

# BRIGSTOCK NEWS

EDITION 26 – SUMMER 2021



**A REFURBISHED BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL**

**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](mailto:chrisallen043@gmail.com) or sent to 9 Woodyard Close, Brigstock, NN14 3LZ

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2021 WINTER Published 27th November

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### **CONTACT DETAILS FOR LOCAL GROUPS**

BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	<a href="mailto:rosybbriggs@btinternet.com">rosybbriggs@btinternet.com</a>	373579
BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL SECRETARY		01536 373059
BRIGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL (CLERK)		01536 373672
BRIGSTOCK CRICKET CLUB		01536 373478
BRIGSTOCK PFA		01536 373353
BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY		01536 373428
BRIGSTOCK WI		01536 373672 (373987)
BRIGSTOCK FILM NIGHTS		01536 373028
BRIGSTOCK URC		01536 373225
BRIGSTOCK ST ANDREWS		01536 373410
BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL		01536 373059
BRIGSTOCK SUNNYSIDERS		01536 373383
BRIGSTOCK KURLING		01536 373367.
HARPERS COURT BINGO. Eileen Coles.		01536 373168

**Front Cover Photo -**

**BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL**

**FOLLOWING ITS REFURBISHMENT.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July

- 5 PO Office opens - 10– 12 am Village Hall, then every week.
- 7 Kurling, Village Hall 2pm
- 17 Garage Sale for Jordans WeeOnes. Contact Jane Steward
- 19 St Andrews Bell Ringing starts
- 21 Kurling, Village Hall 2pm
- 30 Brigstock History Slide Show with Carl Hector Contact Jane Steward

### August

### September

- 4 Village Hall Tea and Cakes 2—4 pm. Open to all.
- 11 Ride and Stride - all the churches.
- 17 Beer Festival Comedy Night
- 18 Beer Festival All day entertainment.
- 22 Historical Society, Village Hall, "That Woman" 7-30

### October

- 1 Film Night Village Hall 7-45pm
- 15 Barn Dance - URC at the Village Hall

## Friends of the Country Park

Put the date in your diary

Quiz on Friday 26 November

The Village Hall

## Ride and Stride

The Annual Historic Churches Ride and Stride will take place on Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a sponsored event with half the money going to St Andrews Church and the other to Historic Churches Trust. The trust then allocates the profits this to worthwhile church projects. If you are interested in taking part further details can be obtained from Steph Beckett. sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk

You can cycle or walk a route of your choice around local churches which open their doors to welcome you.

A list of churches participating can be found on Historic Church's web site.

## Collectors Corner

The following people collect items for various charities



1. Claudette Black, Hall Hill Used stamps
2. Steph Beckett, 13 Swan Avenue. Jewellery (does not matter if broken)



3. Sally Wilks 7 Park Walk, Computer cartridges
4. Steph Beckett, 13 Swan Avenue. Bras
5. Kerry Wills, Lyveden Road. Drinks cans.



Please do not crush.

This is a new collection and the money made from the cans goes towards funding Air Ambulance services.

6. Co-op Car Park and Three Cocks PH Car Park - Clothing
7. Co-op shop. Batteries.

## BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL RECOVERY.

In the last Newsletter, we were waiting for the main contractor to start work. The firm, Nurray Joinery Ltd, started by appointing the subcontractors for the hall flooring, gas heaters, kitchen fitout and the flooring for the rest of the downstairs.

The walls were replastered, new doors and frames replaced, the electrics replaced by our electrician, Steve Bennett, the toilets rebuilt with new cubicles, sink units and tiling, and then complete decorating downstairs. The new kitchen units were installed and a new cooker, dishwasher, fridge and hot cupboard delivered. We also had a new wooden floor to match the previous one laid. This is looking great. This took 9 weeks to complete within the contract period and we opened just in time for the Parish Council meeting in May.



During the closedown period, we had all the interior lighting replaced with high efficiency LED lights. This was funded by several grants that we have been lucky to gain.



We also had a grant from FCC Communities for the improvement of the rear area behind the Hall which was the Playgroup area and will become a block paved seating area. There will also be a wooden gazebo to give a sheltered space.

To protect the building from future flooding we have been given 3 grants towards flood protection measures. These will be for flood boards to protect the 6 outside doors, removable covers for the air bricks and covers for the gas vents. We hope this will stop water coming into the building when the levels rise as long as there are not other entry points that we have not found.

We also intend to install disabled access to the rear doors via the side entrance. This will be complete by September hopefully.

## BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL RECOVERY - cont'd

We are very grateful to the following Charities who have helped us:

**FCC Communities Foundation**

**The National Lottery Community Fund**

**The Countryside Fund**

**Market Harborough Building Society**

**Maud Elkington Charitable Trust**

**David Laing Foundation**

Without these generous donations, we would not have been able to carry out all the improvements to the building.

Thank you for your great support.

**To celebrate the completion and reopening of the hall, we would like to invite you all for tea and cakes on Saturday 4th September from 2 to 4pm.**

**Please come along to see our refurbished hall and look at the possibilities for the future.**

Perhaps you would like to hire the hall for a future event or new classes. We have spare times available now, so give Rosie a call to see what we can offer you.

Lots of opportunities available.

## MENS CLUB

We really hope that we will be able to start meeting again in the near future. We usually meet on a Monday morning and have a general discussion or a talk on a relevant subject. We will either be meeting in the URC meeting room or will return to the Three Cocks PH.

Watch out for more information via your village contacts or social media.

Or Contact Robin Phillips or Terry Bowen for more details.

## Brigstock Beer Festival 2021



We know that you will all be pleased to learn that preparations for Brigstock's 16th Beer Festival (BBF) on the 17 & 18th September 2021 are progressing. The festival will commence, as has become tradition, with a comedy night in the village hall on the Friday evening Rudi Lickwood, James Dowdeswell, Duncan Oakley and Tony Vino as MC. The quality of the comedian line-up coupled with the fact that there has been minimal "live entertainment" over the last year promises to make this a memorable village occasion. Since ticket numbers have been reduced for this year to ensure that the audience is "socially comfortable" in their surroundings and the night always sells anyway, it is highly recommended that tickets are purchased as soon as they go on sale in mid-July in order to avoid disappointment. The tickets will be sold on-line in order to ensure that everybody has the same opportunity to purchase tickets. Details about how to book these will be available on the Brigstock Beer Festival website <https://www.brigstockbeerfestival.com/> and the village Facebook page over the next couple of weeks.

On the Saturday the festival will commence from 12.30pm in the village hall and neighbouring meadow. The entertainment will include live bands, fairground rides and stalls. In addition there will obviously be the usual fine array of beer, cider and other food and beverages to keep everyone suitably refreshed. We are also joining forces with the Brigstock Horticultural Show who will be running various competitions in a marquee on the meadow, so please get watering those marrows!

Organising the event is a lot of fun but takes a huge amount of time and effort, we are always on the lookout for willing helpers and anybody who would like to join us on the committee. If you need any more details please contact me on (07977) 560198.

The poster has a yellow background with white and blue accents. At the top, "BRIGSTOCK" is written in a blue, bubbly font. Below it, "16th" is in a red circle, and "BEER FESTIVAL" is in a blue circle. A cartoon dog wearing sunglasses and holding a beer is in the center. To the right, text lists the dates, location, and activities. At the bottom, there are logos for "Supporting Local Charities" (RDA), "Cashless Bar" (with Visa and Mastercard logos), and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

**BRIGSTOCK**  
16<sup>th</sup>  
**BEER FESTIVAL**

**It's Back!**  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>  
September  
Village Hall & Meadow

**Friday Night Comedy**  
7:30pm – late

- 3 Acts
- Compere
- Food
- Over 16s Only

Tickets £15  
Available online from 1<sup>st</sup> July  
(Be Quick! Only 120 Available. Price rises to £20 on 1st Aug)

**Family Fun Day**  
Saturday 1pm – 11pm

- Live Music
- Fairground Rides
- Stalls
- Entertainers & Circus Act
- BBQ
- Flower and Produce Show

**Free Admission**

Supporting Local Charities  
RDA

Cashless Bar  
VISA

Follow us and look out for announcements on social media

**WE DID IT!!!** During April six of us took on the challenge of doing the Cransley 100 mile walk to raise funds for Cransley Hospice. Lesley French has been organising various events throughout lockdown for Cransley Hospice.

The group consisted of mixed abilities; those that are super fit and used to walking across the fields and walkways and those not so fit who found it a real challenge. Despite this, the encouragement and determination from each other, as well as the very generous people who sponsored us spurred us on to the finish line.

We completed in excess of 100 miles each. We made and an amazing £..1700..between us.

To celebrate we all got together at Lesley's garden, to not only receive our trophies and thank you letters from Cransley Hospice, but to be treated to an "evening afternoon tea". A perfect evening with lots of laughter and stories to tell. Thank you everyone who sponsored us on our incredible journey.

Lesley has further events for Cransley. See details in this newsletter.



## Janet's Movement to Music

Held every Thursday at 2pm in the Village hall, or during periods not permitted indoors, on the Meadow or on Zoom.

40 minutes moving to music.

Contact Janet on 07931 712056

## And Coming soon - JAO Holistic Therapies

Village based, Body massage / reflexology

07931 712056

### EDITORS JOKES

I was wondering why the frisbee kept looking bigger and bigger and then it hit me!

Why did the scarecrow get an award? Cos he was outstanding in his field.

## Ladies Leisure Group

We are still living in hopes that we can start meeting again soon, maybe aiming for our first meeting in September if all restrictions are lifted by then.

For those of you new to the village, Ladies leisure Group meets on the third Monday in the month, in the June Small room at the chapel in Mill Lane at 1.30pm. We don't have a committee, so you won't be asked to join one!-but we do organise our meetings between us and take turns to provide refreshments. Several times a year we have our meetings elsewhere, usually organised around a light lunch or afternoon tea. We welcome any ladies who would appreciate some friendly company and a change of scenery to join us. More details will be on notices in the village when we start to meet again.

Meanwhile, look out for posters around the village and on the Brigstock Village information page on Facebook as soon as we know what we can do and when we can do it! Enjoy the summer and stay safe.

## 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



Brigstock Village hall are delighted to announce that Ricky will be returning with his Post Office facility.

This will be in the annexe of the village hall on Mondays from 10am until 12 noon.

Disabled access is available to this room.

The start date is Monday July 5th.



Flying the nest or putting down new roots?  
Bletsoes estate agents are here to help.

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

## RING A RING OF ROSES EMERGENCY SERVICES

Press button once: Number of Agents available? None.

Try line two: Lines very busy, you are in a queue.

Push button three: None of our Agents is free.

What about four? What are you phoning us for?

Line number five: Is manned by Robots, none are alive.

Press number six: Out of order, in need of a fix.

Line number seven: Sorry caller, try number eleven.

The rest of the bunch? Are all out to lunch.

John Smoker.

## Brigstock Film Night 2020/21 Season



We are hoping to start the Film Nights again in the autumn. We will start on the 1st October and then every month on the first Friday of the month.

We will be able to tell you the actual films we hope to show in the next newsletter.

Remember, we have the bar open, and have refreshments and ice cream in the interval.

If you would like to help with this programme, please contact any Village Hall committee member.

## Jordans Weeones

The year started with me in the greenhouse sowing tomatoes and other vegetables and plants for sale outside the farm - nice and warm in there.

Although I fully intended to bring the books and game's greenhouses in after the Christmas Fair they remained in situ and popular with donations ticking over all winter, books and jigsaws being in demand on cold dark evenings.

The first major event was the joint Easter Fair with Lesley French /Cransley Hospice, but again due to COVID we were unable to be together in the village hall. Niki Newbury once again kindly allowed me to use her paddock and although the weather was not great it remained dry and we had a good day and with the raffle a total of £711.86 was made so thanks once again to all who supported this event. Caroline Nall once again very kindly produced Easter Card packs and in doing so raised £129.10 for Jordans Weeones.

A variety of plants and vegetables have been on sale throughout spring and early summer, my Christmas present of a poly tunnel has been stacked out with these plants grown from seed in Brigstock with the Lupin seed coming from Caroline Nall's garden. you can't get more local than that!

There will be a Horticultural Show on 18th September at the Beer Festival so you can show your produce. Lots of classes for everyone.

Compost has also been in high demand and I have supplied to date over 360 bags to people in Brigstock, all proceeds from compost sales go to Jordans Weeones.

We have lots planned for this year but the next two events are in July

### **Brigstock Garage Sale , Saturday 17th July. 10am until 2pm**

Tables will be available or hold in your own garden. Anyone who wants to participate and book a place on the map £5 to Jane Steward, Walton house, Park Walk

**Brigstock History Slide Show with Carl Hector** proceeds to be split between JWO's and a charity of Carl's choice. (COVID allowing)

Friday 30th July 7pm there will also be a bar before and after the show. Buffet snacks available after the show.

There is a new fb page Brigstock Jordans Weeones information where you can keep up to date with what's going on.

The total raised so far this year is £3448.00

Jane Steward

## *Brigstock United Reformed Church*

When the last newsletter was produced, back in March, we had no idea that our lives would still be restricted, probably well into July. What a strange time the first half of this year has been. Apart from very dry, then very wet weather, we have had late frosts and a bit of a heatwave. It's amazing that our gardens manage to survive all these changes and, at the moment, everything seems to be blooming better than ever. We have also had a brilliant vaccination programme throughout the country and it certainly seems to have worked, with numbers of people infected or dying from Covid falling dramatically-until recently. But things have changed again and now we have to continue being more careful and keeping various aspects of our lives on hold again. Some people find it very difficult to be so restricted and are desperate to go away on holiday, and many businesses are still suffering.

We decided to open the chapel for Sunday worship at Easter as we have been able to maintain social distancing and accommodate people safely, and it has been great to welcome everyone back, plus several new faces too. It's such a shame that we still can't sing, but hopefully that restriction might be eased in July. However, we are still not able to open up the June Small room for the regular clubs that meet there, and it seems such a shame to see it empty all the time. We can, however, do some fundraising now, and by the time you read this we will have held our socially-distanced Mid-summer Fair. We do enjoy these occasions because we meet up with so many members of the community, enjoy their company and raise much-needed funds for the chapel. We are optimistically planning a barn dance in the Village Hall on October 15<sup>th</sup> and really hope we can hold our popular Christmas Coffee morning again on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Hopefully, all the groups who use the June Small room will be back with us in the late summer. The June Small room was used for the local elections in May, and for those of you who were seeing it for the first time, it is available for hire (when restrictions are lifted) for £5 per hour. It is ideal for small parties and interest groups, and we do have facilities for disabled people and a wheelchair that can be borrowed by anyone for hospital visits etc.

Meanwhile, enjoy the sunshine, (it is very warm while I'm writing this and I hope it continues!), stay safe and make the most of the lovely walks around our village. Sometimes we forget how lucky we are to live in such an attractive, friendly place.

## Cpl Tom Packwood: A Brigstock D-Day War Hero

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings an impressive new memorial was officially opened in Normandy, commemorating more than 22,000 British Servicemen and women who died in that conflict. The success of the operation was made possible by the heroic actions of some hand-picked elite troops who landed in France before the main landings, among them, Cpl Tom Packwood of Brigstock, who served in 2<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. This is his eye-witness account in his own words of a daring operation to capture vital bridges over the River Orne and the Caen Canal which was published in the *Kettering Leader* and *Guardian* on Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> 1944

### **How Red Devils Took Orne Bridges.**

Our force consisted of six gliders containing 180 men in all, 25 assault troops and five sappers in each glider. Our task was to capture intact these two important bridges and hold them until relieved by airborne forces, thus preventing the Germans from sending reinforcements from the Caen area to endanger the seaboard landings. Our platoon was to land three gliders on each bridge, although from information and aerial photographs we knew the canal bridge was the most heavily defended. It was thought that, owing to the small landing area, it would be impossible to land above three.

The operation entailed weeks of intense training in the country on bridges similar to the two we had to take. Every glider load had to know six different jobs in case one did not arrive (which unfortunately did happen) or, in the case of unforeseen circumstances, we did not land in the order laid down.

Our small force took off from a south of England airfield at 11pm on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The crossing was quite smooth and spirits were high, although after crossing the French coast, there reigned a tense silence, each one busy checking up his kit for the last time. The thoughts of us all, I feel sure, were "what sort of reception should we get". We all knew that if we failed thousands of men's lives coming by sea would be endangered, but we did not mean to fail.

We cast off at 6000 feet about five miles from our objective. Our tugs, which were also carrying bombs, flew on to make a diversion elsewhere so as not to give our position away.

## Cpl Tom Packwood: A Brigstock D-Day War Hero - cont'd

Our landing field we knew would be rough, so everyone prepared himself for a shock to come. It came, we lost one wheel but still skidded on crashing through a woodpile and at last finishing with our nose through a fence about 20 yards from the road which ran over the bridge. I should like to point out that we had the best glider pilots they could produce. They had done their job; now we had to do ours.

The first glider's job was to get over to the other side of the bridge and put out of commission two machine guns, which would play havoc with the rest of the landing force. We rushed those machine guns but a few of our small number fell, being caught in the murderous crossfire. Anyway we eventually got the bridge and sat down in the German position to wait for the counter attack, which we knew would come from a small village about half a mile away. It did. The first to arrive were two armoured ammunition cars. These were soon non-existent, thanks to Piat. We were then treated to a beautiful firework display which lasted until daylight.

I forgot to mention that we landed at five minutes past midnight on June 6<sup>th</sup>, about six hours before the seaborne landings started. By daylight we were reinforced by a few more paratroops and with these we beat off 12 small counter attacks in 17 hours when we were eventually relieved by the Commandos, who had a rough time trying to reach us. The Germans, now fully awake to what was happening sent two gunboats up the canal to amuse us. One of these the Piat dealt with and the other was put out by a German anti-tank gun they forgot to remove

As a memorial to the men who fell on that bridge it is now called Pegasus Bridge after our badge.

*Pegasus: the winged horse. The badge of the British Airborne Forces*

*The original Pegasus bridge can be still be seen at Memorial Pegasus, the Airborne Forces museum on the bank of the Caen canal.*

*Piat: a hand-held anti-tank weapon*

*Article provided by Bill Simon*



## Knit & Natter Group

If I had mentioned the word “Christmas” eight weeks ago, or even three weeks ago, I might have been forgiven seeing that the weather was bitterly cold or terribly wet. Out came the winter coats again, as did the hat and on some days the gloves!!!! It did feel more like winter than spring-time. At the time of writing this, we are now basking in lovely sunshine – long may it continue.



In late winter/early spring Knit & Natter’s needles were working overtime for Wilma’s Easter stall, held outside her home during the Easter weekend. I say they were working overtime, they literally did! So many people wanted the little Easter Chicks stuffed with Cadburys Crème Eggs and the Chocolate Orange Bunnies that they almost sold out before the event! Wilma and her helpers raised £475 for Dementia UK and £475 for Parkinson’s, which was a fantastic achievement for such a bitterly cold and very windy day. Wilma says *“thank you everyone who braved the weather and bought items for this worthy charity”*

Some of us are knitting personal items for ourselves, some for grandchildren and some are busy beavering away making things for, dare I say it again, Christmas. There’s the Knit and Natter Advent window to plan for as well as making items for a joint mini Christmas Fair in November. So folks, a date for your diary **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November at the Village Hall.**

The stalls will consist of.....

**Wilma Rennie** with the help of the Knit and Natter ladies will be busy making Christmas items in aid of Dementia UK.

**Lesley French** will be selling her beautiful Christmas cakes (and individual ones) as well as her popular Chocolate Bombs, chutneys, jams and marmalade in aid of Cransley Hospice.

**Tracey Widdall** who will be selling home-made Christmas crafts for PTSD UK, which is the only charity in the UK dedicated to raising awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder, no matter the trauma that caused it.

The Knit & Natter group will be moving to a new location, the Village Hall, as soon as Government restrictions allow us to. The hall will allow us to have the added bonus of sitting outside, making the most of the summer

## Knit & Natter Group - cont’d

weather, when the patio area is finished. Until then, we are meeting on Messenger Video at our usual time of 10am. If you want to learn to knit or already a knitter and want to join our friendly group, please call either Steph on 373422 or Glenda on 373987, you will be made very welcome. We also have a left-handed knitter and a crochet member in our group who might be able to assist you.

Glenda. *June 2021*

### A REQUEST TO ALL READERS.

This is a bit of a longshot but I was wondering if your readers could help with a bit of a mystery?

My friends mother has recently died and it was a sadness that she could not identify more about and the burial place of her great aunt and uncle who died as children from Diphtheria.

The children were Caroline Katie Brown born 26 Nov 1886 and died 15 October 1893 and George William Brown born 31 Dec 1888 and died 17 October 1893

The parents William Brown and Harriet Elizabeth Brown nee Avil (Avel) were both devastated by their young children's death and the death certificates say William Brown was at the death of both children.

William was from Brigstock and Harriet from Hardingstone and their children were born in Brigstock.

Family say that the children were buried and lime put in the grave(s) because of the infection. I cannot find out where they are buried. Might it have been in an institution or isolation hospital?

Their death certificates say died Brigstock R. S. and what looks like an D or G and their deaths were certified by Arth. S. Stokes and Joseph Baines was the Registrar.

Can anyone help with this mystery of the missing children's grave(s)?

Thank you for your time and any help your readers can give.

Regards, Caroline O’Callaghan

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## St Andrews Church

When Alan suffered a very serious accident in 2018 it was a life changing experience. Plans ruined, and normality shattered.

This past year has been a changing scenario for all of us, in some way or another. Some of those changes may return to their previous normality whilst others will have a longer-term effect, which taking years to show itself. We may have found ourselves questioning so many things we had begun to take for granted. Not seeing our families and friends or doing the things we enjoy. Losing a loved one and being restricted to the funeral we could give them, and so many other things of varying significance.

With our perspectives rocked we are returning to the basics of our faith this summer, by pondering a series of sayings uttered by Jesus and recorded by his friend John. These are known as the I AM sayings (eg I am the Light of the world etc) Together they are a welcome reminder of the nature of the God we honour at St Andrews. Do join with us on the second Sunday of each month (or online on the second and fourth Sundays) as we remember what really matters to God which is his love for us.



Now that is a good perspective to hold on to! Have a good summer.

Revd. Heather and Capt. Alan Lowe

## ST ANDREWS CHURCH CLOCK REPAIR FUND

You may have noticed that the Church Clock is not running at the moment. The clock has to be wound every day to keep to running. This meant that someone (lately Carl Hector) has to climb up the tower to wind it up. This is not easy for a young fit person, but Carl??

Several years ago an automatic winder was added to the movement which meant it did not need winding every day. Unfortunately this automatic winder has stopped working and will cost around £5000 to repair. We have raised £1000, but are struggling to find any other sources of funding. If you would like to help save Carl from climbing ladders every day, would you consider contributing to the repair fund? If you can help, please contact Carl or the Church PCC

# BRIGSTOCK

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL		
Margaret Smith	Chair	
Sally Wilks	Vice Chair	
Julie Lemmy	Councillor	
Max Marsden	Councillor	
Faye Perkins	Councillor	
Elizabeth Searle	Councillor	
Sue Doolan	Councillor	
Simon Brown	Councillor	
Su Sharp	Councillor	
Terry Towns	Councillor	
Ken Motion	Chair Planning	
Nigel Searle	Clerk	01536 373672

Changes in membership and leadership Following the May elections the membership of the Parish Council has changed. We have five new members to represent you: Simon Brown, Sue Doolan, Max Marsden, Faye Perkins and Su Sharp. Some of them have lived in the village for many years and others are new residents. They are already getting involved in the work of the council and looking for ways to improve our lovely village. After 16 years of Chairmanship Sally Wilks has taken a step back but fortunately she has agreed to be Vice Chair to ensure continuity of our ongoing projects. Margaret Smith is now the new Chair of the Parish Council.

## 5 Year Plan

To ensure that the council is keeping on top of the continuing needs of the village, and budgeting accordingly, we are formalising a five year rolling programme of repairs and new initiatives. These will be costed to better plan the use of resources we have and to keep the levels of financial reserves appropriate for any unforeseen expenditure. When complete the plan will be posted on the Parish Council website which is actively managed by Nigel Searle.

# PARISH COUNCIL

## Thanks

To Sally Wilks for her hard work as Chair of the Parish Council and also for her continued active involvement in trying to create better flood management for the village.

To Dot Solesbury for all her years as a parish councillor when she actively represented your views and kept the bus shelter tidy amongst other things. To William Millen for his support and particularly the organisation of the Litter Picking Days.

To Colin Johnson and Stuart Malcolm for their time and interest in representing the village on the parish council.

Margaret Smith Chair

Brigstock Parish Council, brigstockcouncil@aol.co.uk

## Trees

Next year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Parish Council is intending to plant a tree or trees to celebrate the event. If you have any ideas about a good place to plant one please get in touch with one of your councilors or Nigel Searle. Do you care about trees? Would you be interested in becoming the Parish Council's voluntary tree warden? For more information please contact our clerk, Nigel Searle.



Ash die-back is starting to have a significant effect on trees in and around the village. How will it change our landscape and what can we do about it? If you have any thoughts please let us know

## THE FOOTBRIDGE, CHURCH WALK

The Parish Council has recently been informed that repairs to the bridge will begin in August. All permissions are now in place. Work will start with clearing the brook and assessing whether any of the brickwork can be re-used. Once this is done, repairs and strengthening can be undertaken.



# FLOOD WARDEN WANTED!

Following the devastating floods in December last year it would be very helpful to have a flood warden for the village.

We realise that it should not be someone whose home is likely to be flooded as they will have their time taken up with protecting their property.

Could you volunteer? We hope that your services will not be needed very often. Duties include:

Managing the flood store on the allotments.

Attending a course.

Liaising with the emergency co-ordinator at North Northants Council and volunteers in the village.

Organising the distribution of equipment.

Being the point of contact for emergency services.

The job is quite physically demanding in the event of a flood but very rewarding.

If you are interested, please contact Nigel Searle, the clerk.

# BRIGSTOCK EMERGENCY PLAN

Following our experience coping with the Covid pandemic and the December 2020 floods in the village, the Parish Council wants to build on the useful connections made and the effective communication system set up to produce a formal emergency plan for the village.

We are hoping to compile a list of people with useful skills who we can call upon in an emergency. If you have any skills to offer and are willing to be included on the list please get in touch via Nigel Searle our clerk. Suggestions are: paramedics, doctors, nurses, firemen, electricians, plumbers, builders, 4X4 owners, chainsaw operators. The list will not be made available to the general public.

We are also hoping to get some funding to set up a Good Neighbours Scheme in the village, with the help of Northamptonshire Acre, as part of our support network.

More information will be available in future newsletters.

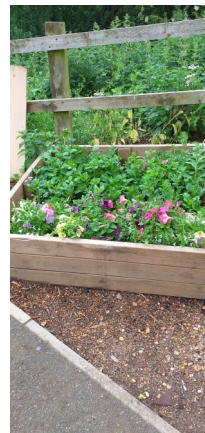
# Brigstock Project Group

There is no Best Village competition this year. The judges are prepared to meet the group though to discuss future projects that could be undertaken in the hope of there being a competition in 2022.

In the mean time we have done a couple more things during lockdown. The original three planters have been planted with bedding plants. Many thanks to Gill Dorks for donating plants and planting up the Grafton Road planter with the help of Jenny Lund. Steph Beckett and



Glenda Stephen planted Bells Close and Sudborough Road



The village hall car park has been swept and tidied following substantial work at the hall. The Project group rescued the playgroup old sand tray and planted it up with bedding plants. These were donated by Bill Addison and Jane Steward. This has improved the look of the car park.

In addition to this Andrew and Lesley French donated planters to hang at the village hall and Andrew kindly hung them. They look lovely.

We are very grateful for all these donations as we are a group that has no funds apart from grants which we apply for. Any additional costs are met from our own pockets. The Parish Council will be giving us money so we can re stain the notice board in the village hall car park.



You will have read in the previous newsletter that we had intended to run some sessions on social media and on banking and other scams. Unfortunately the ongoing Covid regulations have delayed this but it is still intended to run them.

Steph Beckett, Glenda Stephen

## GUY IN A GARDEN COMPETITION

Following last year's successful event there will be another Guy in the Garden event this year.

More details to follow but put the date in your diary. October 24th - 31st.

Please think about entering the competition and start to design your Guy.

Thank you

Jenny Willis



## 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](mailto:kmsurveys@hotmail.co.uk)

## BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk

Since the last newsletter members have had to renew their membership. We lost 11 members but due to the covid restrictions we have not invited any new members to join as yet.

We have been trying to run as normal with monthly meetings and socials by zoom. Our speakers have had a marmite affect on members with likes or not likes for each one.

In April Patricia Heed talked about Regency fashions.

At the May meeting we voted unanimously on the resolution "to raise awareness to the signs of ovarian cancer". This vote was sent forward to be voted on nationally.

Then we had Dan Allen about women and the Victorian army. He described the living conditions and life of the wives who were allowed to go with their husbands to the war zone. Some acted as cooks or nurses, others set up shops for items not supplied by the army.

At the socials we have guessed members from younger photos, zoomed with Jenny Griggs who gave an account of how she went to Turkey (her first time abroad), fell in love with the place, went back to live there and found a husband. She appeared in the normal clothes for her Turkish village which were very colourful and flamboyant. June will have us travel the world by places, food or flags

We hope to hold a BBQ for members at end of July and have a village walk in August, if restrictions allow.

If the beer festival goes ahead we will be selling tickets for the duck race before the event.

## WI 200 CLUB

The **200 CLUB** will be coming to its annual end in July, so Janet will be ringing round to see if you want to renew or if you would like to join in (£12.00 for the 12 draws over the year, 1st prize £30.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> £20.00 and third prize £10.00)

Please contact Janet on 373560

## Litter pick

Although not many turned up to litter pick on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June, there were enough to make it worthwhile. All the equipment was loaned by NNC and thanks to them. Also, a huge thank you to William Millen for organising the pick even if he is not on the PC anymore. Thanks also to Chris Allen who went round with his trailer to pick up any sacks left.

The quote of the day was “I’m going on a glitter pick” by a little girl. Should we give that a try and see who gets the most foil, silver paper etc?

As you can see by the photo there was only a few bags of rubbish to collect. This was due to having a tidy up in April when the big things were found and the fact several of you go litter picking on your daily walks around the village and along the roads around Brigstock. So

**Thank you all for helping to keep our village tidy.**



## 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

## WAR MEMORIAL ROTA

Thank you to the groups who have kept the war memorial tidy even social distanced, it looks good at the moment. The following months and groups are :-

<b>July</b>	St Andrews Church
<b>August</b>	Parish Council
<b>September</b>	Village Hall Committee

# Fermyn Woods Country Park

According to the met office April was one of the driest Aprils since the 1920's and May was one of the coldest and wettest. Due to this spring was late which has affected the breeding season for many birds and delayed a lot of the wildflowers. The blue tits in the café nest box hatched 8 chicks but unfortunately because of the weather only one survived and successfully fledged.

We opened our new playarea just before the Easter holidays, named the butterfly pit. It has been extremely popular with the public, and with help from our volunteers we have installed a raised bed which has been planted with many insect attracting plants.

Like with the birds and wildflowers, the butterflies also struggled at the beginning of spring but by May half term they started to pick up with Dingy and Grizzled Skippers spotted along with common blue, orange-tip and speckled wood to name but a few. Other wildlife in the park worth mentioning is Cuckoo, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Whitethroat to name but a few of the summer migrants we have here. There has been a Brown hare spotted in the park and along the purple route and we quite often have Ravens fly over the park.

With help from the friends group and a grant from FCC Landfill Tax monies, we have two wooden sculptures to go out in the park - one of a lizard and one of a newt that were done by the woodcarver Tony Langston. These will be placed out in the park in the near future for all to enjoy and will be followed by further sculptures over the summer as they are carved.

As you walk round the park you might see black sheeting in certain areas, these are reptile refugia. They have been donated to us by Froglife for us to be able to survey what reptiles we have in the park and in what numbers. They are in key areas that get the sun so they can heat up and be used by lizards or snakes to bask and raise their body temperatures which they need to do to be able to function due to them being cold blooded. It also allows us to be able to attract them to one place so we can record our findings and share them with Froglife.

Please enjoy the park, and remember to take your rubbish away and leave the park clear for others.

The Rangers

## Fermyn Woods Country Park

Monday afternoon Health Walks at Fermyn.

Want to get  
more active?

Then we're here to help!



Walking is a great way to get fit, explore what's on your doorstep and make new friends.

Join our FREE and friendly group for a 60 minute Ranger led walk around the beautiful

**FERMYN WOODS COUNTRY PARK**  
**Every Monday**  
(term-time only)

Meet outside the Skylark Café at  
**1.30pm**

This walk is perfect for those just starting their fitness journey or wanting to get back into regular exercise.

The route is on mixed surfaces on a slight incline, with places to rest and the opportunity for you to adjust the distance to suit you. The route can get muddy, wellies or walking boots recommended.

For further details or to book a place  
email [educationrangers.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:educationrangers.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk)  
or go to [www.northamptonshireparks.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireparks.co.uk)

Please note, Covid-19 Safety Guidelines will be adhered to, with social distancing required at all times and a maximum attendance of 30.

Usual car parking charges apply

CountryParks  
Northamptonshire



This past year has brought many challenges for all in our community and Volunteer Action was similarly affected, implementing changes to keep our drivers, volunteers and members Covid free. Throughout the pandemic our wonderful volunteer drivers provided a door to door car service to medical appointments, collected shopping and delivered prescriptions, essential to those advised to 'shield'. It was particularly difficult for our members living alone, who needed our befriending service more than ever.

Our home-based face to face befriending service was successfully replaced with a new Friend-on-the-phone service, which we will retain. A weekly chat with a designated volunteer can lift the spirits on both ends of the phone, so if you have time to spare, enjoy a good chat and are good at listening, please call us to sign up. Men like to chat too, so, gents, if you have time to put the world to right for an hour each week or fortnight, please don't hesitate to volunteer.

We are delighted to help our Brigstock residents with their travel needs. *Trips from Brigstock to Kettering General Hospital cost as little as £8.80 and you don't need to worry about parking. Our driver will wait until you are ready to return home. It doesn't need to be a medical appointment. Now that restrictions have been lifted, we can take you to visit friends or the hair-dressers.* Ideally, we like to use local drivers. Our valued Brigstock drivers are always busy, so if you can donate a few hours of your free time each month to a good cause and have a roadworthy car, you too could be helping your local community. You can drive as little or as much as you wish.

Perhaps you have a friend or neighbour who has recently retired or dropped to part time working hours. Tell them about us. Don't hesitate to make that call to see how you can help Volunteer Action to support your local community. Staff and volunteers are now back in the office to take your calls and bookings, from Monday to Friday, 09.00am to 1.00pm on 01832 275433. Please visit our website for further information; [www.volunteeractionoundle.org.uk](http://www.volunteeractionoundle.org.uk)

## BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are pleased to be able to plan ahead for our programme of talks starting in September, Covid permitting of course.

£12 membership or £3 per visit.

Talks take place at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

<b>22/09/21</b>	<b>"That Woman!" The Life of Wallis Simpson and the Constitutional Crisis of 1936. Roy Smart</b>	Wallis Simpson was an American socialite who had been married twice when she met Edward, the Prince of Wales, and which ultimately led to the "abdication crisis".
<b>27/10/21</b>	<b>The History of the True Romanies Peter and Gloria Wright</b>	The origins of the Romany people go back to A.D. 400 in India. Peter and Gloria trace their travels westward through the centuries to the present day.
<b>25/11/21</b>	<b>Duke John and the Africans Crispin Powell</b>	Crispin will talk about Duke John's interest in people of other ethnicities including Ignatius Sancho the most famous black person associated with the family.

## BRIGSTOCK SCHOOL PFA

From a PFA point of view, we haven't got much going on sadly. However we are hoping to do a school uniform seconds sale by the end of term, so we will be looking for donations of any 'logo' uniform, grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts and pinafores, no white polos. Summer gingham dresses are ok too. (We haven't set a date for this but it will be published on the PFA Facebook page/ school newsletter)

Book bags and Peg bags if people do have anything to donate, they can also be dropped off to the school or to me at 30 Back Lane.

We are also looking for new members to join us on the PFA so if anyone is interested in joining. They can contact the school or me for information on what we do and what's involved etc.

We're also providing the food for the beer festival too September - a great BBQ to look forward to. Any volunteers welcome. Leanne Cloono



## **BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

Cautious roll out continues for our 2021 activities programme, and we continue to build on each new experience. To find the right balance between what is archaeologically rigorous with what is enjoyable, we've trialled three different approaches to fieldwalking so far this year. What have we learned?

The most formal – marking out stints and transects with flags – is by far the most time-consuming method. It also recovered less interesting material from a field off Dusthill Road than our more informal approach off Grafton Road. There we used furrows as guides and recorded one GPS location for finds within a five-metre radius, turning up a handful of what appear to be Roman greyware and Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware sherds. This discrepancy is certainly a factor of our choice of fields and perhaps how agriculture impacts the archaeological record.

The least formal was the least productive as we had permission to walk fields with a mixed, partly-rotted non-food crop that, despite initial appearances, turned out to be too dense even for pre-survey purposes. All of which serves to underline the importance of thorough fieldwalking preparation and is already steering our plans for more surveying after harvesting this Autumn. So, initial research and scouting fields ahead of survey can help select more interesting fields, which in turn suggest sites for full surveys. None of which actually guarantees we'll find anything recognisably significant, but that's archaeology.

The abundance of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) and almost total lack of ceramic vessel sherds from our most systematic survey might seem surprising – disappointing even – given nearby fields turned in some interesting Iron Age and Roman finds during Foster's surveys some 30 years ago. Our site was under pasture at that time, so BAG's was possibly the first formal research.

Yet it seems the only notable 'find' was a roughly circular feature of darkened earth around 35m in diameter that may relate to a charcoal platform Foster excavated in a nearby field. It could be more evidence of the industry that Foard's Extensive Urban Survey of Brigstock (2000) suggested deserves 'high priority' research to better understand the relationship between markets and production in the parish.

## **BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP - cont'd**

It was always unlikely that we'd just happen to find compelling new archaeological evidence in the very first survey of a series of linked fields transecting the projected route of the 'missing' section of the Gartree Roman Road. But perhaps what we did – or didn't – find could be explained by agricultural activities. Repurposed brick from demolished livestock buildings, centuries of muck and a move away from deep ploughing might easily leave early deposits untouched and invisible to us. Another archaeology 101 - absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

With this in mind, we expect to return to surveying when harrowing provides optimum visibility for fieldwalking, and we'll be exploring a fourth approach that we hope will offer greater speed and convenience to make it enjoyable while maintaining validity and allowing us to cover more ground systematically.

In the meanwhile, we continue to consult commercial archaeological units for advice (fingers crossed C-19 doesn't delay our ceramics workshop into 2022) and specialist interest groups such as the Roman Road Research Association to give us a better understanding of what to look for and how to interpret what we find. By the time you read this, we also hope to have initiated some test-pitting exercises starting in a property on High Street where there was a wheelwrights workshop and forge. Results will be published in the next edition.

BAG also continues to build its own QGIS map of the parish using data from the Historic Environmental Record (HER) at the county archives and other archaeological data is increasingly becoming available online, so this can only help to improve our planning. But we are essentially a group of interested amateurs still learning how to access and interpret available resources to inform our activities and develop core skills so we better understand our shared past.

If that sounds interesting and something you'd like to try, we'd love to hear from you. You can contact us via [brigstockarchaeologicalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:brigstockarchaeologicalgroup@gmail.com), our website or Facebook page and we'll mail you links for the next Zoom meeting (third Tuesday of every month).

Peter Walker, Chairman.

## **Brigstock Cricket Club**

As I write this article we will soon be approaching the halfway stage of the season with the first team currently sitting in sixth position in the Premier League after eight games and the second team sitting at the top of the table in division eight. A great effort from all of the players from both teams. A couple of highlights certainly worthy of mention, firstly the first teams away win at table topping Old Northamptonians with George Groenland taking 5 wickets for just 13 runs and secondly, veteran Ian Sharp's 133 not out against Horton House. The under 15's team have improved week on week since their first game with some excellent performances from all of the players and notable scores from skipper Monty Spencer and Hal Cubitt. I've really enjoyed watching them progress over the last few weeks and thanks to George G for the time he spends with them each week. I'm impressed by their effort, willingness to learn and the way they conduct themselves is a credit to the club.

Sadly we still can't use the pavilion fully due to restrictions but hopefully this will be lifted next month and we can get back to normal. I would like to thank everyone for their annual membership and support this season, without it we couldn't continue to move forward and invest in the facilities.

Thanks again and look forward to seeing you over the summer months in the sunshine.

Simon Andrews, BCC Chairman.

## **Brigstock Bell Ringers**

We have received updated Covid safe information ready for potential start from 19th July.

All of us look forward to resuming regular practice sessions and supporting our local community. If you are interested, please contact us.

Steve Todd

## **BENEFIELD ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

After a very dry hot spring we were saved by the heavy rain in early June. This has made the vegetables start to grow with some vigour, as well as starting the weeds to grow. We have now let all the plots on the site but still have a waiting list of people wanting to join us.

Now we are past all risk of frosts, the summer non hardy plants have been planted out, This includes courgettes, pumpkins, beans and sweetcorn. With this warm weather and moist ground, there will soon be fruit and vegetables being harvested in good quantities. The season move round so fast— soon we will be finished with eh summer crop and waiting for the autumn harvest. It changes all too fast.

## **BRIGSTOCK KURLING GROUP**

Following the lockdown restrictions easing a bit in April, we have been able to meet a few times in the meadow to play boules when weather conditions allowed, thanks to Liz and Paula letting us use their sets. We braved the strong wind on a couple of occasions, telling ourselves it was “blowing the cobwebs away”, but were defeated by a rogue shower at the end of May. Fortunately, we were able to retreat into the recently refurbished village hall, and tried out the new floor in there. We have had to go back to wearing face coverings again, but by the time you read this hopefully we will have just one more meeting before we are able to meet indoors in larger groups without the masks.

As part of the restoration work done following the flood, the indoor bowls mat was sent away to be cleaned and dried, and is now back again, so could be used if anyone fancied a game. There is one set of bowls at the hall, but most people would probably prefer to use their own, so if you would like to play, let me know and it can be arranged. We may even play boules more regularly when the new area at the back of the hall is available to use. Again, let me know if you would like to do that.

We are looking forward to being able to have a chat, a cuppa and a biscuit during the meetings, and if anyone would like to come and join us, give me a call on 01536 373367 for more details. We will be back to meeting at 2 p.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month from July 7<sup>th</sup>.



BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S  
SCHOOL

# Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School

Everyone at the school has continued to work so hard and we have done an amazing amount of things considering the restrictions. The big highlight of the last half-term was undoubtedly MAY DAY! It felt very exciting for the school to come together to celebrate this traditional event. Although restrictions would not allow the big village celebration on Hall Hill, we did manage a school celebration on the playground, and Mrs Boyers made certain that our children were as committed as ever to their Maypole Dancing! We were blessed with beautiful weather and we had a picnic in the garden after the dancing- in our bubbles, of course. We all realised how special it is to be together and we hope that this will start to feel more 'normal' during the next academic year.

We did manage a whole range of activities linked to Easter. We were very pleased that we had the annual egg-rolling event, and a much-enjoyed egg hunt organised by our PFA. We again made excellent use of the front bank at school to share our work in March and April, following on from the success of the Community Art Event. We had an RE day in school, and created 'prayer stations' with a range of reflective activities for families to share over the Easter holiday. We also enjoyed sharing the children's amazing Easter Gardens, and Heather and Val had a very difficult 'judging' job to do! We have enjoyed using the front bank as a 'Shared Space', providing us with the opportunity to share some of our creative work with the village.

Within school all of the children have worked as hard as ever, and they have done a whole range of amazing work that is proudly displayed in classrooms. We have enjoyed a range of 'Wow' days in school, and we have also had some exciting trips out. Our youngest children really enjoyed their visit to West Lodge Farm, and our oldest children had a superb visit to Stibington, bringing to life their work on WW2.

We are looking forward to sharing the last few weeks of this term with our amazing children, especially with our Year 6 Leavers.

## Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School Cont'd

They are getting ready to transfer to Secondary School and we know that they will all be a credit to their new schools. We are looking forward to giving them a memorable 'Brigstock Send-Off' at the end of the academic year and we want to thank them for all that they have brought to the school.

Mrs Ettridge, Ms Manssen and the staff team of Brigstock School

### LOCAL ORCHIDS

If you are interested in native Orchids, this area is a good place to start. We are not talking about the ones you buy in the shops which are cultivated and basically come from abroad. The native ones grow wild in the woods and meadows throughout the country. Some are common and some are very rare. The season starts with the Early Purple, and then moving to Common Spotted and Pyramidal.

You can then find the Bee Orchid, Wasp, Man and Greened Winged Orchids. These may not be in Brigstock but can be found in other local woods.



### BINGO



In these uncertain times we are continually looking at ways to re-start the bingo sessions. However it is looking unlikely that we will be able to use Harpers Court in the near future due to restrictions on numbers. Hopefully we will be able to restart in the Autumn but failing that we have provisionally booked the Village Hall for a Christmas session on Thursday December 9th. Eileen

and I would like to welcome existing players and anyone, in the village, who would like to join us for an evening of fun Christmas entertainment. Further updates in the next edition of Brigstock Village Newsletter.

Chris Coles  
01536 373168

## BRIGSTOCK FLOODING

I am sure that you are all aware that the village suffered flooding to several properties which were situated along Harpers Brook.

Harpers Brook starts above Corby and drains a large area of countryside before it reached Brigstock. It discharges into the River Nene near Aldwinckle. On December 23rd, after a long wet autumn and after 2 days of heavy rain when we had about 2 inches onto a saturated catchment, the Brook rose to a level not seen for over 20 years. The river started to rise about lunchtime and by 6pm it was out of bank and flooding the surrounding fields and village properties. The problems to the village hall have been well documented and it has taken nearly 6 months to get to reinstated to its original condition.

Several other properties were also affected including Harpers Court and the Church Walk was washed out and still waits to be repaired.

On 21st June, the Parish Council met with representatives of the Environment Agency and JB Associates to assess what happened and how properties were inundated. There was a walk round the village so that they could assess the problem and see where problems exist with the Brook and local drainage. They are also looking at any obstructions or local improvements that need attention to ensure that the Brook flow is not impeded.

Any solution will be complicated as it needs to look at the full catchment. Is it possible to reduce flows down the river by using flood storage in the town or in agricultural land upstream of Brigstock. This would need the agreement of landowners and funding towards these mitigation measures.

Hopefully if your property was flooded, you did get a visit from the Engineers. If not. Talk to Sally Wilks who is liaising with the team.

Also note that if you own land adjacent to the Brook you have riparian responsibilities to maintain your bank and cannot carry out work within 8 metres of the bank without Environment Agency permission.

This process could take several years to complete, if a solution can be found.

If you see any problems with the river, let the Parish Council or the Environment Agency know via their action line.

See elsewhere in the newsletter where the Parish council need a flood warden to help during floods.

It needs all of us to keep an eye out and watch for problems before they hit.

## WI Recipe for Vegan Victoria Sponge by Janet Oldham

### Ingredients for sponge cake

400gm Self raising flour

1 1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda

250gm caster sugar

115mls sunflower oil

400mls dairy free milk (almond, soya or oat)

3 tbsp golden syrup

1 tsp vanilla extract

### Ingredients for Vegan buttercream

200gm dairy free spread, such as vitalife

175gms icing sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

4 tbsp strawberry jam

150gms strawberries halved to decorate

### Method

Preheat oven gas4 180c fan,160c

Grease, and line 2x23cm or 9inch tins

Sift flour, bicarbonate of soda and sugar into mixing bowl. Mix all together

Whisk together sunflower oil, milk, syrup and vanilla in another bowl

Then pour into dry ingredients. Whisk using hand blender until thick and creamy

Spoon into cake tins.

Bake 35- 40 minutes until risen and cooked through. Remove from oven, leave to cool

Make the butter cream filling. Beat together the dairy free spread, icing sugar and vanilla

When cakes are completely cold, spread one with jam the other with cream. Put both together.

Then decorate the top with strawberries - Delicious