



# BRICKLETON NEWS

January 2020

Issue 227

*The cold-ish spell around Christmas must have persuaded our vociferous wood pigeons to take a break for a couple of weeks. I wonder where they went? It became so peaceful to work in the garden. Now we are in a very mild period; so mild that the wood pigeons are back in full force calling their mates non-stop as if it is spring already. Some people like to hear them. Others use ear plugs or turn their hearing aids off like me!*

*The Brightwalton Quizmasters invite you to challenge your general knowledge in a wide-ranging, fun quiz.*

QUIZ  
??

**Friday, 24 January 2020**  
**7.00pm arrive for a 7.30pm start at**  
**Brightwalton Village Hall**  
**Tickets: £10 per person which includes a**  
**welcome drink**

QUIZ  
??

*Come as a team of eight, or come along and make up a team.  
Everyone welcome, Prizes for the winners, Bring your own picnic supper.*

*This event is held in aid of the Aspire project, which is working to develop the church building for greater and more varied use by the community*

**RSVP Please reserve your place by contacting Gill Judge**



Thank you to all who turned out to help at the annual village working party, as always we had a wonderful and hard working team. A huge amount was achieved at the War Memorial, Dunmore Pond, the Playground and around The Village Hall. Thank you - **Brightwalton Parish Council**

## Would you like to help the village hall?

At the Village Hall Management Committee AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7:30pm we'll be voting in the volunteer committee that runs the hall. We have a vacancy for a Bookings Clerk and our current Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (Mike Ananin, Emma Aird and Anna Britnor Guest) have all been on the committee for many years and would love to hand over to some willing successors. Full hand over and support will be given.

Being part of this team is a great way to have a real impact on village life. Over the years we've extended and refurbished the building, funded largely through the fete and grants, and hosted a variety of different groups and events. As a result the hall remains financially and structurally stable. We'd love some fresh ideas and new energy to keep improving the hall and its use as a centre for the village. None of the committee roles need to be very onerous in terms of time and can make a big difference.

If you'd like more information, please contact any of the committee or come along to the AGM. If you're not ready for a management committee role, we'd also welcome some regular volunteers who can help with a variety of activities, from advertising and promoting the hall to minor maintenance and repair.

Contact: [bricnews@gmail.com](mailto:bricnews@gmail.com)

**AGM at the village hall on 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm**

A creative time for the School children for their Christmas Fair in December.



**From Councillor Clive Hooker - extracts from December 2019 report :-**

#### **Plastics Recycling petition**

(at the Council meeting on 9 January) We will also debate a petition seeking that WBC recycles more types of plastic than currently. The background paper in the agenda pack makes interesting reading – to quote from it:

*It will cost the Council up to £1m in capital investment to make necessary modifications at the Council's materials recovery facility at Padworth, so that additional plastic stream can be sorted, plus ongoing annual revenue cost of c £100k to collect this material;*

*Collecting the materials is relatively easy compared to securing a viable recycling destination for the materials in the UK. If exported overseas as done by many of the UK authorities who collect these additional plastics, then the Council will have limited control over what happens to the waste (whether it is effectively recycled or ends up in landfills/rivers).*

#### **Climate Change Investment Bonds**

(at 19 December meeting) We also agreed this scheme, subject to due diligence.

A Community Municipal Bond (CMB) is a bond or loan mechanism issued by a Council directly to the public via a Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) regulated crowdfunding platform (WBC is considering Abundance Investment as a provider). CMBs can be used to supplement, diversify or replace sources of borrowing to fund specific infrastructure projects, or to refinance existing debt. They can also be earmarked for specific suitable projects.

Although the bonds could be used to deliver a wide variety of infrastructure projects, WBC intends to prioritise projects which support its recent declaration of a climate emergency, and the Environment Strategy referred to above.

Individuals (whether West Berkshire residents or not) will be able to invest from £5.00 upwards to support specific projects such as solar panels or tree planting. In return, they will receive Climate Change Bonds and a yield on their investment. This scheme has great potential and could enable the Council to take on important green projects – if our communities invest, it would provide the Council with a cheaper alternative to conventional sources of funds and reduce the overall cost of borrowing to all taxpayers across the district. Keeping the administration as simple as possible is why the Council is seeking to pilot this scheme with an outside organisation.

Subject to completing due diligence on the scheme, which will be funded through the pilot by external funding, the Council hope to launch the scheme to investors in the middle of 2020.

#### **Thirty year transport strategy consultation**

People and businesses in West Berkshire are being urged to have their say on a proposed thirty-year transport strategy for the South East which aims to improve journeys, boost the economy and protect the environment.

The strategy outlines how, with the right investment in our region's transport network, the South East's economy will more than double by 2050 to between £450bn and £500bn per year – creating an additional 500,000 jobs, boosting quality of life and access to opportunities for all and helping cut the South East's carbon emissions to net-zero.

It has been produced by Transport for the South East, a unique partnership bringing together local authorities, business leaders and transport organisations to speak with one voice on our region's transport priorities.

A major focus of the strategy is reducing the region's reliance on private cars to reduce congestion, cut carbon emissions and improve air quality. Today, cars account for 70% of all journeys in the South East compared to just 4% by rail and 5% by bus. It also highlights how better transport links can support economic growth around our key international gateways, such as Port of Southampton, which are vital to the local, regional and national economy.

To read the draft transport strategy and take part in the consultation, go to [tfse.org.uk/transport-strategy](https://tfse.org.uk/transport-strategy).

**The deadline for responses is Friday, 10 January 2020.** (sorry, you missed it! Ed)

The final transport strategy is due for publication in April 2020, with a strategic investment plan planned for publication in 2021.

#### **M4 junctions 3 to 12 smart motorway**

There are two full weekend closures of the M4 coming up early in the new year, between junctions 6 and 8/9 over the weekend of 17-20 January 2020 and between junctions 4b and 5 over the weekend of 14-17 February 2020. You can find out more in the attached bulletin, or at websites: <http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m4j3to12> and <https://m4j3to12smartmotorway.commonplace.is>

**See the full report on the village website.**

#### **From Evelyn Bracey at Home Farm :-**

It has been sometime since I last wrote an article for Brickleton news, however despite all the changes in the world farming remains very much the same. The deal that the UK will come out of the EU with is for farmers a big concern as it is for many other industries. There have been many directives regarding sprays, seed dressings but we will continue to farm and look after the countryside to the best of our ability.

The winter has been wet and many farmers were unable to do all their drilling of winter crops, however due to the fact we have a direct drill we did. With direct drilling we do not move the soil just drill directly into the stubble and straw that is left after combining therefore the ground when wet doesn't become a 'pudding'. It also means we don't spend so much time ploughing or cultivating, with worm activity much higher. We have planted winter wheat, beans and some rape which we are keeping our fingers crossed about but it isn't looking too good at the moment, mainly due to the fact that is standing in water.

Our cattle are in the barns and due to start calving at any time. Our TB test is coming up so we are hoping that we will go clear up to now we have been very lucky. The work with the cattle is very routine, feeding and bedding up each day. I have to say when we got them in early November they were pleased to be in the dry.





February 2019  
Remember this?

Enjoy a magical, uplifting performance from

### **The Newbury Rock Choir**

the UK's favourite contemporary choir as featured on BBC, ITV SKY & Radio 1

**Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**7pm at Brightwalton Church**

Followed by a fish and chip supper & a drink

£15 p/p £7 for under 15 yrs

Proceeds will go to the Choir's chosen charity Bucket List Wishes, and the village ASPIRE project

Contact Gill Judge for tickets



### **Village Carol Singing**

On a cold winters evening in December, a handful of hardy souls gathered at the village hall for an evening of carol singing around the village.

Judith Orpen led the band of enthusiastic singers to Butts Furlong, Dunmore Meadow and along Ash Close to Saxon Acre and then ending up for some much-needed refreshment at the Halls Craggs, who so kindly and generously hosted us for some mulled wine and mince pies.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised over £120 on the night, split between the Two Saints Homeless Charity in Newbury and the Brightwalton Aspire Project (this portion will be match funded thanks to the generous matching grant from Greenham Trust).

Our thanks to everyone that came and took part as well as everyone who kindly made such a generous donation.

The Community of Hungerford Theatre Company  
**TOWN SHOW 2020**

*Peter Pan*  
A Musical Adventure

*(Based on J.M. Barrie's original play  
With permission from  
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children  
Music by George Stiles  
Lyrics by Anthony Drewe  
Book by Willis Hall)*

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> FEB**  
**Evenings: 7.15pm**  
**Matinee: 2.15pm - FRI. 21<sup>st</sup> & SAT. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Tickets Adult from £10**  
**Child (All Shows) £10**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe  
www.mtishows.co.uk

**JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL HALL**  
 PRIORY ROAD, HUNGERFORD, RG17 0AN  
**Box Office:** Crown Needlework  
 118 High St, Hungerford  
 01488 684011  
[www.hungerfordtheatre.com/buy-tickets](http://www.hungerfordtheatre.com/buy-tickets)

Sponsored by  
HERONGATE CLUB  
  
Be inspired by amateur theatre

**BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Held on Monday 13th January 2020 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall**

See the Brightwalton website for a full copy of the minutes, plus other news and events – [www.brightwalton.org.uk](http://www.brightwalton.org.uk)

**Minutes:** The November meeting minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record. There were no declarations of interest.

**ASPIRE Update:** J Draper has decided to step down as ASPIRE Committee Chair, with S Orpen taking on the role. S Orpen reported that they are very close to getting the permissions required to proceed. A phased approach to the building work is currently being considered. Fundraising - arrangements are being made for the Charity Ball in June and the Quiz Night goes ahead on the 24<sup>th</sup> January.

**PCC Update:** J Draper passed on that all services over the Christmas period went ahead as planned with 150 attending the Christmas Eve Service at Catmore split over the 2 services. J Draper is keen to receive any feedback on this new format.

**WBC Update:** Cllr Hooker submitted a report prior to the meeting including reflections on 2019, the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and the Plastics Recycling Petition. The full report can be downloaded on the Brightwalton village website. In addition, WBC has launched a consultation on their draft Environmental Strategy. Residents are being encouraged to take part and can find the consultation documents at [www.westberks.gov.uk/draftenvironmentstrategy](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/draftenvironmentstrategy). Deadline for response is 21/02.

**Matters Arising: Highways Update - B4494 VAS Proposal:** Following consultations WBC Highways have submitted a proposal for the new Vehicle Activated Sign on the B4494. Due to difficulty obtaining the land required the sign will be positioned on the Brightwalton side of the road, on the bend facing North for traffic heading to Newbury. The warning sign will flash 'Slow Down' and warn of the right-hand turn. It is not possible for the warning to feature the left-hand residential driveways, but Councillors agreed that any warning of the turning was a benefit. Highways had advised that according to Police Guidelines the sign would not activate until a vehicle approached at 57mph. Parishioner and Councillors agreed that this threshold was too high and the sign should activate at 50mph, as anyone travelling at the speed limit needed to be warned of the approaching junction. It was also noted that those narrow lane warning signs near the Crab & Boar activated at around 47mph. The £4,500-£5,000 cost of the project would be covered by S106 money held by WBC. Clerk to go back to Highways with feedback.

**Playing Field Goals:** Councillors agreed on the purchase of a single heavy duty mobile combination goal; like those that West Ilsley use. Clerk noted that there was £1,185 available on the 2019/20 Parish Plan grant, purchase cost was £1,560 requiring £375 contribution from the PC. Agreed funds could come from savings made through the year and contingency put aside for play equipment.

**Memorial Benches:** Several enquires had been received for dedicated memorial benches to replace the tired Silver Jubilee wood and metal benches at the front of the hall. Councillors agreed these should be timber and match the other two memorial benches. Clerk to send full details to the interested parties. PC will cover the cost of installation, donor to cover cost of bench and plaque. Silver Jubilee plaques to be moved to the playground benches.

**Public Rights of Way:** PC had been notified of the Second Consolidated Definitive Map published by WBC. Initial investigation had shown that the public rights of way in the parish had been accurately recorded. No further action required.

**Village Hall Committee:** The Committee had requested the PC's assistance in recruiting new members; S Orpen and S Youldon to meet with Mike Ananin, Chairman, to outline the role and agree action.

**School Parking:** The PC had been copied in on a note to all parents reminding them not to leave their car idling whilst parked outside school as it is illegal. Information flyers had been distributed to parents. No PC action required.

**Brickleton News Articles:** J Boxall has submitted an article on The Holt litter pick working party. S Orpen has submitted article on the Christmas Carol singing. Details of the WBC Environmental Strategy consultation had been forwarded to Mike for inclusion. The ASPIRE quiz night will also be featured. It was noted that a quick turnaround was required on the PC minutes so this edition could be sent to print by 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**Planning: 19/02753/HOUSE** The Old Rectory - Replacement of existing glazing units and secondary glazing insertions with slim-line metal casement and timber units. WBC Granted. **19/02757/HOUSE** The Old Rectory - Installation of a ground source heat pump to provide an environmentally sustainable heating system for The Old Rectory and Coach House. WBC Granted. **19/02656/CERTE** Sheardon, Pudding Lane – Certificate of Lawfulness reference application 15/03083/FULD. PC expressed concerns about the lack of construction to be seen. WBC Granted. **19/02388/HOUSE** Old Trees, Brightwalton – Single storey rear extension and new porch to front. WBC Granted. **19/02398/HOUSE** 46 Brightwalton – Thatch first floor extension, two storey rear extension and dormer window. WBC Granted.

**Finance:** Current account balance as of the 13/01 £5,040.39; business savings account balance £7,859.01. This includes the following transactions: Chq 200048 20/11 Creator of Websites Annual hosting & support £162.00; Chq 200049 20/11 S Youldon Expenses Sept to Nov (Highway Grit) £33.92 (inc. £5.00 VAT); Chq 200050 20/11 Imprint November Brickleton News £65.00; Chq 200051 13/12 Playground Bark £237.60 (inc £39.60); S/O 04/01 S Youldon Oct to Dec Salary £419.04; S/O 04/01 HMRC Q3 PAYE £104.60; Chq 200052 13/01 Donation to PCC.

**Budgeting & Precept:** Clerk presented spending-to-date summary and 2020/21 forecast. 2019/20 spending has been in line with forecasts with a small saving of £230 on forecasted costs of £6,930. 2020/21 forecast showed an increase of basic spending by £393 to £7,323 this included an additional grass cut and clear before the fete, plus money set aside for tree work and weed control in the Old Churchyard. Councillors agreed an increase of 3% in line with inflation to the precept from £6,695 to £6,895, with the small savings made this year carried over to make up the difference. Clerk to submit paperwork to WBC.

**Project Planning:** Councillors debated how the Old Churchyard should be maintained going forward and what the long term goal should be. It was agreed that some reduction of the nettles and general weeds should take place along with the reduction of the lower growth on the front Lime trees affecting the integrity of the stone wall. An allowance of £600 towards this was included in the budget. The majority of the work, however would be done with additional working parties. It was also noted some clearance work was required along the fence line at Brightwalton common - to be covered within a working party. It was agreed that the PC would like to restore the cricket frame and replace the nets, it was thought costs would be minimal. P Swann & M Cooper to investigate. It was also agreed that a second grant application may be made later in the year for a second combination goal post. PC to monitor use before deciding.

**The remaining 2020 Meetings will be held 9<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> May (AGM), 13<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September and the 9<sup>th</sup> November**

Please e-mail contributions to me (Word format preferred) at [bricnews@gmail.com](mailto:bricnews@gmail.com)

**Next Edition Deadline— Wednesday 11 March 2020**

**Enquiries :**

Find Brickleton News and other Village affairs on the Village website [www.brightwalton.org.uk](http://www.brightwalton.org.uk)

Brickleton News is delivered to your door every two months