

BRIGSTOCK NEWS

EDITION 24 – WINTER 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

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Front Cover Photo -

One of the winning Scarecrow/ Guy entries in the WI competition.

PRODUCED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- 1st First of the Advent windows opens at the Village Hall
- 20th & 23rd URC Carol Service
- 24th St Andrews Christingle. - see article for access details.

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.

Brigstock Village Hall Updates

We did manage to get some of our regular uses back as well as some new ones. These were Clubbercise, Ballet, Curling, Pilates, Historical Society and Ukulele. We had three new groups being Music Makers Northants, Sing and Sign and WI Dance.

New booking opportunities:

Once we open fully again, we will be 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 rosybriggs@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. www.brigstockvillagehall.co.uk

Next Project

Our next project is to convert the rear play area into a more useable seating area for all hall users, upgrade much of the lighting to LED units, inside and outside, improve the disabled access to the rear of the building and replace the old kitchen units in the annex. This is going to need a grant to cover the costs, so we are busy applying for this at present. Lets hope we are successful.

BINGO



Sadly Bingo has not been able to resume and who knows when it will. The Bingo team would like to send Christmas greetings to all their regular participants. Sadly no sherry and mince pies this year and no big Christmas raffle. When it is safe to resume we will. Take Care!



Chris /Eileen/Janet/Tom and Steph

Collectors Corner—Recycling

Bras (Smalls for All African Charity.)
Steph at 13 Swan Avenue

Stamps
Macmillan Cancer Support Group, **Claudette 16 Hall Hill**

Jewellery. It does not matter if damaged or broken.
Steph 13 Swan Avenue for Alzheimer's Society.

Used printer cartridges (main manufacturers only) Sally Wilks 7 Park Walk

Salvation Army	Co-op car park
Planet Aid	Three Cocks Car Park
Batteries	Co-op

There is also a Face book page entitled "Items for Sale In Brigstock!"

BRIGSTOCK INFORMATION FACEBOOK PAGE

Wow has this site been busy during lockdown!
Many thanks to Andre for managing it



Jordans Weeones Car booty street!

Jordan is my brother in laws daughter, I first met Jordan seven years ago not long after she had been diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer in her leg. Even at 14 and having had a big operation on her leg to try to remove the cancer she was a larger than life, upbeat, courageous, beautiful girl, so full of fun and mischief. She was determined that this diagnosis was not going to affect her life and that she would fight the cancer to the end which is what she did. Jordan spent a lot of time in hospital having treatment and could always be found befriending and encouraging other children on the ward. She started fundraising in a small way making bead bracelets featuring the family team names of families in a similar situation to her. Jordan loved coming to Brigstock to see the horses and the farm and always went to the Boxing Day meet. Not long before she passed away, she insisted on coming for a final visit to see the farm and a drive around the village. She told her father he was to do something useful and not allow their experience and her death to be for nothing and so Jordans Weeones was born, so called because Wayne called his children his Weeones.

I have raised money for Jordans Weeones for several years now, selling my surplus tomato plants and a few other veggies along with some donated surplus plants. So this year I decided I would grow lots more and sell them at car boot sales. So there am I with around 300 tomatoes all growing nicely and then Corona arrives, no car boot sales!

I had lots of tomatoes to sell for Jordans Weeones so I put in the Village Information page. Orders flooded in along with requests for cucumber, courgettes, beans, cabbage and broccoli, lettuce and compost. Luckily I had a good supplier of compost, I ordered 30 bags initially and ended up selling over 90 with all profit going to Jordans Weeones.

Lots of veggies and flowers were sown and some other flowers potted. The irises needed splitting so these were potted too and joined the flowers on sale outside.

People also donated their spare plants for me to sell. Bernie bought some tomatoes and asked if I needed some pots? Yes please! So I collected some and they then brought some lovely plant pots round and said I could sell them.

Jordans Weeones Car booty street! Cont'd

Similarly, my neighbour Nikki said she had some pots as well and a few other items I could sell which saw the start of the bric a brac stall! I had a bit of a clear out of books and other bits to fill a table and it went from there with generous donations from the people of Brigstock. Caroline Nall started the children's table off with a donation of toys and all of a sudden the bric a brac took on a life of its own now having three tables which then extended along the front wall into one continuous huge table. Caroline also kindly made notices and information cards so everyone could see what it was all about!

With so many kind donations of goods it keep it running and ever changing, with people taking what they wanted and leaving a donation for it.

All I do is cover it up at night and unwrap it in the mornings, oh and pick up all the donations!

Someone commented that tomatoes in this village were like loo roll in supermarkets!

Cucumber, courgette, lettuce, peppers, chillies, beans, squash, pumpkins, mint, more flowers, Conker trees, more planters and pots were sold. Someone asked about planters which got me onto the wooden boxes that sat like a neighbour said 'a giant jenga' on an old lorry. They are ideal planters and I had been using them in my own garden so they were put out too and all sold very well.

We have a riding arena just outside the village and money from the use of that has also gone into Jordans pot.

I have been to several car boot sales with the bric a brac since lockdown eased and have donated some to other small charities.

The total raised so far as of 19th October is £4633.10

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the support you have given to this small charity.

Later in the newsletter you will find details of my Christmas fund raisers. Hope you will join me for them as well.

Jane Steward.

Knit & Natter Group

Since our last newsletter in September, we were delighted that we could finally meet up. Initially we met (when the weather allowed us to) on the patio of the village hall. Off we trotted on a Wednesday morning with our camping chairs, a flask of coffee and our knitting bags, to do more nattering than knitting, and plan the advent window and other knitting projects we had in mind for Christmas. When the weather got a little too chilly for comfort, we decided to hire the village hall and meet in small groups of 6. We didn't realise how short lived that plan was to be. Here we are, back to square one and find ourselves in lockdown once more. Never beaten, we are back to video link on a Wednesday morning in the comfort of our own home with an added bonus of seeing the different dressing gowns modelled!!!!



When the weather got a little too chilly for comfort, we decided to hire the village hall and meet in small groups of 6. We didn't realise how short lived that plan was to be. Here we are, back to square one and find ourselves in lockdown once more. Never beaten, we are back to video link on a Wednesday morning in the comfort of our own home with an added bonus of seeing the different dressing gowns modelled!!!!

Knit & Natter Advent Window:

We have been busy planning our contribution for Brigstock's Living Advent window organised by Jane Jones. Our window, due to open on 1st December might be a little delayed, depending on whether the lockdown continues for a while longer and when we can gain access to the village hall. Never defeated, we will come up with a plan that will allow us to safely put our display together one way or another.

As you know, this year, there will be no grand unveiling so you won't have to put up with our singing or witty poems as you have in previous years!

Knit & Natter Yarn Bombing:

Every year our group knit more items for the yarnbombing display. This year is no exception. The naughty elves, post-box displays, knitted chains, flying snowman and all the yarnbombing decorations have been retrieved from their storage boxes, dusted off and will be out shortly to cheer you all up. Children especially love to see the naughty elves doing what naughty elves do and that's being naughty!! I wonder what they will be up to this year.



Knit & Natter Group—Cont'd

New Winter Wonderland:

It's not only the Knit & Natter that have been busy making large knitted items for a Winter Wonderland on the green at the village square, ladies in the village have also contributed to knitting things for this year's display. Of course, it would totally spoil the surprise if we told you what we have planned. However, what we can say is that items will be added during the first half of December, so there will be something different to look at.

Safety Warning – children please be careful when crossing the roads

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 Living Advent Calendar 2020

The annual Brigstock Living Advent Calendar **WILL** go ahead this year... Thank you to all the volunteers.

The format will be slightly different to keep us all safe and it will run regardless of lockdown restrictions as there will be no direct contact.

The windows can be viewed during 'exercise'. Please socially distance during viewings.

Contributors will reveal their windows between 6-6.30pm and they will be illuminated nightly between 6.30-9pm (approx)

A map, kindly produced by Tracey Sharp @nothingbutlovely will be available to print from the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BrigstockAdvent/> but a list of locations is on the next page.

We are not collecting for a charity this year as we feel there is enough pressure on finances. This year it is just about creativity and community spirit. Enjoy. Jane Jones

Brigstock Living Advent Calendar 2020

List of location

date			
1	Tuesday	Knit and Natter	Village Hall
2	Wednesday	Brigstock Coop	2 High Street
3	Thursday	Brigstock School	Bridge Street
4	Friday	Bake and Brew	32 High Street
5	Saturday	Sally Wilks	7 Park Walk
6	Sunday	Lesley French	16 Mauntley Avenue
7	Monday	Suzanne Neal	2 Stable Hill
8	Tuesday	Barbara & Brian Platt	4 Bridge Street
9	Wednesday	Sara Marsh	12 Latham Street
10	Thursday	Emily Thomas	10 Mill Lane
11	Friday	The Finchers	2 Hall Hill
12	Saturday	Olde Three Cocks	High Street
13	Sunday	Hilary Webster	2 Church Street
14	Monday	Janet Oldham	33 Mauntley Ave
15	Tuesday	WI	W I Hall Park walk
16	Wednesday	Amanda Wilkins	Mill Lodge Mill Lane
17	Thursday	Sophie Cullinan	4 Hall Hill
18	Friday	Leanne Cloono	30 Back Lane
19	Saturday	Chandra Holstein	25 High Street
20	Sunday	Alison Millen	6 Park Walk
21	Monday	Marsden-Findlay	The Old Forge, 11 High Street
22	Tuesday	Amy Druce-Jones	Tally-Ho Cottage, 1 Lyveden
23	Wednesday	Simon Brown	12 Hall Hill
24	Thursday	Parish Church	St Andrew's porch

BRIGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

CHRISTMAS 2020



We are planning to do things a little differently this year because of the uncertainty surrounding the Covid 19 situation. Instead of the usual large Christmas tree on the green we shall be having a group of smaller trees and a winter scene kindly provided by our wonderful Knit and Natter group. We have asked residents and organisations to put trees outside their houses around Hall Hill to make the centre of the village more festive from 5th December. There will be no organized switch on of the lights and a visit from Santa, but we are hoping to make your walks around the village even more colourful than usual.

You may like to put a tree outside your house this year too, as we shall probably not be able to host our usual Christmas get-togethers this year.

Please stay safe and enjoy the festive season.

NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS QUIZZES

There are 3 Christmas quizzes with this newsletter to keep you occupied. There will be three prizes. One for each of the quizzes.

Entries to 13 Swan Avenue or sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk, or 9 Woodyard Close by Dec 22nd to receive your prize in time for Christmas. In the event of a tie winners will be drawn from a hat.. Thanks to Val Stout and Steph Beckett for producing the quizzes.

Editor's Christmas joke

Q. Who gives baby sharks their presents on Christmas?

A. Santa Jaws.

Brigstock United Reformed Church

Since re-opening the chapel early in August, we have carried on worshipping in a very different way, with shorter services, no singing and no coffee and chat afterwards, but it has been good to be back together again. Now, it seems, we are almost back to square one, with the chapel locked and no services before Dec. 6th.

Brigstock people have coped with the pandemic very well, with lots of different activities taking place on Zoom and being able to meet-socially-distanced, of course-on walks around Park Walk or the country park. Thanks to Bake 'n Brew we have still been able to get our coffee fix, and the recent Guy competition inspired some amazing contributions. Hopefully we can start to be less restricted in the weeks leading up to Christmas, but this is by no means certain and some people are not relishing the thought of more lockdowns during the dark evenings and cold weather.

We were delighted that so many people supported our fundraising effort in August; we sold all the cakes and raffle tickets, plus jams and other goodies, and raised over £500. We had planned to organise a similar-but more Christmassy- event in December to cheer people up and put them in a festive mood, but because of the recent outbreaks of COVID-19 in the village and the ongoing restrictions, we have had to shelve the idea-but who knows, we'll hopefully do it next year instead! We are still hoping to go ahead with a carol service, albeit very different from usual. We can seat no more than 24 people with the correct distancing, so we hope to have two identical services, on Dec 20th and 23rd, both at 6pm. These will be by candlelight and will include readings and reflections, with recordings of carols being sung by choirs. We will put details on the village Facebook page once we know if we can go ahead with this, as seats will have to be booked in advance.

Brigstock builder, Matt Ash, has completed the repair work at the chapel and the porch no longer leaks, the walls have been re-pointed, a window replaced and a new railing added to the balcony so that no-one falls over the front!-I don't think anyone has in all the years the chapel has been there, but we have to do as we're told by Health and Safety.

We hope and pray that, despite everything that's gone on this year, we can all celebrate Christmas with our families and that the new year will bring an end to the crisis so that we can look forward to 2021 with confidence. A happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.

Santa 2020

As part of the village Christmas events in recent years, we have been lucky enough to have a visit from Santa to Hall Hill. Santa, like everyone, has had to adapt his plans and will be making individual visits to homes where good children live!

For him to visit, **children 11 and under who LIVE in BRIGTOCK** are invited to WRITE a brief letter and confirm that they have been good children, (along with their brother or sisters) and the **POST THE LETTERS IN THE SPECIAL LETTER BOX which will be on Hall Hill from 1st to 20th December.**

Children must include their **NAME, AGE and ADDRESS** and all being well, all the good children will receive a small treat delivered by socially distanced village elves.....

We have included a template which you use or you can write you own letter but be sure to include your NAME, AGE and address.

Thank you so very much to Rob Taylor for making the post box.



Dear Santa,



My Name is

I live at

.....

.....

BRIGSTOCK.

NN.....

(please write below to tell Santa why you have been a good child this year)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



Cransley Hospice & Jordon's Wee Ones

Raffle - £1 per strip

The proceeds will be equally split between the two charities

Due to the current lockdown conditions, the raffle will be held with the minimum of contact for those purchasing and those selling. We've come up with an ingenious alternative idea!

Tickets can be purchased by posting your money, in an envelope with your name, contact telephone number and address to the nearest address to where you live before Wednesday 2nd December.

Lesley French	16 Mauntley Avenue
Steph Beckett	13 Swan Avenue
Glenda Stephen	51 Back Lane

On receipt of your raffle money, your tickets will be delivered to your house.

Tickets will also be on sale at Jane's Jordon's Wee Ones charity stall (Hill Farm Paddock, Park Walk) and Lesley's Cransley Hospice Charity stall (16 Mautley Avenue) on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November so please visit both stalls to support these worthwhile charities.

PRIZES

Draw will take place on Thursday 3rd December

1st Prize: Afternoon Tea for two at Bake & Brew
(Kindly donated by Marzena at Bake & Brew tea shop)

2nd Prize: Luxury Food Hamper

3rd Prize: Chocolate & Drink Hamper

Plus numerous other prizes



Lesley French for Cransley Hospice & Jane Steward for Jordon's Wee Ones



TWO GREAT FUNDRAISERS FOR YOU

Jane Steward (for Jordon's Wee Ones) and Lesley French (for Cransley Hospice) pre-planned a joint venture together to raise funds for their prospective charities; however, due to lockdown restrictions, they are holding stalls separately on the same day. So please come and support both. Raffle tickets will be on sale at both locations for the joint raffle.

Lesley's Cransley Hospice Fundraiser

We didn't let lockdown beat us in the summer when I organised a plant sale outside my home in Mauntley Avenue to raise funds for Cransley Hospice. In fact, it was a huge success, so I am holding another one; this time Christmas themed with some help from friends and family.

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November

where **16 Mauntley Avenue**

from **10am to 3.30pm.**

Jordon's Wee Ones

Pop Up Stall

At **Hill Farm Paddock**

On Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th Nov From 10am

Lots of lovely brand new gifts and Christmas Decorations, wrapping paper as well as bric-a-brac, books and jigsaws.

Jordon's Wee Ones own merchandise will also be available, so come and pop in as you walk around the village.

Jordon's Wee ones is happy to take old notes and coins as payments/donations for items. So have a dig around and see if you have any.

At both stalls, please remember to be socially distanced, wear your mask when at the stalls and use hand sanitiser provided

BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk

Since the last newsletter we had got the Hall COVID compliant but were just beaten by the current lockdown. We will be open again once it is lifted.

In September the sunflower competition was completed. Every member had been given a sunflower seed (from two different varieties) to grow in the spring. Some seemed to want to go to Australia and not stay in England (was that due to Australia being COVID free at that time?). However, the winners were Shirley Wright whose grew to just over an amazing 3 metres and Judy Burdett whose reached 1.95cm.

We had launched an interpretation of lockdown competition where members could put their ideas and feelings in any way they liked. It was judged by Nikki Newbury and Marzena and the winners were 1st Linda Ellison (a beautiful hand stitched picture), 2nd Steph Beckett (a knitted nurse) and 3rd Jill Pettigrew (a written acrostic poem).

Since then we have had a “find the house” quiz and a village picture trail quiz organised by Judy and Steph with a mystery clue in each one which kept us fit trying to find it. Winners received small prizes each time. There was a walk organised by Judith for Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) which is a WI sponsored charity which, along with money from the small jars we had been given in January to fill with small change, raised £60. The big event was our AGM which had to take place on Zoom with over 20 members attending. All the paperwork and ballot sheets had been sent out in advance. Liz Searle was elected President again along with the committee of Vicki Simms, Hilary Webster, Janet Oldham, Judy Burdett and Jenny Willis.

Jenny came up with the idea of a guy/scarecrow competition so with Anne’s help with the map, at the beginning of November, around the vil-

lage were over 40 guys sitting, standing or even clogging in gardens. The judges had a hard job but came up with 3 winners The Parrish's, The Allen's and The Steward's. Some have stayed up for longer to add to the gardens. We hope to arrange for next year as well.



BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk Cont'd

The last big event we had was “Flowers for Kindness”. On Friday 13th November which was World Kindness Day, along with Children in Need, members of WI made posies of flowers to give out to other members, people we thought needed cheering up and others who we knew deserved them. On Face book we had over 200 likes and even went overseas.

Looking forward, there is another paper activity in the pipeline and we are taking part in the Advent activity with a lighting on 15th December at the WI Hall.

On top of all this, members have found time to help out the village and other organisations in all sorts of way, too numerous to mention here but no doubt elsewhere in this publication.

If you wish to contact us, please contact Liz Searle 373672 or brigstock-wi@aol.com.



Brigstock WI 200 Club

This is a monthly draw which raises funds for the WI.

The prizes are £30, £20 and £10. The yearly payment is £12 running from September to July with 2 draws in December. The three numbers are drawn on the WI monthly meeting night (2nd Tuesday of the month)

If you join before December 7th to take part in the December draw you will only pay £9.00 up to July.

If you want to take part and help WI then contact Janet on 373560

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 remains available for anyone in the village who may need some support **for whatever reason**. We can also help with provision of Face masks.

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

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.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2020

As the newsletter goes to print it is unclear of what restrictions there will be over the Christmas period. There has been a generous offer of lunch provision for anyone on their own in the village, perhaps unable to see family or without family.

Following discussion with the support network, several people have also volunteered to cook an extra plate of lunch which can be delivered to anyone in the village on Christmas day. The meal will include pudding and some festive treats.

Please will anyone who will be alone, or who knows of someone likely to be alone, get in touch and help us to coordinate offers of lunch with those who would like a meal.

We can match people up with a volunteer and ensure everyone has a plate of home cooked Christmas dinner and a delivery visit (socially distanced) from a friendly and caring face.

Please use the telephone number or email above for the pantry, or let me know at 28 High Street. 373129.

Many Thanks, Jane Jones

St Andrews Church

Well what a rollercoaster we have ridden this year. Before Lockdown2 all four of our churches were holding a Sunday service in rotation. Numbers were of course limited but with all safety measures in place we were able to have Holy Communion once again. More recently we held an All Souls service to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. This was a beautiful service, well attended and made available on the benefice website for those who were unable to be there. We lit over 100 candles inside and outside the church and up the path, it certainly was a wonderful sight and fitting tribute to those we remembered. We also had an Act of Remembrance at the war memorial on Sunday 8th November.

Despite not being able to hold services at the moment there is an online Sunday service available every week on the benefice website so please take a look and join us, the link is <https://www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk>

What about Christmas I can hear you say. Of course nothing is going to be the same this year but along with suggestions from a number of people we have thought long and hard about what we can do within the regulations and safely, so I can unveil our plans so far. Each year St Andrews distribute around 200 Christingles and this year will be no different. Whilst we will not be able to hold our traditional Christingle services in church or have any form of mass gathering you will be able to sign up for a Christingle pack with all of the elements needed to make your own, this will be delivered to your home before Christmas Eve – date to be confirmed. **On Christmas Eve** there will be a short online Christingle video on our website where we will make our Christingles together and think about, ‘Why Christingle?’ starting at 4.30 p.m. At 4.45 pm we will ask you to take your **Christingle**, and stand on your doorstep to sing ‘Away in a Manager.’ Packs will be made available to the first 200 people who sign up from 1st December. Sign up must be done by a responsible adult. Those who miss out will be able to access information on our website to help you make your own. To sign up for a pack you will need to go to our website and complete a request. The cut-off date will be the 15th December.

We will be doing a display as part of the Living Advent Calendar; this will be behind the mesh doors at the entrance to the church from Christmas Eve.

St Andrews Church—cont'd

There will be a **Christmas Eve service** for the **First Communion of Christmas at 7 p.m.** this will be videoed and made available through our website from 11 p.m.

Church numbers will be limited due to social distancing regulations and booking will be necessary by contacting the Benefice Administrator, Allison Porter from 14th December on beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com or 01536 373509. Please leave a message with your telephone number if there is no answer (please note that there is a 'Call Guardian' service on this telephone number and you may have to announce who you are, just follow the instructions given.)

You will need to provide: 1 The names of those wishing to attend.

2 If those attending represent more than one household, please clarify who belongs to each household. 3 The contact details, phone number or email of each person wishing to attend. 4 Whether you consent to your contact details being provided to NHS Test and Trace if anyone who has attended church displays symptoms of COVID-19.

We will confirm your booking by the evening of 23rd December.

Please do not attend if you have not made and had your booking confirmed. You **must wear a facemask** unless you are medically exempt.

A Christmas Day service will be held at All Saints Sudborough at 9.15 a.m. booking will be necessary. Details of how to book will be made available through our website and News Letter in due course.

Allison Porter, Benefice Office

Some things never change!

Well we are almost upon Advent and Christmas in the ever-rolling Church calendar. It comes at the end of what has been an unusual year to say the least. Many things we relied on were pulled from under our feet. Work, play, close family, and friends were kept at 'arms-length' and what we thought we were entitled to was no longer assumed. Who would have thought that the only way to do 'church' was via online video or yards apart in a face-covering. And yet is God less present? No, because the grace of God remains unchanged and is never socially distanced.

Although we write this in the middle of November, we are still unsure as to how we will celebrate the glorious coming of 'The Light of the World'. However, we plan in faith to do whatever the restrictions will allow.

St Andrews Church—cont'd

Do join us in whatever way you can, knowing that two things remain unchanged. We are always heard when we pray, and we can rely on the love of God. A love that was most powerfully shown in the sending of his own Son into the world to stand in solidarity with us.

As Jesus' half-brother James later wrote:

Every good gift and every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (James 1.17)

May you know God's Blessing in this Advent and Christmas Season,
Captain Alan and Rev'd Heather.

St Andrew's Church wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Let us transform the quality of your lawn!

Aeration, Scarification, Overseeding & More

Our specially tailored treatment programme will ensure your lawn is in excellent condition all year round

Weed Free ■ Lush Green ■ Moss Controlled

FREE Lawn Analysis Call: 01767 651 639

Email: hunts@greensleeves-uk.com or visit us at: www.greensleeves-uk.com

Greensleeves
Lawn Treatment Experts

BRIGSTOCK

Looking forward to next year and the local elections this is maybe a good time to consider what the Parish Council should be planning for the future.

WHAT IS THE PRECEPT?

Part of your council tax bill will show a contribution towards the parish council precept - £30,000 for the current year. This is money that the parish council uses to pay for various expenses and projects within the village. Every November the PC sets the precept for the coming year and has to calculate how much money it needs to raise to cover projected outgoings.

Obligatory expenditure includes the clerk's salary, Meadow rent and maintenance, cemetery maintenance, grass verge and hedge cutting, lighting maintenance and energy costs, insurance.

In addition there is money set aside in the budget to pay for 'extras'. In the past this money has been used to fund the MUGA, new lighting, additional grass and hedge cutting, new seats, new noticeboards, supporting village events, bulb and tree planting, traffic calming signs. We have been very successful in obtaining grants to cover much of this expenditure.

The Parish Council is not responsible for footpath and highway maintenance and parking enforcement which is the responsibility of the County 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**. This applies to all new satellite dishes. Those erected before 9th January 2018 when the Article 4 Direction was approved do not have to be removed although the Parish Council would be very pleased if you would relocate them.

Replacement of windows, doors and any other alterations to the front of the property visible from the road will also need permission.

Further information about permitted development can be obtained from the clerk or by visiting www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk Article 4 Direction Brigstock.

PARISH COUNCIL

Next year you will have the opportunity to appoint a new parish council. What would you like them to do for you?

If you have any suggestions please let us know via the parish website, by emailing brigstockcouncil@aol.co.uk, or by completing the following form and returning it to the clerk, Nigel Searle, 7 Church Street, Brigstock.

Sally Wilks Chair Brigstock Parish Council

BRIGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

My priorities for the Parish Council in 2021/22 are:

Name:.....

Contact details:

A MESSAGE ABOUT COVID FROM Lucy Wightman,

Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council

Dear Residents,

I am writing to you directly, as we enter the winter period, to inform you of the current situation relating to COVID-19 in Northamptonshire and specifically the areas in which you live. I'm also going to share some key tips to help you and your families stay safe during the winter period and how to access support if you need to self-isolate, if you become unwell, or if you require help with shopping, medication or loneliness.

We are currently seeing the largest rise in cases in Northamptonshire since the first national lockdown. Positive cases range across all age groups, but significantly are largest in the age groups from 10-59. We know that these age groups are amongst the most sociable, go to school, university or work, and may be involved in the care of others, children and/or older people.

Worryingly, we are also seeing a rise in cases amongst those aged over 60. This age group is the group that are most likely to become severely unwell should they get COVID-19, they may need to stay in hospital and sadly, as we are starting to see once again, more of this age group are likely to die from the virus.

Transmission can easily spread within families, especially where children and parents mix with grandparents and particularly in indoor settings. Whilst we recognise the importance of social interaction, we would recommend that if you have to work with or care for someone who is older or more vulnerable, or if you ordinarily mix with grandparents, that you consider reducing your social contacts elsewhere, or move your interactions with those older, more vulnerable contacts to an online format where possible during the winter period.

The introduction of recent national lockdown guidance will help us to reduce community transmission of the virus. Community transmission is where the virus spreads in households with people mixing in indoor spaces, in particular. We would recommend that where anyone enters your home, or you theirs, for example for childcare purposes, that everyone wears a face covering, maintains a two metre social distance, and keeps interactions as short as possible. Continue to wash your hands regularly and clean any surfaces or contact points such as door handles, cupboard handles and taps.

A MESSAGE ABOUT COVID FROM Lucy Wightman

Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council

If you have any concerns about whether you may have COVID-19, need to get a test, need more support for someone who is vulnerable or need to check the current guidance and what you can and cannot do, visit Northamptonshire County Council website www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

We all need to work hard to ensure that case numbers reduce in our local area, to ensure that we keep the people we love safe, and so that we can return to a more normal way of living as soon as possible when the national measures come to an end. We are all in this together and all of our actions contribute to the outcomes we face. Let's continue to work together, to wash our hands regularly, to wear our face coverings and to keep two metres from others.

Thank you.

The show must go on.....

Brigstock Theatre Group



During Lockdown BTG has been keeping the fun and creativity going with 'virtual' gatherings. Our regular Tuesday *zooming* involved singing, dancing and of course baking! Whilst our Friday 'wind-down' sessions and Saturday 'weekend warm ups' meant we were able to keep in contact with all our members.

It has of course been a disappointment that we haven't been able to put on this year's show but like the rest of the musical theatre community we are planning to open our doors just as soon as we can. 'Annie' is scheduled to be performing in Brigstock village hall next July and in the New Year we will start rehearsals safely and bring our fabulous BTG group back together in a range of safe and fun ways.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy your time together and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sophie and Peter

BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thank you to all of you who came to the two talks that we have been able to organise this season. They were both very enjoyable and, although it was more difficult for those attending because of the need to wear face coverings, it all worked very well.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the November talk but we hope to start up again in the New Year so watch this space! Robin Phillips will email members with any information about talks so if you would like to go on his contact list do let him know (gweledfa@hotmail.co.uk).

We are compiling an archive of "Covid" photos of the village so if you have any please could we have a copy.

We shall not be able to have our usual Christmas party but we are intending to put together a Brigstock History Quiz to keep you amused over the festive season.

Stay safe!

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VILLAGE PROJECT GROUP

Our third planter is now in place on the corner of Sudborough and Grafton Road. The wood was kindly donated and Chris Allen and Dave Stuart constructed it. Dave Stuart has planted it with some shrubs and Gill Dorks has kindly donated some bulbs and planted them. It looks really good.

We said we needed £180 but we came in much under budget as wood, soil, bulbs etc were donated. Some villagers kindly offered the cash. We have not taken advantage of this yet but will be contacting them shortly once we know our final costs. With their permission we will let you know who they were when the project is finished. At present though it seems we have only spent £35 of our original £180 estimate.

The original two planters have also had summer bedding removed and have now been planted up with crocuses, tulips and daffodils kindly donated by Ann Hall and Robbie Pethers.

We try to keep an eye on the planters with deadheading etc but we are grateful to Emma in Bells Close and Bill in Barnards Way who have watered and cleared leaves. There are probably other kind people too as each time we visit there is little to do! Thank you everybody. We do have a little repair job to do as somebody thought the planter was a good place to wipe the mud off their shoes and chipped the wood but a little bit of stain will cure it.

Due to lockdown there have been no further meetings of the Village Project group but we do have a few other ideas once people can get out and about and mix. These are a few suggestions that have been made and we would welcome your views or indeed any other ideas. Remember though we have no budget!

IDEAS FROM VILLAGERS

Improve bus shelter to make it comfortable.

A village weeding day.

A structure to use as a ticket booth when Brigstock emerges from lockdown and village events can start once again.

A book exchange container. The Co-op very kindly does this but their space is limited.

This group started originally as the team doing the Best Village entry. This was not held in 2020 due to Covid but we await news of what is happening in 2021.

Steph/Glenda

Fermyn Woods Country Park

The Country Park has continued to be very busy with families making great use of the area despite the restrictions which has been very good to see.

So now, it's that time of year again where we have started doing our habitat work round the park which includes tree and scrub clearing, end of season mowing and much more. So far we have been clearing round Reedy and Long Pond and also the marsh area and banks behind the fishing pond.

Geoff the Ranger of Sywell came over with his tractor and mower and did the end of season cut on the plateau and top of the hay meadow for us which we are now in the process along with help from our volunteers of raking off.

Half term was a mixture of busy and quite due to the ever changing weather we had. Due to the weather in September I think it has been a very good year for autumn colours round the park and woods but with the strong winds we had in October most of the leaves were off the trees by the beginning of November.

The winter migrants of Redwings and Fieldfares arrived mid-October and are busy building their energy back up on Hawthorn berries and sloes.

Walk round quietly and you will see a wide range of different birds, some who are around all year and others that just visit us over the winter. You might even see some deer in the woods if you are lucky.

Winter opening times

Café - this has stayed open during the shutdown with a take-away service of drinks, cakes and other snacks. We will be looking to open again indoors but are not sure when this will be.

10:30am – 3pm weekdays

10:30am – 4pm weekends

Hot food served until 2pm weekdays and 3pm weekends

Main car park - 24 hours

Café car park and toilets - 9am – 4pm

Dan Hurst, Ranger.

Fermyn Woods Country Park - Fund raising Success

Funding has been approved for new wood carvings and information boards for Fermyn Woods Country Park in Brigstock. The monies are from a grant from FCC Communities Foundation Funding and from the Friends of Fermyn Woods Country Park

Visitors to the park are set to get a new information trail with 5 new boards with details of the history of the site, nature information about 3 of the important ponds in the park and a really exciting 5 new wood sculptures of woodland reptiles, 2 of which will be made to be sat on as a bench. This is thanks to a £11,305 grant from FCC Communities Foundation.

The money, will be used to buy all the information boards and sculptures at the Fermyn Woods Country Park.

Hilary Monk, Senior Ranger of Northamptonshire County Council Fermyn Woods Country Park said that this information project and sculpture trail will make a huge difference to the site and bring more people in to visit us and to learn about the history of the park.

She says: "This project will provide a real boost to the people who use the park. It's fantastic that FCC Communities Foundation has awarded us this money and we're really looking forward to our project taking shape over the next 6 months"

FCC Communities Foundation is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Can You Help?? Did You Work at the Sand / Gravel Pit where the Parks is now??

One of the information boards that are to be erected is one detailing the recent industrial history of the Country Park site.

We know it was a sand or gravel pit, probably supplying sand to Corby New Town and owned by Beeby's.

Do you know when it started or shut?

Did you work there and can tell us some tales?

Do you have any photos we can use?

Do you want to help produce an information board?

If you can help, contact Chris Allen on 07471 502952 or Hilary at the Country Park.

A general knowledge quiz about Fermyn Woods Country

Park – prepared by the Friends of the Country Park

1. Immediately before the development of the 'Brigstock Country Park', what was the land used for?
2. Many years ago (1600's) what was the land used for (or, 'was a part of')?
3. The Fermyn Woods and the Country Park, as we know it today, is administered by which 2 organisations?
4. Which insects, animals, reptiles or amphibians receive conservation support at the Park?
5. Which year was the 'Education' facility at the Park added?
6. Which Bird is the café named after?
7. Which bird was reintroduced to this area in 2000 and can often be seen flying over the Country Park?

Answers to the 7 Questions will be found on a subsequent page.

To join the supporters - FRIENDS OF FERMYN WOOD COUNTRY PARK (phone John on 01536 373376 or e-mail e4johnl@btinternet.com).

WAR MEMORIAL ROTA

Thank you to all the organisations who have managed to keep the war memorial tidy during this pandemic. Thank you also to The group of villagers who erected the poppy display in time for the Remembrance services held in November. A new rota will be organised shortly as I need to ask the groups if still willing to look after the Memorial.

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BRIGSTOCK SCHOOL PFA

Unfortunately due to the lockdown, the PFA has not been able to hold any fundraising events to get us all out and together. However things have been moving behind the scenes and we have been working with the school to help where possible.

One big change is that Richard Fincher has stepped down as Chairman after many years of service. We would like to thank him and the rest of the committee especially those who have also stood down after great service. I'm the new chair, along with Caroline Brownlee as Vice Chair, Amy Miles as Secretary and Rosy as Treasurer. Please help as we try to follow those with such experience.

This autumn, we have planted a Cherry blossom tree and placed a bench on the front green in memory of Mrs K Leaning, who we sadly lost earlier this year - all funded by the PFA.

We also have a new Facebook page Brigstock Primary School PFA where we'll post events happening and anything the school is looking for like donations of plants, seeds or equipment etc. Do join and follow us.

We are also looking at updating the children's veggie patch ready for spring planting so might need a shout out for veg donations nearer the time.

Hopefully all the school children joined in the ART ATTACK BOX scheme (closing date the 27th November). When you get yours, do enter the completion for the most creative use of the Box.

Lets hope next year brings us a better year and we can start our curry nights etc. again.

Leanne Cloono, PFA Chair

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.

WHAT IS THE BRIGSTOCK CONSOLIDATED CHARITY?

The Charity consists of a number of small endowments made in the past chiefly for the benefit of the Church and the poor of Brigstock: Roger Montague's Charity (Duke's Dole), John Phillipps' Dole, The Town Estate, and Mrs Wath's Charity. These endowments became "consolidated" in 1907. In an updated Scheme of 1980 it was clearly laid down that, after certain expenses, one quarter of the income goes to St Andrew's Church for furthering the religious and other charitable purposes of the Church of England in the parish of Brigstock. The rest of the income is for the relief of need, hardship or distress either generally or individually of the people resident in Brigstock. In 1987 a further Scheme states that, if income from the Charity is not required in any year for application in accordance with the provisions set out in the 1980 Scheme, the trustees can use it for the benefit of the inhabitants of Brigstock as they see fit. This allows trustees to give grants to Brigstock organisations.

The charity's main sources of income are first from rents from allotments and other land in Benefield Road, second from investments (and interest) made after the sale of part of the Charity land several years ago, and from compensation for land taken by the by-pass. The annual income varies according to interest rates and the number of allotment holders but is usually about £2,400.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR HELP FROM THE CHARITY?

Anyone in the village (or someone on their behalf) can apply for help in case of need, to any trustee or the secretary. The trustees are also willing to consider applications from organisations and individuals in the village for help in other ways, especially where the help would be of benefit to the community as a whole, or a reasonable proportion of the inhabitants of Brigstock.

The trustees cannot (and would not) apply any sort of means test. They rely on their own local knowledge and the information given in the application. Charity law expects trustees to act according to their discretion. All gifts/payments to individuals are confidential, of course.

COVID 19

People in the village have asked if they can donate to the Charity during this time of financial uncertainty and hardship.

(cont'd on the next page)

WHAT IS THE BRIGSTOCK CONSOLIDATED CHARITY? Cont'd

Anyone can donate to the Charity but they must specify for what purpose their donation should be used within the wider purposes of the charity

So, if you would like your donation to go specifically for "the relief of need, hardship or distress of Brigstock residents", and not to village organisations or St Andrew's Church, then you can say so. The trustees are under an obligation to meet your request.

If you would like to make a donation please contact the secretary or any of the trustees.

The trustees are at present:

Rector	Rev Heather Lowe	01536 263550
Church Warden	Carl Hector	01536 373410
Church Warden	Vacancy	
Appointed	Bill Simon	01536 373388
"	Elizabeth Searle	01536 373672
"	James Steward	079800155572
Secretary	Sally Wilks	01536 373428

and Treasurer

A Brigstock Charity, Its history

Bill Simon

Brigstock Consolidated Charity was established many years ago to help people in need in the village. Previously there had been several village charities aimed at giving relief to the poor and needy, some of which had been bequests by individuals in their wills. These were all brought together, consolidated, into one Charitable Trust regulated by the Charities Commission.

One of these legacies was known as Phillipps Dole, a bequest made in the will of John Phillipps in 1658. John was a fairly wealthy Brigstock businessman, who was a chandler by trade. A chandler is defined in the dictionary as a candle maker or a general dealer. I think John was a general dealer. In his will he leaves five horses "with all the furniture usefull for a carrier" plus a wagon and a "place of tradeing" to John Clarke, the son of his brother in law. In other words he is leaving the business to John Clarke to keep it going after he has died.

A Brigstock Charity, cont'd

Also in his will he makes two bequests to the poor of the village. In the first of these he leaves forty shillings to be distributed to the poor of Brigstock on the day of his burial with "all the poore widdowes being in the first place remembered". Forty shillings would be worth around £200 today. In those days widows would have had a particularly hard time after their husbands died as most of them would be left without any source of income. The second legacy is what became known as Phillipps dole. In his will he states "I do give and bequeath forty shillings a yeare to the poor of Brigstock forever". This money was to come from the income derived from a piece of land that he owned called Tuck's Close. The remaining income from the land is left to Elizabeth Fowler while the close itself is left to his "dear and well-beloved wife", Mary. In his will John names Mary as his sole executor, which would have been quite unusual at that time. He obviously thought she was capable of dealing with his affairs and its tempting to think that she had been involved in the family business.

In 1830 the Charities Commissioners produced a report on the various charities in Brigstock and gave some details about Phillipps Dole. It confirmed that this forty shillings a year dated from the will of John Phillipps in 1658 and was to be paid out of Tucks Close. By this time it was known as Fowlers Close and belonged to John Bellamy as shoemaker of Brigstock. In 1818 Bellamy had paid £10 to the churchwardens for the arrears due and the churchwardens had distributed the money among the poor of the village. But since then no payment had been made. The report recognised that John Bellamy was "poor and distressed in his circumstances" and they concluded that he should not be pressed to pay the arrears.

That may well have been the last payment made from Phillipps Dole but it would be interesting to find out if that was the case. So far I have not been able to identify where Fowler's Close was located but it is possible that it may be shown on old maps of Brigstock. Do you know??

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

BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

After the false start of 2020, BAG is forging ahead with the groundwork for some sort of activities programme in 2021. Fieldwalking is a critical piece of the jigsaw for making informed decisions about where to focus our investigations. Thanks to the kind support of our farming community, we now have permission for fieldwalking activities for a significant proportion of the land in and around the parish.

With ongoing restrictions on who, how and why we meet, systematic fieldwalking by all interested BAG members remains on hold. Individual working group members are, however, beginning a series of informal surveys to identify fields of specific interest. Once Covid-19 rules are relaxed, the plan is to extend this to more members, groups and – ultimately – a full fieldwalking programme.

Times and locations will, of course, be entirely dependent on the farming cycle, but we are hopeful 2021 will allow us to get our investigations properly underway. Wellies on your wish list, anyone?

Do contact me if you are interested in any of the above.

Peter Walker at thewebeditor@outlook.com

BRIGSTOCK KURLING GROUP

We were very pleased that we were able to resume our meetings on the usual days in September and October, even though the Covid-19 guidelines meant that we had to wear face coverings while we were in the hall. Fewer people than normal attended, but at least we were all able to use the same pair of "stones" for the whole afternoon, so we weren't having to sanitise them between games.

Once we had got started again, we had hoped that we would be able to carry on more or less as normal, but obviously this second lockdown period has stopped us once more. However, all being well we might get one more session in before the end of the year. Our usual trip to Beckworth's Emporium won't be happening this year, as they have extended their restaurant into the area that normally houses the ice rink and curling lanes.

If you might be interested in joining the group, please ring Judith Beeby on 373367 for more information, but in the meantime, best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year, take care and stay safe.

Brigstock Cricket Club

“There can be no summer in this land without cricket,” wrote the legendary sportswriter Sir John Frederick Neville Cardus. This year his maxim was certainly put to the test and the coronavirus struck like a mystery spinner against an unsuspecting batsman, could the virus bring a season with fewer fixtures than during either of the world wars? Although there were no first-class county matches from 1915-18 or 1940-44, there were still school matches and local cricket. A summer without any at all would be unprecedented since the game’s inception. As we all know too well lockdown began in late March, a month before the beginning of our season, the time when eager youngsters and veterans alike knock-in a new bat or turn their arm over in the garden or even spend time in the nets! Early summer sunshine and warm weather was a bonus whilst we all struggled to cope with lockdown but for cricketers, the bright skies brought frustration and a sense of “what if.” For all clubs up and down the country, starved of membership dues and takings at the bar, the crisis was financial. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has been forced to provide £20m to support the country’s recreational clubs. As well as funding grassroots cricket, the ECB is also spending £40m to prop up professional counties and its estimated in the worst-case scenario, the pandemic will cost cricket £380m. Ironically, the ECB’s new commercially-driven tournament “The Hundred” which traditionalists argue will kill cricket as we know it, is now needed to resuscitate it. But even The Hundred wasn’t and in April the ECB announced that the introduction of its flagship innovation would be postponed until 2021.

Thankfully in July the government restrictions were relaxed and we were allowed to play some cricket albeit the players had to get accustomed to certain rules, such as banning huddles, high fives or passing the ball around the field. More significantly, players were not be allowed to use saliva to shine the ball (traditional technique to help bowlers move the ball laterally through the air) and after every six overs players had to leave the field and use hand sanitiser. The changing rooms and showers were out of bounds and Brigstock’s infamous teas were sadly not allowed, players had to bring their own, which one player/ex-Chairman struggled to cope with.. Our second team, in division 7 played in reduced league format and managed to reach the knockout stages where they narrowly lost in the semi-final to a strong Desborough team.

Brigstock Cricket Club - cont’d

In addition to the re-start of cricket we were allowed to open our bar on the proviso we adopted government guidelines, a one way system and socially distanced etc. This was a lifeline to the club, financially and I would like to thank everyone of you for your membership subscription and support at the club on a Friday night, it was appreciated and moreover enjoyable to be socialising again after several months of “staying at home”.

The biggest problem caused by the pandemic for Brigstock CC and the game and perhaps sport in general is what happens to youth cricket. All our junior fixtures were cancelled and if you lose the kids for a year, the question is, will they come back? I certainly hope so and Brigstock CC will be shortly undertaking a recruitment drive to bolster our youth numbers. A questionnaire will be circulated around the village before Christmas and we will be visiting local primary schools to try and attract new players. The club are also trying recruit a professional player/coach to manage our youth section. If your children or you have friends whose children are interested in playing then please complete the questionnaire which we will circulate electronically and by the traditional method, by hand.

I go back to where I started this article and it’s tempting to wonder what Cardus, who lived through two world wars and the Great Depression, would have made of today’s predicament. The old romantic was not being literal when he maintained that the English summer was contingent on cricket, but no pastime is more evocative of the season. Hopefully with recent news regarding a vaccine we will be able to enjoy ourselves again next summer and see the meadow being used again. I certainly look forward to that and seeing as many of you as possible.

From all of us at Brigstock CC we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very healthy, prosperous New Year.

Simon Andrews

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.

Ladies Leisure Group

It has been a long time since we last met and we hope that everyone is keeping well and coping with these strange circumstances. Sadly, we have no idea when we'll be able to meet again, but as soon as we get the go-ahead to start, we will get a programme organised, put the heating on in the June Small room, and welcome you all back with lots of tea and cake!

Meanwhile, we hope you all stay safe and wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful New Year

Answers to the 7 Questions about the Country Park.

1. A sand quarry.
2. Forestry and hunting (Rockingham Forest).
3. Northamptonshire County Council and Forestry England.
4. Butterflies Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper and Black Hairstreak Butterflies, Great Crested Newts, Lizards Birds (species), Grass Snakes.
5. 2013.
6. Skylark
7. Red Kite

Brigstock Bell Ringers

Having completed risk assessments and applying safe distancing, the Brigstock team started ringing again at Brigstock and Stanion.

Just as we started to get into the swing of it (sorry) - we must suspend ringing during the current lockdown.

We join everyone in hoping we can manage some safe ringing again during the Christmas celebrations.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy 2021 from the Brigstock Bell Ringers.

Steve Todd



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BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S
SCHOOL

Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School

"Life in all its fullness"

We were all delighted to return to school in September, and we welcomed lots of new children into our Reception class. Everyone has settled in so well, and we have all got used to our 'new normal' of working in bubbles.

There have been lots of exciting things going on. As well as some wonderful work in the classrooms we have also done our best to keep to our school traditions, albeit in a different format! With the help of Mrs Briggs we managed to deliver Harvest Boxes around the village and we have had so many positive responses from the residents.

Our House Captains have been helping to lead the school with so much creativity and they planned a lovely Remembrance Service that was shared outside with each bubble. We were proud to lay the wreath on the Brigstock War Memorial. We found out that the war memorial was built 100 years ago, and it is reassuring for everyone that we continue to remember our soldiers so respectfully.

In our class bubbles our children have been learning about so many different things, and our classrooms are full of wonderful displays of our learning. Our Year 5 and 6 children have been learning about WW2, which is so appropriate at this time of year. In Year 3 and 4, the children have been enjoying every minute of their work on Ancient Egypt...and everyone enjoyed exploring the tomb and creating scarabs and Canopic jars on their own Egyptian Day! In Key Stage One the children have learnt all about toys, past and present. Their classroom has been a Toy Museum- and they hope to visit the Toy Museum in Abington once the lockdown restrictions are lifted. Our youngest children are loving their 'Treasure' unit, with a pirate ship in the classroom and plenty of outdoor exploring, too. They have brought treasured toys into school and have created some artistic masterpieces from pastels.

Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School

We have lots to look forward to, with Advent just around the corner. We hope that everyone will enjoy our Advent Window which will be opened on 3rd December. Every child in our school will contribute to the window so we hope you will find time to share it during December.

Our Brigstock 400 work is still continuing, and in Day 10:10 we have been very creative. Some of our work is part of the Advent Window, and some will be published in our very own 'Brigstock 400' publication, due for release at the start of December! We hope you will enjoy it, and we thank everyone in Brigstock who has played a part in helping us to remember what a special place our school is within the village.

Mrs Ettridge and Ms Manssen

Shared Head Teachers, Brigstock Primary School

Editor's Joke

Q. What's the best Christmas gift for the person who has everything?
A. A burglar alarm

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