

At The Village Hall

We are so fortunate to have such a spacious and modern village hall, and a volunteer committee to run it. This year past we have been hit by two very large unexpected but necessary bills, both of them for separate safety requirements. We have had to dig deep into our reserve funds to pay for them. The committee rely on Brightwalton villagers to help and support us in two ways. First, book the hall for an occasion; a party, a wedding, a wake, a birthday celebration or a children's party. Second, actively support our village fete on Sunday 30 April; help to run a stall, help set up marquees, come and spend some money at the many stalls and activities.

Perhaps you can spare some time to help run the hall. Come to our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Monday 20 February at 7.30 pm to hear what is happening. Everyone is welcome to contribute to the hall's continuing regular activities such as the pre-school nursery, dance classes, table tennis, young farmers club, and the soon-to-be announced youth club. Any questions—please contact us by email (see back page). Easy to contact, no commitment!



Save the Date – The Kings Coronation

The Parish Council is planning a Street Party celebration for the Kings Coronation on Sunday 7th May at the playing field. Watch this space for further details!

Why not book your party at the village hall before the AGM (when rates may go up!)

at 2022 rates? £40 children £60 others

2023 Fete Kick Off Meeting

Please do come along to the kick off planning meeting for the:

2023 Brightwalton Fete

Whether you are an old hand or a newcomer, everyone is welcome to attend. We're looking for planners, helpers, stall holders, tea makers, tent erectors, event runners, and anyone just looking to be part of the village.

Whatever you can offer in the way of support, ideas or general help will be gratefully received.

Please do come along on

Tuesday 31st January at 7pm
(in the village hall)

We look forward to seeing you there.

If you can't make it but would still like to be involved, please email or phone me.

The Brightwalton Fete Team

Please feel free to contact me anytime - Dave Judge



Village Roads

After much hassling, West Berkshire Highways have finally agreed to improve the surface on Common Lane and re dig the gullies to improve the drainage. We have also had some pretty major pot holes occurring throughout the village and in the Holt, please do report these on the West Berkshire Council website. Follow the 'Report a Problem' link. All the grit bins have been topped up this winter, please do use on the roads where necessary and if you find any getting low please let the Parish Council know.

Thank you – brightwaltonpc@btinternet.com

First Aid Training

If you are interested in obtaining an 'Emergency First Aid in the Workplace' certificate on Saturday 4th March please get in touch. We have a couple of places remaining. The course will run from 9.30 until 4.30 and cost £55.00. Course covers CPR through to bleeding and choking. The certificate is useful for work or volunteering situations and is valid for 3 years. This would be an excellent opportunity to learn first aid in a small group locally.

Email Sarah for further details – brightwaltonpc@btinternet.com

Revd Miri Keen writes ...

As many of you know I shall be leaving my post as Rector of West Downland at the beginning of March so this is my opportunity to thank all of you who have helped and supported our churches, and me personally, over the last five years.

As someone said to me the other day "You've been here at the weirdest of times", but in many senses I think that it has been the most privileged of times to be a Christian minister. I've experienced the very best in people as we made huge sacrifices in order to safeguard one another. I've seen communities jumping into action to care for neighbours in need. I've stood in the street banging pans for the NHS with fantastic fancy dressers who made each other laugh with their get ups every week, however grim the news. I've shared video assemblies in my kitchen and led services in fields and churchyards. The beauty of the candlelit faces of families at home, on Zoom, with their Christingles will stay with me for ever. I've worked with weddings couples who have salvaged wonderful, intimate marriage services from their original plans and I've prayed with courageous bereaved families saying farewell to loved ones during restrictions on services. And then I've worked with committed professionals in our schools and preschools, and volunteers in our communities to put everything back together again.

After a very busy eighteen months I think we've caught up with the weddings and Christenings that were postponed, but there are still ashes to inter, and hearts and minds to encourage and comfort on their journey to healing. People might say that we've got 'back to normal', but I rather hope that the sense of community that we rediscovered during the pandemic is the real normal. It's that very practical way of living out Jesus' command to "Love your neighbour in the way that you love your own" that will help us all to make peace with the events of the pandemic and to come out the other side of the cost of living crisis.

But supporting our churches through this next phase will be the job of the Churchwardens and your new Rector, once they have been recruited. As Jacinda Ardern put it, resigning from a role far greater than mine, "I've got nothing left in the tank". I need to focus on my own family for a while and so my time to hand on the privilege of travelling with you through the highs and lows of your lives, reminding you that Jesus commands us to love God as well as our neighbour, is now.

I hope that you'll join me on 5th March at 10.30am in Brightwalton Church to remember all that we've experienced together, the joys and the loved ones we've lost, and to celebrate all that we've achieved over the last five years. There will be drinks after the service, and a lunch for those who can stay, so please come. I would love to see you there.

Miri

West Downland United Benefice Service Details for the Coming Month

29th January

10.00am United Benefice Service, held online, via Zoom

5th February

10.00am United Benefice Service, Wickham

12th February

9.00am BCP Holy Communion, Shefford Woodlands

10.30am Morning Praise + Holy Communion, Fawley

19th February

9.00am BCP Holy Communion, Chaddleworth

10.30am Morning Praise + Holy Communion, with Breakfast, Leckhampstead Village Hall

26th February

9.00am BCP Holy Communion, Welford

10.30am Morning Praise + Holy Communion, Brightwalton

5th March

10.00am United Benefice Service & Reverend Miri Keen's Leaving Service, Brightwalton, followed by refreshments in the church and a buffet lunch in the village hall.

We are pleased to offer Zoom from Church for the services, please contact the Benefice Office for joining details –

sarah.westdownland@gmail.com

Details can also be found online at A Church Near You

www.achurchnearyou.com

David Gardiner

Rainfall at Lilley up to December 2022.

With 80 mm of rain, December was a relatively wet month in a rather dry year, but following a very wet November (128mm). Only November and October (91mm) were wetter than December. It was slightly wetter than the 21-year average for December (72.0mm). The Moving Annual Total, which is also the total for the calendar year 2022, has continued to rise from its recent low of 442mm at the end of August 2022, to its year's total now of 594mm. The rainfall for the month was slightly more than the 21-year average for December of 72.0mm. On 21-year average, December is still the third wettest month of the year, behind October (83.9mm) and November (81.2mm).

The rainfall for the calendar year 2022 (594mm) was equal fourth lowest since 2002, equal with 2005 and wetter than 2003 (521mm), 2010 (561mm) and 2011 (586mm).

Olivia Hall Craggs—Remembering the Breadmores

Violet Breadmore 1929 – 1997

Denis Breadmore 1919 – 1998

I submitted this photo of the crab apples near the Village Hall to the Brickleton News as I thought people might like to know why we have the trees there. Six trees were planted in memory of Mr Breadmore in 1998. The Breadmore family were one of several families at the heart of Brightwalton village life.

Denis Frederick William Breadmore was born on 6th July 1919 to Fred and Alice (nee Sprules) Breadmore. The family lived in one of two cottages which stood to the left of Catmore Church. Every day Alice walked to Shefford to do her aunt's clothes washing so Denis was born in Shefford. They moved into the village to no. 44 after Alice's death and Fred's retirement. In 1939 the going price for a thatched cottage in the village – with no electricity and water from the village well – was £39.

Since the age of 18 he'd been training regularly in Wantage Drill Hall with the Territorials. Along with Phil & Arth Sayers, Daniel Moss, Stan Harrison and Ben and Alf Saville he was called up the day before War was declared.

Denis and Violet married in 1944, he was born in Great Shefford and she came from Cirencester. They met at the NAAFI in Southampton, and married in 1944.

After a stretch in Northern Ireland he went out to India, Malaya and Java to serve with the Berkshire Yeomanry. Den and Vi lived in several houses in the village, including Browns Lane and the Common, before moving to be the first tenants in no. 12 Ash Close in 1949. Den drove a lorry for Sayers Transport and buses for Reliance – both companies were based in Brightwalton. In those days Reliance ran a bus service from Wantage to Newbury. Mrs Breadmore had 4 children and was always very involved in village life. She joined the Young Wives (a social group for mums in the village), served teas and sold raffle tickets for the cricket club, started the first youth club and served on the village hall committee. Later she took the village hall bookings. She collected for the British Legion in Newbury and ran a mail order catalogue in the village. She was such a regular blood donor she was recognised with a gold badge.

The Breadmores knew just everything about the recent past of the village. Den would do the remembering, Mrs Breadmore the reminding. He was always about in the street with his dog, pleasant, interested in other people and kindly, especially to the children.

Iris Randle and Daphne Collins collected for Mrs Breadmore, commissioning a wooden gate for the playground. They also did a house to house collection in memory of Denis which gave us the trees and the plaque in the bus shelter at the village hall, 'Friends to Everyone'.



Geoff Greyer writes -

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

I am now a member of the PPG, representing Brightwalton. The Group (only) meets five times a year and the next meeting is scheduled for 8 Feb. at Compton.

I will send a brief summary of the proceedings to Brickleton News for villagers information. You might like to know that Downland Practice no longer does phlebotomy, so if you need a blood test, you will now have to book in to Newbury Hospital.

As you are probably aware, the Practice carried out a survey completed by patients before Xmas and I will be interested to see the results. Of course, I am unable to address any urgent complaints; these should be addressed directly to the Practice.

Dates for your diary:

**Brightwalton Village Hall
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 20 February 7.30 pm**

and also

**BRIGHTWALTON FANTASTIC FETE
SUNDAY, 30 APRIL 2023**

Christmas Carols

The village held a very well attended gathering to sing carols and have a mulled wine and a mince pie or two. The 21st December saw many villagers gather at the church yard around the Christmas tree erected and decorated by the Parish Council. The carols were led by Reverend Miri Keen while refreshments were provided by members of the Parish Council using the new facilities in the church built by the Aspire Project. Through the generous donations of villagers, £176.82 was collected on the evening. This has been split evenly between the West Berks Foodbank and a fund to buy next year's Christmas tree. Thanks must also be given to Jenny for once again supply power to the Christmas tree lights!

See the Brightwalton website for a full copy of the minutes, plus other news and events – www.brightwalton.org.uk

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Declaration of Interests: None

Planning: 23/00043/FUL & 23/00044/LBC Malthouse Cottage, Brightwalton – Section 73: Variation of Condition 3 (Approved Plans) of previously approved application 01/01579/FUL: Proposed extension and replacement garage. Response of No Objection agreed. Applicant gave overview of plans just submitted to replace the greenhouse, shed and add a summer house and gazebo. Plus upgrade windows and replace concrete render with lime. Clerk to circulate application once received.

22/02618/FUL 4 Ash Close, Brightwalton – change of use and renovation / rebuild of an existing garden store/pool room to a self-contained 1-bedroom dwelling ancillary to the main house. Clerk reported that WBC decision still pending

Event Planning: After much discussion on the proximity of the fete and the Coronation weekend and the pros and cons of moving or combining the two, it was agreed that the Fete should take place as usual on the first bank holiday weekend, 30th April, and the Coronation celebration would be held as a separate event on the following weekend. Agreed Coronation would follow a street party theme, similar to the jubilee held last year, this would be on Sunday 7th May at the hall / playing field. SY and one other (tbc) to take lead on planning, with help from all available for the set up. Hall, furniture and gazebos to be booked.

Committee Updates: Village Hall Committee: AGM scheduled for 20th February, 7.15pm

PCC, ASPIRE & Community Coordinator: SO reported that coordinator recruitment decision was pending. Further updates to follow on email. Recent ASPIRE meeting agreed to disband the committee, it was reported that after 7 years they had successfully delivered phase 1, fundraised for the Coordinator role and replaced the organ. Nearly 75% of the funds required to complete phase 2 are in place and grants would continue to be sought, this would be managed by a small team going forward. Reverend Miri Keen's last service will be 5th March in Brightwalton with a leaving lunch being organised for after the service in the village hall.

Matters Arising: Playing Field: Original plan to level the wildflower area the coming weekend cancelled due to the wet weather. Re-scheduled for 11th March. Small team needed. Main working party to go ahead in autumn as usual. Complaint of dog fouling on the field received details passed on for reporting to WBC warden team. Agreed that it seems to be a recurring issue following school holidays.

Highways Update: WBC highways have finally agreed to repair Common Lane, works order awaited. Large pothole reported near the north end of Pudding Lane on Sparrowbill, has already been marked up for repair. Clerk to discuss improving the verge gully cut outs with highways.

First Aid Training: A certificate in Emergency First Aid at Work course has been booked for the 4th March. Cost would be £55 per person. Clerk invoicing attendees, hall booked, notice to go in Brickleton News to advertise the final couple of places.

Review of Carol Service: £88.82 was raised for the West Berkshire Food Bank, this was paid directly into their account, and £88 paid into the PC account for next year's tree. All agreed that this year had been a success and the PC was keen to continue to grow the event. As agreed last meeting, PCC have been asked to let the Yew tree grow, although a long process this would provide a permanent tree to decorate in future years. Addition of hot nibbles agreed for 2023. Costs for mulled wine to come out of the PC general funds. Thank you to Jenny for providing the electricity once again for the tree lights.

Brickleton News Articles: Carol service write up – TW, Coordinator update – SO, First Aid – SY, highways updates – SY

Finance: Current Account £4054.47; Savings Account £7599.11; Community Coordinator Account £13,435.00

Payments / Receipts since the last meeting: 21/12 Imprint – BACS November Brickleton News £77.00; 28/12 S Youldon Oct-December Clerk Wages £514.90; 03/01 £88 paid in and ringfenced for 2023 Christmas Tree; 03/01 HMRC Q3 PAYE £128.60; 12/01 Weebly Hosting Renewal – 2 years £168.00 – Clerk paid online, money paid back to Clerk; 12/01 Arkells mulled wine £120 (exc VAT)

16/01 Cheque from Millennium Green Trust Account written for the PC to transfer the borrowed £100 back to the PC general funds.

General Budget Decisions:

Agreed to return to requesting a £250 contribution for mowing the playing field from the VHC (this had been waived in 2020 and 2021 due to the lower income through Covid lockdowns). Clerk to ask secretary to put to the VH Committee.

Agreed that the playground mowing would be added to the Scofell contract which is the second year of the 2 year fixed agreement, at a cost of £250 per annum.

Agreed that the £300 set aside for planning guidance would continue to be ringfenced for future requirements.

Increase in Brickleton News print costs approved, £77 will be held until March and then printers to submit new quote. Clerk had obtained comparison quotes which were more than the new price.

Continuation of the £250 annual donation to the PCC for the churchyard upkeep agreed.

Decision on when the Parish Plan should be updated deferred to next meeting.

Clerk explained that the internal auditor David Weller was retiring, but had recommended Jacqui Clack to take over, credentials were reviewed and appointment agreed.

Precept: Clerk presented draft budget for consideration, general running costs had continued to rise and were expected to be at £7,665 with another £340 set aside for the wildflower planting and telephone box projects. Agreed a 4% increase to the precept was required to meet the running costs. Equating to a precept of £7,753, or £44.15 per year for a Band D house, a £1.70 rise from last year. Agreed that we need to be very aware of rising maintenance costs. It was also noted how much the PC saved by carry out so much maintenance through working parties and Councillors taking on tasks themselves, consideration on how this should continue, considering the limited number of volunteers and time given. Clerk to submit Precept request.

Clerk Reports & Any Other Business:

Climbing Frame: Clerk to pass on thanks to Councillor Clive Hooker for his support on the climbing frame maintenance grant. Work on the frame would be complete this week.

Doctor Surgery Feedback: Geoffrey Grayer had requested to represent Brightwalton village at the Downlands Patient Participation Group, his contact details will be published in the next Brickleton News.

WBC Local Plan: The opening WBC Local Plan Consultation is due at the end of January, Clerk explained that this is where we will see the changes WBC are proposing on the development boundaries – additional meeting may be required.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

The 2023 Meeting will be held: 13th March, 15th May, 17th July, 11th September, 13th November at 7.30pm