivals, plays, musical events, sports teams ? What stands out as your main achievement while at the school ? Do you have any photographs from your time at school ?

If you are a former pupil and would be happy to share some of your memories with the present pupils, please contact Val Stout, tel: 373456, or Carl Hector, tel: 373410, who are helping to co-ordinate such memories on behalf of the school.

We look forward to hearing from you !

We love ukulele! Good for heart, mind and soul.

Brigstock Village Hall Thursdays, 7–9pm (except during holidays) £5 drop in; £1 ukulele hire

“Playing ukulele brings so much joy. I wish I’d learnt to play sooner,” admits Tori Williams.

In September 2019, Tori founded Corby Ukulele Band (CUBs) to encourage others to share her love of ukulele. All the money raised from the class is ploughed back into the group. “CUBs is all about community, and learning in a fun and supportive environment. The first hour is for complete beginners – we really break it down to basics. In the second hour, I teach skills for those who want to progress or who are moving towards intermediate level,” explains Tori. “It’s such a happy little instrument and people find they can strum along to their favourite songs after their very first class.”

CUBs play songs from all eras and genres – singing and playing along to golden oldies and the latest hits. “I’d say the hardest part of playing ukulele is deciding what song to learn next! We are always on the look out for new members – the more the merrier!”

What is a ukulele?

This high-energy, jolly little four stringed guitar is correctly pronounced oo-koo-le-le and is Hawaiian for jumping flea. It comes in different four basic sizes: soprano, concert and baritone – or you could even try the u-bass for a funky double bass tone.

Is ukulele hard to learn?

Ukulele is said to be easier to learn than guitar. Ukulele is smaller than a guitar, so it’s easy to hold; there are only four strings to memorise; and your fingers don’t have to stretch so far or press so hard.

How can you get started?

All you need is a sense of adventure, a willingness to learn and a sense of humour. If you don’t own your own ukulele, we have a small selection of colourful ukes that you can borrow. You’ll be supported by your fellow ukulelians and because the ukulele is well-known for comical ditties, laughter is guaranteed.

Reserve your ukulele by calling or messaging Tori 07966 465919 or email toriwilliams@me.com Like us on Facebook



BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

It's time to get stuck in! That's exactly what BAG is doing as we approach spring and the 400th anniversary celebrations for Brigstock Latham's Primary School.

Topsy-turvy weather is presenting our volunteer archaeologists with an unusual opportunity which we're keen to make the most of. So we're putting out a special appeal to landowners in and around the parish for permission to survey for artefacts.

Field walking – looking for ceramic and lithic clues on the surface – is usually an autumn activity. But unusual levels of rainfall since September have meant that even now (mid-February) a significant number of fields have been too wet to drill. Once done, though, it's the ideal time to spot finds without damaging crops.

So if you're a farmer or are interested in local history and know a landowner who is too, then we'd love to hear from you and help you find a silver lining in these endless rainclouds. Speculative 'line-walking', where volunteers walk parallel lines, usually only surveys 10-20% of the surface of a field. Once finds are processed, areas of special interest could be followed up with a more intense survey of 100% of a smaller part of the field.

We'd aim to make the whole process hassle-free to the landowner. There's no digging involved. BAG's written permission form means all finds would be the property of the landowner or subject to the Treasure Act. We'd simply ask permission to process and study them and would be responsible for reporting our activities and significant artefacts to the relevant bodies.

On the advice of Middle Nene Archaeological Group, BAG's initial activities are falling into two linked foci. One is a programme of field walks to find out more about evidence of human activity and patterns of settlement in the parish. This could, for example, shed more light on the route of the 'missing' section of the Gartree Roman Road and offer evidence to try to explain the altered alignment.

Secondly, a small dig (possibly a series of test-pits) is planned to mark the primary school's anniversary to see what archaeology lies below the school. BAG would also be interested in hearing from house-owners who would be



BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP—cont'd

interested in volunteers test-pitting their gardens as part of a wider programme at a later point.

If you think you can help or know someone who might be interested, please drop us a line at brigstockarchaeologicalgroup@gmail.com, through our Facebook page and group or by calling **Peter Walker on 373635**. Of course, BAG is always on the lookout for new members too (sign up at www.brigstockarchaeologicalgroup.co.uk).

As this newsletter goes to press, we've just submitted a grant application for equipment and are initiating trials to practice field-walking and test-pitting techniques set out by ULAS (University of Leicester Archaeological Services). Practice makes perfect and we're keen to ensure all interested members get a chance to begin to develop these key fieldwork skillsets.

While our working group meets fortnightly in the Green Dragon for nothing more than the cost of a pint, room hire for the all-member meetings at Brigstock Village Hall (**every third Tuesday of the month**) isn't free. As such, it looks likely we'll need to start charging a £10 annual fee to cover room hire and public liability insurance, although membership remains free to under 18s. Come and join us!

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 next meeting is on 12th March and it would be lovely to see you there. John Smoker.

FOR FRESH TASTY FISH AND CHIPS IN BRIGSTOCK

VISIT THE FISH AND CHIP VAN

EVERY TUESDAY

4-30PM TO 7 PM

ON SUDBOROUGH ROAD, BRIGSTOCK

**Let us transform the
quality of your lawn!**

Aeration
Scarification
Overseeding
& More

Facebook Twitter

- ✔ Greens up and thickens the lawn
- ✔ Removes weeds & minimises moss
- ✔ Completely safe for children & pets
- ✔ Locally owned & operated business
- ✔ Regular personalised treatments
- ✔ No contract - Direct Debit available

GREENSLEEVES
Lawn Treatment Experts

FREE Lawn Analysis: 01767 651 639
www.greensleeves-uk.com • Email hunts@greensleeves-uk.com

Lyveden reopens this summer with a brand new experience

News from the National Trust

For the past year we've been transforming Lyveden in Northamptonshire. This summer Lyveden re-opens its doors with a brand new café and parking facilities, interpretation within the manor house, and the opportunity to explore the symbolic historic garden as it was intended.

Following our testing with visitors last winter, we've refined our plans for the Manor using your feedback to help us develop how we tell the story of Lyveden.

In our new interpretation spaces, you will be able to learn more about Sir Thomas Tresham, who built Lyveden in response to the tumultuous religious changes in Elizabethan England. As a Catholic, Sir Thomas practised his faith in secret and suffered persecution at the hands of the Protestant authorities. Within the Manor you can now connect with the man behind Lyveden, the world he lived in and how he used symbols to hide his faith in plain sight.

Inspired by Sir Thomas' story, we're working with Northamptonshire inter-faith groups throughout the year to explore poignant stories of belief, identity, and belonging. These stories and discussions will be featured up the stairs, or lift, in the newly refurbished Manor, and you'll be able to add your voice to the conversation.

After investigating the manor house, you can de-code the hidden symbolism of the Elizabethan gardens; for which bookable mobility vehicles are available. Wind up through the restored orchard, historic earthworks and moats to the unfinished garden lodge, can you unlock the mystery of Sir Thomas' design?

Over the last two years over £20,000 has been raised on site towards this project and we'd like to sincerely thank all our donors for their ongoing support.

To find out more about the project at Lyveden, to get an update on the opening date or to plan a visit this summer go to

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyveden .

Brigstock Pre-school Playgroup

There has been a playgroup in Brigstock for over 40 years. In the beginning it was run by mums who just wanted to meet up and get the children used to routines before starting school. Gradually the County became involved and staff were paid a small amount. Now we have to pay a living wage and the government funds places for 3 year olds. The government funding does not cover the running costs and along with wages going up we have been making a loss over the last few years.

Having looked at the finances it was decided that we would have to close this year but when was to be decided. After having a few fund raising events poorly attended or cancelled, we started an urgent appeal to see if we could raise the funds to stay open until July, so the children going to school in September would not have to change settings for one term, and this raised over £3000.00 by the time of writing (14 Feb). Thank you to all of you who have supported our appeal.

There was an Extraordinary General Meeting on Friday 14th February of Brigstock Pre-School Playgroup where the parents made the decision to close the Playgroup in July. It is sad that we are having to close but we do not have enough children to keep pace with the outgoings.

We are still fund raising, so if you would like to make a donation to keep us going until July, we would welcome any funds. You can drop donations in at playgroup or to any parent to pass on. The next big fund raiser is the garage sale on April 4th. If you would like to take part please see Liz Searle or any playgroup staff.

Email: brigstock-playgroup@outlook.com

Garage Sale around Brigstock

Saturday 4th April 10am-2pm

If you want to be included it will cost you **£5.00**

Contact Emma Mitchell, 07939581963, or Liz Searle, 373672

Or visit Playgroup before **28th March 2020** to be on the map

Maps will cost £1.00 on the day to show where all the sales are.



BRIGSTOCK KURLING GROUP

The visit to the ice curling at Beckworth's Emporium before Christmas was well attended, with 14 people playing and several spectators, including someone taking photographs to be included in the Village of the Year entry. As in previous years, we managed to convince a member of the Beckworth's staff that we had a reasonable idea of what we should be doing, and we were left us to organise ourselves. It was a very successful afternoon, as no one fell over, and everyone managed to reach the target at some point!

The dates for the meetings at the village Hall this Spring are: 4th and 18th March, 1st and 15th April, and 6th and 20th May. Please note that there is a three week gap between the April and May meetings, rather than the usual two weeks. As usual the meetings will be from 2-4 p.m., and all the equipment is provided, as well as refreshments, for a cost of £2. There's no need to book, just come along if you would like to have a go, or ring Judith Beeby on 373367 for more information.

K M SURVEYS Ltd

For Land Surveys and
Construction Setting Out

20 Park Walk, Brigstock,
Kettering, Northants, NN14 3HH

Tel: 01536 373598

Mob: 07958 657378



Small Business

Growth Club

Elizabeth Wright



For More Information visit

<https://smallbusinessgrowthclub.simplero.com>

Call 01933 428151 or Email contact@adminandmore.co.uk

Admin and More Announces the Launch of Small Business Growth Club

Admin and More are excited to announce the launch of the Small Business Growth Club, a support Club for those who are thinking of starting a business or who have just started out on this exciting journey,

Did you know there were 681,704 business started in 2019? Is one of your goals to start a business in 2020? Statistics show that 60% of businesses fail within the first 5 years so what are the steps you need to take to ensure you beat this statistic?

The Small Business Growth Club is a membership club. It's a programme of videos and work sheets to help you make sure you have covered all the bases of setting up a business. We will then give you guidance to help you market your business so it can begin to grow and give you the success you deserve. Each month we send you a monthly theme so you can concentrate on that part of the business. Topics covered so far are branding, having a website, choosing the right accountant and many more. We also send out bonus themes, have access to our live training events and monthly Q&A calls. The programme starts at £15.00 a month.

Small Business Growth Club is the brainchild of Elizabeth Wright, award-winning VA and owner of Admin and More. Together with her team who have experience in different areas of building a business, she helps clients free up time so they can grow their business.

Elizabeth says "I have been in business since 2016 and in that first year I found it a lonely experience dealing with a business partnership split, a bad debt and just managing cashflow issues and would have found it useful have a resource I could access so it was all in one place."

BRIGSTOCK WI RECIPE PAGE

CHOCOLATE AND CHILLI COOKIES

(Makes 12)

Ingredients

100g plain flour

1 tablespoon cocoa powder

1 teaspoon baking powder

Half teaspoon bicarbonate soda

Half teaspoon ground cinnamon

50g light muscovado sugar

50g unsalted butter (diced)

Half teaspoon chilli powder/flakes

2 tablespoons golden syrup

100g dark or milk chocolate (according to taste) finely chopp

Method

Stir all the dry ingredients together in a bowl or food processor. Add the butter and chilli and rub in with your fingertips or process until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Add the syrup then mix together first with a spoon and then squeeze the crumbs together with your hands to form a ball.

Knead in the chopped chocolate then shape the dough into a log and slice into 12. Roll each piece into a ball and arrange on 2 large greased baking sheets. Cook one at a time in the centre of a preheated oven, 180C, (350F), Gas Mark 4 for 8-10 minutes until browned and the tops are craggy.

Leave to cool for 1-2 minutes then loosen and transfer to wire rack. Best eaten on the day they are made and preferably warm!

For chocolate and ginger cookies make the cookies in the same way as above but use 2 teaspoons of fresh chopped glace / or powdered ginger instead of the chilli and ground cinnamon.