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**Guest Editor:** Alison Leigh **Editor:** Helen Connor ([thevillagerbcs@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagerbcs@gmail.com))  
**Chairman:** Anne Brooker 835109 **Secretary:** Angela Lewis  
**Treasurer:** Kat Southwell **Advertising:** Martin Dix 07767 864735  
**Assembly:** Shena Luck 834543 **Distribution:** Keith Brooks 839044  
**Production:** Anne Brooker, Angela Lewis, Steve Luck, Jim Sanger, Susanne Tuffrey

Items for the next edition should be sent to the Editor by 10 November 2022. *The Villager* is published every other month and delivered free to all households in the village.

## Editorial

As a relatively new resident I am delighted to have been invited to guest edit this edition of *The Villager*. Brightwell-cum-Sotwell is the kind of village that expats dream about – believe me I know. For the last 33 years I have lived in Australia. I dreamt of thatched cottages with roses climbing around the front door – snowdrops – daffodils – primroses – bluebells .... and now I live here. I pinch myself from time to time to check that it isn’t just a dream.

And there is so much more to love about Brightwell than simply smelling the roses. They say it takes a village to raise a child: Brightwell is certainly proving this.

There are now 31 Ukrainians living in our village. Tragically it looks as if the war in Ukraine could drag on for months and years. The six months government supported Homes for Ukrainians scheme is almost up, so where does that leave our Ukrainian families and their hosts? Read their stories on pages 12-13 and BSR’s plea on page 11. Many thanks to Keith Brooks for the cover and Ukrainian related photographs.

And then there is Brightwell Primary. If I had small kids I’d be thrilled to send them to such an excellent school. Sue Potts is the new Head Teacher. Meet her on page 7-8.

As I write we still have a hosepipe ban in place. It’s been the hottest summer on record since 1885 (see BcS Environment report page 9) for the local weather horror stats). While it’s great for those of us who never clean our cars to have the ultimate excuse, it is heartbreaking to see the devastating impact on our gardens; looking at the parched earth and the yellow and brown fields and lawns I could be back in an Aussie paddock. On the other hand – the extreme weather has provided bountiful produce. Last year there were so few apples that Apple Day had to be cancelled. This year the trees are groaning with fruit – and Apple Day is back on (15 October).

As we go to press the country is in mourning. The loss of ER is a very sobering moment. It does feel very end of an era-ish. Stormy weather ahead, metaphorically speaking. But also for real I hope. We need the rain. Whatever the weather I hope you enjoy the many upcoming festivities that you can read about in this edition, not least the Summer Concert at St Agatha’s on 9 October. Before we know it we’ll be hanging up the Christmas decorations. God save the King!

Alison Leigh

## Arthur Procter 18/10/1933 – 30/05/2022

Arthur moved the family from Barnet in North London to the village in 1974, to an aptly named house called Plus Four and quickly settled into village life. For 48 years he attended St Agatha's church where he was a member of the PCC, and church warden for 15 of those years. In October 2021 Arthur and Jill celebrated 60 years of marriage at St Agatha's.

His lifelong love of gardening started as a teenager in Hastings when a neighbour would give him tips, and Arthur would supply the neighbours with excess plants – which is where he learnt not to sow the whole packet! Many Saturday afternoons were spent at the Swan allotments where he grew vegetables which were entered in the village fete.

Arthur used his skills to support local charities and ventures wherever he lived. He was the first treasurer for the newly created *Villager* magazine in 1976, treasurer for Didcot Girls School PTA and following a conversation with the late Peter Appleby, he helped found Chameleon Arts, now known as Music in Wallingford, where he was treasurer, facilities manager and lighting director. He used his professional knowledge and experience as a Quantity Surveyor to maintain the church & church buildings.

Fittingly his last two outings were to Root One, the village garden centre, where he was quizzing staff about how they had germinated a plant that he had failed to grow successfully, and to the church fete, where he enjoyed chatting to everyone as Jill pushed him around in the wheelchair. He had a dry and wry sense of humour and would enjoy telling long and convoluted stories. He was genuinely interested in people and would insist on chatting to everyone, which meant the family were usually late to arrive and always the last to leave any event. Arthur was a man of deep and quiet faith who loved his family, his garden, chatting, and learning new things.

Jill and the family would like to thank everyone for all the love, cards and messages.

*Susie Procter*

## Thank you Jill

A big thank you to Jill Procter who is retiring as a distributor of *The Villager*, and for all her work with *The Villager* for many many years. She has been involved since the time of its inception, helping with the assembly and with distribution.

## Ruth Kimber 20/10/1955 - 10/08/2022

It was with sadness that I stood in Greenmere with neighbours and friends last week to say goodbye for the last time to Ruth Kimber as her cortege drove through the village. Many of the villagers paying respects were mums and dads of the many young children (some now adults) whom she had looked after. The children loved her dearly. Ruth had been a childminder for some 25 plus years and also supported our community in many other ways, including being a long time *Villager* distributor in Greenmere. A kind and gentle lady who will be sadly missed.

*Helen Connor*

## Brightwell Preschool

"I love you!", said one of the children on her return to preschool after the holidays. This was then followed by many more renditions of the same as we smiled our way into the new term. Love, or attachment as it is also called, is central to us all and strong attachments established in early childhood help children to move-on to school feeling secure, able and happy. This is our work at preschool; the most important work.

One of the best people to understand this was Ruth Kimber, who made a loving home for not only her own children and grandchildren, but those of many many families in our community as a childminder. Ruth sadly passed away in the summer, but the love she gave to those children lives on in them, as confidence, kindness and independence. Thank you Ruth, you will always be remembered for your magical gift to love all others.

It was a delight to watch the children transition to school this year and to welcome our new starters. We have spaces available and are looking to begin after-preschool care in the new year; please do get in touch if you are interested in this exciting development.

*Natasha Hillier*

## Wallingford Castle Meadows wins award

In July this year Wallingford Castle Meadows again won the "Keep Britain Tidy" Green Flag Award, for the 15th year in a row. Wallingford Castle Meadows (along with Thrupp Lake, Abbey Fishponds and Wittenham Clumps) is managed by Earth Trust, in partnership with SODC. The numbers of visits to these special places rocketed during the pandemic, when 'free to access' green spaces became not just a source of leisure, but a lifeline.

# The Parish Council

## Village Hall Car Park

Work on the car park continues – our dedicated and hardworking volunteers have recently finished the site clearance. Quotes are being obtained for the ground works and we remain on target to open early next year.

## CIL Funding

Property developments in the village attract a financial charge which is called the Community Infrastructure Levy. This levy is used by the Parish Council to provide financial help for projects in the village. Currently this assistance is being used for the Village Hall and Pavilion redevelopments, the building of the car park and the speed limit reduction project.

## Vandalism

Sadly, there has been a few incidences of vandalism in the village; if you notice any untoward activity please report it to the police. The Parish Councillors check all play equipment once week but sometimes breakages take place between inspections. Please report any damage to our hardworking Parish Clerk – Katie ([bcsparishcouncil@googlemail.com](mailto:bcsparishcouncil@googlemail.com)).

*James Davys*

# Community Association

## Pub Quiz and Safari Supper

We are grateful to everyone who came and supported these two successful events. A special mention should go to Corrine who hosted the Quiz at the Red Lion and to Mike who organised the event. We would also like to extend our thanks to Lynn and her team for organising the Safari Supper and to all the hosts who opened their homes and provided such warm hospitality.

## Grants

We were pleased to make the following grants in September, totalling £4100:

Scouts- £1500, Brightwell Church- £630, BSR - £500, Preschool- £400, Tennis Club - £250, Football Club - £200, Cricket Club - £250, FOBS - £400, Village Hall - £200, Lunch Club - £120, Art Club - £100, Toddler Group- £50.

## AGM 26 October 2022 7pm Stewart Room – Village Hall

We would like to invite members of our village community to our AGM to hear about our work and events over the past year and to learn about our future plans. Please come along and join us.

*James Davys*

## St Agatha's Church Bells

I write this just as we are about to ring quite a few special times, following the sad news of the death of HM The Queen.

Following up on my item in the last edition of *The Villager* I can report that we completed all three of our special rings.

On 19 July, we rang our 840 changes. This was in a method called Plain Bob Doubles, which we rang (non-stop) in 28 minutes. There were 6 of us ringing, all regular, local ringers at St Agatha's. It was a belated celebration of the platinum jubilee, which is perhaps, particularly poignant now.

On 24 July, we rang our "quarter peal". This was in commemoration of the life of Roy Thorpe, on the anniversary of his death. 1,260 changes, also of Plain Bob Doubles, which took 42 minutes of non-stop ringing, by three local ringers, with three of our friends and regular attendees from Wallingford.

We followed this up with a full "Peal" on 10 August. That was 2 hours and 45 minutes of non-stop ringing on all eight bells. A feat that we were delighted to achieve. And even more so, when we were congratulated by a few who had heard the bells, and who in turn were moved by it being rung for the anniversary of Roy's burial. Although it may not make sense to everyone, I would like to mention that it was a first peal for one of our local ringers, Alexander Davies, achieved at his first such attempt. The method was Plain Bob Major, the same method and composition, with the same conductor as Roy's last peal.

Lastly, I am delighted to say that we have some new learners. A couple of youngsters and their parents/ responsible adults! We now start our Tuesday evening practices at 7pm to focus on basic skills (dare I say - learning the ropes!). If you are curious about this traditional craft, please feel free to pop along to St Agatha's on a Tuesday evening. A warm welcome awaits you. Otherwise, please listen out for our lovely bells and enjoy the sound of them. And, in a future edition, I'll aim to explain a bit more about this craft.

*John Dowling*

## Meet ..... Sue Potts

### Head teacher- Brightwell cum Sotwell Primary School



After twenty-three years teaching, including ten years in her previous job as Deputy Head of All Saints Junior School in Reading, this is Sue Pott's first Headship. "I'm really excited but I won't lie, it's daunting", she says. "For all that I have a lot of experience in schools of a similar size to Brightwell suddenly you are the person that everyone is looking at – the buck rests with you. I have big shoes to fill, I know. Fin did a great job but I am really up for the challenge."

Sue doesn't strike me as someone who is going to be daunted. For one thing she is a stayer.

"I don't tend to move around if I find a school that I like". Before Reading she taught for eleven years at Harmans Water Primary School in Bracknell. This is very good news given that a few years ago before Fin Lewis came on board, Brightwell school went through a number of head teachers in a short space of time and the school suffered as a result. Numbers fell quite drastically. There are now one hundred and sixty pupils enrolled including thirty in the reception class – the maximum number.

The school got a good all-round rating in the Ofsted report early this year though it was noted that there could be some improvement with regards to applying the curriculum. Can we be reassured that Brightwell pupils are learning the 3 RRRs? "I know that writing and reading in particular are highest on the priority list here. We really do need to make sure that our children leave being able to read and write and do all those key communication skills". And the National Curriculum? "It's there as a resource to point you in the right direction; without anything you are in danger of too much freedom and perhaps not ensuring that the children leave with all those life skills that they need. I don't think any school uses it as a Bible. It lets you be flexible. You make it work for your school".

In the immediate future Sue is hoping to reinvigorate FOBS – Friends of Brightwell School – thanks to Covid schools are out of the habit of organising events and welcoming volunteer helpers into the school. "We are looking for ideas. For example, it would be lovely if people who have got skills – a

scientist of some sort say - can come in and share their experiences. It is lovely to draw on the local community".

Sue lives in Didcot with her puppy, but doesn't have children of her own. What is the attraction about being a primary school teacher? "For me it's about giving the children the best start in life that they can have, seeing the progress they make, seeing the impact you can have on their lives, knowing that I am able to make a difference. When you see what they couldn't do to start with and what they can do at the end of it, I just think its lovely".

*Alison Leigh*

## Stewart Village Hall

Firstly, please let me welcome the groups back into the hall again after the summer break.

You will find information about the groups and activities that are held in the hall on our website [stewartvillagehall.org.uk](http://stewartvillagehall.org.uk) or on our new notice boards (coming soon). To **book** the Hall please visit the website or contact Shena at [shenaluck@btinternet.com](mailto:shenaluck@btinternet.com) or on 01491 834543.

There is still time to get tickets from the Village Stores for the **70s Disco and quiz on Friday 30 September**. It promises to be a great evening raising funds for the Village Hall and the Bone Cancer Research Trust.

For all Strictly Come Dancing fans, we plan to show the Halloween Special live on the big screen on Saturday 29 October. The Hall will be decorated, mysterious and spooky, so be a little kooky, put your witches' shawl on and join us in the hall. We will also be showing the Strictly Final on 17 December, more details to follow nearer the time.

Cash bar and nibbles will be available at all events.

More of our supporters have been lucky winners in the SO Charitable Lottery. This month's star prize is £1000 Bike Voucher, so let's keep our fingers crossed. To take part please visit: <https://socharitable.co.uk/support/stewart-village-hall>.

If you have any comments, questions or feedback, you can use the 'Contact Us' page on the hall website, pop a comment in the mailbox at the rear of the hall or speak to any trustee.

*Annette Kilworth*

# Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Environment Group

## Swan Stream and Wood

I am pleased to say that, despite the drought mentioned below, the stream has continued to flow, although much diminished. As it is fed by local springs, it will be interesting to see how it performs in the coming months as the groundwater fed springs lag behind the rainfall by several weeks. The continued supply of water has created dense growth and a few areas were cleared in August so the stream could be seen! Currently it is likely that the vegetation will be cut back later in September/early October.

It is good to see use being made of the stream and woodland. At the beginning of the month it hosted a handfasting ceremony for my daughter and her partner. For those unfamiliar with the term, handfasting is an ancient Celtic ritual in which the hands are tied together to symbolize the binding of two lives. The natural beauty of the area made it a very special occasion with vows exchanged beneath the magnificent spreading willow tree (which was subsequently climbed by all the younger people!).

## Weather

The rainfall recorded at Highlands farm was 3.7mm and 9.6mm in July and August respectively. By comparison, the local averages for the months are about 47.0mm and 63.4mm based on the records in 'Portrait of a Rural Parish' published by the Group in 2013.

There were prolonged hot spells in both months with record temperatures recorded on the 18 and 19 July. Locally the maximum temperature was around 38 deg C recorded at CEH Wallingford, with a UK maximum of 40.3 deg C, a new record, being measured at Coningsby in Lincolnshire.

The combination of low rain and high temperatures has led to drought conditions with the Environment Agency in July recording 'exceptionally low' river flows on the River Thame at Wheatley and River Thames at Windsor. Indeed, the whole Thames Area has recorded only 54% of the long-term average (LTA) rainfall since April with just 7mm of rain in July which was 15% of the LTA.

**Events** -We are hoping to have a talk on sustainable farming by Mark Oldroyd (of Dart's Farm) in the autumn. Details will be announced nearer the time.

*Steve Capel-Davies*

# Fairthorne Memorial Charity

As many will know this small village charity exists to help those who are in distress or need in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and the local area.

The charity is very conscious that the current economic situation is, at best, uncertain and that for many the immediate future does not look promising financially. We may be in a position to help by providing awards or grants where the terms of the charity are met. We are not big; nor do we have lots of funds. In the past we have assisted those of all ages where individuals or families have found themselves in difficulties and in a wide range of situations, especially where funding from the Government, local authorities, or other sources is not immediately available.

The charity is proud of its record of treating requests confidentially and with sensitivity. If you think we could help you or others then please do contact us: Secretary to the Fairthorne Memorial Charity. [fnu\\_snu@msn.com](mailto:fnu_snu@msn.com)/07827 999215.

*Michael Drury*

## Ukrainian Independence Day

The Ukrainian families in Brightwell organised a celebration at Griffin House on 24 August. Guests were greeted by the tantalising smell of Ukrainian food, clusters of enormous blue and yellow balloons and an array of garden chairs and tables adorned with vases of blue and yellow flowers and ribbons and ears of corn.

While we drank Ukrainian vodka and nibbled on two different pork delicacies, Bogdan Shevchenko and Sasha Hrushko compered the proceedings beginning by welcoming and thanking the guests for their hospitality, support and kindness. We sang both our National Anthems, the children accompanied by Bogdan on his guitar. We sampled three types of Borscht, meat and vegetable dishes and amazing tiny garlic rolls. A tricky quiz followed introducing us to traditional houses, costumes, musical instruments and money.

We sang some more and lit tiny blue and yellow candles while the Caravai was paraded. Caravai is an exquisitely decorated bread baked for special occasions. Then we joined hands for a circle dance of friendship. The afternoon was a wonderful celebration of the 31st anniversary of Ukrainian independence and the sun shone in a clear blue sky. With heartfelt thanks I wish our Ukrainian friends peace.

*Amanda Potter*



## Brightwell Supporting Refugees News Update

Time speeds by, and many of the village's Ukrainian guests will have been with us for the original 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme's 6 months hosting period by October/November. Some will need to look for different or independent accommodation for the next stage of their life in the UK. **AN URGENT PLEA** – if anyone would like to host now, BSR would love to hear from you and can support you in this. Alternatively, if you or anyone you know has rental accommodation available, or if you would consider joining with others to act as guarantors or loan funds, this is also a vital need – landlords and agents that have been approached are worryingly looking for large deposits or 6 months plus rent up front. Please, please do get in touch on [brightwellrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:brightwellrefugees@gmail.com) if you can help.

BSR will of course do all we can – and your support by attending our future events all helps – so:

- 4 November Maff Potts's Funky Friday - a fun filled family musical event.
- 26 November – following the huge success of a previous sell-out 'Night of Jazz', George Potter, Maff Potts, Fleur Stevenson and their friends will entertain us once again.
- 3 December – Christmas Fair around the War Memorial 10am-1pm

This information and more on all our projects and activities can be found on our excellent new website [www.bsr-charity.org](http://www.bsr-charity.org).

Thanks to all the St Agatha's church team for the use of the church for our Ukrainian guests' conversation evenings, the children's holiday English lessons and the yoga classes; and to yoga teacher Emma Diserens.

*Angela Lewis*

### English conversation sessions for the village Ukrainians

Twice weekly informal but structured evening conversation sessions commenced in early July led by Clare Thomson, a highly experienced teacher of English as a foreign language, based on a model devised by Justin Robinson in North Moreton. A magnificent team of helpers provide 1:1 or 1:2 conversations. In early September this dropped back to once a week but still, of the 20 age-appropriate guests, 11 or 12 regularly attend, matched by enthusiastic helpers. It is very gratifying to hear how well their English is progressing whilst having so much fun at these sessions, alongside Monday coffee conversation groups led by supportive villagers, and complementing their formal classes at the Old Counting House in Wallingford.

*Andy Lewis*

## Ukrainians in Brightwell

### Lesia Chaus

Village life is very different from what I'm used to. Our lives were very full in Chernihiv. I went to the gym every day. Anya, aged 6, was training to be a dancer, Vanya, her twin, capoeira training. I regularly went to theatre and concerts. It's very difficult bringing up the children without my husband. I am very grateful to David my host because he gives Glieb, my 17 year old son the fatherly attention that a teenager needs. I cried the day I decided to leave my



life and my husband, but I work at being very strong. I am happy here. I appreciate the opportunities for us here. Glieb for example is learning to be a mechanic working part time in a garage and attending college 3 days a week. When I first arrived I only spoke a little English. Now my English is improving thanks to English classes in Wallingford and conversation classes in the church. It's all a new experience for me and I like new experiences. I am also very happy that I met my hosts. We have developed a deep friendship. I'm just sad that it had to be because of the war.

### Larysa Romanenko

I arrived in May with my daughters Maria, aged 20 and Yaryna aged 12, but Maria has already gone back to Kiev to study in the polytechnic there. My husband is in Dnipro in our house with my dog and cat and rabbit. He's in the territorial defence patrolling the streets keeping people safe and making sure they stick to the curfew.



*Larysa right*

I'm so worried about him and my parents because the town is being bombarded every day. Nobody is safe in Ukraine from the rockets. We don't know where and when they will come. It's like living in Israel. For the time being I can extend my stay with my hosts, but ideally I would go home. I can't find work in UK. I'm a lawyer but my qualifications aren't worth the paper they are written on here.

## Maryna Lutsut

At home in Ukraine I work as a kindergarten nurse. Here the only work I can find is as a cleaner because I don't speak English. I work in a local old people's home, which suits me because I don't need to speak English, and I don't need transport to get there. Transport is expensive here. I'm grateful to my boss who is very kind and very flexible and I'm very grateful to my host family who gave me part of their house to live in even though we had never met. They can't continue to host me so I must find a flat but it's very expensive. Landlords always ask for your credit history or they want you to pay six months upfront.

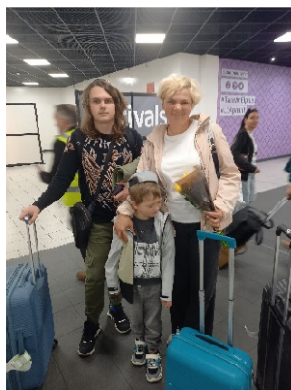
I don't have savings and I don't use credit. On top of that I have to send money back to my mother and 92 year old grandmother to pay their bills. I've asked for help from the council but I am still waiting for them to respond. I would be very happy to stay living in England if I could only find a house.



## Marianna Altukhova

Brightwell people are very kind. I don't know how you could do more for us. I live with a lovely family but it was very hard to come here and start a new life without my husband. When we moved to Kiev from Donetsk in 2014, my husband made all the arrangements for the family; now I have to do it all by myself. I have known him for 25 years. We studied together and we have lived together for 22 years without being separated. It's hard.

Brightwell is a beautiful village but I dream about my apartment, the beautiful view from the window, I dream about going to my work and having lunch at the lovely café-restaurant close by. It may sound stupid but I miss my coffee machine and my own cup! I may need to return to Ukraine to carry on my job there as a computer science teacher, but my son Yehor is now at university here. If I stay, I worry about where I shall live should I have to leave the Lewis family. I would have to find an apartment to rent and I would face the same problems as Maryna.



## Watercolour & Drawing Classes

Christina of Christina's Art Classes see [www.youtube.com/c/ChristinasArtClasses](http://www.youtube.com/c/ChristinasArtClasses) is launching a **new** class in the Stewart Village Hall, offering art lessons to people in and around the Wallingford area. She has been running watercolour and drawing lessons in Oxfordshire for many years. The classes are structured yet informal in a friendly, encouraging environment. The classes suit all abilities, whether you're a complete beginner or someone with some experience.

During Covid Christina put a few lessons on You tube so you can get a taster if you go to the link above. Classes are every Thursday afternoon, during term time from 2-4pm. Ring 07931707997 to have a chat.

## Brightwell Art Club

The 2022 Annual Exhibition for the Brightwell Art club will be 3 December in the village hall. We are extending our hours to 10am-4pm. This will be your chance to see what we've been up to this last year plus an opportunity to buy your very own original work of art. There will also be stalls from charities and local crafts people. If you are interested in running a stall, please contact Anne by email [brightwellart@gmail.com](mailto:brightwellart@gmail.com).

If you have been thinking of joining the club, please feel free to come down and see us at the village hall on Saturday mornings during term time 10am to noon.

*Anne Honeyball*

## Brightwell Toddlers

After a break for the summer holidays, Brightwell toddlers has started up again for a new term. We had a fantastic first session back, with lots of familiar faces and new families joining us. It was lovely to see the little ones enjoying playing together, and the parents and carers were able to catch up over a hot drink. New families are always welcome, please do feel free to drop in and join us at the village hall on Thursday mornings, 9:15-11am. The cost is £2.50 per family and the group is suitable for children aged 0-5 years. We can be contacted at [brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com) or via our Facebook page, [@brightwelltoddlers](https://www.facebook.com/brightwelltoddlers).

*Emily Paton-Smith*

## Village Stores and Post Office

“We are so lucky to have a village shop and all that it offers – from local gin to frozen croissants!” Recent customer.

If you too value the shop and the Post Office you can support us by joining the team or simply by becoming a regular customer.

We have restructured over the last two years, reducing our costs and enabling us to put the business on a firm financial footing. To keep our overheads and margins under control and enable us to provide the community with a viable shop and Post Office additional functions have come under the remit of the Management Committee. These voluntary posts are currently fulfilled by:

Celia Collett – Committee Chair, stock ordering, Post Mistress

Anna Bartlett – Book keeping, stock ordering

Jane Edmondson – Treasurer

Ann Cooper – Secretary

Alison Wood – Marketing

Louise Monger-Godfrey – Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Shift leader roles for both the shop and the Post Office are covered by a combination of paid staff and volunteers. Shift leaders are supported by a large band of shop volunteers ensuring we can stay open seven days a week. So, as you can see it takes a large team of people to provide these services.

We are proud the shop stayed open every day throughout the pandemic and provided lifeline deliveries throughout the village and we remain determined to serve the village for many years to come. But we can't do this without your support – both as regular customers and volunteers.

Our door is always open to those wanting to find out more about volunteering in this community enterprise either on the shop floor or behind the scenes – pop in and speak to us, drop us an email on [brightwellshop@btconnect.com](mailto:brightwellshop@btconnect.com) or contact any of the committee members for a chat.

And if you haven't visited the shop recently or you've only just moved to the village, don't be a stranger, come and find us behind the village hall.

*Village Stores and Post Office Management Committee*

## Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club is now back at Crowmarsh Pavilion for the season. Our inclusive club allows people of all ages and levels of experience to meet like-minded individuals and learn how to improve their photography through conversations with other members, presentations by visiting speakers, practical evenings and regular competitions. The club meets every Thursday at 7.30pm for an 8pm start (7.45 start on competition evenings) and we'll have a few Zoom-only sessions during the winter.

Our sessions at the Pavilion in October will take us to Japan on the 6<sup>th</sup> (with Ric Gillams), before our resident (retired) judge Gordon Roberts takes us through a critique of our own images on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On 20 October we'll have Helen Webb take us 'from humble beginnings – a journey from “a bird on a stick” to ‘high key’. Finally, on 27<sup>th</sup> Neil Cave joins us from Timeline Events with a talk entitled “Inspire, Capture, Print”!

In November we have our first competition - with a 'no set subject' prints and digital images contest (at the Pavilion). Then we head online (only) on 10<sup>th</sup> for award-winning Tracey Lund's talk on wildlife photography from around the world. On 17<sup>th</sup> we're online again for our much-anticipated talk from Jane Goodall on “The Beautiful Light”. We end the month (on 24<sup>th</sup>) with our second competition, again 'no set subject'.

*Phil Swarbrick*

## Save the Children

You will have seen in the news the terrible devastation of the flood damage in Pakistan. As the local branch of Save the Children we are raising funds for the Pakistan Flood Appeal in addition to all the other Save the Children projects in the UK and across the world.

Save the Children is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and was the first INGO (international non-government organisation) to get approval to work in all flood affected areas. Our response covers all aspects of children's survival and recovery; here are some examples of the work being carried out:

- Girls are among the most vulnerable in a crisis like this. Save the Children's mobile health teams are making sure women and children can access basic healthcare. They're also helping prevent malnutrition for children under five, with feeding and nutrition supplements.



- For children who've been through the greatest ordeal of their young lives, giving mental health and psychological support and working to protect children most at risk of exploitation.
- Helping families get shelter and the essentials they need to survive. Giving out food kits, shelter tents and mosquito nets. Also helping families with cash transfers to cover their child's individual needs and help keep their local economy alive.
- Helping to prevent the spread of water-borne disease, by building toilets and washing facilities. Repairing and installing water systems and supplying emergency water trucking to make sure people have a safe supply of drinking water.

The passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has made us all reflect on the vastness of her selfless service. It was a great honour to receive the MBE from the Queen in 2005 for services to the community of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and Save the Children.

Queen Elizabeth was Patron of Save the Children for 65 years before handing over to Princess Anne in 2017. During her time as Patron, she inspired thousands of supporters, volunteers (like myself) and staff members to increase awareness of what Save the Children does around the world and to raise funds for the charities' vital work. Our Queen was very much part of the Save the Children family and made an invaluable contribution as well as being a constant figure in our everyday lives.

Here are some dates for your diaries:

**November** Saturday 19 November 12 noon to 3pm we will be holding our Christmas Sale - Christmas cards, Christmas gifts, light lunches, cakes, tea and coffee. This will be held in the "Save the Children Marquee" in the garden of South Cottage, Sotwell Street. Please drop in to see what we have to offer.

**December** – Our annual Christmas fund raising - Christmas Trees in the Square together with our Christmas Eve event. Donations are gratefully received.

*Celia Collet*

## Brightfest 22

After two years of Covid absence, BrightFest was back in June to start a glorious summer. BrightFest 22 was certainly one of the best-ever!

What was not to enjoy? - sun, live music, food, ...belly-dancing, and a few drinks in the company of friends and family. Thanks to everyone who joined us on the day and thanks too for your kind donations at the Gate – a record year.

This year's BrightFest had record receipts of £17,700 (2019 £12,500), with big gains coming from the event day vendors and activities, and your Gate donations. We did though, manage to spend quite a lot more on – doing our own catering, band expenses, insurance, electricity needs, and some branded items for future years. All payments-made totalled £10,200 (2019 £5,100). Net funds raised were £7,500, - so marginally ahead of 2019, with a few bills still to sort before the audit.

In addition to giving back to the 'Good-Causes' that support us on the day, we are also contributing to the BcS Stewart Village Hall Redevelopment Project and to another defibrillator in the village - to be located at the Recreation Ground. We will also hold back some funds to help start up next year's BrightFest.

Many thanks once again to you all, for your generous donations and support.

None of this happens without an army of willing vendors, hardworking friends, and energetic volunteers, corporate and personal sponsors, and we need to shout out a big thank-you to those listed below:

Werner De Jong for finding the music (and playing some); John Burdass for technical advice, the PA system, and security; the irrepressible Marcus, - our compere; and Sean Morgan-Brewer & the Carr family for their non-stop cooking.

Our team leaders on the day: - Abbie Stephenson and the servers; the Gate teams run by Steve Colam; Roger Gill, Simon and Tricia Hunt for selling the raffle tickets; Angela & Andy Lewis and the BSR team running the Tea Tent; Jeremy Whetter and Sarn Terry Tug of War ; Tim Scane and the Scouts for the loan of the marquees and assistance clearing up; Micky Moore on H&S; Julie Robins, Sarah Green, Flick Whitehead, and Helen Satchell for keeping our little people bouncing and entertained in the Kid-Zone.

Corinne and Mouse from the Red Lion for providing the Bar, Andrea Gray with her Cocktails event, “BubbleDogs” warm up event organized by Sian & Peter Norfolk.

My personal thanks to BcS Parish Council for their helpful support; to Mark Brett from Wallingford 1155 charity and the Directors of Bunkfest, for the loan of their festival equipment; to Geoff Leon for the electrical installations; and to Tony Windsor (Secretary) and Phil Thompson (Treasurer) of the BrightFest Organising Committee for making the whole thing happen!

*Eliot Forster, Chairman BrightFest Organising Committee*

## NEW Broadcasting Britain Book

Looking for the perfect Christmas present? Then look no further than ‘Broadcasting Britain: 100 years of the BBC’, which I have just written! Created 100 years ago on 18 October 1922, the BBC transformed people’s lives at the turn of a dial, bringing voices out of the ether and conjuring the magic community of radio. Now our lives are inextricably linked to broadcasting. It is how we remember where we come from and who we are – from the Moon Landing to 9/11, from Monty Python to EastEnders, from Live Aid to London 2012 Olympics.

I wanted to bring that sense of individual and collective memory into writing this book for the BBC centenary, as well as sourcing revelatory anecdotes and stories about the programmes we know so well, and adding many wonderful (often previously unseen) photos from the BBC’s vast Photography Archive.

As Head of BBC History, I chart the story of a broadcaster and a nation, reflecting the story of our lives across the decades. TODAY presenter Nick Robinson kindly wrote the Foreword for the book, and says of it: ‘Every page of Broadcasting Britain is a reminder of a programme we loved, a presenter we trusted, a theme tune we can still hum or a shared national moment’.

The book is published by Dorling Kindersley for the BBC, and is available now for £25. Any questions about the book, don’t hesitate to get in touch on [robert.seatter@bbc.co.uk](mailto:robert.seatter@bbc.co.uk).

*Robert Seatter*

## BcS Cricket Club (Est 1858)

In unusually hot and dry conditions the village cricket team has toiled away to provide another season of hard-fought and occasionally thrilling cricket. We have enjoyed several close matches both winning and losing but agreeing that cricket was the winner. The adult squad has had a positive season and enjoyed a successful tour to Dorset. We are particularly pleased to welcome several new players to the club who have added to our all-round cricketing abilities.

The junior section continues to go from strength to strength. 25 5-8 year olds attended All Stars Coaching from May to July this season. Thanks to retiring coach and lead activator Mickey Rooney for all his hard work these many years. (“We can’t hear what you said! can you speak up”). Also to Alex Pearman, a parent of one of our All Stars, who volunteered as lead activator working alongside Roger Gill.

Chris Benarr, assisted by Duncan Chandler has coached the Development Group every Friday from May to September for juniors from 8-15 years, with over 40 participating this season. Thank you, Chris, for your dedication.

In addition, an U11 Pairs hard ball Team played in the Oxfordshire Youth League with 6 fixtures including a solid victory over Didcot and 2 of the defeats secured only on the last ball. The members of the league squad included Alex Benarr, Albert Barringer, Charlie Bodley, Bea Arnold, Reuben Arnold, Jasmine George, Jack Prior, Magnus Norfolk, Theo Tapping, Seth Menzies, Hugo Chandler, Darcey Terry, and Barney Lowe. This was a big year, stepping up to hard ball cricket and lays the foundation for 2 years ahead of U13, 20 Over Cricket. It is also planned that the younger members of the development squad will play U11 Pairs Soft Ball League Cricket next year.

Our thanks to Steve Metcalf for his sterling efforts with the ground and pitch, to the Parish Council for supporting the club in ground maintenance and to the Red Lion for our excellent teas!

No club can or will be successful without the volunteers who support it.

We are delighted to announce that Tony Windsor, a playing member of the adult team for the past 22 years, club and fixtures Secretary and organizer of the annual cricket tour since 2008, has been awarded a “Lifetime Achiever Award” by Oxfordshire County cricket! We are thrilled for Tony and pass our warmest congratulations and thanks to him for all his efforts on behalf of the supporters and players at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Cricket Club!

*Eliot Forster, BCSCC Club Captain*

## Conversations with a Kite.

The Red Kite sits on the top branch  
of the straggly fir tree singing. Over time I have learned  
to imitate its call well enough for it to pause,  
twist its head and look down in my direction.  
Today, very excitedly, my two little grand-daughters  
rushed into the bungalow clutching some Kite tail-feathers  
and proceeded to tickle my face.  
Ffion, the eldest, aided by her sibling Seren, insisted I held them.  
I found rich, dark colours that shone and glistened  
in the light as I turned them, one longer than Ffion's forearm.  
When I told them the kite and I sang to each other  
they laughed, Ffion adding 'You are the silliest adult Granpi!  
Later I heard it singing and called the girls  
to the back garden. Again came its gentle falling call  
followed by a string of little chirps and a pause.  
I answered. It turned to look down then responded.  
The girls looked at me in disbelief.  
This time my reply was a bit off, disjointed and sharp,  
not my usual standard.  
Suddenly, as though alarmed, the bird took off, swooping down  
towards us, up and over the bungalow and was gone,  
startling the girls in the process.  
'Wow' I whispered, with an arm around each.  
'D'you think it was something I said?'

*Tony Vincent Isaacs*

## **theWI** INSPIRING WOMEN **Brightwell-cum-Sotwell**

After such glorious weather in August the first garden visit in September was a bit wet. Three of us ventured to Wisley for the Plant Fair through torrential rain. We were lucky that it cleared just after we arrived and we had a good day in the lovely gardens and buying one or two plants! The return journey was also through heavy rain!

At our September meeting we had a change of topic – feeling that a talk on Royal Scandals would not be appropriate at this time. Instead Emma Diserens of Silverwood Yoga Studio in the village got us doing a short practice of chair

yoga, which members thoroughly enjoyed. After which we had a moment's silence to reflect before the business of the day.

We are very aware that the late Queen was a WI member, indeed President of the Sandringham WI, for many years along with her mother and I think her grandmother.

This month we have a talk on raising awareness of Diabetes and the work of Diabetes UK.

*Annie Brooker, President*

## Wanted: Bakers for Wallingford Market

Wallingford Market is open every Friday morning in St. Mary-le-More Church (behind the Town Hall) between 9.30am-12 noon, where we sell a range of baking, plants & produce, preserves, honey, eggs (when available) and crafts.

However we are sorry to say that the number of bakers has decreased. So to ensure we continue to offer a good range of baked goods, from October the Bakery Table will only be available on the first and third Fridays of the month, (ie 7/21 Oct, 4/18 Nov, 2/16 Dec, with an extra special Christmas Market 23 Dec, our final one of 2022). We return after the Christmas break on the third Friday, 20 January, 2023.

A special 'Apple Day' has been arranged for 7 October, and Mince Pie Tasting is planned for 18 November, also the start of Christmas Orders for most baked items we sell.

Note that all the other usual products will still be available every Friday at the church.

Baking will be available again each Friday if we can recruit new bakers. So, if you love to cook, (sweet or savoury), and feel that you may like to join us, please contact Alison (our Market Manager) for further information: 01491 681596 or pop into market one Friday morning and speak with her, or any of the bakers. You would not necessarily have to bake every week – but any additional help is going to be very much appreciated.



Editor's note: I reckon our Ukrainian guests could make a killing baking Caravai (pictured) for the market stalls.

# What's on at the Corn Exchange, October

## Cinema

The Good News: Live matinee performances return to the Corn exchange cinema in October, initially on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm. Please look at the website for updates. This will continue if there is sufficient demand.

The Bad News: Due to significant increases in our energy costs, the Corn Exchange is having to raise the cinema price for adults to £10 for all showings as from 1st October 2022. Under 15 prices will remain at £5. Prices for live screenings will also rise to £18 (adults), £15 (over 60s) £10 (under 18s) for showings from that date.

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Please note that we will start on time and that latecomers will only be allowed in after the start of the film where there is no disruption to sitting patrons. This means that we may have to reseat some latecomers. For Live Screenings we reserve the right to seat latecomers in the Curtis Room where there is a large screen relay. The bar and auditorium will open from 7pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand.

2-4 October, 7:30pm      The Forgiven (18)  
7-9 October, 7:30pm      See How They Run (12A)  
Saturday, 8 October, **2:30pm**      See How They Run (12A)  
10, 11, 13, 14 October, 7:30pm      Mrs. Harris goes to Paris (PG)  
Wednesday 12 October, **2:30pm**      Mrs. Harris goes to Paris (PG)  
14-16 October, 7:30pm      Ticket to Paradise

## Live Screenings

Wednesday, 5th October, 7:15pm - The Royal Ballet: Mayerling, live from Covent Garden -Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (senior citizens), £10 (under 18s)

Thursday, 6th October, 7pm -NT Live: Jack Absolute Flies Again, recorded at the National Theatre. London - Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (senior citizens), £12.50 (under 18s)

Wednesday, 12th October, 6:45 - The Royal Opera: Aida, live from Covent Garden - Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (senior citizens), £10 (under 18s)

## Live on Stage

Wednesday, 28th September to Saturday, 1st October, 7:45 - Sinodun Players present Twelfth Night - Tickets £12

# VILLAGE DIARY

NB **30 September** – 70s Disco & Quiz, doors open 6.30pm Village Hall

## October

9	(Late) Summer Concert	St	6.30pm
11	WI talk on Diabetes UK & awareness	Agatha's	VH 7.30pm
16	Jazz Jam	Red Lion	6.30pm
26	Community Association AGM (Stewart Rm)	VH	7pm
28	Fancy Dress Adults Halloween Disco	Red Lion	
29	Live screening of Strictly Come Dancing Halloween Special	VH	7pm

## November

4	BSR Funky Friday musical event	VH	7.30pm
8	WI 'Crafts for Christmas'	VH	7.30pm
19	Save the Children Christmas Sale	South Cottage	10am
26	BSR's Night of Jazz	VH	7.30pm

## Advance Notice

3 December	Art Club Exhibition at the Village Hall
3 December	BSR Christmas Fair at the War Memorial
17 December	Live Screening of Strictly Come Dancing Final VH
8 January	Wassail

## Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	13 & 27 October
	10 & 24 November
Green (& brown) bins	6 & 20 October
	3 (plus extra garden waste), &17 November

## Village website

For more information about Brightwell-cum-Sotwell visit the village website: [www.brightwellcumshotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcumshotwell.co.uk).