

Reports on Groups managed by Ann Sidgwick for the Annual Village Meeting on Tuesday 13th May 2025

VILLAGE E-GROUP

This group was formed mainly for those who are not on any social media, but mainly Facebook, which contains the BBPC site amongst others.

The group has 45 current members and anyone with internet access and an email address may join.

I copy relevant posts from Facebook, MKC, BBPC and from other public information sources to the group as and when appropriate. The group also sends personal and village messages to the site which are forwarded to the group.

VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I took over management of this site on 21st July 2021 after Sue Malleson left the village. Sue asked many times for a volunteer to manage this and, when no-one came forward, I offered to help with it as, being a registered member of this group, entitles an insurance discount with many companies. It is for this reason I thought it important for it to continue.

The Scheme No is 000167157 and 4 new members have joined the scheme since my last report. There are now 12 signed members – 11 from BB and 1 from Little Brickhill as they don't have their own scheme.

Anyone within the village and surrounds may join all they have to do is sign up with their details and email address to: www.ourwatch.org.uk

Nick King is Chair of the MKNHW scheme he kindly gave me literature and stickers to supply as needed and when a new member joins, I deliver a small welcome pack to them which I did for the 4 new members.

I share relevant information I receive from here also with the e-group. If anyone would like further information about joining our scheme, I would be very happy to assist.

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

The village newsletter is published 10 times a year and is co-edited by Ann Sidgwick and Chris French. Ann responsible for publishing the items and Chris for organising the distribution around the village and the village diary.

We currently have 300 copies printed by a local print company in colour and on good quality paper to improve the image of the publication. This costs £135 per issue so for the year this amounts to £1,350. The 24/25 year has been funded by kind donations from: BBPC, BBPCC, BB Lunch Club, BBWI, BB Events and several generous BB Villagers, including Trish Wilby who funds the full cost of the May issue in memory of her son, Adam.

It is worth noting that this printed copy of the newsletter, distributed to everyone in the village, addresses, especially, the circulation of village news to those who do not have access to any form of IT. I am, regularly, told that this is a welcome way for them to keep informed. Other, IT savvy villagers, also tell me that the newsletter is a useful hard copy reminder of village activities.

Reports on Groups/2..

I am into my 14th year with the newsletter and I try hard to ensure that village and other relevant news is included in the publication each month through our regular contributors:

Chris French	Dates for your Diary
Phillipa Cook	Church News,
Brenda Toombs	3 Parishes Coach Trip,
Yvonne Alton	B.B. W.I.
Sally Pepper	BB Lunch Club,
Andrea Spurdle	ASTRA 500 Club,
Mary Preen	BB History Society
Clare and Paula	BB Events
Head Teacher	B.B. CofE Primary School
Parish Clerk	BBPC

A big thank you to them - we are grateful for their regular and prompt contributions to each issue.

Thanks, are also hugely due to the people who deliver the newsletter, in all weather conditions, to every house in the village, namely – **Gill Cannell, Chris French, Sally Robinson, Mike Duff, Pam Arthur, Rory Gallagher and John Wales** (who puts a few in the Church). A big thank you to all for doing this. I also email copies to a small group who require it for their various purposes.

Chris and I remain committed to publishing this village newsletter and helping to ensure that all members of our village community are included and informed of relevant news and events.

SUMMARY

I would like to conclude by saying that managing these groups is my way of ensuring that through the e-Group, the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the newsletter no-one in the village is excluded from knowing what is going on around them.

In the May issue of the newsletter, I published a plea for support for Age UK's campaign for **off-line support**.

This is because I am worried that so many services require us to be online to access them these days. There are nearly 6 million older people who either don't use the internet or can't use it safely and successfully and they're being left out. I think you should be able to access services by post, phone or face to face if you want to, so I've signed Age UK's petition to guarantee this right for everyone.

Please will you sign too? If you would like to sign you can request a form by writing to **FREEPOST Age UK Campaigns** (that's all the address you need!) you can then get a paper form to complete to add your support to this campaign.

*Thank you
Ann Sidgwick
8th May 2025*