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Items for the next edition should be sent to the Editor by 10 May

2022. *The Villager* is published every other month and delivered free to all households in the village.

Editorial

I wrote in the last edition that I hoped we were through the worst of Covid but sadly it is still around and affecting quite a lot of us at the moment. I hope those who have recently been ill with this second BA.2 strain are recovering now. And of course, we have another tragedy – the war in Ukraine. It is heart-breaking to see the pictures and stories on the news. Many of you I know have been very generous in making cash donations to the DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee) which involves 15 organisations like Save the Children; see Celia's report on page 16. BSR have set up an action group to support villagers who wish to take Ukrainians into their homes and offer practical help to them (see pages 21-22).

With this issue, comes an insert about the Neighbourhood Plan Review (also see Parish Council report on page 4). Your response is needed. Also needed are views on the future of our church buildings, see page 9. In addition, there is the development of the village hall, to hear more about soon. An interesting new village initiative is the Heating Project exploring the future of community-led heating (page 10).

Looking ahead to the next few months, we see the welcome return of two favourite events - Brightfest on 11 June and the fete on 9 July. We will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the weekend of 2-5 June, see page 12. But there are lots of other events to enjoy in the village both old and new - a pre-school welly walk and cake stall on 2 April, a dog show on 23 April, the Church spring fair on 7 May, the plant sale on 14 May and Open Gardens afternoon on 22 May, plus all the Easter church services. So don't go away on holiday in the next few months but stay to enjoy a lot right here at home which will hopefully lift our spirits and we can start socialising again!

And finally, we heard about the sad loss of one of the first 'Villagers', John Griggs, who played such an important role in getting our magazine started. Our condolences go to his family.

Happy Easter - and don't eat too many chocolate eggs.

Helen Connor

Thank you Susanne Tuffrey who gave us this springtime photo at St James' churchyard for the front cover.

John Griggs (1934-2022)

I imagine that there are only a few left in the village who will remember John Griggs, but his name lives on in the annals of *The Villager*. With Fred Heyworth, he started *The Villager* magazine in 1974. Fred was its first editor and John managed its production. He had a printing background and owned a Gestetner duplicating machine which manually printed all the pages from typed wax 'skins' in his kitchen at St Cecilia. Then, a team would assemble the pages (actually not very different from today's assembly!)

John was born in Yeovil and spent most of his childhood in Shiplake near Reading. He attended Henley Grammar school, studied natural sciences at Reading University, followed by national service where he was posted to Christmas Island and witnessed the hydrogen bomb tests there. After his marriage to Mavis in 1959, he worked in several jobs around the country and returned to Oxfordshire in 1972 with his family to run a bookbindery in Cowley. He came to live in Brightwell to be closer to his job and decided to move here after seeing ducks wandering down the road!

John took part in many aspects of village life. He was involved with the Church and organised fundraising events for the village Scouts including the raffle at regular Friday night bingo in the village hall and the purchase of a boat. He sang in St Agatha's church choir, played the double bass in a chamber group, was a founder member of the art club and took a leading role in the village's one and only Gilbert and Sullivan production *Trial by Jury*.

They moved away in 1995 to Herefordshire into retirement, to downsize and to live in a more rural setting. But he kept in contact with old friends in the village and continued with his love of music and his connection to the printed word as editor of the 'Pyoneer', another local village magazine. We send our condolences to his family.

Helen Connor

(With thanks to his son Jonathan for giving me information about his father's early life and to Olive Sutcliffe, Eric Dore and others for their fond memories of him.)

Parish Council Update

School bus

The school bus that serves Brightwell will potentially be stopping in the next 2 years. At a meeting with all the parishes affected, it was decided that every effort should be made to ensure a school bus still serves the village. As a Parish Council we will do our very best to keep this valuable service.

If, despite all efforts, we are unsuccessful, then we will work to ensure that there will be a safe place to cross the main road, so that children can cycle or walk to Wallingford school safely.

Fallen trees and damage to recreational equipment

Residents have kindly reported fallen trees and equipment damage on Facebook during the recent storms. Please could we request that you also let the Parish Council Office know by logging on to our email address. This will allow us to make the area safe as quickly as possible. Contact Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parish Council at bcsparishcouncil@googlemail.com.

Parish Council Grants

As we come out of the pandemic, we are so pleased to see clubs, societies, events and community initiatives starting back up again. The Parish Council would like to continue to support all parts of our community especially during this year when groups may not have been able to hold their normal events and fundraisers due to Covid. Each year the Parish Council has a limited amount of money to financially assist local groups and organisations working within the community. Grants awarded are generally between £50-£500. If you think your organisation may benefit and qualify for a donation this year, please get in touch with the parish clerk for more information and details on how to apply; see email above.

Brightwell cum Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan 2011-35

Brightwell cum Sotwell Parish Council took the decision to update its Neighbourhood Plan in November 2021 to bring it in line with new legislation and planning practice. The existing neighbourhood plan has been modified and the Parish Council is looking for your views on the changes. The draft Neighbourhood Plan modifications and supporting documents are available ONLINE at: www.brightwellcumsotwellpc.co.uk.

Paper copies are available to view in the Parish Office, The Red Lion and the Village Stores (please see the parish council website for opening hours). Two public drop-in sessions will be held, in the Stewart Room Village Hall: 10am-12 noon Saturday 2 April and 6-8pm Tuesday 5 April. You can send your comments by email or letter to: bcsparishcouncil@googlemail.com or by post to The Parish Clerk, The Parish Office, The Village Hall, West End, Brightwell cum Sotwell, OX10 ORY. Please include your name and address in your comments (a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan Privacy Statement is available on request). This consultation runs from 21 March–4th May 2022.

James Davys

Rocketman Sing-Along

At last! After a two year wait, the epic musical fantasy about Sir Elton John's



breakthrough years will be showing in the village hall on Saturday 2 April at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 from the Village Stores or Shena Luck: 01491 834543. Any tickets already purchased in 2020 will be valid.

The film tells the extraordinary story of the transformation of shy piano prodigy Reginald Dwight

into international superstar Elton John. Lead actor Taron Egerton recently won a Golden Globe award for his performance. Come dressed in your finest 70s/80s clothes (not obligatory!) and sing your heart out to Elton's classic songs with the on-screen lyrics. The film will be screened in cinema-quality 4K High Definition with surround sound, using the village hall's fantastic new projection system.

On this new date, the hall will be arranged with tables, bistro-style, so you can enjoy the film while having drinks with friends. A licensed cash bar will serve beer, wine and soft drinks and there will be a prize for the best costume! Get your tickets - **it's this Saturday!**

Chris Baines

Community Association

Open Gardens Sunday 22 May

We are very lucky that 10 keen and talented gardeners have agreed to open their gardens on the afternoon of Sunday 22 May for everybody to enjoy, on what we hope will be a beautiful day. Afternoon tea will be available to refresh you on the journey round the village.

All open gardens will be clearly signed - on visiting the first one you will be able to purchase a map and pass (cash only) which then enables you to visit the rest. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jubilee Beacon - Brightwell Barrow Thursday 2 June

To start the village Platinum Jubilee celebrations, a beacon will be lit on Brightwell Barrow at 9.45 pm by kind permission of David and Rosemary Greasby. The Community Association will be assisting them. There will also be a firework display provided by Jonathan Hares.

Gates will be open from 8pm and there will be a voluntary collection. The surplus of this collection will be used to give grants to support village groups through the year. We very much hope to see you there.

Village Fete - Sotwell House Saturday 9 July

I am very pleased to say that Jenny and David Dobbin have kindly allowed us to hold the fete in their lovely gardens. Full details will be given in the next *Villager*. In the meantime, save the date in your diary and start looking in the attic for those previously loved treasures to contribute to the White Elephant Stall!

James Davys

Identity Crisis

*After every seven years it is said
All our living cells are replaced.*

*I am now twelve different people,
A knee, a thigh, a buttock and a waist.*

Tony Isaacs

St Agatha's and St James' – the vicar writes

Sometimes it seems that we are tossed about in a storm with wave after wave of bad news hitting us. Having had the worst of COVID pass, we have an increase in the cost of living and spiralling energy bills which will hit the poorest most. Now the sad reality of war in Europe and the sheer number of refugees seems overwhelming, and we feel helpless to do much about it. Where can we find hope?

Through Lent, we journey with Christ to the cross. As we reach the climax of Holy Week, we begin with the false dawn of Christ's entry into Jerusalem as the long-awaited Son of David. The crowd hoped that he would restore the Kingdom of Israel, but they are fickle and turn on him within days when it becomes clear that his plans are different to theirs. Fighting for earthly power was not his way. Even his closest disciples desert him when he is arrested and sentenced to the criminal's execution - crucifixion. All hope seems to be lost as he died on that first Good Friday...but then comes Easter. New life breaks forth into the worst of despair. Instead of embalming a dead body, the women find his tomb already open and nothing inside but the empty grave clothes, like an empty chrysalis shell. Jesus is risen! He is alive!

The even better news is that Jesus has conquered death for us too. The paradox is that it is through the cross that we find our hope. Our baptism symbolises our dying with him so that we can also accept his new life in us. We worship the Servant King who gave up everything, even his life, for us so that we may know his resurrection. He is worthy of all our hope, trust and worship.

In this dark world, may you know the light and peace of Christ. Blessings

Rev Kev

The Revd Kevin Beer. Email:teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk

Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)

Easter Services:

Palm Sunday – 10 April, 10am Procession from St James' to St Agatha's

Good Friday – 15 April, 11am Churches Together Service in the Market Place, Wallingford

Easter Sunday – 17th April, 9.30am Festival of Communion at St Agatha's, followed by Easter Egg Hunt.

Other Services

Beating of the Bounds – Sunday 22 May, from St Agatha's, 10.30am and ending with Rogation Service approx. 3pm

Ascension Day Team Communion – Thursday 26 May, 7.30pm at St Agatha's
Livestreamed Services on www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe

The future of our church buildings

Vicar, Kevin Beer, has written above, looking forward through Lent to the central event of Christian faith - Easter. We face a more-earthly dilemma concerning the future of our church buildings for which the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible. The issue is simple: how can we continue to maintain them, and maintain them both, in a world of falling and ageing congregations where the buildings need substantial and serious maintenance presently beyond the financial resources available?

Both buildings are beautiful in their own way and enjoy stunning settings: St Agatha's developed over many centuries, adapting to the changes of the Anglican faith and St James' as a glorious Victorian chapel built under an ancient roof. I would invite you to come to see them if you don't know them.



For some, and perhaps even more important to Brightwell-cum-Sotwell as a whole, they are central, even vital, symbols of our village life.



Whilst the PCC is loath to lose places of worship, we fear that without something being done, very hard choices will be forced upon us.

As we consider the future of the buildings, we need your help. It would be untrue to say this is not a plea for financial support; it will be. We have works costing up to £500,000 that we need to carry out simply to keep the buildings in a fit state of repair. As with all building expenses, there will be options here, especially as to timing of any such outlay; but whatever the final cost, and however long it can be eked out for, the expense is there and it is big. We also need to pay our core parish share (currently £33,500) – what the PCC pays to the Church of England (C of E) to enable it to have a vicar and remain part of the church - which we do from regular contributions. Over the last two years in lockdown, we have had to dip into our (dwindling) reserves which we are fortunate to have. That leaves us with two financial challenges: ongoing regular giving to cover core costs and the wider need to preserve the buildings.

But we are seeking more than that. First, we are seeking to understand what Brightwell-cum-Sotwell as a community both thinks and feels about its church buildings. We are looking for ideas as to how we, as a community, can raise money, yes, but also how to maintain (in every sense) those buildings as central to the life of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. We believe they are cherished as part of our village community. But we also want to see them become more vibrant and used more widely; returning to the centre of village life.

We would invite your view (at fnu_snu@msn.com or at other contact details below) and ask if you would be prepared to help us. We hope that in consulting we can identify a bright future for both buildings and the means to achieve that. Please step forward now and give us your views and your help as we formulate a plan for the coming years and decades.

Kevin Beer has helpfully published a blog containing more detail, which also invites your views see:
<https://revkevbeer.blogspot.com/2022/03/a-church-and-its-buildings.html>.

Finally, we encourage everyone to subscribe to our email notices in order to stay in touch with the latest church news, available via the following link:
Notices – Wallingford Church of England Ministry Team
(wallingfordcofe.org.uk).

Michael Drury, churchwarden (for the PCC)
fnu_snu@msn.com
07827 999215

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell's Heating Project

The Heating Brightwell-cum-Sotwell website has now launched <https://www.heatingbrightwellsotwell.co.uk/> providing information, news and updates about the project which is exploring the future of low-carbon, affordable, community-led heating in the parish.

Funded by a grant from the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF), Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parish Council has employed Bioregional – an environmental charity with 20 years' experience in developing zero-carbon homes – alongside Fairheat and ICAX, to assess the viability of a community-scale zero-carbon heating solution. You can find out more about the project and the team on the website's 'About' page.

Over the next few months, we will be working with the community in conducting a feasibility study to determine what community-led heating could look like in the parish, and the best way this could be developed. As the study progresses, we will provide regular updates on our website and through the community social media channels. Once the initial study has been completed in the springtime, we will be hosting a community workshop to present and discuss the findings, hear your views, and begin to explore the possibilities moving forward.

In the meantime, if you would like to get involved and help inform the study, please consider filling out our short survey on your home and household energy. We want to ensure the whole community is heard and represented within the study, so the more information we can gather, the better. If you'd like to take part, please go to <https://www.heatingbrightwellsotwell.co.uk/get-involved>. All responses are anonymous and data will be only be kept for the duration of the project. Thank you!

Best wishes,

Bioregional project team

Environment Group

Swan Stream and Wood Project

The stream has now been in place for a year and is looking very mature. Over the last few months, the in-stream vegetation, especially the fools cress, has grown extensively. Consequently, we have had a session removing excess growth which has also allowed us to clear some of the accumulated silt leaving sections of clear water over the gravel bed. As ever with a project like this, we will keep an eye on how it develops and carry out limited work to keep a variety of habitats.

The end of February saw the construction and erection of nine bird boxes in Swan Wood. They have a variety of opening sizes so as to appeal to different species. Hopefully they will know which to make a home in!

The recent storm did bring down a lot of small debris but not any trees within either the Swan or Millennium Wood which was surprising.

Weather

The rainfall recorded at Highlands farm was 17.6mm and 59.9 mm in January and February respectively. The local averages for the months are about 53 and 38mm based on the records in 'Portrait of a Rural Parish' published by the Group in 2013. The Met Office report for winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) has the overall rainfall as being 70–90% of the 1991–2020 average with the temperature between 1 and 1.5°C warmer than average which made it the 8th warmest since 1884. A memorable aspect of recent weeks is the passage of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin between 16-21 February. Fortunately damage in this area was not great.

Talks

Now that people are feeling more comfortable about meeting in person we plan to hold a talk in the village hall later in the year. We will let you know details when arrangements have been made.

Steve Capel-Davies

Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2-5 June

There are several activities being planned over the Jubilee Weekend in the village starting with the Beacon on Thursday evening 2 June (see page 13) and culminating in a big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5 June, from 1pm, all along The Street from the pub to the war memorial. There will also be a chance to watch the Platinum Party at the Palace live on the big screen in the village hall on Saturday 4 June, see page 13.



At the Jubilee Lunch, tables and bunting will be provided; please bring your own chairs and picnic. It's all still in the planning phase as we write, but as things materialise, we will post on the community Facebook page and posters will go up when events are finalised. We'll need lots of help with tables, ideas etc so please let us know if you would like to get involved by emailing Brightwelljubilee@gmail.com.

The Jubilee Team

St Agatha's Churchyard

Like me, you might be surprised to learn that a VERY small group of dedicated people (not necessarily even St Agatha's worshippers), keep the peaceful haven of St Agatha's churchyard in its delightful and ordered state. If you enjoy gardening, the satisfaction of well mowed grass, a good bonfire and splashing about stream clearing, or just strolling through the grounds, a little of your time would be hugely valuable – either under the excellent guidance of Sue & Charles Hunt on Friday mornings or anytime at your own convenience. Please get in touch (Sue Hunt 07484 712377).

Angela Lewis

Stewart Village Hall

Survey update

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey on the future development of the hall. Your comments and suggestions have been absorbed into the final brief to our architect. We are now planning a series of fundraising events and activities to keep you informed of progress and to continually seek your input and feedback. The first one will be our Film Night on Saturday 2 April. Come and join this Sing-Along version of Elton John's story told in *Rocketman* – see details on page 5.

Hall development

We will be at the Church spring fair on Saturday 7 May to share an update on the development project and ask for your feedback. Visit our stall to find out more and have some fun taking part in the hall's activity.

There will be lots more opportunities for you to be involved and feedback on the hall development; your comments are always welcome. 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.

Jubilee celebrations

Join us in the hall on Saturday 4 June to watch the Platinum Party at the Palace live on the big screen. The BBC is planning a special live concert from Buckingham Palace that will bring together some of the world's biggest entertainment stars to celebrate the most significant and joyous moments from the queen's seven-decade reign. More details to follow as plans come together.

SO Charitable Lottery

Finally, thank you once again to everyone who continues to support the hall through the SO Charitable Lottery - we really do appreciate your support. This month's star prize is a £1000 B+Q voucher. To take part please visit: <https://www.socharitable.co.uk/support/stewart-village-hall>.

If you have any queries or would like to book the hall please visit our website: stewartvillagehall.org.uk or contact Shena at shenaluck@btinternet.com or on 01491 834543.

Annette Kilworth

The Village Lunch

A long overdue update on our Village Lunch meetings. Thank you to those who continue to support this group, which has recently dropped in numbers, due to the usual reasons and changes in circumstances. Presently we have 27/28, with a capacity for 32, so if anyone would like to join us please contact myself Jacqui Brown, 01491 836018 or Eastlyn Horsfield 01491 832041.

A little about us ...

- We serve a 2 course, home cooked meal [main, dessert, tea and coffee]; with wine, crackers and a raffle accompanying our traditional Christmas Lunch.
- We meet on a Tuesday from 12.15pm to approx 1.30pm.
- The price is £4.00 for our regular lunch and £8.00 for the Christmas meal.
- We aim to do these lunches 4 times a year, so they reflect seasonal dishes.
- Obviously Covid interrupted these meals significantly, which disappointed us all. We did keep in touch with Easter homemade cakes, a September afternoon tea and a house plant at Christmas.

Lunch dates this year

We are now ready to resume these lunches and enjoy the social aspects too.

The dates this year are: Tuesdays: 21 June 13 September 6 December

Helpers

We do have a great team of helpers - THANK YOU - but if you would like to join us, please feel free to be in contact with myself or Eastlyn (see our tel numbers above). Our helpers cover the baking of the meals, washing up etc, the putting out and taking down of tables and chairs.

Our treasurer is Adrian Collett. The baking team members are currently: Jacqui Brown, Eastlyn Horsfield, Sue Collett, Sue Nicholls and Olga Maw. Adrian Morrison puts up the tables; Monica Sheard washes up for us. It would be a great help to have one more helper in the kitchen with Monica.

I will phone existing members soon to confirm attendance for the June lunch. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Jacqui Brown

Village Shop and Post Office

On 9 March, a very loyal and competent member of staff, Michelle, lost her fight with cancer. For over two and half years Michelle had gone through a series of chemotherapy and other treatments. During this time, she was still committed to the shop and post office, coming in during treatments to keep up with the post office compliance training so that she could continue to help us. Michelle will be greatly missed by all the team and our customers.

Michelle is an excellent example of what it is to be a member of the shop and post office team. Although Michelle didn't live in the village, it doesn't stop any member of staff or volunteer from going the extra mile and giving the all-round good service we are proud of.

We truly put people before profit in our community business. The lovely comments we get from people in our neighbouring villages and Wallingford shows how much they appreciate the services we offer. In fact, we have just welcomed three lovely ladies from Wallingford as volunteers.

Please consider becoming a volunteer, training for the Post Office, or a member of the Management Committee, which will ensure these valued services are sustained well into the future.

The Village Stores team

Church spring fair

This year's fair will be held on Saturday 7 May from 2-4pm in St Agatha's Church and grounds. The fair is one of the major fund-raising events we hold as a church to support ongoing running costs.

Once again teddy bears will be parachuting or flying the zip line from the Bell Tower, teas and cake will be served from the church room, and much more. We would welcome donations of books and white elephant items either directly to the church from Monday 18 April or we can arrange earlier storage if required, please get in touch

If you would like support and help with the event, either with baking a cake, set up or on the day do please get it touch at louise@grassmoon.com.

Save the Children

Thank you to all those that have supported our *Justgiving* page. Our committee member, Sue Butt, kindly set up the page to enable people to give to Save the Children (part of the Disaster Emergency Committee) in a quick and efficient way. At the time of printing, we have sent £1380, plus Gift Aid contributions. We will keep this *Justgiving* page open to enable any further contributions to be added.

Ukraine

I wanted to share with you an update (at beginning of March) on what Save the Children is doing to support children and families affected by the conflict in **Ukraine**. Currently, Save the Children is supporting children still in Ukraine with online mental health sessions. Also, it is providing support through local partners, like Slavic Heart (who works in eastern Ukraine), to make sure families can access medicine as well as water and dwindling food supplies. As the conflict intensifies, more and more families are coming to Slavic Heart to stock up on essentials and find a safe place to sleep before they continue their journey. As I write Slavic Heart is supporting more than 1,000 people who fled their homes; about 60% are mothers with small children and pregnant women. In addition to this, Save the Children, together with their partner organisations, is rapidly scaling up their operations in Ukraine. In Romania, Save the Children is making sure families can get food, clothing, toys and essentials like nappies, and also helping children to stay safe and offering psychological support to help them cope with this massive upheaval. It is also getting ready to help families in Poland where the number of refugees continues to increase dramatically; and near the border of Romania and Ukraine, it is helping children to play and recover from the terrible experiences they've been through. It's still early days in the response; Save the Children will continue to expand, working through partners, with both refugee and host communities.

Wider impact

The conflict in Ukraine will also have wider-reaching impacts for children already coping with crises in other countries. For instance, the global reliance on Russia and Ukraine's wheat supply – making up more than a quarter of the world's wheat in 2019 – could end up cutting off this staple to populations in already fragile contexts, such as Yemen and Lebanon, and driving prices to skyrocket. In Lebanon, up to 80% of wheat imports come from Russia and

Ukraine. Reliance on Russian oil and gas will also drive up the cost of living for families here in the UK and around the world.

Save the Children's Emergency Fund (part of DEC - Disaster Emergency Committee) supports children and families wherever the need is greatest, to survive when disaster strikes, rebuild their lives and prepare for future shocks. By donating to this flexible fund, you can help children make it through crises and believe in a better future.

The Save the Children local committee has been in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell for over 60 years, and new members are always welcome. Please contact me if you are interested.

Fundraising events

We will be holding the following fundraising events to hopefully bring enjoyment to our community whilst raising these much needed funds: -

- 23 April – DOG SHOW from 2-5pm at the Recreation Ground. Details will be sent out via Facebook and posters
- 14 May – PLANT SALE at The Square, 10am-12 noon
- 5 June – TEA and ICE CREAM at the Jubilee Lunch
- 25 June - SAVE THE BONE CHARITY BALL with a Band Night & BBQ on 24th.

Thank for your support.

Celia Collett

Brightfest is back !

After a two year break, Brightfest is back on Saturday 11 June, from midday.

A number of acts have already been confirmed for Brightfest 22 so the final line up will be up on Facebook very soon. Put the date in your diary and come on down to the Recreation Ground in Brightwell for a fun day of music, drinks, food and more.

Brightwell Toddlers

What a lovely time we have been having at Toddlers! Lots of new families coming along and even some we haven't seen for a couple of years - really lovely to see you all. We had a great time on World Book Day dressing up as our favourite characters and we have been loving our weekly music time when we sing our favourite songs and play our instruments.

Our volunteers as always have been fantastic, helping us out in the kitchen and with the little ones - it makes a huge difference for us and we can't thank you enough!

If you would like to come along with your little one(s) or volunteer at one of our sessions, we meet in the village hall on Thursday mornings (term-time only) 9.15-11am. Ages 0-4yrs, £2.50/family.

For more information, please email brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com. You can also keep up to date with what we are doing on our Brightwell Toddlers Facebook page.

Have a great Easter everyone!

Laura Woodford



The annual meeting of the WI was held in March. All of the committee have agreed to stay on; Anne Brooker was elected as President. After the formal business of the meeting, we intended to spend time looking at the archives and prepare some display material to celebrate our centenary. As there was not enough time for this, a special workshop was held during March to start putting together a centenary exhibition for later in the summer.

Our next meeting will be the postponed Ukulele Workshop on Tuesday 12 April. This will be a fun evening with ukuleles provided by tutor Karina Jordan. On 10 May we will have a talk on 'Dogs for Good' about how assistance dogs are trained to help adults and children lead more independent lives. If you would like to join the WI or come along as a visitor, contact Anne at brightwellcumshotwellwi@gmail.com and she can give you more information. You would be very welcome.

Helen Connor, Secretary

Tennis coaching

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Kings Meadow Tennis club in conjunction with the National Tennis Association is offering tennis coaching sessions for 11–16 year-olds at Brightwell Tennis Club. They started on Saturday 19 March from 4-5pm and will run throughout the year up to the time the clocks go back in October 2022 (throughout the whole year if we can arrange to have lights fitted to the courts). In addition, it is planned to offer a number of tennis camps during the easter and summer holidays.

This new coaching session will be led by LTA Level 4 coach George Fitrzyk. With a wealth of coaching experience, George is keen to get started! Each week George will educate the players in the techniques and tactics of tennis while making sure everyone has a great time on a tennis court. Contact Tony Windsor for more information on 07909 848098 or go on to <https://nationaltennis.org.uk/about/contact/> to email, speak on live chat and to find out more about *Sign up now and receive a two-week free pass!*

Tony Windsor, Chairman BCSKMTC

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Golf Day

Calling all golfers! sadly, our annual golf day has been missing from the calendar over the last couple of years but we are pleased to announce there will be an event in 2022!

We have booked The Springs golf course for Friday 1 July from 12 midday. Golf will be followed by a meal and presentations. We welcome all golfers of all standards to join our villager only event which is intended to be a social get together to celebrate golf and Brightwell cum Sotwell!

Unfortunately, due to a technical difficulty we have lost our database of players so will not be able to contact those who have previously taken part – please put the date in your diary and further details will be published in the next edition of *The Villager* and on the village website.

If you wish to register your interest now, please email Paul_Ingram@Tinyworld.co.uk and we will contact you with full information in due course.

The Brightwell Pre-school Annual Welly Walk returns!

We are delighted to once again host our Annual Welly Walk on Saturday 2 April to raise much needed funds for our wonderful pre-school. We will be meeting at 2pm outside the Kings Meadow playground and taking little ones on a (short) welly walk around the village, followed by refreshments and a cake sale at the Kings Meadow playground.

The cake sale and refreshments are open to all, so do please join us for a cuppa if you are passing and support your local pre-school, a perfect excuse to enjoy some homemade cakes!

Thank you,

Brightwell Pre-school Committee

Red Lion

Here at the Red Lion, we are hopefully three months into a year that should see us trading the whole year without any disruptions like our first two! I am pleased to announce that our chef Zak who has been helping me out part time for nearly 2 years now, and was the chef responsible for our lockdown takeaway service, has decided to join us full time and started with us mid-March! You will see a change in menu coming very soon and we will be updating it much more regularly as the seasons pass with a small but tasty menu which we hope you will all enjoy. Look out for my emails and social media posts on special mid-week 2 course lunch options plus ‘Fish Friday’ where each week there will be a selection of fresh fish lunches and dinners being served along with our normal menu.

As you will know, we’ve not had the most straightforward of starts since taking on the pub, but we are ready to now go forward and have the pub as the vibrant hub of the village for you all to use. We will be having more live music where possible and our monthly quiz nights will become a regular occurrence once again.

With taking the pub forward, we have had to raise prices recently and this is something we have not done since the day we took over. We have managed to absorb price increases as and when received but this month alone, after a 3%

increase in November on beer and 4% on rent, we have been hit again with beer increases ranging from 6-10% and as I'm sure you can understand, we have had no choice but to put the prices up.

Thank you to everyone who continues to use the pub, we are here for you all and if you are new to the village, why not pop in, say hello and come and meet some of your fellow villagers.

Corinne, Mouse & Ruby

******Next Jazz Jam - Sunday evening 24 April******

BcS Ukrainian Refugee Support Network

As refugees from Ukraine are forced from their homes because of the Russian invasion and travel across Europe, we have been looking at ways to help when some of them arrive here.

BSR has set up a community support group to share information and give help and support to anyone welcoming Ukrainian refugees here in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Please let us know if you are considering offering accommodation or have registered on the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme, or if there is any expertise or practical help you can offer, eg teaching English, childcare. Contact us at brightwellrefugees@gmail.com or ring 07885 639832 or 01491 839960.

It is still early days and a lot of things are not clear so we will be putting up more information on a page on the village's website and on our Facebook page in the coming weeks and arranging to meet up. But for now, if you would like more information about the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, go to <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>. There is also a general enquiry telephone number for the public 030 3444 0000I.

Other organisations that might be helpful to you if you are considering hosting are

- Reset, which has opened a matching website <https://www.homesforukraine.org.uk/>
- Sanctuary Foundation which is running online information events for hosts
- Refugees at Home, a charity that has experience connecting refugees and hosts online

- *Room for Refugees*, which has previously settled unaccompanied child refugees
- *World Jewish Relief*, which runs a number of projects in Ukraine
- Dept of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities site has a FAQ page <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>
- The Diocese of Oxford has linked with Citizens UK to resettle 50 Ukrainian families, to find out more go to oxford.anglican.org

If you wish to donate to the Ukrainian crisis, the best way is through the DEC Ukrainian Appeal which brings together 15 leading charities (dec.org.uk). It has raised over £100m to date from the British public.

BSR AGM Wednesday 30 March 7.30pm

The AGM of Brightwell Supporting Refugees will be held on Wednesday 30 March at 7.30pm in the Church Room, St Agatha's. All are very welcome to come along. We can give you an update on our Ukrainian support and also our other projects helping refugees abroad and in the UK.

BSR Trustees

Wallingford Corn Exchange

Cinema

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cyrano (12A) | - Sunday 3-7 April, 7.30pm |
| The Phantom of the Opera (PG) | - Friday, 8-12 April, 7.30pm |
| Downton Abbey (first night) | - Friday, 29 April, 7.30pm |

Tickets £8 for adults and £5 for under 15s. All events now have full seating.

Please look out for new updates for the programme on the website www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Live Screenings

La Traviata (live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden)
Wednesday 13 April 6.45pm

NT Live Henry V (filmed live at the Donmar Warehouse)

Thursday 21 April 7pm

Northern Ballet: Merlin

Sunday 24 April 2.30pm

Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Live on Stage

Sinodun Players present 'The Constant Wife' by W Somerset Maugham, directed by Chris Harris. A fizzing comedy exploring sexual independence.

Tuesday 29 March to Saturday 2 April, 7.45 evening with a 2.30pm Saturday matinee

The Bootleg Shadows,

Saturday, 23rd April, 7.45pm

In Brief: Round and about

Wallingford Photographic Club

Events and talks are still online on Thursdays at 7.30pm but returning to Crowmarsh Pavilion soon. 7 April is a club competition for members (travel and portfolios, online) and 14 April is an evening out and about in Wallingford. For other meetings see www.wallingfordphoto.club.

The season closes in May with an end of season competition.

Wallingford Country Market

Our Easter Market will be on Maundy Thursday (14 April) instead of Good Friday (15 April). Home made cakes, plants, craft goods. Orders taken.



Art Weeks

Amazing art and craft across Oxfordshire and online in May. In the second week (14-22 May) you can explore South Oxfordshire locations. Full listing at www.artweeks.org.

VILLAGE DIARY

April

2	Welly walk for Pre-school	2pm	Kings Meadow
2	Rocketman Sing-Along	7.30pm	VH
2	Neighbourhood Plan drop-in session	10-12	Stewart Room
5	Neighbourhood Plan drop-in session	6-8pm	Stewart Room
10	Palm Sunday procession from St James' to St Agatha's church	10am	
12	WI Ukulele workshop	7.30pm	VH
23	Dog Show	2pm	Rec

May

7	Church spring fair	2pm	St Agatha's
10	WI Meeting 'Dogs for Good'	7.30pm	VH
14	Plant Sale	10-12	The Square
22	Open Gardens	From	
		2pm	

Advance Notice

2-5 June	Platinum Jubilee Weekend
11 June	Brightfest
24/25 June	Save the Bone Band Night & Ball
1 July	Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Golf Day
9 July	Village Fete

Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	14, 28 April	12, 26 May
Green (& brown) bins	7, 22 April	6, 19 May (extra garden waste)

Village website

For more information about Brightwell-cum-Sotwell visit the village website: www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk.