

Welcome to Brill!



About this Welcome Pack

Hello and welcome to Brill! To the several families coming here from Ukraine, we're looking forward to greeting you as part of our community, to offering our friendship, and hope that you feel safe, happy and at home with us during your time here.

Leaving your home at a time of war and coming to a different country will of course be challenging. At times it will be strange, difficult and confusing. To help you settle in, your hosts will be your first line of support and information.

However, as well as the help you'll get from your hosts, we've put together this short Welcome Pack with information about our community. We hope it helps you either prepare for your arrival or, when you get here, to settle in and find your way about.

Brill in a few words....

Who are we?

We're a village on the top of a hill, with a lively and close community of all ages, home to around 1,000 people.

In Brill you'll find a primary school, two stores, a post office, a butcher's, two pubs, a sports and social club, a beautiful old windmill, a doctor's clinic, two churches, a playground, a fire station, children's clubs, as well as other clubs and societies for coffee meetings, making friends, lunches, cinema, theatre and sports. More on these below.



Where are we?

We're in the county of Buckinghamshire, 10 miles from Oxford, and about 50 miles north west of London. Market towns Thame and Bicester are about 15 minutes by car.



Important Admin stuff - how do I get started?

You'll find you have to work through many admin matters and fill in forms after you arrive. It will probably look confusing at first. Where do I start? How do I register? What forms do I need to complete?

Fortunately however, we have a step-by-step guide in both English and Ukrainian to take you through the admin process. It's been created by one of our first arrivals from Ukraine, so is based on first-hand insights and experience. Please follow this link.

[Helpful advice for sponsors and Ukrainians.xlsx](#)

Other useful sources of information include:

Buckinghamshire Council: Help and support if recently arrived from Ukraine
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/helping-hand-for-ukraine/help-and-support-if-youve-recently-arrived-from-ukraine/help-with-money/>

The Ukrainian Institute, London <https://ukrainianinstitute.org.uk/>

Transport and getting about

Your host will be able to advise you on your best transport options, including these.

Buses for Public Transport. The bus stop is the Square in Brill - see map. The limited routes which serve Brill are listed below (these are separate from the school buses):

Bus 112 Brill to Thame, Wednesdays and Fridays: Leaves at 09:35 to Thame. Returns from Thame at 13:06. The journey takes 25 minutes.

Bus 113 Brill to Thame, Tuesdays and Thursdays: Leaves at 09:27 and 11:26 to Thame. Returns from Thame at 11:05 and 13:00. Tuesday there is an outdoor market in Thame.

Bus 111 Brill to Thame, Mondays: Leaves at 09:27, returns from Thame at 11:05, 13:36 and 18:22.

Bus 111 Brill to Aylesbury, Mondays: Leaves at 09:27, 11:26. Leaves Aylesbury at 13:10. Also 16:00 and 17:45 in school holidays. Aylesbury is a larger town than Thame. The journey takes approx 40 minutes.

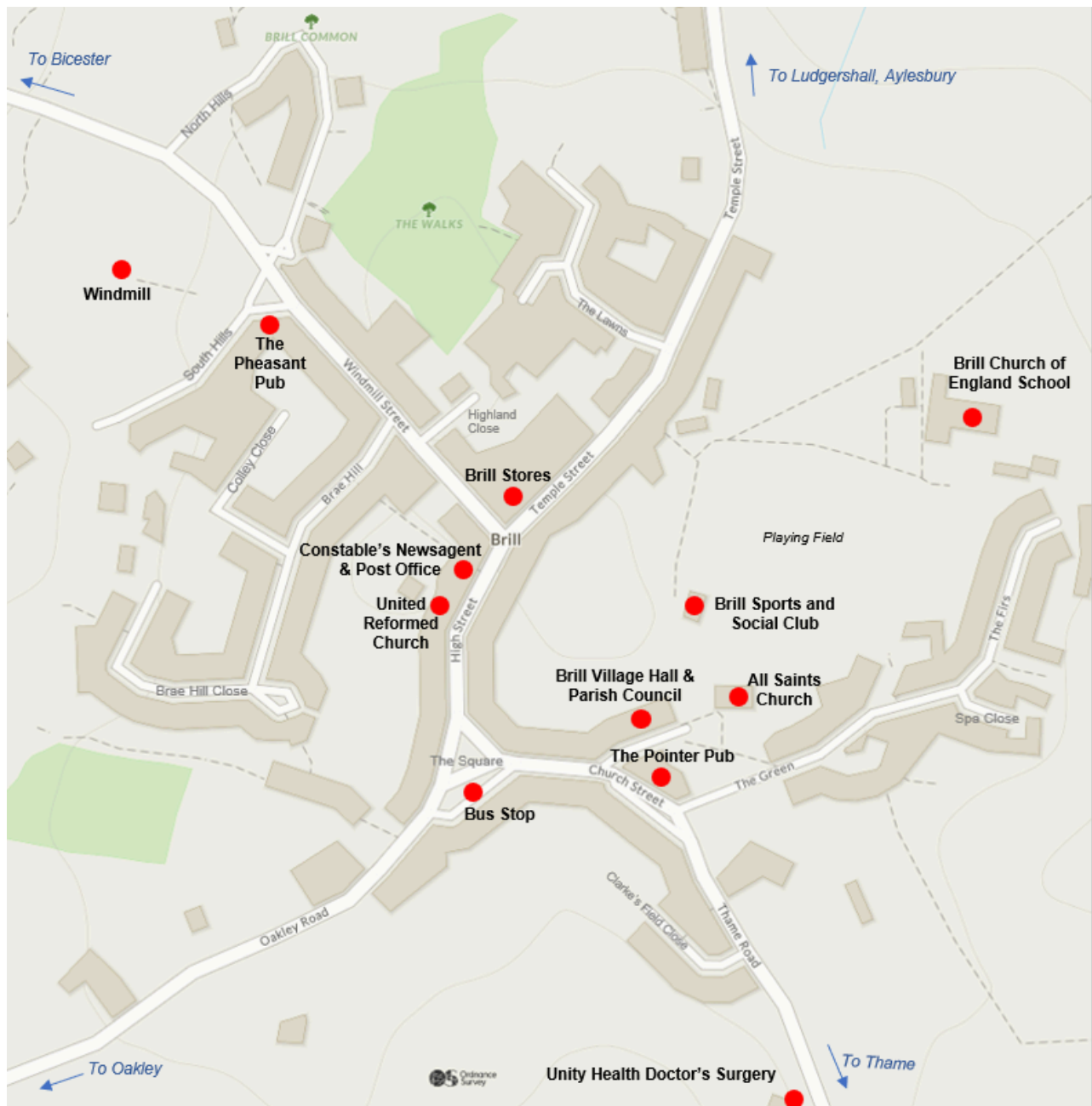
School Buses to Secondary Schools

The Grammar School in Aylesbury uses the Red Rose service (109) and leaves The Square at 7.20 a.m.. The bus to Waddesdon School is the Motts bus service, and also leaves around 7.20 a.m.. Lord William's School in Thame has two buses, the Heyfordian service leaving around 7.40 a.m. and the Z & S service at 7.48 a.m..

Trains. Nearest stations are Haddenham and Thame Parkway and Bicester North. Both are about 20 minutes drive away, with frequent services to London and Birmingham.

Finding your way around Brill

Brill isn't a huge village, but it might take a while to find your way around.



Schools

The schools in the village are state/government schools, so you do not have to pay for them.

Brill Primary School is for children aged 4 or 5 to age 11. The majority of children living in the village attend Brill School. They are expecting Ukrainian families and you can contact them to speak about a place for your child. The head is Mrs Louise White, the email address is:

office@brillschool.org.uk

Telephone: 01844 237710.

In the first instance it is likely to be the school administrator handling your query.

There is also a pre-school in Brill, which generally takes children from age 3-5:
wps@windmillpre.plus.com

This 'school' is mainly about play and learning through play for younger children.

For children 12 and over there, most go to either the state schools Lord William's School in Thame, or to Aylesbury High (Girls) or Aylesbury Grammar (Boys).

Other useful places in Brill

Brill Stores

The main shop in the village. Mahesh is open every day of the week, with a wonderful range of fresh vegetables, groceries, freshly baked bread, wine and beers.



Constable's Shop and Post Office

Our newsagent, shop and post office. Brian will help you out with any postal matters. You can also withdraw cash using a standard UK bank debit card.



Pointer Butcher's Shop

Next door to the Pointer pub, Jon is open on Thursday and Friday afternoons and on Saturday morning for every seasonal mix of meat, poultry and game.



The Pheasant Pub

"Cheers!" says barman Christian. With a terrace and seating looking out over the windmill and towards the west, the Pheasant has wonderful food, wines and beers. Open every day of the week.



The Pointer pub

In the centre of the village, the Pointer has an excellent restaurant, a wide selection of drinks and a delightful garden at the back.



Brill Sports and Social Club

Jo looks forward to welcoming you to the Sports and Social. It's where the village meets for sports and club events, socialising, games, quizzes and other social occasions.



Doctor's Surgery

Unity Health is our local medical centre. It's on the edge of the village at 22 Thame Road, Brill, HP18 9SA. To arrange a visit and to register, call 01844 238284.

Telephone: 01844 238859.

Psychological wellbeing

Rachel Woolrich is a clinical psychologist who lives in Brill with her family:

"I work at a local hospital and I have many years experiencing supporting people with various mental and physical health problems. I am available to talk to if you feel you need some help with your or a family member's psychological wellbeing. I will keep our conversations confidential and I can offer support and signposting to mental health resources and services if you need them. You may feel able to talk to friends or your host family about these things, but please feel free to contact me on 07738 639858 if it feels easier to talk to someone separately about things. I will always aim to get back to you within 24hrs."

Clubs

Brill has many clubs. We have listed a few below:

Brill Toddler Group, Wednesdays 09:30-11:00 Brill Memorial Hall. For a play and meeting other parents. During school terms, not holidays.

Small Saints Toddler Group, Mondays 9-10:30, Brill Church, term time only.

Brill Sports and Social Club (cricket club, other sports): brillclub@yahoo.co.uk

Coffee, cake and book mornings, Thursdays, at the United Reformed Church, High Street.

Brill bellringers, Brill allotments (gardens you can rent and grow vegetables), Brill Environment Group and many more!

Brill Parish Council

Brill Parish Council is made up of local volunteers who have been elected to represent Brill village in local politics and are here if you need any further help, information or independent advice.

<https://www.brillparishcouncil.co.uk/clubsandgroups> The site also has a full list of clubs in the village.

The telephone number is: 01844 238662. Office is open 9-11 Mondays and Tuesdays.

Email will be answered throughout the week: brill.parish@gmail.com

Useful places outside Brill

Local libraries (Bicester/Thame) offer free internet. And for anyone who finds they do not have access to the internet in Brill, then please contact the parish council.

Nearby Polish Shops

Taste of Poland Polish Shop, 19 Causeway, Bicester OX26 6AN

Taste of Poland, 20 Buckingham St, Aylesbury HP20 2LH

Roza Euro Food - Polish Shop, 61A Stoke Rd, Aylesbury HP21 8BL

... Things to know about walks in the countryside

There is lovely countryside all around Brill, and you'll always see people out walking. However, one difference between Ukraine and the UK is in private and public access to land.

Roads and paths in villages are generally public. In Brill we also have Brill Common, which stretches either side of the windmill and to which everyone also has public access. Your hosts will show you this.

In the open countryside, unless shown as private, roads and lanes generally allow public access. Fields, woods, rams and other land are generally private land, and public access is only permitted along the signposted public footpaths and bridleways. These are indicated with signs such as the ones below.



Beautiful countryside, and enjoy the walking!