

BRIGSTOCK

NEWS

EDITION 25 – SPRING 2021



PRODUCED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

BRIGSTOCK NEWS

Journal of Brigstock Village Hall Association

Brigstock News is produced by the Village Hall Association on behalf of the village and uses articles produced by local groups or individuals.

The articles need to reflect your thoughts and wishes. So the Committee welcomes contributions on subjects of local interest but reserves the right to edit or omit articles without notice at their discretion. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Committee and advertisements published in 'Brigstock News' are subject to individual agreements between advertisers and readers and the Association cannot be held responsible for the quality of goods or services supplied.

Articles for inclusion in 'Brigstock News' should be emailed to chrisallen043@gmail.com or sent to 9 Woodyard Close, Brigstock, NN14 3LZ

2021 SUMMER Published 1st June 2021 - copy by 14th May
2021 AUTUMN Published 3rd September 2021
2021 WINTER Published 27th November 2021

The Village hall committee would like to give big thanks to TYPESTART of Kettering for offering to print this edition for the Village Hall at no cost because of the problems that we are experiencing with income loss due to Covid 19 and the closure due to the flood.

Thank you to Caroline and Billy Nall for their help in making it possible for us to print this edition and to bring you an update on what has been happening the village.

If you would like to use their services, please see their advert on the back page of the Newsletter.

**Front Cover Photo -
From Brigstock School Art Exhibition on Bridge St with designs from throughout the Community.**

Brigstock Support Network

The Village Support Network has continued to be available for anyone requiring assistance. Thank you to the volunteers who have provided support and been so helpful.

The food bank is now wound down but anyone who requires assistance, can still get in touch via the support network and there is help available.

Please do let us know if anyone is struggling with shopping, prescriptions or support of any kind. Assistance for travel to lakeside for Covid-19 vaccinations and hospital appointments is possible through Volunteer Action based in Oundle, subject to availability and with advance notice.

The biggest thank you is to everyone who came together and supported on 23rd December when the village was affected by sudden flooding. Over 5K was raised through a help page set up by Christopher Allan and this is now administered by the Consolidated Charity to help anyone affected.

The night of the flood and on many occasions it has become very obvious just how useful the Brigstock Information Facebook page and support Whats App group were. Thank you to Andre and everyone who has responded and provided assistance. What an amazing village we live in.

I was very touched to receive a personal letter of thanks for our efforts from James Saunders, the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire so thank you to who ever instigated that communication.

TEXT 07311965687 [Email brigstockisolation@gmail.com](mailto:brigstockisolation@gmail.com) or call me at home 01536 373129. Jane Jones

Brigstock Beer Festival 2021

After 15 consecutive years of the Brigstock Beer Festival (BBF) it was unfortunate that it was not possible to hold the festival last year due to the Covid pandemic. It is the ambition of the BBF committee to organise a festival for 2021, if the situation allows, so please keep your busy (?) diaries free for 17-19th September 2021. The plan is that the festival will have a Caribbean theme as it was felt that after 18 months of limited travel opportunity everybody might enjoy indulging in some different culture. Furthermore the Pharmacist on our committee has highlighted that there is good evidence that beer is a cure for coronavirus (blues).

BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL FLOOD DISASTER

I think most of you know that the Village Hall was flooded on the Wednesday before Christmas.

We had a call mid-afternoon to say the river was rising and there could be risk of flooding. Several of the committee turned out to assess the situation and realising that the water was rising at a fast rate and not likely to stop in the near future. We quickly moved as much of the equipment upstairs or onto tables to get above a flood level. We tried to seal around some of the doors with tape but could not get round the side of the building as the water was by then about 3 foot deep and flowing fast.

We left the building about 6 o'clock we decided to turn off all the electrics and leave the building as the water was now about 12 inches deep in front of the door and flowing dangerously strongly across the car park to the Mill stream. We could not do anything else at that time. People were also out at other properties in trouble in the village especially at Harpers Court through the night.



We went back to the hall at 8am the next morning and found that the water level had dropped right down and had emptied from the building. On looking in the hall, we found that the water had been up to 14 inches deep and been throughout the whole ground floor. The water had brought in a large amount of silt which was now spread over all the floors. The wooden floor in the main hall had swollen and had blown and risen so that it looked more like a skateboard park!

We put out a call on the Village Facebook page for help. About 30 people turned up with mops, brushes and buckets to help. This was a great surprise and we cannot thank those who came to help enough

FLOOD DISASTER Cont'd

Within 2 hours we had done all we could, and closed up again. Volunteers then went to help around the village including removing debris from the river at the Manor and Harpers Court.

We contacted our insurance company and this started the recovery process. On the Tuesday after Christmas, the first dehumidifiers were installed and the builders started to strip the building. All the flooring has been removed including the wooden floor and the vinyl flooring on the ground floor. The plaster has been removed from all the ground floor walls up to 18 inches and a full drying programme has started.



Tenders are being sought by the Surveyor for the rebuild process and we hope that work will start on that in early March when the building has dried out. We will be getting new flooring throughout, kitchen base units replaced, new kitchen appliances, new gas heaters, toilet vanity units and cubicles replaced and new doors as well. The walls will be replastered and then decoration throughout.

Hopefully by June we should be opening with a completely refurbished building.

To try to prevent this happening again, we are seeking grants to cover the costs of installing flood protection methods to all the doors, airbricks and heater grills. Several applications are in for this, so we are hopeful that something comes up as the cost is in the region of £15,000 for the whole building.

We hope that we are back up and running by the time that lockdown is lifted and we can start using the hall to its full capacity. We will keep you informed on our progress in the next newsletter or on the Brigstock Village Information Facebook page.

Thanks for all your support and offers of help. These have been most appreciated by the committee.

Do contact us for more information and if you want to help in any way.

Brigstock Village Hall Committee

A BIG THANK YOU

I think that this last year has seen the village and the residents at their best and makes you glad to live in such a great place.



Although most groups have not been able to meet physically, there has been support for many in the village. This has ranged from the Village Pantry with donated food for those in need, zoom meetings for some groups and each street having a coordinator checking up on their neighbours to give support or doing their shopping and collecting prescriptions. Some people living alone just need that friendly wave at the window or a call.

The weekly clappings for the NHS and front line staff was enthusiastic during the first lockdowns which showed our support for others working at risk for us.



Then during the flood just before Christmas, the helpers came out again. Harpers Court had people there all night helping to move furniture and saving possessions from the rising water and then finding them places to stay in the short and long term. Then many were out on Christmas Eve and subsequent days aiding the cleaning of the village hall, clearing the brook of sofas, decking and other flotsam, and clearing the footpath past the church which was blocked by the fallen tree and the Manor wall. The residents of the several houses that were flooded also asked for help and this arrived swiftly. Offers of replacement furniture were made and a support fund started which is now being handled by the Brigstock Charity.

There has been an amazing amount raised for various charities and some groups raising funds by providing goods that meant a trip out of the village was not necessary.

Volunteer drivers have continued taking residents to appointments and especially recently with the Covid jobs.

Several groups and organisations tried to bring a bit of cheer to the village with a Winter Wonderland, Advent Window and a Scarecrow Competition among other things.



The Brigstock Village Facebook page was an extra bonus that we have not had before and we thank admin for keeping it running. It has been invaluable

during lockdown and many more postings than normal. During the flooding instant access was made available so response was quick to requests.

Local businesses have played their part with donations and extra services and our surgery has stayed open for dispensing medicines despite themselves being a victim of the flooding.

I am sure that we would like to thank all those that have helped in anyway. There are too many to mention individually and I would be sure to miss many as well. It is also good to see that the effort that was made has been appreciated out of the Village. Several people in the village have received letters of thanks from the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire for their hard work. Well deserved praise.

Let's keep this spirit of helpfulness as we hopefully come out this crisis and recover from a strange year and a wet winter. Spring and summer should bring new pleasures but probably more challenges that we will need to meet. Be ready to stand up again if needed.

Best Wishes Village Hall Committee

Bletsoes
EST. 1881

**Celebrating
140 Years**

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

The advertisement features a white silhouette of a tree with a bird flying from its branches. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with varying font sizes and weights.

Quiz from Sara Marsh

Hopefully you won't have seen this before. Kindly given to us by Sarah Marsh

Return your answers to sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk (13 Swan Ave) or to chrisallen043@gmail.com (9 Woodyard Close) with a £1 donation to Brigstock Village Hall. Deadline March 31st

The theme is 'Dressing up' ... all answers relate to items that can be worn.

1. Cats & dogs are a little jaundiced (10)
2. A sheep takes monetary advantage (6)
3. Flowers (8)
4. Prepares (6)
5. Rented by American soldier (5)
6. Boys and men (5)
7. Start! in gratitude (4)
8. Senior policeman has a very warm middle (5)
9. Wow! What a quantity! (8)
10. A North Welsh town has a carbon eruption (9)
11. Make fun of a crime (8)
12. Apex of the lower jaw is rather large (6)
13. Captivator (10)
14. Second rate insect (6)
15. Twice the time (7)
16. Foolish animal is eaten by a male bird (7)
17. Thank the poet (6)
18. Add quartets (4,5)
19. Pinched (5)

Jordans Weeones

I and all at Jordans Weeones, particularly Jordans dad Wayne, would like to thank all who have so generously supported this small but very important charity over the past year enabling them to continue supporting families in need. The total raised was far beyond anything I expected, a massive £7081.25

Plans are afoot for this year's fundraising, I have sown the first tomatoes, will have compost and other plants both flowers and veg.

Jordans Weeones cont'd.

Carl Hector has kindly agreed to host a Brigstock History Slide Show (proceeds to be split between Jordans Weeones and a charity of his choice)

There are other things planned if we are ever going to be able to gather in groups again!

One of which will be a Horticultural Show later in the year with classes for all the fruit, veg and flowers you have grown, flower arrangements, cakes, jams etc

The cancelled Jordans Weeones meet and greet hopefully will also be able to go ahead at some stage.

Visit the Jordans Weeones fb page and give it a like or the website www.jordansweeones.co.uk for more information.

BRIGSTOCK WI RECIPE

Fruit oat biscuits

Oat biscuits to make with children. This is a very easy recipe which children can make and have fun with.

Makes about 20 (depending on size of ball)

75gm /3oz plain flour

75gm/3oz sugar

75gm/3oz rolled oats

½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

75gm/3oz butter

1 tablespoon milk

1 tablespoon golden syrup

75gm/3oz mixed fruit

Preheat oven to 150c and Mix all dry ingredients together

Melt butter, milk, syrup on heat and add to dry ingredients

Shape into balls on greased trays, flatten slightly

Bake for 25-30 minutes

Leave on trays for 3 minutes and then cool completely on racks.

Store in airtight container or eat.

Covid

Twenty Twenty what a year
A year we won't forget
Embedded in the history books
But it's not quite finished yet

When we bought things with a label
Made in China or Hong Kong
We often buy stuff with respect
Cos they break or usually go wrong

The package that they sent us
At the beginning of last year
Must have had superior quality
Cos the bloody things still here

When we were kids,
We had the flu
And never came to harm
Drank bottles of Corona
Not have it shoved into our arm

Who ever thought that one day
Although not considered funny
That you could walk into a Bank (with mask on face)
And ask for lots of money

The moral to this story is
To think what lies ahead
Not the times that have gone by
But the happy times instead

From Barry Tiney

Knit & Natter Group

Lockdown 2 (or is it 3 now) doesn't stop our group from meeting on a Wednesday morning. Thank goodness for today's technology we still meet up via video link. We might not do a lot of knitting while on-line, more putting the world to rights, but the clicking needles come out to play when there's nothing else to do, or during the dark evenings.

Our special thoughts went out to our member Gill Dorks, who's home was affected by the flooding. By the time this goes to print, we hope that Gill and Graham will be back in their lovely home very soon

Christmas Display:

Well, the knitted characters on the village green and the post box displays have been dried out and put to bed ready for their next airing in 8 months time!! We were delighted with the response we got from the village community. The characters seem to give so much pleasure to so many people. Who needs traffic calming devices through the centre of the village, when cars were automatically slowing down to have a look. Some even parked up to take photographs. It wasn't just the Knit and Natter group who created items for the display. We'd like to thank Sheila Smith, Sarah Marsh, Sally Wilks and Judith Beeby for their contribution too.

Our advent window at the Village Hall had to be dismantled early due to the Christmas floods. The characters were not wasted; they were sold on Sarah's stall (Latham Street) to raise money for the flood fund.

Looking forward:

We are now knitting Easter items for Wilma's charity stall for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease, see separate article giving details. This village community has been wonderful supporting various charity stalls around the village since the first lockdown, raising thousands and thousands of pounds. We have no doubt that Wilma's stall will be just as successful. Who would want to live anywhere else!



Brigstock United Reformed Church

Looking back on 2020, it hardly seems possible that so much has changed in all our lives. We were optimistic about this year as restrictions were lifted before Christmas, but lockdown has returned and the daily virus figures make sober reading.

We were pleased to be able to open the chapel for some services in the Autumn and two before Christmas, and were particularly keen to have some sort of Christmas celebration, so we organised two "listening" carol services. We decorated the chapel with lots of greenery, fairy lights and candles, as well as a Christmas tree, and it looked lovely. The services were simple, with a few readings and reflections and several carols to listen to. It was hard not to be able to join in the singing, but we could all mouth the words into our masks. The collections at these services totalled £105 which we were happy to donate to the village flood relief fund.

Although the building remains closed at the moment, we hope to start holding services as soon as the lockdown is lifted. It would be lovely to be able to celebrate Easter properly this year, but our fundraising efforts will remain on hold until it is safer to have larger gatherings on our premises. Meanwhile, we trust that the vaccine roll-out continues as well as it has done so far, and that the current very cold weather will soon make way for spring sunshine and a chance to get out and about more. We pray that everyone continues to keep safe and well.

Sheila Smith



The Annual litter pick has been put back from March to June 12th to be in line with the National Spring clean week. There is a person taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme who is litter picking for the next three months but, if anyone wants to tackle an area there is equipment available from the Parish Council.

Please contact Liz Searle 373672

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

34-36 High Street
Brigstock
NN14 3HA

Independent coffee shop with fresh bread, cakes and savouries

Call: 01536 373601

BAKE & BREW

Opening Hours

Tuesday to Friday
9am – 4pm

Saturday
9am – 3pm

Sunday
10am – 3pm

[@BAKEANDBREWBRIGSTOCK](https://www.facebook.com/bakeandbrewbrigstock)

St Andrews Church

So here we are in 2021 and in reality not much has changed. Of course we are thankful for the vaccines that are being rolled out and hope and pray that in due course some normality will return to our lives. Whilst we are permitted to hold communal services under the new lock-down rules we felt that the risk was too great given the rising number of Covid-19 cases. We do not know if we will be able to have an Easter Service in the church building but if we do it is likely to still be socially distanced. We will keep you posted.

Weekly on line services will continue for the time being, the videos for recent weeks are available to back view, follow the link below and click SUBSCRIBE, you can view them and others to come at your leisure.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSF7745DRm8eiwpdh0TDEAQ?view_as=subscriber

40 Heart Warming Lent Challenges

Traditionally people give things up in the 40-day period of Lent. (Sundays are not included). This year many people may feel they have already had to give up a lot due to the Covid pandemic. Sometimes people take up new things in Lent, but this year people may feel they have had a lot of new things to learn and cope with, so we've decided this year to set a 40 day heart warming challenge. You may do as many of them or as few of them as you like. We hope that they will either warm your heart as you do them or that they will warm somebody else's heart. If we have succeeded in putting these challenges together well they will be heart warming for both you and others.

Please do them in any order that suits you.

The daily heart challenges will also be displayed each day (excluding Sundays) on St Andrews notice board and church doors. They can also be found on our website or email Allison who will be pleased to send them out.



St Andrews Church - cont'd

From Rev. Heather Lowe:

There are certain times in life when it feels like we are crossing from one season to another. As we write this it has been snowing on and off for days, and yet when the sun does break through it has that stronger feel to it, signalling that winter is waning. There is something of that feel too with the pandemic. The end is in sight but who really knows what 'snowstorms' we will face before it's safe again.

During Easter, we will be walking together through the season as always, be that face to face, online or both. And the message it calls us to remember is unchanging. As with the changing weather and the pandemic it is one of living positively between two realities. On the one hand we know that the triumph of Christ's life means that ultimately 'all shall be well' and tears and loss will fade away. On the other hand, we still live in a world where our lives are a mix of ups alongside downs, and delight tinged with disappointment.

The Resurrection is about life springing from death and decay. We see it all around us as Spring takes over and nature quietly points to God's truth. Be assured that 'hope springs eternal' is a saying born out of much more than wishful thinking.



Have a Very Happy Easter and do join us in some way, as we mark the season. With our prayers.

Reverend Heather and Captain Alan Lowe

Contact Us:

Rector: The Reverend Heather Lowe heatherlowe020@btinternet.com

Benefice Administrator & Safeguarding Officer – Allison Porter email: beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com

Keeping you informed - We publish a weekly News Letter giving details of services and what is going on in church, this can be accessed on our website:

<https://www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk>

BRIGSTOCK

The December Floods

Following the December floods, the Parish Council has been collecting information regarding how many of you were affected and the damage incurred. We have also been in contact with our MP Tom Pursglove who has been active on our behalf. Extracts from a letter from the Environment Agency are here below:

We will be working closely with Northamptonshire County Council because the flooding from Harpers Brook - affecting Brigstock, Sudborough and Lowick - met the thresholds for a formal Section 19 investigation under the Flood and Water Management Act. The Environment Agency also undertakes its own review after any river flooding incident to identify improvements and to recalibrate trigger levels of the flood warning system if required. Property Flood Resilience (PFR) includes barriers, water-tight doors and airbrick covers. The Environment Agency and Northamptonshire County Council can bid for Government funding to install PFR measures at residential properties.

We currently have a list of properties across the county where these measures will be installed. We will then look to develop a next phase of delivery and will include those properties in Brigstock on the list for consideration. We will consider existing flood risk mapping, as well as information gathered about flooding over Christmas 2020, to assess whether PFR measures are appropriate at the affected properties. We expect to be able to look at the next properties for installation during summer 2021.

This is fairly positive news for those affected and we hope to have an open meeting to discuss ways forward once the flood report has been made public which must take place within 6 months. The PC is involved with a group called a Partnership Approach to Catchment Area Management co-ordinated by the Nene Valley Regional Park.



PARISH COUNCIL

Parish councils affected by flooding meet with representatives from the Environment Agency, NFU, NCC and others to get a clearer understanding of the causes of the flooding and what can be done. For instance, we are looking to engage landowners in installing flood mitigation measures including leaky dams, attenuation ponds etc.

Thank you to all of you who helped those affected by the floodwater, particularly the volunteers who were down at Harper's Court and arranged evacuation for residents. We had very little warning of the flood so we had to act swiftly, and, in spite of Covid 19, everyone was helped to safety.

FUTURE POLICIES AND ELECTIONS

Thank you too to those of you who helpfully responded to our request for future priorities for the Parish Council. These will be discussed and actioned as necessary.

Now that the vaccine is being rolled out we can look forward to a less stressful year ahead. The local elections are scheduled to take place in May so, if you are interested in joining the Parish Council, watch out for details.

Finally, we are pleased to report that the streetlights are now powered by 100% green energy.

VILLAGE PARKING

Parking in the village is always a problem. To help with this the PC is costing a scheme to provide extra parking places outside the school next to the postbox on Bridge Street. We would also have the opportunity to tidy up this important space in the heart of the village. This will be a costly project but one that we feel is well worth doing if we can get funding. Watch this space!

Take care.

Sally Wilks, Chair Brigstock Parish Council

BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk

Despite the continuing restrictions and lockdown the Brigstock WI has been busy!

In December the committee, with the help of others, put together goody bags to distribute to all 59 members in time for what should have been our Christmas party night. Our 6 Santa helpers gave out their bags and some had a much needed, socially distanced chat with members.

Also, in December we took part in the annual Living Advent Window event lighting trees outside the Hall, and during the floods at Christmas we opened up the Hall and offered refreshment/shelter/storage as needed.

All our meetings are now on zoom. In January our speaker was Andrew Brown who entertained us with a talk about the role and history of the High Sherriff of Rutland; in February Dr Ray Lowry, a retired doctor, dentist and academic looked at the funny side of his career. We are looking forward to March when The Shaker Boys will tell us everything we always wanted to know about cocktails, but were afraid to ask! In April we will see the welcome return of Patricia Heed who will talk to us about fashion in the Georgian/Regency period and the world of Jane Austin. We have a full programme of speakers planned for the rest of 2021 and are looking forward to the time when we can all meet again in the WI Hall.

Every February we take part in the national "Show the Love Campaign" to highlight climate change. This year we asked everyone in the village to join in, get creative and display green hearts in their windows or gardens. We have been amazed by the response – thank you.



The monthly 200 club has continued along with birthday flowers for members. We have been challenged by quizzes and competitions and kept in touch with one another by a monthly Lockdown News. All of these are run or produced by individual members for which the committee are really thankful.

Liz Searle

THE CONSOLIDATED CHARITY

Thank you so much to all of you who gave so generously to the flood fund now being administered by the village charity. Following the GoFundMe page kindly set up by Chris and Matt Allen, and donations given direct to the charity, there is over £5000 in the coffers to help those who were affected by the December floods. The charity is now registered for Gift Aid, so, if you pay tax and are willing to fill in a form, please get in touch. The charity can collect an extra 25% from HMRC on your donation.

Has the Covid 19 pandemic affected you? The charity is here to provide help for anyone suffering financial hardship. We don't means test but any information you can provide that helps us to understand your circumstances is welcome. All applications are dealt with in complete confidence.

If you would like to apply for help please contact any of the trustees below or myself.

Trustees:

Rev Heather Lowe	263550	Bill Simon	373388
Carl Hector	373410	Liz Searle	373672
Jane Jones	373129	James Steward	07980015572

We are still looking for local residents to act as trustees.

Sally Wilks, Secretary and Treasurer, 01536 373428

Ladies Leisure Group

Sadly, we are still unable to meet and have no idea when we will be able to, but we hope it will be sometime this year. Meanwhile, we had some money in the group's kitty which we didn't want to leave doing nothing, so we contacted as many members as possible and everyone agreed to donate it-a total of £65- to the village flood relief fund.

We look forward to meeting up again so look out for posters; we will also post news on the village Facebook page.

BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As our members are reporting that they are scheduled to have their Covid vaccinations we hope very much to be able to return to our monthly meetings before too long.

In the meantime we can reflect on what an historic year this has been in so many ways - the pandemic, Trump, Brexit - culminating in the devastating flooding that occurred in the village in December last year.

Do you have anything that you can share with us for the archives? Can you write a summary of the year for us to keep? Have you any photos that capture what went on in the village last year? Please let us have copies. Perhaps we could have an exhibition when we are allowed to circulate again.

Some of you will also have memories of the last flood in the village which we would be glad to have. Best Wishes:

Brigstock Historical Society Committee

Sally Wilks, Robin Phillips, Bill Simon, Jan Jerwood, Carl Hector, Chris and Philippa Parrish, Jean Casswell

K M SURVEYS Ltd

For Land Surveys and
Construction Setting Out

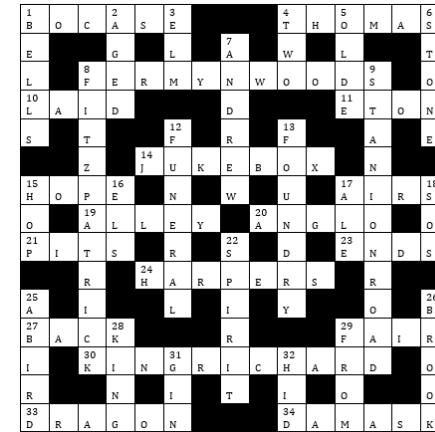
20 Park Walk, Brigstock,
Kettering, Northants, NN14 3HH

Tel: 01536 373598

Mob: 07958 657378

Email: kmsurveys@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you to the people who entered the crossword puzzle compiled by Sally Wilks. £28 was raised for village hall funds. There were 4 correct entries. John Smoker, Lesley and Andrew French, Judith Beeby and Sheila Smith. Here is the solution:



1. and 6 down Agitated obese cats on a local monument (6,5).
 4. Mixed up hamster's first name. (6) anagram of hamster = Tresham Thomas Tresham built Lyveden New Bield
 8. 8 down's abode. (6, 5)
 10. A hedge gets this. (4)
 11. What a mess! (4)
 14. There was surely one in the Olde Three Cocks. (7)
 15. Found in the Co-op shop everyone uses. (4)
 17. What the Graces had? (4)
 19. The Jitty is right up mine. (5)
 20. What came before the Saxons. (5)
 21. Some old sandy ones in the country park. (4)
 23. No split ones at the Emporium! (4)
 24. and 26 down. Mixed up hero robs park with a bank on each side. (7, 5)
 27. The lane behind. (4)
 29. One of three granted by Edward. (4)
 30. The third found under a car park. (4, 7)
 33. Green lizard. (6)
 34. Is the district attorney's face covering made of this? (6) DA+mask
- Down
1. The ringers close. (5)
 2. How old? Very old. (4)
 3. Killed by something from the Netherlands. (3)
 4. One fewer of the aged chickens. (3) Olde Three Cocks
 5. Ancient spelling. (4)
 6. See 1 across.
 8. Suits an Irishman. (11) The Ladies Fitzpatrick lived at Fermyn Woods Hall
 9. Neighbour's way? (7,4)
 12. When to use the village bier? (7) The village bier can be seen in the church.
 13. Discovered a track in the village? (7)
 15. Get a leg up for a dance at the village hall? (3)
 16. Old measurements found in the Woodland Pytchley kennels. (3)
 17. You can't buy this at the Golden Lion. (3)
 18. Help! (3)
 22. Ghost found at the Green Dragon? (6)
 25. One flew here before Braybrooks. (5) Abird had their depot where Braybrooks is now.
 26. See 24 across
 28. Space outside the village hall has no par. (4)
 29. Initially four residents offended Maureen. (4)
 31. A trap in the Three Cocks? (3)
 32. Concealed in orchids. (3)

Fermyn Woods Country Park

What changeable weather it has been, starting with the heavy rain and flooding just before Christmas and then snow. All the culverts round the park have not stopped flowing with water coming off the woods making all the ponds nice and full. Whilst out on a site patrol one wet day I happened to come across a Kingfisher looking for his dinner in long pond which was nice to see on a dull winters day.

Despite the weather and other things, we have been getting on well with our winter habitat work with help from volunteers we have: -

Cleared overgrown scrub down some banks on the plateau opening it up and also exposing ponds that have become lost in the undergrowth.

We have been making some wildlife corridors around the park to help the wildlife move between habitats.

Brushcut and rake off areas that are good for wildflowers which then in turn attract insects and butterflies in spring/summer.

Removed dead and dying Blackthorn in Little thicket to open up the path, create a bit of a glade but also to allow the Blackthorn to grow back better as due to overcrowding the trees were leaning nearly horizontal where they have tried to find what light they could.

To mention just a few of the tasks we have been doing this winter.

When you are walking round the park why not download the Froglife Dragon finder app which will help you identify adult reptiles and amphibians as well as their eggs, larvae and calls. Submit your records quickly and easily using the recording form'. <https://www.froglife.org/dragonfinder/app/>



- Transforming Landscapes
- Transforming Lives
- Transforming Research

As the weather warms, we soon see these reptiles appearing around the park, especially the frogs, toads and newts in the ponds. Spring is just round the corner.

The Rangers

Fermyn Woods Country Park

Winter opening times

Café - Take away service only: drinks, cakes and other snacks

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

WAR MEMORIAL ROTA

Thank you to all the groups who have agreed to take on the War memorial tidy each month. This has been a challenge over the last few months due to social distancing and not meeting. The following groups are taking it on for the next few months .

March 2021 Ladies Leisure

April 2021 Men's club

May 2021 PFA

Also many thanks to The Knit and Natter group who provided the poppy display round the memorial. Once again it highlights the sacrifice made by the village and also gives a colourful display throughout the winter months. Thank you all. Liz Searle



**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**

GETTING CONNECTED ON LINE

A new project from your Project Group Ladies

Would you like to get connected on line using a tablet or iPad and don't know how to get started?

Are you more tech-savvy than we are and would like to help people get connected to keep in touch with family and friends?

Are you having trouble with accessing virtual meetings and would like to know how?

Would you like some handouts on accessing Zoom or Teams?

Would you like to know more about how to keep safe from scammers?

Would you be interested in the village opening a drop in learning clinic at the village hall when restrictions allow?

Do you have any comments, questions or suggestions on how our group could move forward?

Please read on.....

Are you one of the many people who don't know where to start? Many of us are able to interact virtually with family and friends, keep up to date with virtual group activities, connect with Brigstock Village Information FaceBook page to find out what goes on in our local community and some of us have attended virtual guided tours of famous places around the world.

All this talk of "the cloud", "Zoom", Android, iPad etc, etc, all sounds like a foreign language. Believe it or not, those of us who use this technology had to start somewhere and yes it can be daunting, but with help and some guidance you too can gain the confidence to become connected.

Even as lockdown restrictions are lifted, it seems to be the way of the world that there will be more and more facilities that are on-line based. It's so hard now to actually speak to a real person.

The Project Group came up with the idea when it became apparent that some people need help. We are only in the "planning stage" of this initiative and putting feelers out. If you'd like some help yourself or know someone that might or willing to help us with this project please contact one of us:

Steph Beckett 01536 373422 or email sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk

Glenda Stephen 01536 373987 or email maiseymaym5@yahoo.com

Jane Jones 01536 373129 or email jane.jones3@btinternet.com



Longhurst Group
The Lodge
Stamford Road
Oakham
Rutland, PE15 6JX

Longhurst Group would like to express its thanks to the Brigstock Community for all your support following flooding in the village in December. The support provided on the evening of the flood and subsequent weeks has been invaluable to the residents at Harpers Court. We would like to provide special thanks to Councillor Sally Wilks for coordinating the flood response and her ongoing work to ensure future flood defences and the local community groups who have provided space for storage. We have had amazing support from Sam and her family at the Swallows Rest who kindly took in residents and provided exceptional hospitality over the Christmas period and beyond. Residents have also been supported via Paula and the community volunteers who have provided invaluable ongoing help and care throughout this difficult time.

The community response has been heartening to see and a real testament to the fantastic work that goes on in the village.

Many thanks again for your help, support and understanding.

Danielle Robbins (Sheltered Housing Service Manager)

DEMENTIA UK AND PARKINSONS SOCIETY CHARITY STALL

Last year I organised a coffee morning in aid of Dementia at the WI Hall which was a great success raising over £700! Due to Covid we can't do anything like that this year. But I think now more than ever these charities need our help.

I've decided to have a fundraising stall outside my house 23a Barnards Way in aid of Dementia UK & The Parkinsons Society.

The date is 27th March 10-4

I will be selling knitted goods, homemade cakes & preserves & also doing a raffle.

Many Thanks

Wilma Rennie

BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Time to meet! As this newsletter goes to press, we're still in the dark about when and how lockdown will end. A digital solution seems to be the best way to guarantee a catch-up on **March 16th** at **7.30pm**. We'd love to hear your thoughts on how to proceed in 2021 and update you on what we've been able to do amid the restrictions.

In the year since we last met, many of us have used one app or another for video meetings. We'll be meeting on Zoom, so you'll need to have it installed on your computer, tablet or smartphone. Don't worry if you're not yet familiar with this app – we can send you links if you need help to get set up.

After that, just click the link and add the password we'll mail you to join the meeting. BAG has a list of many members' emails, however, if you didn't include yours when you first joined or aren't a member but want to attend, then drop us a line at brigstockarchaeologicalgroup@gmail.com. Hope to

BRIGSTOCK'S ROMAN ROAD

There is a lost piece of Roman Road in Brigstock Parish. It is probably about 2 -3 feet down but there must be some sign of it somewhere. The road is called the Garetree Road and went from Godmanchester to Leicester, and joined three other famous roads; Ermine Way, Fosse Way and Watling Street.

Except for the Brigstock Gap, it can be followed for most of its 45 miles either as the line of present day roads, footpaths, hedges or crop marks. In some places the agger or embankment on which the road was built can clearly be seen. The remains of the wooden bridge where the road crossed the Nene have been found in gravel workings at Islip in 1967.

The line of the road is quite clear from Alconbury Weston to Titchmarsh where there was a roman settlement, and then through the woods north of Sudborough to Cats Head Wood. Then the line disappears and until it has been found at Stanion Lodge, through Little Stanion, Corby, Cottingham, Medbourne and on to Leicester. Much can be identified from OS maps.

Roman roads are well known to be built in straight lines, but there must be a bend in the line for the two sections to join. The obvious place for a bend would be where the road crosses Harpers Brook.

BRIGSTOCK'S ROMAN ROAD cont'd

This would be possibly just to the west of the CTS lorry yard and then heading towards Park Walk, crossing Dusthill Road somewhere and across the fields to Stanion.

The roads were often constructed using material excavated from the two edge ditches and piled into the road. They could be up to 15 metres wide and could have been raised above the surrounding land. Just before Christmas two of the committee went to inspect an archaeological dig being carried out in Olney on a development site. They had found a roman road crossing their site and excavated the ditches and a section through it. The actual road was constructed with sand and gravel in several layers with dirt in between them. It was quite hard to see and without a clear section, it could easily have been missed. Perhaps sections have been dug up in the Brigstock but not noticed.

The Archaeological Group are looking into this and carrying out more research to see if we can solve the mystery.

If you are interested in this, or know anymore about the route of the old road, do please contact me.

Chris Allen on Chrisallen043@gmail.com

BRIGSTOCK LIVING ADVENT 2020

It seems many weeks ago since we were muddling through December and preparing for the most uncertain and usual Christmas. The Living Advent Calendar went ahead with a fully booked month of delightful, inspiring and clever contributions.

A big thank you to everyone who took part and all those who followed on the Facebook page. Thank you to Tracey Sharp for creating the map, Caroline Nall for the printing and Simon Brown for his help with writeups.

There was no collection this year as we felt everyone had enough going on in their world and we very much missed the nightly social gatherings.

The post box on Hall Hill for Santa letters proved popular and Santa was able to deliver small gifts in response to the wonderful letters he received. Thanks to the Burdetts for hosting the box and Rob Taylor for making it in his workshop. We hope to be back in 2021 with a sociable and wonderfully creative festive event. Jane Jones

BENEFIELD ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Luckily attending to your allotment has been allowed as exercise throughout all the lockdowns. The winter has been very wet through till January with some of the plots becoming quite saturated. February changed to hard frosts making the surface solid. Despite these extremes in weather, you will always see people on site doing some jobs that are still possible and planning for the busy spring to come.

We now only have one plot left to rent with the rest all now taken and being worked. This is great to see especially as back 20 years ago hardly any were being used. I think this reflects the desire for fresh vegetables and fruit from a source that you know. During this last year it has also been a safe place to get to for exercise and fresh air.

Jobs for the next few weeks -

Get your seeds ordered (there is a high demand this year from catalogues)

Plant peppers and some tomatoes as they have a long growing season.

Chit your seed potatoes - i.e. place in trays in cool but light place.

BRIGSTOCK KURLING GROUP

At the time of writing the piece for the Winter newsletter, who would have foreseen the village hall being flooded so badly, or this longer, third period of lockdown, both of which have stopped very effectively put a stop to any opportunities for doing any kurling. And who knows what else may have changed by the time this newsletter is printed and delivered!

However, one certainty is that we won't be able to use the village hall for some time, but I will contact the regular players as soon as we are able to meet again as a group, to see who might be interested in playing boules in the meadow, either on the grass (if it has dried out by then), or on the MUGA.

I hope to see you all in the not too distant future, but in the meantime, stay safe and take care, even if you have had your jabs. If you are interested in joining the group, please ring me on 373367 for more information.

Judith Beeby

Brigstock Cricket Club

As we say goodbye to winter, which has been very difficult this year for obvious reasons, I think we all look forward to welcoming spring. Hopefully we will soon start getting back to some sort of normality, which includes playing cricket and of course socialising, didn't I write that last year? Anyway, as a club, we are quietly confident there will be a full season of adult cricket this year but we are still waiting for confirmation from the powers that be. Clearly there is no indoor winter nets and as soon as restrictions are lifted and the weather changes for the better we hope to start training outdoors, as to when this will be I don't know. As for youth cricket, again we are still waiting for directions as to whether this can proceed and please keep an eye out for further notices. The pandemic has of course had many consequences and I fear sport in general, particularly at youth level will be one of them. Playing sport at an early age has so many benefits to a child's education and as a club we will be working closely with the ECB to introduce All Stars Cricket which provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5-8 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing, further details to follow.

OAs some readers will recall the club had planned to celebrate the club's 125th Anniversary last year by holding a Summer Ball which was of course postponed. Given the uncertainty that we still find ourselves in we have decided to keep the event on hold for another year until June 2022, further details will follow later in the year. If allowed then we will hold some sort of social function over the summer, I think we deserve one.

Best wishes. Simon Andrews BCC Chairman.

Brigstock Bell Ringers

The Brigstock Bell ringing team has not been able to get out ringing but keeps in regular contact and looks forward to returning the historical bell ringing sounds to Brigstock as soon as we can.

Steve Todd



**BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S
SCHOOL**

Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School

Since January, our school has been open only to the children of key workers, and all of our staff and families have adjusted to a very different way of learning. We have tried hard to do as much as we can to offer a balance of online activities and creative tasks. This has involved using a remote learning platform, as well as delivering boxes of activities and resources to every home. Our children have continued to work so hard and we feel very grateful for the support that we have had from all of our families. Thanks to this support, and the hard work of our staff team, the children have continued to do so much good work across all areas of the curriculum.

We have continued to do lots of creative and interesting things, of course! Our fund-raising efforts have been very successful despite the restrictions, and we sold out of our Brigstock 400 Commemorative books. We also sold 'Art Attack' boxes, and even managed to do a raffle! We were also proud to take part in the Living Advent, and we created a beautiful window full of our traditions- a great reminder of all the amazing things that we do within every school year. We have some exciting projects going ahead within school, with the redevelopment of our EYFS outdoor area, new playground markings and a range of resources for outdoor learning. Our children will really notice some positive changes when they return.

We have also involved all of our families and the wider village community in our Outdoor Art Gallery, which will be open from 12th February. All of the artwork has been designed to raise the spirits of the village at this difficult time, and we hope that everyone will enjoy the creative contributions of our children. We are also welcoming entries from past pupils and older residents- so it's not too late to get creative!

We really appreciate all the support that we have had during this time from our school and village community. We hope that we will all be back together in school soon, enjoying all of our activities together.

Mrs Sandy Ettridge and Ms Luella Manssen, Shared Head Teachers



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:TONU: 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