



# Brickleton News

## PARISH COUNCIL

Polly Swann has decided to stand down from the Parish Council after 14 years of service. During that time Polly was the Parish Clerk and then went on to be one of the Parish Councillors. Polly has made a great contribution to the village, always keen to help out and offer her advice and experience. Many will also know Polly for her skill at cake making – Working Party Groups always worked better with a piece of mid-morning cake from Polly.

I am delighted to welcome Christine Delahunty on to the Parish Council. Christine is already known to many in the village and I am grateful that she is stepping forward to volunteer her services. She will be a great addition to the team.

Shaun Orpen  
Chairman Parish Council

## POPPY TIME

Like all charities The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal faces huge challenges this year. As house to house collection has been ruled out, we will be selling poppies at Brightwalton village hall on October 24th between 10am to 3pm. Poppies will be available throughout the 2 weeks from your normal collector. *Marion.*

The Parish Council, with assistance of a West Berkshire Council grant are pleased to provide this new rugby/football combination goal for all to use on the playing fields. Great to see that it is already very much in use. Thank you to Scott Youldon for installing it.



*Brightwalton has seen some changes in the village despite lockdowns and restrictions. Quite a few new residents have made their homes in our village, and we offer our welcome. Grapevines are a little slow here, so if you need information, please make contact (see back page), even if only to tell us your name(s). Our wonderful village fete is still being planned for next year and will be twice as good to make up for a lost year.*

## Christmas

With so much change and uncertainty this year the Parish Council would like to spread some joy and community spirit for Christmas with a wonderful display of lights in the village. We hope that as many of you as possible will get involved in decorating the outside of your house for Christmas to create festival feel in the village.

We are also looking to arrange a Christmas tree to be placed at a prominent place in the village. Watch this space for more details on all this. If anyone is able to offer assistance with the tree for the village please get in touch with the PC. Thank you

Brightwalton Parish Council  
Email: [brightwaltonpc@btinternet.com](mailto:brightwaltonpc@btinternet.com)



## MEMORIALS

Two lovely new benches have been added at the front of the village hall to remember Barbara and Joan. These were donated by the respective families and will be a practical and useful asset to the village. They keep John and Bill company—previously installed. Many thanks to Malcolm, Edward and Gabi Sayers for installing them.



**OIL SYNDICATE.** Orders for October must be in by 28 September.  
Next delivery will be in December.  
[julian.aird@conneco.org.uk](mailto:julian.aird@conneco.org.uk)

## Relevé Dance

**Dance Classes Starting At  
Brightwalton Village Hall  
Tuesday Afternoons**

**FREE TRIAL**

**Hour Class is Ballet, Modern, Tap & Acro**

**\*3.30pm to 4.30pm - Pre-school, YR 1&2**

**\*4.30pm to 5.30pm - YR 3&4 and 5&6**

**For further details email :**  
[katherine@relevedance.co.uk](mailto:katherine@relevedance.co.uk)

## Hobby's Horses—Benjamin Powell

Like everyone, we have had a peculiar time of it at Brightwalton Stud over the past year! We went from the euphoria of having the first Roaring Lion and Harry Angel foals born on the stud to the trials and tribulations of COVID 19 and lockdown. However, with an awful lot of hand sanitiser, careful management and a can-do attitude from all our wonderful staff, we have come out the other side and have enjoyed a very successful year both on the stud and the racetrack.

Currently we are weaning the foals and are in full swing with yearling preparation for the fast approaching sales. Recent winners for the stud include Enhanced, Many A Star, Dean Street Doll and a very good run for Sunset Bay first time out. We were delighted to welcome our 2018 March Stakes winner 'Maid Up' back to our broodmare band this year and pleased to say she is in foal to leading sire Lope De Vega. All in all, it has been an interesting year and here's hoping our racing luck doesn't run out!



### Poultry related life at 2 Limetree (A few snippets from life behind the hedge) - by Mike Hatcher

Speaking to your Editor after he published my last notes he said we don't know what goes on behind your hedge except we hear a cock crowing. Well if you stop and listen you may hear our ducks quack or our geese shouting. Yes these days we still have all of those. From life as a child growing up in Lancashire as illustrated in the photo above my last article I have always had poultry. Prior to coming South I had been to Agricultural College where I gained my National Certificate in Poultry Husbandry. Fast forward 20 years and I had my own rented property south of Newbury where I kept my own pure bred chickens. Meeting up with like-minded poultry enthusiasts I soon got involved in putting on the National Poultry Show at Alexandra Palace in London. I got used to travelling up the M4 and around the North Circular turning off for Muswell Hill in up to 'Ally Pally'. This was the start of meeting up with fanciers from around the UK and across Europe, with the bonus of Royal Patronage, firstly with The Queen Mother till her death early this century followed by Prince Charles. We started with visits from Holland and New Jersey, USA. Just prior to coming here we had a gentleman come to purchase chickens to take back to Lebanon in his private jet.

At the time when we arrived here we had to reduce the numbers of our birds as we had been used to the benefits of a walled yard and orchard with lots of permanent buildings. With Mr Pilkington's encouragement we gradually built up again. By this time our Show had moved to the Royal Showground at Stoneleigh near Warwick and for a period I had become Show Manager. It also coincided with the launch of the first UK poultry magazine in colour. Fancy Fowl was produced and edited over at Highclere and I was recruited to write for it and the Editor became a firm friend. In 1989 a conversation resulted in the idea of promoting it in the USA, well we speak the same language. Their major show is in Columbus, Ohio and so we arranged for us to travel there to a 3-day show and take 100s of magazines. We had never been over there and would know nobody. Meeting with the Show Manager we found most space taken up but there was room at the end. It proved to be great as it was opposite the toilets and of course everybody went there. We met many important people and were invited back next year to judge a show up near Cleveland near the Great Lakes. A bonus for us was when we went to find out the cost of the stand. The Secretary told us he was a vain man and if we printed his name in the magazine in capitals it would be nothing. The Editor was pleased in that we sold lots of magazines and took many subscriptions.

Next year I found out I was the first person on record from the UK to judge a poultry show over there. While there I also did a slide show on poultry over here. We were also taken back to some new friends house which had been built by emancipated slaves travelling North to places like Cleveland and Chicago. To encourage them to stop they were given land, in this case 68 acres. There we saw wild Turkeys, Red Cardinal birds and beaver dams. It was also on the edge of Amish country with their culture back into the last century. Two years later we were back again judging and promoting the magazine again at Cleveland and then across to Vancouver on the West coast of Canada to judge the Frazer Valley Show and then a week later down to Boise the capital of Idaho. Over the years we have also judged in Oregon and Illinois and visited events in Maryland Minnesota and California and made some long-lasting friends.

The relationships with Europe have culminated with us judging on the Dutch-German border at Zeddum and making many visits to poultry friends and shows in Germany especially the big show in Hannover. On one morning a coach full of friends coming through from Haverfordwest in Wales stopped here to pick up us and more passengers at 3 a.m. but we did not wake the neighbours. We had to do this to catch the early morning ferry at Harwich. Over the years we hosted many friends from the USA, Canada, Germany and Holland. Recently through me keeping a breed of chickens of Russian origin we have made a firm friendship with our friend Sasha on his visits and I have supplied eggs to their National Poultry Breeding station to rejuvenate the Orloff breed. Sylvia always gets a lovely bunch of flowers on their visits. Earlier I mentioned the Poultry Club's Royal Patronage and I have been fortunate to be involved in events. My first was in 1990 when organisations who had the Queen Mother as Patron were invited to London to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. With our Secretary, her Husband and 2 Daughters I pushed a costers barrow with 2 poultry show pens with a thatched roof and 2 Buff Orpington chickens, her favourites, round St. James's Park 2½ times, the last time across the middle and then past the Queen Mother and Lord King as she stood for hours as we filed past on Horse Guards Parade. I still have the photo sent by the Daily Mail of that day. In 2000 we again were involved when we created a garden with chickens on a tractor drawn trailer.

A few years later we were invited, when I was President of the Poultry Club, to Buckingham Palace for one of the garden parties to celebrate the Queen's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. A year later I was invited to lead a group of poultry fanciers to Highgrove to meet Prince Charles. I had the honour to introduce everybody and he gave us over an hour of his time before we toured the gardens. Last September Sylvia and I fulfilled a long held wish when we drove up to the North Coast of Scotland to visit the Castle of May which the Queen Mother bought in 1952, six months after the King died.



**DAVID GARDINER keeps detailed records of rainfall and emails his findings to whoever is interested. Get in touch if you would like to be included. Here is August's offering, but he sends full details and graphs, too.**

With 102mm of rain, August was a very wet month by any standards. It was greatly in excess of August last year (42mm) and of the the previous 18-year average for August (57.1mm). The Moving Annual Total, which had been fairly stable in the 40mm range between 866mm and 906mm for the last 6 months, has shot up 60mm from 873mm to 933mm.

The pattern of rainfall during the month was unusual. Following a totally dry spell of 16 days from 28th July to 12th August, the whole rainfall for the month came in the next 17 days. There was no exceptionally wet day, the wettest day being 20mm on 25th; but there was measurable rain on 13 of these 17 days, so nothing had a chance to dry out. From the point of view of the harvest, following a very wet autumn and winter and a very dry May, this wet weather could not have come at a worse time. Hence yields were way down.

*David Gardiner*

### **VIRTUAL AUTUMN GIFT FAIR in aid of Newbury Riding for the Disabled**

**5<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

**hosted by**

**[www.brilliantlittlebrands.com](http://www.brilliantlittlebrands.com)**

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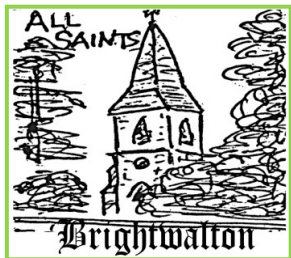
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### From Miri Keen



(westdownland@gmail.com 07954 117093)

Over the summer we've moved from 'church on Zoom' to 'church in person' but not 'church as usual'! Like all organisations and businesses we've had to adapt so that we can help people to stay safe from the virus. Through August and September we've been holding

our main Sunday service outside where there's plenty of fresh air and lots of space to keep the 2m rule. People have brought deck chairs and picnic rugs and, with the help of a good PA system, we've been able to enjoy music, Bible stories and prayers in the beauty of 'God's Acre'. From 13<sup>th</sup> September we've also celebrated Holy Communion inside the church for those who would like to receive the bread. Sadly the practicalities of social distancing have meant that not all our churches have been accessible for public worship but there have been three services in Brightwalton and these have been supported by local parishioners and people from across the Benefice.

Everyone is welcome at all the services but please make a special effort to come to our **Harvest Festival on 27<sup>th</sup> September** at Great Shefford. With sheep grazing in the foreground and views across the valley to fields this will be a very special Harvest Service.

We've also held a weekly Holy Communion Service in Chaddleworth. We wanted to offer a traditional service that is very calm and well-ordered so that anyone who has become anxious about the risks of meeting other people indoors can feel comfortable coming to church because they know that we will do all that we can to care for them. St Andrew's church is slightly wider than the other single-aisle churches in the Benefice so we can fit in a few extra people without losing our social distancing. Everyone wears a mask but with good amplification the service still comes through loud and clear. Communion is brought to you in your seat so that there are no queues and no uncertainties about where to stand and what to do. St Andrew's church has an efficient boiler so Chaddleworth will continue to be the regular home of the Monday Holy Communion Service at 11am as temperatures cool.

With all this change it's been interesting to think about what stays the same in our church life. For me it's the power of Jesus' promise of peace – peace of heart and mind against the odds – that remains when the usual organ music and hymns, prayer books old and new, bells before and coffee after the service have all stopped. Peace that is a given not earned; peace that enables us to face each day with courage; peace that we can share with friends and neighbours. This is the "Peace to all men" that the Christmas angels sang about and that comforts and inspires us to persevere in this 'strangest of times'.

#### September Services

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am Fawley Churchyard**

Open Air Service with Holy Communion inside the church

*Please reserve a seat for Holy Communion on arrival*

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 11am Chaddleworth Church**

Holy Communion *Please contact Sue Ridgeway or Miri if you plan to attend*

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am Great Shefford Churchyard**

Harvest Service with Holy Communion inside the church

*Please reserve a seat for Holy Communion on arrival*

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> 11am Chaddleworth Church**

Holy Communion *Please contact Sue Ridgeway or Miri if you plan to attend*

With constant updating of the Covid-19 regulations we are planning month by month. For a regular update please subscribe to our United Benefice News by emailing Miri.

**STOP PRESS Annual Parochial Church Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 5pm. Please contact Miri for the Zoom link or telephone number.**

### From Evelyn Bracey—Home Farm, Woolley

Well hopefully tomorrow (Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>) we will finish harvest. The spring beans have proved a real nuisance, but the end is in sight. The combine, drier and all the other equipment have done as they were told, the weather - well! - it could have helped a little more. It has been an unusual harvest with things not ripening when expected and some things ripening early. The wheat did well, a good yield and good quality good enough for bread making, so when you buy some flour from Wessex mills in Wantage you may find our name on the bag. The straw is all baled and in fact we have drilled our rape. Many farmers have decided to no longer grow rape as many of the sprays used have now been banned, but we decided we would give it one more go. We are not sure if it is the right thing as last year we lost the whole crop.

We have also had our Red Tractor inspection. This was done virtually and we had to walk round the farm filming things on the phone whilst talking to the inspector. The Red tractor is an assured scheme started by farmers to ensure that farms are kept to a high standard, and also the products that are sold are to an equally high standard. They need to see the buildings where the animals are kept during the winter and, as the cattle are outside we had to film them out at grass. The grain store is also inspected with particular attention given to the killing of rats. As you can imagine a grain store is very attractive to rats but we do not want them all over the stored grain, so on a very regular basis we have to put bait down in a controlled and safe fashion. We also have to show that we keep samples from each lorry load of grain that goes so if there were a problem it can be traced. Hopefully we ticked all the boxes and we will get our Red Tractor certificate for another year.

The cattle are looking well. The 18 month old young stock will be ready to be sold to the fattening unit in Lincolnshire, and then will end up in Waitrose. The cycle will then start all over again weaning the young calves from their Mums who are hopefully in calve ready for next year. Today we had to get one cow in as she has had an infection in her foot, it was cleaned up and she was injected with antibiotics then turned back out, so hopefully that will get better.

Like the cattle the arable side will start all over again with the drilling being done ready for next year's crop.

And maybe I will mention Covid 19. What a time it has been, but I feel so lucky that we live where we do and have the space to enjoy the countryside. Let us hope that next year things will improve.



Another load of grain being loaded at Woolley Farm.



Renovations in progress at Woolley House.

**BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL Meeting Held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 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](http://www.brightwalton.org.uk)*

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

**New Councillor:** Following the resignation of Polly Swann, the PC thanked Polly for her contribution over the last 14 years to the Parish Council. The vacancy notices had been published over the required 14 day period, with no call for a bi-election received, the PC were therefore given permission to co-opt to fill the vacancy. Christine Delahunty had expressed an interest and joined the meeting, she was proposed, seconded and welcomed on the Parish Council. Clerk to forward Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interest paperwork for signing.

**PCC Update:** J Draper reported that the Church has been re-organised to accommodate 24 people and is open for private prayer on a Sunday, with Covid precautions in place. Several services have also been successfully held outside. Discussions are taking place regarding Christmas services, but at this time nothing can be confirmed and details will follow nearer the time. J Draper announced that he was stepping down as Church Warden in October as is the current secretary, concern was raised that this leaves the Church without a warden as no replacement had yet been found for Dave Walmsley. Rev'd Keen is still looking at the possibility of amalgamating roles across the Downland Benefice. Anyone keen to volunteer should contact John Draper or Rev'd Keen. J Draper asked if there would be a village working party this year as some work was required at the Churchyard. Clerk agreed to confirm after meeting. **ASPIRE Update:** Tenders for the Phase 1 work had been received and a builder appointed. Phase 1 and phase 2 works are still awaiting faculty permission.

**Village Hall Update:** Update received in advance of the meeting from Anna Britnor-Guest explained that the village hall was now open for users with Covid safety policies in place. The committee were delighted that the nursery has reopened for the autumn term and a dance class is starting on Tuesday afternoons. The committee thanked Jeremy Snow & Sarah Wheatley-Hince for taking on the task of the Covid risk assessments and new policies. It was noted that the hall does hold some financial reserves, but the PC raised concerns that if no fete could be held next year financial assistance may be required. The PC agreed that no contribution to the playing field mowing (normally £250) from the VHC would be requested this year.

**Matters Arising:**

**Playground Maintenance:** Clerk presented a quote of £207 for the installation of bird spikes on the swings, together with quote for supply only of £27.12. Councillors approved supply only quote and agreed install could take place at the working party. It was agreed that the bark should be topped up under the small climbing frame, Councillors approved the quote of £158.33 for 1400litres including delivery. Clerk raised that the bin lid had been missing for some years meaning that the bag filled with rainwater, quote of £17.16 approved for a new lid. Clerk provided quotes for replacing the Covid signage to permanent plastic backed signs, Councillors felt the laminated signage was adequate for now. Clerk to monitor and replace laminated signs as necessary. Funds for the above maintenance to come from £500 included in the 20/21 budget.

**Playing Field Maintenance:** Clerk reported that the new large combination football / rugby goal was now in place and is being well used, thank you to Scott Youldon for installing. The broken sections and net of the small socketed goal had been removed leaving it safer with just the overhead bar, quotes to fully refurbish had come to just under £200, Councillors agreed to leave and consider next year.

**Old Churchyard Maintenance:** The regular checks had identified some dead wood in the large central Ash tree. Clerk presented quotes of £420 and £550 for the removal of this including chipping. Councillors approved the Scofell quote of £420, note made to ensure date confirmed with neighbours for access and that the contractors are especially careful over the historic graves. Clerk to get work approval from WBC. Funds to come from the £600 budgeted this year for tree maintenance. It was noted that the Hazel and some lower Yew branches are overhanging the path and should be dealt with at a working party. Both tree surgeons had noted that the Ash in the front corner appeared to be deteriorating and advised that a budget should be made for its removal in the next 1-2 years.

**Hall Noticeboard:** It was noted that the doors of the PC noticeboard on the hall had been damaged for some time. Cost to replace the doors would be around £180. As they were still functioning and notices were visible it was agreed to leave at this time.

**Highways:** WBC highways had confirmed that the VAS in the Holt had been set to the wrong speed and agreed to add to the works list to get this corrected. Parishioner had reported 2 further accidents on the bend at Lilley, these had been reported to highways for monitoring purposes. Clerk to keep in touch with highways on actions taken.

**Memorial for John Hall- Craggs:** Following discussions with the family, a memorial bench installed to the left of the Church door in the Churchyard had been proposed – S Orpen reported that discussions with PCC were in progress.

**Brickleton News Articles:** S Orpen to write note thanking Polly and welcoming Christine to the PC. It was agreed that it would be good to revive the 'Welcome to the Village' in the Brickleton news but acknowledged that someone may be missed, S Orpen to ask Mike to do a general welcome. Clerk to write article on Christmas lights together with a short piece on the new goalposts.

**Planning:** It was stated for the record: **20/01184/HOUSE** The Paddock – One and a half storey extension and addition of dormers to existing dwelling. WBC had refused this application.

**20/00315/FUL** Brentani – Construction of stables and associated storage. PC responded with No Objections. WBC decision awaited.

**Finance: Budget:** Clerk had supplied a copy of the budget with the year to date spending, indicating that spending was in line with forecasts. **Balance, Invoices and Receipts:** Balance of the Current Account is £4,517.70, savings account £7,863.83

Transactions since the July meeting: Chq 200072 28/07 Scofell - July Mowing £247.10 (inc £41.18 VAT); Chq 200073 28/07 S Sayers – Top soil for making good around new benches £20.00; Chq 200074 28/07 M Sayers – Cement and ballast for benches £56.42; Chq 200075 dated 14/09 to be signed for Scofell - August Mowing £247.10 (inc £41.18 VAT)

**Any Other Business:**

**Benches:** Thank you to Malcolm, Edward and Gabi Sayers for installing the new memorial benches at the front of the village hall.

**Lease Agreement for Playing Field:** The agent acting on the behalf of the Diocese of Oxford had been in touch regarding the expiration of the 20 year lease on the playing field. Clerk reported that the current rent was £249 per year for the field and another £249 for the village hall (on a separate 99 year lease). Agent had stated that the rent did not reflect the commercial value and had put forward a stepped increase proposal of £400 for year 1, £600 for year 3 and £800 for year 5 with annual RPI increases thereafter. Councillors argued that it should not be on a commercial rate for the not-for-profit PC and the benefit of the village. S Orpen to make enquires as to the actual commercial rate, S Sayers to make enquiries on what neighbouring tenants of Diocese land pay and Clerk to ask Ward Councillor for information as to other parishes lease arrangements with the Diocese. Information to be gathered and response to be sent to agent within the next two weeks.

**Christmas Tree:** Local parishioner had made a suggestion earlier in the year for a village Christmas tree, PC agreed this would be a good idea and thought it would be nice if this could be placed outside Church. S Orpen to speak to Rev'd Keen for permission and S Sayers to make enquires reference donation of a tree. Given that this may not be possible it was agreed that the PC should encourage the lighting up of houses over the Christmas period to celebrate the community spirit and create a festival atmosphere in the village. S Sayers to post on Facebook. Clerk to write up for Brickleton News.

**Working Party:** Instead of one village working party it was agreed that we should have a number of small teams working in different locations on a specific date to work within Covid-19 restrictions. Teams to cover – War Memorial, Playground, Old Churchyard, Churchyard and managing the bonfire. Clerk to confirm delivery dates for playground items, Councillors to head up each team and get a small number of volunteers on board.

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm      The remaining 2020 Meeting will be held 9<sup>th</sup> November**

Please e-mail contributions to me (Word format preferred) at [bricnews@gmail.com](mailto:bricnews@gmail.com)

**Next Edition Deadline— Wednesday 11 November 2020**

**Enquiries : Mike A 638700**

Find Brickleton News and other Village affairs on the Village website [www.brightwalton.org.uk](http://www.brightwalton.org.uk)

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