



Great Brickhill Parish News

July 2020

Editors' letter

In these strange times even more people than usual are walking down the bridle path at the bottom of Cuff Lane to take advantage of the beautiful Oak Wood and Rushmere Park. Unfortunately, once again, we have to make a plea to dog owners who also walk down there to "bag and bin" their dog's poo. There has been an increase in poo being left on the pathway which is horrible if adults or especially children walk in it. We are very fortunate that the Council provide dog waste bins around the village and as there is one at the top of the bridleway, it should be no problem to deposit your bags in it. You don't have to walk all around the woods carrying it, just leave it on the side of the path but please remember to collect it on the way home.

Don't forget the InfoLine is still a good community contact tool so please make sure everyone you know is on it. All they have to do is contact info@copywriteservices.co.uk and let us have their email and land addresses.

Hopefully now that restrictions are being gradually lifted, we are all managing to get out a bit more. We have found it quite difficult to take that first step out into the wider world after more than 12 weeks at home but we will all get back to the "new normal" sooner or later.

Keep safe and well,

Merryl & Carys

Village Support Group

The support network is still going, and we will continue for as long as needed. Although some things are getting back to a 'new normal', many people are still shielding, and there is of course a risk that there will be new outbreaks of infection in the coming months. If you or anyone you know in the village needs help or support, we are here! Call or text 07717 226662, or email info@copywriteservices.co.uk "

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.

Tom Griffin

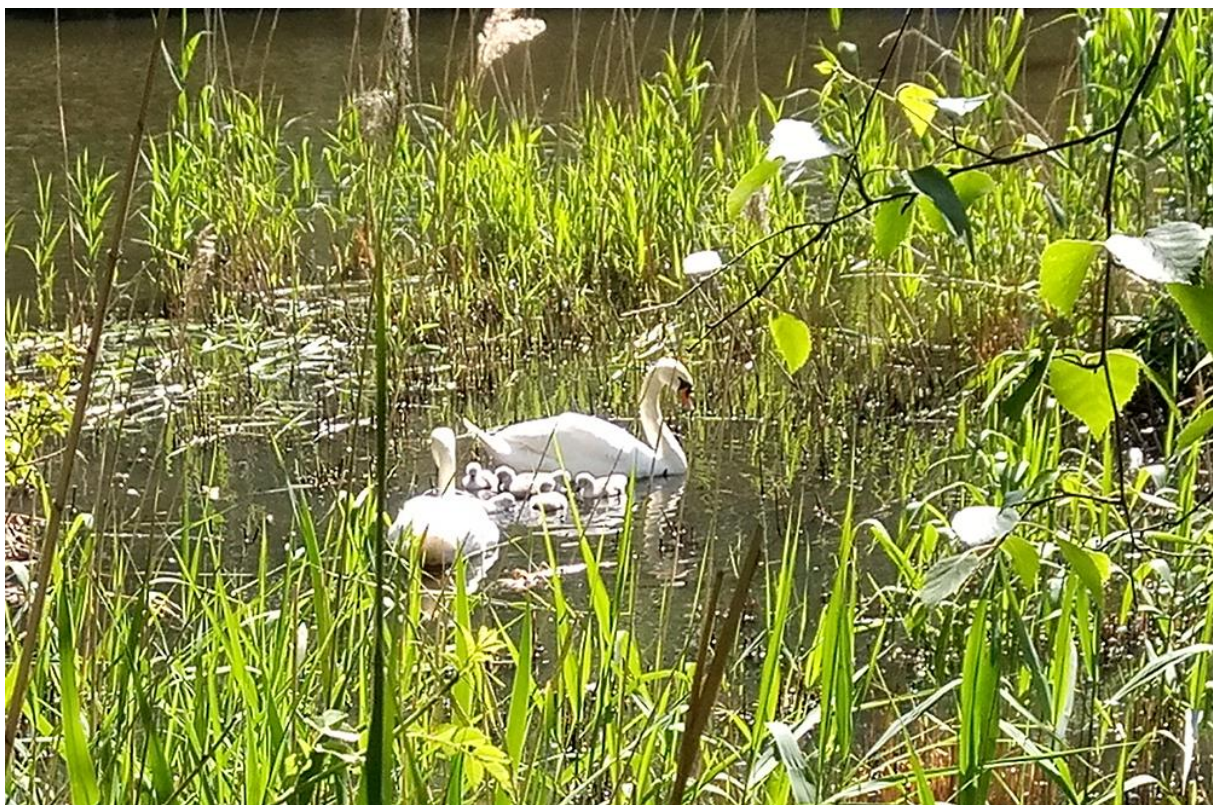
Tom Griffin passed away on 20 May. Although he moved away from the village, he will be fondly remembered by many members of our village.

Rushmere News from Alan Turner

Just to bring you up to date with the latest situation at the Park. Both car parks are now open for visitors and it is hoped that, by the time you read this, the Hatch at Rushmere and Bruno's café at Stockgrove will be open for refreshments, social distancing rules in place, of course!

My own observation is that the park is generally very quiet, although I do not use it at weekends when, I imagine, it is much busier than in the week. Work is underway on the Rushmere toilet block to provide more facilities and accommodate a one-way system. All volunteer work was suspended when the lockdown commenced and, I am advised, is unlikely to recommence until September at the earliest.

Last year our resident mute swans had nine cygnets all of which reached maturity. Unfortunately, towards the end of summer one of the adults died, we think the cob, and the remaining one left. However, earlier this year a pair arrived and took up residence. Whether this is the surviving one with a new partner or a different pair altogether is anyone's guess. They consolidated the old nest and are now the proud parents of six cygnets, a seventh egg failed to hatch. There is also at least one family of coots, these chicks, when I saw them, no bigger than my thumb!



St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

CHURCH OPEN

for quiet & prayer

CHURCH NEWS 15 June 2020

As of 13 June, churches are able to reopen for socially-distanced private prayer. There are a number of measures that have to be followed to ensure everyone's safety before the church is open again.

Great Brickhill church is reopening from Sunday, 21 June for socially-distanced private prayer for those who feel comfortable to do so. The church will be open on:

Sundays: 10.00am – 2.00pm
Wednesdays: 2.00pm – 5.00pm

The opening times will be increased as soon as it is safe to do so following the guidelines provided to us.

There is hand sanitizer available at the entrance and we ask that you read the guidance provided on the blue noticeboard as you enter the church. Much of the church has been cordoned off and all bibles, books etc have been removed. Please take your own bible or other reading matter with you. There are chairs available near the altar should you wish to sit and say a prayer, or merely enjoy the wonderful space.

Church opening times and other updates will be notified on our website:

www.brickhillchurches.org.uk

Reopening the church for private prayer is the first stage in getting back to how things were before the lockdown and being able to hold our regular services and activities. We are aware that the need for us to provide toilet facilities is now even more important as there is a greater need than ever before for hand washing facilities

AND SO, it is wonderful that we have some

EXCITING NEWS – THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN AT OUR CHURCH

We are pleased to announce that the work to create toilets, a servery and gathering area in St Mary's will commence in September. You will all be aware that we have been planning this for some time. At last our church will be brought into the 21st Century.

The extension will house two toilets, one will be accessible and include baby changing facilities. We will be creating a servery and gathering area inside the church. Included in the work outside we will be laying a gravel resin bonded pathway from the road gate to the West door extension. This will be a safe and hardwearing surface to enable everyone easier access.

If you feel you are able to contribute to the final stages of our fundraising please contact Julia Turner 01525 261618 or 07714 028785 juliaturner.jt@icloud.com or Gill Wilson 01525 279005 or 07973 403761 gillewilson57@gmail.com. For payment details contact Neil Cook neilacook6@gmail.com

We hope that very soon you will be able to come and join us in celebrating the new facilities at our lovely Church.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

We will continue to provide information of on-line worship details for the foreseeable future, as group worship is still not yet possible under government public health guidance and there will be many among us who need to isolate for some time to come.

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.

The information is posted weekly on the noticeboard by the church gate and is also uploaded onto the website in a dedicated Coronavirus section.

THE FOOD BOX:

Thank you to those who have supported the Food Box located in the church porch. There have been very few items taken from the box and so the amount of goods kept there will be reduced - a few basic items, tea, coffee, milk, soup, beans will be kept in the box, just enough for a meal or two. The excess supplies have been taken to the MK Food Bank where there is a genuine ongoing need for supplies.

THE RECTOR:

Revd John Waller is available to hear from parishioners who have any concerns during this worrying time: 01525 261062 rector@brickhillschurches.org.uk.

ACTIVE E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN:

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

IN NEED OF A FRIENDLY CHAT:

We have been living in these strange times for over twelve weeks now and, although the lockdown restrictions are being slowly eased, we are aware that there will be many who are in self-isolation or generally finding life difficult at the moment. If you feel in need of a friendly chat, our Church Warden Julia will be very happy to receive a call from you: 01525 261618 or 07714 028785

For further information about any of the above, please contact:-

Phillipa Cook TEL: 01525 261521 07788 740969 pjcook6@gmail.com

Do 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

New Netting for the MUGA

The Great Brickhill MUGA is being really well used by local residents, particularly for football. As a result the current roof netting is in need of replacement after 6 years of wear and tear. The new netting has been designed to resist footballs better and will be made of thicker and heavier gauge cord but with bigger holes to keep the weight down. The new netting has been paid for by a grant from Aylesbury Vale and from the MUGA hire to local junior football teams who use it for training during the winter.

As a result the MUGA will be CLOSED from 09:00 on Wednesday 1 July until 16:00 on Friday 3 July to allow contractors to erect the new netting.

Local Plant Nursery supports Willen Hospice

Ivan Mears, whose nursery is located along Ivy Lane, is supporting Willen Hospice by donating 10% of his sales to this local cause. He has a vast selection of beautiful healthy plants including salvias, bush roses, grasses and many, many more. Contact him on 01525 261606 or 07939 020686 to make an appointment to go and see what is available.

Old Red Lion Refurbishment

News from the Old Red Lion that the new bars are in, the flooring is done and the decorating of both bar and restaurant are coming along nicely. A start has been made on decorating the toilets. Outside is a work in progress - paved areas are up, the tarmac is being decked, the barns are being fitted out and the wood-fired pizza oven is in place. It's all a bit messy but looking very exciting! Still no news from the Government or brewery as to when or how the pub will reopen, but they're hoping to open in July.

High Ash School

High Ash School currently has two vacancies for non-parent Governors and would very much welcome applications from the local community. If you are interested and would like to find out more about the roles, please contact Kathryn Middleton on 07814 000801.

Baking Classes

Since lockdown Brickhill Bistro has been running an experimental bakery school. Initially focused towards children aged 8- 16 it involves the Bistro team delivering all the ingredients to the bakers to their doorstep. Then we follow up with a virtual classroom session where we bake our cakes/biscuits/puddings. The experimental group has proven really successful and we now have many road-tested recipes. As we approach the summer months we will be concentrating on what we can do creatively with carrots, courgettes and beetroot. We are rolling out our programme on a wider scale and if you would like to get involved as a young or experienced baker please contact Kathryn on 07771 858582 or laylandkathryn@gmail.com.

Ivy House Art Room - Summer Workshops in the Garden

I have been running pottery workshops for children over the last year or so. Until the Covid 19 crisis they were at my studio but more recently I have been running Zoom Workshops and posting the occasional art activity to YouTube. However, I am really excited to say that as we are moving away from strict lockdown I can now start to offer outdoor workshops for small groups.

Make something beautiful this Summer - the themes we have include 'Animal Magic', 'Make your own clocks', 'Tableware' and 'For the Birds'.

Each session will include 90 minutes to build your project in clay and a further 60 minutes, scheduled separately, to glaze and finish your project.

I am flexible and can offer workshops in my garden or at yours. Appropriate social distancing will be required.

Contact Susie on 01525 261270 for dates, times and prices, see my Ivy House Art Room YouTube Channel or check out some of the earlier projects on Instagram at [ivyhouse_art_room](https://www.instagram.com/ivyhouse_art_room).

Unfortunately the minutes of the June meeting of GB Parish Council were not available when we went to print.