



Great Brickhill Parish News

May 2020

1. **Editors' letter**

In these strange times it is wonderful to see how the Great Brickhill community has come together to help each other. The COVID19 Support Group was set up immediately it became obvious that some villagers would struggle whilst self-isolating. Not only with getting shopping, prescriptions and other essentials but with the loneliness of being cut off from normal contact with neighbours, friends and family. Having someone (a buddy) to talk to even if it's only on the phone, is so beneficial to well-being.

We appear to be in this situation for the long-haul, so keep smiling, talk to anyone you see even if it's just out of your window. Time seems to have slowed down now so try to appreciate it.

Keep clapping and banging for the key workers at 8.00 pm every Thursday; they may not hear us but it brings us all closer together.

There are now more than 150 email addresses on the InfoLine database but if you know someone in the village who doesn't have access to the internet and therefore who won't see this newsletter, please print a copy and pop it through their postbox. Also make sure that anyone you have contact with in the village is on this database; 150 is a lot but there are many more who are not yet signed up - info@copywriterservices.co.uk

Keep safe,

Merryl & Carys

2. Both the Village InfoLine and our friendly Support Network WhatsApp group continue to grow.

Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join either or both: email info@copywriteservices.co.uk or text 07717 226662 and ask to join.

We are continuing to provide what help we can – shopping, fetching prescriptions, friendly phone calls, and sharing information and ideas. In addition, thanks to a generous anonymous benefactor, we are in a position to provide some limited financial help if required.

Now we know that the Stay at Home advice is to continue for another three weeks at least, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need anything, and encourage those you know in the village to do likewise.

Just a reminder of some of the initiatives in the village:

- the various imaginative projects which the cricket club is promoting, including the weekly virtual Pub Quiz together with the Old Red Lion – greatbrickhill.play-cricket.com
- Ellen's book and puzzles swap - 07539 333822
- Susie's art projects from the Ivy House art room - ivyarthouse@icloud.com
- The Food Box is located in the church porch and is open to all
- Local food delivery service from Waterdene: waterdenefoodservice.co.uk
- The Best Butchers also deliver in the village: thebestbutchers.co.uk

Health concerns

The NHS **is still open** and working for conditions other than Covid19 – there is some evidence that people are not getting in touch with their Doctors when they really should be. Most surgeries are providing telephone triage to assess whether an appointment is needed, and GPs will usually give telephone consultations – please do call your GP surgery if you think you need medical help. The same applies for dental practises – dentists are not providing face to face appointments, but will give telephone advice and they can prescribe some drugs including antibiotics, so do call your dentist if you need to.

Alternatively, if you need help or advice:

- For health information and advice, use the NHS website, or your GP surgery website
- For urgent medical help, use the NHS 111 online service – only call 111 if you're unable to get help online -www.nhs.uk
- For life-threatening emergencies, call 999 for an ambulance

Mental Health

A wise friend of mine said to me recently: 'it's probably normal in these strange times to have a wobble once a day, and a bit of a break down about once a week'. There are many things which we might be anxious about, be it health, family, loved ones, financial worries, jobs, or our own security – and none of us are immune from this.

We have had an offer of help from a local BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) qualified and experienced counsellor, who would be willing to offer telephone consultations for anyone feeling anxious, lonely and needing to talk. Please contact 07717 226662 in complete confidence if you would like this help

Domestic Abuse

Calls to helplines have more than doubled since the lockdown - please reach out if you need to:

- National Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0808 2000 247
- Refuge – refuge.org.uk
- If you are in danger, you can call 999, then press 55 and remain silent. Police will know that the caller is in danger and cannot speak

Keep talking! If you need help with anything, or want someone to chat to, get in touch with our support network.

(All the information here is accurate at the time of writing, and we take no responsibility for the content of the websites and links referred to.)

3. Community Defibrillator Access

The village defibrillator is located in the porch of the Parish Hall. To access it you need a mobile phone and, if it's dark, a torch. Use the mobile to phone 999 or 112 and the operator will tell you exactly how to remove the unit from its location, giving you a code to use.

Please return the unit to its place in the Parish Hall as soon as possible so that it can be replaced whilst the original is being serviced.

4. Notes from Parish Council

This month the Parish Council held its first ever meeting via web conferencing. It was touch and go as to whether the legalities of holding a meeting in this manner would be sorted out in time for our meeting, but legislation was published just a few days prior to our meeting on 7 April which gave us the all-clear.

Given the current state of play with the Coronavirus pandemic it seems likely that our regular meeting in May will also have to be held as a web-based meeting, login details of anyone wanting to eavesdrop on the meeting will be published via this newslines shortly before the meeting. Unfortunately the Annual Meeting of the Parish is now cancelled but we would like to encourage any groups who normally report at the Annual Meeting to submit a report of their activities during the year to Karen Barker, Clerk to the Council - 1karenbarker@gmail.com - 01525 290458.

Similarly the elections for both the newly formed Buckinghamshire Council and the Parish Council, which were due to be held in early May, have been cancelled with current members of the PC agreeing to stay in post for a further year.

The Parish Council would like to whole-heartedly thank all those who have volunteered their time for the village support group during this difficult time to help villagers who are not quite so fortunate; this sense of community reminds us all what a great village we live in.

Keep safe and well everyone – Chris Leech, Chair, GB Parish Council

5. Plea for support from Ruth Legh-Smith, the Rector's sister

I am doing my Sleepout at the Rectory to honour my husband Richard who died last year and celebrate our alternative lifestyle as well as to raise money for the Winter Night Shelter Milton Keynes.

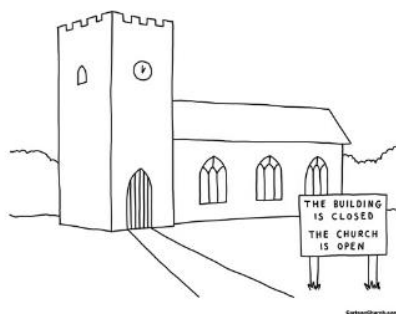
The homeless of Milton Keynes have currently been taken off the streets and put into hotels which aren't being used. With the streets being dead all their regular hangouts are unavailable. In the hotels they can't buy food or prepare food. They are stuck. The Night Shelter volunteers have been organising and taking them food. The homeless are with us in all circumstances summer and winter.

I post on my page on Facebook twice a day and I have slept out for 34 nights now.

Please call 07890737405 for anything at all. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ruth-Legh-Smith>

https://www.facebook.com/Ruths-6-month-Sleep-Out-for-the-Winter-Night-Shelter-MK-107979677506569/?modal=admin_todo_tour

6. St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

CHURCH NEWS

17 April 2020

THE CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED:

As you will know, following the announcement given by the Prime Minister on 23rd March, all church buildings must remain closed. There will be no public worship, private prayer or any other meetings or activities in churches until further notice. We will be following the advice and guidance issued by the expert authorities. Any changes will be notified on our website:- www.brickhillchurches.org.uk.

BUT THE CHURCH IS VERY MUCH ALIVE,

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

There are lots of opportunities each week to join in services that are being either televised or live streamed from around the country. Local worship materials are also available - the Rector provides reflections and prayers each week.

All of this information is easy to access via our own website – a dedicated section “Coronavirus” has been set up.

The information is posted weekly on the notice board by the church gate and is also sent out to those on the PCC E-News distribution list. Anyone who would like to be included in the circulation, please contact Phillipa:- picook6@gmail.com

ACTIVE E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN:

Anyone who would like to join the group or would like to have a prayer included, contact:- Valerie Kerr (valeriejerr@hotmail.com) or Mary Maley (mary@maley.org.uk) or Roger Blofeld (rogerblo@aol.com).

THE FOOD BOX:

The Food Box in the church porch is still running – it is there to help anyone who is in need of food either in an emergency or longer term. Please spread the news of this initiative as widely as you can. The church main and porch gates are being kept open for easy access to the Food Box at all times.

PLANT SALE - a message from John & Celia Hall:-

We would like to thank everyone who ordered tomato plants by email and who generously supported our little plant sale at our garden gate in Stoke Lane over the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend. We are delighted to be able report that we raised a grand total of £510 in aid of Church funds.

THE CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING:

The date that had been agreed for the Annual Church Meeting was Thursday 16th April. Bishop Steven has signed a legal instrument to extend the deadline for parishes to hold their

annual meetings to the end of October 2020. Current office holders will accordingly be able to remain in office longer than they would otherwise have done. A new date for our Annual Meeting will be circulated at the appropriate time.

THE RECTOR'S SABBATCAL:

Revd John Waller was due to take a three-month sabbatical from 18th April to 13th July. This has been postponed due to COVID-19 and so he is available to hear from parishioners who have any concerns during this worrying time:- 01525 261062

rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk

WEBSITE:

In these challenging and uncertain times it is even more important to please remember that the Benefice website will be the best way to receive updates about the current situation and to obtain worship information. The special "Coronavirus" section will be updated with any new information and worship details:- www.brickhillschurches.org.uk

For further information about any of the above, please contact:- Phillipa Cook TEL: 01525 261521 07788 740969 pjcook6@gmail.com

7. VE Day – 8 May

By 8 May the Three Trees will be decorated with hundreds of coloured pompoms to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. The pompoms have been made by villagers and their children over the days leading up to 8 May. Photos will be circulated for those residents who are in lockdown.

Some villagers will be decorating their houses to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day – do join them if you can and take a photo to send to the newsletter.

8. GB Cricket Club

GB Cricket Club wish to thank everyone who has supported the club with fund-raising and paying their membership. The May GBCC Challenge will be to produce a flower arrangement using flowers and greenery from your garden with a theme of the VE Day celebration. £5 to participate - go to www.brickhillcricket.co.uk and click on Events, Flower Arranging Challenge. All funds are supporting the cricket club; rosettes will be awarded for the top four designs.

Don't forget the weekly virtual quiz nights with the Old Red Lion and GBCC, 7.30pm every Saturday. £5 per household to participate. To register go to www.brickhillcricket.co.uk, click on Events, Quiz Night. All proceeds split equally between The Old Red Lion and the Cricket Club.

9. Short Notes from GB Parish Council meeting on 7 April 2019 held via video conferencing

Many items in the minutes report delays, postponements and cancellations. Please see the full minutes on the PC website.

1. **Parish Hall Committee – Extension** – ongoing – if building restrictions continue the project may have to be postpone until next year.
2. **Little Ashes Pre-School – Log Cabin and Forest School** – LAF grant awarded and planning allocation submitted.
3. **Planning Applications:**
 - 3 Warners Close – single storey side and rear extensions. Supports.
 - Parish Hall – erection of log cabin. Supports.
 - Land off John Horncapps Lane – erection of stable and menage. Objects.
4. **Unregistered Lane in Great Brickhill** – resolved to accept quote to include the footpath in Green End.
5. **Annual Parish Meeting** – cancelled. Any reports received from village organisations will be circulated.
6. **PC Election** – Chair to remain in place until 2021.
7. **Next meeting – 5 May 2020 at 7.30 pm.**