



Brightwalton enjoyed some spectacular effects for Halloween this year thanks to some hard work by Rik in Ash Close.



DOWNLAND PRACTICE NOTICE

On 3rd December both surgeries and pharmacies will be closed from 1pm to end of day for training purposes.

Year 6 pupils leading the Remembrance Service with Rev. Mike and Rev. Matt



West Berkshire LIBRARIES

Pop-up Library

Leckhampstead Village Hall,
Leckhampstead

West Berkshire Libraries are bringing the library to you!

First Wednesday of each Month
10am to 12pm

Everyone welcome, so just drop in and find a selection of books to borrow.

If you are not yet a member of West Berkshire Libraries, you can join when you visit.

Tell us about the sort of books you like to read and we'll choose a selection for you for next time.

www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries

Brightwalton Youth Club
Star Gazing Evening
MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER
Brightwalton Village Hall
5.45pm to 6.45pm

MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER
Brightwalton Village
Star Gazing Evening
Brightwalton Village Hall
6.45pm to 7.45pm
Donations welcomed
towards hot drinks



POPPIES

Once again, thanks to the hard work of the volunteers collecting around our villages for The Royal British Legion Poppy appeal.

We have raised £ 2,296.08.

Thank you for your generous donations and support.

(There are some dated metal pins left over, please get in touch if you want some.)

Marion Walker, Pudding Lane.

Open Mornings
Brightwalton C.E. Primary School

Prospective parents – we warmly invite you to visit our fantastic school on:

Tuesday 2nd December
from 9:30am to 11:00am

Meet our Headteacher, Mrs Sara Slade, take a tour of the school, and enjoy a cup of tea with our Governors and current parents, who will be delighted to answer any questions. Scan the QR code above to visit our website and watch our school video.

Our new Reception Class having fun 'Going On A Bear Hunt'

To book your place, please contact us at office@brightwalton.w-berks.sch.uk or call 01488 638337.



Correction from September Brickleton News

List of Trustees:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Jeremy Snow | Emma Aird |
| Steven Wapshott | Mike Ananin |
| Evelyn Bracey | Gill Judge |
| Katherine Moore | |
| Sarah Wheatley Hince | |
| Holly Kilvington | Christine Delahunty |

A Village Wedding

Saturday the 6th September dawned bright and sunny in marked contrast to the weather earlier in the week, much to the relief of the Uttley family at Lilac Cottage whose eldest daughter, Lizzie, was to be married that afternoon at All Saints Church.

Whereas once we had walked her to the village school, today we would be walking her to church to the accompaniment of its bells to be married.

There is something so special about a village wedding, something traditional, a sense of connection with place and time. How fortunate we are to have a church at the heart of the village, a church that has been lovingly maintained by the community down the years. It is the part played by friends and neighbours alike that gives a village wedding its unique character and we would like to say a big thank-you to the tremendous team of individuals who helped us to bring together such a joyous occasion, in particular:

Judith, who, in addition to playing the organ superbly throughout the service, rehearsed with and then accompanied our youngest daughter on the piano; the bell-ringing team who rang so splendidly; Nick, who provided invaluable advice in the lead-up to the big day and then, as churchwarden on the day, ensured that everything ran smoothly and, of course, to the Rev. Mike who conducted the ceremony with characteristic enthusiasm, humour and sincerity. Also, not forgetting Gabby who got our old Austin Healey going or there wouldn't have been a "getaway" car for the couple to drive to Welford Park for the reception, and Jenny for allowing us to conceal the car in her drive adjacent to the churchyard!

John & Margaret



Introduction to the new Parish Clerk: Mel Taylor

Hello everyone!

I'm delighted to have joined Brightwalton Parish Council in August, taking over from Faye, who did a fantastic job supporting the Council and the community.

I've worked in local government for 23 years, specifically with parish and town councils, and I genuinely love what I do. Local Councils are at the heart of village life, helping communities thrive from the ground up, and that's the part of the job I find most rewarding.

I'd really love to hear from residents, so if there's anything the Parish Council can help with, please do get in touch. You can reach me at our new email address:

clerk@brightwalton-pc.gov.uk

I'm very much looking forward to meeting more residents and getting to know the village better in the months ahead!

Got a car and some time to spare?

We are a friendly team of local volunteers who use our own cars to help people in our own community get to vital medical or wellbeing appointments when other transport isn't available to them.

Our volunteers are working, retired, working-from-home, taking a break, parents, grandparents, students or just people who have a few spare hours and want to help. Some of us have just 2 hours a month to spare – others are able to dedicate much more time. We are grateful for ANY time you could give!

Demands on our services have been increasingly significantly recently and we'd love some extra hands! Come and join our amazing volunteer team and make a real difference.

Journeys can be as short as taking someone to the GP in Chieveley, or a major trip to a hospital in Reading, Oxford, Basingstoke or Swindon. Our drivers choose how much and how often they wish to drive.

If you don't want to drive, we also need admin help in our Compton Office, answering the phone, recording requests and matching drivers. Again, as little as 2 hours once or twice per month would be very welcome.

All expenses are reimbursed; we just need the gift of your time and kindness.

However much time you can give us, you will be making a real difference to the lives of the people living in your community.

Email the DVG Office at dvg.office@btinternet.com to find out more or visit the website downlandvolgroup.org/volunteer for more information.

"I know every hour I can give is time well spent – we are making such a difference to people living in our community"

Cathy, DVG Volunteer

S. MARY'S , EAST HENDRED & S. PATRICK'S , EAST ILSLEY

CHRISTMAS 2025

| | |
|---|--|
| WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER | – THE VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS (CHRISTMAS EVE) 4pm Vigil ("Crib") Mass <i>The first Mass of Christmas.</i> 8pm Mass during the Night |
| THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER | – CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30am Parish Mass 11.15am Mass at S. Patrick's |
| SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER | – THE HOLY FAMILY 9.30am Parish Mass 11.15am Mass at S. Patrick's 6pm Mass |
| WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER | – S. SILVESTER'S DAY (NEW YEAR'S EVE) 6pm <i>Te Deum</i> & drinks <i>To thank God for the past year.</i> |
| THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY | – MARY, MOTHER OF GOD 9am Mass |



Coming soon. . .

Family
BOARD GAME
Night

With help from our friends at



Rocket Propelled Games
Board Game Cafe
150-151 Bartholomew Street
Newbury RG14 5HB



Brightwalton Village Hall

From Evelyn Bracey—Home Farm

Well, the Summer seems a long time ago now the weather has changed and it is raining. Overall, our harvest was just below average. Our rape came off well as did the beans. The wheat was about average, the barley was awful. However, the real downside of harvest for us was that our combine caught fire whilst being driven to our other farm! It seems that the brakes seized on. It had to be towed into another farmer's field then recovered and taken to Haynes at East Ilsley. Apparently, it was quite entertaining when it was taken to Haynes. The recovery vehicle had to tow it, which was not an easy task when it's rear wheel drive! Anyway, it has meant we need to purchase another combine!

Many farmers are suffering from lack of forage. Due to the hot summer the grass didn't grow and therefore the hay and silage is very short. Many farmers were feeding hay during the summer because cattle were short of grazing. Inevitably the price has increased which is hard for those that are having to buy. We have been lucky, last year (2024) was a great year for hay and silage, we decided to keep our barns full so therefore we are in a fairly good place.

Our youngstock were sold last week. These are cattle aged about 18 months old. They are sold to what is known as a finishing yard. They have been grazing in the park all summer but before going for slaughter they need just a bit of hard feed to bring them up to weight. We don't have sufficient barn room, so we sell them to someone who does have room. He will keep them in a barn, feed them hard feed as well as hay or silage before they go for slaughter. I hear you asking what is 'hard feed.' Hard feed can be made of many things, minerals, protein, and carbohydrates. This encourages them to put on that bit of extra weight.

At the present time beef is fetching a really good price, mainly due to the fact that there are less cattle in the country. Why is that? Mainly because so many farmers are getting out of dairy due to the price of milk being so low and therefore there are not the calves coming into the market.

Farming News

30 Nov **Advent Sunday Carols**
10:30 am - St James, Leckhampstead
A regular of Advent music and readings followed by refreshments

07 Dec **Carols Round The Tree**
4pm - Leckhampstead Green
Join us as we light the Christmas Tree and sing carols before drinks in the village hall

12 Dec **Carol Service**
7pm - St Stephens, Shefford Woodlands
A familiar service of readings and carols with festive refreshments and good cheer

14 Dec **Community Christingle**
10:30am - All Saints Brightwalton
You will remember this one! A great way to share the meaning of Christmas

14 Dec **Contemporary Carols**
7pm - St Marys, Fowley
Readings and Carols with a live band, this is an experience not to be missed!

16 Dec **Carol Singing In The Five Bells**
7:30pm - The Five Bells, Wickham
We'll bring the carol sheets, you bring the voices and we'll rob the roof

18 Dec **Carols Through The Avenue**
8:30pm - St Marys Great Shefford
Join us through the beautifully lit avenue of trees into church for carols & festive drinks

19 Dec **Phoenix Brass @ the Pop Up Pub**
7pm - St James, Leckhampstead
What can be more Christmassy than carols with a Brass Band in the Pop Up Pub?



20 Dec **Christmas Carol Service**
3pm - St Thomas, East Shefford
Christmas Carols and Readings in the beautiful 12th Century church.

21 Dec **Christmas Café Church**
10:30am - St Mary's Great Shefford
The Christmas Story, Café Church style. Breakfast served from 10:15am

21 Dec **Nine Lessons and Carols**
7pm - All Saints, Brightwalton
Readings and Carols led by the benefice choir. With Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

22 Dec **The Longest Night**
7pm - St Marys, Fowley
A service of contemplation and music for those who find Christmas overwhelming.

23 Dec **Carol Singing In The Ilex**
7:30pm - The Ilex, Chaddeleworth
Another chance to grab a carol sheet and bring the joy of carolling to the local

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2025



24 **Carols by Candlelight**
3pm - St Margarets, Catmore
Carols and readings in the beautiful church. In aid of the Church Conservation Trust

24 **Live Nativity Crib Service**
4pm - St Gregory's Welford
Come dressed as your favourite nativity character as we celebrate the Christmas Story in live action!

24 **Midnight Communion**
11:30pm - St Swithuns, Wickham
The most famous Christmas service of all. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE WEST DOWNLAND BENEFICE



25 **Christmas Day Communion**
9am - St Marys Great, Shefford
10:30am - All Saints, Brightwalton
All welcome at this all-age communion service. Even bring your favourite present!

28 **Christmas Communion**
9am - St Andrews, Chaddeleworth
10:30am - St Gregorys, Welford
A simple service of Holy Communion in the Christmas Season.

Follow us for more info

[f](#) [i](#) [g](#) [@](#)

@westdownland



Christmas Supper Concert

featuring

Wantage Community Brass

Conducted by John Heritage

Saturday 29th November 2025

7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

The Bandhall

Tickets £14 - includes buffet supper

Bar available

Book online at www.wantageband.org

or please tel. 01235 770378



Happy Holidays!



Brightwalton Village (West) Hall has a lovely new floor all thanks to funds raised at the annual fete. Thanks everyone!

Providing in-home Euthanasia for much loved pets.

Making the decision to put your pet to sleep is never easy. Our locally based independent service will allow you, your family and your pet to have a peaceful and dignified experience at this very difficult time. A bespoke service dependent on your needs, we can help you throughout the whole process from deciding when the time is right through to organising any aftercare

wishes.

Call - 07541556082

Email- peacefulpetpassingvets@gmail.com

Visit www.peacefulpetpassing.co.uk



As this is the last edition until the new year, the staff of Brickleton News wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of the General Meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025, 7.30pm at Brightwalton Village Hall

A full copy of the minutes, along with parish news and events, is available at: www.brightwalton.org.uk

Open Session: No questions or comments from residents.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mike Cooper.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2025 were approved.

Update from West Berkshire District Cllr Clive Hooker: Leckhampstead's Pop-Up Library may require additional funding to continue next year and suggested Brightwalton may wish to consider partnership support. The proposed Unitary Council aims to streamline services and deliver £30m in savings to a population of around 500,000. Elections are planned for 2027, with the new council to commence in 2028 following a shadow year.

Members' Bid: The Parish Council's application to Cllr Hooker's Members' Bid fund for £1,716.74 towards play area safety surface maintenance was unsuccessful as it was deemed maintenance, not capital spend.

Community Coordinator Update: A successful first half of term for the Youth Club, including two Halloween events. The Christmas wreath-making workshop has sold out (15 attendees). Plans are underway for a Family Board Games evening in the New Year. The school's Macmillan Coffee Morning was well attended with valuable community connections made and plans for another before the Remembrance Service on 11th November. Pupils will take part in Parliament Week on 24th November; Cllr Wyatt will attend if available.

All Saints PCC: No update.

Village Hall Committee: Hall running smoothly. Clarification on grass-cutting responsibilities discussed. Parish Clerk to obtain and share information on funding opportunities for solar panels that have been accessed by neighbouring parishes.

Council Email Addresses: Formal Councillor addresses are being set up.

Play Area and Recreation Ground: Further quotes to be obtained for required maintenance works; including fencing, play equipment and memorial bench repairs.

Planning: Application 25/02409/HOUSE – Bagatelle, Southend – conversion of single-storey bungalow. No objections raised.

Other planning updates were reviewed, with no significant issues reported.

Highways: No matters to report.

Bank balances (as at 31st October 2025):

Current Account: £8,647.50

Savings Account: £10,032.39

Community Coordinator Account: £9,987.74

Preparation of the 2026/27 draft budget is underway.

Other Matters:

Play Park Inspections – November: Cllr Goatley | December: Cllr Wyatt.

Spring Village Tidy-Up to be arranged before the Easter holidays.

Parish Clerk to liaise with the Church regarding the village Christmas tree.

West Berkshire Council's updated Service Delivery Offers for Parish & Town Councils were noted, highlighting verge management opportunities.

Council agreed not to join Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) as the Village Hall Committee is already a member.

Thanks are extended to residents who assisted with tidying the village ahead of the Remembrance Service.

Tree survey quotes to be revised to include additional trees.

Grass cutting contract (2026–2029) awarded to Scofell Landscapes.

Next Meeting:

Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm at Brightwalton Village Hall. Residents welcome to attend.