

BRIZE NORTON

May to July 2023 • Distributed to over 800 homes in Brize Norton Village

Breeze

The Coronation of His Majesty the King

What's going on in Brize Norton and a few
tasty recipe ideas!

Thank you to all the children!

Wendy gives an update on the
new Brize Meadow play park

Local projects benefit from grants

Alison talks us through how the
community grant funding has
helped the people of Brize

It's been an 'Eggs-citing' term

at Brize Norton Pre-School!

Stress & Mental Health

Ben & Jayne focus on what
is affecting us

Home, Garden & DIY Tips

from Jennifer, Kirk, Lisa and her Mam

Meet Beautiful 'No Joke' *in Villager's Voice from Lisa and Gary*

Issue
177



Welcome to issue 177 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 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.

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Oxfordshire County Council Tree Planting Initiative

Back in December last year, Oxfordshire County Council approached all the Town and Parish Councils in Oxfordshire advising that they had secured enough new trees and the budget to plant one tree per parish in Oxfordshire.

Of course, we jumped at the chance and those eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that our tree was planted last month on the piece of grass at the junction of Chapel Hill and Burford Road, next to Fennel Cottage.

It is a Pedunculate Oak and to ensure that it thrives, the first three years of maintenance is critical, ensuring that the ties, support and the cage are monitored, and the mulch topped up. The Parish Council's Village Handyman will do this and Councillor Chris Woodward, who lives on Chapel Hill, has agreed to take on the task of keeping it watered during periods of dry weather.

If you live on Chapel Hill and would like to help Chris with this task, then please get in touch with him. I'm sure he would appreciate it.

If you should spot any issues with the tree then please report it to the Parish Council in the first instance via the Clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk. We will report any serious issues to the Tree Service Team at OCC, if required.



Pick up a *cuppa* and enjoy a good read!...

By Wendy Way

Here we are with the second edition of the Brize Breeze.

We have received a lot of very positive feedback from the first edition and so from Parish Council and Chapel Hill Design, we thank you and hope that you continue to enjoy reading 'The Breeze' for many more editions to come. If you have any stories or experiences, or any hidden talents, we would love to hear them.

“If you have any stories or experiences, or any hidden talents, we would love to hear them.”

I've been following some of Lisa-Marie's and her Mam's gardening tips.

One of my jobs was to clean out my bird boxes and I already have a pair of blue tits in residence. It's lovely watching them flit around the garden and with the sun finally making an appearance and the temperature rising, spring has finally sprung and it's great

to be able to get outside and finally start some gardening.

Since our last edition, the Co-op has opened on Brize Meadow and already Gary and his team have fitted right in, even coming along to help with a litter pick around the Mary Ellis Country Park by the Tactical Medical Wing organised by Cllr Darren Truman.

The Brize Meadow Lodge Care Home has its Grand Opening on Saturday 29th April and is opening its doors between 11am – 3pm.

Parish Councillors continue to work tirelessly with Thames Water with the ongoing flooding issues we experience, particularly in the South of the village. Thames Water has carried out the first phase of surveying and some repairs have been made, but there is still a lot to do.

Other projects, such as the Elder Bank Hall Extension, the new play park on Brize Meadow and the Public Art are also gaining momentum. Funding for some bicycle racks between the Elder Bank Hall and the Pavilion has been granted and we are waiting on a date from OCC to come

and install them.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 23rd May at the Elder Bank Hall starting at 7pm. For those who may not know, this is a meeting that enables the Parish Council to explain what it has been doing over the last year and provides an opportunity for the electors to have your say on anything that you consider is important to the people of the Parish.

We still have two vacancies to fill on the Parish Council so if you are someone who would like to make a positive difference to our village and would like to find out more about what a Parish Council is and becoming a Councillor, then take a look at the article 'What is a Parish Council?' on page 37.

Here's to some warmer weather, enjoy reading the second edition of the Brize Breeze, perhaps even doing so

outside with a cup of tea!

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

Villagers Voice



Meet 'No Joke!'

*“His response was
'You're joking!'
and this is how the elephant
became known as 'No Joke!'"*

By Lisa and Gary

You may have noticed, walking down Burford Road, there is a new 'resident' in our village - No Joke!

No Joke originally started life at a charity fundraising event in London for 'Elephant Family'.

The beautiful topiary elephant was purchased as a donation towards the charity in 2011. Part of an auction for charity, the original owners who gifted NoJoke, told us:

“We were having a wonderful time at the event and unbeknownst to my husband, I was bidding for this amazing elephant! Once the hammer fell, I leant across to my husband to inform him that we had won. His response was 'You're joking!' and this is how the elephant became known as 'No Joke!'”

In November 2022, the owners were moving from their home in the Cotswolds and unfortunately this meant that No Joke would be left without a big garden to enjoy. So Gary offered him a new home!

NoJoke moved into his new home on 14th November 2022.

Initially, we were going to let him live in the back garden, but after realising that it took four men just to lift him and place him on the ground - we decided the front garden, by our apple trees would be a better idea!

Once he'd got comfortable, enjoying his new surroundings, NoJoke let us know that he was an Asian elephant and one who enjoys celebration of many various events throughout the year! Well, not wanting to disappoint his expectations, we decided we would decorate him throughout the year for events such as Christmas and Easter.

NoJoke seems to love his new home and we love it that so many people stop by to photograph him and to say hello!



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





Around Our Village

Caring for our parks

By Darren Truman

In March members of the Parish Council joined forces with Co-op representatives to litter pick the Mary Ellis Country Park.

It took the team just two hours to fill over ten sacks of rubbish, which shows just how in need this litter pick was!

A lot of the litter had blown over from the Bloor Homes building site during the strong winds we saw in early March and the Parish Council felt they needed to act quickly to get the area cleared up.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Co-op Brize Meadow and their representatives who gave their time and enthusiasm to helping the community!



Brize Meadow Play park

By Wendy Way

The Parish is set to benefit from Section 106 funding from Bloor Homes to build a brand-new play park with a new, exciting mix of equipment, which will provide a wide range of play experiences for children of different ages to play together allowing them to experience challenges.

The play area is to be accessible for both disabled and non-disabled children and be sustainable, appropriately maintained and allow for change and evolution. It should meet the needs of the community and compliment the other play area within



the village, as well as the surrounding villages and local towns without duplication.

The first thing to do was to consult the play park's customers, to ask the children of the parish, what they would like to see. To help them, and to manage their expectations, we provided 'themed boards' covering bouncing, climbing, gliding, multi-units, rocking, spinning, swinging, sensory

and educational, depicting different choices of play products.

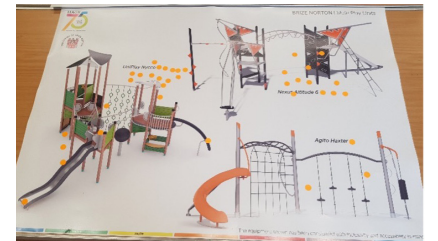
To keep things simple, and to ensure the children understood what they were being asked to do and make it fun, they were given stickers and asked to choose their favourite piece of equipment and place their stickers by it.

“It is the Parish Council's vision that the school children and local people are engaged with this project right from the start”

The next part of the process is to use this information to create a detailed specification for the play park in terms of age range and support for all

children and we will update you in the next edition of Brize Breeze.

It is the Parish Council's vision that the school children and local people are engaged with this project right from the start so they are invested in what will be a valued local community facility.



Thank you to all the children who came along and shared their ideas!



Simon Cook

Brize go into the final few weeks of the season in 2nd place in Division 2, 7 points behind leaders Cassington and 10 points above Eynsham SSC. We went in to the Christmas Break unbeaten in seven league matches but due to bad weather and some teams unable to fulfil fixtures no game was played from the 3rd December until 4th February. This play-off did not help and we lost the first two games February to Siege FC and Freeland Reserves.

Since then we have gone

6 games unbeaten in the league including a 2-1 win away to leaders Cassington and an emphatic 7-1 win against Hailey A at home. Unfortunately draws to Eynsham SSC and Kingham has seen 4 points dropped.

Our next match is in the Watts Junior Cup. This Cup is named after Bob and Margaret Watts and we recently received the sad news that Margaret had passed away. Margaret did a lot of work for the Club particularly in the early years alongside Bob and will be sadly missed.

Our Final fixtures are as follows:

- 12th Apr Kingham AB(A) Cup
- 18th Apr Siege FC (A) League
- 22nd Apr Milton Res (A) League
- 25th Apr Witney Royals Res (A) League
- 29th Apr Leafield (H) League
- 2nd May Freeland Res (A)

Our current league Record:
Pld: 19 W:14 D: 2 L:3 F:67 A:33 PTS:44

Top Scorers

- Dylan Briggs - 15
- Joe Hatt - 14
- Jacob Hambridge - 9
- Jason Hirshfield - 7
- Matthew Webster - 6

This year sees the 60th Anniversary of the Club after it was Re-Formed in 1963.

We are planning a celebration most probably in August and will keep you informed of those plans.

If anyone has any old photos, memories or stories to share please pass on to Adam Harris or Myself.

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The State of Nature

The first Cuckoo

By Ady State

As a young man of sixteen I worked at the Wildlife Park near Burford. It only opened during the summer months in those days and we junior keepers had a lot of free time in the day.

One such day in early October I decided to climb the huge Sequoia tree behind the house and after about thirty minutes of strenuous climbing I reached a point near the top and sat there for a while enjoying the view.

Of course the cuckoo normally arrives in the UK in April, and on reading that the first cuckoo had arrived today, I decided to write all about this fascinating bird.

When I was that callow youth the cuckoo (*cuculus canorus*) was much commoner than it is now.

I recall hearing them even close to the town centre in Witney and the local meadows would ring with their calls.

I once found a dunnoek (*prunella modularis*) nest and it contained an egg that wasn't the usual sky blue colour but was larger and a mottled beige colour.

Guessing that it was a cuckoo, I observed this nest regularly and was able to see the young cuckoo take over the nest, removing the other eggs until it was the sole occupant and the dunnoek parents eventually having to perch on its back to feed its voracious appetite.

It was a formative moment for me and led to my lifelong fascination with wildlife

Luckily dunnoeks have multiple broods so the cuckoo doesn't

have too big an impact on their population.

There are other birds that are parasitised by the cuckoo such as the reed bunting, meadow pipit and reed warbler but the commonest bird to be parasitised in this area appears to be the dunnoek.

The numbers of cuckoo in the UK have been falling steadily for a number of years and this is due to a number of reasons. Firstly the decline in insects, particularly the hairy caterpillars they love, and secondly and rather worryingly, drought in Europe has affected their migratory route, from the Congo across the Sahara and through Europe.

Last year I found two territories of adult cuckoos near Brize Norton, one was in the fields along the footpath to Lew and Berrow hill, which I could occasionally hear from my home in The Fosseway, and another was calling around Caswell farm.

As this edition reaches you it will be the perfect time to listen out for the cuckoo.

If you hear it treasure that sound, because we may be one of the last generations to hear it, unless its fortunes improve.

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

Bringing 'wild' into the home?



Pet rescue advice from the Blue Cross

By Blue Cross, Burford

Thinking about a rescue pet? Owning a pet is a fun and rewarding experience. But every animal and their needs are different, so how can you make sure that you choose the right one for you?

Here are some top tips from national pet charity Blue Cross which helps sick, injured and homeless cats, dogs, small animals and horses at rehoming centres across the country including in Burford, Oxfordshire.

Do your research

You may like the look of a particular pet but that doesn't mean they're right for you. Every pet has its own personality and certain breeds of animals often have strong traits so think about what you want from your pet and do some research before you take one on.

Some breeds may also require more vet care than others. Flat faced breeds such as French bulldogs and pugs can suffer

a number of health issues including problems with their breathing and skin conditions due to their exaggerated features and we'd urge owners to really do their research before taking on one of these breeds.

Think about your lifestyle

For example, if you work full time and you want a dog, who would take care of them during the day? If you want a cat, will they have access to outside space while you're out during the day? Do some research on the size, temperament,



and exercise requirements of different pets to make sure they're the right choice for you

Do your sums

From everyday things like insurance, food and toys to unexpected vet bills, having a pet is a financial commitment. Make sure you factor in how much your new pet will cost before you choose them.

Think about a rescue pet

Thousands of homeless pets are desperate for a good home. Charities like Blue Cross in can offer support



and advice about individual pets and help you find the right one for you. They will be neutered, microchipped and vaccinated so they offer great value compared to the outlay involved in buying from a breeder.

Use a reputable breeder

If you do want to buy a pedigree dog or cat, ask your vet or breed club to recommend a responsible breeder. Ask the breeder for all the relevant paperwork and see the pet's parents/relatives/siblings to observe their temperament and general health and welfare. Don't purchase online or from dealers who offer multiple breeds or types of pets - these may well turn out to be puppy farmers or commercial dealers who have little interest in the welfare of the pets they sell.

For more information on animal adoption as well as advice, go to www.bluecross.org.uk



Local projects benefit from community grants

By Alison Earl

The funding provided by property developer Gentian last year has been put to good use in the Parish of Brize Norton

Brize Norton Primary school purchased furniture for their new school library, which they officially opened on World Book Day. Brize Norton Pre-School purchased a new outdoor shed and resources for their mud kitchen, allotment area; and APCAM (Assisting Parents with Children Affected by Mental Health) has used the funding towards a drop in for young people with mental health needs and SEND. Around 30 young people are currently benefiting from the service

Wendy Way, Chairman of Brize Norton Parish Council said: "The Parish Council is

grateful to Gentian for supporting our village schools with funding that is already reaping benefits for the children. The funding provided to APCAM will allow them to provide vital support to local families."

The Village Bash committee has also benefited from Gentian's support by purchasing new gazebos. Their first outing was the Christmas Fayre in December and the plan is for them to be used at the Village Bash, school events, fundraising and other community events.

The many cyclists who pass through the village will be able to park up at new bicycle racks which will be installed between the Elder Bank Hall and Humble Bumble café thanks to Gentian.

Nick Ekins, Managing Director of Gentian said: "We set up our community grants programme to allow us to give back to

"I'm really pleased to see that we've been able to support... the residents of Brize Norton."

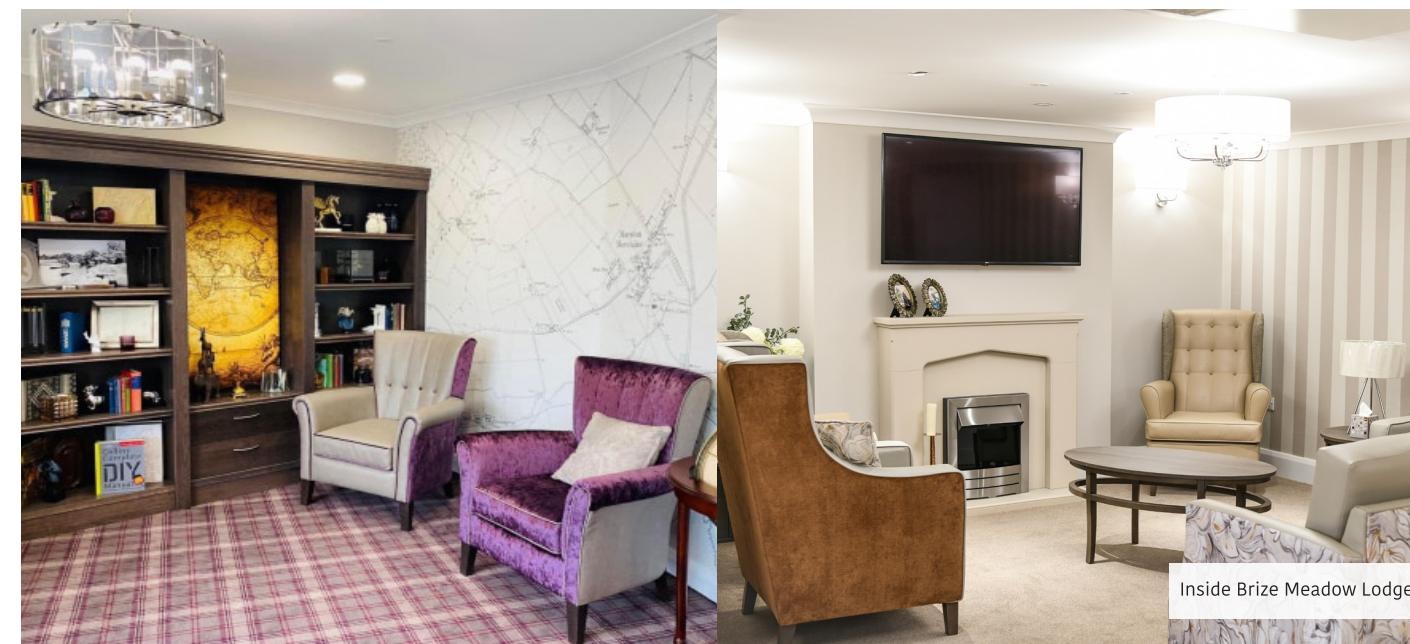
the communities where we run our development projects. I'm really pleased to see that we've been able to support some great causes and hopefully make a difference to the residents of Brize Norton."

Gentian is the property developer of the new retail centre on Monahan Way forming part of the Brize Meadow development.

The new Mid Counties Co-op convenience store opened in March and the drive-thru is on track to be handed over to Greggs this summer.

Gentian is committed to supporting the local community in the vicinity of its offices and developments. (www.gentian.co.uk)

For more information, go to www.gentian.co.uk or email Alison.a.earl@gentiandevlopment.com



Inside Brize Meadow Lodge

ideal carehomes

By Maria Taylor

An open letter to the Brize Norton community from Maria Taylor, Commissioning Director at Ideal Carehomes, operators of Brize Meadow Lodge care home.

On behalf of everyone at Ideal Carehomes, I would like to share some exciting updates with you all regarding our new care home, Brize Meadow Lodge.

We're looking forward to welcoming our first residents this month, who have already reserved their rooms and are looking forward to starting the next chapter of their lives with us in our beautiful home.

We're also looking forward to building relationships with local businesses in and around Brize Norton and working with them to bring some fantastic events to the community.

We'd like to take this

opportunity to invite you all to come and take a look around and meet us all at our open day on Saturday 29th April. Guests will be able to learn more about the Brize Meadow Lodge lifestyle, enjoy complimentary refreshments and take away a gift bag.

Brize Meadow Lodge's 66 bedrooms are complete with bespoke fitted furniture, private ensuite wet rooms, ample seating, flat-screen televisions, and mini fridges.

Our highly skilled team of compassionate carers will go above and beyond to create a lifestyle that residents can be proud of, offering a diverse and enjoyable activities program based on the likes and interests of the people who live there.

Brize Meadow Lodge offers an all inclusive fee, allowing residents to enjoy all of our services and facilities without having to worry about any extra costs.

Everyone is welcome to join us on Saturday 29th April. The open day is from 11am to 3pm and there is no need to book. We look forward to seeing you all there!

In the meantime, if you have any questions about Brize Meadow Lodge, or our work at Ideal Carehomes, please get in touch on 0113 465 4000. I'd be happy to answer any queries that you might have about our incredible new care home.

Thank you



To contact Ideal Carehomes, call 0113 465 4000 or for media related enquiries, contact Terri Kidd Terri.Kidd@idealcarehomes.co.uk 07508 214038



St Britius Church

By Carolyn Peach

Thank you to everyone who supported our Pancake Evening in February – we hosted 37 people to a sit down supper with our ‘diner style’ seating arrangement. With tickets, raffle and refreshments, we made **£337!**

We also had a ‘Lent Tea Party’ hosted by the Humble Bumble with 15 attending where we held a raffle again for church funds. On Saturday 2 April we helped with the Churches Together in Carterton, Easter family activity afternoon hosted this year by the Methodist Church in Carterton and on Easter Day we were pleased to welcome Bishop Gavin of Dorchester who took the Holy Communion service.

We are hoping to help mark the Coronation of the King on **Saturday 6 May** by joining in with ‘Ring for the King’ by

chiming the church bells in the morning.

You are welcome to join with us on a Pilgrimage tour of Christchurch Cathedral and Chapter House following St Frideswide’s footsteps on **Thursday 11 May**. The guided tour starts at 3pm and is followed by afternoon tea in the Great Hall, an opportunity to visit the Christchurch gardens (weather dependent) and then join in with choral evensong at the cathedral. Places must be booked in advance and there is a charge for the tea of £12.90. Please contact Ben (07795 192812) for further information.

On **Sunday 11 June** please visit the church to view the floral displays prepared by the NGS gardeners as we once again take part in the village NGS Open Garden Scheme. We would also welcome you at the Elder Bank Hall from 1pm to 6pm where we will be selling teas and cakes to raise money

for our general funds.

In the next few months we look forward to welcoming family and friends of children to be baptised. If you would like to arrange a baptism please contact Rossie Sewell, or to plan another special ceremony at St Britius please contact Rev Drew Tweedy.

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.

Other than the weekly 9.15am Sunday service, there is also a weekly Wednesday evening Holy Communion service at 7pm. The Church is open until dusk on Sundays following the morning service.

Please do visit to take the time for quiet reflection in our beautiful Norman church.

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), Churchwarden Dr Phil Holmes (01993 843856) or Churchwarden Rosalind Sewell (01993 843418)

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



Credit: Oxford Magazine

The Humble Bumble

By Bev Campion

Here at HBC we are loving the new look ‘Brize Breeze’ and the sense of our growing village coming together. I feel proud to be part of this and so many of our customers have been reading it and learning lots about our community.

I love this time of year, the sense of new beginnings, better weather, and outdoor events! The last few months have brought us our family Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day cream teas showing how much love really was all around us.

Easter brought us two weeks of fun filled activities from outdoor crafting, board game days, indoor crafts led by our wonderful regular craft group and the long - awaited ‘Fish Finger Friday’ is back!

We continue to host the Witney Warriors walking footballers, our very own craft club and more recently the Aston Junior Football Club. Huge congratulations to the Brize Norton team, who against all odds, have had a great season.

Not long until cricket is here alongside the sunshine - we hope!

We are also very excited to now be part of the ‘chatty café scheme’ where our wonderful local volunteer Fiona has completed her training and is now leading (see opposite page to hear more).

The Humble Bumble Horsebox has been happy to be supporting Witney hockey club this season alongside a few other outdoor events - Common Leys Lambing day a particular favourite!

Thank you for your patience with our reduced menu - we are plotting and planning and listening to your feedback about what we can offer as the summer approaches.

Coronation

For me, King Charles brings a sense of calm - his love of the environment and our communities led our plans for the village celebrations in May. Many of you will be watching the coronation and celebrating this event with family and friends but hopefully will join us on Monday 8th May in our ‘Pride in our village’ event at the recreation ground.



In other big news we are awaiting our first humble bumble baby!

The wonderful Rebekah is now on maternity leave with only weeks to go until baby ‘Bee’ arrives. We wish her luck and look forward to meeting the newest member of the humble family!

Like many other community focussed cafés, our ethos has always been about providing a space for all, to support other local businesses, promote sustainability. By fostering a sense of community and belonging we can all make a significant positive impact on our local community. To continue to do this we need your support. This may be buying a weekly coffee, donating some time to help out or just sharing ideas.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and friendship.

Much love and thanks

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 Chatty Café

By Fiona Pleydell



The nationwide Chatty Café scheme has arrived at the Humble Bumble Café. The purpose of the scheme is to invite and welcome **anybody** who would like to come down and have a bit of a natter.

It may be that you are new to the village and want to meet new people, you may want to

know more about the history of the village or talk about it's future, maybe you're a new Mum and want to talk about anything other than sleep or you're just up for a chat and fancy a bit of company. Any reason is a welcome reason to come and join us at the Chatty Café table.

Details are on the poster opposite, so come down for as long as you'd like, and say 'Hello' to myself and like minded villagers. We'll even provide a **free tea or coffee**.

We had our first meeting in March and I have been humbled, excuse the pun, by the number of people who have come by to support the scheme. We now have some regulars and others who have

popped in to say hello. This is an initiative for you all, to use as you would like!

Please come along and look out for the table with the yellow Chatty Café sign or myself with my yellow lanyard on. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Chatty Café 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 Café
Station Rd, Brize Norton, OX18 3PU
www.humblebumblecafe.com
Facebook: /humblebumblecafe
Instagram: /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 Café Scheme CIC
Community Interest Company Number: 12111574

We bring along whatever craft project we are working on at the time, and continue in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

We would also very much love to be able to give something back to our wonderful local community!

So if you have an unfinished project that you are stuck on, or maybe something that needs a little repair, please do pop along and join us and we will try our best to help you!

Humble Bumble CRAFT CLUB

The Humble Bumble Craft Club meets every Thursday at Humble Bumble Café between 10am and 12pm.

BRIZE NORTON BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

We are a club of local members meeting every Thursday evening from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in the Elder Bank Hall.

We dance ballroom, latin and sequence dances to music on CDs. We have an interval when we enjoy a chat with tea and biscuits. Any new members would be most welcome.

For more information, please ring Joy on 01993 842373

BRIZE NORTON OVER 60's CLUB



We would all like to express our sadness and condolences to the family of Margaret who recently died.

We are a small club of 18 members. We meet at 2pm at 4 Squires Close, Brize Norton on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

- **Tues 2nd May** | Tea, Cake & Chat
- **Tues 16th May** | Talk by Gordon on Bonsai plants
- **Tues 6th June** | Cliff at the keyboard

- **Tues 20th June** | Talk by Carol - 'My Life'
- **Tues 4th July** | Meal at The Masons Arms
- **Tues 18th July** | Cream tea at The Humble Bumble café

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...



NGS Brize Norton open gardens is coming round quickly for the gardeners who are opening their lovely gardens this year, we are **opening on Sunday 11th June from 1pm -6pm**.

We have 10 gardens open, tea & cakes will be served at Grange Farm & Elder Bank Hall. Don't forget the flower festival in the our lovely church too!

We all look forward to seeing as many of you this year as possible and don't forget, if you would like to open your garden next year, please talk to any of the gardeners on the day.

Have a lovely summer.

Dawn Humphris & Brian Trott



Village Bash

Sunday 17th September 2023

An afternoon of fun on the Recreation Ground in support of the school and local village organisations

More details will be included in the next edition of the Brize Breeze, out in the first week of August!



By Victoria Tilley

Dig out the bunting, a good coronation chicken recipe and perhaps a fancy hat – it's time to get ready for a three-day celebration as King Charles III is crowned at Westminster Abbey!

Communities across the country are preparing to hold a right royal knees-up over the weekend of **Saturday 6th to Monday 8th May**.

Because, not only is the Coronation about pomp and pageantry, it also happens to be a great reason for getting together with family, friends and neighbours over a lovely extra bank holiday weekend.

As well as being an important ceremonial event and a moment of history, it is an opportunity to kick off the summer in style with good food, drink and company.

If you've not got plans yet, we're here to help!

If you just want to share the occasion of the ceremony with others, then Witney Town Council is organising a free screening of the Coronation on the Saturday, and of the

Coronation Concert on the Sunday, both at the Corn Exchange in the town.

On Saturday, there are many events in our local area including The Chequers Inn, Mr Mayhem Children's party (details opposite), a beer festival and BBQ at the Mason's Arms (details opposite), and a make and play event at the Corn Exchange on the Saturday afternoon, when youngsters will get the chance to create their own wooden Charles and Camilla peg dolls, finger puppets or a cardboard crown.

On the Sunday, why not do what many people around the country are doing and hold a Coronation Big Lunch?

This national initiative aims bring the Coronation festivities into the heart of every community by inviting neighbours to share food and fun together.

To find out more, or to download your Coronation Big Lunch pack, which is full of ideas, inspiration and top tips to help you hold an event fit for royalty, go to www.CoronationBigLunch.com

And if you don't fancy organising a Coronation Big Lunch yourself, why not join the one happening on The Leys in Witney on the Sunday from 12pm to 5pm? There will be a whole load of activities, food stalls and children's fairground rides, as well as live music and entertainment.

A little closer to home, Carterton are also organising a Children's Coronation Tea Party on Sunday from 2pm to 4pm with Disco and Face-painting.

For something a little more 'adult', The Masons in Brize are holding a beer festival and hog roast!

If you want to do something slightly more fulfilling over the Coronation weekend, then you might want to find out about The Big Help Out, a volunteering event that is taking place on the Monday of the bank holiday.

The Big Help Out is a national campaign that aims to highlight the wide range of volunteering opportunities available across local communities and the fantastic work that volunteers do.

You can find out more about getting involved locally at www.ocva.org.uk/the-big-help-out

On Sunday, Brize Norton are holding a 'Pride in our Village' event at the Recreation Ground (details opposite) which would be great to take part in!

Whatever you do and however you celebrate I hope you have a wonderful weekend. Fingers crossed the Great British weather gets the memo and the sun comes out for the occasion!

Thank you to Vicky for kindly offering to write our Coronation piece. If you'd like to contact Vicky, email jayne@chapelhilldesign.co.uk

Take PRIDE in our Village THIS CORONATION WEEKEND

IF YOU ARE ABLE, DECORATE!...

...Your house, windows, fence, garden, path, trees, plants with union flags, crowns and feel like celebrating!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday 6th May:

- Church Bells will be chiming
- Events taking place in Brize pubs, in Carterton and in Witney

Sunday 7th May:

- Street parties day

Monday 8th May: Coronation Community Day



- Starting at 10am: There will be a litter pick and children's scavenger hunt starting from the recreation ground
- Bring a picnic, toilets in the Elder Bank Hall, Humble Bumble café open
- 12noon: BNSSC bar open
- 2pm: Tree planting
- There will be crafts, colouring, info tables, make a bird feeder, animal puppets and nature trail around the recreation ground... and a throne!

THE CHEQUERS

Saturday 6th May:

- Family fun day & Kids party at 2.30pm.
- Mr Mayhem famous Bumble B Roadshow assisted by the wonderful Tamtastic
- It's an amazing faced paced show full of crazy action dances, audience interaction, games and certificates to be won, balloon modelling and lots more fun for the whole family!
- This will be followed by traditional party songs for the whole family to get involved with.
- Tickets are on sale now £5



THE MASONS ARMS

Friday 5th May:

- Steve's famous gin night with many varieties of gin and mixers to try

Saturday 6th May:

- All-day beer festival and a BBQ with the Coronation and Concert on the TV

Sunday 7th May:

- Starting at lunchtime, the beer festival will continue, but with a beautiful hog roast, where pork and stuffing rolls and scratching will be available

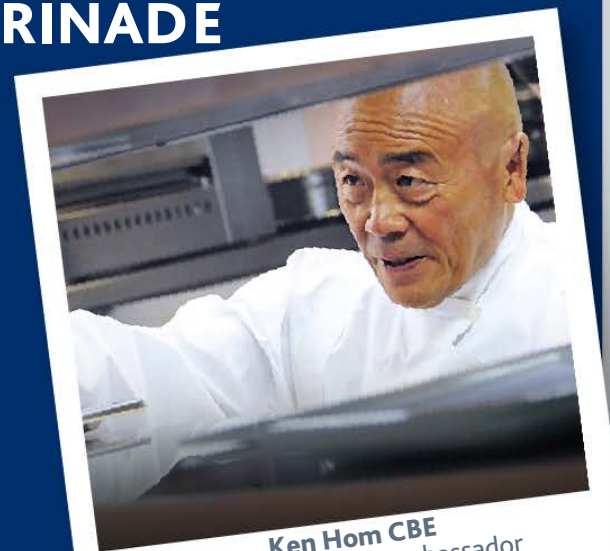
Monday 8th May:

- There will be beer available from the festival (if there is any left!), then we're going to head off to join the festivities and picnic in the village! Here's hoping for sunny weather!

KEN'S CORONATION ROAST RACK OF LAMB WITH ASIAN-STYLE MARINADE

Here, as tender as it is, the lamb's distinctive taste is nevertheless robust enough to bear the East-West flavours of sesame oil, mustard, and soy sauce with grace and dignity. The recipe represents the hallmark of modern Great Britain. Serve this lamb with roast potatoes and a green salad.

Serves 4-6



Ken Hom CBE
Chef and GREAT Ambassador

Marinade

2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper

1½ tablespoons roasted sesame oil

2 tablespoons roasted sesame seeds

1½ tablespoons sugar

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon light soy sauce

2 tablespoons dark soy sauce

2 tablespoons finely chopped garlic

1 tablespoon coarse sea salt

Ingredients

Two 750 g (1½-lb) racks of British lamb, trimmed of excess fat

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons peanut oil

1 tablespoon fresh or 3 tablespoons dry sage
120ml homemade or store bought chicken stock
2 teaspoons sesame oil
2 teaspoons sesame paste or peanut butter
2 tablespoons butter

Method

Season each rack of lamb with salt and pepper. Now brown each rack of lamb in a nonstick pan with peanut oil for 5 minutes, turning frequently. Allow the lamb to cool.

Mix the marinade ingredients in a small bowl and rub the mixture on the racks with a rubber spatula. Marinate for 1 hour.

Preheat the oven to 230c (450 degrees, Gas Mark 8). Place the lamb racks in a roasting pan. Moisten the fresh or dry sage leaves with some water and scatter them over the lamb racks. Reduce the heat to 200c (400 degrees, Gas Mark 6) cover the lamb racks with foil, and roast for 30 minutes. Remove the foil for the last 5 minutes if you want a more browned and crisp look.

Remove the lamb to a cutting board and allow the racks to rest for 20 minutes.

Skim off the fat from the roasting pan, add the chicken stock, and deglaze over a burner, scraping to remove the flavourful bits. Add the sesame oil, sesame paste, and butter to the sauce and mix thoroughly.

Carve the lamb racks, arrange them on a serving platter, and serve with the sauce.



delightful dishes for the Coronation!

ADAM HANDLING'S STRAWBERRY AND GINGER TRIFLE

Serves 8

For the yorkshire parkin

150g golden syrup
150g unsalted butter
40g black treacle
150g soft brown sugar
150g self-raising flour
115g oats
2 whole eggs
8g ginger, ground
1.5 tsp nutmeg, ground
1.5 tsp mixed spice



Michelin-Starred Chef Owner, Adam Handling
of the Adam Handling Restaurant Group
and GREAT Ambassador

Melt the butter, syrups and brown sugar in a saucepan. Place all the dry ingredients into a mixer, on a low speed, and combine them. Add the wet ingredients and mix until incorporated. Finish with the eggs and beat for 5 minutes, until smooth and pale. Bake in a lined 900g loaf tin, at 160°C, for 25 minutes.

For the strawberry jelly

350g frozen strawberries, defrosted and blended
125g caster sugar
6 gelatine leaves

Soften the gelatine in a bowl of cold water and squeeze to remove all the water. Warm the blended strawberries in a saucepan with the sugar and the gelatine. Pour through a fine-mesh sieve or coffee filter, to make the liquid become clear.

For the ginger custard

8 egg yolks
130g caster sugar
100g plain flour
500ml whole milk
1tsp ginger, ground

Place the milk and ginger into a saucepan and heat until just before it reaches the boil. Whisk the egg yolks and the sugar together, add the flour and then add the milk. Pour into a saucepan, cook on a low heat and whisk for 5 minutes until the custard thickens. Chill down in a tray and cover with greaseproof paper, to cool.



Courtesy of: HM Government Coronation website - <https://coronation.gov.uk/toolkit/>



By Jackie Hampson

It's been an exciting term at pre-school as we started our Life Cycles topic which takes us through until early summer as we look at plants, frogs and butterflies.

At the end of February our chicken eggs arrived. The children were so excited to see the eggs placed into the incubator.

To ensure the children didn't miss a moment, we set up our own pre-school YouTube channel and streamed live so we could all watch the chicks start to hatch from home after we left pre-school for the day.

I'm not sure who was more fascinated to watch the eggs hatching; the children, parents or staff. Several parents commented they were watching our YouTube channel late into the night! Our live stream was recorded and saved, so the children could watch it back.

Seven hatched overnight, but luckily one hung on until morning so the children got to see one little chick hatch in person. Over their first

weekend our chicks headed for Emma's house for a sleepover, but returned full of beans on Monday morning.

The children helped every day, changing the chick's bedding, water and feeding them.

Everyone got to hold a little chick in the second week and we also invited the reception class from Brize Norton Primary School to come over to see our chicks.

By the end of week two it was time for five of the chicks to move to their new home at Barbie's, four girls and one boy.

The other three boys were off to live on a free range farm near Reading.

Before they left we decided they all needed names. So Elsa chose the name 'Bampf', Arlo chose 'Strokey', Daisy chose the name 'Sese', Sophia and Harry named one 'Rosie' and our first born chick was named 'Clive' by Jane.

The chicks have been back to pre-school several times, so children have been able to see how they've grown. We'll regularly be visiting our chicks at Barbie's and hope to eventually be able to collect some eggs to use in our baking at pre-school.

Our nature pond at the allotment once again has some frogs spawn, so we can watch the life cycle of a frog. Last year the children were fascinated to watch the stages of growth and were thrilled when, after a few weeks, a tiny frog hopped out of our pond!

For us, children learn best outside, at one with nature and their environment. We are outside in all weathers, making the most of what each season brings.

In mid-March huge changes were announced regarding Early Education funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. As a result pre-school has filled extremely quickly leaving us with just a few spaces available from September 2025.

You will find information regarding our pre-school on our website (details below)

We are holding Open Afternoons on the **9th and 23rd June** from 1pm-2.30pm. Please email, text/WhatsApp us to reserve a place.

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





The governing board have vacancies for community governors.

The function of the board is to act strategically for the school and its future, hold leaders to account, and provide financial probity.

You would be required to attend between 6 and 10 meetings per year, and you will be provided with excellent free training to support your role.

This is a fantastic opportunity to strengthen existing skills, support your local community, and invest in the future of the pupils at the School.

If you would like more information, please contact **Helen Roberts**,
email: hroberts@brize-norton.oxon.sch.uk
telephone: 07703 451545





Brize Norton
Primary School

Striving Helping Inspiring Nurturing Excelling
We **SHINE** for ourselves and each other

Brize Norton School Association

Last year the BNSA helped to raise over £4,000 for Brize Norton Primary School, which has paid for the new school library and will go towards many other projects this year, amongst which will be the re-development of the foundation stage area and outdoor spaces.

Despite this amazing achievement by few individuals, we have no longer have as many people helping this year and are now in **desperate need of Volunteers to help!**

Whether you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, friends son or daughter, or whether you are retired and just looking for ways to help the community, please get in touch!

To find out more contact Emma Baughan on bnsa_fundraising@outlook.com or call the school on 01993 842488



Brize Norton Primary School

the school community showing our core values of respect, perseverance and kindness; we are immensely proud of their achievements.

By Robyn Jones

We have had an eventful time in school since our last update to the Brize Breeze with the grand opening of our new school library, children taking part in a variety of the Burford partnership sporting events and all or our children participating in Oxford sciences BIG Science Week to name but a few.

Children from across Key Stage Two have been actively taking part in Burford Partnership, Sporting events this term and representing our school superbly. The events included Ball Skills, a Dance Workshop, a Swimming Gala and Tag Rugby. The children competed against, or joined with other primary schools within the partnership which were led by the sports leaders from Burford Secondary School.



In all the events, the children have represented



Our NEW school library was officially opened on World Book Day. Funds for this were raised by our school's Parent Association through generous donations from local charities and the award of a Gentian Community Grant. The library is now well stocked with a range of books including a section for children with Dyslexia. We are still hoping to increase our range of books and welcome any donations of pre-loved books that are still in very good condition. Please do drop any to the school office if you would like to rehome them.

It is lovely seeing children engaging with their reading and enjoying exploring the books we now have to offer which complement their own class libraries.

As well as the launch of the new library, World Book Day saw the children, and staff, dressing up as characters from some selected authors. We held a Book in a Box competition and were astounded by the creativity of the children who entered.



Children also sent in photos of their 'extreme reading' to share and staff shared bedtime stories via film links as well as excerpts from their favourite novels throughout the day. It was a wonderful celebration of all things books.

More recently, we took part in the BIG Science Week. The week began with an interactive assembly led by Mr Taylor, the Assistant Headteacher of Carterton Community College. The assembly went off with a BANG, quite literally and children were wowed by experiments that were presented. The children then spent the week planning, leading and concluding their own investigations across the school which saw them exploring the likes of lava lamps, making elephant toothpaste as well as seeing which lolly was the most lickable! All children presented their investigations to their own classes where winners were chosen. Class winners then went in front of a panel of judges made up by the Governors and a group of finalists were selected to be entered to represent the school in the Oxford Science Competition. Watch this space. We were incredibly impressed by the standard of working scientifically that took place across the school.

Best wishes

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



BURFORD
SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1571

Burford School

By Mr M Albrighton



Wow, what a spring term we had! Burford School lived up to its reputation for providing opportunities to participate and grow.

Amongst the usual flurry of trips, clubs and sports, there were three significant cultural events in the form of the main school play - Play On..., the performance of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* by the Burford Institute of Music Choral Society and the Spring Concert. In my last assembly of the term with students, I talked about the power of participation and that being involved in something with others triggers varying amounts of the so-called 'feel-good hormones'. Dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin and endorphins work to support positive mood and in turn, contribute to better learning. It is no small wonder therefore that Burford staff are always

eager to provide collaborative learning to students as well as the widest range of clubs and societies possible. Our staff know that the variety on offer gives our students the best chance to find hidden talents and feel positive about themselves.

Although Play On... has already received wide acclaim with the cast taking the final applause, I want to celebrate here those who participated behind the scenes. Such was the confidence Head of Drama Mr Brookes had in our students that he banned staff from going behind the scenes, leaving established stagehands such as Mr Warren twiddling his thumbs in the front-of-house area. Every prop movement and costume change were coordinated by students, which all went perfectly. With high expectations upon them, Mr Brookes showed individual young people rise to the challenges in front of them. When part of a team they rise above and excel. The crew did themselves proud, showing leadership throughout the week.

There have been three other examples of student leadership last term. First, our Sports Leaders supported students in Year 4 from Burford Partnership partner primary schools when they came in to join a morning of dance in the Sports Hall. Secondly, at a staff training session, a group of Year 9 students fed

back to the whole teaching body about their experience of learning in school. As a school, we are committed to listening to the student voice through structured channels. When students use these channels well, we can develop the school further. The Year 9 students impressed the teachers with their maturity and how seriously they took the opportunity to speak to us about their views. Both these examples provide further proof that if challenged to shine, students will rise to the occasion.

Finally, I want to highlight the role of the senior students in their leadership of the school and thank the current Heads of School as they come to the end of their stint and direct their attention to preparing for their upcoming A-Levels. Darby Gough and Scarlett Wilson have been fantastic leaders and guided the prefects with aplomb and good humour over the year to date. They certainly have embodied the school values of 'respect, participate and reach'. I wish to congratulate our new Heads of School for 2023 to 2024. After stiff competition from a fine group of Lower Sixth, I am delighted to announce that Esme Corless and Luca Mitchell will take over the reins from Darby and Scarlett.

Mr M Albrighton, Headteacher
at Burford School

To contact Burford School
visit their website at
www.burford.oxon.sch.uk
01993 823303, office@burford.oxon.sch.uk



Village Mental Health

By Ben Campion

How do we protect our own Mental Health from the ‘Infectiousness’ of Social Media?

Those of you who know me on ‘The Book of Face’ may be aware that I am taking a sabbatical... yep, I am trying to go ‘cold turkey’ and stop using Facebook and TikTok. So why have I taken this (some would say ‘drastic’) action?

In today’s digital age, social media has become an integral part of our daily lives. From Instagram to Twitter, Facebook, and more, many of us spend several hours a day scrolling through our feeds without even realizing it. While social

media can be a great way to stay connected to friends, family, and the world, it can also take a toll on our mental health if we’re not careful. Infectious social media use can be damaging to our mental health, particularly if we don’t take the time to be mindful of how we’re using it.

At times, we can be so consumed with checking notifications, refreshing feeds, and seeking validation that we forget the impact it can have on our mental well-being. There are several ways to protect ourselves from the negative effects of social media use, and it’s important to start incorporating them into our daily lives.

First and foremost, we need to be mindful of our social media

consumption. This means actively setting boundaries for ourselves, such as limiting social media to a certain amount of time each day or at specific times. By setting these boundaries, we can ensure that social media doesn’t consume our lives and we can put our energy into other activities that bring us joy. I’m thinking of that scary moment when you see how much time you have spent today, or over the past week, on your phone.... (shudders!!)

It’s also crucial to take breaks from social media. Just like anything else in life, we need to take breaks to recharge and refocus. Whether it’s a ten-minute break during the workday or a weekend spent unplugging from technology,

taking the time to disconnect can do wonders for our mental health. In my case, I’m going to see how I get on for a few weeks... Watch this space!!

Additionally, we should be conscious of the content we’re consuming on social media. We should be mindful of the people we follow and the messages they promote. If we notice that someone’s posts consistently make us feel down, anxious, or inadequate, it may be time to unfollow them or limit our exposure. We all are aware of the negativity that some feel it necessary to ‘share’ on their blogs. That is something I definitely won’t miss!

We need to remember that social media doesn’t depict reality. Platforms like

Instagram are notorious for showcasing only the highlight reel of people’s lives, often creating unrealistic and unattainable standards. It’s essential to keep this in mind when scrolling through our feeds and not to let social media negatively impact our self-worth. Like watching a TV drama, the editor will only pick the ‘juicy’ bits to share with the viewer, to keep us interested. Luckily most of our lives are not that life threateningly exciting... Midsomer Murders village of ‘Cawston’ has seen (I googled this!) 581 deaths in 126 episodes... that would be half of the population of Brize Norton!!!

In conclusion, social media can be a fantastic tool for connecting with others, sharing our lives, and staying informed, but it can also negatively impact our mental health if we’re not careful. We should be mindful of our social media consumption, set boundaries, and be conscious of the content we’re consuming.

*“and the odd ‘detox’
– just like a ‘Dry January’ –
never does any harm.”*

Ben Campion 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



By Jayne Attwood

Stress - you've certainly heard of it, and many of us will have a bit too much of it! But what on earth is it? What does it do? And how do we keep it under control?

Stress is a normal human reaction to a real or imagined situation. Often referred to as the 'Fight or Flight' mechanism, your nervous system produces responses using the hormones cortisol, adrenaline and noradrenaline to prepare our body to respond - fighting the danger or running away from it!

Stress itself isn't bad for us. It helps us survive difficult situations, provides thrills, excitement and sharpens our mental capabilities. Our brain recognises danger and provides instant energy, then goes into high alert in case

the danger comes back, and then recovers if the danger passes. Prolonged perceived exposure to 'danger' can produce a range of symptoms, including difficulty relaxing and sleeping, irritability, anxiety or compulsive behaviours like overeating or drinking too much alcohol. This is known as chronic stress and affects much of our population.

Have a think, are you coping with family demands? Do you have a work colleague you don't get on with? Lots of colds or symptoms like IBS? Worried about the bills? ...Or all of these?!

Recognising you might be stressed is the biggest step. Doing something about it might be more challenging. If you can't simply remove the cause, here are some ideas to help reduce your stress levels.

Stop exercising hard

If you're chronically stressed, you really need to think about the type of exercise you're doing. Hard or long cardio sessions actually increase the stress hormone cortisol, so keep your exercise gentle for a while, with yoga, walking, Tai Chi and maybe a short weight session. If you can't find the time or energy to exercise, get

outside for a walk around the block in the daylight. Prioritise yourself.

Eat more often

Stress can mean you don't process carbohydrates well, you store fat easily and you'll struggle with cravings. Switch from three large to five smaller meals a day. Make sure there's protein, vegetables/ fruit and reduce starchy carbs. Increase your water intake too - dehydration is another stressor.

Get therapy

There's loads you can do to help yourself cheaply:

- Talk - to a friend or helpline (Oxfordshire Mind). Women tend to be better at this than men, so get talking chaps (Andy's Man Club).
- Breathe - slowly through your nose, all the time. Take a few moments throughout the day to practise box-breathing - inhale/hold/exhale/hold, for the same amount of time each (start at 4x3 seconds).
- Download an app - Calm has a free version.
- Massage - a gentle neck/ shoulder massage from a professional, partner or a massage ball is a great way to relieve tension. Aromatherapy/reflexology/ Indian Head massage are also wonderful.
- Go outside in the wonderful Oxfordshire countryside. Even better, go with someone you can chat to.

And if you think you do need help from a professional who can support you, or unlock trauma, do ask.

Jayne has very kindly supported this issue by paying for an advert. Thank You!

See more details for Jayne opposite.



By Judy Anders

Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire calls for more volunteers to help in cost-of-living crisis

Citizens Advice needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people during the cost-of-living crisis.

Our volunteers give and gain a great deal. They love the fact that they are helping their community and meet so many different people. It also gives them experience in the charity sector, a sense of purpose and some move into paid roles. You'll receive lots of support from our supervisors and



fellow volunteers too.

We are looking for volunteers from all backgrounds and of all ages across Oxfordshire who can give their time to help people struggling with energy prices, rising household bills, debt and housing issues. You need to have a desire to help, an ability to engage with people and use a computer

Last year the charity saw unprecedented demand,

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YOGA & PILATES

AD ASTRA
YOGA & PILATES

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"I love the flexibility and the fact that every day is different."

supporting 8,823 people in West Oxfordshire. It can only do this work thanks to its 41 volunteers.

No experience is necessary, as full training will be provided

Kate, a volunteer at Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire and a resident of Brize Norton said:

"I retired in 2021 and after working full-time for 43 years I knew that I would still want to do something to feel useful and to work in the local community.

18 months in, and it was a great decision to join the

local Citizens Advice in Witney as a volunteer. I love the flexibility and the fact that every day is different.

I am learning so much and really enjoy working with the team of people who make up the Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire. It is a fantastic charity and is one that is more valuable than ever with the cost of living crisis, which has meant that so many more people need advice and support and that is what we try to provide"

To find out more, visit: www.citizensadvicewestoxon.org or get in touch with training@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk



Home and DIY



By Jennifer Harrison

Art makes a big impact on your interior, it is one of those important finishing touches and really completes the look of a room.

As a gallery owner I often hear the phrase, "I know nothing about Art" and "I wouldn't know what to buy".

Buying beautiful Art does not have to be complicated, it can be really easy, fun and, you don't need to know anything about art. It is all about finding the right piece for you and your home.

Your local Gallery is the best place to start, pop in and visit. They are always on hand to help.

Our Top Tips to Buying Art for your home...

1. Home is where the Art is

It's good to have an idea where you would like to hang or place your art

2. Size Matters

If you do have a place in mind, Measure the space, so you know your maximum and minimum size.

3. Set your Budget

Set an amount you're happy to invest in your artwork,

be a little flexible, but have a realistic budget

4. Subject Matters

Think about whether you would like to look at a landscape, animals, a city scape, figurative, abstract or floral.

5. Be Inspired

Have a look at artwork in family and friends homes, have a think about what looks good.

6. Let your Heart Rule

At SOTA we always feel the best way to buy art, is to follow your heart. If you're instantly drawn to a piece, chances are it's the one for you.



Set the mood by adding some calm tranquil art to a relaxing space.

7. Try Before you Buy

Lots of galleries offer you the chance to try pieces in the comfort of your own home.

8. A Helping Hand

Gallery staff are there to help you and are always available to chat to so, don't be nervous ask them for advice.



Whether you have just moved into a brand-new home or renovated an existing space, Art really is the finishing touch to any room.

9. Consider Prints

Sometimes an original painting can be just out of budget so, also consider Limited-Edition Prints.

10. Visit a Gallery.

The first place to start is your local gallery. Browse their website and see the type of works on show. Pop in and have a look. Here at SOTA Gallery we welcome everyone to come in, and have a look at our wonderful artworks on display.

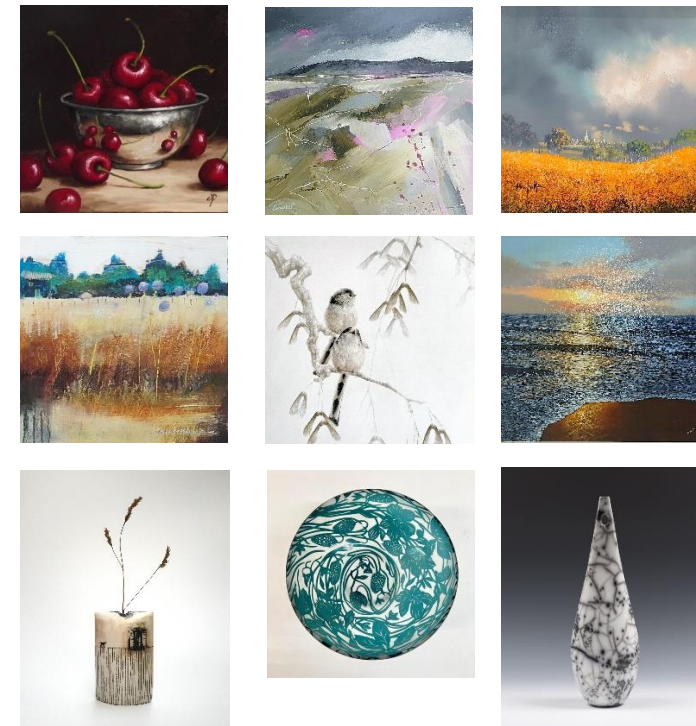
Jennifer has very kindly supported this issue by paying for adverts. Thank You!
See more details for SOTA and Witney Framing opposite.

Quirky DIY from Kirk!



- Always use a spirit level or string line to hang pictures
- Never seal-in fresh plaster. Always use a cheap emulsion to white washing or 'mist' fresh plaster, because it will only suck in the first two coats paint, and risk going flaky.
- When filling small holes use a light weight filler. After applying filler, use 1000 grit sand paper to blend into the original wall
- Never use a plasterer's spirit level(!)
- Spread talcum powder on squeaky hinges and flooring joints (my Gramp taught me that one!)
- When you have lots of paint on your hands, a good way to get them clean is to pour some white sugar on your hands with some washing up liquid
- If you ever have a blocked toilet, wrap lots of cling film over the bowl making sure it's a proper seal. This will create a vacuum...then once you have the air trapped thump the cling film to release whatever is blocking the toilet. Works every time!
- When you're painting, add a little vanilla essence or something similar and it will take away paint fumes.
- Wipe your radiators with Lenor or Comfort conditioner, and when the heating is on the smell of "radiators" is lovely!
- Strong coffee or shoe polish makes a scratch disappear on any dark wood
- If you're thinking of patching in plaster for the first time, tip is to put crème fresh in the mix! This gives you more time to perfect what you're trying to do, so there's no pressure that the plaster will go off (dry)
- Use a laser level to do any small tiling jobs around the house
- Before you cut any fabric or cotton stick the scissors in boiling hot water. This will give you a better cut

Kirk has very kindly supported this issue by placing an advert in our Village Directory. Thank You!



SOTA Gallery

SOTA GALLERY LTD

11 Langdale Court - Witney - Oxfordshire - OX28 6FG

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Planting, Propogating & Pruning



Spring Gardening

FROM LISA-MARIE & HER MAM



By Lisa Hudson

We have sprung into spring now with bursts of colour everywhere and the trees and hedges are no longer looking so naked, with their little green shoots.

If like me you lost a favourite plant, don't be sad for long as gardens change over time, and we need to adapt. This past winter, I lost a mimosa tree which was 15+ years old despite mulching it and being in the same spot for years. Like with many plants, the -10 degree weather killed it, so I've decided to move a pussy willow in its place which was previously in a pot. Fingers crossed the birds enjoy eating the spiders off this instead.

APRIL

- Now the weather is warmer, look out for those pesky slugs and snails, as they will be out munching



your newly sprouting plants. If you prefer organic ways to deter them, try digging a small pot into the soil and fill it with beer! Slugs will head over for a sniff and fall in (*A lesson to all I think ~ Ed*). Alternatively, you can also buy copper strip tape to put around the rim of your pots, or you could create a prickly barrier using crushed eggshells, pine needles or sand.

- Check your roses and other plants for aphids.

- If you have been out weeding and having a tidy-up, be careful not to dig too much as there will be perennials and summer plants sprouting now¹. **Be careful not to put your fork through them!**

- While out in your garden you may have seen climbers, delphiniums etc. growing well, so be sure to get your twine out to tie them up or give them a support cane².

- Treat moss with lime or you can use a multi-purpose fertiliser to get your grass looking in good condition.

- If you are thinking of low maintenance/cost space fillers in your borders, then lavenders are a great option. They smell amazing

and are ideal for attracting butterflies and bees.

- It's not too late to plant your sweet pea seeds but remember to keep them sheltered. If you want bushier plants with more flowers when the seedlings get to 4-6 inches tall pinch the tops off, leaving 2/3 leaves on them³.

- You can prune hydrangeas now, cutting off last year's growth.

MAY

- The weather should be much warmer in May but watch out for those cold nights as it may still be frosty. You will need to protect your tender plants. Hold off planting summer bedding plants until as close to the end of the month as you can.

- If you haven't chosen your colour scheme for your summer bedding plants why not choose red, white and blue as it's the year of The Kings Coronation! Red or white geraniums, blue delphiniums or lobelias, white alyssums or red or white busy lizzies are great options.

- If you suffered with busy lizzie mildew last year, it's unlikely that you will be able to grow them healthily



this year. It's advised not to plant them until the following year as the spores may remain in the soil⁴.

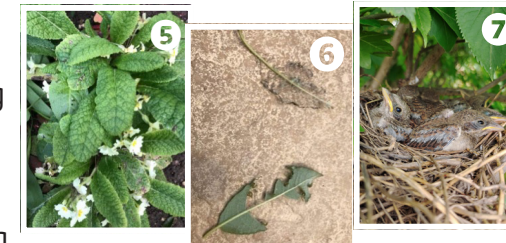
- Keep mowing your lawns weekly and use fertiliser through the warmer months.
- Add plenty of mulch to fruit bushes and add nets to protect them from birds and caterpillars. Pop a bit of straw under your strawberry plants to protect them.
- If you've lost plants during the frost this winter and are not sure what to replace them with, fill the gaps with summer bedding plants while you decide.

JUNE

- By now your summer bedding plants should be planted, so keep dead-heading your flowers throughout the garden; especially your roses, to prolong flowering.
- If your spring flowers like primroses are now in big clumps, you can divide them to spread in your borders or share with friends⁵.
- Continue to look out for aphids as green and black fly love roses, nasturtiums and dhalias.
- The best time to water your garden is at night as

temperatures are lower and the soil remains damp for longer.

- Keep feeding your flowers every other week to prolong flowering.
- Pinch out the side shoots from tomato plants in order to encourage more fruit on the remaining stems. Add a support to your tomato plants when needed.
- Look out for caterpillars in the garden, they will eat through your plants very quickly. I pick the caterpillars up and take them to a local communal field⁶.



- Please make sure you keep the birds well fed, as they are also feeding their chicks now⁷.
- Leave fresh water out for birds but also a bowl of water low down for any fledglings and hedgehogs who may need a drink⁸.



Happy Gardening!

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



Need a garden?
You need an
ALLOTMENT!

By Tony Shillingford

We have seen a hint of warmer weather with the chance of more to come, so now is the time to get your seeds and plants in the ground.

If you don't have the ground to put them in contact Jo, Clerk for Brize Norton Parish Council, and make sure your name is down for an allotment. I don't have a crystal ball...but I wouldn't be surprised if one or two are available in the next few weeks.

By the time the next edition of the Brize Breeze comes out you will be selecting the flowers or vegetables from your allotment or garden to enter in the **2023 Brize Norton Horticultural Show**. In case you are not aware we have professional judges judging the show entries and you could win a trophy to display on your mantelpiece.

To contact Jo, please email clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk

To contact Tony, please email tonyshillingford@yahoo.co.uk, or call 07824 878486



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 Cockerpoo, 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 lead 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

What is a Parish Council?

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level government closest to the community, with the county and city authority above it in the hierarchy.

As the authority closest to the people, we are invariably the first port of call people go to with their concerns or ideas. For this reason, we are a vital part of any community.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

If you've never been to a parish council meeting before, you may be forgiven for thinking that parish councillors are a group of (probably older) people who meet now and then in a draughty village hall.

If, however, you live in a community when something 'big' has or is about to happen, you'll know that's when people in the community need support and guidance and it's the parish council that you turn to.

As a parish councillor, you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve.

Seeing your community change for the better as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that will give you a sense of achievement and pride.

What decisions do Parish Councils make?

Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

On their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions. However, they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions and, in

this respect, parish councils are extremely powerful.

The organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something and our views are taken seriously.

Parish Duties

Brize Norton Parish Council currently has five Councillors but a capacity for seven.

The duties and functions of a parish council are many and varied so it is an interesting position to hold.

We meet on the first Monday of every month in the Pavilion and meetings may last up to two hours, depending upon the items on the agenda to be discussed.

We discuss and decide upon planning applications and any other matters referred to it by local residents.

There is also an annual parish meeting which all parishioners are invited to.

All meetings are advertised on the council website and on the three notice boards around the village.

Residents can bring to the attention of the parish council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the council, the clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority

How much time does it take up?

In addition to the regular meetings, some councillors have specific duties (portfolios) requiring them to attend other meetings to represent the council, e.g. acting as a representative on an outside body, or helping develop a new project for the community.

Such meetings don't happen often, so it's not going to take over your life.



How long does a parish councillor serve for?

Once elected, parish councillors sit on the council for a term of four years. If they then want to stay in the post they can stand for re-election.

Councillors can also be co-opted.

This requires the prospective candidate to write a brief résumé and attend a parish meeting for a short informal interview.

The councillors will then take a vote and appoint the most suitable candidate.

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

To be able to become a councillor for Brize Norton Parish Council, you must:

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.
- be a least 18 years old.

Don't take our word for it!

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now.

Come along to a Parish Council meeting or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the job.



By Rose Pearson

It seems hard to believe it's almost a year since I was elected District Councillor for Brize Norton and Shilton ward (which also includes 7 sparsely-populated villages north of the A40).

In my life I have been: a journalist, a teacher, an arts organizer, a music promoter, a mother and (fairly briefly) a wife. I can honestly say that this past year has measured up to all of those previous jobs in terms of the cast of characters, the unpredictability, the frustration and the laughter!

Why did I do it? I've always liked looking at things politically, because it makes you step back from the



minutiae of life and attempt to see patterns, while also bearing in mind the life experiences of individuals. Whatever the global threats that are

A Year as Your District Councillor

swirling about (and, let's face it, there are some big ones right now) the choices we make need to be rooted in local knowledge. This is particularly true when you're a Green, as I am: in the ecological view, everything is connected, so that even when you're thinking about a problem as huge and existential as climate change, you have to bear in mind the tangible problems that can be solved at the same time: draughty homes, congested commutes, polluted air and rivers.

In the 2021 census, there were 3,538 residents in the ward, and 2,593 of them lived in Brize Norton itself (both figures will have increased since then.) I've probably met about 100 of you in the last year (not including the election campaign) and I do not consider this enough, so please get in touch, by any of the methods below, or come along to Humble Bumble on the last Wednesday of every month, when I'm usually to be found with an oat latte.

I also consider it part of my job to stand up for non-human beings; every plant and every creature is an important part of our network. That's why one of the first planning issues I became involved with on the council was to protect an area of wild orchids discovered by the amazing Kilkenny conservation crew from being destroyed by the new car park at the Country Park. Success: your parish council and I managed to persuade the planners to change the size and layout.

One thing I do know: Brize Norton has "the most hard-working parish council in West Oxfordshire". Those were the words of a WODC officer but, having seen Councillors Way, Goble, State, Truman & Woodward in action, not to mention their predecessors, and the parish clerk, Jo Webb, I hope that all Brize residents are thankful for their dedication and the astonishing level of expertise they hold as a group. Once the Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the Council, it will be a really important tool to protect the green spaces in the village and ensure that any new developments take account of Brize Norton's unique assets and character



And while we're on what's best about Brize: Humble Bumble! I can't quote an authority on this, but the atmosphere of inclusivity and welcome in this place is extraordinary. (I do like the fact that they've named one of their smoothies The Green Reviver, but I may be reading too much into that).

To contact Rosie, email Rosie.pearson@westoxon.gov.uk or head to her social - FB search 'Rosie Pearson Councillor' Twitter: twitter.com/RosiePearson59

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 SA**
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 • 843430**
Diane Davies
- **Over 60's • 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

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An Audio BRIZE Breeze?

We're thinking of distributing an audio copy of the Brize Breeze to those who may find it a little hard to read this copy.

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“

*I have always been pleased with my mum's care and the staff who look after her.
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Daughter of resident, carehome.co.uk review

”

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