

BRIGSTOCK NEWS

EDITION 29 – SPRING 2022



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

2022 SUMMER Published 28th May copy by 13th May

2022 AUTUMN Published 27th August 2022

2022 WINTER Published 26th November 2022

CONTACT DETAILS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS | rosybbriggs@btinternet.com | 373579 |
| BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL SECRETARY | | 01536 373059 |
| BRIGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL (CLERK) | | 01536 373672 |
| BRIGSTOCK CRICKET CLUB | | 01536 373478 |
| BRIGSTOCK PFA | | 01536 373353 |
| BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY | | 01536 373428 |
| BRIGSTOCK WI | | 01536 373710 |
| 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 |
| KNIT AND NATTER | | 01536 373422 |
| HARPERS COURT BINGO. Eileen Coles. | | 01536 373168 |

**Front Cover Photo -
The rebuilt bridge on Church Walk**

PRODUCED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 2 Kurling, 2pm Village Hall
- 4 Film Night "Ammonite" 7.45pm Village Hall
- 7 Scrabble June Small Room, 10.30am
- 10 BINGO, 7.30pm Village Hall
- 14 Mens Club, June Small Room 10.30am
- 16 Kurling, 2pm Village Hall
- 21 Scrabble June Small Room, 10.30am
- 21 Ladies Group 1-30pm "Spring Lunch" June Small Room
- 23 Historical Society, "Gt Fire of Northampton" 7.30pm Village Hall
- 28 Mens Club, June Small Room 10.30am

April

- 2 Easter Craft Fair, 10—12 Barnards Way
- 2 Jordans Weeones Mad Hatter Party, Village Hall
- 4 Scrabble June Small Room, 10.30am
- 6 Kurling, 2pm Village Hall
- 9 URC Coffee Morning, June Small Room 10 - 12
- 11 Mens Club, June Small Room 10.30am
- 20 Kurling, 2pm Village Hall
- 23 Danceathon, Village Hall 10am—10pm
- 24 Silent Auction, Village Hall, 2pm
- 25 Mens Club, June Small Room 10.30am
- 25 Ladies Group 1-30pm "Decorate an Egg" June Small Room
- 27 Historical Society, "Daily Life in the Bronze Age" 7.30pm Village Hall
- 30 Spring Fair, St Andrews Church, 10-12

May

- 4 Kurling, 2pm Village Hall
- 9 Mens Club, June Small Room 10-30am
- 12 URC Fashion Show, Village Hall
- 14 WI Yard Sale 10.30—2
- 16 Scrabble June Small Room, 10.30am
- 16 Ladies Leisure Group, "Play Your Cards Right", 1.30pm June Small Room
- 18 Kurling, 2pm Village Hall
- 23 Mens Club, 10.30
- 25 Historical Society, "Northampton Film Archive Trust", 7.30pm Village Hall
- 30 Scrabble June Small Room, 10-30am

Every Tuesday Sunnysiders, 1.30pm June Small Room

Every Wednesday Knit and Knatter, 10-12 Village Hall

BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

The bookings at the Village Hall at coming back to normal now with most groups back and many social events being held.

The film night season has started well with three well attended evenings and our Quiz Night had a great turnout making £500. Thanks for your support.

We are thinking about another Brigstock's Got Talent in the coming months so start practicing and think of an act that you can do.

To check when the Village Hall is being used or is available, visit our website at BRIGSTOCKVILLAGEHALL.CO.UK.

THE VILLAGE HALL REGULAR USERS:

Post Office Mondays 10-12

Crafters Meet Second Monday of the month 10.30 to 2pm

Music Makers Tuesdays 10.45am

Ballet Tuesdays 5— 9pm

Knit and Natter Wednesday 10-12

Music and Movement Thursday 2pm

Historical Society Fourth Wednesday, 7.30pm

Parish Council Third Wednesday, 7-30pm

BOOKING THE VILLAGE HALL

We are now fully open and operational following our refit and Covid.

Perhaps you would like to hire the hall for a future event or new classes.

Have you thought of using the hall for children's parties, weddings, anniversaries? We have all the facilities that you might need.

We have spare times available now, so give Rosie a call to see what we can offer you.

Lots of opportunities available.

SILENT AUCTION BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

SUNDAY 24TH APRIL

If you have an item that you would like to sell or donate, please register an interest. £1 catalogue fee per item. 10% of the final bid will go to the village hall. 90% to you or your chosen good cause.

Bids can be made in person or by proxy. Highest bid at 4 p.m. wins the item.

Refreshments available. Raffle

Phone: Sally Wilks, 373428 for more information

MENS CLUB

Our fortnightly morning meetings are now progressing and we meet on Monday morning at 10-30 till 12 noon. We will start with a general discussion and hope to have some talks on a relevant subject soon. We will be meeting with coffee and biscuits. The next dates are Feb 28th, March 14th and 28th, April 11th and 25th, May 9th and 23rd

Please pass this on to anyone who you think might be interested. All men are welcome with no age limit.

Contact Robin Phillips 01536 370144 or Terry Bowen 01536 373807 for more details.

THE SCRABBLE GROUP

If you fancy a game of Scrabble against like minded people, come along to our group. It will be held on **Mondays** every fortnight, from 10-midday, with the next one on 7th March at the United Reform Church hall. This alternates with Mens Club.

Scrabble dates are March 7th & 21st, April 4th, May 16th & 30th

10.30 am to 12.30 pm. In the June Small Room, URC.

Please contact Josie on 373592 for details of this group, as the day may possibly change depending on people's preferences and hall availability.

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. Co-op Car Park and Three Cocks PH Car Park - Clothing
6. Co-op shop. Batteries.
7. Collecting for Kettering General Hospital Intensive Care Unit who need hair Brushes. Soap, Razors, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Showergel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body / hand lotion. To 11 Mauntley Avenue, and happy to collect. Tracey Widdall

EASTER CRAFT FAIR



Saturday 2nd April

10 — 2

23a Barnards Way

Brigstock



Easter knits & Gifts, Home made cakes & cookies & Easter fudge.

Come along & get your lovely Easter presents.

In aid of Dementia UK

Brigstock Film Night

2021/22 Season

Village Hall – films start 7:45pm

Refreshments available

Tickets £5.00 on the door

Refreshments being served

Friday, 4th March

'Ammonite'

Mary Anning, acclaimed fossil hunter, is forced to care for a rich visitor's sick wife. The two develop an intense bond that forces the two women to re-examine their relationship.

Starring Kate Winslet and Saoirse Ronan

This is the last film of the season.



MOVIE NIGHT

SUNNYSIDERS

Sunnysiders started the New Year with a meeting on the 11th January in the June Small Room, United Reform Church, when 12 members attended. Hopefully more members will return as the weather improves. We are always pleased to welcome new faces over 60 to come for a cup of tea and a biscuit and take part in our various activities. This may be a visiting speaker, sometimes a quiz, curling or bingo etc. Our meetings take place from 2.0 - 4.0pm on Tuesday afternoons so why not come along and give it a try.

For further information contact Maureen Druce on 01536 373383.

Knit & Natter Group

Knit and Natter group welcome our new member Karen, who recently moved to the village and has already become involved in making items for our latest project. Karen has been with us for many weeks now, so we can't be a bad old bunch!! Laura is teaching some of our group to crochet, which adds another feather to their bow.



Our Easter project is well underway. We have been beavering away making items for a new village display to cheer people up on their walks around the village after the long winter months. The picture shows just a few of the items made which will be displayed in March.

Some of our members have also made Green Hearts for the WI initiative for a greener environment.

As you may have noticed, the poppies on the memorial cross have been taken down. The poppies have been dried, spider nests removed (yes, spider nests - ech), labelled and packaged and are now stored away ready for the November display.

Knit and Natter group is growing in size; therefore we have moved from the Village Hall annex to the main hall. In the summer we will be able to sit out on the patio area, making the most of the sunshine. We meet every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon. Cost is just £2 per person, which includes coffee and biscuits (£1 if you prefer to bring your own coffee).

A few of our members have learnt to knit and crochet at the Knit and Natter group, so if you want to learn knitting or crochet and join our friendly group, get to know new people and put the world to rights, then do come along and give it a try. If you want to learn to knit but might be put off because you are left-handed, never fear as we have a left-handed knitter who will be able to help you get started.

For more information, please call Glenda on 01536 373987 or Steph on 01536 373422

Brigstock United Reformed Church

Christmas is already a distant memory, but we hope it was an enjoyable time for everyone, especially being able to meet up properly with family and friends again. We had a very successful Christmas coffee morning in December, raising £1100 for the URC funds. It was really good to see so many people there and we thank you all for your support. Our candlelight carol service was also well attended, and how good it was to be able to sing the carols again! The chapel really looks lovely when it is decorated with greenery and candles so I'm sure there will be a repeat this year. We always donate our collection from the carol service to a local charity, and this time we sent £140 to Kettering foodbank.

It's also good to have the June Small room fully open again for our regular clubs to meet. We rely a lot on the income from renting the room, and in January we reluctantly decided to increase the rent to £7.50 per hour. As you will all be aware, energy prices are going up considerably and our rooms use a lot of electricity. We have vacancies for bookings during the day on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the moment, so please contact us if you need to find a room for a group meeting.

We have started making plans for events this year, and our first one will be the Easter coffee morning on Saturday, April 9th.

Then, on May 12th we are holding a Fashion Show in the village hall. Three lucky ticket holders will each win a prize of £50 to spend on clothes which will be on sale after the show. It will be a great night, so make sure you get your tickets as soon as possible. More details about these events are on separate posters.

There's a lot to look forward to as the Covid restrictions are eased and people are happy to be out and about again, and we would like to invite you to attend any of our services which are held every Sunday at 10.30am. We have a variety of different people leading our services – and sometimes we organise them ourselves!-and mostly they are very informal. We welcome you all to join us.



BRIGSTOCK URC

Easter Coffee Morning

Saturday 9th April

at the chapel

Mill Lane, Brigstock

10.00am – 12noon

Coffee and Hot Cross Buns

£1.50

Cakes, Tombola, Raffle

Brigstock United Reformed Church cont'd



Fashion Show



by Heidi of Wellingborough

at the Village Hall on Thursday, May 12th. 7.30pm

Tickets available soon at £7, including a glass of Prosecco

3 lucky tickets will win £50 to spend on clothes on the night

Bumper raffle

all proceeds to Brigstock URC

Brigstock Project Group

Since the last newsletter in December we have had a quiet period. Our planters are starting to flourish with bulbs which soon will be flowering. We were fortunate enough to be given a small donation from the Beer Festival Committee which we will be using to fill our planters and hanging baskets with summer flowers. Our plan is to go for a red, white and blue theme to fit in with village celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

BINGO Spring Bingo Session.

Following the success of our Christmas Bingo we will be holding another session in the Village Hall on Thursday 10th March. Doors open 7.0 pm. Eyes down 7.30pm. Admission £1.00, Tea and Coffee included. Tickets for Raffle also available All welcome but sadly as we give Cash prizes all players must be over 18 or over. Anyone requiring transport please contact Eileen or Chris Coles any time after 5th March



New players always welcome. Chris, Eileen and Steph.

BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP £6 for the rest of the year otherwise £3 per visit. Talks usually take place at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

We look forward to welcoming you

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| 23/03/22 | <i>The Great Fire of Northampton</i> Ruth Thomas | On September 20th 1685 a great fire destroyed most of Northampton with dramatic consequences. Ruth will tell the story of that catastrophic event and the rebuilding of a new and more prosperous Northampton. |
| 27/04/22 | <i>Daily Life in the Bronze Age Flag Fen</i> Chris Carr | This talk will give an insight into what life was like on this Bronze Age site 3000 years ago and the Flag Fen discoveries since it was opened in 1982. |
| 25/05/22 | <i>Northamptonshire Film Archives Trust</i> | The Trust will be bringing along some more films of local interest |

As part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations we shall be mounting an exhibition "70 Years of Celebrations in Brigstock". If you have any photos or artefacts that we can borrow/copy please let us know

**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 Cricket Club

As I write this article we are still in winter yet the cricket season is only just 2 months away. Preparations for the season ahead are well in hand and the teams are already training at winter nets C/O Oundle School on Wednesday evenings. Outdoor nets will start in April once the weather improves. Plans are progressing for the arrival of our overseas player from South Africa for the first time in two years, so finger crossed he will be here for the start of the season. The first X1 kick off their premierships season with a home game against local rivals Geddington on Saturday 23rd April, all welcome, and the second X1 season starts the following weekend with a home game against Desborough. For the first time in its history, I believe, Brigstock will be running a U17's team and these fixtures will be played on a Thursday evening, the first being on 5th May. We will also be running the U11's, U13's and U15's but this year we have joined forces with Burton Latimer CC to run combined teams for these age groups, this is to ensure players get to play cricket. If you know of any child that wants to play cricket then speak to me or any member of the club. In addition to these teams, we will be running the All-Stars (ages 5-8) and Dynamos (ages 8-11) programs on Friday evenings starting 6th May. Further details will follow regarding registration for these two initiatives which provide a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5-11 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity, and skills development. The program is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends, and have a great time doing so. The bar will be open as per usual on Fridays and Saturdays to members and we hope to have an external caterer there on Friday evenings serving pizzas.

There is a lot of work to be done on the ground ahead of the first game so we will be holding a "ground force" day after Easter so please keep an eye on social media for the date as all volunteers will be welcome. We are also looking for matchday sponsors so if you are interested in sponsoring a game then please get in touch with me. You will be pleased to know there will be a couple of social events this season, one of which will include a live band, again further details will follow, via social media once the dates have been confirmed. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in a few months' time. Thanks again for your support.

Simon Andrews, BCC Chairman

THE BRIDGES OF BRIGSTOCK

Everyone is very pleased to see the footbridge along Church Walk back open and expertly repaired by the County Council after the devastating damage done by the 2020 flood. When the bridge wall collapsed a date stone was revealed - 1731. This is plausible as the 1734 map by Brazier (on display in Boughton House) shows a footbridge across the brook below the church. At this time there was a ford where the Grafton Road bridge now crosses. There were many more houses on the Park Walk side of Harper's Brook in what was called "Little Brigstock". Just who built the bridge and paid for it is not known.



Residents would have welcomed a footbridge across to the church which meant that they didn't have to risk getting their feet wet or make a lengthy detour via Bridge Street.

According to Historic England the present bridge by the school is also of 18C origin, restored in the last century and also shown on the 1734 map. Maybe it replaced an earlier bridge washed away by a flood?

Are you struggling financially?

Do you know of someone who is finding it hard to make ends meet?

Are you a Brigstock resident?

Brigstock Consolidated Charity may be able to help you through difficult times. You can apply in confidence on your own behalf or someone else's to any of the trustees: Rev. Heather Lowe, Liz Searle, Bill Simon, Jane Jones, Carl Hector, Abigail Marsden Findlay, James Steward, and Sally Wilks (Secretary).

If you would like to make a donation to the charity please contact Sally Wilks, 7 Park Walk, Brigstock, NN14 3HH Tel: 01536 373428

BRIGSTOCK WI WI Hall, Park Walk

2021

When we wrote in the December newsletter we had quite a busy time approaching.

We held a coffee morning open to members and villagers. Thank you to those who supported us.

We took part in the Flower festival at St Andrews Church with our entry of "Chestnuts roasting round an open fire." Several members took a turn to steward in the church.

We then followed this up with a small group doing an "Advent window" on the WI hall wall. This was a depiction of Santa flying through the sky. Sadly this year we did not open the hall and offer refreshments. WI drama group did not entertain you as planned in 2020 or 2021 but we will be back!!

All members had a goody bag with things to eat including cake and chocolate, seeds to plant and a picture quiz delivered to their homes.



As the threat of Omicron increased throughout the month we sadly postponed our Christmas party.

2022

Now we are looking forward to 2022 being a better year with all the delayed and postponed activities of lockdown behind us.

In January you may have seen member looking skywards as we had a picture competition to recognise "Chimneys in Brigstock" We never knew there were so many different types. If anybody would like a copy to try do ask any WI member.

200 CLUB

The first good news was that the prizes in our 200 club increased. The top prize is now £50 and not £30. The January and February draws will have taken place by the time you read this. You can still join for the remaining 9 months for £10. Please contact Janet Oldham on 373560.

BRIGSTOCK WI - Cont'd

CHARITY DONATIONS

Back in 2021 we were given a tube of Smarties to eat and then requested to try and fill the tube with 20 p or 5p pieces to donate to Air Ambulance. We have handed these in at our February meeting but we await a receipt from Air Ambulance to tell us the total. We had a representative from Air Ambulance join us for our February meeting.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Going forward, we celebrate our 104th birthday in March. We are the oldest WI in Northamptonshire. There were a couple formed before us but they have since disbanded leaving us as the oldest.



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

As we write, plans are forming for various groups in the village to hold events for the Platinum Jubilee for Queen Elizabeth. We will be helping to organise some of these. We will be sending our good wishes to the Queen. She is a WI member in Sandringham!



Further details of events are in this and next newsletter.

GREEN HEARTS SHOW THE LOVE

Members have been busy making green hearts from a variety of media including paper, knitting and fabric. These will be displayed at the WI hall but we are hoping the village will join us and a wonderful display of green hearts will appear.



Why green and not red? Green hearts represent making climate change a priority. Green represents caring for the environment. The WI nationally and locally is urging government to make climate change a priority particularly as the UK is COP26 President until November 2022.

FUTURE EVENTS

There will be a Yard Sale on Saturday May 14th from 10.30 am until 2pm. Sellers £5 and maps £1 for buyers. Come along and grab a bargain. Details from 373486.

HALL HIRE

With Covid restrictions eased the WI hall on Park Walk is once again available hire. Please phone 373486 for further details.



Coming Soon
BRIGSTOCK W I

YARD SALE

FOLLOW THE MAP!
GRAB SOME BARGAINS!

Saturday 14th May

10:30am - 2pm
Sellers £5
Maps £1

For more details,
contact 01536 373486



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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 |
| Suzanne Sharp | Councillor |
| Terry Towns | Councillor |
| Ken Motion | Chair Planning |
| Nigel Searle | Clerk 01535 373672 |

There have been several challenges for the Parish Council in this last quarter.

Happily the outcome in relation to the proposed erection of an enormous mast at the entrance to Mauntley Avenue has been dropped. Well done to all those who made their views known.

Sudborough Road Industrial Site

We have continued to collect information on the development of this site and have written a strong objection to the proposed plans. The objection made reference to the Industrial and Commercial Development paragraph in the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan that was ratified in December 2018. The plan sets out restrictions to ensure the site is maintained in keeping with the rural village environment.

Flooding

We are continuing to monitor the progress of the Environment Agency as they address the flooding problems of the whole of the Harpers Brook Valley. At the moment we are exploring the possibility that we could install a flood monitor of our own to give the village up to date measurement of the water level in the brook rising.

PARISH COUNCIL

Jubilee Celebrations

A committee has been formed to discuss and develop ideas put forward on the Survey Monkey questionnaire. Many thanks to all who responded to the survey. Money was retained from the VE Day Celebration that was cancelled which gives us a start towards making it an event to remember.

5 Year Plan

The development of a 5 Year Plan for Brigstock is in progress. In particular, there will be a survey of all the trees in the village that are the responsibility of the Parish Council. A rolling program of maintenance can then be drawn up and costed per year.

Some other costs, to name but a few, that can be planned for are related to:

-
Improving the cemetery, the bus shelter, the village seats, the maintenance of the footbridge over the brook and the meadow fence bordering Bridge Street.

We would also welcome suggestions of projects to make Brigstock an even better place in which to live.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In April 2023 Nigel Searle intends to retire from his post as Clerk to the Council after many years of outstanding and selfless service. We must, therefore, begin the search for his replacement. In the first instance we intend to advertise the role in Brigstock Parish as a local clerk will have a first-hand understanding of our needs. To ensure seamless continuity we intend to appoint Nigel's successor before he retires to enable him to pass on his vast knowledge of current and past issues.

If you think this role would be of interest to you please contact Nigel for further details. There will also be a more detailed description of the position published on the Parish Council website in the near future.

Margaret Smith

Chair, Brigstock Parish Council

FLOODING UPDATE

Following the December 2020 floods the Environment Agency has concluded the following: On the 23rd/24th December 2020 there was a large area of significant rainfall (60 – 80 mm in 24 hours) over the Harper’s Brook catchment area. Harper’s Brook levels rose over 2.5 metres in less than 12 hours which resulted in the channel capacity being exceeded and the floodplain being utilised to store this excess flood water. Surface flooding merged with river flooding. Many gauging stations recorded their highest ever levels.

Following comments from communities affected, the Agency has changed the name of the Brigstock Gauge station to Harper's Brook at Brigstock and it is available using this link: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/9396>. There is also a link on the parish website. We have updated the maximum recorded levels at this station reflecting the levels seen in December 2020.

Variations in river levels and any sluice gate operations on the River Nene have no impact upon Harper’s Brook as far north as Lowick, Sudborough and Brigstock. **Next Steps:**

Continue to work with communities at risk along Harper’s Brook to help increase resilience.

Support NNC implement outcomes of the Section 19 Flood Report once published.

Continue to work with the Harper’s Brook Working Group (PACM – Partnership Approach to Catchment Management).

There is now money available for implementing Slow the Flow schemes etc.

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In Brigstock, the PC is looking to install our own water level indicator so that we have a local flood warning system in tandem with the EA. We will continue to monitor local developments that have an impact on Harper’s Brook. Those with properties bordering the Brook have riparian (riverside) responsibilities and the PC will be getting in touch to make sure they understand what these are.

## 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 past year due to social distancing and groups not meeting. The following groups are taking it on for the next few months. Thank you.

March 2022 United Reformed Church

April 2022 St Andrew’s Church

May 2022 Parish Council

June 2022 Village Hall

Also, many thanks again to The Knit and Natter group who provided the poppy display round the memorial. It makes a very striking effect as you walk on Hall Hill and reminds us of the sacrifice made by the village.

The rail down the steps has been replaced which adds to the look of the area.



The Annual litter pick will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 10am-12 noon. Equipment will be supplied, just come along to the village hall car-park and pick it up.

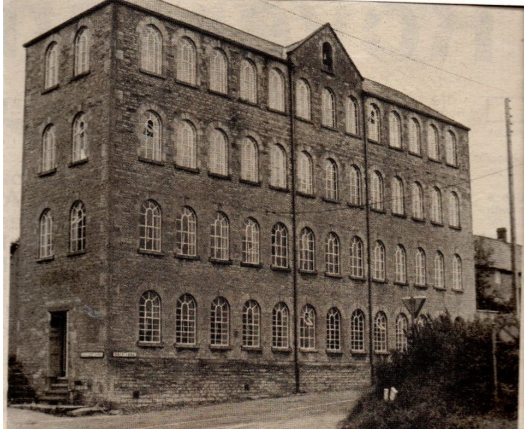
If anyone wants to tackle an area before then, there is equipment available from the Parish Council. Please contact Liz Searle 373672

## Village of the Year

The Parish Council has entered the village in the Northamptonshire Village Awards this year. This is “The village of the year” in a new format where every village will get a certificate (bronze, silver or gold) so we hope can get support around the village and do well. More details as they come out and the judges will be around in May, so be nice when you see them

## The Wallis and Linnell Factory

One of the landmarks in Brigstock is the building on Back Lane known locally as the factory, which at the present time is being renovated and turned into flats after standing empty for several years and being in danger of badly deteriorating. It dates from 1873 when it was opened as a clothing factory by the Kettering company Wallis and Linnell. It was an important source of employment, especially for the women in the village, for more than a hundred years, finally closing its doors in 1979. It lay empty for some time but in 1983 it was acquired by the Wythe Holland Udall design firm and converted to architects' offices.



The following article from the Evening Telegraph of July 13th 1983 gives a report on this change.

“New Image and HQ for Design Group”

“One of the area's best known design teams has changed its name and its location. With the retirement of architect John Stedman, the group has taken on the new name of Wythe Holland Udall partnership. And the partnership has moved out of the Spencer Court offices it occupied for 11 years into the old Wallis and Linnell clothing mill in Brigstock. The move is a happy revival for the 110-year-old mill which surprisingly was not a listed building and could have been a candidate for demolition.

The elegant Weldon stone-built mill belonged to the clothing manufacturers Wallis and Linnell who left the building empty several years ago as the company foundered and closed. The future was uncertain until the new partners stepped in and bought the building with a £42,000 conversion scheme. They were attracted to the four-storey building by its 81 symmetrical arched windows giving the fine natural lighting architects' offices welcome.”

## The Wallis and Linnell Factory—cont'd

“Every effort has been made to restore the exterior to its original state, even to putting back into working order the bell that used to summon Brigstock's mill workers to their benches. The renovation was not without its pitfalls though. Builders found a deep stone well inside the building and, also, the scars of the old steam belt-driven mechanism that powered the mill's 50 sewing machines.

Now the Wythe Holland Udall partnership is well placed to keep up the progress established by the John Stedman design group. The new practice is now busily planning Corby's future with building contracts on the town's Enterprise zone.”

Note: the factory is now a listed building.

Bill Simon

CE

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## St Andrews Church

So thankfully Christmas 2021 was not as 'locked down' as the previous year and we managed to hold all of our traditional services all be it slightly paired back for safety reasons. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has continued to help and support us in so many ways over a difficult two years.

Do come along to our service on the second Sunday of the month at 10.00 a.m. or if you prefer a more intimate spoken service we have Holy Communion each Thursday at 10.00 a.m. There will be refreshments available and time for a chin wag afterwards. At the time of writing we do not have confirmed arrangements for our Easter services however once we know what is happening we will ensure the message gets out through our weekly News Letter. If you don't receive a copy of this it can be found on our website:

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

Fund raising continues in earnest to enable us to keep the church functioning on a day-to-day basis and to make much needed improvements. The flower and foliage displays in church during December were very well received and many people came along to enjoy the work of the various village groups. The fundraising group would like to thank everybody who helped in any way. £1300 was raised.

Coming up we have the return of the very popular Race Night in the Village Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets will be £8 including supper and can be obtained from Barbara Platt 01536 373240 and Maureen Hodson 01536 373661.

We also have a Spring Fair in Church on the 30<sup>th</sup> April between 10 a.m. and mid day. Do come along and enjoy some refreshments and see what the various stalls have to offer. Watch out for posters on the village notice boards and the Facebook page.

### Contact Us:

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

**Churchwarden:** [Carl Hector 01536 373410](mailto:Carl.Hector@btinternet.com)

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

# St Andrew's Church



## A HORSE RACING EVENING and SUPPER

**SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Brigstock Village Hall**

**Entry 7-30pm - First Race 8pm**

A great evening with filmed races with a chance for you to own a horse or to win on the Tote.

Tickets £8-00 (Over 16's only)  
Includes supper, Bar available

Tickets:

Barbara Platt 01536 373240

Maureen Hodson 01536 373661

# Fermyn Woods Country Park

It has been a relatively mild and dry winter this season, there have been some cold spells but nothing prolonged. It felt like spring was coming early this year as the birds were starting to sing by the third week of January. I even heard of a Blackbird seen in the Nene Valley feeding a fledgling chick which is very early.

The Ranger team along with help from our volunteers have been busy with our winter habitat work around the park. We have been doing the annual and biannual cuts of the different wildflower meadows and other areas. Back in November we had a Countryside service team day here at the park where our colleagues from the other Parks came and helped us clear round the fishing pond and clear areas of grassland all to help improve the biodiversity for the wildlife.

We have also been thinning out trees in the refuge pond, Great Thicket and Little Thicket all to help the fauna and flora around the park as by removing the trees we are allowing in light down to the ground and hopefully encourage any dormant seeds to germinate and grow. Also, by removing the trees be they dead or too many in a small area it will help the existing trees to have room to grow, all the brash created is put into habitat piles/dead hedges where possible, where this is not possible the rest is burnt.

The wildlife round the park has been busy feeding over the winter months, there has been constant signs of Fallow deer moving round the park, Redwings and Fieldfares have been feeding on the berries, there has also been signs of Siskins and Redpolls. The Red Kites and Buzzards have been over the park regularly, on sunnier days both have been seen together riding the thermals with up to 20 Kites seen at one time. If you are interested in what wildlife is seen round the park then you can keep an eye on the wildlife board that is updated regularly, this can be found by the fishing tickets box outside the toilets block.

## Monday afternoon Health Walks at Fermyn

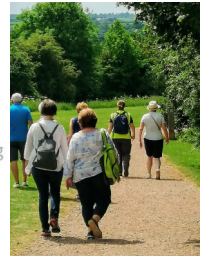
Join our free and friendly group for a 60 minute walk around the beautiful country park. Every Monday (Term time only). Meet outside the SkyLark Café at 1.30pm.

To book or for further details, email:

[Educationangers.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Educationangers.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk)

## 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 Ranger led walk around our beautiful Country Parks, with an optional stop at the café after the walk to enjoy a cuppa and catch-up.

Meet outside the Park Café at  
**1.30pm**  
(term-time only)

**MONDAYS**  
**FERMYN WOODS COUNTRY PARK**

This 60 minute walk is on mixed surfaces with a slight incline. There are plenty of 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.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**BARNWELL COUNTRY PARK**

This 40 minute walk is perfect for those just starting their fitness journey or wanting to get back into regular exercise.  
All paths are hard-surfaced and so suitable for pushchairs/wheelchairs.

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

Usual car parking charges apply

CountryParks  
Northamptonshire

## A little bit about The Friends of Fermyn Woods Country Park

This group was set up as a Charity on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009 to support the Country Park in its partnership with the Parks Department (now part of North Northamptonshire Council) to make a positive contribution to people visiting our wonderful Park and the flora and fauna living in it.

The 'Friends of the Country Park' have achieved this aim over the years by:

Organising fund-raising events such as Brass in the Park, Christmas Carols by candle light, Murder Mystery Evenings, Quiz events, live Rock and Roll nights.

Supporting village events such as the Beer Festival and '10 days before Christmas'

The money raised from these events has been used to fund the raised beds and plants in front of the main buildings, the installation of wood sculptures, information boards, the educational hut, the outside shelter, new hand tools for volunteers and equipment for the Forest School.

Undertaking work to help maintain the park.

If you would like to join The Friends of Fermyn Woods Country Park committee or simply volunteer to do some work within the park, then please contact John Leech (by phone 01536 373376 or by e-mail [e4johnl@btinternet.com](mailto:e4johnl@btinternet.com)) or the Park Rangers on 0300 126 5933.

WE KEEP BUSY and HAVE FUN TOO - COME AND JOIN US!

## Brigstock Post Office

This is held every Monday from 10 until 12 in the village hall subject to availability. Some people come and sell craft items in the foyer, including cards. This is to ensure a good footfall so we don't lose the post office facility.

If anybody else would like to do so, please contact Steph Beckett ([sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk))



## BRIGSTOCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Cropmarks have long been a useful archaeological tool, and never more so than now for community groups such as ours given the instant and free access to historic satellite imagery now afforded anyone with an internet connection. We've yet to make the trip to Northampton to compare some curious cropmarks identified by BAG members recently with known features on the Historic Environment Record. However, it's evident Brigstock's past is still very much all around us in the present – if we know where to look.

While our most important archaeological sites are generally protected in law from unscrupulous speculative investigations through scheduling, we cannot safeguard heritage we don't know about. Fieldwalking provides both an opportunity to survey for new archaeological sites and clues to better understand known or suspected sites and features in the landscape around us. It's certainly not definitive. Indeed, our most recent surveys – both formal and informal – have been notably lacking in significant volumes of historic ceramic finds, even when in the vicinity of known significant sites. Which goes once more to prove the archaeological adage that absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

It's surely no surprise then that focused fieldwalking, as well as further test-pitting, look likely to feature large on BAG's activities programme this Spring and Summer.

We are also looking to carry out another trial hole dig somewhere within Brigstock village. To date we have completed 3 digs which have revealed Victorian history in one, back to early medieval in another, and some good stonework flooring in a third.

Our first face-to-face meeting in a while should have taken place by the time you read this, after which we should have a better idea of what members would like to see included. Do let us know your thoughts and if you'd like to get involved. Meanwhile, we're awaiting news on a date for our pottery identification workshop with Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA); more on that as soon as we hear back.

To contact BAG or find out more, mail us at [brigstockarchaeologicalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:brigstockarchaeologicalgroup@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.brigstockarchaeologicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.brigstockarchaeologicalgroup.co.uk).

## Brigstock Beer Festival 2022



Following the success of the 2021 Brigstock Beer Festival (BBF) the committee has started to consider plans for next year's festival. Since it is hoped that there will be no Covid restrictions in September and also due to the addition of several new committee, it is envisaged that Brigstock's 18th "coming of age" Beer Festival will be even better than last years.

Whilst the committee members have a number of ideas about how to make the 2022 festival a roaring success, if anyone else has any inspirational thoughts then please contact the Chairman, Matt Johnston, on [matt@mainspring.co.uk](mailto:matt@mainspring.co.uk) .

We hope to be able to set the date and give you more information in the near future once we have been able to check availability of the hall and the Meadow.

Yours, Chairman

## Movement to Music

12 hour Danceathon

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

10.00 am to 10.00 pm

In aid of Beat, the national eating disorders charity. This is a lesser known charity addressing mental health conditions which affect 1.25 million people in the UK and their families.

Anybody can join in, but Janet will be doing the full 12 hours. Please support by coming and dancing with Janet for an hour or more!

If you like to join in, please contact Janet to arrange sponsorship forms etc.

Many thanks, Janet Oldham 01536 373560 or 07931 712056

## BRIGSTOCK KURLING GROUP

At the point of writing this, the Olympic Winter Games have just started in Beijing, "proper" curling matches are being shown on the television, and, as always, I'm amazed at the skill of the players at that level. The British mixed doubles players were doing well, and by the time you read this, they may have won some medals.

Back to more local matters, the group has been able to meet on all the dates mentioned in the last newsletter, and I would like to thank everyone who comes to play, particularly those who help to collect the equipment from the upstairs store room, set the chairs out, make the tea, do the washing up, or clear everything away afterwards, all without being asked to. Thank you also for following the Covid guidelines that have been in place, which has enabled us to carry on playing.

The dates for the next three months are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 2 p.m. as usual. If anyone would like any more details, please ring me on 373367, or just come into the Village Hall on any of the above dates.

Judith Beeby

## BRIGSTOCK LIVING ADVENT CALENDER 2021

**A big thank you to everyone who took part in the 2021 Advent Window event.** There were some fabulous windows and wonderful creativity.

For sure, it was not quite the same, and given the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, the decision made about hosting gatherings was sadly the right one.

Thank you to Tracey Sharp @nothingbutlovely for our maps, Caroline Nall @typestart for printing (both donated services) and Simon Brown for supporting me.

I'd like to have a rethink for a TENTH and possibly final, 2022 event and would be most grateful for some inspiration and input into this.

Please get in touch if you have ideas or would like to help organise. [email : brigstockadvent@hotmail.com](mailto:brigstockadvent@hotmail.com) or message through the facebook page.



## Jordans Weeones

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who has supported Jordans Weeones this past year from those of you who continue to donate items to go on the stalls outside, those of you who then buy these items, those who have donated some fabulous raffle prizes, the people selling tickets for the raffles, cakes and flowers, people who sell items and run fundraisers of their own to support Jordans Weeones, the people behind the scenes, there are so many who have helped make last year's fundraising so successful I couldn't have done it without you.

The total raised in 2021 was an absolutely amazing £10,718.90

This year Jordans Weeones Charity has been able to help 88 families giving out £13,200 in grants.

Again the year started with Tomato and vegetable plants but I also added flowers to the mix this year, all grown from seed in Brigstock so truly green no air or transport miles. Mind you pricking out so many tiny seedlings was quite a job !

Various events were also held I think the most enjoyable for me was the Enchanted Garden and Father Christmas, I love the bright lights which bring some cheer to dark winter days but seeing the pure joy on the children's faces when they spotted Father Christmas in his grotto was wonderful so plans are already afoot for a repeat of this event. Apparently Father Christmas really enjoyed visiting Brigstock too as the children were all polite and good.

There will be a variety of Tomatoes and other veg outside again this year and the flowers have already made an appearance with lots of potted bulbs, crocus, hyacinth, iris, tulips and daffodils, with more to come later. More pricking out to be done!

There are several events being planned for this year so keep an eye on the Brigstock Jordans Weeones information FB page and other Brigstock FB pages.

So far the only events with a fixed dates are:

**Saturday 2nd April Mad Hatters tea party and a Grand Childrens Raffle** with some fantastic prizes, there will also be a prize for the maddest hat and Easter bonnet. Lots of sandwiches, cakes and teatime treats! To be held in the Village Hall. More details soon.

## Jordans Weeones cont'd

### Future Events in 2022

**8th October Autumn Fair in Village Hall**

**16th to 18th December Enchanted Garden and Father Christmas**

We at Jordans Weeones cannot thank everyone enough for their fantastic, continued support which has enabled us to continue as a charity in these difficult times and help so many families.

Jane Steward

## Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Northamptonshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northants> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.



John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northamptonshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!



John Harris

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

# Ladies Leisure Group

We started the new year with an interesting and quite demanding quiz, but we all enjoyed it, and then we organised our programme for the year ahead. We hope we have something planned to suit all tastes!

We missed out on our Christmas lunch, so we will be having a Spring lunch instead, and we will of course, be doing something special to celebrate the Queen's Platinum jubilee. Our plans for the next few months are below.

If you have a couple of hours spare on the third Monday afternoon every month and fancy some company, please join us in the June Small room , Mill Lane at 1.30pm. There is no committee but there is always tea and cake! Contact details : Val 373456, Sharon 373832 , Sheila 373225.

March 21<sup>st</sup> : Spring Lunch

April 25<sup>th</sup> Decorate a hard-boiled egg. Tea and hot cross buns . Note the change of date as the previous Monday is a Bank Holiday.

May 16<sup>th</sup> "Play your cards right" and other card games.

**1 Hall Hill, Brigstock, Kettering, NN14 3EZ**  
**01536 373870**  
**thegreendragonbrigstock.com**

Opening Hours:  
 Monday 12-8  
 Tuesday 12-8  
 Wednesday 12-9  
 Thursday 12-9  
 Friday 12-10  
 Saturday 11-10  
 Sunday 10-7

Serving traditional home-cooked food with seasonal menus and a range of specials.  
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We have a range of quality lagers, an ever changing selection of real ales and a huge gin collection.  
 We have something to suit everyone

We have a variety of rooms available. All our rooms have en-suite showers and freeview tv.  
 Available for a weekend break or your long term business stays at a corporate rate

We host a regular quiz night, live bands, themed music evenings and have a snug that can be booked for private meetings and dining



National Trust

## LYVEDEN MANOR HOUSE AND NEW BIELD

### Spring at Lyveden

Lyveden will be open Fri-Mon 10am-4pm throughout March and everyday from 1st April including our new café! Do pop along for walks and warming soup and see the changing season.



### Easter egg hunts at Lyveden

This spring, treat your little ones to a world of adventures at Lyveden on the Easter adventures in nature trails. Make your way along the trail, finding nature-inspired activities for the whole family. Make your way along the trail and find nature-inspired activities for the whole family. The trail takes place between 15-18 April 2022, from 10.00 to 17.00, with last entry at 16.30, so come along and explore the beautiful parkland of Lyveden. The price of the trail is £3 per child and includes a trail map, pencil and a chocolate egg at the end.



National Trust Images

### Haiku Trail

Throughout the Easter holidays take part in our Spring haiku trail, search for our poetry clues to see if you can identify the 10 animals that make Lyveden their home. The trail takes place between 2-24 April 2022 from 10.00 to 17.00, with last entry at 16.30, so come along and explore the beautiful parkland of Lyveden. The trail is free to take part and is self-led through the site.

Please see our website for further details

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyveden>.