

# BRIGSTOCK NEWS

EDITION 5 – WINTER 2015



PRODUCED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Advent windows start
- 4<sup>th</sup> Make a Christmas Wreath – Playgroup, 8pm. Village Hall
- 5<sup>th</sup> “Sleeping Beauty” Panto, 2pm Village Hall
- 5<sup>th</sup> Library van
- 5<sup>th</sup> URC Christmas coffee morning
- 5<sup>th</sup> Carols in Country Park
- 9<sup>th</sup> Weath Makng Lyveden New Bield
- 11<sup>th</sup> Bingo Harper Court
- 12<sup>th</sup> “God Rest Ye Merry” Seasonal look at Xmas – 7-30pm VH
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ladies Leisure Group – Bring and Share Xmas Lunch URC 1pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Community Choir Singalong - 7-45pm URC Xmas food to share
- 16<sup>th</sup> Historical Soc – “Xmas Buffet” 7-30pm Village Hall
- 24<sup>th</sup> Christingle at St Andrews Church

### JANUARY 2016

- 6<sup>th</sup> Kurling 2pm Village Hall (then 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Community Choir Singalong - 7-45pm URC
- 12<sup>th</sup> WI Mrs Angela Cooksy: Upstairs Downstairs 7-30pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> Hand Bells meeting 7-30pm - St Andrews Church
- 15<sup>th</sup> Film Night “Brother Where art thou?” 7-45pm Village Hall
- 20<sup>th</sup> Ladies Leisure Group URC, 1-30pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> Hist Soc – “Isaac Newton and the Brigstock Connection” 7-30 pm

### FEBRUARY

- 8<sup>th</sup> Community Choir Singalong - 7-45pm URC
- 9<sup>th</sup> WI Members evening organised by Jan Jerwood 7-30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Ladies Leisure Group URC, 1-30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> Film Night “Far from the Madding Crowd” 7-45pm Village Hall
- 24<sup>th</sup> Hist Soc “The Glenn Miller Story by Des Robinson” 7-30pm VH
- 27<sup>th</sup> PFA - Curry Night - see posters for more details

### MARCH

- 8<sup>th</sup> WI Mr Peter Barratt: A Suffragette in the family 7-30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Film Night “Kinky Boots” 7-45pm Village Hall
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Hist Soc “The Naval Hero: Our local man : Roy Smart”

# BRIGSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Further to the article and questionnaire in the summer edition of “Brigstock News” regarding the on-going Neighbourhood Plan, we would like to update everyone regarding progress since then.

Responses to the initial questionnaire together with comments made at the public meeting held in the village hall in September have enabled us to start to focus on those areas of interest to people living in the parish which can be affected by a Neighbourhood Plan. We have also held a meeting for local landowners, businesses and those involved with local infrastructure and services which has added further to our knowledge.

A financial grant has also been secured to fund this project and has enabled us to engage the services of an independent planning professional, Colin Wilkinson, who is experienced in neighbourhood planning and who can advise us. He is also able to eventually write our projected plan ensuring that it is compliant with legislation.

The next stage in the process is for us to formulate a questionnaire based on our findings so far which will enable you to comment and give opinion on various choices affecting the community. We hope this will be available for distribution before the end of January and preceding this there will be a survey of housing needs conducted by the Rural Housing Association due for return of opinions by mid-January.

Once all the responses have been received and analysed we will be able to draft our Neighbourhood Plan, consult with you on a draft version of the plan and move towards having it independently assessed before offering it to a local referendum of inhabitants for approval.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives us a chance to say how development should take place over the next 15 years, without it developers will make the choices for us!

The Brigstock parish council website has all the information on the Neighbourhood Plan page.

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Chris Allen, Chairman



# Brigstock Film Night

We hope you enjoyed the films in October and November. There's no film in December – the next one for your diary is Friday 15 January:

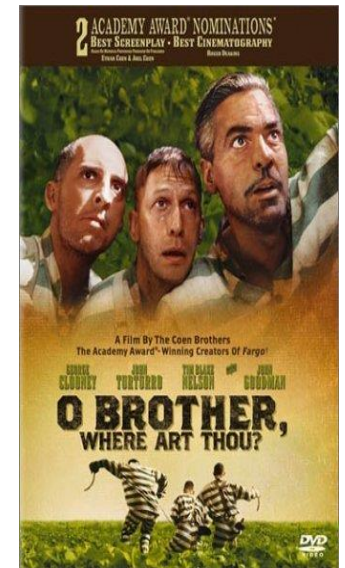
## O Brother, Where Art Thou? (12) (103 minutes)

Friday 15 January, Brigstock Village Hall

Doors open at 7:15pm, film starts at 7:45pm

George Clooney stars in this adventure comedy about three cons on the run from a chain gang in the Deep South of the 1930s (a modern satire loosely based on Homer's epic poem, *Odyssey*). They are heading back to recover the money stashed by one of them after a bank job. With nothing to lose and still in shackles, their hasty run takes them on an incredible journey of awesome experiences and colourful characters. Music is a major component of the film and noted producer and musician T-Bone Burnett worked closely on the film. It features plenty of Virginia bluegrass folk music, and who could resist a film with music performed by “The Soggy Bottom Boys”?

**Tickets:** £4 on the door, including free popcorn, with refreshments (tea, coffee, wine, beer, soft drinks, and cornetto-style ice-creams) on sale from the kitchen.



## Next Films:

**Friday 19 February 2016 – Far From the Madding Crowd (12A) (120 minutes)** - the 2015 adaptation of the Thomas Hardy novel, starring Carey Mulligan.

**Friday 18 March 2016 – Kinky Boots (12) (100 minutes)** – the film season ends with this feel-good finale based on a local true story.

Do you have suggestions for future films? Give us your ideas.

## **Call for Volunteers:**

The small crew that organise these events are looking for extra pairs of hands on each Film Night to help with things like: setting up the film equipment, setting out chairs, serving refreshments, and taking entrance fees on the door.

If you're 16 or over and would like to help (and it could make good CV / University application material), then please contact: Alison Millen on 373028 or Emma Poole on 370142.

## Brigstock Kurling Group

Have you got a couple of hours spare on the first and third Wednesday afternoons each month? Then why not come along to the New Age Kurling group at the Village Hall, 2-4 p.m., with tea and biscuits at half time. No experience is necessary, we supply all the equipment, and a laugh is almost guaranteed for the £2 it will cost you. Short mat bowling is also available if enough people want to play. Contact Judith Beeby on 373367 for more details.

By the time you read this we may have had our last meeting for 2015, but we'll start again on 6th January.

THE VILLAGE HALL AND PFA PRESENT:  
**The Looking Glass Theatre**

# Sleeping Beauty

**Pantomime fun for all the family**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm**

**Venue - Brigstock Village Hall -**

Refreshments available

Tickets £5.50 from Brigstock Post office

Or 01536 373598 /373191

Sally Wilks collects used printer inkjet cartridges and old mobile phones in aid of **The Cure Parkinson's Trust**. If you would like to help please leave them on the doorstep at 7 Park Walk or phone 373428 and she will pick them up. Laser/toner cartridges are also acceptable but she needs 25 for a free collection. Thanks to all of you who already donate.

BRIGSTOCK  
*living advent calendar*  
2015

We are delighted to announce that the  
Illuminated window displays of the third

*Brigstock Living Advent Calendar*

will be unveiled nightly

**at 6.45pm**

from the first of December  
until Christmas eve.

*Details of the locations of the windows can be found on  
a map which can be downloaded from the Brigstock  
living advent Facebook page or will be available from  
local shops and pubs from 1st December.*

FOLLOW THE EVENT BLOG  
ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE:

**facebook.com/Brigstockadvent**

**“GOD REST YE MERRY”**  
(A sideways look at Christmas)

*PRESENTED BY*

**DAVID BALE and  
FRUMENTY**

Join actor David Bale and musical group  
Frumenty as they take a whimsical view of  
many aspects of the festive season in a show  
suitable for all ages.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH**

**7.30 p.m.**

**BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL**

Tickets £5 available from the Post Office or  
telephone 01536 373428  
Bar and Raffle



## Brigstock United Reformed Church

As Christmas draws near, we are again pleased to be joining with the congregation of St Andrews church for several activities. Starting on November 29<sup>th</sup>-Advent Sunday-the "Knitivity", a knitted Nativity set, will be travelling round the village and staying overnight in houses belonging to members of both churches. It is a great opportunity to get to know each other better, and it helps us to focus particularly on what Christmas is really all about. We shall also be producing a joint Christmas card with details of all the Christmas events and services in both churches.

As always, we really enjoyed the Beer festival weekend. It is such a good opportunity for all the village organisations to get together, publicise themselves and raise funds, and we are very grateful for the committee's donation to our church from the Festival's profits.

A lot of interest was shown in our display for "Tools with a Mission", and we have had a very good response to our request for a variety of tools. By the time you read this, a vanload of garden tools, computers, scanners and DIY tools will have been collected ready to be sorted, repaired and generally made usable, and then they will be sent abroad to needy communities in Africa. Thank you to everyone who donated the tools, and to Pete and Judy Burdett for storing them.

The Barn Dance we held in September was very popular and enjoyable, and so was the Quiz night in October. We would like to thank Mark, who recently left his job at the Green Dragon, and all his staff, for the support they have given us, allowing us to use the premises for quizzes and a "Beer and Hymns" evening.

We are still serving bacon butties every Sunday morning between 9 and 10 am; if you are out for a stroll, a bike ride or just fancy some company, you are welcome to join us. Finally, a very Happy Christmas to everyone, from the minister and congregation of the URC.

## BRIGSTOCK TREE SERVICES

- All aspects of tree surgery
- Hedge Trimming
- Forestry Works
- Seasoned Firewood
- Fencing
- NPTC Qualified
- Fully Insured for peace of mind
- Free Quotations

Contact Steve on 07901503501 or 01536370081

Steven.rainbow@yahoo.co.uk



## BRIGSTOCK COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Choir is now meeting regularly at the URC on the second Monday of the month. We are learning some new songs as well as singing popular ones. If you would like to come along and join us, just turn up at 8-15pm. If you can't read music, that's no problem either.

The choir did perform at the Beer Festival, entertaining all with some good old drinking songs. We are also planning to join in the Carols in the Park on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Check out the Brigstock Choir Facebook page for updates or contact Julia Staniforth. On 14<sup>th</sup> December, we have a Xmas special evening. This will be a singalong followed by shared food and drink. We will start at 7.45pm as usual at the URC. If you like to sing, come and join us and enjoy yourself.

## BRIGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

In the last edition of the Newsletter, we reported that the kitchen refurbishment was finished. The Beer Festival was the first late 29 nt that really tested it and it did perform very well. The layout worked and the new appliances made a great difference. The dishwasher worked overtime, but gave clean glasses. We did have a problem with the cooker, but this was soon fixed by the installer.

So if you are thinking of holding an event, look at what the Village Hall can do for you.

Thanks to WREN for their large contribution towards the costs.

If you like to join the committee of the Village Hall to help run this facility, please contact Sally Wilks on Tel. 373428.

13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Village Hall Quiz Night - another special evening with the Sally Wilks questions. See posters for details.

### Brigstocks Got Talent. – 19<sup>th</sup> March at the Village Hall

We all know that there is hidden talent in Brigstock. Some say keep it that way!! But as we saw at last years Panto, there are plenty of people to entertain us if given the chance.



So start planning and practicing now for a solo or group appearance at next years show. Watch out for more details on the posters or contact Sally Wilks as above.

## BRIGSTOCK CRICKET CLUB 2015

This was the club's most successful season in adult cricket.

For the firsts, a draw and then 4 successive wins in August placed them in striking distance of promotion. There was a hiccup with a nervous performance against Great Oakley but a good away win against Stony Stratford saw the team into second place with a game to go. We held a successful President's day and awards event on the Sunday following this game and the first team started their long build up to the final match. True to form they didn't practice during the week but they saved their best performance of the season to sweep away local rivals Thrapston in the final game. Match details and a report can be viewed on play cricket.

<http://brigstock.play-cricket.com/website/results/2495098>

Winning 10 and drawing 8 games of the 21 played was a very fine effort and after 8 consecutive seasons in Division 2 and 3 third place finishes the promotion secured Brigstock's highest ever finish; well done Satnam and his team. The early finish and the synchronicity with the beer festival proved to be a damaging combination and some players were sure that the pavilion was invaded by Vikings during the late evening. Can that really be true? It was especially gratifying for club members that 5 regular first teamers had come through the club's youth teams. Duncan Croker for example scored 519 runs at 48 average and won the Northants Cricket league young all-rounder award. Brother Pat was not far behind with 504 runs although Tashwin Lukas our overseas player outscored both with 606 runs. With Sat scoring over 400 runs and ex Captain Ian Sharp returning to form with over 300 runs there were plenty of runs for the captain to apply pressure and Tash took 67 wickets and Rob Pack 44 at a miserly 9 runs per wicket.

Throughout the season the seconds were also high in division 9 which always caused a good debate at selection time as to which players should be released to the firsts. We just missed out, finishing 4<sup>th</sup>, but this was also our highest ever finish. This was a fair reflection of the season as the 3 teams above us were stronger; they won at least 12 of their matches and we won 10. 4 wins in late August couldn't quite undo the damage of 3 defeats immediately prior to that and 2 poor batting performances against the team who finished 5<sup>th</sup> proved our undoing.

5 players scored more than 200 runs with Nigel Shiells topping the list with 445 in 15 games. Jon Croker and the inestimable Shiells taking 46 and 35 wickets respectively to lead our attack.

What a great season. - Alan Bamford

# BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL

## 18<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



This year's festival commenced with a rip-roaring Friday comedy night with 4 comedians and a compere. This was followed by a Fun Day on Saturday afternoon with entertainment for all the family which included the Vikings of Mercia, Punch and Judy, Morris dancers, live music and model aeroplane display. Saturday night's entertainment was provided by Candy Slam, a five piece, female-fronted band who played covers to a dance floor packed with revellers. Refreshment was available during the festival in the form of 23 different real ales and several ciders.

Brigstock Beer Festival is a non-profit making charity event run by a group of friends. This year's festival helped raise £7,033 after adding up the profits by all the organisations who contributed. This means the Brigstock Beer Festival has now raised over £75,000 since the first festival in 2005. This money has been used to help fund the bridge over the brook, the staging for the local primary school and numerous smaller projects.

This year we have been able to allocate over £3,000 and this has been spread amongst local groups as well as Lakelands Hospice and Headway who helped us over the weekend.

**Next Year's Festival is on 16th and 17th September, 2016 –**

**we hope to see you there**

If you would like to help, and can spare a few hours, please contact us. We need more help!! Contact Chris Allen, Beer Festival Chairman, on 01536 373059. Check our website [www.brigstockbeerfestival.com](http://www.brigstockbeerfestival.com) or follow us on facebook and twitter.

## Brigstock Latham's School - How it Began

The Reverend Nicholas Latham was born in Brigstock in 1548, the son of John Latham, the Keeper of Brigstock Great Park. After graduating from Cambridge he became rector of St Andrew's Church, Barnwell, where he served for the rest of his life until his death in 1620. During his lifetime he dedicated himself to helping the poor by setting up almshouses and schools in Barnwell and the surrounding area. In his will he stated "I have a house in Brigstock, called the town house, which my father left me. This house shall be a schoolhouse to teach the children of the town."

This town house was in the centre of the village where the present War Memorial is situated. Parson Latham also left in his will a yearly stipend of £10 for a schoolmaster to teach "30 poor men's sons chosen by the Minister, churchwardens and constables of Brigstock". It was stipulated that these should be the poorest men's sons and that their education should be free apart from an initial admittance fee of four pence. The children should be taught to read and write and to do arithmetic and that at the end of each day they had to sing a psalm and pray before going home. The schoolmaster was to be provided with living accommodation at the school and he was allowed to take on an additional ten paying students to supplement his income. The yearly stipend for the schoolmaster was to be paid from the rents of land in Ringstead, owned by Parson Latham.

In 1620 access to education was very limited for children whose parents were not wealthy and so the founding of a school in Brigstock for the sons of poor families would have been a great benefit to the village. One of the main aims of providing education to children would have been to enable them to read and study the bible. The new King James authorised version of the bible in English was published in 1611, giving people who could read the opportunity to study the bible for themselves.

In Brigstock, the school on Hall Hill continued to be used until a new school was built on its present location in 1873.



## LATHAMS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

### ***“Once More into the Breach!”***

At the moment, if you're walking around our school and stop to speak to a child in Year 5 or 6 something rather wonderful happens. For example:

You might stop Ethan in Year 5 and ask him how he is and if he's not having a very good day he would probably respond in the following way:

“Doth fortune play the Huswife with me now...” and it's not just Ethan who would respond in such a manner as all of our children in Year 5 and 6 are quoting speeches and lines from Henry V!

How have we come about fulfilling this Gove-ian vision in our school you might ask? Well it's all down to an organisation called the 'Shakespeare Schools' Festival'.

Way back at the end of the last academic year, the Shakespeare Schools' Festival contacted us at Brigstock Primary to ask if we would be interested in performing some Shakespeare on stage at The Core Theatre at the Corby Cube. After a quick glance down the class list at the next year's Year 5 and 6 cohort we agreed! If any children could learn and perform the key scenes from Henry V, these children could!

After a summer of seaside holidays, ice creams and complete refurbishment of the school assembly hall, we returned to school in September without so much as a second thought for Shakespeare or his Henry V until the training day and a quick count up of weeks until the performance. Slight panic set in and children auditioned and parts were given out and scripts sent home with the simple instruction of: 'Learn this. We're performing it on stage in front of 300 people at the Core Theatre in Corby'.

We decided on two Henrys: Eddie and Jonty. We chose our French Royalty; our Bardolph, Pistol and Nym. We worked closely with the wonderfully creative people from The Core Theatre who gave us ideas about staging and costumes. Lighting and music was carefully chosen – last minute!

The children worked incredibly hard showing great dedication and resilience throughout the whole process. The lines and actions were learned to perfection and by the evening of performance, we knew the children had created something rather special.

As staff we sat through it perched on the edge of our seats, silently murmuring every line and holding our breath every time there was a change of scene and children appeared on the stage. From scene one to the end of the play, the children performed with great verve and expression. Both Mrs Aldridge and I have been teaching for quite some time and one of the many joys of the profession is the range of experiences and events you share with the children. We were very proud of the children and we will remember that night when the boys and girls of Brigstock Primary turned The Core theatre into the battlefield of Agincourt.

It will stay with us forever...

## BRIGSTOCK LATHAMS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

### ***CURRY NIGHT – 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY***

We have rescheduled the Curry Night - now Saturday February 27th. This is the evening where anyone who reckons they can prepare a magnificent Ruby is invited to serve up and be counted! A sit down curry night in the village without having to even make a phone call and at least 10 different curries to try? Plus a chilli-eating competition and sub-continental beers - it's got to be a winner! Enthusiastic curry chefs please contact Richard Fincher ([richard@fall-line.co.uk](mailto:richard@fall-line.co.uk)) or Rachael Chudleigh for details.

The curries will be voted on and the finest curry chef awarded the coveted "Curry King/Queen of Brigstock" award.

We are currently raising funds to improve and add to the sound system in the School Hall - unlikely as it will seem to anyone who has walked past at play time, the sound of small children can get lost in the hall so we are investing in microphones, speakers, cabling and much needed 'anti-squeal' technology.



## ODE TO THE JOYS OF VILLAGE CRICKET

Medium Pacer, bowling seam

Captain of my village team.

Bowled no maidens, took no wickets

(Should have used those test match tickets).

Keeper wants another slip,

“The one we’ve got’s a frightful drip”

I moved the man from short square leg,

Next ball, pulled off the bat’s leg peg.

Opponents need just twenty runs,

(I blame the ladies sickly buns).

Winning boundary, draw the stumps,

Wander home: down in the dumps.

Umpire’s out of next week match,

Operation on his cataracts!!!

Brigstock Cricket Club Umpire

### **MOBILE FOOT HEALTH CARE**



Corns - Callus - Cracked Heels  
Fungal Nail Infection  
Nail clipping service (Fingers and toes)  
MediPed - Involuted Nails

Advice concerning In-growing toe nails and Verrucae

**Professional treatment in the comfort of your own home**

**Joanne Palmer**  
Registered Foot Health Practitioner  
S.A.C. Dip FHPT S.A.C. Dip FHPP

**Tel: 07599 297 095**



## DANCES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

We don't have any fixed dates for any charity dances just yet but we have a Christmas ballroom and sequence dance on 11<sup>th</sup> December 8 - 11pm £5.00 on the door, please bring your own drinks and a small plate of food for an American buffet.

Tea dance on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2-4.30 £4.00 on the door

Ballroom and sequence dance Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 8-11pm £5.00 on the door.

Tea dance on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2-4.30pm £4.00 on the door

Ballroom and sequence dance Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February £5.00 on the door.

All are welcome. We can be contacted via email ([guido@derosa.me.uk](mailto:guido@derosa.me.uk)) or on 07711171007. Joan DeRosa

# BRIGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL		
Mrs Sally Wilks	Chair	01536 373428
Mr William Millen	Vice Chair and planning	01536 373028
Mr Nigel Searle	Clerk	01536 373672
Mrs Dorothy Solesbury	Councillor	01536 373574
Mr Charlie Koris	Councillor	01536 373558
Mrs Margaret Smith	Councillor	01536 373209
Mrs Elizabeth Searle	Councillor	01536 373672
Mr Stuart Malcolm	Councillor	01536 373384
Mr Colin Johnson	Councillor	01536 370003
Mrs Jill Schofield	Councillor	01536 373907
Mr Ken Motion	Councillor	01536 373598

## BONFIRE NIGHT SUCCESS

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our village bonfire and fireworks night such a success. A great deal of work is involved in organizing the event - sourcing wood, finding bonfire builders and fire marshals, selling tickets, providing catering, organizing the guy competition, printing posters and tickets, clearing up afterwards - there is a long list of tasks that need to be done so that we can all enjoy a fantastic village do. Fortunately we have a good team of people who are willing to give their time and effort, which is part of what makes Brigstock such a great community to live in, but we always need more volunteers. If you would like to be on our list of "willing helpers" please let us know.

We now have £3,500 in the fireworks account. We would like to keep £2000 as a contingency fund but the parish council is open to suggestions as to what to do with the rest. One idea is to keep it as a "village fund" and organisations can apply for financial help with various projects, for instance there is a group of young people in the village who are raising money for a skateboard facility on the Meadow. Please let us know what you think.

# BRIGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Unfortunately we have heard that Gladmans are appealing the decision on the Benefield Road site. We should soon have the date for the appeal, which will be heard at East Northants Council offices in Thrapston.

## [www.brigstockcouncil.org.uk](http://www.brigstockcouncil.org.uk)

If you would like to add items to the village calendar please contact the parish clerk, Nigel Searle, on **373672** [brigstockcouncil@aol.com](mailto:brigstockcouncil@aol.com).

We shall shortly be commissioning a professional and comprehensive survey of the street lighting in the village with the aim of converting all lights to LEDs in the next two years. This will cost a great deal of money but save us about 70% of our energy costs.

The Neighbourhood Plan sub-committee has been working very hard to gather ideas from you about how you want Brigstock to develop over the next 15 - 20 years. There will be two questionnaires delivered through your letterbox in the next two months.

The first will be a Housing Needs Survey which will help us find out who is looking for accommodation in Brigstock and what kind.

The second will be the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire which will tell us what you want to see in the Neighbourhood Plan.

***Please help us by completing both questionnaires.***

**A dog's got to do what a dog's got to do,**

**But so, dear dog owner, have you.**

**Pick it up and put it in the bin,**

**Then you can go home without any sin.**

# Workers' Educational Association

The WEA was founded by Albert Mansbridge, born in Gloucester in 1876 the son of a carpenter. Forced to leave school at the age of 14 he gradually realised that there were many working people like himself who felt their education had been cut short and wanted to learn more, but opportunities were few.

In 1903 he launched "An Association to Promote the Higher Education of Working Men". The only people present at the launching were he and his wife, but gradually they persuaded the Co-operative Movement (for which he worked) and the Trade Unions to take an interest and provide support. It became the "Workers' Educational Association" in 1905 after complaints from the Women's Co-operative Guild.

The organisation grew at a dramatic rate and by 1928 there were 450 branches all over the country providing further education for more than 26,000 members. The extension of the school-leaving age and easier access to higher education gradually meant fewer young people joining the WEA, but then retired people began to take their place.

The Brigstock Branch has been running continuously for 62 years holding two courses a year, in the autumn and spring, with a wide range of subjects from Astronomy to Zoology, and we welcome anyone who wants to go on learning. See our advert on the next page for our latest course.

There are 17 branches in Northamptonshire and nowadays, in addition to the usual courses, the WEA does a lot of excellent work helping the unemployed and disadvantaged youngsters.

Ann Shrive.  
Branch Secretary



## Famous Women Gardeners

With tutor

**Andrew Sankey**



Gertrude Jekyll

A course to redress the balance and the fact that it was men who generally had the upper hand in garden design. A detailed look at five famous women gardeners, their gardens and their influence. Includes Gertrude Jekyll, Ellen Willmott, Norah Lindsay, Vita Sackville-West & Beth Chatto.

**Thursdays 2.30-4pm from 21.1.16 for 9 weeks**

**Brigstock Village Hall, 8 Bridge St, Brigstock NN14 3ET**

**Fee £52 or free if on certain benefits or low income**

**More information : Ann Shrive 01536 373216**

Online enrolment available - [www.enrolonline.wea.org.uk](http://www.enrolonline.wea.org.uk)

**Brigstock WEA**  
[weaeastmidlands.org](http://weaeastmidlands.org)

Funded by  
 Skills Funding Agency

Workers' Educational Association



# Brigstock Pre-school Playgroup

Well with another term well under way we have quite a lot to tell you!

Following the resignation of our last manager it is with great pleasure that we can inform you that Sarah Connellan has taken over the position. Sarah has been with the setting for the last 4 years so knows exactly how important our playgroup is and how it works which provides consistency for our children. She is closely supported by Vicky Hill our deputy manager and playgroup assistants - Cindy Mayes, Kayley Lovett and Lisa Meagan. With our new team in place we believe each person will be key in moving the playgroup forward whilst continuing to provide the fun, educational, safe and caring environment that we offer to all children.

As we are a charity run Playgroup we are always trying to hold fundraising events to raise additional money for use within our setting. Thank you to everyone who has previously supported our events and hope that you will continue to do so. Our next fundraiser is our Wreath making night on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. This is always very popular and is nearly sold out, if you would like tickets or any other information ask a member of staff or contact Emma on 07939581963.

If you would like any information on the playgroup it can be found on our website [www.brigstockplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.brigstockplaygroup.co.uk) or please feel free to contact us on 01536373197/07708977714 or by email - [contact@brigstockplaygroup.co.uk](mailto:contact@brigstockplaygroup.co.uk)

Again we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who gives their time and support to us.

## DO YOU WANT AN ALLOTMENT???

The **BRIGSTOCK CONSOLIDATED CHARITY** manages the allotments on Benefield Road, the income from which goes towards supporting the charity's purpose. If you are interested in having an allotment please contact the charity's secretary, Sally Wilks, 373428 or Chris Allen the Allotment Association Chairman on 01536 373059

Busy Bodies  
Baby & Toddler Group



For those that are not aware 'Busy Bodies' is a baby and toddler group that meet at the Vicarage Rooms, St Andrews Church, Brigstock, every second Friday from 9.00 - 11.30am.

It is a friendly group, run by parents and carers, for children from birth to three. There are lots of different toys for the children to enjoy that suit each stage of learning. For the adults – it's a great place to meet other parents and carers and have a much needed cuppa while the children play!

We ask for a donation of £2.50 per family. This helps to cover the cost of room hire etc and includes drink and snack for the children and tea/coffee for the adults

If you live in Brigstock or the surrounding villages / towns then please feel free to come along and join the fun...

If you would like to know any more information please feel free to contact Emma on 07939581963 or join our group on Facebook so we can notify you of the next meeting date.

We look forward to meeting you!

### Do you want to advertise in the space?

You can book for individual editions or for all 4 quarterly editions.  
Size to be agreed.

Contact [chrisallen043@gmail.com](mailto:chrisallen043@gmail.com) or tel. 01536 373059

for more details

## **Who's Who in Brigstock : Vera Shillaker**

Vera Shillaker (née Wright) was born in Brigstock in April 1920 which makes her the oldest Brigstock born person in the village. She had an older brother, Alfred and four younger sisters, Bet, Jean, Pam and Thelma and they were brought up in one of the York Row cottages. Her father was a foreman at the ironstone furnaces at Islip and later moved to the S&L steelworks in Corby. She was educated in Brigstock School but does not have fond memories of her time there. In fact she thinks that her best day at school was the day she left, aged 14. The head teacher at that time was Mr Tomlinson who was very strict. After leaving school on Friday, Vera started work on the following Monday at Wallis and Linnel's clothing factory in the village. She continued to work there all her working life, apart from a few years during the Second World War, and received an award of a watch after 25 years service. Vera retired just before the factory finally closed so perhaps it couldn't go on without her.

During the war the factory girls were called up and given the choice of joining the forces or going to work at the steelworks in Corby. Vera, along with the others chose the steelworks where she worked from 1942 till 1945. She worked on a tube cutting machine alongside another Brigstock girl, Dots Shirley in a noisy, cold environment. She had to bike to Corby and back every day in all weathers. Getting into work was even more difficult when an air raid was expected as smoke screens would be lit on the road into Corby to hide the steelworks from enemy bombers. The smoke came from chimneys along the way lit by members of the Pioneer Corps and this created a dense smokescreen "worse than the worst fog". Fred Wise from Brigstock always accompanied the girls as he was on the same shift. Vera worked on a special project which she later found out was the Pluto (Pipe-Lines under the Ocean) project, to link Britain and France to support the Allied invasion. During the war Vera went to dances in Brigstock camp, where soldiers from the North Staffs Regiment and later the Northants Regiment were stationed. George Bowden, a Brigstock shopkeeper played records to provide music for the dances. Vera has always loved dancing and she says that she gets a bit aggravated because she is not able to join in the dancing these days.

Vera met her husband Len in the works and they were married in Brigstock Church in 1945. Len asked the vicar how much he charged for a wedding and was told "7/6 but since you work at S&L you can pay a bit more". Len paid 7/6, which prompted Vera to ask if he didn't think she was worth a bit extra. Len moved from Corby to live With Vera's family, Mum, Dad and her sisters in the High Street. They managed to

get a house in Lyveden Road when the houses were built in 1949 and they lived there till 1989 when they moved to Farm Close, when those bungalows were built.

Vera and Len had a happy married life together for over 60 years. They enjoyed going to the pictures in Kettering, dances in Corby and doing a bit of gardening. They also enjoyed their holidays and went so regularly to Yarmouth that Len's mates at work called him the Mayor of Yarmouth because he always knew the details of all the events there and who was appearing at the summer shows. There were also Wallis and Linnel factory outings, once even going to Paris for the day, the first and last time Vera was in an aeroplane.

Vera has seen many changes in the village but is quite happy with most of these changes and feels that in general the new people in the village have got on well with those who have lived in Brigstock for many years. Vera has also enjoyed seeing the young people grow up and start a new generation in the village. Vera feels she has been lucky to have kept in good health and her recipe for a long and happy life is to eat and drink in moderation, to keep active and "just get on with things". Hopefully Vera will be getting on with things for years to come.

## **Ladies Leisure Group**

The group has been meeting for more than two years now, on the third Monday of every month. We have had a very varied programme of speakers, demonstrations and outings, and we welcome any ladies to join us at 1.30pm in the June Small room, Mill Lane.

Recently we have tried our hands at making Christmas decorations and we have had two trips-one to Springfields shopping centre in Spalding on a beautiful, warm autumn day, and in November we went to Rockingham Castle for the Victorian Christmas event. We were taken round the beautifully decorated rooms by the "Governess" who gave us a real taste of life in 1881, and some very amusing anecdotes too.

In December we are having a bring-and-share Christmas lunch on 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

The group does not have a committee. We organise events a few months in advance and everyone helps out. In January we are having a Beetle Drive, by popular request, and we shall be starting to plan our programme for 2016. If you would like to be part of our very informal and friendly group, do please come and join us.



## St Andrews Brigstock

A note from The Reverend Simpson

"Some of you may already have heard that the time has come for me to move to the next stage of my journey with God and a new phase in my ministry. This means that I shall be leaving the village in February to take responsibility for a group of parishes just south of Yeovil in Somerset.

I would like you to know that it has been and remains, a privilege to be your parish priest and that I thank you for involving me in many of the key moments of your lives during the four and a half years that I have been here. I hope to see you at sometime over the Christmas period and assure you of my prayers now and into the future. (Look out for our services on the Christmas card)

With every blessing, Fr Colin"

### Christingle at St Andrews

You may recall that in the last News Letter I let you know that there would be two Christingle Services this year, one at 4 p.m. and one at 6 p.m. For safety reasons numbers will be restricted to 200 per service. Admission will be by way of tickets which can be obtained (free of charge) from Barbara Platt 4 Bridge Street 01536 373240, Carl Hector 16 Sandlands Avenue 01536 373410 and Penelope Escombe Whitehall House, Park Walk 01536 373213.

### GLADMAN DEVELOPMENT OFF BENEFIELD ROAD,

A developer, Gladman, submitted a planning application for 110 houses on fields between Benefield Road, Woodyard Close and Old Dry Lane. This application was rejected by East Northants Council in March, but Gladmans have now submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against this decision. Objections need to be submitted to the Planning Inspector by 8<sup>th</sup> December. There will then be a Public Enquiry held in the new year (date to be set) where the application and evidence will be considered. The main point that Gladman are challenging on is that East Northants Council do not have a local plan that shows sufficient allocation for housing.



## GARDEN MACHINERY SPECIALISTS

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## COLLINGS BROTHERS BRIGSTOCK

SUDBOROUGH ROAD BRIGSTOCK,

Tel 01536 373238

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

This will affect all residents, so make sure that your views are

## Keep Calm and Donate in a Different Way

Many of you may have noticed that 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September was national transplant week. A few of you may also be aware that my husband received a liver transplant just before Christmas 2014. Without the transplant, he had less than a year to live, so we are eternally grateful to the family of the young lady who registered as a donor. She was only in her 20's, not much older than my own daughter, and I can't begin to imagine the heartbreak that was felt by her family on her sudden death; I can only admire and be thankful for their enormous generosity. Having to then, almost immediately, face Christmas without her makes everything seem much worse somehow, and their courage much greater.

A friend's daughter was also diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia a few years ago. In some respects she was 'lucky'; her brother was an exact match so he was able to donate stem cells for a bone marrow transplant. Many people requiring bone marrow transplants (also known as stem cell transplants) rely on Matched Unrelated Donors (MUD) from around the world. These donors register their willingness to donate some of their own marrow/stem cells should they be found to be a match for someone with life threatening conditions such as Leukaemia and Aplastic Anaemia.

We also have a number of people in the village who might not be with us, or whose lives would be drastically different, if they had not received organ and bone marrow transplants!

So I have a request. Please, please, please consider becoming a donor so someone else can have the gift of life that Ciara and my husband received. If you opt to become an organ donor, you can specify which organs you do / do not want to donate, e.g. my friend has chosen not to donate her skin as she can't bear the thought of someone else being saddled with her face 😊 Some organs can also be used for live transplant, if you so wish, e.g. a kidney, or even part of a liver which enables a person with a failing liver to receive a partial transplant and, effectively, grow a healthy liver. The simple fact is, the more people on the registers the better our chances will be should any of us, or our loved ones, be in need of a transplant one day.

However, and this is almost as important as signing up to become an organ donor; please discuss your decision with your family. They will be the ones who will have to make the final decision. Even if you sign up to the organ donor register, the transplant co-ordinators still have to get consent from your loved ones, it's not a foregone conclusion. Whilst my husband was in hospital, a friend's sister died unexpectedly. It

was her wish to be a donor, but not all of her family were aware. Partly because they knew their sister's / daughter's generous spirit, and partly because they were aware of my husband's transplant, my friend's family agreed to the donation of their daughter's / sister's organs, thus potentially saving more lives. However, had they said no, no organs could have been donated, which would have meant that her final wish was not granted.

Please remember, if your loved ones don't know your wishes, they may not make the decision you would want them to.

For more details about organ donation, please check out the following websites

<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/>,

<https://www.anthonynolan.org/>

<http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/bonemarrow/>

<http://www.deletebloodcancer.org.uk/en>

Article written by Tracey Widdall

## **REIKI**

*The ancient art of Reiki will help to restore the natural balance of your mind, body and soul. Introductory and full treatments available by fully qualified and insured Reiki Practitioner.*

*For further details or to book contact Sue Bailey at  
Contemplation*

*Tel 01536 373789 Mob 07787 932451*

*Mail:contemplation25@gmail.com*

## Brigstock WI News

At our AGM held on Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> Liz Searle was re-elected President with the new committee comprising of Glenda Stephen (secretary), Hilary Webster (treasurer), Judy Burdett (events), Jenny Willis (Raffle and social secretary), Diane Harcourt (vice president), Lilian Griffiths (speakers secretary).

As the centennial year of WI comes to a close, we look back to what we have achieved. This year, being Brigstock's 97<sup>th</sup> year, we joined in the celebrations of the WI Centenary. At the beginning of the year, heads got together to create a Time-Line for the County challenge and it was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The Time-Line will be on display in the WI Hall from January. Brigstock "A" Team won the Federation Quiz at Wicksteed Park and hold the cup to display to prove it. Our president Liz attended the National Federation Centenary Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall. One of our members name was drawn out of the hat to attend the WI Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. A memory she will cherish forever. We entered the skittle competition, but unfortunately did not get past the first round – oh well, better luck this year, which has already started.

A great deal of time, effort and generosity of members for fundraising events this year, a massive achievement, raising over £1,500. We started the new financial year with a very successful, first ever, WI Quiz at the Green Dragon; our second being held on 17<sup>th</sup> November. We have held two Table Top sales, with another one being held on 21<sup>st</sup> November. We joined in the first Village Garage Sale, held lunch time snack stops at members houses, hosted an afternoon tea for Yardley Hastings elderly folk, hosted the refreshments for the Village Plan meeting, held our annual duck race at the Beer Festival and ran the raffle at the Beer Festival evening song night – phew!

But it hasn't been all fundraising. Members celebrated the WI Centenary with a birthday dinner in March, enjoyed a guided walk at Rectory Farm Great Easton with delicious tea and cakes to round of the very hot day. We enjoyed a village walk and quiz around Islip and a fun night at our annual summer BBQ at the Cricket Pavilion, held an Open Day displaying 100 years of memorabilia and recently enjoyed a trip to Peterborough Greyhound racetrack where we were waited on for food and bets. On top of that, we have held monthly social nights with various topics and crafts, which

are open to anyone who wants to come and join us. We end our year with our members WI Christmas Party in December with a visit from Father Christmas, a faith supper, games by Judy and Steph and finish with traditional carols around the tree.

## At long last, our aim to bring Brigstock WI Hall into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is becoming a reality:

With a lot of hard work applying for grants to enable us to connect the hall to sewerage supply and install a toilet, we have been awarded a grant of £9580 from **Awards For All, National Lottery Fund** to install the sewerage. We hope that our application for another grant to install the toilet and cubicle will be successful too. Our grateful thanks to **National Lottery fund** for making a dream come true. Once complete, the hall will be serviceable for all the Brigstock community and surrounding small villages. Our aim is to hold workshops with various crafts and social events for everyone. The hall once belonged to the village and for 97 years has mostly been used for WI events. After all, who wanted to use it when there was no toilet? 2016 will be the year when it can be used once more for village activities to complement and run alongside the village hall and URC rooms.

**If you want to join, WI membership is £37.50 for the year.**

## Meetings for the First quarter of 2016 is – all visitors welcome

January 12<sup>th</sup> – Mrs Angela Cooksy: Upstairs Downstairs

February 9<sup>th</sup> – Members evening organised by Jan Jerwood

March 8<sup>th</sup> – Mr Peter Barratt: A Suffragette in the family

Our thanks to the Big Lottery Fund for funding the installation of the sewerage works at WI Hall, Brigstock



## Brigstock Handbells

**Did you know** that since earliest times, bells in church towers have been rung to call parishioners to worship and to celebrate or announce services and special events such as weddings and funerals?

As churches built towers with multiple bells, bell ringers began to form choirs who rang increasingly difficult patterns. A practice, which today is called change ringing, was difficult in cold, drafty towers, and of course noisy! The small number of bells and the strength and stamina required to move the heavy bells limited the performances. Handbells were originally developed to allow the ringers to practice the patterns (which had to be memorised) indoors in relative comfort. Over the years handbell ringing has developed into an art form of its own.

In Brigstock we have been handbell ringing for a relatively short period of time but despite our amateur status and some of us feeling like we also come from the 'earliest times' we still enjoy entertaining and helping a number of local groups with their fundraising. I would like to be able to tell you that it has been another productive and rewarding year for the handbell ringers but unfortunately after taking a few months break after the 2014 Christmas season it was very difficult for us to get back on track. This has been due to some of the ringers leaving and other priorities which meant we were unable to sustain regular practices. Never fear it is our intention to 'get back in the groove' in January 2016.

We have decided to change the day we meet to a Friday at 7.30 p.m. in St Andrews Church. The real hope is that there are a few of you reading this article that might be interested in joining us; we desperately need new ringers to enable us to continue properly. **Not sure** – then come along to one of our practices and have a go. There is no real age restriction as long as you can hold a bell, read numbers and have a laugh. No prior knowledge of ringing or reading music required.

**Want to know more**, then contact Allison Porter 01536 373509 or Carl Hector 01536 373410.

Our first meeting is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> January.

## CABINVIEW LAMB

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### **BRIGSTOCK CONSOLIDATED CHARITY**

The Charity consists of a number of small endowments made in the past chiefly for the benefit of the Church and the poor of Brigstock. When these endowments became "consolidated" and up-dated it was clearly laid down in law who could benefit. After certain expenses, one quarter on the income goes to St Andrew's Church. The rest of the income is for the relief of need, hardship or distress, either generally or individually, of the people resident in Brigstock. Each case is considered on its own merits which means taking into account the particular circumstances of the individual. **All cases are dealt with in the strictest confidence.**

After the needs of those in financial distress have been considered, the trustees have the opportunity to give grants to village organisations which benefit village residents.

If you wish to make an application for yourself or on behalf of someone else, please write to:

The Reverend Colin Simpson at the Rectory, Brigstock or contact the secretary or one of the trustees whose names can be found on the noticeboard in the church porch.

The charity manages the allotments on Benefield Road, the income from which goes towards supporting the charity's purpose. If you are interested in going on the waiting list for an allotment please contact the charity's secretary, Sally Wilks, 373428.

## BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Talks usually take place at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Please come along.

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**  
**Annual Membership £10**

16/12/2015	<b>Christmas Buffet</b>	Enjoy our traditional bring and share buffet with some Christmas entertainment.
27/01/2015	<b>Isaac Newton and the Brigstock Connection</b> <b>Sally Wilks</b>	Isaac Newton visited Brigstock at least once, but why? Find out about this great man's connection to the Village and something of the man himself and the times he lived in.
24/02/2016	<b>The Glenn Miller Story</b> <b>Des Robinson</b>	A story of mystery, intrigue and possibly murder with some of Glenn's fantastic music.
23/03/2016	<b>The Last Naval Hero:</b> <b>Our Local Man</b> <b>Roy Smart</b>	The extraordinary story of David, 1st Earl Beatty from humble cadet to First Sea Lord and public hero of WW1 including a description of his personal lifestyle of great riches, marital strife and scandal.

Our **WW1 Commemorative Edition of Bygone Brigstock** is now available from the Post Office - price £5. This features a biography of each man named on the war memorial, local newspaper reports and other contemporary documents.

We now have some dedicated secure filing cabinets in the village hall for use as a central archive. If you have any photos that you think might be of interest, or other village memorabilia that you would be willing to let us have or copy, please get in touch.

## BRIGSTOCK NEWS

### Journal of Brigstock Village Hall Association

This is the fifth edition of Brigstock News and has gone from strength to strength. 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

**SPRING – Published 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016 - Copy by 19<sup>th</sup> February**

SUMMER - Published 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016

AUTUMN – Published 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016

#### CONTACT DETAILS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

BRIGSTOCK VILAGE HALL BOOKINGS	01536 373579
BRIGSTOCK VILAGE HALL SECRETARY	01536 373059
BRIGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL (CLERK)	01536 373672
BRIGSTOCK CRICKET CLUB	01536 373478
BRIGSTOCK PFA	01536 373353
BRIGSTOCK PLAYGROUP ENQUIRIES	07580 115380
BRIGSTOCK PLAYGROUP FUNDRAISING EVENTS	07766 573400
BRIGSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY	01536 373428
BRIGSTOCK WI	01536 373672
BRIGSTOCK FILM NIGHTS	01536 373028
BRIGSTOCK URC	01536 373225
BRIGSTOCK ST ANDREWS	01536 373965
BRIGSTOCK BEER FESTIVAL	01536 373059
BRIGSTOCK SUNNYSIDERS	01536 373383