

Christmas Carols Around the Christmas Tree

Come and join in with this special festive event in Brightwalton Churchyard on **Wednesday 21st December at 6.30pm.**

The Christmas tree will arrive in early December and will be lit up as a central point for the Carol Service, which has now become a village tradition.

We will be warming the festivities up with mulled wine and soft drinks.

Put the date in the diary, bring the family, invite friends and neighbours, we look forward to seeing a great turnout!



What social events would you like to see happening in your village? A weekly, monthly, annual meeting up with fellow villagers? Something for the children? Something for parents? Something for those working from home? Something for the retired folk?

Please contact katherine@relevedance.co.uk with any thoughts or ideas.



Dog Bin at the Village Hall

Come January the post mounted dog bin will be disappearing at the village hall. Not to worry though, the freestanding litter bin situated in the hall car park will be moved over this way and is there for **both dog waste and general litter.**

The reason behind the change is, the Parish Council currently pay £28 per year for these bins to be emptied. As from the 6th January this cost would rise to £313 for the year! Some price rise, even in the current climate. By keeping only one bin and using that for both we will be able to get this cost to £177 per year – better, although still 6 times the previous rates.

The good news is that the contractors promise this will be a much-improved service. For the last few years we have regularly had to chase when bins have been overflowing because they just weren't meeting the weekly rounds.

We will add a notice to the litter bin, but please do share this with other dog owners if they are wandering around with a poo bag in their hand.

Thank you – Brightwalton Parish Council

First Aid Training

The Parish Council is in conversation with a qualified first aid trainer to provide a Certified First Aid Course in the Village Hall, and we are looking to run this in February. As the Brickleton News goes to press we are still finalising the details. We expect the course to be around 6 hours, covering general First Aid at a cost of around £50 per person, to include the certificate. If you are interested in gaining a First Aid Certificate please get in touch on brightwaltonpc@btinternet.com or 07811322994 and I can send you more details.

In addition, we have had requests to run a refresher 'use of the Community defibrillator' session, like we did when it was first installed. Although the defibrillator is designed to be used by anyone without any prior experience, this session helps gives confidence in an emergency situation. This is likely to be 1.5 – 2 hours informal session, which we would hope to run at minimal cost to participants. If this is of interest to you, please get in touch.

All places will be offered on a first come first serve basis, but if there is enough interest we will look at additional dates.

Thank you - Brightwalton Parish Council

brightwaltonpc@btinternet.com or 07811322994



Tuesday 6th December
Sunday 11th December
Monday 12th December
Thursday 15th December
Sunday 18th December
Tuesday 20th December
Wednesday 21st December
Thursday 22nd December
Saturday 24th December

The United Benefice Advent Service Dates for your Diary

2.30pm Under 5's Christingle, Great Shefford
 6.30pm United Benefice Carol Service, Fawley, with the UB Choir
 7.00pm Nativity Procession & Carols, Shefford Woodlands
 6.30pm Brightwalton School Carols
 12.00pm Open Air Carol Service, Welford Park
 6.30pm Carols in the Avenue, Great Shefford
 6.30pm Open Air Carol Service, Brightwalton
 6.00pm Open Air Carol Service, Leckhampstead
 4.00pm Crib Service, Wickham
 10.00pm First Holy Communion of Christmas, Wickham
 11.30pm Midnight Mass, Great Shefford
Christmas Day 8.00am BCP Holy Communion, Chaddleworth
 9.30am Family Holy Communion, Great Shefford (Revd L Jackson)
 9.30am Family Holy Communion, Brightwalton
 11.00am Family Holy Communion, Welford

Revd Miri Keen writes...

May God bless you with his joy and his peace this Christmas

We're preparing for open air carols in a number of villages this year. What began as a covid-forced necessity in 2020 has become a tradition! We'll be singing many of the old favourites that remind us of Christmases past and give us the opportunity to have a really good sing! However there's one that isn't on the schedule, but that I like to hold in reserve in case there's a change in the weather ... There's nothing quite like singing Good King Wenceslas 'when the snow lies round about deep and crisp and even'!

Wenceslas was a real person who is a wonderful example of someone who was so moved by the generosity of God, and by the poverty and misery that he saw around him, that 'forth he went', 'through the rude wind's wild lament, and the bitter weather' to bring comfort and help to his fellow human beings.

Christmas time brings us the opportunity to remember that God sent his Son Jesus to come into the world as a vulnerable baby to bring the Good News of his love to each man, woman and child. That gift is for all time, so whatever our situation this Christmas, we can know that Jesus willingly comes to stay with us and offers his gifts of joy and peace despite our circumstances.

Good King Wenceslas reminds us that our blessings bring most joy when shared. Even this year, when many of us feel that affording Christmas is a struggle, are fearful of cuts to public services, and are worried about jobs and money, we can be generous in giving our time and talents to offer practical help or encouragement to our neighbours.

'Ye who now will bless the poor, - Shall yourselves find blessing'.

Free Festive Bus Travel

Various Dates in November and December 2022



The festive season is upon us and this year you will have even more reason to leave your car at home as [free bus travel](#) will be offered again across West Berkshire.

Following on from previous successful free travel initiatives over the last year, all bus journeys within West Berkshire will be free all day on the following days in November and December:

- Thursday 17 November 2022
- Saturday 19 November 2022 ([Newbury Christmas Lights switch-on](#))
- Saturday 26 November 2022
- Saturday 3 December 2022 ([Newbury Christmas Victorian Fayre](#) and [Small Business Saturday](#))
- Saturday 10 December 2022
- Saturday 17 December 2022
- Saturday 24 December 2022 Christmas Eve – services may finish earlier than usual.

You can travel at any time on these days, so why not take the opportunity to go Christmas shopping, look at festive lights, attend the panto at the [Corn Exchange](#), go for a bite to eat in the local eateries, take in some of the outstanding scenery, or do a round of pre-Christmas visits to family and friends.

Additionally, the Council will put on a free "Christmas Shopper" service for selected villages around West Berkshire who don't have a bus service on Saturdays starting from 19 November through to Christmas Eve. Further details are outlined

Over a quarter of pensioners eligible for Pension Credit do not receive it



- £ If you're eligible, you could get an average of £3,300 of extra support per year.
- £ Pension Credit is separate from the State Pension. It tops up your income to £182.60 per week if you live alone, or £278.70 per week if you have a partner.
- £ You can get Pension Credit even if you have other income, savings or own your own home.
- £ All you need to apply is your national insurance number, bank details, and information about your savings.
- £ You can call 0800 99 1234 to apply or apply online at www.gov.uk/pension-credit

Laura Farris MP

Member of Parliament for Newbury



01635 551070



laura.farris.mp@parliament.uk



David Gardiner

Rainfall

With 91mm, October was the wettest month for exactly a year, since October 2021 (110mm). On 20-year average (83.5mm), October has been the wettest month of the year, as it has been again for 2022, so far. The drought, which started in August 2021, has definitely ended, but it will take several wet months to overcome the effects of the drought. The Moving Annual Total at the end of October (451mm) was just above the figure for the end of August 2022 (442mm), which was the lowest figure since I started keeping records in 2002. I do not make forecasts, but I feel that the MAT can only go up, as it will be a succession of months a year after the drought.

Evelyn Bracey

On The Farm

What is it they say be careful what you wish for, well we all wanted rain and my goodness hasn't it rained but we do need it so we mustn't complain.

For the farm we are now moving into the winter routine. All work on the arable ground has been done, all the winter wheat has been drilled and as said before the rape has gone in at Baulking. We have also drilled some grass near the farm to replace the grass which was down by the crossroads and due to the weather everything is growing well. We are in the process of weaning the cows and calves, the calves will go to the barns at Park Farm and the cows will stay here at Home Farm, with the weather being so wet we need to get them off the park grass as they are beginning to cut it up.

With regard to the TB we were able to sell our young stock to a special unit, we didn't get as much money for them as we would have done from Waitrose but at least we were able to sell them. We have our next TB test on the 28th November so fingers crossed. We are now getting ready for our Red Tractor inspection which is a Farm Assured scheme. We have to show the inspector various certificates relating to equipment, for instance our sprayer has to be tested to make sure it is spraying at the right rates, equally so the fertiliser spreader has also to be tested. He will check our grain storage to be sure it is clean and rodent free, paper work relating to the loads of wheat, barley, rape and beans that have been sold have to be checked, all this for traceability. He will check the cattle particularly their ear tag numbers are the same as the passport. Hopefully all will be well and all our crops will be sold with the Red Tractor emblem against them as will the cattle. Many farmers have been complaining about the Red Tractor scheme as it does cost quite a lot of money for us to have this inspection but when we sell our products we don't necessarily get more money, The Red tractor just means that we have been inspected and everything we do is to a certain standard. Will let you know how we get on. Hope you all have a Happy Christmas.

From Joe Clerkin

St Patrick's Catholic Church

A reminder that Sunday Mass is once more being said at St Patrick's Church, Old Stanmore Road, East Ilsley, RG20 7NJ at 11.15am. All are welcome. We suggest parking in East Ilsley High Street to avoid congestion on Old Stanmore Road.

St Patrick's is served from East Hendred. See www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

Mgr Andrew Burnham is the Parish Priest and can be contacted on 01235 835 038

Or aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Mass is livestreamed from St Mary's, East Hendred and you can access it here

<http://www.churchservices.tv/easthendred>

Masses over the Christmas Period at St Patrick's

Christmas Day 25th December 11.15am

New Year's Day 1st January 11.15am

Masses over Christmas Period at St Mary's Catholic Church, St Marys Road East Hendred OX12 8LF

Christmas Eve 24th December 4.00pm Vigil Mass for Families
8.00pm Mass of Christmas Night

Christmas Day 9.30am Mass of the Day

New Year's Day 1st January 9.30am Mass

6.00pm

OVER 80s CHRISTMAS PARCELS

The Newbury Weekly News distributes parcels every year to over 80s who would like to receive one. Please ring Gill on 638537 by 9th December if you would like to be included.



Why not book your party at the village hall before the end of the year—

at 2022 rates?

£40 children

£60 others

A Date for your diary:

BRIGHTWALTON FANTASTIC FETE

SUNDAY, 30 APRIL 2023

AGE UK Funding

Age UK Berkshire have some funding to be given to West Berkshire residents over the winter period. It is specifically for those age 65+, resident in West Berkshire and to support those most in need. The criteria as set out from the local authority is:

Can support with essentials including energy, water and food.

Can be used for the provision of essentials linked to energy and water (such as soaps/ toiletries, warm clothing, blankets, boiler service/ repair and purchases of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens etc.

Can also be used for support with wider essentials such as other bills including broadband or phone bills, clothing and essential transport related costs e.g. repairing a car, buying a bicycle or paying for fuel.

If you would like to discuss this further then please email or telephone Victoria Rowland
Victoria.Rowland@AgeUKBerkshire.org.uk, 07760 995475

Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record. **Declaration of Interests:** None. Apologies received from Clive Hooker

Committee updates:

Village Hall Committee: No report received. Details had been emailed to the secretary prior to the last VHC meeting with requests for minor updates to the constitution documents.

ASPIRE & Community Coordinator: An ASPIRE meeting is due soon to discuss next steps. Recruitment for the coordinator role was still in progress. Councillors did discuss that given the current circumstances it would be beneficial that the coordinator and PC work together to ensure there is support for those vulnerable in the village.

Matters Arising / Outstanding:

Public Bins: WBC had advised on prices for the new weekly collection contract commencing 6th January. Cost to the PC for public bin emptying would rise from £28 per annum to £313.51. It was agreed that the litter and dog bin would be combined and placed at the front of the hall, the freestanding bin would be used and the dog bin removed and stored. By doing this the annual cost would be reduced to £177.34, still 6 times the current cost. Clerk to organise and inform WBC. Note to be placed in the Brickleton News

Community Defib / First Aid Training: Councillors agreed that a First Aid certified course should be organised with participants paying the full cost of the course, Clerk to agree with provider, check dates and post details in the Brickleton News, places will be offered on a first come first serve basis but additional courses could be considered if enough interest. Also agreed that a separate defib refresher course could be organised, interest to be assessed following Brickleton News article.

Additional Climbing Frameworks: Members bid application has been submitted for 50% of the refurbishment costs, if granted £286.99 would need to come from remaining CIL funds and £147.01 from PC funds. Decision due mid-December.

Telephone Box Refurbishment: Councillors approved purchase of the paint at £64.55. Clerk liaising with volunteer for the painting.

Gigabit Broadband: Positive confirmation that Pudding Lane, Southend and The Green have all been classified as in scope for the Gigabit rollout. This means no funding / expressions of interest required. Unfortunately, estimated contract start date is reported as August 2023.

Playing Field Corner: Due to a smaller turnout at the working party than anticipated the playing field corner was not addressed. Seeds have been provided FOC by BBOWT, but grounds work required before planting. M Cooper to make enquiries on machinery. Provisional date for a team of 3-4 to get together agreed for the 21st January. M Cooper and T Wyatt agreed to dispose of the remaining cricket net poles.

Christmas Tree Planning: Two generous volunteers had offered to cover the cost of this years Christmas tree. It was agreed that tree would be chosen and collected by A Agnew and S Orpen on Saturday 3rd December, and installed on Sunday 4th. Clerk to organise for stand to be in place. Agreed to approach VHC to jointly fund in future years to support this as a community event. Agreed that it would be beneficial to leave the Yew in the churchyard to grow so in 5-6 years times this could be the tree that is decorated. Clerk to write to the PCC. Councillors asked to help spread the word on the Village Christmas Carol Service around the tree that will take place Wednesday 21st December at 6.30pm complete with mulled wine and refreshments. PC agreed to pay for the refreshments. Clerk to produce Brickleton News article and poster for the Village Hall notice board.

Working Party Feedback: Agreed setting a date early in the year and publishing 'dates for your diary' in the Brickleton News would be beneficial. To discuss further at the January meeting.

Highways: The Highways officer had inspected the issues of surface breakdown on Common Lane and stated that they were outside of policy for repair. Agreed only way forward was to continue to send updated images as the surface deteriorates further. A Agnew to send latest onto Clerk.

Brickleton News Articles: Public Bins, Carol Service, First Aid training. Clerk to send

2023 Meeting Dates: Agreed as 16th January, 13th March, 15th May, 17th July, 11th September, 13th November. Clerk to book hall, send on email, publish on website and notice board.

Planning: 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. Councillors reviewed application and raised several queries including use of the building; clarification on parking; and clarification on the Thames Water response to an additional connection on what the PC understood was a system already at capacity. Response to include a request for a site visit to understand the current building and proposed better; Also agreed that the new dwelling should be tied to the main house within the planning conditions and a request for limited working hours within any planning conditions. All agreed that this application couldn't be considered further without answers on the above. Clerk to submit response.

Finance: Account balances, income and expenditure since the September meeting - Current Account Balance £4,896.76 and Savings £7,594.88.16 Oct Scofell September mowing £216.71 ex VAT; 16 Oct P Hiscock September playground mowing £100 ex VAT; 16 Oct Imprint Sept Brickleton News £71.00; 16 Oct Hampshire Solicitors Lease Registrations £140 ex VAT. Clerk explained that this carried over from last year when we renewed the lease with the Diocese, we had to register it. Delays at HM Land Registry had caused the late invoicing; 16 Oct Clerk expenses – Nov 2021 to Oct 2022 – postage, ink and road salt £60.89; Expenses for the Period 1st November 2021 to 10th October 2022 7 Nov Plaque for Tree Planting £19.96 reimbursed to S Youldon (order online with card); 7 Nov Scofell October mowing (final mow) £216.71 ex VAT; 7 Nov P Hiscock October playground mowing (final mow) £100 ex VAT; 7 Nov CHQ 200105 Royal British Legion Poppy Wreath Cheque 200106 agreed and signed for M Ananin for the MS subscription for production of the Brickleton News £66.66 ex VAT.

January Budgeting – Kings coronation to be considered. T Wyatt to discuss with the fete committee as this falls the weekend after the usual fete date.

SSE Outage: Confirmation that the outage on the 24th September was unplanned received, SSE apologised for the inconvenience and confirmed that any properties affected by planned works are advised in advance.

Meeting closed at 9.57pm

The 2023 Meetings will be held: 16th January, 13th March, 15th May, 17th July, 11th September, 13th November at 7.30pm