



Great Brickhill Parish News

June 2020

Editors' letter

What strange times we are living in! I went out last Sunday (to visit Ivan's polytunnel) for the first time in nine weeks and it felt quite strange. Getting in the car, driving around the village, seeing the pompoms and decorations, was almost surreal. Would I still be able to drive? Would I catch the dreaded virus by leaving my home surroundings? I felt a bit scared to be honest.

Thank heavens for our garden and the beautiful surroundings we all live in here in this village. Nature has come to the rescue this year. Trees, birdsong, plants and flowers seem to be in more abundance than usual and the colours are magical. Having the time to sit and listen to the birds or look at the clouds is one good thing to have come out of this crisis. When this is all over (hopefully) we must remember the good things, one of which is the support group which has come together to help support vulnerable villagers.



Thank you to Graham Legge for this image of the Three Trees in all its pompom glory.

Please don't forget that some people don't have computers or access to the internet. If you can print off a copy of this newsletter and deliver to someone without access, it will be much appreciated and keep everyone up to date on what's happening in the village. And don't forget to encourage villagers to join the InfoLine (info@copywriteservices.co.uk) to keep updated in between the newsletters.

Keep safe,

Merryl & Carys

Village Support Group

We are losing track of time! We had a request for a prescription to be picked up this week by someone who said she couldn't believe it had been four weeks since the last time she asked...

Many lovely things have been happening here in the village in these dystopian times. The amazing creative scarecrows; the pom poms at the three trees; the virtual pub quiz on a Saturday night; the colourful bunting displayed to celebrate VE day, the clapping for our carers on a Thursday night.

The support group continues to get provisions and shopping, fetch prescriptions, and give advice and support to anyone and everyone who needs it in the village. Our members have also helped find the owner of a wandering dog, tracked down a much loved cat that was missing, swapped bread flour for potato plants, sourced yeast (flour and yeast are this month's paracetamol and loo roll!), shared food orders, and much more besides.

As these strange times continue, **we are still here**. Anxiety about getting the virus may well have been superseded by concern for our families about job or financial security; wanting our children to get back to school - but being worried about them going back to school; juggling caring for family with keeping an eye out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours; and just really missing being able to see extended family and friends (other than on-screen).

If you or anyone you know in the village needs help with anything, or just wants a friendly phone call, please do get in touch. Contact the InfoLine – info@copywriteservices.co.uk , or text or call 07717 226662.

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.

News from the Old Red Lion

The refurbishment of the Old Red Lion started on 11 May. Where it was scheduled to take 3-4 weeks, it's now estimated to take 5-6 weeks due to social distancing and the number of trades people they can have on site.

There will be an uplift in the bar/restaurant with refreshed decor and furniture; the floor in the bathrooms will be levelled (so no more trip hazards); and a new, re-configured bar to give a bit more room in the restaurant side and stock visibility in the bar side for customers. All in a warm and welcoming colour scheme. The top part of the garden is being decked to some of the tarmac where more tables with parasols and heaters will be added to extend the garden season and maximise customers' enjoyment of the view.



This is a photo of the restaurant all stripped out and ready for the refurb. All very exciting and we can't wait to see the result!

Message from Paddy the Postman

Many thanks for your cards, letters and posters. They have really cheered me up in my time of shielding. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Love Paddy & Family (keep safe)

Notes from Parish Council

At the beginning of the month, we held our second meeting using Zoom Web meeting services and welcomed our new Buckinghamshire Council representative Cllr Scott Raven, who sat through our whole meeting and offered important contributions.

Work has started on the extensions to the Parish Hall which, if all goes to plan, should be completed in time for what we all hope will be the start of the Autumn Term for Little Ashes Pre-school.

The extensions will greatly enhance the usability of the hall, give an outdoor accessible toilet and enable two groups, one of which could be Little Ashes, to use different parts of the hall simultaneously.

Please note that there will be obvious reductions to the car park whilst the work is taking place, so please bear with us. It should be noted that the car park is the property of the Parish Council and is reserved for users of the hall, visitors to the play areas and the cricket and tennis clubs. We also encourage parents dropping off children to High Ash School to use the Parish Hall car park; thus if you are not one of the above legitimate users and to ensure parking space is available for the above, please park elsewhere, and to all users, please only park in the marked bays.

Local Independent Businesses

Thanks to Sarah Leake we have received the following link which lists local independent businesses who have stepped up to the mark and offer fantastic services. Check it out - The Independent Milton Keynes Guide to Lockdown Shopping:
<https://www.sophieetc.com/2020/03/independent-milton-keynes-guide-lockdown-shopping.html>

Doorstep Photography Campaign

Marcus Feinholz, whose brilliant idea this was, reports that 25 photographs have been taken so far and the total is rising towards £300 with still a few more photographs to be taken. Many thanks to the photographer, Georgia Hare, for her hard work.

To all those who have so kindly donated to the Tithe Farm Foodbank

Can we thank you all so so much for your generous and kind donations. We could not have offered this service without you.

The Foodbank was created to support those needy during the Covid crisis, whilst their financial support was in process and or they were shielding and had no other form of access to food.

Funds are now flowing and other established foodbanks are now delivering to families. Therefore the demand on the Tithe Farm Foodbank service has reduced significantly and we will be phasing out the provision of food parcels over the next week or two.

Thank you all once again for your kindness and generosity. Your contributions have helped more than 100 families and over 350 individuals on a regular basis during this very uncertain time for everyone!

Deborah – Headteacher, Tithe Farm Primary School

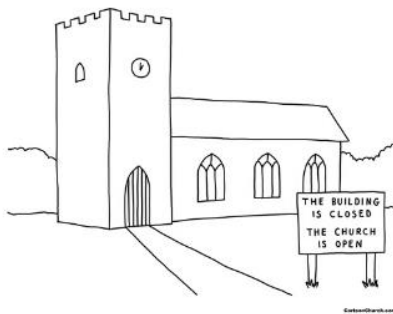
Buckinghamshire Council - Important contact details:

Buckinghamshire Council has a 24 hour phone number – **01296 383204** – set up specifically for calls relating to coronavirus only. This is the number to call if you have concerns about an extremely vulnerable person. Please do not call this number for general enquiries, medical queries or any non-coronavirus related enquiry.

Please use our customer service centre number – **01296 395000** – for all other enquiries Monday- Friday between 9am to 5pm. You can also use the contact form available on the Buckinghamshire Council Website: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/contact-us/>

Community support information can be found in our community support pages by following this link: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

CHURCH NEWS - 15th May 2020



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

Following the Prime Minister's statement to the nation on Sunday, it is clear that we will not be able to join in any live worship in our churches until at least 4 July, and probably much later than that. We are hopeful that churches will be allowed to open for private prayer before then, but in the mean-time we have to wait and see what official announcements are forthcoming.

Any changes will be notified on our website:- www.brickhillschurches.org.uk

ALTHOUGH THE CHURCH BUILDING HAS BEEN CLOSED NOW FOR EIGHT WEEKS, 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.

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:- pjcook6@gmail.com

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

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 10 – 16 May

The normal House to House Collections during Christian Aid Week could not take place this year but the need for funds is still there, even more so in the present situation. A note from the Christian Aid website:-

“As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You’ve already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far. By supporting us this Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.”

If anyone would like to make a donation to Christian Aid and hasn’t already done so, this can easily be done by following the link on the Home page of the Christian Aid website:- <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

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).

THE BENEFICE CHOIR:

The Benefice choir under Jerry Breslin’s leadership is holding weekly virtual practices - they are learning new pieces of music and so we will look forward to the time that they will be able to sing in front of a live congregation.

THE CHURCH BELLS DURING THE CRISIS:

You may have been wondering why the church bells were not rung on VE Day or in support of key workers at the weekly Clap for the NHS Workers. In accordance with Church of England and local Diocesan guidance, the bells cannot be rung at the moment and access to the bell tower is strictly limited to the one appointed person who may enter the church building.

THE FOOD BOX RUNNING:

Please remember to spread the news that the Food Box in the church porch is there to help anyone who is in need of food either in an emergency or longer term. The church main and porch gates are open for easy access to the Food Box at all times.

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.brickhillchurches.org.uk

Short Notes from GB Parish Council meeting on 5 May 2020 held via video conferencing

Please see the full minutes on the PC website.

1. **New County Cllr/Resignations** – Janet Blake and Neil Blake have resigned as County and District Cllrs. Cllr Scott Raven attend as GB's new County Cllr and will represent GB in conjunction with Cllr Ben Everitt.
2. **Little Ashes Pre-School** – deposit for the log cabin has been paid. Planning permission should not be an issue. Staff have been furloughed and school is still receiving government funding.
3. **Planning Applications.**
 - **Baileywell, 16A Heath Road** – single story front and rear extensions. Supports.
 - **Bryerley Springs Farm** – extension to existing hay barn. Supports
4. **Play Area** - annual inspection cannot take place at present.
5. **Jacks Lane Footpath – re-opened.** Work still needs to be done which may result in another temporary closure next month.
6. **Next meeting** – 2 June 2020 at 7.30 pm