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Thanks to Susanne Tuffrey for the cover photo of apples in our orchard.

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Items for the next edition should be sent to the editor by 10 November 2020. *The Villager* is published every other month and delivered free to all households in the village.

Editorial

Usually at this time of year, as the seasons change, we look to making a change in our lives, perhaps a new start or a chance to do something new or different. This year is certainly different. Our children, now back at school and pre-school, seem to have coped well with the changes to their normal routines (see articles on pages 5 and 15). Our 'new normal' is about less social contact, face masks, sanitisers, online meetings, working from home and restrictions on meeting up together. Sadly, it has meant that there are few village events to report on here.

Our centre pages have our usual run-through at this time of year of 'What's On' in the village. Many of the regular village clubs and activities are either suspended or being run online but keep fit, pilates and dance are running as usual, as are coffee meetups in the Church Room and up at Root 1 café. The tennis courts have re-opened and there is football on the Rec. The village hall is open for booking with Covid safety restrictions in place (see page 8). Services at St Agatha's church have resumed (page 9), and the Red Lion is open for both take away and dine-in services (see page 14). So, we do have some normality back at least (though by the time you read this it might have all changed again!).

One popular event in the village calendar which I am glad is happening is our village Apple Day, or Weekend this year. With some creative thinking, the Orchard Group have managed to plan an Apple Day with a difference, see page 4. It seems a long time ago now on a cold January day when we merrily woke up our village orchards at our Wassail. But it seems to have worked! We have a bumper harvest of fruit this year.

Did you learn something from lockdown? Some amusing and thoughtful one-liners from villagers are shown on page 11. Our enforced time at home made many of us reflect also on what a lovely part of the country we live in and our wish to cherish it. The impact of streetlights on the bypass is causing a lot of concern, as is the proposed tree felling works due to take place over the winter (see Parish Council report, page 7). We see more cars and vans trying to pass on our narrow lanes and there are more cars parked around the War Memorial and at the junction of Brightwell Street and Church Lane. Irresponsible parking means that it can be difficult to see clearly both ways at this junction sometimes and large vehicles (such as the refuse lorries) are restricted from getting down to the Manor. A fire engine would have difficulty!

Stay safe and keep well.

Helen Connor

Welcome

Welcome to new residents of the village.

If you are reading this then hopefully you have had a *Villager* delivered through your letterbox. But if not, then do contact Keith Brooks, our distribution manager (839044).

Welcome Packs

You should also have received a Welcome Pack, produced by the Community Association, which provides those bits of useful information which can be difficult to get hold of. If you have not got one, or know of someone new to the village who would like one, then please contact Bill Horsfield (wthorsfield@yahoo.com, tel 832041) or Lynn Burridge (lynnburridge@gmail.com, tel 833009).

A special welcome to those who moved into Little Martins over the summer. We hope you are enjoying living here. You should have got your Welcome Pack digitally from the estate agent, but if not then do get in touch.

Community Association

Regrettably, we are still unable to make definite plans for future social events in the village due to governmental Covid restrictions. We are in the early stages of planning events for next year in the hope that regulations will have been eased or removed by then and we can bring the whole village back together again.

AGM by Zoom

We are required constitutionally to hold an annual AGM so we have arranged a Zoom meeting for 28 October at 7.30pm. If you would like to attend virtually, please email me at james.davys@icloud.com and I will send you an invitation.

James Davys



A bumper Brightwell apple harvest

Have you walked through the orchard yet this autumn? The trees are laden with fruit and the wildflower meadow has all been cut. This year's bumper harvest around the village is all due to the fantastic Wassail last winter. It worked!

At the end of the summer a gang of volunteers scythed the wildflowers in the orchard, which had grown to waist height, using traditional wooden Austrian scythes. It takes a bit of time to get the hang of it but once you get the technique, the effort is very satisfying and took just 2 hours. Have a look at some of the videos on the website to see how it is done - www.brightwellorchards.co.uk.

The trees are full of fruit and it is easy to see just how different the apples look and taste. The trick to see whether the fruit is ready is to look for apples on the grass under the tree. Take a bite out of one of these (they only need a wipe on your sleeve) and find out if it tastes great or makes your toes curl. If it does that then the fruit is not ready. Some of the varieties will need to wait until the end of October, even November.

Apple Weekend on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October

This year our annual celebration of the village's apples will come with a twist: a display of all the varieties to be found in the parish, plus an exciting Trail of Discovery. Paul Chilton's giant display will be in front of the village hall from 11am - 4pm on both days with over 100 different varieties of apple, all grown in the village and its immediate vicinity.

Experts will be on hand at the village hall display, so why not bring along apples from your own garden or one of your friends and find out what they are called?

You will also be able to follow an Apple Trail looking for interesting and unusual varieties grown in different gardens and orchards around the village. You will be able to download the Trail Map from the website - www.brightwellorchards.co.uk the week before or pick up a paper copy at the village hall on the day. The trail is self-guided, to make sure that everyone can enjoy the village's apple heritage while keeping a distance and keeping safe.

Will you be able to find Ashmead Kernel or King Edward VII? Ingrid Marie or Jonathan? Cox's Pippin or Golden Pippin?

There will be plenty of eating and cooking apples at the village hall for you to choose and take home.

Don't forget to social distance everyone!



If you have lots of apples in your garden why not hire the village press? The equipment is easy to use and all you need are bottles and caps for pasteurising, or just plastic bottles if you want to freeze some to last you through the winter

It's good fun and very satisfying.

Email us to find out more about hiring the press - brightwellorchardpresshire@gmail.com.

Alison Bloomfield

Save the Children

This year, as usual, we will be selling Save the Children Christmas cards, wrapping paper, cakes and a small collection of gifts. We intend to have an 'open air' stall in the Square at the end of October and during November. We will let you know the dates of this and any other fundraising ideas we are able to do in the next couple of months by poster, Facebook and email.

Thank you for your support for Save the Children and stay safe.

Celia Collett

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School

Two staggered starts, three breaks, five staggered lunches, two staggered finishes, three entrances and exits, two one-way systems, five class bubbles and lots and lots of handwashing!

Life in a school during a pandemic is one of changed routines as we find our 'new normal', for now at least. The children, parents and staff team have embraced these changes and adapted superbly. With bringing all children back to school in every year group before the summer, we had a chance to ensure that our September arrangements were informed by experience as well as government guidance. The independence our children continue to show as they enter the school site has been incredibly encouraging and, as we continue to seek out the opportunities the pandemic presents, this is proving to be one each family should be very proud of – we certainly are!

However, there are some elements of school life that remain unchanged. We wished our Year 6 leavers well as they embarked upon their secondary school careers and it's been wonderful to welcome our latest Pippin (Reception) cohort and their families. They join a growing school community as the school goes from strength to strength.

Enrichment opportunities have always been a key part of our provision at Brightwell and although these are fewer given the current restrictions, inspiration events, such as our recent visit by Former World BMX Champion Mike Mullen, continue to support our values and learning in school – albeit organised in a way that continues to keep us all safe at this time.

With applications for Reception places closing in January, we are offering a virtual tour and prospective parent experience. Should you wish to register for this, please contact Mrs Major in the office on office.3221@brightwell.oxon.sch.uk.

Finally, I would like to thank our local community for your support in managing our return to school, particularly around the one way system at our side gate and by giving us as much space as possible around the site at drop off and pick up times. It is hugely appreciated!

Fin Lewis, Headteacher

Parish Council Update

Site B street lighting on the bypass

The Parish Council is working with Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and the Site B developers to try and reduce the environmental impact of the new street lights along the Wallingford bypass. Their installation came as a surprise to us (and it appears SODC). We had always been informed that there would be consultation regarding any lighting scheme. It appears that Wallingford Town Council had been consulted (specifically on street lighting) but not Brightwell despite the fact that the land that the lights are on is within our parish. The need for lighting, along with the need to remove all of those trees last year, seems to stem from the original design for the access road into Site B (which the Parish Council fought against at the start of the planning process). We are now trying to reduce the impact of the lights on our dark skies and to limit the visual impact from the village.

Tree works

We have been informed that tree works will be undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council over the winter. Whilst fully understanding that safety has to be accounted for and that works are needed to keep the highways open, we are very concerned over the sheer scale of the works and how their removal will alter the character of our lanes and biodiversity. The level of change, all at once, is worrying - a more incremental approach needs to be put in place. Discussions are still on-going but we may be too late to make any difference to the contract.

Kings Meadow tennis courts

The newly resurfaced tennis courts and basketball practice area at Kings Meadow were finally opened for use on 5 September, after adverse weather conditions delayed the painting and application of the important non-slip coating. Please treat these surfaces with respect and **do not use bikes or skateboards on them.**

It has been very pleasing to see the courts return to use by villagers and the tennis club, plus a renewed interest in basketball. We're sure that the new surface and wall will give the village a facility for enjoyment over many years to come.

Hedge trimming

Villagers are reminded that hedges adjoining roadsides should be kept trimmed so that they do not cause an obstruction and create a risk of accidents.

James Davys

Stewart Village Hall

We are delighted to be open again and have already welcomed back some of our regular users including pilates, keep fit and two wargaming groups.

As Covid regulations change we are constantly checking that we meet the current requirements. There are safety systems in place, including a one-way system for moving around the hall, hand sanitising and cleaning stations and we have reduced the number of people who can safely use the hall. Group organisers are asked to maintain track and trace information of all attendees.

If you are thinking of booking the hall, restarting a group or would like to book for the first time please get in touch with Shena (Shenaluck@btconnect.com or 01491 834543) to discuss your needs and any concerns you have. We are happy to help you set the hall up in a way best suited to your needs and to keep all users safe.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the hall; if you have any questions, comments or feedback please contact the trustees using the 'contact us' page on our website, or leave a note in the village hall mailbox at the rear of the hall. <http://stewartvillagehall.btck.co.uk/>.

Annette Kilworth

The Vicar writes...

Our church life has returned to what will be a 'new normal' and all our worship, including weddings, christenings and funerals, is exempt from the new 'rule of six' government restrictions, thanks to all the protective measures that we have in place. Our regular Sunday service at St Agatha's is back at 9.30am, with a physically gathered congregation whilst others join us on our livestream video on the Wallingford CofE Facebook page www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe (this can be watched without signing up for a Facebook account). The livestream will alternate each week between the 9.30am service from Brightwell and the 11am service from St Mary Magdalene's in Crowmarsh.

For those coming to church, you need to wear a face mask and only sit in the alternate pews to maintain the necessary social distance. The congregation are not yet permitted to sing, but quietly humming seems to work for some people and, surprisingly, allows a deeper concentration on the meaning of the lyrics.

Despite our close fellowship, there can be no shaking hands or hugging when sharing the peace which still feels weird! Hand sanitiser is to be used on entry and when leaving and conversations after the service are encouraged outside the building. We are also required to record all attendees in case there is a need for contact tracing. All this may seem quite onerous, but is necessary as an expression of love for our neighbour until the health threat is lifted.

We expect somewhat larger congregations for Harvest (Sunday 4 October) and Remembrance Sunday (Sunday 8 November) which we hope to accommodate safely without having to turn anyone away, but we anticipate having a booking system in place for our Christmas services, with priority given to regular attendees.

After just one month, we have adapted remarkably quickly and are able to focus on worshipping God who raises our perspective above such things to his eternal presence with us, bringing renewed hope, peace, identity and purpose. Join us either in church or online... "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." (Psalm 34:8)

Blessings,

Rev Kev

The Revd Kevin Beer can be contacted by email on teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk or phone 01491 599873 (day off Monday) or go to www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk or see his blog revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk

The Environment Group

Millennium Wood

The wet August has helped the pond/wetland, allowing the habitat to develop. Water boatmen have been recently spotted. I am sure frogs, toads and others will follow. Interestingly, a toad was spotted nestling in a large tree adjacent to the community orchard.

Allotment stream

Ideas have been progressing to create a small stream in place of the long pipe that takes flow from the moat to the channel in the recreation ground. In particular, we have been working with the orchard group to combine projects. They are looking to replace some of the ash trees in the woodland adjacent to the orchard which are, or likely to be, suffering from ash dieback. It is planned to have a small display of the proposals in the old red telephone box opposite the Red Lion in October.

Weather

The rainfall recorded at Highlands Farm was: July 45.2mm and August 79.6mm (second wettest month this year). July was below average with August around 25% above the long-term average. In addition to being rather wet, August produced a wide range of weather with some very hot days followed by two named storms, Ellen and Francis. It felt like traditional English summer holiday weather!

Below is the Met Office summary for summer 2020 (June, July, August) and how it compares with the 1981 to 2010 average.

The summer of 2020 saw temperatures averaging out slightly above average, especially in the south-east, with June and August being warmer than average but July rather cooler. After the sunny and dry spring, these three months were mostly unsettled, but each summer month did contain some hot weather. The last day of July brought a one-off hot day to central and southern England, and a more sustained period of heat occurred in the second week of August. Many places had plenty of rain through the summer, and sunshine was below average for most areas.

Steve Capel-Davies

What did you learn in Lockdown?

With more time at home, what did you learn? A new skill? Did you see something you never noticed before? Or just simply reflect on how glad you were to be alive and living here? Here are a few thoughts that villagers have shared with us.

I learned...

...that I am not teacher material

...how to improve my Sudoku, courtesy of Cracking the Cryptic (You Tube)

...when falling off your bike, try not to land on an electric fence - it only adds injury to insult

...to be patient with Google Classroom

...even more to count our blessings!! Living in paradise

...there still wasn't time to start sticking 20 years of photos in albums.

...brought the community together..., whether to clap the NHS or just greet other villagers around the streets and lanes while out exercising

...that my metabolism is not what it was and I can't actually eat banana bread every day without piling on the pounds!

...could use a large stock of delightful soaps and hand washes given by wonderful friends and family over the years

*...keeping apples in the fridge makes them crispy and last longer
... tomatoes taste better not kept in the fridge*

...to treasure the here and now moments and value the surroundings of the garden and countryside.

...walking but not talking when out in isolation can still be fun listening to 'virtual friends' on a good podcast.

...that I have enough clothes!!

...rediscovering chocolate fingers

...Bobby (my dog) isn't perfect after all

... to escape the stress and worries of lockdown with daily walks that Brightwell offers: the Clumps, along the river, through the woods and fields.

THANK YOU

What's on in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

These are the regular daytime and evening classes and activities which usually take place in the village, mainly the Village Hall (VH), Jubilee Pavilion (JP) and Church Room (CR). At the moment, however, due to Covid restrictions, many are suspended or taking place online, as indicated in the brackets. For further information, phone or email the relevant contact.

Activity	Time	Venue	Contact
<u>MONDAYS</u>			
Keep Fit (on as usual)	9am	VH	Shena Luck 01491 834543 shenaluck@btconnect.com
Coffee Meet Up (3 rd Mon in month, on as usual)	10am- 12pm		Anne Brooker 01491 835109 anniebrooker10@gmail.com
Cubs (online)	6pm	JP	Anne Addison 01235 511018 redwolf@sky.com
Badminton (suspended)	8pm	VH	John Percival 01491 837372
<u>TUESDAYS</u>			
Quilting (alt Tues) (suspended)	9.30am	VH	Cynthia Hurley 01491 836509
Nordic Walking (suspended)	9.30am		Annette Kilworth 01491 834050 Annette.k@hotmail.co.uk
WI (2 nd in month) (online)	7.30pm	VH	Anne Brooker 01491 835109
Rapper Dance	8pm	JP	Angie Cole 07816 335972
<u>WEDNESDAYS</u>			
Nordic Walking (suspended)	9.30am		Annette Kilworth 01491 834050 Annette.k@hotmail.co.uk
Coffee/Cake (on as usual)	10am- 12pm	CR	Janice Chilton 01491 863331
Keep Fit (on as usual)	6.45pm	VH	Shena Luck 01491 834543 shenaluck@btconnect.com
<u>THURSDAYS</u>			
Toddlers (suspended)	9.15am	VH	Laura Woodford 07714 408576 or brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com

Pilates (on as usual but currently full due to reduced numbers) 6-7pm VH Nathan Clayton 07815 735165 or 7-8pm *remedy@live.co.uk*

FRIDAYS

Art History (suspended) 10am VH Sandra Grainge 01491 839166
 Beavers (online) 6pm JP Hilary Rogerson 01491 839960
 Scouts (online) 7.15pm JP Tim Daly 07798 766036

SATURDAYS

Art Club (online) 10am VH Veronica Wood 01491 837367
 Drama & Dance 10am JP PERFORM Gemma Payne 07825 916496

SUNDAYS

Circuit Training 9-10am JP H Harrison 07769 645069
 Personal Fitness Mon-Sat JP H Harrison 07769 645069
 Trainer Phone to make an appointment

In addition, at **The BCS Recreation Ground:**

BCS Cricket Club (Apr – Sept) Tony Windsor
 - Senior section Games Sunday pm 07909 848098
 - Net practice Weds (April – June) 6pm

BCS Cricket Club May – July Tony Windsor
 Junior section 07909 848098
 - Development Group (8-13 years) Friday Nets Coaching 6-7.30pm
 - All Stars Cricket (4-8 years) Saturdays 10-11am Tony Windsor 08909 848098

AFC Brightwell Youth FC (Sept – May)
 -Under 15 Team Coaching Thursday 6-7pm Paul Whitty 07900 253486
 -Under 12 Team Coaching Friday 6-7pm Tony Windsor
 -U15 & U12 League Games Sundays 10.30 Kick-off

The Red Lion

Here at the Red Lion, it has been a challenging few months since we re-opened after lockdown but Mouse and I want to thank everyone for their continued support. I won't lie and say it's been an easy few months but with a great team of staff and our loyal locals, we have managed to keep going.

Since the last issue, we have hired a new chef and his name is Alex. Alex has been a chef for just under 10 years so has lots of experience. He has very quickly settled in and gave us a new lunch menu. Along with Zak, they are both working wonders in the kitchen with lots of positive reviews of their food. I am sure those who dine in the pub will agree that the menu really does suit everyone and with an ever changing Pie of the Day and Catch of the Day, there is always something to choose from. We are seeing the restaurant filling up more on a regular basis so we highly recommend that you book a table, especially if you wish to sit inside and eat.

For those villagers who prefer not to eat out as yet, we continue to offer a takeaway food service on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The weekly menu is posted on Facebook and the village website and emailed out each Sunday. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email info@theredlionbrightwell.co.uk and ask to be added.

Latest Covid Guidelines

Following on from the latest Government's Covid guidelines, we have gone through our Risk Assessment to ensure that we are going above and beyond what we must do to ensure everyone is as safe as possible. We would like to update everyone with policies going forward:

- **Track and Trace** - T&T is now mandatory for all pubs/restaurants. We have always requested details but we now must do this by law. We have a QR code which is displayed around the pub and we ask everyone with a smart phone to register each visit by scanning the code and then entering your details. The app we are using is called *evePass* and we would encourage anyone coming to the pub to download the app before your next visit. For anyone without a smart phone we will of course continue to sign you in with pen & paper. Please note, *evePass* does nothing with your details and all logs of visits are destroyed 30 days after and are used only if requested by the NHS.
- **Maximum groups of six** - To ensure we do not have any groups larger than six, we will not be taking any bookings of more than six

people UNLESS it is one family all from the same household (for example, Mum, Dad & five children).

As a business, we are responsible for ensuring the law is followed and we are not allowed to encourage group gatherings by offering to sit groups of friends together. If you sit in the restaurant or the garden, we must ask that you are seated at all times and not mixing with other tables. This also includes children who must remain seated at all times.

- **Hand Sanitiser** - As a reminder, we have hand sanitiser available at all doors and a large dispenser inside the pub and we ask that you regularly sanitise your hands when visiting us.

Mouse and I want nothing more than to stay open and not be forced to close the doors again and if everyone follows our policies, we will have ourselves a very safe & happy environment for all to enjoy.

Opening hours

Since re-opening, we have altered the opening hours of the pub and they are as follows:

Monday - Closed All Day. Tuesday - 5-10pm No Food Served, Drinks Only. Wednesday & Thursday 12-3pm & 6-10pm. Friday & Saturday 12-3pm & 6-11pm. Sunday 12-9pm.

Lunch is served 12-2pm (2.30pm Sunday) and dinner is from 6.00-8.15pm. These times may occasionally change but we will always keep you updated via email and social media.

Thank you once again for everybody's continued support, stay safe and well and please be assured that if you visit the pub, we are working extremely hard to ensure a safe, clean and happy environment for all,

Warmest regards

Corinne, Mouse & Immy

Brightwell Pre-school - What difference?

We have cleaned, we have cleared, we have wiped, we have stored, we have moved, we have planned, and we have fully re-opened! How wonderful it is to see these happy children running in with their backpacks and not looking back. The children have experienced huge change in their short lives so far.

We ask ourselves "How can they possibly make sense of this change?" and "What will they make of this strange place we now call pre-school?".

Reducing the number of toys available, the equipment, the cushions, the rugs or anything that would cause the spread of infection was a saddening time for us as a pre-school when we changed our setting into what we felt to be a clinical environment. It was a nervous time for staff reopening without the things we thought the children relied upon and loved.

Lesson 1: the truth seems to be that they didn't need all of that stuff in the first place and it was us as adults who were finding it harder to accept the change. The children are just as happy without the extras. It turns out people are the most important thing in the end after all.

Restricting visitors on-site has meant parents/carers are leaving their children at the gate and unable to come in and settle them if upset. With such a long break, we were seriously concerned this would be extremely heart-wrenching and difficult for children and parents alike.

Lesson 2: small children are actually rather tough little cookies and actually, there was no need to worry because this is now the 'new normal'.

As a staffing group, we have been through a lot in our personal lives, supporting our own families and continuing to juggle to make sure the pre-school could support families as much as possible. I cannot thank them enough for their resilience and care. How could we manage to go back to fully re-opening and how would we cope?

Lesson 3: working with young children is like walking into another dimension. What virus? What change?

For the staff and parents of Brightwell pre-school the journey started with closure, then staffing for children of critical workers at the school, re-opening for a small bubble of children in the summer term, and finally closing for the summer and awaiting news of how we could re-open fully in September. A huge thank you to Mrs Lewis and the staff team at Brightwell School. It really is a special place filled with caring people. Another big thank you to Rosemary and David at Highlands Farm for storing lots of bits and bobs we can retrieve later in the school year. Finally, a big big thank you to our wonderful committee for going through this together; I suspect they will never volunteer for anything again.

So, what next? We are not sure how this year will look but we will certainly continue to have fun, share feelings and play. Yes, lots and lots of play. Play is definitely the answer to all of this.

Natasha Hillier

The re-opening of the Corn Exchange

At long last comes the joyous news that we are finally open again for business. The listing is fairly short as we have only booked films for the first few weeks as we are still trying to establish the demand from the public, many of whom are understandably nervous about returning to normality again. But our Health and Safety team have worked hard to put together a safety procedure and we have followed strictly the guidelines produced by government and trade bodies. Once we are confident that audiences will be returning we will book more films. However, we are limited in capacity so films might quickly book up. Please look on www.cornexchange.org.uk for programme updates and to book.

We cannot contemplate opening for theatre and other live shows at the moment as this is still not allowed but we will be working hard to ensure that this is done as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support.

John Evans

Village shop and post office

As autumn approaches most of our thoughts are turning to what this winter will bring within the 'new norm'. One thing you can be sure of is that all the team at Brightwell community shop will do our utmost to continue to give the community the best possible service.

We are continually looking to source new products, especially local goods, whilst making sure the old favourites are available. Our Christmas stock should be with us by the beginning of November. Steph is going to make sure there are some tempting Christmas presents on the Gluck gift stand. Do check us out when looking for ideas for presents.

Lastly, if you have a couple of hours to spare, weekly, fortnightly or monthly and would like to join the team please let us know.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Celia Collett
Chair Management Committee



Sports Round up

BCS Kings Meadow Tennis Club (BCSKMTC)

The committee is pleased to advise that your tennis club continues to go from strength to strength, increasing the annual membership in 2020 to circa 170 members, including 53 families.

2020 has been a difficult year all round, particularly for families during the pandemic lockdown with no Wimbledon ticket draw and the frustration of not being able to use the courts during the school summer holidays whilst they were being resurfaced. We are sorry that this happened, but both situations were beyond anyone's control.

Some good news: the courts are back in use and we have a practice wall, located on the east perimeter boundary fence, which will be particularly useful for children or adults learning to play, helping them gain confidence and a basic level of ball hitting skills, before venturing onto the courts.

According to all reports, the courts are playing well and with the all-weather surface restored, are much safer.

Just recently a number of parents have been asking when tennis coaching will start again – The National Tennis Association, who provides our LTA Qualified Coach has advised that Jamie (the coach we had last winter, who proved very popular) will be available from the beginning of November 2020 every Saturday for Mini Reds 5-8 Years 2-3pm and for Mini Orange/Green 8-11 Years from 3-4pm. 8 places are available in each group.

Please contact tony Windsor on 07909 848098 or tony@bcskingsmeadowtennisclub.org.uk to pre-register for this coaching or any other aspects of the tennis club.

Tony Windsor, Chairman



Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Cricket Club

In a Covid restricted and shortened season, the village cricket club had managed a dense combination of senior, junior and mid-week cricket. Thanks to the determination, and optimism, of Steve Metcalf we have had very playable and improved wickets for every home match. The ground itself made immaculate through the efforts of James Pargeter and Tony Windsor. The irrepressible Tony also turned his attention to

making Covid teas possible combined with the efforts of Corrine at the Red Lion (and some really good planning). We all, as players, have got used to coming to the ground changed, washing and sterilising our hands and fist bumping to celebrate runs and wickets.

It has been great to see new players join the teams and also older members turn out. All have been warmly welcomed by the club. It has also been fabulous to see so many spectators, enjoying the contest and surroundings, in a beautifully socially distanced way of course. We have had a mixed season in term of results, but have ended strongly. So, thanks again to club members, players and supporters alike and winter well. A real village triumph.

Eliot Forster, Captain

Brightwell cum Sotwell Cricket Club Junior Section

The Junior section of BCS Cricket Club is divided into two age and ability groups:

All Stars Cricket Coaching – 5 to 8 Years:

2020 was to be the fourth year Allstars had been run at the BCS Recreation Ground from May to July on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11am, but the pandemic forced us to cancel the programme. All Stars is an ECB sponsored programme run by activators who live in the village and with sons and daughters participating – Roger Gill, Mickey Rooney and Tony Windsor. The ECB has advised that the All Stars Programme will be back in May 2021 bigger and better than before. Look out for national programme advertising and once registered new participants will receive a set of All Stars kit and existing participants an upgrade kit.

Development Squad – 8 to 14 Years:

This was established three years ago from children who started cricket in the All Stars. From May to July this year we were unable to operate the development group due to the lockdown; however, thanks to the work of the ECB, cricket coaching and league matches were allowed to recommence under strict guidelines in early July.

BCSCC has over 20 players in the development squad. We found a new coach, Adam Muttit (the best coach we have had to date) and also managed to play a couple of 11 a side hard ball league matches. Many thanks to the parents who assisted Adam during coaching in the nets and at the league games.

If you have you are interested in either All Stars coaching or the development Squad coaching please contact Tony Windsor BCSCC Secretary on email: tonywindsor2@gmail.com or by phone: 07909 848098.

Brightwell Supporting Refugees

I am writing this article five days after the terrible devastation of a fire that has happened in the Moria camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. The situation has worsened considerably – and fast deteriorating. Water and food shortages, inadequate access to hygiene facilities, police use of tear gas, nights of sleeping rough, the physical and mental health of people - including thousands of children. These words are written by *Choose Love* - “the world’s first store where you can buy real gifts for refugees” and one that has raised millions for Help Refugees. It is sending out an appeal for support from the likes of us all.

BSR, as a registered charity ourselves, is unable to send donations to them but what we can do is to send out an appeal to you all on their behalf. It is truly a terrible time for those poor people. If you wish to donate you can visit the Help Refugees website at: donate.helprefugees.org.

Although BSR hasn’t been able to actively fundraise (and now with the ‘rule of six’ in place, it looks as though we will be prevented for even longer from raising much needed funds), we have been able to send money over to the Hope Centre in Jordan. This will pay the salaries for two teachers for a further six months, up to February 2021, helping to give security to the school.

We are also very pleased that the village school is going to correspond with children at the Hope Centre. The children in Jordan will be thrilled to receive news from fellow school children here in the UK. They can compare their lockdown notes maybe. A recent post on our Facebook page ([brightwellrefugees](https://www.facebook.com/brightwellrefugees)) shows how they are managing to stay open at 50% capacity, cleaning the classrooms and school bus between the different shifts. Thank you to Fin Lewis for her positive thoughts on linking the school in with Jordan again.

Please do contact us with any thoughts or suggestions at brightwellrefugees@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

With all good wishes from the BSR team.

Ann Linton.

August meeting was again on Zoom but this time a craft demonstration from Felicity Jennings of Sweetheart Spa WI based in Harrogate – one advantage of these virtual meetings. Members had the opportunity to use card, paper and buttons to create a rosette.

We just scraped in with our garden meeting and quiz on 8 September in Gill's lovely garden before the 'rule of six' came in. 20 members attended and the weather was kind. First prize in the raffle was a shop voucher.

As the WI is not allowed to hold physical meetings, the plan is to continue with virtual meetings until government restrictions change, while subgroups, like knitting, swimming, book groups, might continue to meet if numbers stay under six. We will also continue to meet at Root One café for a monthly coffee meet up – this is on the 3rd Monday of the month. All are welcome (not just WI members) although we will need to be in small groups of six! 18 October is the next one, a date for the diary.

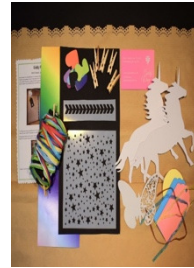
Anne Brooker

An alternative to wrapping paper

It's time to talk about the 'C' word... YES with Christmas less than 100 days away, does the idea of time spent with sellotape attached to your wrist fill you with dread or are you a season pro-wrapper who with a glass of fizz in hand and Michael Buble playing in the background make every parcel look like it's been wrapped by the chief elf?

Whoever you are we would like to introduce ourselves; we're Josie and Laura, affectionately known as Giddy, a Brightwell born business creating a solution to the option of having your bin full of shiny glossy wrapping paper which mostly cannot be recycled. Do you know it takes six mature trees to make one tonne of paper and yearly five million tonnes of wrapping paper is sent to landfill every year? YES it made us think too! Sellotape cannot be recycled and please don't get me started on glitter.

All these reasons made us think, 'Well if we start wrapping our gifts in craft paper we're doing our little bit' and that's all we'd like to share with you; the choice to do your little bit. We offer our sustainable wrapping paper packs and high quality cards which are an ideal alternative for the eco-savvy gift givers like you. We are hoping to secure a pop up stall outside the village hall, one Saturday a month, dates & time to follow. We'll both be there to demonstrate how our Giddy packs, paper stencils and cards can be used, so if you've anything to wrap bring it along and we'll endeavour to show you how easy it is.



Brown craft paper is pretty much like a blank canvas which puts the focus on the little extras that, with our packs, you can add. Stencils, tags, confetti, ribbon, twine and any other accent details might be used when wrapping your gifts. Look for ways to play with colour and contrasts, decorate with scented greenery from the garden, get the children involved and make it personal. Trust us, they will love receiving it. Find us on Etsy, GiddyWrap, #giddywrap or @giddywrap.

Wallingford Museum

After much thought and assessment of current risks, Wallingford Museum has reluctantly decided that it is not possible to re-open to the public at present. In the meantime we are offering some guided town and castle walks with pre-booked limited numbers.

Historical town walks

Wallingford Museum's experienced team are now taking bookings for historical tours of the town or castle. These tours will follow government guidelines for Covid prevention, with social distancing in place throughout and any other necessary precautions. To book a walk, email pburton6@talktalk.net, and request a day and time to suit you and we will do our best to arrange it. Request either a town or a castle walk. You will be contacted by email to confirm or adjust arrangements. Cost is £10. More information at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk.

In brief – round and about

The WAGS Gardening Store will be open every Saturday from 11-noon in September, October & November. The Autumn Show was cancelled but a virtual photo show is being put up on their website www.wags-wallingford.com.

OSJ Concerts at Dorchester Abbey in October, November and December are still going ahead after the Government's recent announcements. For more details and to book contact osj.org.uk. Each concert will be performed twice from 6-7pm and then 7.45 -8.45 pm, allocating extra time to escort people in and out, cleaning and allowing for socially distanced seating.

Wallingford Museum bookshop has re-opened, every Friday and Saturday 10.30 – 1pm, where an excellent selection of second-hand books at sensible prices can be found.

Wallingford Photographic Club is back for 2020-21. All meetings are online at the moment but we are offering a full programme of speakers, competitions, and other events to help you improve your photography and meet like-minded people. The club meets via Zoom every Thursday evenings starting at 7.30pm and running until around 9.30pm, with Zoom access from 7.15pm. Please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club to learn more about the club and find out about the speakers booked for October and how to get involved.

The Villager – online or in print?

Do you still want to receive your *Villager* though your door or do you read everything online now and see this as a waste of paper and time?

The Villager has been available to read on the village website for many years now but some people have suggested that we should stop printing and email it instead, delivering a small number to those who request it.

The Villager committee would welcome your views before our next AGM when we will be discussing this (date to be arranged). Please send to thevillagerbcs@gmail.com or if you don't use email, post it to Mead Cottage, Mackney Lane, BcS.

VILLAGE DIARY

October

4	Harvest Festival	St Agatha's	9.30am
10-11	Apple weekend		
28	Community Association AGM online	Zoom	7.30pm

November

8	Remembrance Service	War memorial & St Agatha's	10.45am
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Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Thursdays 1, 15, 29 October Thursdays 12, 26 November
Green (& brown) bins	Thursdays 8, 22 October Thursdays 5, 19 November (+ extra garden waste on 5 th)

Village website and Facebook page

For more information about Brightwell-cum-Sotwell visit the village website: www.brightwellcumshotwell.co.uk or go to Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Community Facebook group.

There is also a Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Buy, Swap and Sell Facebook group.