



## Thank you Mike !

This edition of the Brickleton News marks the end of Mike Ananin's marathon stint (nearly nineteen years!) as editor. His tenure has seen many changes in the village, but what has remained constant is his dedication to the village and the community, and the countless hours he has volunteered for the newsletter, village hall and many other undertakings. Whilst he will still very much be involved in village life he is taking a well-earned step back from the limelight. So 'Thank You' Mike from the village for contributing to keeping the sense of community alive and information flowing – you've left big shoes to fill and as the new editor I will do my best to uphold the standards that you and your predecessors have set. Whilst the editorship has changed, contact info for the newsletter remains the same – [bricnews@gmail.com](mailto:bricnews@gmail.com) Richard Wilson

### Moving on.....by Mike Ananin

I have been Brickleton News editor for over eighteen years and whilst I still enjoy the activity I am happy that it is time to move on to new projects and hand over the editor role to Richard Wilson, who, like me, has lived in the village for thirty years. I have found it quite rewarding to be part of the village administration, and I get to meet people I wouldn't normally meet in our quiet village. Despite the march of the internet the newsletter is still a handy source for village items and events (such as the fete) and, being printed, it can be pinned to a noticeboard. During my editorship I have tried to encourage an interest in the history of the village, and as I bow out I offer a collection of Brickleton News issues dating back to 1995 to anyone who'd like to preserve the more recent history for future generations. Thank you.



### Charity race night – The Ibex

April 11<sup>th</sup> (Details below) - Hosted by former landlord and National Hunt jockey Colin Brown. Colin rode over 400 winners, including 17 wins on Desert Orchid. Book your tickets directly with the pub.



**Charity Race Night**  
Supporting **BERKSHIRE YOUTH**

**Hosted by Legendary National Hunt Jockey Colin Brown.**  
Sat 11th April, 2026  
7.00pm  
£20 a ticket includes curry supper at **The Ibex, Chaddleworth, RG20 7ER.**  
**Book a table 01488 639052**

Individuals welcome - come along and join the fun or book a table with friends!  
Cash Bets please / £5.00 per race.

## Come Along to the Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Brightwalton's Annual Parish Meeting is being held on **Monday 11th May at 7.30pm in Brightwalton Village Hall**, and all residents are warmly invited to come along.

This is an opportunity for you to share your own thoughts and ideas. If there's something you'd like to ask about, suggest, or see improved in Brightwalton, this is the perfect forum to raise it. Whether it's village services, facilities, events, or ideas for new projects or improvements, the Parish Council want to hear your views. The meeting is informal and open to everyone who lives in the parish. Come along, listen in, ask a question, or share a suggestion. Councillors are always keen to hear residents' perspectives on what's working well in the village and what could be done differently, so please do join us if you can.

### Thank You for Repairing the Noticeboard!

A big 'thank you' to the kind person who recently repaired the damaged noticeboard near The Green. It was very thoughtful of someone to take the initiative and fix it so quickly, and their proactive response is very much appreciated by the Parish Council. If the person responsible happens to read this, please accept our sincere thanks – small acts like this really are a great example of the community spirit that makes Brightwalton such a special place.

### Your Brickleton News....needs YOU!

*What do you want to see in Brickleton News? Do you have a story that would be of interest to the community? Have you got an unusual job, hobby or interest that you want to share with the village, have achieved something notable (sporting or otherwise) or been involved in a newsworthy event? Send your views, ideas or stories for consideration for future issues to [bricnews@gmail.com](mailto:bricnews@gmail.com)*

### Brightwalton Church closure update

All Saints, Brightwalton is currently closed until approximately mid-May while exciting building works take place to create a community room in the vestry. This is Phase 3 of the Aspire Project and will create a fantastic new space for the community. The Benefice will let everyone know when the church is open again and the space is available. Please note there will be no church services in Brightwalton during the building works.




**HELLO SPRING**


Join us on  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 10am**  
 for the annual  
**VILLAGE SPRING TIDY**







Meet at 10am around the  
**Village Hall for litter picking  
 and tidying the  
 Old Churchyard**

Litter pickers available but please bring black  
 sacks and gloves  
 Enquiries to  
[clerk@brightwalton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brightwalton-pc.gov.uk)



# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026



 <p><b>Palm Sunday</b></p> <p><b>9am Holy Communion</b> Sheffield Woodlands</p> <p>Holy Communion &amp; lively hosannahs with the blessing of our Palm Crosses and including the reading of The Passion.</p> <p><b>10:30 Holy Communion</b> Leckhampstead</p> <p>Starting at the Village Green and processing to the church (Hopefully with Trevor the Donkey with our Palm Crosses for a service of Holy Communion.</p>	 <p><b>Monday to Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>7pm Monday</b> Wickham</p> <p>Candlelit Evening Prayer</p> <p><b>9:30am Tuesday</b> Chaddleworth</p> <p>Said Holy Communion.</p> <p><b>7pm Tuesday</b> Fawley</p> <p>Candlelit Evening Prayer</p> <p><b>7pm Wednesday</b> Chaddleworth</p> <p>Said Holy Communion by candlelight.</p>	 <p><b>Maunder Thursday</b></p> <p><b>7pm Bring and share meal, The Last Supper and The Watch</b> Welford</p> <p>We will gather at 7pm for a bring and share suppe, remembering Jesus' last meal with his friends, and sharing Holy Communion around the table.</p> <p>After this has completed, we will move towards the front of the church as our attention switches to the Garden of Gethsemane and the church is stripped as we prepare for The Watch.</p>	 <p><b>Good Friday</b></p> <p><b>10:30 am All Age Easter Celebration</b> Great Sheffield</p> <p>A fun-filled celebration of the Easter story with crafts, making hot cross buns, food, singing and designing this year's Easter Garden.</p> <p><b>2pm The Last Hour</b> Wickham</p> <p>A traditional service of Readings and Hymns at the foot of The Cross. This service will end in silence at 3pm.</p>	 <p><b>Easter Eve</b></p> <p><b>7pm Celebrating the Light</b> Leckhampstead</p> <p>Gather around the fire pit and enjoy a bowl of chilli (Vegetarian and gluten free options available) as we wait for the sun to set. Then, in the dark church, we will begin our contemporary Easter Celebrations as the Easter Candles for each parish are lit from the fire and fill the church with the light of Easter.</p>	 <p><b>Easter Day</b></p> <p><b>9am Easter Holy Communion</b> Fawley</p> <p>Our Benefice Easter Day Holy Communion Service with joyful Easter hymns and the Hallelujah Chorus!</p> <p><b>10:30 Easter Holy Communion with Baptism</b> Great Sheffield</p> <p>Suitable for All Ages, this joyful Easter celebration will include Holy Communion</p>
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IN THE WEST DOWNLAND BENEFICE

## Patient Participation Group – The Downland Practice

The last meeting of the PPG was held on 4th February 2026 at which we discussed the following:

- The NHS App drop in sessions will hopefully be arranged later this year, so do e-mail me if you would be interested in attending a session to learn about using the NHS App.
- There is a lot of restructuring and reorganisation talk within the NHS at the moment, they are looking at restructuring NHS areas into larger ones based on patient numbers. It is a case of the usual government talk but few specifics, this does however leave our GP practice not sure what their future contracts will be as well as how they may fit into a new structure, which is naturally unsettling for the staff and makes future planning very difficult for them.
- During Spring the practice will be organising for patients to have their required boosters for Covid, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), Shingles and Pneumococcus. There will also be the MMRV vaccine for children, this is the Measles/Mumps/Rubella and Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine. The practice will be notifying all those eligible for these vaccinations so no need to contact them, they will contact you.
- Plans for the dispensing machine at the Compton Surgery, to streamline prescription collection, are progressing well.
- Please be aware that over the Easter holidays the practice will be closed on the two bank holidays – Good Friday the 3rd April and Easter Monday the 6th April.
- We again discussed that we need more members on the PPG so please do consider joining us. We have 5 meetings a year, approximately an hour each, so it is not an onerous commitment, of course you can always do more if you want to. Do contact me if interested. [jill.ppg@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.ppg@btinternet.com)

## World Book Day at Brightwalton School

Brightwalton School celebrated World Book Day earlier this month with a special 'Masked Reader' event plus a visit from children's book author Debi Evans (photos right)



## Downland Volunteer Group 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch

The Downland Volunteer Group celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by holding a buffet lunch in Compton Village Hall on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Among the guests were four pupils from The Downs School and the Deputy Headmaster, in recognition of the social service project held in the school in 1984 which resulted in the DVG being formed in January 1986. Also in attendance was Mrs Deb Jeffs, a co-founder and the first Chairperson of the DVG. Over the last 40 years the DVG has enabled Downland residents to attend their medical appointments as there isn't a very regular public transport service available. In addition, the DVG operates the HandeBus service, a 12-seater all electric community transport vehicle which enables the more senior members of the community to go shopping and visit places of interest in the area. Also, the DVG also runs a monthly Lunch Club for older residents in the Compton area.

Among the guests at this buffet lunch were doctors from the Downland surgery with whom we are closely involved, District Councillors and many volunteers both from the past and the present who have given their time for free to support our community over the last 40 years

In our last financial year, we made 1337 trips for residents to attend their medical appointments. With the continued demand for our service we are always looking to recruit new volunteers who could spend a few hours a month supporting the Downland community.

To contact us: Email: [dvg.office@btinternet.com](mailto:dvg.office@btinternet.com)

Phone 01635 578394 (Between 9.30am-11.30am Monday -Friday) Web: [downlandvolgroup.org](http://downlandvolgroup.org)

## Pothole Patrol

Along with the displays of vibrant daffodils around the village, we are experiencing what seems to be a bumper crop of spring potholes in the surrounding roads this year, with the associated risk of damage to cars or injury to cyclists.

The Parish Council would like to encourage everyone to report local potholes to West Berkshire Council. Potholes can only be filled in if WBC are aware of them, and the more reports they get, hopefully the quicker they will be repaired !(?) Details of the criteria and how to report potholes can be found at [www.westberks.gov.uk/reportapothole](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportapothole)



(Image created with Google Gemini)

## **Brightwalton Parish Council Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Councillors Present: Cllr Annie Agnew, Cllr Mike Cooper, Cllr Christine Delahunty, Cllr Damien Goatley, Cllr Sue Sayers and Cllr Tim Wyatt (Chairman)

### **District Council Update**

District Councillor Clive Hooker reported that West Berkshire Council has agreed a 4.99% increase in council tax, reflecting significant financial pressure from rising welfare costs. The Council has also requested a £160 million loan from central government, repayable over four years. An external review of the District Council's financial management highlighted some concerns with certain projects. The future of the proposed solar farm at Grazeley remains uncertain, which could impact the Council's net zero targets.

Councillor Hooker also highlighted the importance of residents joining the housing register if they wish to be considered for local housing allocations. Councillors discussed ongoing efforts to ensure local homes are allocated in line with local connection agreements.

The Leckhampstead Pop-Up Library looks likely to continue operating during 2026/27.

### **Youth Club and Community Activities**

Community Coordinator Katherine Moore reported on recent youth club activities. A session held at the Waterside Centre in Newbury was well received, made possible by a grant from The Saunders Wynn & Coventry Education Foundation.

New activities such as kayaking and graffiti art workshops are also being explored. Looking ahead, the youth club will change its schedule from 2027. Weekly sessions between January and Easter will pause due to traditionally low winter attendance, although occasional trips and special sessions will still take place. Regular weekly meetings will resume after the Easter school holidays when evenings are lighter.

A request was presented for funding towards adding wheels to pews to create more flexible space for community events at All Saints Church, through the ASPIRE (All Saints Project In Reaching Everyone) project. This will be considered further when final costs are known.

### **Village Maintenance and Facilities**

Several improvements have recently been completed at the recreation ground and play area. Fencing at the entrance to the field has been reset, the play area fence has been replaced and a replacement football goal net is on order. Councillors also approved a new five-year compliance and maintenance programme for the play area to ensure equipment remains safe and well maintained.

Two dead trees in the Old Churchyard have been identified and will be removed, with expenditure of £650 approved for this work.

Councillors are also looking at installing anti-slip grips on the play area's "wobbly bridge" to enhance safety.

### **Village Events and Volunteering**

Residents are invited to take part in the annual **Village Spring Tidy** on Sunday 19th April, meeting at 10am. Volunteers will help clear fallen branches in the Old Churchyard and carry out litter picking around the village.

The council will also assess whether any maintenance work may be required at the War Memorial, and explore potential grant funding to support this, so any suggestions of maintenance or enhancements are welcomed.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 11th May 2026** following the **Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm, at Brightwalton Village Hall.**

Enquiries and contributions to [bricnews@gmail.com](mailto:bricnews@gmail.com) **Next Edition Deadline— Wednesday 16 May 2026**

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

Brightwalton Parish Council pays for the Brickleton News printing but is not responsible for the editing or content. It is delivered to your door every two months.