



Brickleton News

It has been nice to meet (at a distance) so many people, out getting their exercise over the past twelve weeks. Warm dry weather has made this a lot easier, as well as gardening.

In this edition look out for news on prescription collection and new dancing classes starting up in autumn. Life definitely goes on. More news in the Parish Council minutes (back page).

Walkers: Please can we remind all walkers to keep to the designated footpaths, follow the signs and keep dogs on leads where requested. The path from The Green to Pudding Lane across Malt House Farm field runs across a field, and walkers should not be walking their own routes around the field. West Berkshire Council have also seen an increase in complaints of mis-use across the district as use has increased through lockdown. Please be respectful to the landowners, farmers and other users by following signage and clearing up after dogs, thank you. **Brightwalton PC**

B4494 Bend at Lilley

Over the last year there have been a number of accidents on the bend at Lilley, please do take care extra care here. The Parish Council is working with the Highways team to assess the problem and look if any improvements can be made to help prevent accidents.



The Aspire Project, to improve some internal aspects of All Saints Church, continues. Securing the necessary approval from the diocese, the Victorian

Society and others, has been a slow process which has called for detailed and lengthy statements of need, architects' drawings, site visits and specialist representation at several meetings. At the same time, the project committee has overseen successful local fundraising events and approached potential benefactors and charities. The result of all this effort is that the first phase of the work will soon commence. In the west end of the nave we shall install a servery and a toilet, screened by oak panelling.

To remind Brightwalton Villagers of the aims of the project, a booklet is being delivered with this edition of the Brickleton News. Copies of the plans are also displayed in the church porch.

Thank you to all who have assisted our fundraising so far, and we look forward to the beginning of the work that will make our church a far more usable village asset.

Brightwalton Preschool Nursery

Brightwalton Preschool closed its doors on 20th March due to lockdown and continued our operation online. We set up our own YouTube channel providing the children with weekly story videos, science sessions, craft and baking tutorials as well as phonics and number activity sheets. We ran our 'show & tell' sessions via zoom each week regularly speaking to our children from their homes. We saw piglets, ducklings and chicks online. We re-opened at the first opportunity on the 1st June, welcoming just 15 children into our 'bubble' as we followed restrictions and Government guidance. The children were excited to be back to see their friends and generally seemed unaffected by the new cleaning routines and modified layout of the Nursery.

We continued this term with lots of arts and craft activities, including celebrating Ascot races by making our own race horses and naming them. We discovered a swallows nest in the bus shelter and made swallow pictures and models and the children learnt about their long journey to Africa. We ended the term with our 8 school leavers getting involved in a very low key, 'socially distanced' celebration, with the children demonstrating their country dancing skills.

We welcome 12 new starters in September and generally the Preschool is seeming very busy once more. We still have some places available in September, please contact Sarah Wheatley-Hince via BricNews.



Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion have to think of another way to sell poppies this year.

With consideration for the volunteers responsible for the door to door collection and the counting of money, it has been decided that donations are not to be in collection boxes.

We are being asked to concentrate on wreaths this year.

Every year we order wreaths for the Parish, School and Church councils, why not buy one for your household.

Let me know if you are interested, I will be ordering wreaths in the next few weeks.

Marion Walker

GOOD NEWS ABOUT PRESCRIPTIONS -

Dierdre Green has asked me to include this message.-

"As of Tuesday 14th July I will be the collection point for prescriptions again. I will probably deliver most of them, but they can be collected from me on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoon between 2 and 6, or people can make arrangements with me to collect at other times. I know it was difficult for some people to get their prescriptions during this pandemic so thought it would be good to do it again".

And many thanks to Dierdre for taking this on.

40 Years at Number 2 (continued) by Mike Hatcher

These 40 years have a history going back to 1951 when these cottages were built. The Second World War had finished and many returning soldiers were looking for work. Mr Pilkington had been a Major and had a batman. Mr Pilkington wanted farm cottages for his workers and so obtained planning permission. Manhole covers around our house have the name of the builders, Ledleys of Marlborough Ltd. Not only did they build these but with the same plans those at Robert Bracey's farm and also on the Wantage Road opposite the Farnborough turn. Behind our cottage is what we always thought was one of the old shepherd's caravans. On one of his visits John Hall Craggs corrected us. It was built by Plentys in Newbury and was to be pulled around by the old steam traction engines used as road rollers or to pull threshing engines to get the grain from the harvested corn crops. When Mr Pilkington died his service was conducted by Rev Bob Greaves who was a real character. He and Mr P had a shared love of racehorses and each year went to the Cheltenham Festival. Bob had a retired racehorse a present from Robert Sangster. He did cause a bit of a fuss when a photo appeared in a racing paper with him using a gravestone to mount it. He didn't have anyone to give him a leg up. He was left the bungalow which is the last one on the right going out of the village towards Southend but chose not to accept it. The service he conducted for Mr P in a packed village church was to celebrate his life and was not to be sad, in fact we had a number of laughs.

Whidbourne's farm enterprise when I came was based very much on pigs. Where they now have their cattle yard for over-wintering, had large pig unit and also a mill where they produced their feed. They also had one along Brown Lane and then another at Saddleback Farm where many buildings still exist. When we arrived here we also had some goats. Finding out it was ok we tethered them along the cart track at the back. As numbers grew we also tethered them along the track to the chalk pit and on the verge to Pudding Lane. Peter Crowfoot told me when he was looking to buy their house in the Lane he decided it must be country if you tethered goats at the roadside. At the start of our time here the verges of our road were trimmed by a roadman who also dug out the ditches and the grips into them by hand.

The village also had a Pub and petrol pumps down at The Holt. No laurel hedge and no two large red brick houses. I even parked there one night when I could not get up any road into the village because of snow drifts. We also used to have a mobile shop come round from Wash Common near Newbury run by Mr Batt. It would have been very useful in our lockdown with meat, vegetables and fruit. Although he claimed he never ever made money on my trades of eggs for veggies it always seemed to end up to his advantage. When we started as secretaries for a national club for Domestic Ducks and Geese (still there after 24 years) we were looking for more revenue and Deirdre Green came to our rescue making beautiful ceramic models painted up in all the different breed colours. We still have two on our mantelpiece.

Many new houses since we came here. The Chapel was well attended on a Sunday with cars parked down the road. A new house was built next to it up the road. New houses behind Green Farm, up the slope opposite Clive Wells and new bungalows further along towards Chad. At Chad we used to have Hadland's Village Shop, Post Office and petrol pumps. In later years I worked for one of the most interesting people in my life, Chris Brasher. Although he lived in Chaddleworth at the White House he enjoyed his life in our area. He was someone you could relate to man to man. I remember once with a Brightwalton connection when he had cattle grazing in Richmond Park in London and wished to move them we got Whidbournes to go with a trailer. Besides his work with starting the London Marathon probably the greatest fundraising event ever, in our conversations I learnt so much more of his charitable work. He was instrumental in buying Snowdon Mountain for the National Trust. He got Jeffrey Archer the novelist at that time, Lord Archer, as a guarantor (lots of interesting side-stories there). On his many climbs up there he originally used to have his shooting stick to rest on. Watching a shepherd leaning on his shepherd's crook he decided he should have one. I now have it. He also decided a filling station spoiled the view and so as related at his funeral by Chris Chataway he asked how he could blow it up. Being forbidden to do it, he solved it by buying it and knocking it down. He was a marvellous storyteller and I could regale you with many of his exploits to benefit people.

With my work around the area in garden maintenance I had many interesting connections. I worked for Jim and Helen Brown at Chapel Farm, Hill Green. Their son Ian and wife Mary Ann ran the large pig unit there and also Farmer Brown Animal and Bird Feed shop. Of course they knew my interest in poultry and in 1992 Ian came and sat in our front room accompanied by David Gardner from Lilley. They were Chairman and President of Newbury & District Agricultural Society. They had a request, would I start a Poultry Section at Royal Berkshire Show. Research showed it had last been part of the show in 1952. I had a good team who were already involved in Reading & District Bantam Society and Hants & Berks Poultry Fanciers. I retired in 2017 which was also an appropriate show as Kirsten Lloyd was President. I have a lovely engraved glass bowl to remind me of another period while living at 2 Lime Tree Cottages.

Mike Hatcher



That's me third from left going to the VE Day Celebrations

CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES AT BRIGHTWALTON VILLAGE HALL

Relevé Dance

Childrens dance classes will be starting in September at Brightwalton Village Hall covering Brightwalton and surrounding villages. This will be for an hour, a general class of ballet, modern, tap & acro for pre-school & primary school ages. Secondary school and adult classes are also available at other locations.

For more information please contact me at katherine@relevedance.co.uk

See more about **Relevé** at www.relevedance.co.uk

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From Dan Whidborne—Farming Snippets.

"We are hoping to start combining very soon. Even with lock down, things have carried on as normal. We are growing peas for the first time as an alternative to oil seed rape. We have had around 50 calves this year. Both bulls have just been back with the cows for 8 weeks, so hopefully the cows are back in calf again."



The Village Hall will soon be back in business.



Can you spot the deer?



From Evelyn Bracey—Home Farm, Woolley

"What strange times we live in but somehow we have been very lucky as farming just seems to carry on."

In the spring a lot happens on the farm for the livestock and the arable side. Our 50 cows calved in February with several lots of twins so come April they are all turned out in the park. It is a lovely sight, the cows can't wait to get onto the grass and very often leaving their calves behind because of course they have no idea what grass is. This can cause problems and we have to take the calves out into the field in a small trailer. We also have 48 young stock, these are last year's calves who have been inside all winter so they are also turned out. The barns are then all cleaned out and any maintenance necessary is done.

As the weather improves we are able to get on the land and during March we plant the spring barley. There is also a lot of fertilizing on both crops and grass to be done and the inevitable spraying. Come June we are into cutting the silage ready for next winter's feed and we have just had our second cut of hay.

Hopefully the weather will be kind to us as harvest is looming in fact I do know some farmers have already started cutting their rape.

Have a good summer and hopefully things will be improving."

A female farrier in the village...

Hi, my name is Bethany. I am 22 and I am training to be a farrier.

I have wanted to be a farrier since secondary school. I was fortunate enough to have my own little pony which gave me the interest for farriery. When I left school I then applied for a Farrier Access Course at Warwickshire College, which I complete and then went on to find an apprenticeship which is a difficult process. After work experience with many local farriers, I started my four year apprenticeship with Berkshire Farriers. To further my career, I moved on to Welshpool, Mid-Wales. This is with my current Boss Jim Blurton. Jim has a family run business and achieved world champion in 2005. As a team we are lucky enough to shoe some of the country's most prestigious and successful competition horses.

Since being with Jim Blurton he has inspired me to compete at county shows, with great success and I also won college awards for excellent theory and practical work.

I am now on target to complete my apprenticeship, taking my final exams in November. Once I qualify my plans are to work part time in Wales and to eventually set up my own business in Brightwalton.



BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Held on Monday 13th July 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 May meeting minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record. There were no declarations of interest.

WBC Update: Prior to the meeting Cllr. Hooker's monthly update had been circulated, outlining information on the local outbreak control planning that is currently being worked on, together with information on the re-opening of libraries, Shaw House and the Museum. Clerk to upload full report to parish website. Cllr Hooker also stated that the District Parish Conference took place earlier today, Clerk to circulate presentation once received.

It was noted that another car accident had occurred on the bend at Lilley, Clerk confirmed that a speed survey is scheduled and once the data had been collected the PC could discuss improvement options with the Highways team.

PCC Update: The church has now re-opened with Sunday services every 3 weeks, alternating around the Downland Benefice.

ASPIRE Update: Response to tenders for Phase 1 of works are awaited. Phase 2 works are still awaiting faculty permission, but a buyer had now been found for the organ which will assist with this 2nd phase permission. A full update is being put together and will go out in the Brickleton News. The Charity Ball will be re-scheduled for next year.

Matters Arising: COVID-19: Clerk reported that the assistance was winding down with the Downland Pharmacy stopping the prescription delivery service as of the 28th July. S Orpen to write thank you letters to volunteers and the Brickleton News.

Re-Instate Original Local Prescription Collection: Since the success of the prescription delivery service, several parishioners had asked if the service could continue in some form. Several years had passed since the original collection service within the village stopped. This was in place for many years and allowed patients to collect their prescriptions from a house in the village. Councillors agreed it would be good to get this up and running again, but obviously a volunteer would need to be found who lived in the centre of the village. Clerk to check requirements with the Downland Practice and put together note for the Brickleton News. (**Update– see page one, ed)

Re-Opening of the Village Playground: Following a change in government guidance on the 4th July, playgrounds can be re-opened if the operator can ensure it is safe to do so. Clerk is currently working through the lengthy and complex guidance to provide the necessary risk assessments. It was noted that Newbury Town Council had just published notices advising users not to use the playground but if they did this was at their own risk. Clerk was unsure this was sufficient and had contacted the insurance company for guidance. Clerk to report back and circulate insurance guidance once received.

Replacement of Nautical Climber: Clerk had looked at options to both replace and refurbish the nautical climber at the playground. Refurbishment costs were very high and require additional inspections after. Replacement options included a lower triangular climbing frame with replacement costs around £2,500, P Swann agreed to look at options too. It was agreed that regular inspections would continue, and a suitable replacement would be included in next year's budget. Clerk to ensure monthly inspections are in place and recorded.

Highways: VAS had finally been installed in The Holt on the B4494, Clerk to check it is in working order. Clerk also keeping in touch with Highways on the speed survey as discussed for Lilley

Footpaths: PC had received complaint of walkers not sticking to the footpath across from The Green over the field of Malt House farm. Reminder signs have been put up and PC had been asked to make a note in the Brickleton News. It was noted that historically there was a casual agreement regarding the use of the top end of the field, Councillors agreed that it would be good to discuss this with the owners. Clerk to communicate and put together note for Brickleton News. It was noted that WBC had also sent through advice following complaints across the district of mis-use of public rights of ways, Clerk to include this in the Brickleton News note.

Parish Email List: A request had been made to set up a parish communication list, Councillors discussed and considered the GDPR implications, and also discussed problems other PCs have had with this. It was agreed that there was little to gain from the considerable amount of work involved and updates are effectively circulated through the Brickleton News, website and Facebook.

Memorial for John Hall-Craggs: S Orpen had been in touch with other village groups and the family to discuss options. It had been agreed that there should be a permanent and meaningful memorial. A number of options are currently being considered. S Orpen to continue conversations and feedback.

Brickleton News Articles: Update on the ASPIRE project. Clerk to write brief note on road safety at Lilley, footpaths and volunteer for prescription service.

Planning: 20/01184/HOUSE The Paddock – Revised application for a one and a half storey extension and additional dormer windows to existing dwelling – PC had responded supporting the application. WBC decision awaited.

Finance: 2019/20 Accounts: Auditors had confirmed acceptance of the Certificate of Exemption. Accounts had been published online and public inspections notices would go up on the notice boards on the 1st September.

Balance, Invoices and Receipts:

The Current Account balance as of the 04/07 £5,702.92; Saving Account balance as of the 04/07 £7,863.83. Cheques /receipts since last meeting:

11/05 Chq 200065 Zurich Insurance Annual Renewal £359.14; 25/05 Chq 200066 Imprint – May Brickleton News £65.00

25/05 Chq 200067 BALC Annual Membership £87.29; 07/06 Chq 200068 Scofell May Mowing £83.30 (inc £13.88) – reduced due to cancellation of cut

and collect before fete. 04/07 S/O S Youldon Q1 Wages £419.04; 04/07 S/O HMRC Q1 PAYE £104.60; The following cheques were signed at the

meeting: CHQ 20069 Diocese of Oxford Field & Hall Rent £549.60 (inc£91.60 VAT); CHQ 20070 Imprint July Brickleton News £65.00; CHQ 20071

Scofell June Mowing £247.10 (inc 41.18 VAT)

AOB: Highway Verges: It was noted that the verges on the village junctions onto the B4494 need cutting back again. Clerk to report. WBC reacted within a couple of days at the last request.

Cricket Nets: Following the install of the new goal post, M Cooper agreed to investigate costs to re-instate the cricket nets. Clerk to add to the September agenda.

Fly Tipping: Concern raised on the recent fly tips in the village. WBC had cleared one and a parishioner had kindly cleared the other. Address evidence had been found within the larger fly tip and had been reported to WBC for follow up.

The remaining 2020 Meetings will be held 14th September and the 9th November

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

Next Edition Deadline— Wednesday 16 September 2020

Enquiries : Mike A 638700

Find Brickleton News and other Village affairs on the Village website www.brightwalton.org.uk

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