

Fete Accompli!

Brightwalton is a small village which achieves great things! On 30 April the main event of the year to start the season, the Fete proved where there is a will, there is a way, and the people of Brightwalton certainly showed they can organise. A Fete Committee led by Dave Judge gathered an impressive number of items to make the Fete go with a swing. A pre-fete party the evening before was very popular. Wantage Silver Band started proceedings followed by Peasemore Ukelele and Garston Gallopers.

Meanwhile the dog show took centre stage and various side stalls kept visitors interested. The barbecue and a well-organised bar were very popular! Football kept energetic people active with the tournament. The trip to the bluebells was sold out. Towards the end we were entertained with a delightful display by young (some very young) Releve dancers and an excellent Maypole Dance by Brightwalton schoolchildren.

The raffle and a grand tug-of-war rounded off an excellent occasion. A very big thanks to everyone who made such a big effort to contribute.



Sorry you missed this one, but watch out on Facebook for more.



Summer Events at Brightwalton Church

Monday 29th May 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Cantemus Chamber Choir Open Rehearsal
Come along and listen to the choir's rehearsal for their summer concert and enjoy a cuppa with them during their break.

Wednesday 5th July 4pm

Brightwalton and Chaddleworth & Shefford Primary Schools Choir Concert
Come along to support the children, tea and biscuits at the end!

Thursday 13th July 6pm

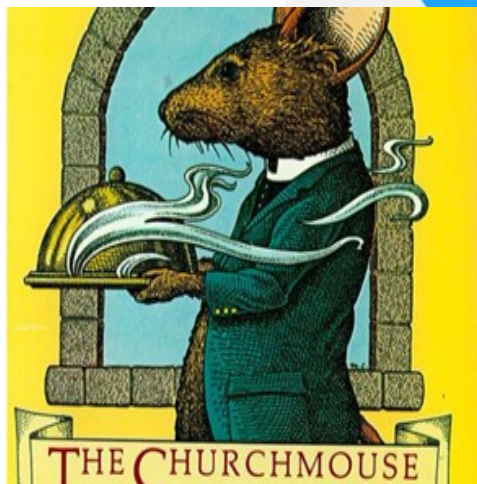
Our resident Organ Player, Judith Orpen, will be playing a variety of music on the church organ.

Brightwalton Church Bells open session date tbc

Further June Concerts date tbc

Flower Festival date tbc

Email Katherine brightwaltoncommunity@gmail.com to be kept up to date with any activities in the village.



Come and join us for a warming homemade soup lunch and fresh bread at Brightwalton Church on Monday 19th June and Monday 17th July, drop in anytime between 12pm to 2pm.

We have a visit from Barrie of Reliance Motor Services coming up soon, date tbc

On behalf of the Parish, the Parish Council thanks Shaun for his commitment and leadership over the last 10 years.

Shaun stepping down now leaves the Parish Council with a Casual Vacancy.

Would you like to be part of the Parish Council serving the community, representing the views of local people and helping to make a difference to all those around you?

If so, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to know more, please speak to one of the Parish Councillors or Sarah, Parish Clerk on brightwaltonpc@btinternet.com or 07811 322994.

We would like to fill the seat at the July meeting so ask for applications to be with the Clerk no later than the 12th July.

2022 – 2023 Parish Council Chairmans Report

If I look back over the 10 years that I have been Chairman of the Parish Council, I feel proud of the great team of Councilors we have, what they have achieved and the sense of Community Spirit they bring to the role. This is my last year that I will be reporting back to you.

As always it has been a busy year for the village. The highlights of the year have been :

The appointment of Katherine Moore into the new role of Brightwalton Village Co-ordinator. Having raised the funding for a 2 year project as part of the ASPIRE programme, we were delighted to welcome Katherine into this new role. Within her first three months she has launched a Youth Club drawing in 18 primary school aged children. The Church Mouse Soup Kitchen is live and being run by Diane Widborne and Sue Sayers. So far 3 Soup lunches have been hosted. There is lots more being planned including several concerts, craft activities and sales, most of which are making good use of the new kitchen and area at the back of the church.

We had a wonderful turnout for the Jubilee picnic on the playing field and the Coronation picnic more recently.

This picture of the pre-fete party sums up the strength of the community in Brightwalton. This was a lovely informal evening that marked the start of another very successful village fete – all run by volunteers from the village.



The fabric of the village has been well maintained this year with updates to the playground, highway improvements on Common Lane, and new Cricket nets in place.

The one project that is proving challenging, which we feel is a vital asset for the village longer term is to continue to push forward on extending the reach of higher-speed Broadband coverage. At the time of writing the project is on hold whilst we wait to find out if we are included in the next phase of central government funding. We hope for more progress next year.

Finally in terms of finances for the year. Against a total income of £11,900 which included grants for the play equipment, we have managed to stay within £20 of our budget thanks to the excellent stewardship of Sarah our Parish Clerk. We were also able to make good use of the £1,700 of Community Infrastructure Levy funds carried over from last year to help complete the projects and avoid using further Parish Council savings.

Invariably costs are expected to rise again in the coming year, however we have managed to keep the precept increase to 4%.

As we look forward, I am delighted to hand over the reins of the Chairman's post to Tim Wyatt. Tim has been an active member of the Parish Council since 2017 and for the last 6 months has been Vice Chair. A significant feather in the cap of Brightwalton is that West Berkshire Council Community Team have already been in touch with us to use the Village Co-ordinator model as best practice to potentially be rolled out to other parishes. This together with a review of the Parish Plan is a good place for Tim to take over and start a new phase.

Shaun Orpen



I have signed up to host Tea for Trussell in June, please check their website to find out about the important work they do in the local communities; <https://www.trusselltrust.org/>

The date is tbc and I would be grateful if you would be able to drop me a line if you are able to help in any way either by baking in advance or serving on the day!

This is the link to the fundraising page that I have set up for us.

<https://trusselltrust.enthuse.com/pf/katherine-moore/post/3357370>

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday September 9th.

WHY? It's the annual Ride & Stride event!

This national event happens every year across the country. Any mode of transport is fine – you could walk, cycle, ride – simply choose a route and find lots of sponsorship from all your friends and family, perhaps every person in your congregation could sponsor you?

You can go by yourself or in a group, any time between 10am and 6pm and many people make a day of it. There are so many wonderful and interesting churches to visit, many will be open and offering refreshments too.

There is also the Daphne Barnes-Phillips trophy which is awarded to the most successful church each year – this is a splendid silver cup which is still resting with St Peter's Woolhampton as they raised the most sponsorship in 2022.

Your nominated church will benefit hugely as they will receive half of your sponsorship. The remaining 50% goes to Berkshire Historic Churches Trust which in turn makes generous grants to churches in need.

More details will be provided closer to the event from your local co-ordinator or from the BHCT Ride & Stride website

<http://www.berkchurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride>

Prue Matchwick

Berkshire Ride & Stride Co-ordinator

Geoff Greyer sent this email just before the fete. Unfortunately, he has since died at his bungalow at Southend. He contributed several articles in the past to Brickleton News about astronomy and also about his pet visiting destination, Faringdon Folly Tower. Geoff frequently appeared at social events, and often complained to me about the lack of these in the village. He would certainly have been at the village party before the fete as he enjoyed his beer. He lived alone in a bungalow and for many years kept a tall antenna for communication around the world with radio hams. He was also a keen sports car fan.

We don't know if his position as representative at the Downland Practice will be filled.

On Wednesday, April 19, I attended my second meeting of the Downlands Practice Patient Participation Group, at Compton Surgery.

1) After a short survey, it has been decided to proceed with acquiring an automatic dispensing machine for medicines, which will be installed in the wall of the surgery at Chieveley, with 24/7 access. Patients who use it will need a mobile 'phone to obtain the access code. However, the cost will be approximately £40k, so funding sources are being investigated. So don't expect this to be available for some time!

2) I raised some matters regarding problems at the Dispensary; Dr. Cave admitted that it was impossible to know exactly what medications they had in stock.

3) Blood tests: As previously announced, these are no longer done at the surgery, because there is no funding from the NHS to do this. The waiting list at the Newbury Community Hospital has been many weeks. This has reduced somewhat recently, but the hospital is reported to be making phlebotomists redundant! The Practice will be protesting to the local NHS Trust, hopefully with the support of other local Practices via the Patient Panel (a multi-Practice group).

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STUART BREADMORE

It is with such great sadness we learnt that Stuart Breadmore passed away over Easter.

His links with Brightwalton go back to when he came down from Scotland as a boy to live with his grandparents, Violet and Den Breadmore, in Ash Close. The village was his home, a home he loved very much and where he and Rachel brought up their children, Michael and Heather, who are now grown up and have moved to their new lives and families, but always hold Brightwalton as home.

Stuart took a personal pride in the village and for many years he cared for the churchyard, mowing the grass and keeping the graveyard tidy and looked after, along with Rachel's grave, where he will finally settle. He had respect for the church and put in a lot of time and effort, along with Michael who helped with this weekly commitment.

Until very recently, Stuart kindly mowed the playpark and surrounding areas. Again, taking trouble over it, he took pride in what he did, holding himself to his own high standards. Stuart was a man who truly cared and these areas were in very safe hands.

Stuart was genuine and loyal - and with a very loud laugh! He will be missed.

We are now into our busy time. The crops have been drilled and had fertiliser on plus they had some sprays put on. The crops look well but due to it being wet there is a big black grass problem hence having to spray. Black grass can spread very quickly if not controlled and



is allowed to become widespread in a crop, can reduce yields. You can see the blackgrass in this picture.

We have also at last turned the cows and calves out.

We were late doing this due to the wet and cold weather. The calves would struggle in the wet and also they cut the grass up so it ends up looking like a ploughed field. Anyway they are happy now but we do have a couple that we are supplement feeding as their Mums don't have enough milk for them. We

have also had our first cut of silage so that is now safely in the clamp. Fertiliser has been put on to encourage growth for the next cut.



MONDAYS 5.30PM TO 6.30PM

15/05/23, 22/05/23, 05/06/23, 12/06/23, 19/06/23, 26/06/23, 03/07/23, 10/07/23, 17/07/23

BRIGHTWALTON VILLAGE HALL

FREE FRUIT EACH SESSION, TUCK SHOP, GAMES & CRAFT ACTIVITIES

EMAIL: brightwaltoncommunity@gmail.com



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ALL THE FUN OF THE FETE





BRIGHTWALTON CELEBRATES THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III



**BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AT THE JULY MEETING**

ISSUE 247

Meeting Held on Monday 15th May 2023 7.30pm in Brightwalton Village Hall

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

Parish Meeting

Chairman's summary – see article: Thanks to Shaun for his 10 years of commitment to the Parish Council were noted.

Community Coordinator: Katherine had apologised for not being able to make the meeting, due to Youth Club and sent over the following report: *Youth club - 1st splat session (specialist activity session run by Berkshire Youth) is on Monday and also the Newbury Weekly News are coming along to interview the children and take photos etc. Craft session/sale – organised for 20th May. Concerts - We have Cantemus Chamber Choir booked in for their open rehearsal, school choirs and organ concert. I am hoping to arrange a bell ringing extravaganza, details to follow. Looking at possible house/garden tour with cream tea possibility. Also hoping to start up salsa classes in the hall soon. Working on a Flower Workshop – hopefully for June time. No takers so far on the Open Gardens so will leave that one for now.*

Soup lunches are running well with thanks to Sue and Diana. We've got the next 2 bookings for short talks arranged. May look at providing kids activities for the summer holidays.

Also added that Katherine is in communication with West Berkshire Council Community team who are keen to learn more on how well this is working in the hope Brightwalton can inspire other communities with our example.

Village Hall Update: Apologies received from Anna with the following report:

VHC has thanked Dave Judge and the fete team for a very successful fete. There are still a few final figures to finalise but we have raised over £6000 which has significantly helped the hall's funds. The fete is central to the village hall's funds and we thank everyone in the village for turning out to make it a really enjoyable as well as valuable event. SY to follow up on update of constitution documents

Annual General Meeting

Chairman: TW was nominated, seconded and accepted the role of Chairman. Agreed no Vice Chair required at this stage.

Declaration of Interests: None. Councillors reminded to notify Clerk of any changes to their Declaration of Interest forms.

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

Acceptance of Office & Vacancy: All councillors signed the acceptance of office form. SY to return to WBC. Discussed process for filling the vacant seat. SY to put notices on boards, in Brickleton News and website, Councillors to ask around. Eligibility criteria including need to have been on the Electoral role or employed in Parish for a minimum of a year discussed, details included in advert. Aim to co-opt at the July meeting.

Finances - 2022/23 Accounts

Internal auditors report reviewed and agreed. SY to action the updated Code of Conduct. No matters of concern raised.

Councillors reviewed the Annual Governance statement and Accounting Statements, agreed and signed off. SY explained that as the income had gone over the £25,000 threshold, due to the Coordinator fundraising the Accounts would also be reviewed by the external auditor at a cost of £250. SY to submit completed documents, upload and display notices.

Council asset list reviewed and approved. SY to post online.

Policies and Procedures – Councillors agreed the updated document, SY to review the Code of Conduct and update in line with the auditor's recommendations. Updated policies to be posted online. Confirmed that the Youth Club policies and procedures had been prepared and were filed with the Youth Club in line with Berkshire Youth's recommendations. Risk Assessment approved, update to be posted online.

Income & Expenditure since March meeting: As of the 15th March, Current Account Balance £6,690.69. Clerk reported the following transactions since the March Meeting:

16/03 Respond First Aid Training £378.80; 20/03 Contribution for mowing from the village hall £250; 28/03 HMRC PAYE Q4 £128.80; 28/03 Clerk Salary Q4 £514.70; 28/03 Imprint Brickleton News £77.00; 29/03 TP Jones Annual Payroll Administration £85.92 (inc VAT); 29/03 WBC Bins £27.95 (inc VAT); 05/05 Scofell April Mowing £260.05 (inc VAT); 05/05 Playsafety playground inspection £94.20 (inc VAT); 03/05 Transfer Youth Club Payments taken on Sum Up £134.54; 05/05 Precept Payment £3,876.50; Payments authorised: HALC membership £86.17 and Internal Auditor fee £90.00. Savings Account Balance £7,608.54 includes £9.43 interest payment 01/03. Community Coordinator Account Balance £12,909.59. Following transactions since the March meeting – payment of coordinators March hours and expenses £179.36 and April £236.37. Soup kitchen expenses £47.48, Benefice reimbursement for DBS check £42.79 and transfer from current account youth club payments £134.54. Agreed AA would replace SO as a signatory on the bank mandates.

Matters Arising

Playground Report: Clerk pleased to report that recent works had brought the playground up to date, only two minor tasks noted, can be included in working party tasks.

Signage on Ash Close: Suggestion made that 'Slow! Children playing' notices would be useful on Ash Close. All agreed it was nice to see children out playing in the centre of village but with the bends agreed warnings signs would help slow traffic. SY to order 2 x A3.

Village Notice Board Repair: Quote of £180 accepted for new post, digging out and concreting in. SY to instruct.

West Berkshire Local Plan: SY distributed the comments from the Planning Policy team reference the Settlement Boundary feedback provided over a year ago. Some points the PP team had agreed with and others not. The draft is now with the Government for final review. All agreed that this would be worth referencing in the Parish Plan update, which is plan for review later this year.

Brickleton News May Articles: SY to submit Chairmans report along with the AGM minutes and vacancy notice. TW to submit notice on slow signs and Ash Close. Mike including the submitted April Patient Participation Group report from the late Geoffrey Grayer, together with paragraph in his memory. SY to ask about paragraph for the late Stuart Breadmore.

Budget allowed for a double May edition to include fete photos.

Tree on Brightwalton Common: It was noted that a branch had fallen on one of the young Horse Chestnut at the Common. Initial quote received to pollard, but all agreed that as tree isn't looking healthy, would be best to remove. SS to make enquiries.

Village Signage: Noted that a number of the 30mph signs around the village are now damaged, plus one of the Fingerpost signs on the B4494 is down and another at The Green. SY to speak to WBC Highways

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

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

bricnews@gmail.com

Next Edition Deadline— Wednesday 19 July 2023

Enquiries : Mike A 07867614480

Find Brickleton News and other Village affairs on the Village website 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