

BRIZE NORTON

August to October 2023 • Distributed to over 800 homes in Brize Norton Village

Breeze

MASONS ARMS

The 48th Annual
Horticultural Show
& An Egyptian
Village Bash

Signs of Hope
from Ady in 'The State of Nature'

Mary Ellis

The Story behind the name

Win a family pass
to see the Crocodiles

and Becky gives us a 'snappy' insight into
Brize Norton's wild residents

15 years at
The Masons Arms

Steve & Linda tell us their story!

REWIND Gallery

Pictures from village events
so far this year!

Brize Norton
Neighbourhood
Plan Consultation

The consultation has begun
and the Parish Council need you!

St Britius update

Welcoming the arrival of baby Jesse

Issue

178



Welcome to issue 178 of the BRIZE NORTON *Breeze*

This community magazine has been written by the people of Brize Norton, for the people of our village (with a little help from a few friends too).

To all of the article writers who have donated their hard-earned free time to help, we thank you. This magazine would be nothing without you!

About Brize Breeze...

The hope is that the magazine can be self-financing via a little advertising. Any money left over goes into a community fund pot to help our charities, associations, schools, clubs and projects in the village.

The Brize Norton Parish Council will subsidise any shortfall.

Thank you to all the advertisers who have supported this issue and for supporting our village.

PRODUCTION TEAM

- Jayne Woodward - Editor & Designer
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- Contact Jayne:
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- 07810 255 000

The beautiful St Britius Church during Open Gardens
Credit: Garry Griffin, resident in Brize Norton

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BRIZE NORTON'S 2023

SUNDAY
17
SEPT
2023



OPEN
1.00pm
5.00pm
RECREATION
GROUND

ANCIENT **EGYPT**

THEMED

VILLAGE BASH

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB

Celebrate by dressing up as a Pharaoh or making an Egyptian Scarecrow!

The School Association Stalls! Live Music!

Bar, Cafe, BBQ, Ice-creams, Displays, Games, Stalls and Grand Raffle

All welcome - fun for everyone!

Keep an eye out for updates on

www.facebook.com/BrizeNortonBreeze

With thanks to our sponsors



Please note: NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE RECREATION GROUND



By Wendy Way

At the beginning of May the country came together in celebration of His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation and villagers once again strung up the bunting and came together with family and friends to celebrate; whether it was with a street party or to attend one of the various events organised over the course of the weekend.

The King had asked for Monday to be considered a day for volunteering, named 'The Big Help Out' and so the Parish Council and the Humble Bumble Café came together and arranged a **Pride in our Village**

“Although the weather was not on its best behaviour...thank you to everyone who turned up”

event that began with a litter pick, together with a nature trail for the children to identify objects as they went around the village. Although the weather was not on its best behaviour, we had a good turnout of volunteers so **thank you** to everyone who turned up. We are hoping to make the litter pick a regular community event so please look out for social media posts and the noticeboards for when the next one will be.

This was followed with some craft stalls from colouring, how to make a bird feeder and other nature related themes, to really encourage the children to think about their environment.

At 2pm we held a tree-planting ceremony and Joy Bull was asked to do the honours with members of her family turning up to support her. BNS&SC opened the bar and anyone who was brave enough could enjoy a picnic on the Rec! Throughout the day Jane Hornsby was on hand with her camera to record

the day and many of her photos are featured later on in the magazine.

The message of volunteering and helping out continues and later on you can read Ben's article on Community Volunteering and about numerous fund-raising activities that have been taking place.

Since the article on 'What is a Parish Council?' was published in the last edition, the Parish Council has received some enquiries to join us and so I hope that I will be able to introduce you to some new members in the next edition (continued).





In this edition you will read about how The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been working tirelessly on behalf of the Parish Council and has now reached the Public Consultation stage so if the future of the village and our community is important to you, please be sure to give your feedback.

As we move into the summer months and can spend more time out of doors, may I encourage you to have a walk through the Mary Ellis Country Park and experience walking along the natural mown paths through the wildflowers. This is the first proper year of having the wildflower meadow and as the season changes from spring into summer, you can see the different flowers coming

through and see and hear the skylarks.

For the eagle-eyed amongst you, you may have noticed that the grass in the southern side (Carterton Road) of the country park has been cut. The Parish Council reported this immediately to Bloor Homes who were unaware this was happening, and they stopped their contractors from continuing the cut. We have received their assurance that this will not happen again and that scheduled cuts will only take place to help us to try re-creating how wildflower meadows existed before the advent of modern high intensity agriculture.

At this point I do need to be a 'Debbie Downer'. Having encouraged everyone to take a

walk through the Country Park, I do need to ask dog owners to pick up. Over the last month it has become more noticeable that 'Mr Poo' is making too much of an appearance again, especially in the north side (Burford Road). There is no excuse – there is a bin right at the entrance opposite the Masons Arms and another one on

the top path. Please be proud of our new green space and allow everyone to enjoy it and not have to take your dog's poo home on the bottom of their shoes!

As we go into summer we can look forward to our next village events; the Horticulture Show and the Village Bash – details of both are to follow and I'm sure we will read about and see photos of both of them in the next edition.

Enjoy your summer!

To contact

Wendy (Chairman) or Jo (Clerk)
w.way@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk
clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk

Do you care about our village and plans for it?



Our Village

Our Community

Our Future

Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

By Les Goble

The Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan is now about to enter the consultation stage for a period of six weeks commencing 1st August 2023 through to 12th September 2023. This is when we submit a 'Regulation 14 Document' to the statutory consultees in order to obtain their feedback. These not only include West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council, but other authorities such as Historic England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency.

Although not statutory consultees, we will also submit our Regulation 14 Document to RAF Brize

“YOU, as members of our community, are invited to submit your views”

Norton, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, and adjacent Town and Parish Councils for their information.

As part of this process, village community and volunteer groups, and YOU, as members of our community, are invited to submit your views on this plan. To view the Regulation 14 Document and all the supporting evidence data, along with a Public Consultation Survey feedback form, please visit either:

- www.brizenortonplan.org.uk. Where both documents can be found on the home page and evidence data under the heading 'Evidence Appendices'.
- **Humble Bumble Café**, The Pavilion, Station Road, Brize Norton OX18 3PU from 1st August 2023 until 12th September 2023. There will be a representative from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group or Parish Council present on each Tuesday

between 11am and 1pm, Thursday between 2pm and 4pm and Saturday between 11am and 1pm each week of the consultation period.

Our emerging Neighbourhood Plan, which is intended to supplement the WODC Local Plan, includes seven policies that are particularly relevant to Brize Norton. These include Landscape Character, Key Local Views, Strategic Buffer Zones, Village Character and Design, Local Green Spaces, Community Facilities and Infrastructure, and Sustainable Development.

Your views are important to us, so please take the time to read the Regulation 14 Document and if you have any comments you wish to make, then let us know using the feedback form.

Comments received by individuals will be published in a consultation report, alongside their name. No other contact details will be published.

Tell us your views!

To contact

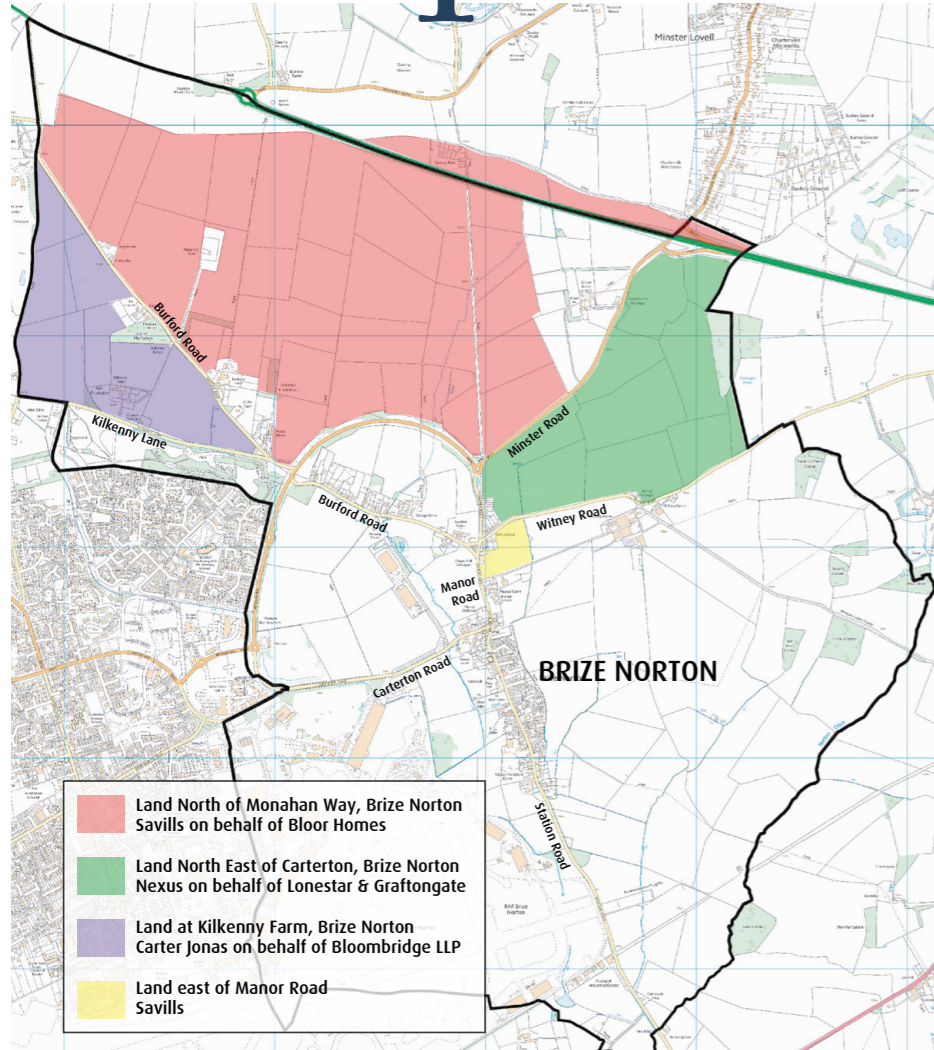
Les (Chairman - Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group)
l.goble@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk

Submit your feedback by midnight on 12th September

BRIZE NORTON AREAS

for consideration in the

local plan 2041



By Brize Norton Parish Council

West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041

A Local Plan is a document that sets out how development, including housing, business construction, and infrastructure can best benefit the area the Council is

responsible for.

West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) currently has a Local Plan in place which runs from 2011 to 2031. However, they are in the process of reviewing the content to allow it to be extended to 2041.

In 2022, they ran an initial 'scoping' consultation seeking early views on what topics the new plan should be looking to focus on. One of these topics

relates to housing needs and where housing should be built so WODC have asked landowners to submit any areas of land they wish to put forward for CONSIDERATION for future development.

“One of these topics relates to housing needs and where housing should be BUILT”

Your Parish Council considers for the sake of transparency, that it is their duty to inform the residents of Brize Norton that of the 27 sites that have been put forward for consideration in West Oxfordshire, four are in the Parish of Brize Norton.

As you will see from the map to the left, three of the areas are in the north-west, north, and north-east of the Parish. The fourth is within the village boundary.

The Parish Council will keep you informed of any updates regarding these land areas as and when we are made aware of any changes in their status.

If you would like to read the WODC Consultation Summary report which is in the public domain, it can be found at: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/44zparsq/local-plan-2041-consultation-summary-report.pdf>

To contact Brize Norton Parish Council, email Jo via clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk



Our village Parish Council



WENDY WAY - CHAIRMAN

I moved to Brize Norton in the late 1980s and joined the Parish Council in 2016 after taking the decision to move to part-time working. My hobbies are gardening and the allotment, and I enjoy supporting my partner who races an Aston Martin DB4 which takes us to various motor racing circuits around the UK and Europe. You will also see me out walking our Cockerpool, Maude.



DARREN TRUMAN - COUNCILLOR

I have lived in the village of Brize Norton since 2007 and now live in Brize Meadow. I have always enjoyed being part of the community and having worked in the village for many years I've gotten to know many people in the area and enjoy the community spirit that comes with living in a smaller village. In my free time I love spending time with my family, either walking the village, finding new places to explore or socialising in the local pub garden. I enjoy running when I can and like to get on the trails through local fields, villages and woodlands.



CHRIS WOODWARD - VICE CHAIR

I have spent over 12 years on Local Councils, including both Witney Town Council and Brize Norton. With many years of experience under my belt, I am hopeful it will be of benefit to the village. I moved to the village in 2016 and live with my beautiful wife Jayne, our daughter Mackenzie, and our golden lab, Meg.



ADRIAN STATE - COUNCILLOR

On retirement in 2020 I moved from Witney to Brize Norton. Much of my life has been spent working in the electronics and software fields and this has led to extensive travel throughout the world. I have a BSc in Environmental Biology which reflects my lifelong interest in the natural world. I am also a very keen birdwatcher and can often be found walking the local lanes and footpaths with my trusty binoculars.



JO WEBB - CLERK

I moved to the village in 2000 and live with my husband and three sons. We enjoy village life and the community spirit within Brize Norton. This is my second stint as Parish Clerk, I liked it so much I came back to do it all again! Please feel free to say hello if you see me walking my large, rather bouncy dog.



LES GOBLE - COUNCILLOR

I moved to Brize Norton from Worthing, West Sussex in 1997. I'm semi-retired and joined the Parish Council in 2018. My interests are motorsport; I currently race an Aston Martin DB4 with its owner and I have previously owned and raced a Lotus Cortina, bought specifically to race at the Goodwood Revival Meeting in 1998, which I did a total of eight times, twice with Sir Sterling Moss.

To find out more about our Parish Council and the work they are doing, go to www.brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk or visit facebook @brizenortonvillage

The new Mary Ellis Country Park

The story behind the name



By Christine Payne

Mary Ellis - 'A Spitfire Girl' Brize's best kept secret...

At the age of 12, Mary moved to the village with her parents Charles and Nellie Wilkins. Her father was a farmer and in 1928 he leased The Manor house in Brize Norton, along with 670 acres - and moved the family in.

It was in 1925, at the age of just eight, that Mary's father treated her to a 'joy flight' in a De Haviland Moth which ignited her passion for flying. When she was 16 and living at The Manor, she was allowed time off school to take flying lessons at Witney aerodrome. By 1939, at the age of

22, she had gained her coveted pilots' licence - a very rare achievement for a young woman at that time

In October 1941 she was accepted to serve in the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) and was known as Second Officer Mary Wilkins No.56.

During her war service, she flew over 1,000 planes of 76 different types, including Harvards, Hurricanes, Spitfires and Wellington bombers. Some of her flights were to relocate planes from Royal Air Force airfields to the frontline, and others were to ferry new planes from factories to airfields.

In the summer of 1945, First Officer Mary Wilkins as she was now known, became one of only two ATA women to fly the RAF's first jet, the Gloster Meteor, ferrying it from the factory at Moreton Valance to 222 Squadron at RAF Exeter. She said that she had no special training except a warning to "watch the fuel gauges, because it goes from full to empty in 40 minutes!".

From 1949 she was fortunate to continue her flying career as a personal pilot for a wealthy businessman. Then, in 1950, her employer purchased Sandown Airfield on the Isle of Wight and she was offered the role of Managing Director. From 1950 to 1970 she built up the popularity of the airfield, helping develop it as a commercial airport for



passenger flights, including to and from Europe and became Managing Director of the charter company 'Bees Flight Ltd'. Mary went on to become Europe's first ever female Air Commandant.

Whilst living on the Isle of Wight, she met former Fleet Air Arm Pilot Donald Ellis, who she married in the Autumn of 1961.

On many occasions, when visiting her parents at The Manor, she would land her plane in the field opposite on the west side

Manor Road, which was known as 'Gassons'.

It is interesting to note that some of the fields farmed by Charles, are the very same fields on which the Brize Meadow development is now being built. The name of the original field in which Wilkins Close is built, was called Lark Hill.



Mary Ellis appears in the book 'Bomber Girls - In It Together' written by M J Foreman,

'The Female Few' written by Jacky Hyams and 'The Hurricane Girls' written by Jo Wheeler but arguably, she is best known from her biography written by Melody Foreman called 'A Spitfire Girl'.

Mary also loved driving and won several awards rallying her Allard motor car.



Mary's action-packed career spanned almost a century of aviation. From Tiger Moths to Hurricanes and Spitfires, from Wellington Bombers to post war jets, Mary's desire to take to the skies, even in her 100's, never faltered.

To quote Mary:

"I am passionate for anything fast and furious. I always have been since the age of three and I always knew I would fly. The day I stepped into a Spitfire was a complete joy and it was the most natural thing in the world for me."

She also went on to say that:

"Everybody was flabbergasted that a little girl like me could fly these big airplanes all by oneself!

Up in the air on your own, you can do whatever you like. I flew 400 Spitfires. Occasionally I would take one up and go and play with the clouds which was so delightful and lovely. I can't tell you how wonderful it was."

Mary Ellis (nee Wilkins) passed away on the 24th July 2018, aged 101.

This truly remarkable and inspirational lady should never be forgotten, and the village's 'best kept secret' is a secret no more! And in her honour, Brize Norton Parish Council has named the new country park the 'Mary Ellis Country Park'.

Once the landscaping of the park is completed it will be a place to walk, play, explore and enjoy. A very suitable environment to remember a very remarkable lady.

Brize Norton Parish Council, working in conjunction with West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC), and the Public Art Committee, are investigating the design and manufacture of a suitable piece of 'Public Art' which will encapsulate the spirit of Mary Ellis and her association to Brize Norton.

Editors note:

The sculpture of Mary Ellis is a part of the Brize Norton Parish Public Art Project, where the committee are

looking for your feedback on what should be installed in Mary Ellis Country Park. If you would like to make a suggestion on this project, please scan the QR link below with the camera on your phone, or directly type the link to go to the Survey and to make your suggestions. Images courtesy of <https://thelogbookproject.com/mary-ellis/> where you can also watch interviews and Mary once again flying in a Spitfire.

Why not get involved?

To contact the committee managing the Public Art project, email: public.art@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk



For those of us who live in the Parish of Brize Norton, we have an amazing opportunity to create and develop an exciting Public Art Project; with a focus on the 'betterment of our community and cultural wellbeing'.

Your opinion matters

Brize Norton Parish Public Art Project Survey
Why not help us by having your say and completing our survey!
Give us your ideas and views on what you would like to see in Mary Ellis Country Park and complete the questionnaire now. Links and QR code below



<https://bit.ly/BN-public-art-survey>

Thank you!



Villager's Voice

“A warm, beautiful, time-honoured classic that deserves a visit - even if to while away a few hours”

By Jayne Woodward

When Steve and Linda told me that they were celebrating 15 years at The Masons in August, I naturally took the opportunity to go behind the scenes, have a lovely gin & tonic and sit down with them to learn more about the warm heart behind Brize's quintessential country pub.

As Jane, Meg and I were strolling down the road to do the photoshoot and interview with Steve and Linda, it seemed only natural for Steve to be getting in the car and driving away, out of the village.

Knowing Steve for as long as I had, I knew this interview was 'out of his comfort-zone', but I

thought we'd at least get a chance to pin him down for 5 minutes.

Winding down his window as he went by, he shouted in his strong Welsh accent, "Linda's sending me to the shop! Get yourself comfy and I'll be back in 5 mins." So, there was still hope to get a story out of him yet.

If you've never stepped foot in The Masons, which Jane admitted that she hadn't as she lived on the other end of the village(!), it is what I would call a traditional English pub, a gem in the heart of a country farming village. A warm, beautiful, and time-honoured classic that deserves a visit - even if to while away a few hours.

As soon as Steve had seen to his customers, and the dogs had finally chilled out, I took the opportunity to find out about the last 15 years.

The story begins with Steve first coming to Brize

Norton in the Christmas of 1989 for work. It very soon switched to how he stumbled upon a Christmas party, had a few beers and met some wonderfully friendly people - including the beautiful Linda.

Sat next to the old jukebox when Ron and Kate had The Masons, Linda first met the wide-eyed Steve; who has a dazzling smile and the warmest heart.

The following morning, Steve managed to get Linda to enjoy their first 'date', which was thought to be maybe a coffee or an orange juice; a bit of toast for two. However, with easy conversation and a lot of laughs,



"Breakfast turned into a round of eight pints of John Smiths, so many lagers and a pint of cider which finished around 11 o'clock at night" Steve chuckles.

"Well, you finished at 11 o'clock at night", Linda remarked, sensing that Ron and Steve may have had quite the time on Linda and Steve's first official date!

These couple of weeks had quite an effect, and with finally managing to settle in a job closer to what he was starting to call his home; together Steve and Linda established some wonderful friendships and it sparked their desire for wanting to not just be 'regulars' at The Masons, but to own it - sooner rather than later.

A previous attempt to get The Masons saw them pipped to the post by Bob and Mavis, so Linda and Steve set their passion aside for now and enjoyed holidays... a lot of holidays..

"No wonder you didn't get it, you were always on holiday" remarked one of the regulars, while giving dogs Meggy and

“With a bottle of champagne tucked in a bag under the table, they both wrote on a beer mat how much they would want/pay for the pub”

Jack-Jack a scrub on their heads (much to their delight).

Finally in 2004, after going to a wedding in Mauritius with a few friends, (including the pub owner at the time, Dave), it transpired that Steve had been doing a 'bit-of-talk' behind the scenes which hinted that Dave was selling The Masons. (Unfortunately at this point Dave's comment cannot be put in print...) Nevertheless, they decided to have a chat on their return to Brize.

Although both working full-time at that point, Linda had given the heads-up to a long-time friend, John, who had been working at the Old Swan to see if he would be interested in managing the pub for them.

As the puzzle pieces started to fall into place, Steve sat down with Dave in

the pub, and with a bottle of Champagne tucked in a bag under the table, they both wrote on a beer mat how much they would either want, or, would be prepared to pay for the pub. After a little bit of colourful negotiation, Steve pulled the champagne out of the bag.

The Masons was then to go through quite a renovation. Firstly, taking out the old toilets, where if someone used the cistern pipe to 'steady' themselves, the whole thing came off the wall - and the pub would have to close.

The floor was next, as was the kitchen, the extension, and finally the pub's interior, which also has been through many changes since.

We loved listening to Steve charasmatically tell the story of opening

night.

(I think it was the opening night - there were so many wonderful stories flying around, however with our laughter interrupting each other, it was difficult to keep track, but here goes - Ed.)

So on opening night, Steve's many friends joined them both for a "right knees-up", enjoying the company of many, laughing through stories of days gone by, and



culminating in a darts match. Maybe men against women? Now, as we found out “Duds” (you know who you are...) didn’t really like losing at darts to women. So in a fit of frustration, Duds went outside, crossed the road, and threw his set of darts into the field.

Not wanting to show that he had no idea where they’d gone, he left them in their new home. FOUR YEARS later, Steve was helping to remove debris from the field and brook (unfortunately after another flood) and low and behold, there in the tree was Duds’ dart... in a branch. Over the years, the tree and dart became friends and the tree literally had grown around it.

As the branch was now nearly falling off from the weight, Steve borrowed the dart back from the tree, and it now takes pride of place in the pub - just so Duds can have the mickey taken out of him at any given opportunity.

This one story was to be the start of a few brilliant tales from over the years; including how a full size chandelier now resides in the backroom (we know you’re thinking of ‘Only Fools and Horses’ when that finally gets put back up!). Linda’s tremendous stories of their drag nights, alongside their Christmas parties, race nights, Posh Dress and Tux nights could keep you entertained for hours, but one or two of our



favourites was how a bunch of regulars travelled coast-to-coast with 3 bears and helped raise over £5k for ‘Help the Heroes’; (Did you know, the pub is now ‘twinned’ with another pub in Perth, Australia?)

And finally, the late food and drink legend, Keith Floyd, once signed a box with a beautiful bottle of whisky inside, only for the whisky to be drunk and the box thrown away... We wasn’t sure if it was Keith or Steve who drank it!

The rustic charm of The Masons is deeply embedded into the community, with a steady flow of regulars, from the Friday night crowd, the squash players on Sunday, and a decent calendar

of monthly gin nights, hog roasts and celebrations... that was all until Covid-19 hit.

As with many other businesses in the hospitality industry, lockdown near enough forced

The Masons to close permanently. Visitors were non-existent, and the only contact was people passing-by with dogs, runners, or riders on their bikes as the world came to a stand still.

During this time, Steve and Linda managed to plough their time and energy into doing a few running repairs and keeping the garden tidy - all while longing for the day when they could finally greet the community back into the pub.

“It was tough, as with so many other pubs, it nearly killed us. We were so worried for the older folk who used to pop in just for chin wag and a glass of something; for the regulars and their families who we had very little contact or updates with. It was a nightmare”.

When the day finally arrived that The Masons could open its doors once again, it was still hard. People still felt vulnerable, still felt a little wary to be around one another again. So it took a while for people to start coming back through the doors.

After a year or so, the community started to return; the Friday night

crowd was back, the gin nights were in the diary, and Steve and Linda were back providing Hog Roasts and outdoor bars as part of community celebrations, weddings and birthdays again.

It was back as a ‘proper pub’ again; and now it’s got a pool table which has become a bit of a focal point for all players, both new and old!

You could feel in the tone of their voices that although they are both firmly coming out the other side of it, there is still a long way to go. Although, there is great hope, particularly with the construction of Brize Meadow,

welcome is extended whether it’s every day, once a week or even once a month for a little respite away from home ‘to have a Jaw, Jaw, Jaw, Jaw, Jaw’ as Steve calls it!

Linda has also expanded the menu, and describes how she makes up special orders for customers who are vegetarians or vegan; and how she tailors and cooks anything they would like to enjoy as part of their Sunday lunch. Linda takes the utmost pleasure in providing you with fresh and delightful meals to enjoy.

Between them, they have also



Steve would also like to bring the jukebox back from Witox Leisure, (if they still have it), as this also holds a special place in their hearts and would bring back a little vintage clout to the pub”.

Looking forward to the 26th August, their 15th Anniversary at the pub, Steve and Linda want to invite the whole community to enjoy some good food and drink, excellent music, and most of all, the chance to have a good laugh, re-live old memories, tell stories of days gone by and to “have a good knees-up”

I can’t thank Steve and Linda enough for taking the time to sit down with us and putting up with Meggy eating all Jack-Jacks food and harrasing the regulars.. It is truly a home-from-home pub and I encourage you all to just head down and enjoy watching the world go-by...

even if for an hour or two...

“It was tough, as with so many other pubs, it nearly killed us... We were so worried for the older folk who used to pop in just for chin wag and a glass of something”

the continuing return of the regulars, and always striving to make new friends within the village.

The conversations and laughter is returning; and the warmest

been catering for older residents of the village (and beyond) by cooking a special fish and chip tea and dessert for a special price, and having curry nights. *Although maybe don’t mention the vegetarian recipe - the water chestnuts caused a bit of a domestic.*

“I want to make a pub where everyone feels at home; the older people who may be on their own and are just looking to have a conversation, people who have lived in Brize Norton for 2 days or 20 years and want to pop in on their way home from work. Losing the buses was a nightmare, so if I ever won the lottery, I would buy a bus which I could pop around the village - just one an hour, picking up everyone - although maybe not if you’ve just come out of the gym!”



If you’d like to nominate someone from the Village to be our next ‘Villagers Voice’, email jayne@chapelhilldesign.co.uk



REWIND GALLERY - SPRING 2023

The Coronation Street Parties the Big Help Out tree planting and Brize Open Gardens.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR SENDING IN YOUR AMAZING PHOTOS & TO THE FAB PHOTOGRAPHERS JANE AND TO GARRY





Around Our Village



Brize Norton Football Club

- Top Scorer Joe Hatt – 16 goals
- Frank Merriman Trophy (Clubman of the Year) Darren Gardiner.

A big Thank You to everyone who has helped with the Club this season. It is very much appreciated.

This year the Club celebrates its 60th anniversary from its re-formation on July 8th 1963.

We will be doing something to celebrate this and details will be available very shortly. If anybody has any photos or stories to share

we would love to hear from you.

Simon Cook

Brize finished the season in second place and gaining promotion to Division 1. The final record was:

Pld 24 W 18 D 2 L 4 F 81 A 41 Pts 56

After some recent struggles this was a great achievement by the team and credit to all the players and Manager Adam Harris.

At the end of season awards trophies were given to:

- Players Player of the Year Joe Hatt.
- Managers Player of the Year Jason Hirshfield.



The Club is always on the lookout for new players. Training starts on Tuesday 18th July at 7.30pm at The Rec. Pre-Season friendlies will be announced in due course.

If anyone has any old photos, memories or stories to share please pass on to Adam Harris or Myself or email jayne@chapelhilldesign.co.uk

Minster Lovell Cricket Club at Brize Recreational Ground

Chris Jones

At Minster Lovell Cricket Club, we have been enjoying all the thrills and spills playing our wonderful summer sport.

As a result of all the heavy rain in April, our other ground at Wash

Meadow in Minster Lovell was not in a useable condition for the first weeks of the season. This meant that we had to use the Recreation Ground at Brize Norton for all of our training sessions and matches, as well as the planned 3rd Team matches.

The wet pitches caused many other clubs to cancel matches or seek alternative venues far from their home ground and we are thankful that this not a problem for us.

All of our teams, both Youth and Senior, have been putting in competitive performances.

We have welcomed an influx of new players joining the club this year including a number of Brize residents which has been great.



Cricket appears to be benefitting as an antidote to screen time for our young people and a break for the increasing pressures of adult life.

Interested in finding out more about Minster Lovell Cricket Club? Go to their website mlcc.play-cricket.com or their facebook page @MinsterLovellCricketClub

Brize Norton Sports & Social Club

Tim Gush

BRIZE NORTON GARAGE SALE Sunday 1st Oct: 10am - 2pm

Do you have 'cash in the attic'?

We all have those items in the loft or garage that are collecting dust and now there is an opportunity to turn those items into cash!

The Brize Norton Sports & Social Club is hosting a Village Garage Sale on Sunday October 1st and would love to invite you to join us. There will be garages opening throughout the village from Station Road to Brize Meadow and is a fantastic chance to sell your hidden treasures, while also picking up a fantastic bargain from the other vendors too!

Each open garage pays £10 only to participate and will be included in the official Garage Sale map which guides people to your location.

Posters will be placed around the village, advertising the event, plus social media/facebook will carry all details/information.

If you would like to join us, please email your details to brizegaragesale@gmail.com and we will get back to you with full information.

We look forward to having you join us for this wonderful village community event.

All monies raised from the sale of the maps and garages will be for local charities and the Brize Norton Bash Fund.



Elder Bank Hall • Brize Norton

Elder Bank Hall Under New Management

Jayne Woodward & Nina Truman

You may have heard that after a great number of years of managing Elder Bank Hall, Diane and Julie have retired. Thank you so much ladies for the

wonderful job you did, and to all the people who helped support them over the years.

As of the end of May, both Nina and I took over the management with the help of Brize Norton Parish Council Liaisons Chris and Darren.

So far, we have organised a new telephone number, new facebook page and email address for any enquiries or questions you have. Please do give us a call, we'd love to say 'hi!'

We also have taken all payments, deposits and invoicing online to make life a little easier.

For the regular lettings, we have also introduced an enhanced key collection/drop off system and we have managed to speak to hirers about this.

Since taking the hall over, we've managed to speak to a number

of new people about both regular lettings, parties, as well as events to hold towards the end of the year. These include a new fitness class, wrestling sessions, a macramé and crochet class, as well as a scent-detection dog training class! It's been so amazing to hear from everyone!

Keep an eye on our facebook page for further updates, as well as the publication of a calendar of regular lettings including their contact details and photos

If you have any questions and would like to get in touch, the new details are below!

We look forward to speaking to you soon!

To get in touch, call 01993 622714, email elderbankhall@gmail.com, or via facebook @ElderBankHall



PRE-SCHOOL (Term-time only)
Mon - Thu • 9am - 3pm
Fri • 9am - 12 midday

BROWNIES
Mon • 6pm - 7.30pm

WRESTLING (FROM 30TH OCT)
Mon • 8.00pm

WOODTURNING (WOWA)
1st Tues (monthly) • 8pm - 10pm

YOU CAN FITNESS
Tue • 6pm - 7pm (Not 1st Tuesday)

KARATE
Wed • 6pm - 7.30pm

20:20:20 FITNESS CLASS
Wed • 7.45pm - 8.45pm

EYEKANDI FITNESS
Thu • 6.00pm - 7.00pm

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCING
Thu • 7.30pm - 9.30pm

MACRAMÉ & CROCHET WORKSHOP
Fri • 7.00pm - 9.00pm

JUDO CLUB
Sat • 9.30am-11.30am

TOTALLY SHREDDED FITNESS
Sun • 6.00pm - 7.00pm



Brize Meadow Play Park Update

Wendy Way

Brize Norton Parish Council is pleased to announce that it has gone out to tender for companies to quote for the supply and installation of play

equipment for the new play park based on the children's feedback earlier this year.

A decision will be made on the successful bidder in October with the hope that work will commence January 2024 with completion in Spring 2024.

For more updates, keep an eye on the BNPC facebook page @brizenortonvillage

The Humble Bumble

By Bev Campion

This year we mark the 4th year of Humble Bumble Café.

What a journey this has been, enriched by the wonderful people who have worked for and with us and of course you, the ever-loyal customers. We have witnessed the kindness, resilience and strength and feeling of being part of a community brings and without doubt enables us to cope with the constant change and challenges that life throws our way.

Our goal was always to create a community focussed café, available to all, young and old, to foster relationships with other groups and organisations alongside offering delicious drinks and cakes!

So why is having a community focussed café important?

What we have seen over the last 4 years is that having a community space for people to connect with each other offers a chance to foster relationships, build social friendships and creates a certain ownership within the community. This

starts at such a young age - our wonderful pre-school provides amazing building blocks for our local small people-alongside the Brize Norton Primary School - they love being able to buy a bee biscuit, chat to the staff, play with the games and join in on any events we provide. It's 'their café'. We have welcomed the talented craft club, the cheeky walking footballers, hosted a number of fundraisers, social events, created links with the likes of Age UK, become a Dementia Friendly café, supported numerous charity fundraisers, sponsored Witney Hockey club and the Walking Footballers along side many donations of raffle prizes within the local area. All of which we hope brings our community together.

Surely Covid showed us the importance of human connectivity. A smile, friendly word, someone willing to listen to your news? I really could write a book about so many wonderful people we have shared small parts of their lives with. But instead, I would like to share a few of their comments...

"When I come to the Humble Bumble, I feel I can use the café as my office... If you have special requests don't be afraid to ask as



they will help you with anything to make your experience the best"

~ Rio

"I love playing, eating cake and sitting on the big highchairs when I am colouring".

~ Bertie, aged 4

"Don't lose sight of the daily effect you have on people when they come in. You are there all the time, not just for the big things."

~ Age UK Representative

I never feel embarrassed about my Parkinsons if I'm having a bad day. If my hands are shaky, cups are put on the table, rather than handed to me. The staff never make a fuss and it makes a big difference to my confidence.

~ Anon

We will continue to work for you and with you - all we ask in return is you support us and the other local businesses to ensure we survive and remain there for you.

From the bottom of our hearts... Thank you.

Queen Bee Bev

and the Worker Bees team...

To find out more about the community events going on at The Humble Bumble Café, take a look at their facebook page

"The café has been a lifeline for me recently and I pop in several times a week so that I don't feel so lonely, there is always someone to talk to"

~ Brenda





St Britius Church

By Carolyn Peach

We have to report in this article of changes to our services that will be held at St Britius in the next few months. More of this opposite, but the changes are in part because of the lovely news of the Reverend Katie Welborn van Santen – Katie is on maternity leave following the arrival of Jesse – we wish many congratulations to Katie and Miles.



We are also delighted to inform you that at a service in Dorchester Abbey on Sunday 25 June Reverend Katie was ordained by Gavin, Bishop of Dorchester (Jesse was the youngest congregant!) and she celebrated her first communion as a priest in the benefice at St Mary's, Black Bourton.

On Thursday 11th May a group from the congregation and friends went on a guided tour of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford – it was a fascinating talk on the history of the cathedral and of the narrative of the many and varied stain glass windows. We enjoyed tea in the great Hall and joining in with the choral evensong. We were also able to visit the cathedral garden and identify several landmarks and features that influenced Lewis Carol when he was writing 'Alice in Wonderland'.

Thank you to everyone who supported us at the NGS Open gardens event. The cool church provided some welcome respite from the heat of the day and there were some beautiful floral

displays to view. Thank you to all who made the arrangements and also to those who supplied and served tea and cakes in the Elder Bank Hall raising money for our general funds.



Looking forward, we are participating in the Oxford Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' on **Saturday 9 September** and the Village Bash on **Sunday 17 September** where we will be having a stall to raise funds. On **Sunday 1st October** come and join us at 10.30am at our all age family communion service when we will celebrate our festival of Harvest. A collection of non-perishable produce will be donated to The Besom project helping local people with food parcels if you would like to make a donation of food items.

Recently we have welcomed the families of Alexander and Juliana at their baptisms. If you

would like to arrange a baptism please contact Rossie Sewell, our churchwarden (01993 843418) or to plan another special ceremony at St Britius please contact Rev Drew Tweedy 07393 182093 or e-mail revdrew61@gmail.com.



To take account of clergy availability over the next few months our service structure is changing. On the **1st and 5th Sundays** in the month there will be a Benefice Holy Communion at 10.30am, which will rotate round the three churches of the Benefice. On the **2nd and 4th Sundays** in the month there will be a Holy Communion at 9.15am at St Britius and on the **3rd Sunday** there will be a Morning Prayer service at 9.15am. Once a month there will be a **Wednesday evening** Communion at 7.00pm on the Wednesday after the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Although there may not be a service in the Church on the Sunday it will be open during the day until dusk. Please do visit to take the time for quiet reflection in our beautiful Norman church.

You are welcome to join in our weekly fellowship Pilgrim's Lunch **each Tuesday lunchtime** from noon to 1pm. Contact Ben (07795 192812) for more information.

For any further details of the church services refer to the notices on the church door or log onto the website - www.bncommunity.org

If you have any queries or need help and support then please do

contact a member of the team:
Rector: Rev. Drew Tweedy 07393 182093 revdrew61@gmail.com
Churchwarden: Dr Phil Holmes 01993 843856 p.holmes@brizenorton.org
Churchwarden: Rosalind Sewell 01993 843418 rossie.sewell@googlemail.com

Worship at St Britius Church, Brize Norton

- **Sunday 13th August**
Holy Communion 9.15am
- **Sunday 20th August**
Morning Prayer 9.15am
- **Wednesday 23rd August**
Holy Communion 7pm
- **Sunday 27th August**
Holy Communion 9.15am
- **Sunday 10th September**
Holy Communion 9.15am

- **Sunday 17th September**
Morning Prayer 9.15am
- **Wednesday 20th September**
Holy Communion 7pm
- **Sunday 24th September**
Holy Communion 9.15am
- **Sunday 1st October Benefice**
Holy Communion 10.30am – Harvest Festival
- **October services to be advised** – see church notice board or social media

Additional Benefice Holy Communion services at 10.30am

- **Sunday 6th August**
– St John's, Carterton
- **Sunday 3rd September**
– St Mary's, Black Bourton

For details of other church services refer to the notices on the church door or log onto the website www.bncommunity.org



Simon Rhodes Painter & Decorator

- Interior and exterior painting
- Over 25 years trade experience
- Based in Brize Norton
- 07919 871523
- simonarhodes@hotmail.co.uk





Did your Grandparents go to school in Brize?

By Phil Holmes

Phil delves into Brize Norton School Records and the history of the pupils who went there

For those of us interested in local history a valuable source of information is the Brize Norton Primary Schools Admission Register. The first entry, coincident with the founding of the school on 8th May 1876, Admission Number 1 is Sarah J Faulkner. The last entry, Number 1713 dated 12 December 1933 is Hanneth Clarke after which a new register was started. So we have 1713 pupils over 67 years, an average of 26 per year.

Each entry records the date of admission or re-admission, their full name, their address, the name of the parent, date of birth, last school attended, the date of last attendance and the cause of leaving.

In addition to the entries in chronological/admission number order, there is an alphabetic index by name of the pupil with their admission number.

Typical entries in the register are shown above. These include No 531 for Elizabeth Wilkins born 17 August 1889 who started school on 5th March 1896 (aged 7), lived in The High Street and whose father was Charles Wilkins

ADMISSION NUMBER	DATE OF ADMISSION	DATE OF RE-ADMISSION	SCHOLAR NAME IN FULL	ADDRESS OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN	PRESENT OR GUARDIAN
521	17.4.89		Anna Lee	High St	George Lee
522	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
523	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
524	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
525	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
526	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
527	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
528	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
529	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
530	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
531	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
532	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
533	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
534	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
535	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
536	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
537	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
538	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
539	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley
540	24.4.89		Ernest C. Stanley		Ernest Stanley

(born 1860) later listed in the 1939 Register as a retired farmer living at the Homestead. In her case we have no record of when she left school nor the reason, though adjacent entries say "left for work". A later entry in the register shows No 1670 for Mary Ellis (nee Wilkins) born 2 February 1917 who was 12 year's old when she started at our primary school and her younger sister Dora (No 1669) who went on to Burford School in 1935. Both were at school in Shipton under Wychwood before coming to Brize Norton and their father was also a Charles Wilkins (born 1885 the son of above Charles Wilkins) listed in the 1939 register at Manor Farm).

Elizabeth Wilkins known as Aunt Lizzy later lived at Church Farm House (formerly Moat Farm) and, of course, Mary Wilkins was the renowned pilot who ferried planes during the World War and having married became Mary Ellis, the country park being named after her.

For those researching their family or local history the register

supplements/complements information in the national census, see for example the 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921 census and the 1939 Register. It is intriguing to note that the address given at this time was The High Street and not Manor Road. Similarly The High Street

predated Station Road although these entries were after the railway came in 1873. The station was called Bampton Station but was renamed Brize Norton & Bampton on 1 May 1940. So when was the High Street renamed as Manor Road and Station Road?

The Admissions Register reveals a lot of our social history and I have used this in my research for my two books on "Brize Norton and WW1" and "Brize Norton and WW2". These books also have more information about occupations and other aspects of social history.

All the children in the School Band (picture above dated early 1930's) will be in this register too!

The full register and where to find my books can be found online at www.bncommunity.org/bnschool/admissions_register.htm

Enjoy!

To contact the Dr Phil Holmes email: p.holmes@brizenorton.org or call 01993 943856



By Jackie Hampson

At the end of May we had our routine inspection from Ofsted and we are delighted to have maintained our 'Good' grading!



A huge thank you to all our staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication to all our children and their families.

Well it's been another busy year at pre-school! This year 20 families have left us to move onto Primary School. We have 18 families joining our pre-school in September with another 5 joining us in November and January. We're very much looking forward to welcoming them to our pre-school community. We've lots of exciting events planned for the coming academic year.

It's these events and activities that give our children a full and rounded curriculum. As a charity run pre-school it's vital for us to raise funds to enable these additional activities.

We would like to thank two of our parents, Billy & Darren who completed the Three Peaks Challenge recently (in horrible weather) and raised over £1,000, with all money raised going to our pre-school. Thank you so

much to everyone who donated! All the money raised is go straight to the pre-school and will help make improvements for our little ones! Including a new wendy house in our outdoor garden and play area!

will be run by Super Star Sports Midlands. Let's inspire children at the earliest possible opportunity that staying fit and healthy is a vital part of life.



With the introduction of the new Early Education funding for working parents of two, three and four year olds from April 2024, demand has soared.

We have extremely limited spaces from September 2024 for 3 year olds and we have 1 place for a 4 year old for 1 year. However, we are completely full from September 2025.



As another fundraiser, pre-school will be running a **Pimms and Prosecco** stall at the **Village Bash on the 17th September**. Be sure to come and support us.

As always our advice remains, register your child as soon as possible for pre-school. A waiting list application can be found on our website.

Our pre-school operates from the **Elder Bank Hall**, Station Road, Brize Norton - term time only.

Our **opening hours** are:
Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm and; Friday 9am-12pm.

NEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2023
We are pleased to announce that we will be holding weekly PE Sessions for all children from September 2023. The sessions



To contact Brize Norton Pre-School about places, open days or registration, Text/WhatsApp: 07769 617697 brizenortonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk www.brizenortonpreschool.co.uk



Brize Norton Primary School

By Robyn Jones

As the summer term draws to a close and indeed the end of the school year, we have seen many events taking place across the school which have celebrated us as a school community.

There have been fundraisers happening for chosen charities which have been led by different classes as well as the whole school taking part in a Colour Run on the village recreational ground where we raised over £2000 for us to enhance our playtime provision. The children really did SHINE during this event with many exceeding the challenge of 10 laps, including our youngest children who showed great resilience.

Over the course of this year, we have also been thinking about our children from service families and how we can best support them as a valued part of our community. With approximately 30% of our school community being from a service background, we have sought to look at ways to support and celebrate them and have laid strong foundations to continue to grow from over the coming years.

We have created a designated space within the school – The Wing – where children can meet

the Service Children's Champion if needed. Within this safe space is a post box where children can post any worries, thoughts, or observations which can be picked up confidentially by our Children's Service Champion and followed up with. We have celebrated Month of the Military Child in April which saw children dressing in Camouflage as well as learning about life as a military child.

Through this, we also celebrated our wonderful Enid Weeks who's thoughtful poem won her the



highest recognition from the Never Such Innocence Charity who ran a competition during this time. Over the course of the year, we have also welcomed many representatives from all areas of the military to speak to our children to develop a shared understanding of the vital role they play for us.

The term and year is concluding with many events that have brought us together as a

community. Our Sports Day was a huge success which has seen us relaunch the school houses: Phoenix, Griffin, Sprite and Dragon. We celebrated all things musical with a concert which showcased all the musical talents from the children across the school as well as all being entertained by the Upper School's amazing performance of Olivia!



Sadly, it's also the time of year for farewells for now. We wish our wonderful Year 6s well as they embark on their next adventure – we know they will continue to SHINE as they go on; they have been a credit to the school. We also want to wish our wonderful Mrs Stripe well as she begins her maternity leave. We look forward to welcoming her back after Easter.

Wishing all of the community a *peaceful and restful summer.*

To contact
Brize Norton Primary School,
visit their new website at
www.brizeprimary.org



Burford School



By Mr M Albrighton

Burford School enjoyed an incredibly busy end of term.

Between public examinations, our students and staff were also involved in a range of activities within and beyond the classroom. This is just a small selection of highlights from our final term of the school year.

LOWER SCHOOL PRIZEGIVING

We celebrated the successes of our Key Stage Three students on Tuesday 4 July. Individuals were recognised for demonstrating excellence in particular subjects and the full range of extensive activities we offer.

Collective successes were also highlighted in our Head of Year 9's review of the year, drawing on events in the academic, sporting, outdoor, service and Arts arenas.

BURFORD BUSINESS BREAKFAST

We held our first Burford Business Breakfast of the year in our newly renovated library in June. The aim of our BBB series is to strengthen ties between Burford School and the local business community. As very much a community school, we highly value the support and expertise of the local business community to help us deliver the 'best of education' to our students. It was wonderful to see so many local businesspeople join us, networking with each other and members of our senior staff and students over coffee and breakfast. We look forward to hosting our next BBB this autumn (date TBC).

A-LEVEL ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWCASE

At the end of June, our Year 13 students had the incredible opportunity to showcase their work at Warwick Hall in Burford, bringing their superb work to an even wider audience beyond that of friends and family. Their work was truly impressive to behold collectively within the modern exhibition space and a testament to their hard work, creativity and talent.

YEAR 6 INDUCTION

We recognise that moving to secondary school is one of the



**BURFORD
SCHOOL**
FOUNDED 1571

most significant changes in a child's life and take great care to ensure all our new Year 7 students are as prepared as possible through our programme of special induction events. Before the end of the term, it was a pleasure to induct new students from Burford Partnership schools and other primary schools into the Burford School community, familiarising them with the school and staff. This culminated with our evening event for students and their families, complete with sunshine, music and a bouncy castle, on the playing fields.

ARTSMARK AWARD

Before the end of the term, we celebrated the fantastic news that we had been awarded an Artsmark Gold Award by the Arts Council. This makes us the only one of two secondary schools in Oxfordshire to have achieved such an award. As an Artsmark school, we will gain valuable access to professional support, advice and resources to strengthen its existing arts provision. In order to achieve this award, we had to demonstrate that our arts and cultural provision extends across a broad curriculum and is delivered throughout the whole school.

We now look forward to Results Day for our students and not long after this the start of another

Successful school year!

To contact Burford School
visit their website at
www.burford.oxon.sch.uk

A 'SNAPPY' INSIGHT INTO CROCODILES OF THE WORLD



By Becky Mansfield

You've seen the brown signs, you may well have even visited, but we thought we'd take the opportunity to give you an overview of the UK's only crocodile zoo that is right on your doorstep. The zoo started life at Crawley Mill, Witney, in 2011 when founder Shaun Foggett began his journey to share a passion for crocodiles with the wider world. After three years, it was time to relocate and in 2014 the zoo relocated to the former Foxbury Farm site in Brize Norton. Here the zoo has been able to grow and now boasts one of the widest collections of crocodile species in Europe, including endangered species.

From the start, the zoo has been dedicated to the conservation of crocodiles and contributes to numerous conservation projects, as well as helping to educate visitors and importance of securing their future. Conservation highlights include being the first zoo in the UK to successfully breed critically

endangered Siamese crocodiles, as well Tomistoma crocodiles which are classed as a vulnerable species. The zoo also has a specialist off-show breeding facility for Chinese alligators, who are critically endangered and have never yet been bred in a UK zoo.

As the UK's only crocodile zoo, inevitably we have specialist knowledge that we can share with other zoos, offering advice and assistance where needed. Similarly, by observing our crocodiles and learning their behaviour, we can have input into field work where researchers are trying to work out how best to approach their work. Aside from educating the general public, we have also expanded our formal education sessions with groups, including schools, universities, colleges, societies, and coach tours.

With underwater viewing, daily feeds, and keeper experiences, we pride ourselves on providing a unique visitor experience in a fun, safe and stimulating environment and it's not only crocodiles that you'll see here at the zoo. In our indoor areas you'll also find snakes, monitor lizards, turtles, and fish (yes, the fish and crocodiles get along swimmingly!) Whilst our outdoors areas are home to Meerkats, a Komodo dragon, Tamarins, Binturong and Clouded leopards. You'll also find endangered Galapagos tortoises, the largest living species of tortoise. Here at the zoo, we

have the oldest Giant Galapagos tortoise in the UK, Dirk who is in his 70's, and last year he made headline news for fathering eight baby giants, another first for a UK zoo. Over the years, we've established strong links with conservation programmes, alongside other European zoos and hopefully you feel as proud as us that it's all happening right here in Brize.

Our visitor numbers peaked in 2019, and it's fair to say that the last few years have been a real battle financially but we remain committed to making an impact by contributing to conservation projects and educating visitors and with our dedicated and passionate team here at the zoo, hopefully we are also inspiring the next generation of crocodile keepers too, who one day will join us here at the zoo.

To find out more visit their website www.crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk



COMPETITION TIME!
Where do the world's largest Tortoises live?

Please send your answer, along with your name and contact number to: jayne@chapelhilldesign.co.uk

Competition rules: Family ticket gives entry to 2 adults and 2 children. Access to Crocodiles of the World, Brize Norton. Competition closes on the 30th September 2023. No cash equivalent will be given. 1 entry per household. Entry to park must be used by 30th September 2024.

What's on?



Brownies

We meet on Monday evenings in the Elder Bank Hall, if you would like to join us, please register your interest on the guiding website (www.girlguiding.org.uk) or contact **Barbie Thorne on 842013**



The Brize Norton Village Bash is bringing in local charity, Gig-Arts, following kind sponsorship from Gentian! To join in the fun, come along on Sunday 17th September to the Elder Bank Hall from 1pm to 4pm!

On the day, you can take part in making bright blue and golden

yellow masks - Ancient Egyptian Art on papyrus styled sustainable paper. You can also enjoy toe-tapping music and have a dance around! As a finale, come and see the Egyptian Art Showcase - Everyone of all abilities is welcome!

Nick Ekins, Managing Director of Gentian said: "We are really pleased to be supporting Gig-Arts. Gentian is a property developer and we strive to support the local community in and around our development projects. Gig-Arts' creative enterprise events are run in the heart of the community and it's great that the team will be using part of our donation to run an arts workshop for the local community of Brize Norton where



Brize Norton Ballroom Dance Club

We dance ballroom, latin and sequence to music on CDs. We meet in the Elder Bank Hall every Thursday evening from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. In August, we arranged a tea dance followed by a cream tea, which was enjoyed by all.

New members of all ages would be most welcome.

Please contact Joy on 01993 842373 for further details.

Brize Norton Over 60's Club

We are a small club meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2pm at 4 Squires Close, Brize Norton. Over the past few months we have welcomed talks by our speakers; Gordon spoke about growing bonsai plants and Carol on her interesting life and we enjoyed a sing-a-long with Cliff.

- **Tues 5th Sep** | Tea, Cake & Chat
- **Tues 19th Sep** | Talk by Mary Hopper: Life in Africa
- **Tues 3rd Oct** | Tea, Cake & Chat

we are currently building a new retail centre."

Abbie Cooke, co-founder of the Gig-Arts Charity said: "We're thrilled to be involved! Our Gig-Arts charity is all about inclusive creativity, community and sustainability for all. It's a delight to creatively collaborate with Gentian and the Brize Norton Bash Committee. All fun ahead!"

Chatty Cafe Scheme

The 'Chatter & Natter table' is a wonderful way of encouraging people of all ages to talk to others.

You are welcome to the café anytime when the venue is open. But on the day and time shown below our table will be hosted by a friendly volunteer along with complimentary tea and coffee. Do come along for a chat and a cuppa

Where: Humble Bumble Cafe
Station Rd, Brize Norton, OX18 3PU
www.humblebumblecafe.com
[/humblebumblecafe](https://www.facebook.com/humblebumblecafe)
[/humblebumblecafe](https://www.instagram.com/humblebumblecafe)

When: Tuesdays 10am - 12 midday

How can I find a Chatter & Natter Table?
Look for this sticker in the window of venues in your local area. Venues displaying this sticker will have a Chatter & Natter table set aside with a yellow table talker sign.

Stay for five minutes while you have your drink or longer if you're enjoying chatting.

Having a chat can brighten someone's day
The Chatty Cafe Scheme CIC
Community Interest Company Number: 12111574

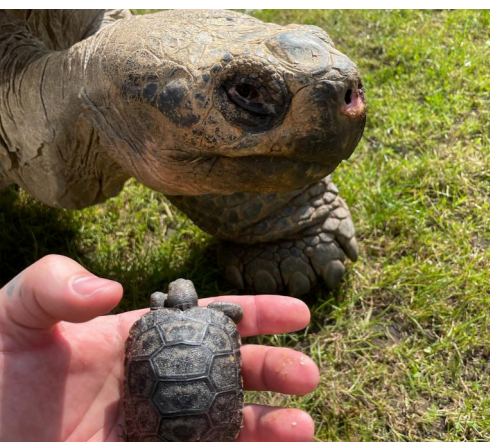
- **NOTE:** Fiona will be back on the 29th August for the next Chatty Café

- **Tues 17th Oct** | Coffee Morning 10.30am • 4 Squires Close Bring and buy, raffle
- **Tues 7th Nov** | Tea, Cake & Chat
- **Tues 21st Nov** | Cliff to play for a sing-a-long

If you would like to share your interesting job or hobby we would love for you to hear from you.

Details are also posted on the village notice board.

For more information, please ring Joy on 01993 842373



Events coming soon...

48th Brize Norton Annual Horticultural Show • 27th August



48TH BRIZE NORTON ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW
Sunday 27th August 2023
ELDERBANK HALL

Theme: 100 years of Disney
Are you green fingered? Creative or crafty? Got a secret recipe for chutney?

Categories for vegetables, flowers, baking and handicrafts. And specific classes just for children.

Join the fun and have a go!

Brize Norton Horticultural Show

By Show Committee

The Horticultural Show theme this year is 100 years of Disney.

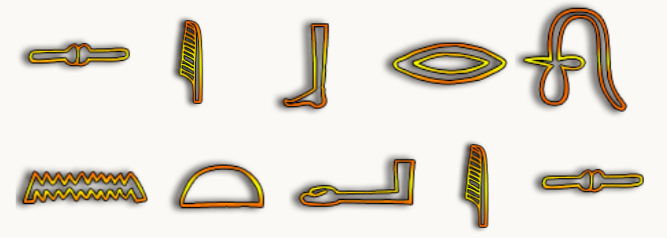
It's open to all villagers, Brize Norton Allotment Holders, children attending Brize Norton School and their parents, members of village organisations and this year organisers have invited residents of Bampton, Alvescot and Black Bourton to participate.

It's not just fruit and veg, there are cookery, crafting and flower categories, so please join in and get the children involved with a no bake cake or Disney character made from veg!

The schedule of classes and entry form is below but was also delivered to each home in Brize and is available from Humble Bumble Cafe and the Norton Arms. You can also ask Anne Green or Tony Shillingford for a copy.

Let's have a look at your prize winning jar!

BRIZE NORTON VILLAGE BASH



By Carolyn Peach

In the 100th anniversary year of the opening and excavation of the burial chamber of Pharaoh Tutankhamun to reveal the full glory of the riches buried with the young king our theme is Ancient Egypt.

We would like for everyone to get involved prior to the day by making an 'ANCIENT EGYPT' THEMED SCARECROW and if possible to display it in your garden from Sunday 3rd September to advertise the event. Then bring your scarecrows on 17th September to be judged and possibly win a prize. See rules and

guidelines below.

We are continuing to make bookings of attractions – but come along for a fun day or all the family, listen to the tunes of the Abingdon Town Band, be transported back in time - with the De Bere household who will have a small encampment to give talks and demonstrations about medieval life – learn of everyday life of a medieval family and of the rules and weapons of combat. There will be art and craft activities in the Elder Bank Hall, hosted by Abbie and an 'Arty Afternoon' with Gig-Arts.

The fun starts at 1pm. We will have the usual stalls; raffles, tombolas, bric-a-brac, plant stall,

cake stall, bar (with real ale), barbecue, year 6 games, bouncy castles and tea and cakes. We are also planning other static displays, childrens' activities and all the fun of a village fayre.

The event is a community event run by individuals from the village charities and the proceeds go to Brize Norton Primary School, Brize Norton Sports and Social Club, St Britius Church, and Brize Norton Pre-School.

Look out for posters on the village noticeboards and for more information and updates on the village social media.

Make a date in your diary!
Sunday 17th September, 1pm - 5pm
the Recreation Ground, Brize Norton

SCARECROW COMPETITION RULES

The organising committee of the Brize Norton 'Ancient Egypt' themed Village Bash 2023 welcomes entries from residents and those living outside the parish to make and display a themed scarecrow – Pharaoh or Mummy?

Families may enter more than one scarecrow. Ideally the scarecrow should be displayed in their garden location from Sunday 3rd September to advertise the Village Bash. We ask that they are then brought to the event on Sunday 17 September at 1pm for judging and the chance to win a prize. Judges' decisions are absolutely final. Prize winners will be announced and presentations made at the Village Bash about 4.30pm. Competitors are responsible for displaying their scarecrows at the event and are responsible for clearing away their own scarecrow by 5.30pm.

that they will not blow away, and in a position that will not cause a danger, injury, or annoyance to others. The organising Committee will not be held responsible for any damage to Third Party property caused by the creation or insecurity of scarecrows. Owners are held solely responsible for the safety and security of their scarecrow.

Photographs will be taken of the scarecrows and may be published on the Brize Norton Parish website to advertise the Village Day or used for other purposes after the event.

All entry forms must be submitted to Carolyn Peach before the day by e-mail cpeach.uk@btinternet.com or 52a Station Road, Brize Norton OX18 3QA.

SCARECROW COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Entrant name

Address for display of scarecrow

Contact telephone number

I agree to the terms and conditions of the competition -

Signed

Schedule and Rules for the 48th BRIZE NORTON ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW
SUNDAY 27th August 2023
ELDERBANK HALL, Brize Norton
Celebrating 100 years of Walt Disney

Staging 10.00 - 10.30 noon
 Judging 12.00 noon - 2.30 pm
 Public Access 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm

Presentations of the Jim Beckett Cup Section 1: Vegetables (Classes 1-12)
 Presentation of the Bestone Rose Bowl Section 2: Flowers (Classes 18-42)
 Presentation of the Audrey Smith Prize Section 3: Classes 43-52
 Presentation of the Christine Barnard Cup Section 4: Classes 53-58

RULES

- Open to all villagers, Brize Norton allotment holders, children attending Brize Norton School and their parents and members of village organisations throughout the region. Allotment and Black Bourton have been invited to participate.
- All exhibits to be grown or made by the exhibitor the only exception being for items of other arrangements class 53.
- No exhibits to show more than one entry in each class.
- Entry fees are class 27p.
- Points awarded for the Jim Beckett Cup, Bestone Rose Bowl, Audrey Smith Prize and Christine Barnard Cup.
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.
- The organisers will not be responsible for any loss or damage to entries. Entry forms are to be submitted by Friday 27th August 2023 to either person listed below.
- Presentations of the Christine Barnard Cup, Bestone Rose Bowl, Audrey Smith Prize and Jim Beckett Cup.
- Late entries will not be accepted on the day.
- No responsibility of the exhibitor to be carried out in the show hall.
- The Judging decision will be final.

SECTION 1: VEGETABLES

Class	Description	Quantity
1	Carrots	10
2	Onions	10
3	Peas	10
4	Beans	10
5	Tomatoes	10
6	Cucumbers	10
7	Leeks	10
8	Spring Onions	10
9	Broccoli	10
10	Brussels Sprouts	10
11	Peppers	10
12	Other Vegetables	10

SECTION 2: FLOWERS

Class	Description	Quantity
13	Roses	10
14	Hydrangeas	10
15	Geraniums	10
16	Delphiniums	10
17	Other Flowers	10

SECTION 3: COOKERY AND PRESERVES

Class	Description	Quantity
18	Chutneys	10
19	Jams	10
20	Preserves	10
21	Other Cookery	10

ENTRY FORM

Please return to:
 Carolyn Peach
 52a Station Road, Brize Norton
 Ox18 3QA

By Friday 26th August 2023

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Class	Description	Quantity
1	Carrots	10
2	Onions	10
3	Peas	10
4	Beans	10
5	Tomatoes	10
6	Cucumbers	10
7	Leeks	10
8	Spring Onions	10
9	Broccoli	10
10	Brussels Sprouts	10
11	Peppers	10
12	Other Vegetables	10
13	Roses	10
14	Hydrangeas	10
15	Geraniums	10
16	Delphiniums	10
17	Other Flowers	10
18	Chutneys	10
19	Jams	10
20	Preserves	10
21	Other Cookery	10

Entries at 27p + £

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please enter age of child for children's classes

JUDGES SCORECARD LIST FOR COLLECTION

CLASS	MAXIMUM POINTS	QUANTITY
Carrots	25	3
Onions	15	6
Peas	15	6
Beans	15	6
Tomatoes	15	6
Cucumbers	15	6
Leeks	15	6
Spring Onions	15	6
Broccoli	15	6
Brussels Sprouts	15	6
Peppers	15	6
Other Vegetables	15	6
Roses	25	1
Hydrangeas	25	1
Geraniums	25	1
Delphiniums	25	1
Other Flowers	25	1
Chutneys	25	1
Jams	25	1
Preserves	25	1
Other Cookery	25	1

The show is open to all villagers, Brize Norton allotment holders, children attending Brize Norton School and their parents and members of village organisations throughout the region. Allotment and Black Bourton have been invited to participate.

Thank you for your support, please try to encourage others to enter the show.



By Thomas Shaw

During the summer months of 2022, record temperatures swept the UK, making it the “joint warmest ever recorded”, according to the Met Office.

Last year’s July, here in Oxfordshire had temperatures of over 30 degrees, and with that, increased sun exposure. Picnics in the parks, days out for cream teas and dog walks are the little pleasures of summer; however, with many events taking places in the following month here in Brize Norton, is imperative to keep it fun, and protect from the sun.

Families should look out for sunscreen with 4 plus star UVA rating, and a SPF of 30 or more on the bottles. For the more sensitive skin, there are many options on the market, which gives great coverage and much higher UV protection. Discard those out-of-date bottles from previous holidays, as expired sunscreen’s UV protection is dramatically reduced!

Sunscreen application should be done liberally to avoid nasty burns; make sure to cover the entire body including eye lids and behind and tops of the ears.

Younger and older residence will have to apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going out, and

colours, can reduce overheating and leave your feeling comfortable on your days out.

Here in the countryside, we have large open spaces. So, if you happen to find yourself outside in the town or fields this summer, try to take shade between 11am and 3pm frequently, as this is peak exposure times. It’s imperative to take regular breaks in the shade to rehydrate, and cool-off. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can do more than ruin a day out, so watch out for signs of dizziness, headaches, sick feeling, cramps and weakness.

Many of the tips I’ve mentioned can be found on the NHS online page - www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/

Have a joyful Summer!

once again just before leaving, if out-and-about for more than a few hours in the sun. this creates a barrier for thinner, more burnable skin.

UV protected sun shades (check for the CE mark), hats with large, brims and long sleeve opaque T-shirts and dresses all prevent the dreaded burn of a long day out. Loose clothing, avoiding dark



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- Brize Norton Primary
- John Blandy Primary
- Ducklington Primary
- Marcham C of E Primary

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By Ady State

Signs of hope

Since I last wrote this column so much has happened. Those of us who did a ‘No Mow May’ have now returned our lawns to a rather tidier condition, and I must confess that I miss the untidiness of my lawn with its host of spring and early summer flowers. I had cowslips, primroses, violets and many other flowers popping up, not to mention a few garden escapees. The lawn also attracted lots of the early butterflies and bees - in fact every time I walked past my front lawn, I could hear a soothing buzz from it.



I had made a sign saying ‘No Mow May’ that was placed in the centre of all this plant life, and to be honest it was really there to ensure that nobody thought I was too lazy to mow.

On the first day of June, I went out to cut it and in places it was

up to my waist, so there was no way the mower was going to touch it. I used the strimmer to cut it down and left it for a few days to dry in the sun.

I then went out and raked up the sweet-smelling hay before mowing it properly.

It reminded me of helping my grandfather make hay on his small farmstead when I was a child and I recalled how different things were then. As an eight-year-old child I would go out with him when he cut the verges using a mower pulled by one or two of his heavy horses.

I remembered the astonishing number of insects that were around then and how a short drive along country roads entailed getting out every few miles to wipe the insects from the car’s windscreen.

Of course, modern methods of farming and efficient pesticides have changed the scene greatly and insect numbers have fallen dramatically. Most children nowadays have never seen a glowworm and yet when I was a lad most roadside verges would be aglow during June with little dots of bright green light. Every

step in a hay meadow would kick up clouds of grasshoppers, moths and butterflies.

These insects provided food for innumerable birds which have dramatically reduced in numbers with some species now not breeding in the country at all.

So, is there any hope?

Well, yes there is, there are a number of enlightened farmers making the effort to improve their land for wildlife and as I drive around checking my owl boxes, I see some of these sites and am able to witness first-hand the impact they can have.

I walked such a site the other day carrying my ladder (actually that is a lie, my assistant was carrying it) and with every step we took butterflies, moths, damsel flies and grasshoppers flew up in all directions.

These forward-thinking farmers are showing us there is hope and in our own small way ‘No Mow May’ is doing the same.

Long may it continue

Get in touch with Ady via a.state@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk

Planting, Propogating & Pruning



Summer Gardening

FROM LISA-MARIE & HER MAM



By Lisa Hudson

Happy British summer to you all! I'm sure your gardens are looking bright and bushy. With all this rain, everything is flourishing.

AUGUST

- August is one of the warmest months of the year, so if it's not raining continue to water and feed, especially pots and containers as they will dry out in the sun.
- Those dahlias which were wrapped up during the winter are now looking their best. If you cut them to keep indoors, keep cutting the stems off to enjoy inside your home and cut away any flowers which have gone past their best, this way they will flower until autumn.
- Take lavender cuttings and plant in peat-free compost, I use root powder. I keep these in the summerhouse until spring, but anywhere sheltered from frost with light will work well¹.
- Daffodils can be planted between August - November. The sooner they go in the ground, the stronger the

roots will be. They like good drainage in my garden to thrive, each spring we walk down Kilkenny Lane and we're blown away by the daffodils and snowdrops growing in the stream - how do they survive?!

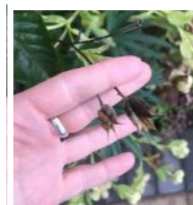
- Start watering and feeding cyclamen to bring them back to life, wakey wakey! Mine are scraggy this time of the year, but when you water and feed the corms and they come alive².
- August is a good time to do salvia cuttings, cut the ticket new stems with no flowers (or remove flowers). Leave one or two sets of leaves on the stem, trim short and pop them in some compost and water. These grow easily, so much so that when I've trimmed my salvias in the past, some which I did not pick up grew into new parts... surprise!³
- If you have a pond, feed the fish regularly to fatten them up for the cold months ahead. Remove any weeds of debris from your pond and add new plants now.
- Continue to feed your lawn right through until autumn to stop weeds and moss.

Continue to cut your lawn weekly.

- Check that you still have some straw under your strawberries to protect them from the damp ground. Add a new over your strawberries and other fruit to protect them from hungry birds.
- This year's chicks will be fattening up ahead of the cold weather, so keep your feeders full and leave fresh water for them.

SEPTEMBER

- Support tall plants like dahlias, sunflowers and echinacea's. Continue to cut dahlias to enjoy indoors and deadhead them so they continue to flower.
- September is a good time to plant narcissus and crocus. I like them in clumps of 5, but you can drop them from a low height to plant them wherever they land, this will give a more natural look.
- My strawberries are looking tatty this time of year, so I cut off the runners and put in compost to make new plants. I cut back any old leaves, leaving only the new ones. Store the new plants / runners in a sheltered place for the winter.



- Summer bedding plants may now start to look tired, so you can put these on your compost heap or in your garden waste bin.
 - Lift tender plants (geraniums, calla lilies, Brazilian fuchsia and bougainvillea) to store away over the winter.
 - September is a great time to divide up large clumps of perennials (ladies mantal, hostas, day lilies, peonies and astrantias), you can share with friends or spread amongst your flower beds.
 - Whilst tidying around the garden, it's a good idea to collect seed heads from poppies, aquilegia or any other plants which have gone to seed. I store these in tiny brown envelopes, label them and keep them indoors for a few days to ensure they have fully dried out⁴.
 - If you have been thinking of adding a new flowerbed or changing the shape of one, now is the time to do it when soil isn't too hard from the summer months and before the frost arrives⁵.
- ### OCTOBER
- The weather is noticeably cooler and damper now, so the grass will no longer be growing as fast. When you do cut it, use a longer setting and rake out any moss for good ventilation. Trim the edges as usual, this will leave your lawn looking tidy over the winter.
 - Collect any fallen leaves from



the ground to prevent any diseases. These can be used as mulch, however, remember to leave some in the corners or near hedges for wildlife such as hedgehogs.

Clean your shed / summerhouse windows as this will let in more light and remove any mould. Do the same for your greenhouses but in addition, sweep and hose the floor to remove any pests ready to store your plants over the winter months.

Thinking ahead to the warmer months, if you have a new shed or extension to

your home, use the additional roof space to collect water in a water butt.

- If any gaps in your flower beds with winter flowers like pansies, primroses, heathers and wallflowers.
- Check any greenhouse heaters to make sure they work before the cold weather sets in.

Happy Gardening!

To contact Lisa or her Mam, please email jayne@chapelhilldesign.co.uk



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Village

Mental Health



By Ben Champion

BE USEFUL TO BE HAPPY; How Volunteering to help others, ultimately helps yourself.

Community engagement and volunteering can play an essential role in the improvement of mental health for individuals and the community as a whole.

The stigma surrounding mental health issues can make it difficult for individuals to seek help or feel accepted in their communities. However, when communities actively promote mental health and provide volunteer opportunities for individuals to be involved, it can create a supportive network where individuals can feel empowered and connect with others who share similar challenges. The joy of our perfectly formed village community is that there are many opportunities to engage and volunteer!

Volunteering is a great way to engage with mental health issues and improve the well-being of members of the community. By participating in community service projects, individuals can develop personal connections and build resilience against mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. Researchers have

discovered that volunteering is strongly associated with positive mental health outcomes, with individuals who volunteer reporting higher levels of happiness and life satisfaction. I know this to be true in my own life – living a philosophy to ‘Be Useful to Be Happy’ has held me together when times were tough in the past...

When I grew up I was a Scout. Many of you will remember the ‘Scout & Guide Promise’; well, I also was a Beaver Scout Leader (a long time ago!)... they make a very simple – but very powerful – promise, when joining the Scout movement:

“I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful and to love our world.”

~SCOUT & GUIDE PROMISE

I recently read that Arnold Schwarzenegger has just released a new book, entitled ‘Be Useful’... He cites his own father as inspiring him with those words, however they are not new. I am Christian and this ‘Be Useful’ philosophy resonates with ‘Do unto others as you would have done unto you’ just as it does in the Buddhists daily mission to ‘do no harm & help others’... Clearly Arnie’s life story is quite a read in itself, but to have such a simple motto and achieved so much, is

inspiring to us all....

One of the most significant benefits of community engagement and volunteering for mental health is the empowerment that comes with taking an active role in the process. Helping others and contributing to community projects can give individuals a sense of purpose, but also gives them back ‘choice’; they can choose to get involved. This is not forced upon us, it is a choice to volunteer and engage with our community, knowing that – to do so – will Be Useful and ultimately enhance our own wellbeing

So... volunteer! There are numerous opportunities in our village; trawl through these pages of the great Brize Breeze, ask at the Café or speak to a member of the Parish Council or Church.

You will always Be Welcome to Be Useful!

Ben Champion is an RGN/RMN/BSc(Hons)/ENB A12 (CBT, BABCP Accredited Therapist and both supports and runs businesses and community groups in Brize Norton.

To Contact Ben, email jayne@chapelhilldesign.co.uk



Lizzie York

Cyclical Living - The key to a life of purpose, self-compassion & joy

Our linear culture is may leave us feeling that we must always strive for MORE, FASTER, STRONGER. We are conditioned to feel never enough, ashamed of rest and ageing. This is not sustainable for ourselves as individuals or for the environment.

We see this in the earth around us, the monoculture that exists in our agriculture, stripping the soil of nutrients, unable to sustain life. Yet everything around and within us exists in cycles (our breath, the day, the moon, the seasons, reproduction, life)

Disconnected from this we have bought into the notion that we are separate from nature and need to constantly be doing & being more to be happy and “successful”.

We go against the intelligence of nature and our bodies because that is what society expects of us.

Cyclical Living is the antithesis to this, it is not a new concept, but the original. In essence, it is about living in harmony with the cycles within you and outside of you. The lunar (cyclical living is

Dark Moon/Menstruation/Crone/Winter – A time of quiet reflection and rest; receive vision and guidance in alignment with your purpose.

Waxing Moon/ Pre ovulation/Maiden/ Spring – Set your intentions, harness the rising energy and begin working towards your purpose.

Full Moon/Ovulation/Mother/Summer – Harness this energy to really get the ball rolling in the direction of your dreams.

Waning Moon/Pre Menstruum/Queen/Autumn – Pre menstruum gets a really bad press, it doesn’t fit our mainstream culture. The truth is when you work with this energy it is a great time to be really analytical and focused.

And repeat! Each cycle is one of birth, growth, falling away and death. When we take time to honour how we really feel and connect to what we really want and need, we are naturally more refreshed, energised and creative!

for all genders) and menstrual cycle encompass four distinct energies, just like the seasons. You can harness these energies as a framework to literally move, breathe, eat and create in synchrony with them. Intrigued? Take a look at the notes above for a sneak peek...

If you are tired of pouring from an empty cup, on the edge of overwhelm and living a life devoid of the things that really

light you up. I invite you to explore another way of living in tune with the intelligence of your body and nature.

It’s time to cultivate resilience and connect to the deepest layers of yourself to create a more purposeful, compassionate and *joyful life!*

To find out more about Lizzie and Cyclical living, see Lizzie’s advert in the Village Directory

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By Frances Payne

An open letter to the Brize Norton community from Frances Payne, Home Manager at Brize Meadow Lodge care home, operated by Ideal Carehomes.

On behalf of everyone at Brize Meadow Lodge, I would like to share some exciting plans and events we have in store to bring together and benefit our community.

Moving into our care home, we want our residents to feel a sense of community, where they can form new and lasting friendships and continue to cherish old ones. We look forward to meeting you all at our upcoming celebrations

and events, such as our Stay and Play sessions, and our Knit and Natter group.

Every Wednesday from 10:30 until 13:30, local parents with babies and toddlers are invited to Stay and Play with our friendly staff and residents. We hope our Stay and Play sessions will provide people with a warm and welcoming place out of the house to come and have a fun play time with the kids. All are welcome and we'll provide the refreshments!

For those in the community looking for a creative outlet, every Wednesday from 14:30 until 16:00 our residents would love for people to join us for our Knit and Natter group. This is a great opportunity to relax in a quiet environment, have a chat over a cuppa, and create some beautiful knitting. Again, everyone is

welcome to take part and we'll have some delicious treats ready for you.

We have an open-door policy, so if you have any questions about our home or our regular events or coming to live with us, please pop in!

For more information, please see our contact details below.

Thank you



To contact Brize Meadow Lodge, call 01993 323 313 or email brizemeadow.lodge@idealcarehomes.co.uk www.idealcarehomes.co.uk

THE VILLAGE DIRECTORY

LOCAL INFORMATION

- **Brize Norton Parish Council**
clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk
- **St Britius Church • 846996**
- **Brize Norton Primary School • 842488** www.brizeprimary.org
School Governors
Alistair Doran • 07788 214 663
adoran@brize-norton.sch.co.uk
BNPS School Association
Emma Baughan
bnsa_fundraising@outlook.com
- **Brize Norton Pre-School**
Jackie Hampson • 07769 617 696
brizenortonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk
- **Brize Norton FC • 841096**
Simon Cook • 07825 002 298
Adam Harris • 07415 331645
adam.harris@aplan.co.uk
- **BN S&SC/Cricket Club**
Tim Gush • message [facebook: @bnssc](https://www.facebook.com/bnssc)
- **Elder Bank Hall • 622714**
Jayne Woodward elderbankhall@gmail.com
- **Over 60's Club & Ballroom and Latin Dancing • 842373**
Joy Douglas
- **Open Gardens**
Dawn Humphris & Brian Trott
dawnhumphris@btinternet.com
brian.trott3@btinternet.com

USEFUL INFO

- **Post Office at the Sports Pavilion**
9.30am - 12.30pm Tuesday & Thursday
- **Police (Witney) • Call 101**
10am - 6pm Monday to Friday (Closed Saturday/Sunday)
- **NHS helpline • Call 111**
(24/7 urgent medical conditions)
- **Council Info**
The Green Party District Councillor for Brize Norton and Shilton Ward - Councillor Rosie Pearson rosie.pearson@westoxon.gov.uk
Conservative County Councillor for Burford and Carterton North East Division - Councillor Nicholas Field-Johnson (01993) 878309
Member of Parliament for Witney - Robert Courts MP robert@robertcourts.co.uk
- **Planning proposals for Brize Norton and Surrounding area**
www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-proposals

LOCAL BUSINESSES



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Based locally
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Tuesday, 8am - 10am

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Stay & Play

Wednesday, 10.30am - 12pm

Bring along the little ones for fun and games with our residents.



Knit & Natter

Wednesday, 2.30pm onwards

Share your skills, learn something new and have a natter with our residents.



Fish & Chips Lunch

Last Friday of the month, 12.30pm onwards

We are welcoming our local community to join us for a traditional fish & chips lunch.

01993 323 313

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