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Items for the next edition should be sent to the Editor by 10 May 2017. *The Villager* is published every other month and delivered free to all households in the village.

Editorial

This issue comes with two inserts, one about the shop and post office and the other about the village hall. Both are important amenities, currently central to the village. Both need your views. In the case of the village hall, there are major problems to be addressed, ones which need considerable finance and sustainable commitment from the village if it is to remain viable in the future. I hope you can give time to complete their questionnaire as the village hall trustees really do want to hear from you.

It has been a quiet last couple of months in the village which I feel is just starting to wake up. The weather probably has something to do with that. It has felt colder this winter though drier than average (see Environment Group article on page 9). Just as we thought we were over the effects of the 'beast from the east' and spring had arrived, we have been plunged back into freezing temperatures again. At least the children enjoyed the recent snowfalls as Brightwell school managed to stay open thanks to the commitment of the staff and help from villagers clearing the pavements. A note for next winter: there are several bins of sand around the village which everyone can use if they wish to help clear snow and ice. I do hope by the time you read this though it has warmed up a little and we can get properly out into the garden.

For the first time ever I thought I was going to be short of articles for this issue; but fortunately, some came in at the last minute so it has filled up. If there is anything you want to write about – a memory from the past, a poem, an amusing anecdote or a view on something in the village – which you would like to share, please send it in to me. Email address is on page 1. As we start our new advertising year, we have filled all but half a page. If you would like to advertise in *The Villager*, contact Martin Dix. Costs are very reasonable. And another plea – we are always on the look out for good images for our front cover. A photo or ink drawing of a village seasonal scene or event would be particularly welcome.

Finally, you will see articles on several social events being planned. A May Ball in aid of Save the Children and the Bone Cancer Research Trust is being held on 5 May and tickets are selling fast I hear. Ever popular, a Safari Supper is being held on Saturday 19 May organised by the Community Association; details and a form to complete are on pages 19 and 20. Looking further ahead, Brightfest is on again, this year on Saturday 9 June.

Happy Easter!

Helen Connor

Community Association

Village Quiz Evening – Saturday 10 March 2018

Congratulations to AtoZ, well deserved winners, and a big thank you to the Staggerers who set us such a great quiz. It was nice that so many teams took part in this wonderful village event. We are grateful to all who attended and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Safari Supper – Saturday 19 May 2018

This successful event is being run again this year in conjunction with St Agatha's. Further information about booking a place is on page 19 along with a form to cut out and complete. If you have any queries please contact Lynn Burridge on 01491 833009.

Village Fete – Saturday 7 July 2018 at 2 pm Sotwell House

Once again we are grateful to Jenny and David Dobbin for allowing us to use their lovely garden. Please put 7 July in your diaries, and ensure all holiday plans are changed. Look out for more details about the event and also the schedule and entry forms for the Flower and Produce Show in the next edition of *The Villager*.

Fun Run – 23 September 2018

The Community Association is again organizing a fun run at the end of September with the emphasis on the fun aspect and everybody enjoying the delightful scenery of our village. More details will follow next time.

AGM – 25 September 2018 7.30pm Village Hall

James Davys, Chairman

Coffee link up

If you are on your own or just feel like getting out, join some fellow villagers for a coffee and a chat at Root 1 café, every 3rd Monday of the month. Just turn up, someone else will be there, 10am-12 noon. The next one is 16 April.

Save the Children

April and May is going to be a very busy time for our branch. We start with Save the Children Week from 22 to 28 April. Thanks to our loyal band of collectors, we will be conducting our usual house-to-house collection.

On 5 May we have teamed up with the Bone Cancer Research Trust for a Spring Ball, see below. This is followed on Saturday 12 May with our annual plant stall in the Square between 10am and noon. Last but not least on Sunday 20 May we will again be providing teas for the Open Gardens in Sotwell (see page 13).

The deepening crisis in both Syria and the Yemen makes it even more essential to keep up the fundraising, which also provides much needed funds to continue the many long term projects both in the UK and around the world.

Celia Collett

Chairman, Save the Children Wallingford & District Branch

Brightwell Music Night & Spring Ball 4 & 5 May in aid of Save the Children and Bone Cancer Research Trust



Thanks to the village for the great enthusiasm with which the announcement of the Spring Ball has been received; tickets have virtually flown off the shelf.

Plans are now proceeding apace for a Brightwell music night, an informal event for all ages making use of our beautiful marquee on Friday 4 May from 7-10pm, with bands, a bar and barbecue. Please do join us to support these two very worthwhile child orientated charities; suggested donations for entry £5 plus per adult. Look out for further details on posters around the village and the village website and Facebook page.

For those of you who don't know BCRT, its aim is to improve outcomes for primary bone cancer sufferers (who are mostly children and young adults) through research, awareness, information and support. Unlike progress made with many other cancers, survival rates in primary bone cancer have not improved in 30 years.

Angela Lewis

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School

And so spring has finally arrived!

I hope by the time you read this that we have enjoyed a few weeks of spring like weather but, as I write, we have Storm Emma and 'The Beast .From The East', and what a treat that gave us! Thanks to our teaching and support staff, along with the team in our kitchen, we managed to open on a day when most schools in the county had to close. Fortunately some staff live locally and those who were able to negotiate Greenmere and the surrounding pavements joined us at school. We were able to provide some of the usual routines though my email that morning suggested the contrary. However, days like this are meant to be unusual, so we made room for some seasonal fun.

Clearly the snow provided most of the entertainment on the day and the children who chose to play outside at break and lunchtime enjoyed building things and throwing snow at each other, at Mr Brown and, of course at me. For those who had had little success so far and needed a further opportunity to coat Mr Brown in snow, he duly provided a 'run the gauntlet' experience. I am grateful for the support given by everyone involved in really challenging circumstances, and hope we allowed some parents from the village to get to work that day rather than lose pay or take holidays.

Children from Russet class joined those at Allsorts to read together, such was the success of the same activity the day before. Discovery class shared their Scottish Country Dancing experience with Worcester and the hall buzzed with The Flying Scotsman and loud calls of "Woo, Woo!". No delivery for our team in the kitchen meant a change to the menu for the day, and with the choice of sausages or fish, some children were left with a real dilemma.

World Book Day was celebrated at the school the day before and ended with our planned Reading Café. With the snow starting up again, families joined us from around the village and into Wallingford to read with their children, siblings and friends. By this time, the Parish Council had gritted Greenmere for us and made everyone's journey home that bit easier, including mine. That journey home was understandably a little longer than usual, but buoyed by the marvellous day we had had in school, I was looking forward to the question from my own children of "How was your day?". This was answered with a look at our Facebook page to try and convey the enormous fun and privilege I felt in being part of such a great community.

Fin Lewis, Headteacher

Village Shop and Post Office

Martin Dix has very generously given the shop a donation in the memory of his beloved wife Jane. Being such a loyal customer and supporter, we want to use this bequest to provide something tangible in Jane's memory. With the help of Martin we have decided to provide a small seating area outside the shop. This is something we have been contemplating for some time but never had the spare money to create.

We hope you have had a chance to read the enclosed insert with this copy of *The Villager*. It is an aide-memoire of some of the services we provide, plus an opportunity to give us feedback as we move forward in improving our community business.

*Celia Collett
Chairman Management Committee*

10th Anniversary Summer Concert

It all started with the need to raise some money for the extension appeal at St Agatha's church and that was ten years ago. The first concert proved a bit of a hit and here we are still going strong celebrating our 10th anniversary event this year at 7pm on Sunday evening, 17 June at St Agatha's. Please put it in your diary and join us for what I hope will be the best yet.

As regulars will know the title 'concert' is a little misleading. Certainly the event showcases some outstanding musical talent from the village. But as well as that, there are readings, poetry, sketches and the like all with an emphasis on humour. It all adds up to a good time for all.

If you know of someone who might like to take part please ask them to contact me at alec.mcgivan@gmail.com. We are always keen to involve new people.

Tickets will be on sale in the village shop towards the end of May.

Alec McGivan

St Agatha's with St James' Church

'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song.'

This quote is attributed to St Augustine of Hippo from around 1,600 years ago and it is still as true today as it was then. He was writing at a time when the world was a dangerous place and, for many, life was 'brutish and short'. It was against that background that Augustine declared the hope, the promise and the truth that gave Christians their strength and determination to stand against the tide of paganism and violence that beset the world around them.

They were 'Easter People' because they believed in Jesus' resurrection: he had died but, by the power of God's Holy Spirit, had been brought back to a new life which was witnessed by many of his followers at the time. They were an 'Easter People' because they had decided to follow that same Jesus and to model their own lives on what he did and taught. Above all, they were 'Easter People' because they had confidence in God despite anything the world might say or do to them. That is what they believed and that is why their song is 'Alleluia'.

'Alleluia' means 'Praise the Lord'. The word has been used by Christians of all denominations for centuries. It is used most often during the 40 days of the Easter season but is a good word whenever we want to praise God and to thank him for his goodness. There are times when we most certainly do not feel like praising God: life can be tough through illness, bereavement, injustice, redundancy or whatever. When we praise God we are not saying that "everything is OK". What we are saying is that, despite anything else that might be going on, we have the knowledge of God's loving purposes for us and the hope of glory in our hearts.

So when we wish each other a 'Happy Easter!' it is a greeting full of hope and joy, reminding us of the good news of what God did through Jesus at Easter: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Blessings,

Rev Kev
The Revd Kevin Beer
Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)

Everyone is welcome to our regular church services in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and Wallingford and also to these special Easter events outlined overleaf:

Easter church services and music

Maundy Thursday 29 March

7pm	The Lord's Supper	Brightwell Free Church
8pm	Holy Communion / Commemoration of the Last Supper	St Mary's Magdalene, CG

Good Friday 30 March

11am	CTWA Act of Witness	Market Place, Wallingford
2pm	The Last Hour Meditation	St Agatha's, B-c-S
7pm	<i>Requiem</i> by Gabriel Fauré	St Mary's, Wallingford

Holy Saturday 31 March

8pm	The Lighting of the Easter Fire and Vigil	St Mary's Magdalene, CG
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Easter Day Sunday 1 April

9.30am	Easter Sunday Family Festival Communion with Easter Egg Hunt	St Agatha's
6.30pm	<i>The Risen Christ</i> by Philip Ledger- an Easter cantata with readings	St Mary's, Wallingford

Other church services and events

Thursday 26 April, 7.30 pm – Annual Parish Church Meeting (St Agatha's)

Sunday 6 May 3pm – Rogation Service (Highlands Farm)

Thursday 10 May 8pm – Ascension Service (St James')

Saturday 19 May – Safari Supper (booking required, see page 19)

Sunday 20 May 9.30am – Pentecost Festival Family Communion (St Agatha's)

Saturday 26 May 2-4pm – Our Annual Spring Fair (Brightwell Manor)

And not forgetting.... 10th Anniversary Summer Concert on 17 June (St Agatha's, see page 6)

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Environment Group

Plastics recycling

When I wrote the article for the January *Villager* about the problems relating to recycling plastics locally, I did not realise that the Government would publish a paper on the whole topic which appeared before our magazine's publication! It was interesting to note the considerable time spent by the media on the topic but to date, the Government's will to implement enforcement policies such as a deposit scheme for plastic bottles, appears to be waning under pressure from manufacturers. It is to be hoped that there will be sufficient momentum to convert ideas into law rather than just have waste plastic reduction as 'nice to have'.

Local wildlife

Those keeping an eye on the Environment Group's Facebook page will have noticed that our motion activated camera trap has begun yielding some interesting results from a garden bordering farmland within the parish. Not only does it seem to have been placed in an area regularly used by a fox who seems keen to be caught on camera, but it has taken shots of a polecat.

This is a very exciting result, and was not expected. Polecats are a member of the mustelid family, which includes badgers, otters and stoats and are roughly the size of a ferret which is its domesticated cousin. Polecat numbers seriously declined in the early 20th century, reaching very low numbers in the 1950s. However, polecats have been undergoing a recent recovery and can now be found across parts of England. Polecats make use of woodland habitat, riverbanks and farmland, all of which can be found within our parish! Over the last two decades polecats have become established in Oxfordshire but, because they are predominantly nocturnal, they are very rarely seen. This is a very lucky record, and we hope to capture more activity during the spring.

Weather watch

The weather continues to be a topic of conversation with the very cold snap at the end of February/beginning of March. The rainfall in February did nothing to ease concerns about water resources for the coming summer with only 22.7mm being recorded at Highlands Farm. According to the Met Office, the February rainfall over most of central and southern England was between 50% and 75% of the 1961 – 1990 average. Interestingly in July 2017 the Met Office warned that according to their new supercomputer, Britain would be heading for 'unprecedented' winter rainfall, with records being broken by up

to 30%. It just shows how fickle our weather can be and difficult to forecast long term.

AGM – 17 April 2018

The Environment Group is holding its AGM in the Stewart Village Hall on Tuesday 17 April starting at 7.30pm. The AGM will be very brief with the main item of the evening being a talk by Richard Oram, Oxfordshire's County Archaeologist. He will be covering local archaeology with a special mention of recent finds at Little Martins and Wallingford's Site B where an iron age ladder has been found. It is a fascinating topic and the evening is open to all at no charge! Please come along.

Millenium Wood

We are still preparing planning for a workday at the Millennium Wood which will be advertised on the local Facebook pages. Again it will be open to all. Many thanks to everyone who has already volunteered their time; we will be in touch soon with details of our first work party.

Steve Capel-Davies

WWI Commemorations

The crosses for our fallen WWI soldiers are now installed on the green in the Square. I am very grateful to Jonathan Deacon and Sam Rogerson who helped me one Sunday morning to put the memorial together.

March and April saw the deaths of the following soldiers:

Arthur Brooker on 9 March 1918 aged 30

Cyril Wells on 10 March 1915 aged 29

Frederick Batten on 10 April 1917, aged 30

Joseph Hammond on 10 April 1918 aged 23, also awarded the Military Medal

Frank Spratley on 27 April 1917 aged 19

Thomas Emberry on 28 April 1917, also aged 19.

You can read details about these men on the notice boards by the crosses.

Clive Collett

Allsorts Preschool

It has been a busy start to the year with the children focussing on traditional fairy tales. We have planted beans, made golden eggs and made our own beanstalk for Jack and the Beanstalk. For Red Riding Hood the children have made paper-plate wolves, made a map of the path through the woods to grandmother's house, looked at the healthy food in grandmother's basket and re-told the story with different endings. The Gingerbread Man story helped produce delicious gingerbread biscuits, which the children devoured in seconds; we also explored rhyming words. We recounted and re-told the Three Little Pigs stories and made stick houses. The children enjoyed dressing-up to raise money for Save the Children, ending in a PJ and pancake day, which was particularly fun.

We would like to thank the Community Association for a kind donation which has helped us to buy some beebots. You might ask what is a beebot? It's a colourful, easy-to-operate, and friendly little robot which is a perfect tool for teaching counting, sequencing, estimation, problem-solving, and just having fun!

Finally we are having a pub quiz on Monday 30 April to raise money for preschool so please join us.

Saffron Nowinska

Lambs seen recently at our visit to Highlands Farm showing Spring has come – at last! (Photo by Keith Brooks).



Do you value your village hall?

We would like to hear what you think

With the hall at the heart of the village many families have links to it. We often hear stories of grandparents and parents attending school in the hall, and children and grandchildren now attending Toddlers and Brownies and other fun activities. It is very popular for birthday parties and celebrations where all these generations come together, and is regularly used for lectures, presentations, sports, exhibitions and more.

However a building survey carried out last year shows that major work is required in the next few years to ensure the hall not only survives but thrives.

The latest news

In previous articles we have mentioned the survey that was carried out in the hall last year. Carrying out the survey was vital to give a full understanding to the extent of work required.



In this edition of *The Villager* we have enclosed a summary of the survey report and a questionnaire to find out what future you would like to see for the hall.

Major work needs to be done

The survey identified that the key areas that need to be addressed are: the roof; rising damp throughout; the electrics, the windows need repair, including the fabulous window at the front; the chimney removed; and overall the facilities need to be improved.

None of this will be cheap

At the moment, essential work is carried out as problems arise, but clearly major work is needed to secure the future of the hall.

This work can only be completed if funding is secured which would include applications for grants, donations, and fundraising. Grant bodies often require evidence of engagement and support from the village.

Your views are important – we need to know what you want

Moving forward with any or all of the work required will be a huge undertaking and will need the support of the village community.

Please take time to read the enclosed report and complete the questionnaire to have your say.

We will collect the completed questionnaires from your house or you can drop it into the hall, the Village Stores or the Red Lion. There will also be additional copies of the questionnaire available at these drop off points.

If you would like to support the village hall, including as a trustee or 'Friend of the Village Hall', or have any questions please contact us.

Email: shenaluck@btconnect.com

Website: www.stewartvillagehall.btck.co.uk

Stewart village hall trustees

Open Gardens

Three gardens will be open in the village on Sunday 20 May from 2-5pm under the National Garden Scheme (NGS yellow book) in Sotwell Street – at Dobsons; The Priory, next door; and Rose Cottage on the corner of Bakers Lane. Do come along and see these lovely gardens.

Anne Salisbury

Red Phone Box Gallery

Newly painted and looking rather smart, The Red Phone Box Gallery (opposite the Red Lion pub) has a new exhibition on the theme of 'Weather and its effect'. Some of the photos were taken by children at Brightwell school in a competition sponsored by The Merchant Taylors. Worth a look.

The Red Lion

Food

Our new Head Chef Charlie Bell with his wealth of experience has been creating some delicious dishes with locally sourced, seasonal ingredients. Come and try out our new menu.

A date for your diary – Brightfest

More information to follow but note the date for Brightfest is Saturday 9 June 2018. A packed line up, entertainment for the family, food and drink and all for good causes.

Local Artist

Local wildlife and equestrian artist Rachel Henderson will be exhibiting her art in The Red Lion in April and May. Rachel will be in the pub on the evening of Thursday 19 April so you can meet her, see her work and discuss possible commissions of portraits of your dogs, cats and horses.

Live Music

Sunday evenings are the regular time for live music.

Sam McGowan

Parish Council grants

The Parish Council has a donation policy for parish groups and organisations as set out below. It can be found on the Parish Council website or details obtained from the clerk.

Local Government powers

The Parish Council can use the Local Government Act 1972 (s137) to incur expenditure for the benefit of all or part of the parish if no other specific power allows the action. This power was amended by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to include – 'that the benefit should be proportionate with the expenditure'.

The amount that may be spent under s137 is limited and is calculated annually. A council may spend up to a maximum sum of money per elector per annum. Unspent s137 monies cannot be carried forward to the next financial year. The Parish Council has set a budget of £9000 for the financial year 2018/19.

The Parish Council policy

The Council does not have to issue all available grant funds if there are insufficient quality projects to reach the spending limit. It will consider all applications submitted and allocate grants having weighed their eligibility and merits. Grants may often be for less than the full value applied for.

Grant eligibility

To be eligible the project must make the parish a better place to live, work or visit and primarily benefit people who live in the parish.

The following are not eligible for s137 grants:

- Support for individuals or private business projects
- The running costs of an organisation
- Projects which are the statutory responsibility of other public bodies, or which primarily benefit privately owned land or property
- Projects which have already been completed
- Projects or organisations that do not directly benefit the Parish.

Grant application process

Applications should be made on the Grant Application Form which is available from the Parish Clerk and downloadable from the Parish Council website (brightwellcumsotwellpc.org). A receipt for a grant must be returned to the clerk for audit purposes. Grant funding must only be used for the purpose stated in the application. A short written report of how the grant has been spent and what it has achieved must be submitted to the clerk within 12 months of receipt of the grant. The report will become a document available for public inspection under the provisions of Section 228 of the Local Government Act 1972. Recipients of grants should acknowledge the Parish Council's support in any publications, publicity, and other promotional material.

Lucy Dalby, Parish Clerk

'After moving to a completely new area I joined the WI. I have since found new friends, skills and feel part of the local community'

The WI in Brightwell has had another successful year with well attended meetings, interesting speakers and events and a growing membership. Next year's speaker programme looks equally good and varied, from 'Handspinning and Natural Dyeing' in May to 'The art of the Magician' in November and 'Beer, sausages and marmalade' in February. More details can be found at our website www.brightwellcumsotwellwi.com. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the village hall at 7.30pm.

There's a lot more to the WI than jam and cake making. As well as monthly speakers we have interest groups and garden visits which are open to non-members too. Our next garden visit is to Ashbrook House, Blewbury on 8 April, an NGS Open day. If you want to come along, then contact me on 834754. Our groups include swimming (we leave the village up to three times a week to Didcot Wave at 7.45!), knitting, quilting, nordic walking and books. Again, if you want to come along then just give me a ring and I can put you in touch with the organiser or look on our website for more details.

We also take part in national WI campaigns to give a voice to important issues. This year the focus is on alleviating loneliness and tackling plastic soup – microfibres in the oceans. Next year, it's likely to be on mental health.

If you are interested in any of the above, then do come along. You will be made very welcome.

Helen Connor, President

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Cricket Club

Senior Team

At around 2pm on Sundays during the summer a group of teammates will don their 'whites' and take on opposing local village teams. They will play friendly but competitive cricket and when competition is over, retire to the Red Lion for a review of the day- with the allocation of fines by the captain for on and off the field misdemeanours and a beer or two.

Sounds like fun? Then please make contact with me or Tony Windsor (07909 848098) to confirm your interest. All standards, ages and genders are very welcome. Even if you can only play just one or two games during the season you will be very welcome. There has been a cricket club in BcS for over 150 years; come and join us and help set out our stall for the next 150!

Cricket net practice starts at the BcS recreation ground every Wednesday from 4 April at 6pm.

Eliot Forster, BCSCC Club Captain 2018 (07769 670894)

Junior Section

Coaching for 5 to 10 year olds

2018 will see the second year of 'All Stars Cricket Coaching' for 5 to 10 year olds of all genders on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11am from 12 May to 14 July. The ECB will issue an upgraded replacement kit on registration including a set of stumps for the All Stars who participated in 2017 and re-join the programme in 2018. New participants will, as last year, receive a set of kit – bag, bat, ball, a cap and a named 'All Stars' top. Register at <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars/parents> ASAP to ensure you receive the set of kit before coaching starts. Contact Tony Windsor, BCSCC Secretary (07909 848098) for further details.

Coaching for 10 to 16 Year olds

Coaching for Junior Development Group

Following the success of the All Stars cricket coaching in 2017, coaching by an ECB Qualified Coach has been arranged for those who have developed beyond the 'All Stars' coaching level. Coaching started indoors during March and will be at the BcS recreation ground on a Friday evening from 5.30 to 6.30pm April to July. Contact has been made with the 2017 'All Stars' in this ability group – however the coaching is open to all 9 to 13 year olds (ability is the key not age). Contact Tony Windsor, BCSCC Secretary (07909 848098) for further details.

Coaching for under 15 Team

The Under 15 year old squad will also receive coaching by an ECB Qualified Coach at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell recreation ground on Friday evenings from 6.30 to 8.00pm from April to July. Contact Alan Jenkins and Victoria King (07866 620719) for further details.

Tony Windsor

BCS Kings Meadow Tennis Club (BCSKMTC)

We are pleased to advise that your tennis club continues from strength to strength maintaining an annual membership of circa 160 Members which includes 50 Junior Members.

Moss on the courts continues to be an issue every year and this year it has been particularly bad. Members will be pleased to know that the Parish Council has taken positive action. A written annual maintenance plan for the courts has been introduced. A specialist company has been contracted to inspect the courts twice a year and repair, where required, the surrounding netting and court nets. In addition, they will spray the courts for moss and when required, use a mechanical brush to remove the moss by the roots.

Your club continues to be a registered venue with LTA and therefore eligible to participate in the LTA Annual Club Venue Wimbledon Ticket Allocation. This year 87 members over the age of 11 years opted-into the draw. (Last year we were allocated 11 pairs of tickets with 82 members opting-in). We await the allocation of tickets for this year. It is planned to make the club draw by mid-May 2018. The latest date for payment of annual subs is 30 April to be eligible for the draw.

The annual club subscription is due for the club year starting on 1 April 2018. Please see the email sent to members with methods of payment.

The BCSKMTC AGM will be held on Wednesday 11 April 2018 starting at 8pm in the St Agatha's meeting room.

Contact: Tony Windsor Chairman (07909 848098) or at tony@bcskingsmeadowtennisclub.org.uk if you require information about club membership and activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/BCSKingsMeadowTennisClub/>



Safari supper

This most popular event is being held again on Saturday 19 May. We would like to make this a bumper year and toast the royal couple with friends old and new. The form for 'the regulars' will be emailed to you, and new joiners can use the printed form (below). More information can be obtained from me by emailing lynnburridge@gmail.com or phoning 01491 833009.

We really look forward to seeing you there. If you have never joined this event before, it is great fun, starting off with nibbles at the church, then mains at a given venue, followed by pudding at another venue, finishing off with coffee at the pub. Suggested donation £15 and all funds raised will be split between St Agatha's and the Community Association. You can choose to be a HOST or a DINER. Hosts can claim expenses. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lynn Burridge

Please complete both the front and back of this form, cut out and return to Lynn Burridge at Bell Forge, Bell Lane, BcS

..... ✂.....✂.....✂.....✂.....✂.....✂.

Safari Supper 19 May booking form (front)

Name.....

Address.....

No of tickets required..... Amount enclosed.....

(Suggested donation £15 per person, cheques payable to BCS Community Association)

Gift Aid signature

Vegetarian? Yes/ No

Dietary restrictions / allergies..... P.T.O

Corn Exchange Wallingford

The Corn Exchange has a full programme of theatre and cinema over the next few months. Highlights include:

Films (at 7.30pm)

2, 6 April *I, Tonya* (plus the Oscar winning *The Silent Child* on 2nd)

3, 4 April *Lady Bird* (plus *The Silent Child* on 3rd)

15-17 April *Red Sparrow*

21, 22 April *Peter Rabbit*

Live Screenings

25 April Akram Khan's *Giselle* (*English National Ballet*) at 7.15pm

3 May *Manon* (*Royal Ballet*) at 7.15 pm

10 May NT's *Macbeth* at 7pm

29 May *An American in Paris –The musical* at 7.30pm

Sinodun Players (at 7.45 pm)

11-14 April *Lettice and Lovage*

23-26 May *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

Booking information: online at www.cornexchange.org.uk or telephone 01491 825000 or in person at box office 7-8pm every evening and 10-2pm on Friday and Saturday. See What's On for full programme.

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Safari Supper 19 May booking form (back)

I would be willing to host a main course.....

I would be willing to host a pudding course.....

Number I would be willing to host (including myself)

Email address.

Contact tel no

Any other comments (eg mobility issues/babysitters etc)

.....
.....

Maeve's Magical Journey Update



Maeve's Magical Journey has come a long way since our initial article in *The Villager* before Christmas.

Events have included Santa and his sleigh visiting the village, carol singing in Wallingford and providing food at the Wassail and Ceilidh. The Boat House in Wallingford kindly selected MMJ as its charity of the month for February, with a 'Jar on the Bar', a Roald Dahl quiz and our hosting of 'Bullseye'! The start of March saw our second Supper Club at the Red Lion.

After all this we are delighted to announce that we have reached a fantastic 25% of our £45,000 target! Thanks so much to everyone who has helped us on the journey so far. The kindness and generosity of so many people has been truly humbling. We're particularly grateful to the Fairthorne Memorial Trust, Brightwell Art Club, James Gesner Estate Agents and Haynes Car Care Centre for their support. And also our lovely neighbour Martin Dix, whose generous donation in memory of his dear wife Jane was a really touching gesture.

A busy bee

As for Maeve, she's been busy too! She began the year with another three-week session of intensive daily physio at the Footsteps Centre in Dorchester, her tenth so far. She is also the proud owner of a new bespoke set of splints and shoes from the London Orthotics Centre. These are made to measure and provide vital support below the knee, allowing her to balance independently and even bend down to pick things up without falling over. She's never been able to do that before.

Maeve has also now been approved for Botox treatment. This involves injections into her affected muscles under a general anesthetic in order to paralyse them temporarily. Once this is done, other, currently under-utilised, muscles are able to function better as much of the tightness Maeve normally feels is taken away. This procedure should be beneficial and will also mimic some of the effects of the selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) for which Maeve is currently being assessed.

As the journey continues, please join us for a quiz in the Red Lion on 26 March.

Also look out for another journey – our great friend Carrie Barringer and Joni the dog are walking the Ridgeway to raise funds for Maeve! Search on Facebook for Magical March for Maeve, or visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MagicalMarchForMaeve.

We plan to host a Maeve's Supper Club barbeque on the afternoon of Saturday 21 April to mark Carrie's progress as far as Wallingford. Venue to be confirmed soon.

Thanks for taking the time to read about Maeve and if you'd like to join her on her journey please visit www.facebook.com/MaevesMagicalJourney or www.justgiving.com/fundraising/maevenorfolk.

Sian and Peter Norfolk

Earth Trust

As the weather warms up, the Earth Trust at Little Wittenham are putting on a number of events. During the Easter holidays, they include:

- **An Easter Activity Trail: 3-5 April.** Pick up your map and explorer backpack from the Earth Trust Centre and head out for a self-led adventure in the woods!
- **Tree climbing: 6 April.** Use ropes and harnesses to explore Little Wittenham Wood's treetops in 1hr sessions with The Great Big Tree Climbing Company;
- **Night Safari : 10 April .**Wallingford Castle Meadows.

In May, there is

- **A dawn chorus walk 13 May.** Set your alarm clocks and listen to the birds;
- **Food and farming walk 15 May.** Discover how we manage the Earth Trust Farm so that it's both environmentally and economically sustainable.

For more information and times of these and lots more events and activities including booking information, contact the Earth Trust booking line at 01865 407792 (office hours are 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday) or by email admin@earthtrust.org.uk or online at earthtrust.org.uk.

Oxfordshire Artweeks

Nine local artists are exhibiting their work in Fison Barn during this year's Artweeks, from 19-28 May - Michelle Bosher and Phil Jose, Susan Ganney, Gill Goodwin, Eirian Griffiths, Julie Grose, Jan Harvey, Denny Webb and Jo Wimpenny. Refreshments available. 11am-3pm weekdays and 11am-4pm weekends and Bank Holiday Monday.

In Brief –round and about

Wallingford Photographic Club meets every Thursday evening in the Crowmarsh Pavilion at 7.30pm for 8pm. On 5 April, Richard Wakefield will give a presentation on Cinematic Photography, followed by Dave Mason on the 12th, with a journey into Street Photography. On the 19th the club will hold Portfolio and Travel competitions for members. Finally on the 26th Viveca Koh will be talking about her life through a lens in A Photographer's Perspective. For full details and directions please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club.

Guided historic town walks are taking place on every Saturday morning from 31 March to 29 Sept, starting from the Town Hall at 11.00am. Walks last 1 - 2 hours and cost £5 per head. Money will be donated to support Wallingford Museum.

Wallingford Museum has just re-opened its 'Treasures with Tales' exhibition. The treasures are woven in amongst other exhibitions which include not only the story of Wallingford's Saxon origins, its great royal castle, the town's links with Agatha Christie, but also updates the recent archaeology that is being uncovered by new developments around the town. See www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk.

VILLAGE DIARY

April

10	WI meeting 'Crinolines & Mangles'	VH	7.15
11	BcS Kings Meadow Tennis Club AGM	St Agatha's	8pm
16	Coffee link up at Root 1		10am
17	Environment Group AGM	VH	7.30pm
21	Maeve's Supper Club	TBC	
22	Start of Save the Children Week		10am
30	Allsorts Preschool pub quiz	Red Lion	8pm

May

4	Band Night & BBQ for Save the Children & BCRT	Rec	7pm
5	Spring Ball in aid of Save the Children & BCRT	Rec	7pm
8	WI meeting 'Handspinning & Natural Dyeing'	VH	7.15pm
12	Save the Children Plant Sale	Square	10am
19	Safari Supper starting at St Agatha's		7pm
20	Open Gardens (3 venues)		2pm
26	Church Annual Spring Fair at Brightwell Manor		2pm

For Easter church services and events see page 8.

Advance Notice

9 June	Brightfest
17 June	10 th Anniversary Summer Concert
7 July	Village Fete at Sotwell House

Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Friday 6 , Thursday 19 April Thursdays 3 & 17 May
Green (& Brown) bins	Thursdays 12 & 26 April (extra brown bin/garden waste on 12th) Friday 11 , Thursday 24 May

Village website

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