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Editor: Helen Connor 834754 07790025908 (thevillagerbcs@gmail.com)

Chairman: Anne Brooker 835109

Secretary: Gill Dexter

Treasurer: George Birt

Advertising: Martin Dix 07767 864735

Assembly: Shena Luck 834543

Distribution: Keith Brooks 839044

Production: Anne Brooker, Jane Hawker, Angela Lewis, Steve Luck, Trevor Morgan, Susanne Tuffrey

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Editorial

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness stubble-plains with rosy hue
.. ...gathering swallows twitter in the skies. A few of Keats' beautiful words which sum up the changing of the seasons and the approach of autumn in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. We have been fortunate in having some late summer warmth which has enabled us to get out for walks and enjoy the colour in our village landscape; and maybe pick some blackberries and sloes, in the hedgerows, veg in the garden and fruit from the trees (though sadly not so many apples this year meaning Apple Day has had to be cancelled).

The village is slowly getting back to how it was pre-pandemic though there is still the need to be cautious, especially at indoor meetings and events. It is good to see organisations like the Art Club, Badminton Club, Toddlers and WI meeting again in the village hall and the Lunch Club had a successful afternoon tea last week to 'test the water'. The postponed dates of the church fair and village fete both worked well with good attendance and warm sunny weather. The Flower and Produce Show had a good display of entries despite the lateness of the season. Congratulations to the winners, see results in the centre pages. Many thanks to Eric Dore for his front cover fete photograph.

Missing sadly at both events was Roy Thorpe who died in early August. A tribute to him and his impact on the church and the village is written on the next page. Derek Nightingale, who died last year during the 'lockdown' is also much missed at the church and village events. His Memorial is planned for 23 October. Another sad loss is Hazel Baldwin, also known as 'nanny toast' to some of our younger readers. Hazel lived all of her life here in the village and so must have seen many changes over the years.

Following some changes in national planning policy and to update its environmental policies, the Parish Council will be reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan which is now a few years old. If anyone would like to help in this task, please look at page 11 for more details. Whether it's part of this review or not, I feel there is a need to look again at traffic calming measures on the village by-pass and provide at least one pedestrian crossing. The nasty accident earlier this month at the Slade End junction involving a small child and his father has sharpened our awareness of the dangers of the increased traffic around us. With more housing being built in Wallingford and Didcot, this can only get worse.

Stay safe and keep well.

Helen Connor

Roy Thorpe 1935 - 2021

Roy lived in Brightwell for 30 years, a long and action filled time, touching many of our lives and leaving a deep impression. He settled in 1991 with his wife Ethel in what is affectionately called the West End. Roy and Ethel lived happily in the village for six years before Ethel sadly died in 1997. Roy continued to work as a master baker travelling many miles all over the country till he retired.

Their home 'Rosemary' was, to Roy's delight, near the church and even more importantly within the shadow of bells. Not just any bells but a full eight, well tuned and balanced, just waiting for his skilled hand at ringing. St Agatha's church was very special to Roy. He was a church warden for many years, also playing the organ, singing in the choir as well as ringing his beloved bells. Roy's tenor voice resounded from the choir stalls every Sunday and on special occasions such as the Son et Lumiere, the Golden Jubilee of 2002 and the increasingly popular St Agatha's annual summer concerts. He also sang in the Cranford Choral Society, where he was Treasurer for many years, and in many other churches around the country. He was even in the backing choir for the Evangelist Billy Graham back in the 80's at the Royal Albert Hall.

But Roy's lifelong passion was for bell ringing. At St Agatha's he was the Tower Captain seemingly 'for ever'. He rang bells everywhere - in churches, abbeys and cathedrals, big bells and small, smooth and cranky, and also hand bells. He taught many of us to ring bells standing patiently coaxing us to ring with confidence. Roy loved the bells, to the extent that, when on outings or events, he would suddenly disappear at the sound of ringing and dive into a nearby church to enjoy an opportunistic ring. In 2015 Roy instigated a fundraising campaign to repair and restore the St Agatha's bells for the next 500 years!

Roy worked on Friday mornings as part of the St Agatha's Garden Gang, responsible for the maintenance of the church grounds. Anything you needed to know about the church or if you wanted to get things done, you just asked Roy!

Roy was awarded the fellowship of St Birinus in Dorchester Abbey for his contribution to St Agatha's church and the village. He was very proud to receive this but also very humble believing others more worthy, which was typical Roy.

Roy loved keeping himself active and fit and did so well into his 80's. He enjoyed walking to the Clumps especially during sloe season when he would

gather sloes for his prized sloe gin and even wicked sloe gin chocolates!! He played golf regularly and had many friends at the Haddon Hill Golf Club where he was captain of the HOGGS team in 2009 (HOGGS = Haddon Older Gentlemen Golf Society I think). Bike riding was another activity. He not only organised but rode his bike in the annual Ride and Stride event to raise money for local historic churches.

In the village Roy was involved in just about everything - he volunteered in the local shop, painted in the art club on a Saturday morning and played bowls on Thursday afternoons. But it is at the village fetes and church fairs for which he will be long remembered. His delicious cakes were devoured at the teas, he organized the washing up, and made a gorgeous fruit cake every year for 'Guess the weight of the cake'. Who can forget the Teddy Bear Drop when Roy could be seen at the top of the church tower parachuting teddy bears to the delight of children below. Then there was his Easter simnel cake and Christmas Baileys - Roy's secret Baileys recipe was wonderful for everyone lucky enough to taste it, especially when accompanied by his mince pies. Glorious!!

Roy was diagnosed with Mesothelioma (asbestos related lung cancer) last year. He declined further treatment which would only have given him a few extra months of life but being fit, he survived for much longer, with only a relatively short period of recent decline into ill health. Roy had the greatest of care from the John Radcliffe and Churchill Hospitals in Oxford, and at home from many others including the Sobell House palliative care team, district nurses, Marie Curie nurses, friends and family. Roy's family would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, letters and messages which have provided much consolation and inspiration.

Roy was an unassuming man, always impeccably dressed in suit, shirt and tie. He was kind, patient, thoughtful and generous with his time, money and knowledge; always humble, his kindness and amazing cakes sustaining many. He was a true Christian, a good friend, a surrogate grandfather to the village children and a real gentleman, always with a twinkle in the eye and a smile on his face for everyone. He lived his life simply, thinking of others and always willing to help and lend a hand. He died as he lived.

Rosemary is for remembrance and we will remember him for he was the best of us. The village will miss him with all of its heart.

This is an abridged version of part of Roy's eulogy delivered by Sue Hunt at his funeral on 9 August

Hazel Baldwin 1938-2021

Hazel lived all her life in the village. She was born Hazel Cox and spent her early years living in Sotwell and a brief five months in Cholsey before moving to Greenmere after she married Andy Borland. She remained in the same house until she died. They had a family of five children and spent over 35 happy years together before Andy died in 1986. Hazel continued to live on Greenmere and, as a result of a mutual friendship, subsequently met and married George Baldwin. They too were married for over 25 years. Having nursed both her husbands, Hazel ultimately gained the accolade as being one of a few women to have had two different silver wedding anniversaries.

Hazel was a wonderful mum, nan and mother-in-law. Described by many who knew her as always welcoming, with an ever open door and a fantastic neighbour. A good gardener and cook she would produce apple pies for family and friends from fruit donated to her. To many of the Brightwell children, that her daughter Ruth Kimber cared for, she was known affectionately as 'Nanny Toast' for the treat she would give them when they visited. For many years Hazel was one of the dinner ladies at Brightwell school; she was also a keen supporter of the British Legion and Brightwell Lunch Club. For many years she distributed *The Villager* magazine on Greenmere. On Hazel's final journey, the hearse passed around the Greenmere Estate, and the family was so pleased to witness the plethora of friends and neighbours lining the estate with bowed heads. Truly a great mark of respect. The family received many letters and cards of condolence and would like to thank all those who wrote for their kind thoughts and happy memories of Hazel. She will be missed by many.

Derek Nightingale's Memorial

Villagers will be warmly welcomed at
Derek's Memorial Service
at St Agatha's Church, Brightwell cum Sotwell
on Saturday 23 October at 2.30pm

The Village Fete

We were so pleased that the much-delayed village fete could at last take place. A big thank you to everybody who came and enjoyed such a lovely afternoon. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to welcome so many new residents who have joined our community. As always, we are extremely grateful to Jenny and David Dobbin for allowing us to hold the event in their lovely garden and for being such welcoming hosts.

An event like this can only take place with an army of hard working, dedicated volunteers to set up the stalls, run them and clear up afterwards and we are so very grateful indeed for all that they did.

I am pleased to report that after expenses the fete raised over £4600 and attendance was approximately 800. These were both records for this event!

Grants

The Community Association makes grants to village organisations based on need and availability of funds. Grant application forms are available from our Treasurer, Tom Rogerson, at tarogerson@aol.co.uk and must be submitted by 24 October 2021. Due to our limited opportunity to raise funds last year our coffers are not very full, so please make clear what the money will be used for in your application.

AGM

Our AGM will be held on 28 October at 7.30 pm in the Stewart Room at the village hall. All residents are welcome to attend to hear about our future plans and make suggestions. We would like to welcome also any villagers who would like to join our happy band of committee members.

James Davys

Colour and Clay 2021

A big thank you to everyone for supporting the Colour and Clay Exhibition at St Agatha's Church in August. We had plenty of visitors... people who came to look at the exhibits, those who enjoyed tea and cake in the sunshine, all the people who helped and all the children (and one or two adults) who played games, painted masks, pebbles and wood ... and made models with clay.

Jennie Pozzoni, Roger and Marion Symes, Rosemary Greasby, Robert Field and Annie Brooker

Village Stores and Post Office

To raise funds for the Community Association at the village fete you could have a go at a quiz - 'How well do you know your Village Stores?' The shop team learnt that, although the Community Shop is now 11 years old, some residents, new and old, still have some misconceptions. Here is a sample of the types of questions we asked, together with the answers:-

Q – We stock a wide selection of frozen pastries to bake at home, how much is one of our pain au chocolat?

A - 55p (cheaper than Waitrose and Tesco).

Q - We aim for zero waste wherever possible. How many of the following refills can you get from us? Olive oil, laundry liquid, washing-up liquid, fabric conditioner, peppercorns?

A - All of them!

Q - You are in a dash looking for something for dinner. How much is a chicken kiev, portion of peas and a generous portion of potato chips? (All available from our Field Fare freezers, to buy individually with little or no packaging.)

A - £3.15p the lot (most people gave higher prices).

There were two questions relating to the cost of gifts and to what services we provide. A third question was around 'we love local' highlighting all the lovely local products we stock from our very loyal and trusted suppliers.

Additionally, the quiz highlighted that a few people aren't sure exactly what a Community Shop is. They didn't realise that it is a social enterprise run by a team of volunteers for the benefit of the community on a not-for-profit basis. It is our mission to deliver these local services ethically, to the community, and at reasonable and fair prices.

If you feel you don't know your Community Shop, we would love to see you. It is only through village support that we can ensure this community venture will survive and grow, long into the future.

The shop team

The vicar writes...

You may have noticed that the news headlines are moving from COVID to the greater problem of climate change as manifested by the extreme weather events this year. I write this after watching the floods in New York from the remnants of hurricane Ida, the worst in living memory. Earlier, more than 200 people died following floods in Germany and Belgium that swept away buildings, cut phone communications, and forced thousands to flee their homes. Canada and western US states experienced a heat dome this summer with record-smashing high temperatures that have killed hundreds - wildfire activity continues in 13 states where 83 large fires have burned over a million acres. Landslides in India in a number of regions including Mumbai have also brought devastation with at least 14 people killed in one area after a wall collapsed. Due to burning of the Amazon rainforest, once known as the lungs of the world, the region is now a net contributor of carbon into the atmosphere and native tribes are displaced (or killed).

It is the responsibility of all of us, as global citizens, to fix this both individually and corporately. Like many organisations and councils, the Church of England declared a climate emergency last year and is divesting from fossil fuels, with leadership from our own Diocese of Oxford (see www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/making-a-difference/environment/), setting ambitious but clear targets for reaching net zero. In our own lives, our churches, our schools and other church institutions, we are working to be agents of change — taking practical action, bringing the issues before God in prayer, undertaking advocacy at every level of government, standing in solidarity with our overseas partners, calling for disinvestment from fossil fuel companies whose plans are not in line with the Paris Agreement, and seeking to support a just transition locally and globally.

This should not be an argument of capitalism against environmentalists because the costs of global warming to the world economy are absolutely enormous. For example, the insurance claims for the recent floods in Belgium and Germany are estimated at over \$5 billion (which could also result in increased home insurance premiums for us too). However, our primary motivation is our Christian calling to care for God's world and we work and pray for real changes to be made at COP26 in November before it is (even more) too late. I invite you to join us in this challenge.

Blessings

The Revd Kevin Beer

A new start

The school year has got off to a superb start in Brightwell! There's nothing quite like seeing shiny shoes, new jumpers and excited smiles on the first day of term and this year was no exception. We have been impressed with children across the school for the fantastic start they have made to this academic year. Our new Pippin class, starting school for the first time in Reception, have settled in brilliantly and are enjoying getting to know one another and their teachers, exploring our fantastic school grounds, and taking part in exciting learning opportunities – they've started forest school already! Children in the rest of the school are thriving in their new classes and have got stuck in with their learning from day one. Whether learning how to be a Roman soldier, completing times table challenges or practising their reading skills, children in every class are working hard and trying their best. Our value this term is resilience and there has been plenty of that on show already.

Getting back to the familiar routines of school life has felt even more special this term, following the disruption of recent times. Having the school together for assemblies has been wonderful and a chance for us to celebrate and join together. A highlight for the children is definitely playing all together at break times – we have some fantastically caring children who look after our youngest pupils, and our Active Leaders are organising some great playtime games and activities.

We are passionate about reading at Brightwell School and this term the children are excited to see their new book vending machine in the school library. Kindly funded by the Merchant Taylors' Foundation, it's a perfect way to enthuse pupils and it has already created a real buzz about reading. Everyone is keen to be awarded a golden coin so they can choose a book to keep! This forms part of a wider project in school this year to focus on high quality writing. We have lots of exciting activities planned including school trips, author visits, a few competitions and surprises, all on top of great teaching and learning. We've made a super start to the year and are excited about the year ahead.

*Natalie Collier, co-headteacher
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell C of E Primary School*

Parish Council

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

We would like to inform villagers that 'The Civil Parking Enforcement' project being jointly undertaken between Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and the District Councils of South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and Cherwell will 'go live' on 1 November 2021. Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) relates to most on-street parking offences, such as parking on a double yellow line, which will no longer be considered a criminal offence. Oxford City and West Oxfordshire currently operate CPE for on-street parking but such parking offences are currently a police matter in the districts of Cherwell, South Ox & the Vale.

By introducing CPE, the enforcement of these offences transfers from the Police to the Local Authorities which employ Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to patrol and issue penalty charge notices (PCNs). OCC will take on the responsibility for on-street parking enforcement within South Ox, Vale and Cherwell districts. All off-street parking enforcement will remain the responsibility of the relevant district council. To manage the service OCC have appointed Conduent Parking Enforcement Solutions Ltd who will deliver the service.

Dog Waste

The Parish council would like to remind residents that they are responsible for clearing up after their pets. Dog mess creates an unpleasant health hazard if it is not removed. Waste can now be deposited in the black wheelie bins as long as it is securely bagged.

Management of the Pavilion

Tony Windsor is standing down from running the Jubilee Pavilion at the Rec. He has worked tirelessly in running the building and ensuring that we have a facility to be proud of. This facility is used and enjoyed by the entire village community - we would like to offer our sincerest gratitude for a job well done. We wish him well.

Bob Devey has kindly agreed to take over from Tony in managing the Pavilion and the Parish Council look forward to working with him very much. For information on booking the Pavilion, see website at bcsjubilleepavilion.org.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan Review

Following changes in the National Planning Policy Framework, the Parish Council (PC) has agreed to produce a 'Design Code'. This would significantly improve the way that the PC can help to shape future developments in the parish. In addition, the PC would like to update its green/environmental policies. Both aspirations would best be achieved through the Neighbourhood Plan. At the time of writing, the PC has therefore proposed that a review and update of the Neighbourhood Plan should take place. If you would like to help, please contact Jason Debney.

James Davys

Flower and Produce Show results

For best exhibit in the fruit & vegetable classes:

The Chilton Cup Jason Debney

For best flower arranging entry:

The Win Glendenning Memorial Salver Charlotte Woods

For best rose exhibit:

The Talbot Rose Bowl Helen Connor

For most points in Show:

The Talbot Cup Shena Luck

For the best junior entry in an adult class:

The Joan Sheard Cup Olivia Arbuckle

Junior Trophies: 9-12 years
5-8 years

Hugo Chandler
Dulcie Chandler

For best kept allotment:

The Swan Allotments Cup Winner: Rachel Facey
Runners-up: Julie Botting & Barbara Isaacs

For creative writing:

The Sally Dugan Cup Hugo Chandler

The Brightwell pre-school family

There was no better feeling than welcoming our families onto the pre-school site for the first time in a long while. The children happily ran out to greet them, excited to hug them after their first day. Here at our pre-school, we will be celebrating family, and all this means to the children in our first term this autumn. Photographs and stories will help us find out about each other. We will draw self-portraits, make family books, celebrate differences and similarities.

As we learn to trust and respect one another, our pre-school family strengthens. Small things, gentle things, funny things, worrying things, we experience them together. Let's remember that for some of our little ones, they have known only our world battling a pandemic, each child with a different experience and each family with their own struggles. Some may not have experienced being part of another community, learning to share and play with others. We are here to guide them in the most formative years of their lives.

We have started to venture outside into our village community, our other family. Do give us a wave if you see us with our high-vis jackets and bouncing children. There are real adventures to be had down the lanes, in the stream and the parks. If you ever want to be a part of these little adventures, please do get in touch with us, we are looking for willing volunteers to help these precious flashes of wonder happen.

If it wasn't for our hard-working parents/carers who form the committee, we would not be able to have these experiences. A huge debt is owed to the outgoing committee for their tireless efforts to keep the preschool open through such hard times and another huge thank you to those who have volunteered to be part of our family for the year ahead. Family is why we are here and who we are.

Natasha Hillier, Manager

Save the Children

Corinne and Mouse organised a Charity Quiz at the Red Lion and shared the proceeds between three village charities: Save the Children, Bone Cancer Research Trust and Brightwell Supporting Refugees. It was an excellent and very enjoyable night. Many thanks to Corinne and Mouse and all their helpers

and supporters. Save the Children received £170 which we are allocating to the emergency fund to help the children in Afghanistan.

Save the Children has been operating in Afghanistan since 1976, supporting communities across Afghanistan through periods of increased conflict, regime changes and climate related disasters. Save the Children is regarded as a credible and reliable agency working with and for children and works with many other charities working collaboratively, efficiently and beneficially. The Taliban takeover has and will continue to bring many challenges to the 2,000+ strong Save the Children team of Afghans (which includes teachers, doctors, midwives, social carers). These dedicated Afghans are staying in their country to deliver the aid to protect and care for the children even in some of the most difficult regions of the country. Save the Children is committed to staying and supporting the work it has been doing for over 45 years despite the current severe lack of funding for the humanitarian situation. Any support to the emergency fund is greatly appreciated.

We will be selling our Christmas cards and gifts again this year (dates of the events to be given soon).

Celia Collett

Brightwell Art Club

The art club is back in the village hall!

During the lockdown we did continue to keep in touch with each other and had several tutor-led sessions over zoom. We have also enjoyed some ad-hoc outdoor painting sessions organised by various members. We now look forward to an interesting and productive autumn term.

If you are interested in joining the club, you can always pop in and see us on a Saturday morning during term time or email us at brightwellartclub@gmail.com for further information. Also have a look at our gallery and programme for this term by visiting our pages on the village website www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk/directories/local-services/brightwell-art-club.

Our annual exhibition will be on 4 December. It does seem a long time ahead but please make a note of the date. As usual we will be having stalls, refreshments and a raffle, as well as exhibiting our work.

Anne Honeyball

Brightwell Toddlers

We have had a great start to our toddler sessions back in the village hall. It is really lovely to see so many families coming along each week. If you would like to join us, we meet Thursday mornings (term-time only) 9:15-11am. Ages 0-4yrs, £2.50/family.

We are also in need of volunteers to help us set up, make hot drinks and tidy up at the end, and would welcome anyone who would like to do an activity with the children e.g. craft, storytelling, singing etc. Please get in touch if you are interested. Email brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com.

Laura

Stewart Village Hall

It has been so good to see our regular groups and classes come back to the H hall and to welcome new users too.

It was a delight to hold our first fundraising event, Last Night of the Proms, on 11 September. The hall was decorated with flags, bunting and sparkling lights. Thank you to everyone who kindly lent these to us for the evening. Also, a huge thank you to Natural Beauty Room, Brightwell Vineyard and Root One for the donation of raffle prizes and to everyone who helped make the evening a success. It was a fabulous foot stomping, flag waving evening of fun.

We plan to hold regular events in the hall so please keep an eye out for posters and Facebook posts advertising these and come and join us. We would love to hear from you on what type of event you would like to see held in the hall, including showing films, TV shows, sporting events etc. Please contact us via our website, speak to Shena, or a trustee, or pop a note in the mailbox at the rear of the hall.

We must mention, and thank, Annie Brooker for showing her yarn-bombed bike at the village fete and at the Proms event in aid of village hall funds. It is such clever and creative work by Annie, other WI members and her friends from the online knitting group Ravelry.

We would also like to mention Anthony Prior (AJ Prior Plumbing and Heating) who quickly came to our aid when one of our toilets sprang a leak - thank you so much for your help.

More of our supporters have been lucky winners in the SO Charitable Lottery, sadly not the jackpot, but this month's star prize is £1000 John Lewis vouchers, so let's keep our fingers crossed. 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. Thank you for your support.

Annette Kilworth

The Environment Group Report

Swan Stream and Wood Project

The project is close to completion with the information sign having been erected in the orchard area. By the time this is published, it will have been unveiled in the company of many of those who have been involved. However, we still have a few ideas to make some changes including rebuilding the small overfall with stone and reconstructing the outfall that feeds the stream. The woodland will be planted with additional trees during autumn. Stretching into the future will be the ongoing management to allow the stream's habitats to thrive.

Some of you may have seen the digging of the stream in early March by Jim Baxter and it is with great sadness that I have to report that Jim died at the end of August. Not only was Jim involved with this project, but he also cleared the ground in preparation for the community orchard together with many other digging projects in the village. The stream was one of the last jobs he worked on and is a fitting tribute to his skill. He was a great person to work with, nothing was too much trouble, and the work was always carried out with good humour.

Millennium Wood

The wood has not had a lot of attention since the new pond was installed in March last year just before lockdown. But I am pleased to say that it does hold water and has created a new habitat and it will be interesting to see how it continues to develop. In the coming weeks, work is planned to clear some of the more invasive weeds.

Weather

The rainfall recorded at Highlands farm was 34.9mm and 18.4mm in July and August respectively. The August figure is the second driest this year. These are both below the 1981–2010 averages, with August below 50 per cent.

The temperature was apparently a little above average which I think may come as a bit of a surprise due to the cold northerly winds in August and generally dull skies. This is reflected in the sunshine hours, achieving only about 75 per cent of the whole summer average (June–August).

Would you like to be involved?

Being involved costs nothing and is open to all. It has been great to see the number of people willing to give their time to do physical work such as on the stream, but it would also be good if we had a few new people help run things as the small committee has been reduced by retirement and moving house. It is all very informal, and we are always open to new ideas. Please drop me a line if interested on scapedavies@gmail.com.

Steve Capel-Davies



Our September meeting was the first one back in the hall for some 18 months and it was so nice to see some of our members who had not joined in on our Zoom meetings. The speaker was Lt Col (ret'd) Roger Laing, a military historian, who told us the story of the unknown warrior buried in Westminster Abbey. It was a fascinating account, full of interesting insights on how an unidentified body was chosen, then brought over from France and interned in the Abbey as part of the Armistice Day of Remembrance, 11 November 1920.

Our President, Anne Brooker, had brought along the yarn-bombed bicycle which some members had helped her to assemble (see front cover and village hall article on page 16). You may have seen it at our stall at the fete?

The next meeting on 12 October will feature a speaker on 'Monet and Impressionism' and on 9 November we will have a Christmas craft workshop. If anyone would like to come along to meet us and see if you would like to join, then do come to the hall on these evenings. Also, see our page on the village website – www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk, or our Facebook page.

Helen Connor, Secretary

Brightwell Supporting Refugees

Despite the wet weather, we were able to have a successful day in August for the ‘*Do you think you know your village*’ trail and, later, the musical evening at the Rec listening to Leslie’s Latinistas and the Barbershop Boys (and girl!), accompanied by delicious Middle Eastern wraps. Thank you all – caterers, musicians and supporters. It was a great day and we made £1,142.

On 7 September we received a donation of £170 from the quiz in the Red Lion run by Corrine and Mouse. That was so generous and kind of them. And then last Friday, the 17th, thanks to Peter Adamson who gave a most interesting talk on his book ‘Landmark in Time – the world of the Wittenham Clumps’ (a book to be highly recommended), we raised another amazing amount of money, over £1200.

This all means we will be able to send money out to Jordan for the teachers’ salaries to be paid up to the end of December. We have also pledged £2000 to the Big Give campaign, run at the end of the year. As in the past year, this pledged money will go the Windle Trust to provide education for girls and training for refugees graduating from secondary education in east Africa.

We are also hoping to send money to Asylum Welcome Oxford who need funds to help support the 150 or so Afghan people who had to flee from their country and are being accommodated currently in Oxfordshire. They are also asking for donations of old phones and laptops. Further information can be found on the Asylum Welcome website: www.asylum-welcome.org or contact us at brightwellrefugees@gmail.com.

With thanks again to all our supporters, speakers and performers as we couldn’t manage without you to do what we do.

Ann and all at BSR

More on the Village Hall Clock

Some further information from Steve from the Brightwell Parish Diaries on the Clock (see his article in the June /July 21 issue):

Although the actual date is not recorded, it was in the first half of the 1874 year that the new clock in the Clock Tower struck 12, at noon, for the first time in the presence of school children and others on Rectory Lawn.

The architect was a Mr Buckeridge for the original designs but he died before completion and was succeeded by a Mr Pearson. The builder was Mr Albert Dodd from Caversham, Oxon. The clock makers were Messrs Thwaite and Reed, Clerkenwell, London.

The cost was just over £400. The clock was £72: 10 s and the tower £330, though the total was altered to £393 (no reason given). Mr Fairthorne gave £300 towards it, and suggested improvements.

Steve Luck

Harvest spiders

They come as the weather changes;
leaving their homes on the bushes and trees
seeking sanctuary from the winter blasts.
They nestle into the corners
shrouding themselves once more
in their webs, trapping late
reluctant flies for their winter feasts.
Suspended by thin legs against the ceilings
a tiny blob of body,
secreting black spots of excrement
on to the surfaces below.
Soon they are hidden in the
grey clouds of web that
festoon the surrounding walls,
until a searching mop
removes them and they fall,
scampering away to find to find another safe haven.

Margaret Smith

Wassail!

The 2022 Wassail will take place between 3 and 5 pm on Sunday 9 January.

Details are still being arranged but we already have an exciting new addition to our perambulation around the village. Joining the Morris Dancers will be 'BellyFire' - Brightwell's very own belly dancing troupe, who will be performing a fire dance alongside Armallegon's annual extravaganza. It should be fabulous, fiery and loud! So, help us wake those apple trees and keep this Brightwell tradition alive as we continue to make the event, the largest processional Wassail in the UK. Please do save the date - lots more information in the next edition of the *Villager*.

Jason Debney

Wallingford Country Market

We are looking for new producers, especially bakers and producers of plants preserves and eggs, to ensure we continue to offer our loyal customers a good range of products. If, during the lockdowns, you have honed your baking skills, or indeed, discovered the pleasure of home cooking and growing your own plants, vegetables and fruit and are looking for a new interest (perhaps recently retired), then why not join our current team of producers by becoming a shareholder, which enables you to make a little profit from your efforts.

Anyone over the age of 16, male or female, can become a producer. The market is open in St. Mary-le-More Church each Friday morning between 9.30 am and 12 noon.

If you are interested and would like to discuss things further, please contact: Alison Broadbridge (bakery) alisonbroadbridge@gmail.com
Sandra Halstead (gardening) s.halstead2@btinternet.com. Alternatively, come and visit us one Friday morning and speak with them then.



Take a look at the Country Markets Ltd website to give you all the information you need about the organisation – www.country-markets.co.uk. Do come and

join us, we are a friendly and welcoming group.

Gwen Strong

What's on at the Corn Exchange

Cinema

The waiting is over – the most anticipated film of the year is here!

No time to die Every night at 7.30pm from Thursday 30 Sept to 14 October, and also at 2.30pm on 2, 3, 6 and 9 October.

Plus - GALA NIGHT in conjunction with the Old Post Office - a themed night on 1 October with a red carpet, dressy up staff and Bond cocktails. Get a discounted meal for a party of up to six when showing your booked cinema ticket for that night.

Respect 12A Friday 15 and Saturday 16 October, 7:30pm
Green Knight 15 Sunday, 17 and Monday 18 October, 7:30pm
(This month's Young Film Programmer's choice)
The Servant 12A Wednesday, 20 October, 7:30pm

Cinema tickets: £8 for adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

See Box office website for latest information on Covid rules
<https://www.cornexchange.org.uk/covid-19-safety-measures/>.

Live screenings

Cliff Richard: The Great 80 Tour Wednesday, 27 October, 7:45pm
Broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall, London. Sir Cliff's 80th birthday tour (rescheduled from 2020) featuring a selection of his greatest hits. All tickets £10.

Theatre

Arthur Smith is SYD Friday 30 October, 7:45pm
New date after the postponement in September due to illness. Arthur Smith's show SYD follows a highly successful season at Soho Theatre and a sell-out and critical acclaimed run at the Edinburgh Fringe. All tickets booked for the September show have been transferred to the new date, but refunds are available for anyone who can't make that date. Tickets £15 (with some adult humour).

Coming Soon

Under Milk Wood Saturday 20 November, 7:45pm
Performed solo by Guy Masterson, celebrating a day in the life of 'Llareggub' – a small sea town somewhere in Wales.

This is Jess

Thursday 25 to Saturday 27th November,
2:30pm (Saturday) and 7:30pm (all evenings)

A new musical with a twist... Billing itself as 'half gig, half musical theatre, and half stand-up comedy', the one-women, two-act show follows a year in the life of local girl, Jess

In Brief - round and about

Music at Dorchester Abbey

Join Julien van Mellaerts and the Orchestra of St John's for a concert of Bruckner, Stanford and Liszt, with the OSJ Oxford Voices - Saturday 9 October, 7pm.

Wallingford Museum News

We are delighted that the museum is open with FREE entry until the end of November where the new exhibit, the Wallingford castle model, is on display. Please check the website for opening times.

October Half Term at the museum

Look out for 'Crafty at Wallingford Museum', drop-in activities - further information, times and dates can be found on the website
<https://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk>.

Talks at the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

Wednesday 13 Oct - Chris Boyce: 'Benjamin Disraeli - Life and Times'
Wednesday 10 Nov - Stephen Barker: 'Five Indian Pilots of the Great War'
Zoom talks for members or possible return to St Mary's Church.

Autumn Steam Days

Operating on weekends and Wednesdays from 1 September to 20 October at Didcot Railway Centre. Savour the sights, sounds and smells of steam and take unlimited rides in a historic train.

VILLAGE DIARY

October

3	Harvest festival family service	St Agatha's	9.30am
12	WI talk - 'Monet and Impressionism'	VH	7.30pm
23	Derek Nightingale's Memorial service	St Agatha's	2.30pm
28	Community Association AGM	VH	7.30pm

November

7	All Soul's Memorial service	St Agatha's	4pm
9	WI Christmas Craft workshop	VH	7.30pm
14	Remembrance service	War Memorial	10.45am

Advance Notice

4 December	Art Club Exhibition
9 January 2022	Wassail!

Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	14 and 28 October, 11 and 25 November
Green (& brown) bins	7 and 21 October, 4 and 18 November

Nb **Garden collection in Brown Bins** will restart on 7 October, but at present will be monthly not fortnightly as before. Further updates will be given on the village website and Facebook page.

Village website

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