



Issue 232

November 2020

Brickleton News

POWER CUTS

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) has done a survey of the high voltage electricity network feeding Brightwalton and have identified refurbishment works we need to carry out to improve the electricity network and reduce the risk of power cuts in the future. In order for our teams to safely complete these works it may be necessary to organise some **Planned Power Cuts**. If this is the case, we will notify affected customers and businesses in advance. Since the start of the pandemic, we know our customers have relied on us more than ever to provide a safe and secure supply of electricity to their homes. All work we carry out will be reviewed and planned in line with Government guidance and to ensure residents are without power for the shortest time necessary.

The work will involve Tree Cutting and Network Improvements, as appropriate, which will help us to improve the reliability of the electricity supply to you for the future. The safety of our customers and employees is at the heart of all we do, and we would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Information on how to register for **Priority Services** can be found on the village website or email Clerk on brightwaltonpc@btinternet.com for further details.

From Marion Walker:

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We raised **£2,853. 59**

That is a fantastic figure thanks to your generosity and the great efforts of a small band of volunteer collectors. Thank you everyone for your support.



Sir Philip Wroughton

Sir Philip Wroughton died recently. Sir Philip, one time Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, lived at Woolley Park just a mile from Brightwalton, and was active in several aspects of our village.

A full obituary will appear in January's edition of Brickleton News

From Lizzie Harris:

I work in the office at Woolley Park and was wondering whether I could advertise our pheasant and partridge breasts in the Brickleton News.

FRESH VACUUM PACKED PARTRIDGE AND PHEASANT BREASTS

PARTRIDGE-8 IN A PACK : PHEASANT-4 IN A PACK
£5 A PACK OR—PARTRIDGE AND PHEASANT IN THE FEATHER FOR FREE

Birds in the feather will need to be prepared. Birds must not be re-sold.
All products may contain shot.

PLEASE CONTACT

WOOLLEY ESTATE OFFICE

01488 638 835



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR?

We are all hopeful and optimistic that our lives will soon be back to normal. The Village Hall is ticking over nicely, currently being used only by the Pre-school Nursery. In the new year, there will be an opportunity for someone to take on the post of Chairman. No experience is required. Just some enthusiasm. There is a wonderful team on the Committee to deal with many aspects. Or, you might like to run the booking system—again far from onerous as there are only a few general bookings a year. Come and join us!

Interested? Please get in touch. (see last page for contact details).



Three lovely Ash Trees on the road to Woolley have been felled due to Die-back Disease. And what a beautiful job the tree surgeons made of it!



Charlotte Orpen is currently working at Microsoft for her internship this year and is running an initiative called DigiGirlz. She is trying to get 11-14 year old girls to sign up for FREE Tech workshops.

Microsoft DigiGirlz Virtual Events for 11-14 year olds

Microsoft DigiGirlz is a global initiative that helps to spread awareness of the opportunities available to girls within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) industries.

We aim to help improve gender diversity by dispelling stereotypes and myth busting. This year due to Covid-19 we offer a virtual portfolio of events.

These events are all FREE and help to inspire girls to look into STEM related subjects for their studies and future careers, through interactive workshops and keynote speakers.

This year we have created a new after school club run by the Microsoft Experience centre. These run bi-weekly from 5:00-6:30pm, with the next event starting on the 10th November. It is a free, virtual, open-enrolment event focused on girls aged 11-14.

Each club is structured around hands-on sessions making games or apps, Q&A with seasoned pros, and an exploration of the hottest new tech out today.

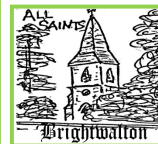
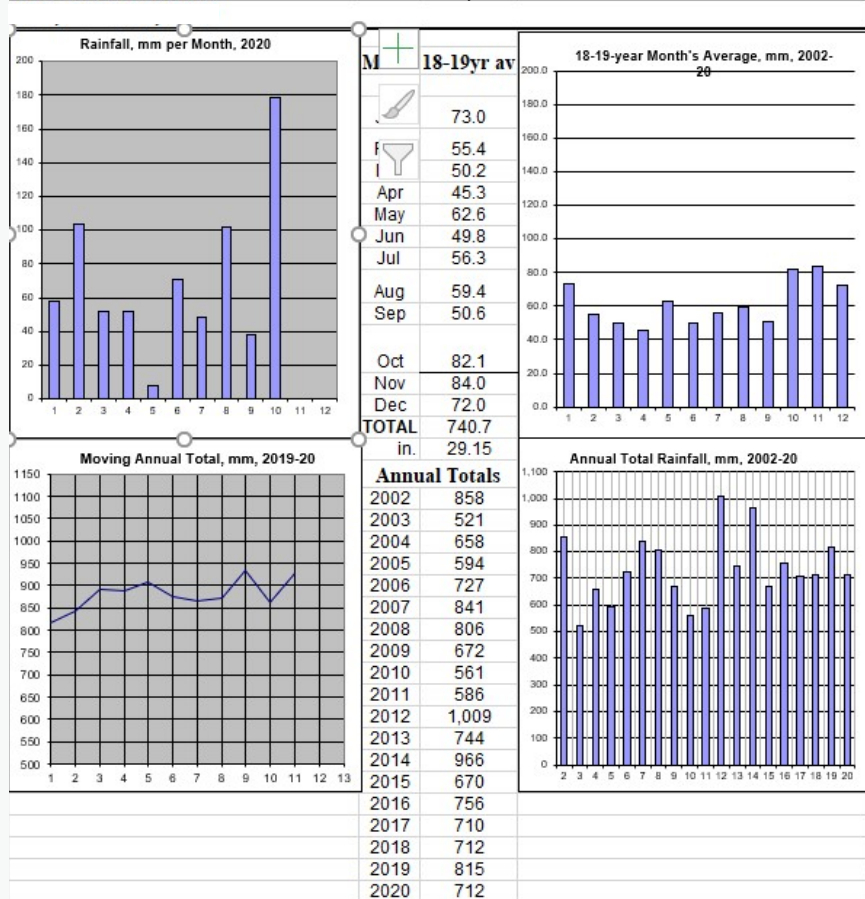
Register at aka.ms/digigirlzldn or if you would like to find out more please visit our website or email ukdg@microsoft.com

O.oooooooooh Noah, Didn't Rain!

From DAVID GARDINER

With 179mm of rain, October was not just a wet month. It was an exceptionally wet month. It was not just the wettest October in my records. It was the third wettest of any month since I started keeping records in 2002, beaten only by January 2014 (187mm) and November 2002 (180mm). There were 21 days in the month with measurable rain. These included 3 named storms, Storm Alex (named by the French), storm Barbara (named by the Spanish) and Storm Aiden (named by the Irish). For us, Storm Alex was the most severe, with 101mm of rain over the 3 days 2nd-4th October. For a huge downpour in a short space of time, this was beaten by 109mm in one day, on 20th July 2007, that month having only 174mm. The 19-year average for October has now come up to 82.1mm, which is still below the 18-year average for November, the wettest month on average with 84.0mm. The Moving Annual Total has come sharply upwards to 928mm. Whether this upward trend will continue in November remains to be seen, with the very wet month of November 2019 (111mm) falling out of the calculation.

Rainfall at Lilley 2020



FROM MIRI

I had a few huge fruit left on my rose hedge so I made rosehip syrup yesterday.

It's a thorny and messy business like bramble jelly making but with the added risk of making 'itching powder' because the little hairs in the rosehip can cause irritation to the skin! But my morning porridge was transformed this morning by a spoonful of sweet floral syrup packed with vitamin C!

In a sense the last couple of Sundays, All Souls Day and Remembrance Sunday, have also been about transforming the messy business of loss, and the thorny memories of war, so that we can find calm and healing, and preserve peace for the future. I hope that in time we'll be able to do something similar with our experiences of the coronavirus pandemic. Although we all hope that we'll be able to return to 'normal life' soon let's make sure that we preserve the sweetnesses and values of the lockdown, especially kindness amongst neighbours and the dedication of carers, NHS workers, vaccine researchers, shop workers, teachers and school staff, and all those who continue to support our community, so that post-Covid, we can all flourish.



From Evelyn Bracey—Home Farm, Woolley

Do hope you have kept well since I last wrote.

We eventually finished harvest with the spring beans being the last to be cut, but they did come off really well so no complaints. The beans are sold for animal feed; all of ours have been sold to Mole Valley Farmers. Drilling has also gone well and apart from some winter beans to drill down at Baulking everything is in the ground and beginning to grow.

It has also been a busy time with cattle. We have to pregnancy test the cows each year, to make sure the bulls are doing their job!! Also if you have a cow which is not in calf and hasn't been for a couple of years it usually means that she has got too old and has to go. It does seem a bit harsh but sadly we are running a commercial business and we can't keep them as pets. We also had to do our TB pre movement test on the young stock. Thank goodness they all went clear and last week were sold to the beef fattening unit in Lincolnshire. For those that have perhaps missed previous reports we sell our young beef animals at about 18months old to a beef fattening unit who then keep them for a short time just to fatten them up just a little bit more they then go for slaughter and then to Waitrose.

Since the last newsletter I have been asked to explain a little more about the Red Tractor scheme. It is a non-profit making scheme which is voluntary to join, however if you are not a member you will probably not be paid as much as those that are members. It is fundamentally a scheme which guarantees the good welfare of the livestock which in turn means quality. The cleanliness of the grain that is sold, that means that the storage for the grain is clean, without pests and also has been stored at the correct temperature and right conditions. You may ask why grain has to be stored at the correct temperature; if it gets too warm it will start to sweat and then becomes damp. This would impact on us when we sell our grain as grain buyers ask for it to be at a certain moisture otherwise they will deduct money from our payment. When a load of grain leaves the farm we have to take a sample and keep it for 6months just in case there is a problem with the load. All this also means that if there is a problem with either the livestock or grain it is traceable back to the farm. I do hope this makes some sort of sense, but basically The Red Tractor scheme all comes down to keeping standards high both for livestock and grain and traceability.

This morning we have weaned some of the cows and calves so it could be rather noisy down here at the farm

Keep safe and have a Happy Christmas.



Outdoor grazing in Woolley Park is nearly at an end. Winter quarters are ready!

BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Held on Monday 9th November 2020 at 8.00pm via Video Conference

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

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

PCC Update: Rev'd Miri Keen reported that a new Church Warden had been found, with Catherine Mattison taking the position. The Secretary position remains vacant.

ASPIRE Update: It was reported that work had started this week with the dismantling of the Church organ. This has been sold and will be shipped to the Netherlands for refurbishment works. The outstanding permissions for the initial phase of work are now in place.

Village Hall Update: Following the October Village Hall Committee meeting the Parish Council had received a copy of the finance forecast for 2021. The PC was reassured to see that the Village Hall still had enough funds to see them through the following year based on the reduced income. All hoped that a fete could go ahead next year to help build reserves back up.

Matters Arising:

Village Christmas Tree: All agreed that it would be good to see a village Christmas tree erected in front of the Churchyard. Although at this stage no plans can be made for a carol service this could provide an option for a service around the tree at the front – should it be appropriate, and restrictions allow. D Whidbourne had kindly offered to supply the tree, but not install. Clerk to speak to Great Shefford PC and see if they can assist. S Orpen, Revd Keen and Clerk to meet onsite to review possible locations and discuss lighting options.

Christmas Lights: Following the last meeting, PC had gone ahead and encouraged the lighting up of houses during the Christmas period. One concern regarding light pollution had been received. Councillors agreed that no turn off time had ever needed to be stated in years before and agreed this would be left to common sense.

.....Continued

Laura Farris MP for Newbury: Couldn't make the meeting but had requested meeting dates for 2021. Laura will be writing an introduction piece for the Brickleton News and this would follow in January.

Playing Field Lease: Following enquires after the last meeting, Clerk had written to the Diocese of Oxford and negotiated a new rent of £300 for year one, rising by £50 per year up to £500 per annum in year five, with yearly RPI referenced increases thereafter. A draft 20 year lease had been issued, Clerk had forwarded this to the BALC legal team for advice – clerk to forward on when received. Clerk had queried an error in the documents with the rent rising to £300 for the period June 2020 to June 2021, as this had already been paid, Clerk had notified the solicitor, requesting that this is amended with the new rate commencing June 2021.

Playground Maintenance: It was noted that a new gate post was required on the hall side. Clerk to action. The new bin lid had arrived but did not fit, supplier has apologised and refunded the monies paid. All agreed that a solution to emptying needed to be found as bin was frequently full of soiled nappies and this shouldn't need to be dealt by volunteers. Clerk has made enquires with WBC as to whether a new bin could be included in the fortnightly collection schedule and if so preferred design and location of the bin. Clerk to report back.

Playing Field: Suggestion made to plant an avenue of trees along the far side of the playing field hedge and road verge opposite. Permission would need to be obtained from the Woolley Estate. Deferred to the January meeting.

Memorial for John Hall-Craggs: Revd Miri Keen confirmed that following investigations by J Draper the bench to the side of the Church door was not a memorial bench and could be replaced. S Orpen and J Snow to complete the necessary permission forms and get approval on the memorial inscription.

Brightwalton School Parking: The PC had been working with the school to try and help improve the collection and pick up organisation, given the difficulties for the school in meeting the Covid-19 restrictions. The school were now using multiple gates and a staggered pick up times. Parking around the area is steadily improving. PC posted Facebook note asking for parents or school neighbours to get in touch directly with the PC to report any problems / suggest any improvements, and asked residents to refrain from commenting on Facebook. PC pleased that no correspondence has been received to date. C Delahunty to continue to monitor and report back.

SSEN High Voltage Network Improvements: SSEN had been in touch to advise of forthcoming improvement works on the electricity network locally. Residents will be informed of planned outages, SSEN were asking for high priority households to get in touch so they could ensure they received the help they needed during any planned work. Clerk to send details on for publication in the Brickleton News.

WBC Update: Cllr C Hooker confirmed that the Council were very busy at this time, particularly with the planning committee, which was currently working to clear a backlog. Full October report to follow on email.

Brickleton News Articles: Clerk to send information from SSEN for publication. Suggestion of a short welcome note for the new Church Warden, Rev'd M Keen to confirm that would be acceptable.

2021 Meetings: The dates for the 2021 meetings were confirmed as 11th January, 8th March, 10th May, 12th July, 13th September and 8th November. S Orpen asked clerk to forward to all Councillors on a separate email. Clerk to preliminarily book Village Hall.

Planning 20/02395/HOUSE The Paddock – One and a half storey extension and addition of dormers to existing dwelling. Councillors to review changes and response to the Clerk by 11/11/20

It was stated for the record the status of: 20/00315/FUL Brentani – Construction of stables and associated storage. PC responded with No Objections. WBC granted.

Finance: Invoices and Receipts: Balance of the Current Account as of 10/11 is £6,589.97, savings account £7,864.92

Transactions since the September meeting: Chq 200076 23/09 Playbark.com £189.98 (inc £31.66 VAT); Chq 200077 23/09 Jones & Son bird spikes £49.14 (inc £8.19 VAT); Chq 200078 23/09 S Youldon £53.27 Expenses for 9th March to 23rd September including £11.01 postage / £16.79 (£2.80 VAT) ink / £25.47 (£4.24); Chq 200079 23/09 Cancelled – Bin Lid from Glasdon cheque cancelled;

Chq 200080 29/09 Imprint September Brickleton News £65.00; Chq 200081 04/10 Scofell September Mowing £247.10 (inc £41.18 VAT); S/O 04/10 S Youldon Clerk Wages July to September; S/O 04/10 Q2 HMRC; Received £3447.50 second precept payment 23/09

The following cheques were signed: Chq 200082 Scofell October Mowing £247.10 (inc £41.18 VAT); Chq 200083 Scofell Old Churchyard Ash Tree removal of dead wood £504.00 (inc £84 VAT); Chq 200084 The Royal British Legion £30 Donation for wreath; Chq 200085 Imprint November Brickleton News £65.00; Chq 200086 M Ananin Brickleton News Expenses £79.99 (inc £13.33 VAT).

Annual invoice for the website hosting and support had been received, Councillors requested that comparative quotes be obtained. Clerk to discuss with T Wyatt and report back.

Any Other Business:

School Cycling Proficiency: Councillors were extremely concerned to hear that the recent school year 6 cycle training route had included the B4494, including the very dangerous and low visibility bends at Lilley. Concerns were raised that the organisation taking the class did not have any local knowledge and did not appear to have researched routes before taking the class. School had been contacted by a parent and the concern had been forward on to the training provider, response awaited. PC agreed that this was a completely inappropriate route and agreed that it would contact the school to offer support in ensuring the training provider took the appropriate action. S.Orpen to draft initial letter to school.

The Parish Councillors were informed of the recent death of Sir Philip Wroughton, S Orpen to write a letter of condolences to the family on behalf of the PC.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

The 2021 Meetings will be held: 11th January, 8th March, 10th May, 12th July, 13th September and 8th November