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

## Editorial

We're well into January now and days are cold but there is hope now that we are through the worst of things covid-wise, and most restrictions will be lifted soon (or by the time you read this). Over the page you can read Paula Copley's poem '*I just want to be free*', which expresses how many of you feel I'm sure. Thank you Paula for sharing it.

Christmas in the village was quieter than usual as sadly some events had to be cancelled or curtailed. The open-air carol services in St Agatha's churchyard were a hit and the Wassail was another great success. Seemingly a world-first – a fire belly dance set to pipes and drums. We also had the Armagellon doing their traditional dances and a very topical and funny mummings play. A great afternoon – well done everyone who took part. You can see some fabulous pictures in the telephone box gallery, opposite the Red Lion.

There is still time to complete the questionnaire about the development of the village hall. It takes only 10 minutes, and it is really important that you find time to do it. The trustees of the village hall want to hear everyone's views and it's important for them to show they have had a good response when seeking funding for its refurbishment from other sources. Further details on accessing the questionnaire are on page 3. The hall is used by a lot of you so if you want to see it improved, please complete the questionnaire.

Another initiative underway is the review of our Neighbourhood Plan, see Jason's report on page 5. There are some important aspects to it for retaining the character of the village and controlling development, so although it maybe seems a technical planning process, do stay with its progress and come along if you can to the next consultation meeting as it will affect all of us.

As the year goes on, there will be several events taking place in the village including the Queens Jubilee weekend in early June. The Village Calendar in the centre pages gives you dates of many of the key events that will be happening in the village through the year so put them in your diary. If you are planning an event, do take a look at the calendar before setting a date.

*Helen Connor*

## I just want to be free

I just want to be free,  
To pop over yours for tea.  
I want more than to hug a tree,  
I need you to just hug me.

I just need to be free  
To drive to the coast and see,  
Let's jump over the waves of the sea,  
Cuddle our children sitting on our knee.

I want us all to be free,  
Do the injections hold the key?  
Let's turn the lock and flee,  
For us all once again to be free.

*Paula Copley*

## Stewart village hall

### Still time to have your say

A big thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey. Analysis of initial responses show particular concern over the current heating, storage and interior decoration. These are issues that will certainly be addressed in any work carried out.

There is still time to complete the survey and so have your say. Every member of your household can complete the survey online at: <https://stewartvillagehall.org.uk/survey-november-21>; or a paper copy of the survey can be picked up from the hall, the village shop or the Red Lion. Completed questionnaires can be popped into the mailbox at the rear of the hall.

It is a sad fact that we are continually turning down business in the hall because the current facilities are not flexible. For example, the use of the smaller Stewart Room is not possible if there is another group in the main hall because there is no direct access to toilet facilities. Increasing the capacity of the hall and improving the layout and facilities will

allow us to attract new and different groups and ensure that the hall meets the needs of our growing village community for the years to come.

We need to know how you would like the hall to develop, and what facilities and activities you would like to see. Later in the year, we hope to share our plans with the whole village, and your input in this survey will help shape these plans.

### SO Charity Lottery helps the village hall

We are delighted to start the new year by sharing some good news. The village hall has been part of the SO Charitable Lottery since it began in 2018. By taking part you can choose to support a specific local cause (ie the village hall) or donate to a general Community Fund.

We have received to date over £1,500 from tickets bought specifically to support the hall. The funds that go into the Community Fund are also distributed to local causes, and we are delighted to announce we have been awarded a generous £1,556 from that fund. Many thanks to everyone who supports the hall in this way.

This month's SO Lottery star prize is a £1,000 Sainsbury Gift Card along with the weekly cash prizes of up to £25,000. If you would like to support the hall, please go to:

<https://www.socharitable.co.uk/support/stewart-village-hall>.

*Annette Kilworth*  
[www.stewartvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.stewartvillagehall.org.uk)

## Advent Window trail

For the last two years, Kat Southwell has organised the village Advent Window trail. It is a great community initiative, with many beautiful windows for walkers going past to enjoy. She would like to step down now and is looking for someone to take it on next year – thank you Kat for all your work. If you would like to help, contact Kat through the BcSAdvent Trail Facebook page or email [thevillagerbcs@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagerbcs@gmail.com).

# The Parish Council

## **Lighting and speed limits**

The working party set up to work on highways speed and lighting is now up and running. We have received confirmation that lights along the bypass have now been dimmed, and it has been noted that this has made a difference from the Brightwell side. We are still seeking a written confirmation of what changes have been made regarding the lighting levels and shields.

Councillor Sudbury reported to the Parish Council that he had been at a successful meeting regarding speeding on the Shillingford Road, and that they had drawn up a comprehensive list of works that could be done to help. Trading standards have also been consulted regarding lorry width limits.

Negotiations for a pedestrian crossing on the A4130 are still on-going.

## **Neighbourhood Plan Meeting**

The review of the Neighbourhood Plan is now well under way, steered by a committee set up to oversee its production. A public meeting in January saw almost 80 people attend in person and via Zoom.

The reason for the review is to produce a Design Code for the parish that will help to guide the way that development sits within the existing framework of the built area. There have been some recent planning applications that have caused many residents concern over the size and style of the build – the production of a Design Code is a good way to try and control this to conserve the character of the village. There will be nothing new in the code, the document will simply bring together existing information that is included in several documents such as conservation area appraisal, the old neighbourhood plan and the Village Design Statement. What makes a Design Code different is that it has considerable weight within the planning process so developers and the planning authority should follow it.

The review of the neighbourhood plan also provides an excellent opportunity to modify the policies that have not worked so well and retain those that have. Of note will be a new policy to reduce carbon in

new build and a policy that sets out a framework for an asset of local heritage assets. The environmental policy will be upgraded to find ways to enhance the parish's biodiversity and a new policy will look to steer where any planning exception sites could be located.

Parish Council has had confirmation from South Oxfordshire District Council that there is no need for the modified plan to allocate any new housing. The development at Little Martins and housing still to be built is sufficient.

Please do keep up to date with progress. Consultation days will be held in February (as below) for parishioners to see the proposed changes. Details will also be posted on posters around the village, on the notice boards and social media including the parish web page.

Wednesday 9 February 6-8pm at St Agatha's Church – a drop in session to ask questions and chat to members of the Neighbourhood Planning Support Group.

Wednesday 2 March 7.30pm Zoom meeting – presentation of the final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan Review. The link will be posted on the Parish Council website and Community Facebook page nearer the time.

## Community Association

Greetings to you all from the Community Association

### **Christmas Hampers**

We are pleased to report that 47 hampers were delivered to residents in the village before Christmas. We are very grateful to Celia and her team at the shop for their help in sourcing and preparing them. Many thanks to Tim and Hilary who together with the Brightwell Scout and Cub groups delivered them in time for the festive season. We would also like to thank the Fairthorne Trust for their generous financial support in providing these gifts.

### **Grants**

At the end of 2021 we were able to make the following grants to local organisations and charities:

Pre-School- £250  
BcS Website- £200  
Cricket Club- £250  
Tennis Club- £250  
Scouts- £840

PCC- £400  
Brightwell School- £350  
Football Club- £250  
Toddlers Group- £50

## Plans for 2022

We have provisional plans for this year but they are of course subject to change if Government restrictions are imposed. We look forward to welcoming you to the following events:

22 May- Open Gardens  
2 June - Jubilee Beacon and Fireworks at Brightwell Barrow  
9 July - Village Fete

We are also hoping to hold the Village Quiz and the Safari Supper but are unable to give dates just yet, until things become clearer regarding Covid restrictions.

*James Davys*

## Environment Group

### Swan Stream and Wood Project

Late November saw the planting of the trees and shrubs in the Swan Wood which involved many villagers – a big thanks to all those who took part. It will be interesting to see how it develops in the coming years and how much further work is required to ensure the health of the woodland.

The stream looks more mature and it's hard to believe it has been in place for less than a year with water flowing all the time. I say this as there had been some discussion as whether it might dry up in the summer. Hopefully such occasions will be rare although climate change may well have an impact. I was interested to read in the Brightwell Parish Diaries that in February 1891 a new well had to be dug at the vicarage as it had been dry for some 6 weeks and it wasn't until October

that the village stream started to run again. This must have led to real problems for many villagers needing fresh water.

The kingfisher which appears to be a resident around the moat has been seen many times recently with its flashes of orange and iridescent blue being caught in the low sun making a welcome sight in what had been a rather gloomy autumn.

The Swan Stream was included in January's Wassail with the wish that '*May the waters run clear throughout the year*' And let us all hope that is the case!

### Weather

The rainfall recorded at Highlands farm was 14.3mm and 43.8mm in November and December respectively with the total for the year being 620.4mm. These figures again show the fluctuations with November being particularly dry. December was notable because this region only had around 29 hours of sun which was around 54% of the 1991-2020 average. It certainly felt gloomy!

The Met Office summary for the year has the temperature at about 0.1 deg C above the 1991-2020 average with rainfall about, or a little below average, as were the hours of sunshine in this area. (Please note that the Met office seem to have moved from taking the period for comparison for long term averages from 1961 – 1990 or 1981 – 2010 to 1991 – 2020 which does make comparisons across the years a bit tricky.)

### Running the group

A number of the group's committee retired or left the area and we thank them for their work over the years. However, I am pleased to say that we had a meeting of new volunteers in the Red Lion during November when ideas were floated about the Swan Stream and other suggestions for enhancing the local environment. We will have a chance to feed into the modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan which will have a section on 'local nature recovery' as being promoted by the Government. If anyone has any specific ideas please let me know.

*Steve Capel-Davies*  
*scapeldavies@gmail.com*

## The Vicar writes...

There are glimmers of hope that the pandemic may finally be receding, at least in our country, due to the positive effects of the vaccines making the virus relatively harmless and the increasing herd immunity among the surviving 'anti-vaxers'. We will soon emerge into our new normal, whatever that may be. Whether we do so with hope or fear is up to us. Although our experience may be nowhere near as bad as that of a holocaust survivor, a resolution was made by Viktor Frankl in a concentration camp, to choose life and joy each day: *'Everything can be taken from a man but one thing, the last of the human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.'*

I've spoken to some people who are angry with God for allowing the pandemic to happen. I've heard others say that it is his creation's way of fighting back against humanity for our abuse and exploitation of the natural world, citing the reductions in air travel and the increasing energy costs which force us to reduce our consumption, even for those who haven't ever thought about their carbon footprint. Personally, I think this may be stretching theology too far. All I know is that God chose to share our human life with all its joy and pain, so that we can share his eternal life where *'There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'* (Rev 21:4).

There are many parallels in nature that could be used as metaphors, and I wonder what Jesus would say as a parable for our times. Perhaps he would encourage us to awake from our extended hibernation to engage fully with the world around us, with a renewed appreciation for the basics of health, family, and friends. After so much working from home, few will want to return to the daily commute. We may have a new appreciation for the local, with home-working and care for the environment on our doorstep. Jesus might suggest that you notice the spring bulbs arising from the warming earth, reminding us that we too can bloom where we are planted, to bring joy and gladness to those who see us.

This spring we will be hosting a small group for anyone who would like to explore the Christian faith and what it says about how to live life in all its fullness. Please contact me if you're interested. Blessings.

*The Revd Kevin Beer*

*Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk*

*Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)*

## Staniland's organ in St Agatha's

In the previous issue of the Villager, we left the story about the Staniland's organ unfinished. To recap briefly, George Staniland had started building the organ in Abingdon in 1858 but by 1871, it had moved with him to Wallingford. Some years later, George and Caroline moved to Staines with the unfinished organ while one of his sons, Charles, took over the family 'grocery and provisions' business in Wallingford.

Although not a professional organ builder, George Staniland did build one other organ. It is not a 'listed' instrument on the BIOS records, and is in the church of St Mary the Virgin, Ewshot, Hampshire. Installed in 1880, it appears to be a much smaller instrument.

George died in 1895 in Staines. Seven years later in July 1902, the B&O Advertiser details how Mr W.H. Cozens, collaborating with the Staniland family, offered £200 to buy the *'large and excellent organ so well-known round here as the chief work of the late Mr. George Staniland'* for Brightwell as a memorial to his brother, Mr George Cozens. The Crystal Palace organist, Mr Eyre, was promptly consulted to test the instrument and the Diocesan Architect, a Mr Scott, engaged to design an extension to house it. (Sir George Gilbert Scott had been involved in a lot of work in this area and this could have been his son.) The Rev Kiddle began fundraising for the organ chamber.

A charming pencil drawing done in 1874 by Andrew Wells' ancestor, Anna Maria Wells, shows an earlier small organ being played in St Agatha's. About 20 years later, in 1893, a replacement instrument was taking up even more space in the chancel choir stalls, so the building of

an extension to house the grand, newly-purchased Staniland organ would have been very welcome indeed. Not only was there a large church choir to accommodate, but also the Brightwell Musical Society, and Brightwell Orchestral Society – with their regular concerts in St Agatha’s! Rather fittingly, the organist for an organ concert in 1903 was George’s grandson, William Hedley Staniland. If only George himself could have seen and heard his lifetime’s work come into its own.

Another link in the story came to light only recently when the organ was being tuned by Malcolm Hall and we learned that George Staniland was actually his great, great, great grandfather!

Behind the gilt-painted ‘show’ diapason pipes, the rest of the 1,253 ‘speaking’ pipes lie in closely packed ranks, along with the complicated trackers for two manuals, a pedal board and the bellows. There are 18 manual stops, 3 pedal stops, and 5 couplers, all in an oak case. The resulting sound is wonderful.

Today, Staniland’s organ continues to do us proud and although it seems there are not as many demands made on it as in the early 1900s, we so much appreciate its being here and the rich musical contribution that it adds to our village life.

*‘The chief feature of this instrument consists in the fact that it is the entire, unaided work of one man, devoted to his work, is perfectly finished in every detail, and accomplished for the love of the thing itself rather than for motives of gain.’ R.T. Clarke July 25<sup>th</sup> 1902.*

*Olive Sutcliffe*

## Thank yous and welcomes

Two of our longest serving *Villager* distributors, Shirley Hayzelden and Pamela McCracken, have recently retired. Thank you for your commitment to doing this over many years. And welcome to Graham Gillgrass who will take over Shirley’s ‘walk’ of the ‘Barns’ and some of Sotwell Street, and Viv Moll and Jennie Pozzoni who between them will now do Pamela’s stretch of Sotwell Street and Slade End.

## Village Calendar for 2022

### February

Brightwell school half term holiday 21-25 February

### March

Shrove Tuesday 1 March  
Ash Wednesday 2 March  
Mothering Sunday 27 March

### April

Pop up Bistro (BSR) 9 April  
Brightwell school Easter holidays 11-22 April  
Palm Sunday (donkey procession from St James’) 10 April:  
Easter Sunday 17 April  
Save the Children dog show tbc

### May

Plant Sale 14 May  
Open Gardens 22 May

### June

Jubilee Beacon and Fireworks 2 June  
Save the Bone Band Night 24 June  
Save the Bone Charity Ball 25 June

### July

Village Fete 9 July  
Brightwell school year end 20 July

### August

### September

Brightwell School Term starts TBA

## October

Harvest Festival 2 October  
Brightwell school half term holiday. TBA

## November

Remembrance Sunday 13 November

## December

BSR Christmas Market 3 December  
Christmas Crib service 24 December:  
Christmas Day 25 December:

## Brightwell Toddlers

We have had a great start to the new year at Toddlers and we are all happy to be back after our Christmas break. We have had a couple of new families joining us too so a big welcome to them!

If you would like to come along we meet in the village hall on Thursday mornings (term-time only) 9.15-11am. Ages 0-4yrs, £2.50/family.

We would also welcome any volunteers who could help us set up, make hot drinks and/or do an activity with the children eg. craft, storytelling, singing etc. Please get in touch if you are interested! Email [brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com).

*Laura Woodford*

## Brightwell School values

At Brightwell School, our twelve values are integral to school life as they guide both pupils and staff in how we aspire to behave, interact and communicate so that we can learn and grow in all that we do. The children are fantastic ambassadors of our Christian values, and they demonstrate them with consistency throughout their work and at social times. As we focus on a different value each term, a new value takes the spotlight while the others continue in the background, still very much in evidence.

It is always a pleasure to show visitors around the school and something that always shines through when I do is how the school values are lived daily. They are more than mere words on a display board or the topic of an assembly; they are central to our relationships in school, and we see examples of values such as Courage, Resilience, Unity and Compassion daily.

This term our value is Honesty, giving us an opportunity to reflect on the importance of truthfulness, both with ourselves and others. During our class discussions and assemblies, we have recognised honesty as something desirable, something that we look for in our friends and colleagues, but also as something that can be challenging at times. We have considered ways to be honest kindly, to respect other people's feelings, and we have thought about the times when we need to speak up for what is right. The children have shared some carefully considered ideas and opinions about how we can do this.

As we look forward to next term and our value of Respect, I can be certain that we will see it in school in abundance. Respecting themselves, other people, their community and the environment are things that pupils at Brightwell School do so well. We are very proud of the way that our values are 'lived' by everyone at school – it makes it a special place to learn and a welcoming place to be.

Resilience, Humility, Honesty, Respect, Trust, Reflection, Courage,  
Peace, Thankfulness, Compassion and Forgiveness, Hope, Unity.

*Natalie Collier  
Headteacher*

## Save the Children

Our theme for our Christmas Trees in the Square 2021 was 'Protect the Magic, Protect the Children'. From all the lovely comments we have received from young and old, we managed to protect the magic. We are so grateful to all those that have given us donations, which has enabled us to send over £1,300 to help protect the children in Afghanistan. You only have to look at the news coming out of Afghanistan to know how much this help is needed.

Now looking ahead to 2022, we want to continue our efforts to help as many children as possible in the UK and around the world. Please see below some of our planned fundraising:-

### **Dog Show in April**

To be held on the recreation ground (date in April to be confirmed). A chance for all your dogs to show off new and old tricks.

### **Plant Sale 14 May**

To be held in the Square (bottom of Church Lane) All the lovely plants are donated by an army of green finger supporters who each year produce the most amazing plants.

### **Save the Bone Band Night 24 June & Charity Ball 25 June**

We are keeping our fingers crossed that Government Guidelines will allow us to go ahead with the Band Night & Charity Ball in aid of Bone Cancer Research Trust and Save the Children on Friday & Saturday 24/25 June. With ticket allocations carried over from previous years, we have already sold 170 tickets. There are only 30 tickets left for this much anticipated event. Tables of 10 or individual tickets can be purchased at £55 per person. If you would like to join us, please email [c.jones9551@gmail.com](mailto:c.jones9551@gmail.com) or [s.e.butt@btinternet.com](mailto:s.e.butt@btinternet.com). We will publish further details of the evening nearer the time. Don't delay, get you tickets now.

*Celia Collett*

## The dates on Dobsons' walls

I have often wondered, as must have many passers-by, about the significance of the dates on the Dobsons' walls. Were they births, marriages or deaths? It is possible that the dates will align with events in the Dobson family that are recorded in the parish records.

The first Dobson that I could find is Richard Dobson who wrote his will in 1603. The will is pretty hard to decipher but later Dobson wills give details of their possessions and the beneficiaries. Richard Dobson, and subsequent Dobsons, gave their address as being in Slade End, Brightwell – not in Sotwell. It appears that Slade End was part of the Parish of Brightwell extending from the Slade End corner, along the Croft Path side of the Street, to the footpath at the western side of Dobsons' wall. This makes our address: Dobsons, Sotwell St., Slade End, Brightwell, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. That should confuse Amazon drivers!

The first dates on the wall are for J. Dobson (1648) and then W. Dobson (1688). The wall clearly post-dates the house as you can see where the corner of the house is behind the wall. There are details available for a William Dobson who died in 1677 so presumably the 1688 date refers to something in the life of a son William. The 1677 William Dobson turns out to have had an exciting life including time spent, involuntarily, in London. This William Dobson was a Quaker who spent two periods of his life in prison for his beliefs. In 1667 he was sent to Reading Prison and then to the Fleet Prison in London, for refusing to pay tithes, having been fined for earlier non-payment of tithes in 1666. *'In this Year William Dobson of Slade End in Brightwell Parish, for Tithes of about 4 l Value, had Goods taken from him worth 40 l'*

The information about William Dobson comes from a book about the persecution of Quakers, held in the University of California Los Angeles. The title of the book is *'A collection of the sufferings of the people called Quakers, for the testimony of a good conscience from the time of their being first distinguished by that name in the year 1650 to the time of the act commonly called the Act of toleration granted to*



*Protestant dissenters in the first year of the reign of King William the Third and Queen Mary in the year 1689’.*

The second entry for William Dobson, in the section on Berkshire Quakers, says ‘*William Dobson was prosecuted in the Exchequer, and sent to Prison on the 6th of September this Year (1675); where, after twenty months Confinement, he died in the Month called May 1677. He had also taken from him at the Suit of Ralph Whisler; his Prosecutor, Goods worth 156/. for five or six Years Tithe of a Farm, the Yearly Value of which Tithe had been formerly estimated at no more than 4/.*’ This piece of text comes from a machine transcribed version of the original text and has interpreted the fines as in shillings. However, in the original text version, the figures have an ‘l’ after them, not a ‘/’. Where the fines included shillings, they show clearly ‘l, s and d’. If the fines were in pounds (traditionally abbreviated as ‘l’), then the amounts of money are extremely high. One hundred and fifty six pounds in 1675 would buy you 24 horses or 28 cows.

William Dobson was not the only local person in trouble for his beliefs –the record shows so were Simon Batten and John Cotterrell.

The search for the meaning of the dates on the Dobsons’ walls goes on.

*Prof David Salisbury CB FMedSci*

## Village Stores and Post Office

We had a very busy November and December in both the shop and the Post Office. The team of Management Committee, volunteers and staff continue to look at how we maintain and improve this social enterprise. We would love to welcome new faces to help us in our endeavours. Opportunities exist which can be based on the amount of time you would like to commit, and, if you are new to the village, it is a great way to meet people.

We only exist because people give their time freely to keep these village services thriving.

*The Village Stores team*

## Calling all young footballers!

AFC Brightwell Youth FC is starting a new youth training section on Saturday mornings at 10am. The sessions are for boys and girls aged 8-12 who want to enjoy playing some football. The emerging squad will not be in any of the local leagues but will instead focus on developing players of all abilities with some of the skills they need to enjoy football at school or in case they want to play for the senior youth sides at AFC Brightwell in the future.

The club has run a number of successful teams since it was founded in 2004, ‘*the problem is we lose a lot of them as teenagers to other clubs and so we want to build more from the bottom up*’ says Mickey Rooney, who is leading the new youth training. Tony Windsor adds that ‘*if all the kids from the village played for Brightwell, we would have an amazing club.*’ Sadly though, there just aren’t enough numbers in any age group to sustain lots of teams in the different leagues.

The plan is to develop a really fun and inclusive approach that inspires our group of children to progress so that we might see a team emerge in due course but can hopefully sustain the U13 and U16 teams as a minimum. If numbers continue to increase and there is an appetite for entering competitions sooner, then that may be considered. For now though, the children are welcome to join simply for some fun football on Saturday mornings at the Rec from 10am. The club will hopefully start the bacon sandwiches and tea that has sustained so many parents in the past and proved to be a major hit with those cheering from the side lines. Thanks,

*Chris Benarr*

## David Johnston, MP

David Johnston (no relation to Boris!) is our MP, and the Conservative MP for Wantage since 2019. If you want him to help you with anything, contact him at [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk). He does not do regular surgeries in the constituency. To see what he’s been up to in parliament and the constituency, go to [david-johnston.org.uk](http://david-johnston.org.uk).

## Red Lion jam

Though the pub has been closed for refurbishment work over the last couple of weeks, the jazz- jammers are raring to go when it opens again. The next jazz jam session will be on Sunday evening 20 February. Look out for notices confirming this date and time and also other events at the pub.

Tony Isaacs, one of the jazz musicians, has written this homage to the Red Lion:

You can feel the beat out on Brightwell Street  
Pulsing through the Red Lion door,  
The driving riffs of the Jazz-Jam  
With a rhythm you just can't ignore.

Step inside, take a pew as the regulars do,  
Let the music wash away your woes,  
And it's certain that in no time  
You'll be up and grooving on your toes.

On a tune by Kern players take their turn  
On saxophones and clarinets,  
With one re-born as Benny Goodman  
Another as the cool Stan Getz.

If you have a flute that you're longing to toot,  
Or a trumpet or a slide trombone,  
Bring it to the gig, no one cares a fig  
If you have a go - you're not alone.

It's the place to be - Corinne's Jazzerie  
Where we gather, our Community Hub,  
Have a drink, tap your feet, never know who you'll meet,  
Worth it's weight in gold - our little pub.

## Happy New Year from us all at Brightwell Supporting Refugees

We had a marvellous end of the year fundraising result when we ran the Christmas market. In just 3 hours (and a fair amount of time spent preparing I must admit) we took just over £1,400! Thank you to all our customers – you were great! That money will pay for two teachers' salaries at the Hope Centre in Amman up until August this year.

A quiet start to 2022 but hopefully more events will happen soon ... in the meantime though we would like to share a story that was first told to us by Asylum Welcome Oxford. In their recent newsletter, they write about how it is an exceptional time. Over the last year, the need for emergency support rose sharply, with many more cases of hardship and destitution. The pandemic continues to have a profound and ongoing impact on Asylum Welcome's clients' lives. It is now supporting more than 160 newly-arrived Afghan families and individuals staying in Oxfordshire, many of whom arrived with no possessions or money and sometimes with no hope that they would see their loved ones again.

This is Mohammad's story (his name has been changed for safety reasons).

'Mohammad recently arrived, having been evacuated with his family in the emergency airlift. The family had visited Afghanistan two years ago but had become stuck there due to Covid. Then, the Taliban took over. Amazingly, Mohammad had previously been supported by Asylum Welcome, having arrived in the UK in 2009 as an unaccompanied minor. When Mohammad and his family arrived after the recent evacuation, they were put in an airport quarantine hotel for 18 days and then put on a bus in the dark. Mohammad heard that the bus was on its way to Oxford. As they got off the bus, they were greeted by Asylum Welcome. Mohammad said *'I was so relieved. I then knew I was safe, and I could talk to people I can trust. It is incredible to think that Asylum Welcome helped me in the past and can help me and my family now when we are so unsure about our future.'*

Mohammad's story is special... most of the Afghan people we are helping have never been to the UK before. They have faced traumatic upheaval - uprootedness, dislocation, a fear for their safety and a sense of dread as to what the future might hold. These feelings are common among all the people that Asylum Welcome support. If you would like

to know more about Asylum Welcome Oxford go to [www.asylum-welcome.org](http://www.asylum-welcome.org).

In the meantime, Brightwell Supporting Refugees will be planning more fundraising events to help our friends in Jordan as well as those here nearer home. A provisional date for another pop-up Bistro in the hall is Saturday 9 April. Please keep an eye out for this on the Community Facebook page as well as on the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell community page. Our AGM will be held in St Agatha's Church Room at 7.30pm on 30 March.

*Ann Linton*

## Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

We had to cancel our December meeting due to concerns about the spread of Omicron, when we were planning a ukulele workshop. We decided to try to get back to meet in the hall in January. This is our birthday month and the traditional time for discussing resolutions being put forward to our national WI conference in June. These may become WI public campaigns for the following year. We decided to lighten the discussion of some fairly serious subjects with a cheese tasting, and of course some wine! Eighteen members came masked up and a further three took part on zoom. After a lively discussion on five different topics – from tackling digital exclusion to equality in law for the menopause -we voted overwhelmingly for the resolution on 'appropriate sentencing for non-violent women offenders'. If this resolution is passed, the WI will be urging the Government to focus more on less custodial sentencing and more early intervention and community-based solutions for women committing non-violent offences.

The next WI meeting in the village hall will be on Tuesday 8 February when we will be welcoming Jane Abbott to talk about her alpacas and their fabulous fluff. New members and visitors welcome. Find us on our Facebook page or ring Anne Brooker on 01491 835109, or email [brightwellcumshotwellwi@gmail.com](mailto:brightwellcumshotwellwi@gmail.com).

*Helen Connor, Secretary*

## HELP! A milk bottle top plea!

The pile of full bags of milk bottle tops for recycling has grown so much we have to stop collecting for the time being. I need help to transport them to the depot in Eastleigh. If you, or someone you know goes Southampton way, please ask if they would be able to drop off some bottle tops at the depot.

Three years ago, when I took on the task of collecting tops on behalf of the village hall for charity, they had only to go to Cholsey. They were then transported to Eastleigh by a friend of a friend! Lockdown put a stop to this, but we continued collecting and drove a carload to Eastleigh last summer. We don't want to make a special journey again, as it goes against the whole ethos of recycling to save the planet. There are four bags in the hall but another eight kindly being temporarily stored by the Greasby's.

If you are going to the Southampton area and would have room for a few bags PLEASE get in touch – 01491 834543 or email [shenaluck@btinternet.com](mailto:shenaluck@btinternet.com). Thank you!

*Shena Luck*

## Cholsey Repair Café

The next Repair Café is planned for Saturday 19 March at the Cholsey Pavilion, 11am–1.45pm. Advice and help with all manner of repairs to domestic items will be available, including electrical testing and sharpening of knives and tools. Users pay the cost of any materials used and the organisers will be pleased to accept donations towards running costs.

You can contact Cholsey Repair Café on 01491 652295 or email [repaircafe@cholsey.com](mailto:repaircafe@cholsey.com); details can be also found at [www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com).

## Wallingford Photographic Club

Are you interested in learning more about photography or getting creative with your smartphone or camera? Come along to Wallingford Photographic Club in 2022: we are an informal and inclusive group of photographers with a weekly programme of talks, presentations, competitions, and practical sessions. It's not all about the kit - you'll learn so much from the speakers and members, and the feedback on any photos you choose to present if you are keen to have a go; plus composition, use of light, camera settings and more.

We are meeting online still, but offer a full programme. Coming up in February, we have a talk from Roger Hance on switching camera type to invigorate your photography on 10<sup>th</sup>, followed by a club competition themed 'Street' photography on 17<sup>th</sup>. Details on other speakers and competitions can be found on our website [www.wallingfordphoto.club](http://www.wallingfordphoto.club) or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

The club meets via Zoom every Thursday from 7.30pm until around 9.30pm.

*Phil Swarbrick*

## Wallingford Corn Exchange

A full programme of cinema and live screenings will be shown throughout February. Go to the what's on pages at [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk) for listings. All regular performances normally start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 for adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated. All events now have full seating, in line with the practices and guidelines elsewhere. Please look out for new updates on the website.

Then in March, the Showtime team are back, from 9-12 March. Showtime 2 will feature the very best of what modern musical theatre has to offer (previous audiences will testify!), including music from shows like Mary Poppins, Miss Saigon, Cats, Les Misérables and more - tickets £16, £14 (under 18s).

## VILLAGE DIARY

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### February

8	Brightwell WI 'Alpacas and their fluff'	VH	7.30pm
9	Neighbourhood plan review drop-in session	St Agatha's	6-8pm
20	Jazz Jamming	Red Lion	

### March

2	Neighbourhood Plan Review Zoom meeting	Online	7.30pm
2	Ash Wednesday service Wallingford	St Leonard's	8pm
27	Mothering Sunday service	St Agatha's	9.30am
30	Brightwell Supporting Refugees AGM	Church Room	7.30pm

**For future dates, see annual calendar in centre pages**

## Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Thursdays - 3, 17 Feb Thursdays - 3, 17 March
Green (& brown) bins	Thursdays 10, 24 Feb Thursdays 10, 24 March

Thanks so much to Keith Brooks for his uplifting and beautiful seasonal photograph of snowdrops our front cover.

## Village website

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