

For a whole week, the nation honoured the passing of the queen. It was a wonderful and moving occasion, and our small village contributed in a several ways. England showed its best with immaculate organisation and brilliant television coverage.

*Alexander Matheson*

## FUNERAL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 I had the honour of taking part in the funeral ceremonies of Queen Elizabeth II, and I was fortunate enough to be one of her Pall Bearers. The Pall Bearers had the privilege of marching beside her coffin throughout, alongside the Grenadier Guards Bearer Party who carried it.

The news of her death reached me on the Isle of Skye, and I made my way without delay to London and stayed there until the funeral was complete. The other 13 Pall Bearers were former Service Equeuries to Her Majesty, and they quickly arrived in London too. One, a serving RAF pilot, managed to get back from Brunei within a day and half.

There has been a highly detailed plan for The Queen's funeral for many decades and it has been refined continuously as circumstances have changed. This plan swung immediately into action and the succeeding days were completely filled with briefings, reconnaissances and rehearsals. In addition to the daytime preparations, the Pall Bearers took part in three all-night rehearsals when streets were closed by the police, so that the different processions could be practised for real. Over these days there must have been tens of thousands of people participating in a large variety of roles, many of them unseen but nevertheless vital. We were all tiny cogs in a vast machine; and there was a widely prevailing attitude of everyone being determined to do their bit, whether their roles were large or small, whether in the public eye or behind the scenes, and striving to give Her Majesty the best possible send-off. We were warned more than once that the eyes of the world would be on us and that we had to deliver. I have heard since that 4.1 billion people watched from around the globe and that this was the largest audience of a single event ever recorded.



On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September the Queen's coffin was taken in procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall where she lay in state for four and a half days, so that last respects could be paid. I expect you all saw on the news how long the queues were. Then on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, the coffin was taken in a second procession the short distance to Westminster Abbey for her funeral service which was attended by many heads of state from around the world. A third procession numbering around 3,500 troops, with representatives from those countries of which our Queen was also their Queen, took the coffin from Westminster Abbey to Hyde Park Corner, and from there it was conveyed to Windsor. A fourth procession carried her up the Long Walk, through Windsor Castle and down to St George's Chapel for the final Committal Service. The Pall Bearers were beside her coffin throughout, and we witnessed the truly enormous numbers of people lining the routes – not just those on the processional routes, but on the journey from London to Windsor too. Emotions ran high on many occasions.

These ten days were among the most extraordinary experiences of my life, and I felt immensely lucky to have been able to take part. I was struck by the profound sadness and immense dignity of these ceremonies. It was deeply moving for me and I like to think that our country did its Queen proud.



## Heavy Horses

Congratulations to Amber and Martine Stiles for their successes at the recent Henley Farm and Country Show. They took part in the Heavy Horse Championship, and won in three classes riding Ella, a Clydesdale horse. Ella has been reared in Brightwalton from the age of seven months by Sue Sayers and can be seen in the Sayers' paddocks.



See the article in Newbury Weekly News last week (22 September) with another lovely picture.



### Looking for help with helping to keep the church tidy



Would anyone have an hour or two, once a year,  
to help clean the church please?

Each year the church is dusted and swept by helpful volunteers, and flowers put on the altar – keeping the church looking cared for and welcoming for visitors and the monthly services. The church is now kept unlocked, so anyone can visit at any time.

If you able to help with either some simple cleaning or providing a vase or two of flowers, just once-a-year,  
I would love to hear from you.

Gill Judge - [dgmsjudge@gmail.com](mailto:dgmsjudge@gmail.com)

There are plenty of vases in the church, along with cleaning equipment/products.

The church benefits enormously from the care of the village,  
for which the PCC are very grateful.

### **West Downland United Benefice October Services**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October** 10.00am United Benefice Service, Fawley, with Revd William McDowell

**9<sup>th</sup> October** 9.00am BCP Holy Communion, Shefford Woodlands, with Revd John Toogood

**16<sup>th</sup> October** 9.00am BCP Holy Communion, Leckhampstead

10.30am Chaddleworth Open Air Harvest Service of traditional harvest hymns and readings old and new.

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** 9.00am BCP Holy Communion, Wickham

10.30am Morning Praise + Holy Communion, Brightwalton

**30<sup>th</sup> October** 10.00am United Benefice Service Leckhampstead

4.00pm East Downland Benefice will be holding the Service of Thanksgiving and Memorial this year. We are pleased to offer Zoom from Church for the services, please contact the Benefice Office for joining details – [sarah.westdownland@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.westdownland@gmail.com)  
Service details and Order of Services can be found on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

### **Reverend Miri Keen ... The end of an era, yet 'business as usual'**

I first heard the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II during a routine PCC meeting in Chaddleworth and so the pattern of grieving for Her Late Majesty, while keeping going with the ongoing life of the churches was set from the very beginning of the mourning period. On the Friday morning I whizzed round all eight churches to make sure that they were open for private prayer and that there were printed Prayers and a Bible Reading for people to pick up if they wanted ideas of how to pray. We were delighted to work with Parish Councils to host the Book of Condolence in some of the parishes and I was very thankful for the volunteers across the benefice who quietly checked that the church flowers were fresh. On Friday morning we also began planning for a United Benefice Service of Commemoration on the evening before the state funeral, though at that point we didn't know when the funeral would be! With all this done I was able to concentrate on a wedding rehearsal, though I'm not sure that I would ever describe a wedding as 'business as usual'!

During the official mourning period our churches were to host three weddings, a Christening and a double funeral. Each of these 'life event' services, was a precious family occasion and the challenge of ensuring that personal and local celebrations and griefs were not overshadowed by national grief, nor insensitive to the sense of national loss following the death of our much loved Queen, was a daunting one. Fortunately, Her Late Majesty's life of Christian faith and dedicated service offers us plenty of inspiration. For the wedding addresses I used the Queen's moving dedication to service on her twenty-first birthday and her coronation vows as examples that show us how keeping our solemn promises brings blessing to others as well as ourselves. I hope that as the couples who made their vows in front of their chosen witnesses and guests will look back and feel that it was a privilege to be married in extraordinary times and that as the new era of the reign of King Charles III began, they stepped out into the new era of married life with the intention that their faithfulness to one another will bring blessing and stability to their family, friends and community in the same way that our dear Queen's vows brought blessing and stability to our national life.

Weddings: Rosie and Toby (Welford), Emma and Ed (Fawley),  
Helen and Scott (Chaddleworth)

Christening: Max (Wickham) Funeral: Diana and David (Fawley)

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](http://www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk)

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

Or [aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

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

### **Alan Heavon**

Alan sadly passed away on the 30th of July at Sobell House, Oxford aged 41. He was our amazing, beautiful boy who had special needs, but was always so happy and laughing. He will be remembered by us and so many family and friends for his laughter and cheeky smile. His funeral was at Brightwalton church on the 1st of September where many family friends and neighbours gave him a beautiful, memorable farewell. He loved Fools and Horses, so a big yellow Fools and Horses floral 3-wheel van was with him, and his order of service also showed his love of it. God bless him.

Polly and Donald



### **David Gardiner Rainfall**

With only 11mm of rain in the month, this was the driest August since I started keeping records in 2002. It was much drier than August 2021 (51mm) and the previous 20-year average for August (59mm). There were only 2 days in the month with any rain at all. For years I have said that Lilley is in a rain shadow. Some places in the south of England, some not far away, may have had torrential rain during the month; but these storms were very local, often going down the valleys (the Kennet, the Lambourn or the Vale of White Horse), and always missed us.

What is particularly notable is the Moving Annual Total. This has fallen from a recent peak of 897mm in July 2021, and is now down to 442mm, the lowest it has ever been since 2002. This contrasts with a peak of 1,119mm in March 2013. I only wish I had records going back to the drought years of 1975-1976.



Evelyn Bracey

### On The Farm

Where does the summer go? So harvest is in and we are thinking about drilling ready for next year's.

We did have a good harvest unlike some in the country. We must have had the rain at the right time so it increased the size of the grain and therefore the bushel weight was good. Bushel weight is determined by the number of kernels of grain in a bushel, the larger the kernel the less you need per bushel. Harvest was also easy as the weather was so good there was no need to run the drier. Therefore overhead costs were down. The price of wheat and barley is up largely due to the war in the Ukraine. I know there have been some boats coming out of the Ukraine but they have an enormous amount of grain in storage and of course they have also just had their harvest so it will take a lot of boats to get near to clearing all their grain. A few weeks ago I was talking to someone and said that the wheat was nearly 'fit' to harvest they looked at me what did I mean by 'fit'. A farming expression which means ripe. The old fashioned way of telling if grain was ripe was to put a grain in your mouth and try and chew it, if it was really hard the grain was ripe. Thankfully modern technology has moved on!! We now have what is called a moisture meter which is worked on sensors. You put a few grains into a container, grind them up and the sensors will tell you the moisture content so you know if the grain is 'fit'. I hope that makes sense.

We have already drilled the rape down at Baulking which is coming through, although some more rain would be welcome. The field we took for hay by the crossroads has been sprayed off and will go into wheat for next year. We run a rotation system on the farm which generally is one year wheat, one year beans, one year wheat, one year barley and then rape..

As far as the cattle are concerned they are still out and in the park. We had the cows scanned and they are all in calf so the bulls have done their job. Unfortunately though we have gone down with TB which causes some extra work. The two animals which tested positive have to go for slaughter and we will then have to have another test in 60 days fingers crossed that we go clear. We then have to do another test in 60 days and if we go clear, then we are back to normal and will be able to move cattle if we need to.

Jane Terepin

### Concert for Ukraine

A truly heartfelt "thank you" to all those who came to the Concert for Ukraine in All Saints Church on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July, and supported the appeal so very generously. It is wonderful to let you know that between £2,500 and £3,000 was raised (including Gift Aid) for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal. An amount beyond our wildest dreams. Would people come? 31<sup>st</sup> July was the Sunday of the Women's Football Final, one of the first weekends of the school holidays and many would be away on their trips. So it was a great thing to see the church gradually filling, to hear the chatter of friends meeting. A lovely, calm evening, the audience listened to – for many – unfamiliar music with a great intensity, which really moved us.

Afterwards Anouska and her pupil Carly added to the summery atmosphere outside with a selection of guitar, flute and vocal music, performed beautifully. With the music wafting over us as we caught up with friends, perhaps with a glass in hand, it was a perfect ending.

The event was the first to be held in All Saints Church with the use of the new kitchen and loo, which I think we can declare great assets!



Huge thanks to the Vicar, Miri Keen, the Churchwarden, Katherine Matheson, Nick Arkell, Anouska Wilson, Carly McIntosh, Gill and Dave Judge, Stephen Codrington, Sarah Youldon, Piotr Jordan, Chris Terepin, Steve Terepin, and all those kind people who helped in small ways and large, and gave their time to make the concert such a success. And thanks again to everyone who donated to help Ukraine.

### Come and join in to this community project

#### Meet at the Village Hall

At 10 am

on

Sunday 9 October

#### Village Work Party

- Drinks and bacon/sausage bap for all helpers, and it would be great to see some new faces.
- Lots of jobs so please bring tools you are happy using.
- We have strimming, hedge cutting, path clearing, weeding, chip spreading and seed sowing all around the village!
- Come along to help out and meet others.

A Date for your diary:

**BRIGHTWALTON FANTASTIC FETE**

**SUNDAY, 30 APRIL 2023**

#### Eva Zielinska Millar

Eva is a Polish lady who was village hall treasurer and grand cleaning organiser a few years ago. She commuted from Apple Tree Cottage to work at Windsor Castle as a photographer. Now she lives near Windsor and I asked her about her experiences during the queen's funeral. This was her reply.....

'I went for my annual visit to Poland. On the fourth day of my stay I learnt about the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. I would not have been returning for another few days but I felt compelled to be here to take part in the national grief and mourning, so I rebooked my return flight and thus was able to join on the Long Walk with the other Windsor people and many others who travelled in to witness HM's last journey home... It was a great and very moving spectacle, as you saw yourselves when watching on television... I was originally employed when the photographer post was created for the Royal Archives starting in January 1986. My main activities at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and other Royal residences comprised mainly of photographing works of art, paintings, works on paper (drawings, pastels, watercolours, etchings etc), books and bindings, but also the Crown Jewels and personal jewellery of The Queen.

All that work is now included in the Royal Collection Picture Library and is used in many ways in books on History of Art published by different authors. That work can be seen on the Royal Collection's website.

For my contribution to the work of the Royal Collection I was awarded the Membership of the Victoria Order and for services to The Queen I have the Long and Faithful Service Medal and medals for being in service during the Golden and the Diamond Jubilees. I am very proud of having worked on the book on the Crown Jewels for the Tower of London and of having photographed all the Queen's diamonds which was published for the Diamond Jubilee. I also photographed most of the "coloured stones" jewellery belonging to Her Majesty for the book on those which is yet to be published...

My sorrow at Her Majesty's passing was deepened by the fact that over the years I had quite a few encounters with Her when fulfilling Her personal requests. The last of those was recently in May when taking some pictures of Her with some of Her closest staff. I shall cherish that day as my personal goodbye... I feel quite "orphaned" now... '

**BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AT THE MAY EETING**

ISSUE 243

**Meeting Held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 7.30pm in Brightwalton Village Hall**

See the [Brightwalton website](http://www.brightwalton.org.uk) for a full copy of the minutes, plus other news and events – [www.brightwalton.org.uk](http://www.brightwalton.org.uk)

**Please note that the meeting was postponed from the 12<sup>th</sup> September for the period of mourning**

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

**Declaration of Interests:** None

Agenda order was re-arranged to suit the audience, minutes are written following the published order.

**Open Session:** Cllr. Hooker apologised for not being able to make recent meetings, as a Councillor for West Ilsley PC, the meetings generally clash. Prior to the meeting he had sent out August WBC update which has been distributed and uploaded to the Brightwalton website. Cllr Hooker reported being very busy over the last few months with various planning applications, including Membury old airfield, Newbury showgrounds and the race-course.

Parishioner reported issue with aggressive dogs on footpath BRIG/21/1. They had reported the incident to the relevant parties.

**Committee Updates:**

**Village Hall Committee:** ABG was pleased to report that the hall had been redecorated over the summer months. A Brightwalton Social event has been organised for Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, raising funds for the village hall. Some graffiti in chalk had been reported, although no permanent damage it is a nuisance to those that have to clean it up. It was noted that an unauthorised bonfire had also been held on the grass behind the hall carpark. Residents are reminded that this is Parish Council land and not to be used as an extension to gardens.

**ASPIRE:** Community Co-ordinator advert is now in place, online, Facebook, Penny Post and an editorial piece had been run in the Newbury Weekly News. No applications to date, agreed further circulation required in nearby villages and schools.

**Matters Arising**

**Election of Vice Chair:** T Wyatt was proposed, seconded and agreed to take on the role of Vice Chair. Acceptance of office signed.

**Village Working Party:** Date confirmed as 9<sup>th</sup> October, from 10am with leaders meeting at 9.50. S Sayers to post on Facebook, Clerk to post on boards and website. Tasks and team leaders agreed as follows: War Memorial and Playground hedge cutting – T Wyatt (ideally with cherry picker from M Cooper). Old Churchyard and Dunmore Pond path clearance – S Sayers. Playground tidy up and bark spreading – A Agnew. Wildflower corner weeding and sowing, cutting back round new trees – S Orpen. Strimming around and topping up salt bins, mulch spreading round trees – S Youldon. Churchyard cutting back and weeding – Russell. Judith on lunch and refreshments. Councillors to spread word. Clerk confirmed that Berkshire, Bucks and Oxford Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) were kindly providing the seeds for the wildflower corner.

**Dunmore Pond:** Agreed to come back to the creation of a bench from the log once area had been cleared at the working party. Clerk presented costs to replace the graphic on the lectern to reference the tree planting in memory of Sir Philip Wroughton, lowest being £115. Suggested plaque was attached to existing lectern instead. Clerk to check size and costs, Councillors to consider wording and share ideas.

**Additional Climbing Frameworks:** Clerk reported no progress to date on obtaining grant to assist. Confirmed with Cllr Hooker that a new round of Members Bids maybe on the cards, Clerk to follow up.

**Refurbish Phone Box:** Offer from parishioner received to paint the phone box if PC supply paint and some new gravel to go round. All agreed. Clerk to investigate paint and confirm on email.

**Community First Aid Training:** Contact had been found that may be able to offer basic first aid training and defibrillator use, with certificate on completion. M Cooper to pass on details for Clerk to follow up.

**Superfast Broadband:** No further details available yet on timescales for the new Gigabit Project roll out. T Wyatt to follow up and copy Cllr Hooker in correspondence.

**Christmas Tree Planning:** Revd Keen agreed the placement of the Village Christmas tree in the churchyard again this year. Provisional date of the 21<sup>st</sup> December discussed for the village carol service around the tree. It was reported that the school were also looking to do this the week before. Clerk confirmed that costs had jumped up again with a similar tree to last year costing £50 more to pre-order. Discussed option of just looking nearer the time but all agreed that plan needed to be in place. Councillors asked to put ideas on email. Clerk to ask on electric for the tree and use of hob again to provide mulled wine for the carol service

**Brickleton News Articles:** Agreed it would be good to have an article from parishioners that had been involved in the Queens funeral or been up to London to pay their respects. School had been asked for contributions, nothing as yet. Clerk to post working party notice.

**Finance:** Account balances, income and expenditure since the July meeting

Current Account: £3,055.90 Deposit Account £7592.46. The second precept payment is due this month

Transactions since the last meeting: 30/07 £1,404.69 VAT refund received; 04/08 Scofell July Mowing £260.05 (inc £43.34 VAT); 04/08 Playground Mowing £120 (inc £20 VAT); 04/08 July Brickleton News £71.00; 04/08 CJM Replacement bridge chains £514.80 (£inc £85.80 VAT); 20/09 Penny Post £25 Recruitment advert- agreed PC would pay for this. 28/09 S Youldon Wages July, August, September £514.70

03/10 HMRC PAYE Q2 £128.80.

New Community Coordinator Account has been set up on same basis as the PC account, current balance £13,435

**Budget Update:** It was noted that the addition of the playground mowing has pushed up the forecasted day to day running costs from £7,353.66 to £7,587.06 (however, some savings have been made within this with weeks of no mowing). The income is forecasted at £7,749. £600 had been set aside for projects, Clerk to update budget based on decision made this evening.

**Clerk Reports & Any Other Business**

**Tree Avenue:** One cherry tree at the far end has died, S Orpen confirmed that there is a spare that can be transplanted to fill the gap.

**Highways:** Despite some marking up, WBC have still not repaired road surface near Brightwalton Common. The verges haven't had the autumn cut either. Clerk to follow up on both.

**Stonewater Housing Association:** It was noted that the housing association had be reminded to ensure that the S106 agreement is adhered to when housing swaps are being proposed.

**Defib Product Recall:** Clerk confirmed that the required software update had been completed on the community defibrillator.

**SSE Outage:** Clerk to follow up with SSE on whether the outage on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> was scheduled and if so, why residents hadn't been forewarned.

**Meeting closed at 8.50pm**

**The remaining 2022 Meeting will be held: 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**