



July 2019

Issue 224

Brightwalton certainly changes with the seasons. This year, our early summer has brought an amazing splash of colour everywhere. The cows and calves are munching at new meadows, and the wheat and rapeseed is shoulder high. People have changed as well with the passing of Barbara Tayler and more recently, Joan Sayers who achieved the age of 94 years. We have an ever changing pattern of people moving away and others moving in, but there is always the small core who keep things running. Why not join them—Parish Council, Village Hall, Young Farmers, Church —join in!

Part of the ASPIRE project

(All Saints Project in Reaching Everyone)

BRIGHTWALTON'S OPEN GARDENS



Come along on Sunday, 23 June, 2pm until 5pm

**Can you identify the mystery plant in each garden?
Spot a gnome in each garden**

**An Art Exhibition by Brightwalton Primary School
Will be on display in the church**

**Tea and cakes will be served at the village hall
Home produce for sale in gardens**

**Start at the village hall to collect your map and programme
£5 per adult (free under 16)**

BRIGHTWALTON FETE—MAY 2019

Outstanding year for Brightwalton Fete

The results are in – and this year's fete is one of the best on record. We've netted a profit of around £4,400 which goes a long way to maintaining the village hall. Brightwalton School also raised money direct for the school through their fantastic range of stalls – and throwing sponges at teacher Mr Helsby in the stocks.

We had other new attractions like the Peasemore Ukelele Group, the Garston Gallopers and the tractor ride through the bluebell woods alongside old favourites like the Wantage Silver Band, football, raffle and dog show.

An enormous thank you to all of you who donated time and energy, raffle prizes, products or equipment and to everyone who participated in any way to making the fete such a success. A special thank you goes to Jeremy Snow for taking the lead in organising this year's fete.

Anna Britnor Guest, on behalf of the fete team.

RIDE + STRIDE for Churches

money raised through Ride and Stride made a vital contribution to this total. So thank you to all who took part, whether as Riders and Striders, as local organisers, or as stewards on the day who welcomed visitors and offered much-appreciated refreshments to enthusiastic but sometimes weary participants.

Ride and Stride is a great event. Nationally it raises over £1 million each year for our churches. But besides this, for those who take part it offers a splendid opportunity to see some of the wonderful churches of our county – churches built with love and in faith, with dedication and hard work, and with skill and artistry. Our task today is to maintain them with the same love and faith, and in the same manner.

Last year I walked with a friend through Reading. Some of the churches I had visited before, some were new to me, but all gave me cause to stop and stare and wonder. I started at the church of the English Martyrs in Tilehurst and ended (via Reading Abbey ruins and the church of St James) at St Peter's in Caversham, and altogether visited sixteen churches. There were too many to describe here individually, but some stand out – the lofty interior of J P St Aubyn's All Saints, Downshire Square; the wonderful furnishings (including a Pugin screen) at Holy Trinity; the grandeur of the Minster; the classical restraint of St Mary Castle Street; the quietness of the burial ground behind the Friends' Meeting House in Church Street; the Victorian gothic masterpiece that is Henry Woodyer's Christ Church; and the magnificent series of stained glass windows by C E Kempe at St Luke's. And at many of them I met people who clearly loved their churches and were glad to share their love and their knowledge with me. It was a great way to spend a Saturday, and an inspiration to be reminded of the magnificent heritage we have in Berkshire.

Doubtless other participants could tell similar stories of their experiences elsewhere in Berkshire. I myself am planning to explore another part of the county in September 2019. If you would like to take part, have a word with your local organiser – or email rideandstrideberks@gmail.com. Whether you visit two churches or twenty, I'm sure you'll have a good day, and whether you raise £50 or £500, every penny will help our churches.

Peter Durrant, Chairman, Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust

See if you can pay less for your energy bills by signing up to the West Berkshire Energy Switch

The West Berkshire Energy Switch is a free to join scheme which gives residents the chance to see if they can make savings on their fuel bills. Since 2016, over 560 households have switched supplier through the scheme, saving over £130,800 between them. The recent February auction saw switchers saving an average of £210 on their annual bill.

A one day reverse auction will be held in May; with suppliers competing with their best offers, and the winning supplier/s then sending registrants their personalised offer for consideration. Auctions are held each year in February, May and October.

There is no obligation to switch. Sign up and see if you can save; to register or find out more, visit www.westberks.gov.uk/communityswitch. You will need to have your latest energy bill to hand, as you'll need the details during the registration process.

Registration and acceptance is open until 2nd July, and offers will begin to go out from 3rd June.

West Berkshire residents without internet access should contact West Berkshire Council on 01635 503267 by 21st June to register. Remember to have your energy bill or annual statement to hand when you call.

Old Churchyard Working Party—Saturday 29th June

Following all the tree work, we need a team to help clear up the Old Churchyard. All those that help are welcome to take firewood home - there is plenty!

10am start, please meet at the Old Churchyard with tools for cutting back, chainsaws, trimmers, gloves, rakes etc.

All help appreciated!

Many Thanks

Brightwalton Parish Council

Parish Council Update

After 20 year's service as Councillor, Chair and Clerk, Jackie Boxall has stepped down from the Parish Council. We are hugely grateful for her time and dedication to the village for so many years. She has been a great asset and will be sorely missed.

To replace Jackie, we are pleased to welcome Annie Agnew who has kindly stepped forward and joined the Parish Council on the 13th May.

Ride and Stride 2018 is now a pretty distant memory for most of us, but with the final results now in it's worth pausing to take note of what we achieved, and to thank all those who helped us achieve it. Altogether some 75 riders and striders made 471 visits to 72 churches, and raised almost £19,000 for the Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust – money that will go directly to helping keep the churches of our county in good repair. In 2017/18 the Trust paid out £31,000 in grants for church repairs and improvements, and the

Faringdon Folly

Most people reading this will, sometime, have driven towards Wantage on the B4494, and as you descend past the Ridgeway, admired the view over the Vale of the White Horse. In winter, at night, you can see across to Faringdon and the illuminated star which is erected on the top of the Folly tower situated there, on a wooded hill known as Cromwell's Battery, from its strategic use in the Civil War. But have you ever bothered to visit this building, or even know that you can? In fact, this 100 ft tower, built by local eccentric Lord Berners in 1935, is open on certain days from April to October, and you can climb the 100 ft tower and stay there for as long as you like. The panoramic view from the top can be stunning! The dreaming spires of Oxford, all those aircraft parked at Brize Norton, the wide span of the Downs, the towns and villages of the Vale; it can encompass five counties on a clear day. And if you forgot your binoculars, you can borrow one for free.

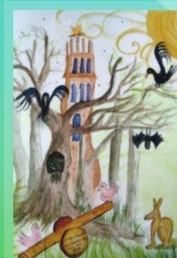
There are at least three paths which go up to the Folly, but the easiest way, shaded by trees, is near the start of Stanford Road – you will see some steps going up to the entrance. You can always find some free parking along this road. The open days for the tower are the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month (the surrounding woodland is always accessible). A small charge is made for accessing the tower: £3 for adults, £1 for children 11 to 16; children under 11 accompanied by an adult are admitted free. Of course, donations towards the upkeep of the tower and woodland are welcomed; they are owned by a Charitable Trust (the tower will soon require pointing, which is a horrendously expensive task!).

As a volunteer who might be taking money from you at the bottom of the tower, I hope to welcome you there!

Geoff Grayer.
(not Faulty Towers—ed)

Folly Tower and Woodland

Faringdon, South West Oxfordshire



Faringdon Folly Tower was built in 1935 by Lord Berners, owner of Faringdon House. The Tower is 100 feet high and affords panoramic views over five counties.

The woodland is always open and entry is free.

April	7th	21st
May	5th	19th
June	2nd	16th
July	7th	21st
August	4th	18th
September	8th	22nd
October	6th	20th

The Tower is open:
April - October on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.
11am - 5pm.

Adults: £3.00 11-16s: £1.00 Under 11s: Free

enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

Folly Tower & Woodland Faringdon, Folly Path postcode SN7 7AQ

Tel: 01495 475 6366

The Tower is available for private parties and events

Don't forget the Open Gardens event on 23 June—your chance to see behind the hedges and houses that hide very beautiful gardens. Villagers have worked hard to provide you with the best displays, so make it worth their while and help raise money for the Aspire Project.

FABULOUS FETE

The Fete Committee under their enthusiastic Chairman, Jeremy Snow, marked a big step forward in planning and organisation. There was plenty to see and do this year, and the weather played its part in attracting a good crowd. The parking field was full of cars. The end result was a useful profit to help with maintaining our lovely village hall, but more than that, the fete provided a social event where villagers and visitors had a good chance to meet up.



The children enjoyed Maypole Dancing



and pelting their teacher with wet sponges



All the way from Peasemore, a lovely noisy group of Ukulele players



Dogs were also very popular



Brightwalton School



The Barbie



Plants



The Voice + Mr. Football



Eggs??



New attraction—The Garston Gallopers—with their colourful costumes.



A very popular tractor ride to see the bluebells in Spray Woods



Ferrets were most interesting



Wantage Silver Band (mind the footballs)



Heads!!

BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting Held on Monday 15th May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

See the Brightwalton website for a full copy of the minutes, plus other news and events – www.brightwalton.org.uk

The meetings of the March meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record. There were no declarations of interest.

Co-opting of New Councillors & Appointment of Chairman: Following the election process, the PC has two Councillor vacancies. S Orpen offered to continue as Chair until a replacement can be found, P Swann proposed S Orpen, this was seconded by T Wyatt. A Agnew agreed to step forward and was proposed as a Councillor by P Swann and seconded by S Sayers.

Matters Arising:

Playground: The annual ROSPA inspection report was reviewed, with action required on the surround of the large climbing frame and monitoring of the ladder on the smaller climbing frame. As agreed at the March meeting an application for a Parish Plan grant had been submitted, S Youldon reported that this had been approved and £3,814 had been received to replace the surround on the large climbing frame and replace the junior swings and surface under. This leaves the PC to contribute £948.48, of which £846.46 will come from CIL funds held and £102.02 from the annual budget. S Youldon to instruct work to commence.

Working Party: Following the tree work at The Old Churchyard there is a significant amount of clearance work to be completed, it was agreed to hold a specific summer working party on Saturday 29th June. S Youldon to advertise in the Brickleton News etc. With added incentive that volunteers are welcome to take firewood for themselves.

Millennium Green/Football Group Bank Account: S Orpen had been advised of the finding of an old bank account referring back to the Millennium Green and Football group, holding c. £400, this appears to be a charity that was set up at a similar time to the Dunmore Millennium Green Trust. S Youldon to look into the regulations regarding folding this charity and transferring the funds held to either the Millennium Green account or the PC account, depending on the regulations.

Playing Field – Cricket Club Items: Thank you to the former Cricket Club for removing the shed, storage container and other items on the playing field prior to the fete. Also thank you to the work done by Peter and Hugo as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award in clearing the ground and overgrowth around here. There is some metal work remaining, agreed clearance of this will be incorporated into the summer working party. S Youldon to look at disposal options.

Highway Road Signs: As noted at the January meeting there are a number of fallen and damaged road signs throughout the village. WBC has now confirmed that the work will be carried out to replace/fix these over the next couple of months.

Land behind Butts Furlong: Following letters and photos to Sovereign Housing Association to get this ground cleared, the PC was pleased to see this has now been done.

Planning:

19/00980/HOUSE Llamados, The Green – proposal for porch, side and rear extensions and alterations. PC agreed a response of No Objections, S Youldon to submit.

19/00873/HOUSE Poplars Barn, Brightwalton – proposal for extensions and internal alterations. PC had submitted a response of No Objections, WBC decision pending.

18/02338/OUTD Isbury, Brightwalton – Appeal following the refusal of the planning permission for demolition of the existing bungalow and replacement with 3 new dwellings. S Youldon reported that there is no decision showing from the Planning Inspectorate on the WBC website yet. S Youldon to investigate when this is likely and if there will be any hearing for the appeal.

Finance:

2018/19 Accounts and Audit: The accounts and audit report had been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting following the independent audit in April; the report confirmed that all the accounts and procedures were in order. Councillors reviewed and completed the audit document; the Certificate of Exemption was signed. S Youldon to submit the PJK Littlejohn (government appointed external auditors) and post the accounts and official notices online and on the notice boards. At year end the PC had an underspend of £160.

Current account balance as of the 13/05 £12,804.95 Business account balance is £5,350.75. Please see the full minutes online for a list of the 17 cheques and deposits. It was noted that there is: £846.46 remaining of CIL funds – allocated to playground improvements and £37 to add to the Pop Up Drinks pot, plus another £40 from a previous event. Taking the Pop Up Drinks total held to £370.32. PC agreed that this money should go towards the 2020 Brickleton Party. **Bank Mandate Update:** S Youldon to obtain forms and remove J Boxall as signatory and add T Wyatt.

PCC & ASPIRE Update: **New Curate:** J Draper reported that Julie Howell will join as the new Curate to assist Rev. Miriam Keen. She will start at the end of June and move into the Rectory at Chaddleworth. **ASPIRE Update:** Ongoing dialogue on the proposed plans with the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee), particularly on the placement of the organ and gallery seating. Positive response received from the Victorian Society, architect is agreeing the finer details with them. Fundraising is going well – confirmed open garden/walk event planned for 23rd June, and Rock Choir booked for March 2020.

Village Hall Committee Update: Anna Britnor-Guest forwarded the following report:

Fete: The Village Hall committee wished to thank Jeremy Snow for taking the lead for this year's fete and to everyone who helped. They are finalising the figures but reported that profits are the best for many years, at around £4,500. **Hall Improvements:** Work has been carried out at the hall with the field and road facing cladding having been stripped back and treated. They intend to monitor the side facing Butts Furlong for the time being. **Events:** They also wished to share that there is a charity ball event booked to use the playing field on the 1st June. Ticket details can be found on the Brightwalton Facebook page.

Any Other Business: **Mowing:** Following several last minute additional cuts by Scofell to clear dead grass at the playing field in preparation for the fete, it was agreed that the 2020 contract should incorporate a cut and collect mow the week before the fete. In addition it was agreed that any users requiring the grass to be collected on the field need to notify the Parish Council in advance, and costs would have to be passed on.

The Parish Meeting followed at 8.30pm with a Chairman's Annual Summary – please see the website and notice boards

The remaining 2019 meetings will be held: 15th July, 16th September and 11th November

Please e-mail contributions to me at bricnews@gmail.com or, if handwritten, deliver in good time.

Next Edition Deadline— Wednesday 17 July 2019

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

Brickleton News is brought to your door by good will