



The Brancepeth Bugle



Issue Nine

From the Editor



What a fabulous VE day celebration we had. It was a shame that we couldn't all come together for a traditional party. But as you will see from the piece by Vivienne Lowe about the Brancepeth VE Day celebrations in 1945 and 1946 the big event was actually held in 1946. So there is a precedent for a big party to be held next year!

Do keep sending your pictures in to [Jo at the BCA](#) so that they can be included in the BCA website. There is a [splendid film](#) of many of the individual events including footage from the Brancepeth Spitfire Drone.

Stay well

Love Gillie x

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Walking at the Golf Club

We have enjoyed some fabulous walks on the golf course, and for those of us like me who had never been on the course before, enjoyed some beautiful views of the castle and church. However, as the lockdown restrictions are eased the golf club as re-opened for its usual business, playing golf!



Walking is no longer permissible on the course. Whilst walkers may be disappointed, I am sure the golfers have been racing to book their tee times.

We are extremely grateful to the Golf Club for letting us use the course during the lockdown and wish staff, committee and players a great golfing summer.

Brancepeth Birthdays

VE Day may be past, but the celebrations continue with two upcoming birthdays.

Mike Higton Saturday 16th May

Bev Stoker Thursday 21st May

You know the drill. At 6pm open your doors and windows and serenade the birthday boys and girls. Even if you are too far away for them to hear you, they will know you are singing for them. If you are a neighbour you could perhaps form a socially distanced choir outside their front door.



Clap for Carers

As usual the Goodwell Lea Clap for Carers led by Richard Jackson will begin with Robin sounding the horn of his lovely restored vintage motor car.



This week the special mention goes to Helen Keithley (nee Staines) a Health Visitor in Durham and her husband Christopher a clinical psychologist dealing with Covid lockdown related issues.

Please remember all the people who have made it possible for us to stay safe at home.

Messy Church

Messy Church is alive and well on Zoom. Why not join them at 3pm on Sunday?

Contact Liz Thomas for the Zoom link on 0191 378 4465



Parish Newsletter

The May Issue of the Parish Newsletter is available on the [St Brandon's website](#) Deadline for contributions to the June issue is May 15th.



The Laetitia Cropley Challenge



Laetitia is back, and this week she is creating a splendid Egg Foo Yong with the contents of Anna Brooker's fridge.

Next week Ben Dalton challenges us with red peppers, carrots and tofu.

Egg Foo Yong with Mushroom Sauce

2tbsp Sesame Oil (substitute plain vegetable oil if you don't have any)
100g Carrots cut into matchsticks
1 bunch Spring Onions chopped, white and green parts separated
1/2 Broccoli, broken into small florets
1tbsp Grated fresh ginger (1/4 tsp ground dried ginger)
3 cloves of garlic
1 tbsp Rice Vinegar (or cider vinegar)
Soy sauce
good grating of black pepper
1 tbsp plain flour
200g mushrooms sliced thinly
Rice and sesame seeds to serve

1. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a 10-inch oven-safe pan over medium-high.
2. Add carrot and white parts of green onions; fry gently for 3 minutes.
3. Add broccoli, ginger, and garlic; cook 3 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Add vinegar; cook 1 minute or until liquid evaporates.
5. Combine the 1 1/2 tsp soy sauce, pepper and eggs in a bowl, stirring with a whisk.
6. Add egg mixture to the vegetables in the pan, tilting pan to spread mixture evenly.
7. Cook 3 to 4 minutes or until egg is set on the bottom.
8. Place pan under grill for 2 minutes or until top is set and golden. Cut into quarters.
9. Combine stock and flour in a bowl, stirring with a whisk.
10. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in a skillet over medium-high.
11. Add mushrooms; cook 5 minutes or until browned.

12. Add flour mixture; bring to a boil, and cook 1 minute or until mixture is slightly thickened.
13. Stir in 1 tbsp soy sauce and another good grind of black pepper.
14. Serve over steamed rice with the mushroom sauce. Sprinkle with the green parts of the spring onions and some toasted sesame seeds.

VE Day in Brancepeth 1945

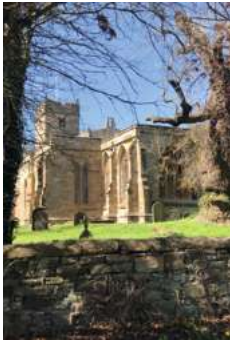
How did Brancepeth celebrate on VE Day 8th May 1945? Well, probably not very much. There are no records of anything collective being organised. The Village Hall was still requisitioned by the Army (it was not released to the village again until the end of May 1946 and required considerable repairs before it could be available for activities) and so villagers could only use the Snooker Room (The Reading Room). The school had closed in 1933 and the Castle was also in the hands of the DLI. And the war hadn't ended everywhere; the Allies were still fighting Japanese forces in the Far East and this war would not end until Japan surrendered in August 1945. An official national Victory Day of celebration was finally scheduled for 8th June 1946. In March that year, the Government gave local councils and parish councils permission to incur reasonable expenses to fund celebrations in their own areas for the same day. That's when Brancepeth got going. Given the lack of any suitable meeting place, the Parish Council decided to seek the help of the Army. Teas and a series of entertainments and activities for all ages were organised and held at the Camp. The Army also put together a spectacular Victory Pageant in aid of the DLI Regimental Funds. Some 80 children from the Parish were invited and each received a mug decorated with the word "Victory". The total cost to the Council was £8. 17s. 6d!

Vivienne Lowe



The Red Arrows land on Lynn Hastie's lawn on VE Day.

Message from St Brandon's



Dear friends

As we move into the next phase of our long journey through the pandemic, I'd like to encourage you to continue to look outwards.

Firstly, let's look to our local neighbours in the North East. The Bishop of Durham continues his excellent work

in the House of Lords speaking on behalf of those who are often overlooked, as witnessed by [this recent speech](#). Let's not forget the efforts of local foodbanks, churches and other charities with which we all have links, who have not shut down but are facing greater need at the moment.

Secondly, let's look to our global neighbours, not least in this Christian Aid Week, when Brancepeth has always been very generous. Rather than filling those famous red envelopes, which were so faithfully delivered and collected every year, please make your donation online or by phone. Thank you.

Finally, the facility to walk in Brancepeth Castle Golf Club's beautiful grounds has been a huge blessing to many of us this Spring, for which we are so grateful. Let's keep looking outwards this week, at the natural world in all its wonder, colour and variety, and give thanks for the beauty around us- a constant reminder, I believe, of the Creator who loves and holds us day by day.

We await further updates about re-opening the church building: the PCC (church council) is looking carefully at this and ensuring we are well prepared. Meanwhile, Sunday morning services via Zoom are being enjoyed by many, near and far. Details for each week and for midweek activities are always circulated via the NAVIGATOR emails, and everyone is welcome – please contact Hester Higton (hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop or 0191 597 4675) to be added to the email circulation list, and we hope to see you soon.

With all good wishes

Anna

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week will be different this year - but our help is needed more than ever! There will be no red envelopes appearing through your door. But you can still give:



- Online at: www.christianaid.org.uk
- By phone: 020 7523 2269
- Direct to the Christian Aid bank account: 020 7523 2226 for details
- By direct debit: 020 7523 2046

For more information call Deborah Hodge 01388 745455 or text 07791 241 608

Chelsea Flower Show

Of all the things that I am missing because of lockdown, Shetland Wool Week and the Chelsea Flower Show are the two that grieve me most. But then into my in-box dropped an invitation to [Virtual Chelsea](#) on 18-23 May.

There is additional content on 18th May for RHS Members.

From the Garden of Dr Staines ...

But you don't have to go to Chelsea for great blooms. We have all admired Edward Staine's displays in front of his house. But now you can have a peek at what is growing behind those stone walls.



Flour statistics

I am sure that Jill and Barry Dickinson were not expecting quite as much interest in their flour. Since we announced the establishment of their flour dispensing station in their garage Jill and Barry have dispensed almost 150kg of flour!

There has clearly been a lot of baking going on in the village. Contact Jill and Barry if you are interested in either flour or yeast.

0191 378 2398

jbdickinson46@btinternet.com

Bravo Figaro!

Comedian Mark Thomas drew on his father for much of his early comedy routines. Gradually his desire to source his comedy from his family diminished. In his own words "We had reached a kind of agreeable stand-off".

However, in 2011 he produced Bravo Figaro. The story of the relationship between an opera loving, Thatcherite builder father and Mark, his leftwing, stand-up comedian son.

You can watch a livestream of the show followed by a Q&A with Mark Thomas all for the princely sum of £5.

[Full details and tickets available here.](#)



Have you had a clear out?

Lockdown has provided the perfect opportunity to have a good declutter. But with the tips and the charity shops closed, finding something to do with the things you no longer want can be a challenge.

North East Air Ambulance are still doing home collections and with many of their fundraising events cancelled they need your help.

[More information here.](#)

Poet's Corner

Our muses have been busy over the past few weeks.

This week we have a contribution from Frustrated Golfer (although presumably frustrated no more!)

The joy of youth

The beauty of unspoilt snow

The freshness of clear air

The dew of morning tide

These are are the joys of life
to us all are free

How wonderful is nature

If we could only see,

forget about the wealth

The callow greediness

What matter all the wealth?

What happiness will it bring

Good health good friends
are what we need.



Arvon at Home

Some of you may be familiar with the Arvon Foundation. Established over 50 years ago, it promotes creative writing through residential courses and retreats. I went on one of their residential programmes at Lumb Bank (the home of the poet Ted Hughes) in November last year and can confirm that their courses are superb.

As with much else, their programmes are all cancelled, but they have created an online programme of activities to help inspire stimulate creativity. These include Masterclasses and live Guest Readings and Q&A with a wide range of authors.

[Full details here.](#)