

Contents

Editorial	2
Viola Crowe	3
The 4 th Colour and Clay Exhibition	4
Village fete	5
The Parish Council	5
Shop and post office	6
Village flower and produce show 2021	7
Voice of Oak	8
Brightwell Toddlers	9
Looking forward	9
Wanted - School Governor / Brightwell WI	10
Flower and produce show – schedule and entry form	11-14
Save the Children / Stewart village hall	15
Keep fit	16
Landmark in Time / Brightwell Football Club	17
Henge Festival update	18
The Environment Group	19
The Chairman's report at Villager AGM	20
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Cricket Club	21
A village star	22
Brightwell Supporting Refugees / What's on at Corn Exchange	23
Village Diary	24

Editor: Helen Connor 834754 (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, Angela Lewis, Steve Luck, Trevor Morgan, Susanne Tuffrey

Items for the next edition should be sent to the Editor by 10 September 2021. *The Villager* is published every other month and delivered free to all households in the village.

Editorial

Summertime is now in full swing – a very different summer from last year! I'm just back from a short stay in the New Forest which has made me appreciate what lovely countryside we can enjoy not far from here. And, of course, there is a lot to do on our doorstep if staying at home – up on the Wittenham Clumps or down on the Thames, or right here in the village.

I hope by the time you read this that the covid restrictions will be lifted and we can go ahead with the rescheduled village summer events – in August, the Colour and Clay exhibition at St Agatha's (14/15th); the BSR Trail followed by food, bar and music at the Rec (21st); and the Church Fair (30th); while in September we have the village fete and flower and produce show (11th). It's schedule and entry forms are on pages 10-14. Though taking place later in the year, most of the usual classes in the show are there and also a few new ones, so do take a look and enter. It's always good fun.

How nice to have a new bench at the bottom of the allotment stream (as shown on front cover), where you can stop, sit, relax and listen to the falling stream or watch some cricket on the Rec – thank you Clive and Celia Collett. Such a lovely idea. And we have a poem about the bench - 'Voice of Oak' written by Tony Isaacs, see page 8. With our recent wet weather, the vegetation around the new stream has been rampant, so much so that the stream has almost disappeared in places!

It was sad to hear the news of the passing away last month of one of our older residents well known to many of you, Viola Crowe. She had lived here for over 40 years and during that time had been a stalwart of village life, in particular contributing to the development and running of the village hall. You can read more about her contributions to the village in the obituary on page 3 written by her children.

Our village depends on people like Viola who give their time and talents to the clubs and numerous activities that make Brightwell a great place to live. They all need to be thanked, but especially Tony Windsor, secretary to the cricket, tennis and football clubs for his contributions often behind the scenes to our sporting life here. You can read more from him about how well the cricket and junior football teams are doing on pages 17 and 21. Another useful input is being a Governor at the primary school – have you considered being a Community Governor where there is a current vacancy? (see page 10).

Wishing you a happy holiday!

Helen Connor

Viola Crowe (19.6.25 - 09.6.21)

Viola and Basil lived very happily at the Old Barn in Sotwell for almost 40 years from 1969 until 2009. It was in this lovely village that her life really flowered. She became immersed in village life, made a huge number of friends and was active in many different organisations and societies. This started with the Women's Institute where she was on the committee for many years. I remember her organising speakers in the old wooden village hall in The Street.



She was very engaged in the move to the 'new' village hall in 1976 which used the converted old school, providing greatly improved facilities. Running costs also increased and Viola, who oversaw bookings, had the task of increasing revenue to ensure these were met. She was enthusiastic and creative in the endeavour to find regular clients and 'The Playgroup' (which became 'Allsorts') set up by Kate Griffin, Lynn Debney and others, was an important early regular user. Viola also encouraged new sporting activities, two of which, badminton and short-mat bowls, continue today. The telephone at home often rang with enquiries about whether the hall was available on a particular day, how much it cost and how to book.

Viola's involvement in the village hall continued for over thirty years. At the end of it she was presented with a beautiful watercolour of the hall with an inscription of thanks which took pride of place in her new flat in Abingdon. Viola was also a Parochial Church Council member and, for a time, a District Counsellor on the Planning Committee.

Having missed out on school due to the war, Viola made up for it by taking an Open University Arts degree and graduated in 1981. This interest combined with her village hall role, brought her into contact with Mary Acton and the Art History group. Viola was an enthusiastic member of the group and organised many study tours to destinations such as Paris, Amsterdam, Rome, Venice, Milan, and New York. She continued attending Mary's lectures after her move to Abingdon in 2009. Viola was a founder member of the Environment Group and cared hugely about developing and sustaining wildlife in the village.

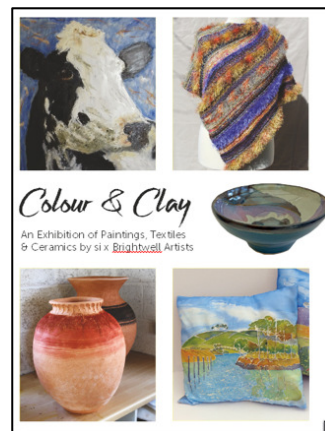
In all her roles, she brought common sense, conscientiousness, enthusiasm, and a great sense of humour. Her strong and long-lasting relationships with village friends were demonstrated when she celebrated her 90th birthday party at the village hall.

Her lovely, sunny funeral service was held in St James' churchyard on 2nd July 2021, by Janice Chilton who was able to bring a very personal touch to her address. She is buried in the beautiful churchyard, alongside her beloved husband Basil.

John and Julia Crowe

The 4th Colour and Clay Exhibition

COLOUR and CLAY returns to St Agatha's Church on new dates in August.



Rescheduled dates:

Saturday 14 August 10am–5:30pm

Sunday 15 August 10:30am–4pm

At St Agatha's Church, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

The exhibition includes wood turned pieces, textiles in the form of knitting, paintings and prints, and clay both thrown and hand built!

This year the exhibition will expand interest by offering some 'hands on' craft activities and games.

All funds raised will go to St Agatha's Church projects.

Oh!... and there will be plenty of tea and cake!!!

*Jenni Pozzoni, Roger Syme, Rosemary Greasby,
Marion Syme, Robert Field and Annie Brooker*

Village fete – Saturday 11 September

This year's village fete will be on Saturday 11 September 2-4.30pm in the lovely gardens of Sotwell House, kindly hosted again by Jenny and David Dobbin. Our plans are well advanced and although it is later this year, we hope to provide the usual fun filled afternoon for all the family. I am sure that the weather will be perfect.

As usual, the fete works as a collaboration between groups in the village. Each activity is managed by a separate group or individual (the PCC run the teas, for example). The Community Association collects the funds from each activity. Then we invite groups to submit requests for grants from our coffers.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the set up before this event, which is one of the highpoints in the Brightwell calendar.

The schedule and entry forms for the flower and produce show are in the centre pages of this *Villager* and take a look at the article on page 7. The show appeals to all ages, of course, and we try to ensure the fete always has a good balance of activities. As well as the tried and tested stalls and games (the white elephant stall, coconut shies, teas, books, brass band etc.) look out for something different this year.

Committee members will be collecting contributions for the white elephant, book and bottle stalls during the week before the fete, so now is a good time to start thinking about what you are planning to discard. Please remember that we can't take any electrical goods to sell, because of liability in case of accidents, and all donations (especially toys) must be in good working order. They simply won't sell otherwise.

*James Davys,
Community Association, Chairman*

The Parish Council

Reports from our District and County Councillors

At a recent meeting Cllr Simpson reported that a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan has been drawn up. Once adopted, it will form an overarching framework for spatial development in Oxfordshire.

Cllr. Sudbury reported that together with other newly elected County Councillors he sees the environment and climate change as two of their main priorities. Work continues in exploring the installation of a crossing on the High Road. He was asked by the Parish Council to revisit the development of a cycle lane to connect the village with Didcot and investigate the light angles on the by-pass streetlights.

Internal Audit Report

The Parish Council had an internal audit which reported that many of the financial aspects of the PC had improved but recommended some administrative changes.

Other work

Councillors are currently working on the land transfer for car parking at the village hall and completion of the amenity areas at Little Martins by the developers.

James Davys

PS - Message from Parish Council: Please do not have garden fires on a hot sunny day - it's unpleasant for neighbours and antisocial.

Village shop/post office

Here in the shop and post office it has been lovely to give a warm welcome to many of the new residents to our village. If you are a new resident and haven't sought us out yet then please do give us a try. We stock many local foods and items such as meat, eggs, honey, cheese, bread, milk, yoghurt, fruit and veg, biscuits, coffee, wine, beer, gin, cards and gifts. Why not try our range of frozen foods from Field Fare? We do refills of Bio D cleaning products, olive oil & peppercorns. All this adds into our 'green policy', saving food miles and packaging, whilst supporting local businesses.

At the Post Office counter, we can deal with most of your mailing requirements and 'paying-in and drawing out' money from your bank account (services becoming increasingly popular as many of the High Street banks are closing), amongst other things.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

The shop team

Village flower and produce show 2021

It's time to get producing!

Yes, it's time for the great Brightwell-cum-Sotwell flower and produce show, reinvented this year to September, on Saturday the 11th, and so hopefully leapfrogging every last lockdown! We have our fingers and toes firmly crossed for that. And thanks in advance to our kind hosts, Jenny and David Dobbin of Sotwell House.

It's THE opportunity for everyone to get producing, flourishing, creating – whether it's in the garden/allotment, in the kitchen, or in the arts and crafts room. Whatever you've been busy at during lockdown, it's the ideal moment to tell the village about it! And whether you are 8 or 80, it makes no difference, the important thing is to have a go. Junior entries are still just 10p, adult entries have increased to 50p per entry, but it's all in a good cause.

The past popular sections are back, from a vase of cottage garden favourites to a jar of chutney, from a box of salad vegetables to a loaf of speciality bread. Plus, we've introduced a few new categories for 2021. Budding film makers aged 9 to 13 years are challenged to make a one-minute film, judged by our own BAFTA-award winning Helen Baines, and little ones (5 to 8 years) to plant the tallest, brightest sunflower in a pot. If creative writing's your thing, then imagine a martian landing in bucolic Brightwell and write the postcard it would send home, or tell us the ten things you've learnt during the covid crisis in a pandemic rap! A reminder that children can enter ANY of the categories, so not just those which are defined as for children.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any late entries on the day due to several helpers being on holiday prior to the show. Just a quick reminder too to past winners to please surrender your cups and trophies from last year's show, so we can give them an extra polish for this year before the grand podium moment. Please bring along on the day or drop off at the village shop.

HELP wanted!

Also, these events take a huge amount of effort and organisation, so if you would like to help in any way – it's fun too, I can attest! – then do please contact Helen Satchell on HVSatchell@hotmail.com.

Robert Seatter

Voice of Oak

Such is my measure, my gravitas,
It needed four strong men
To bear me into place.

From English green oak I am hewn,
My sturdy frame set in good earth,
Anchored, well and truly down.

I need no dressing, no stain or dye,
No special care, my needs are few,
Just rain to wash me, sunshine to dry.

Set beside a stone-step overfall
Of clear, tumbling stream water,
It's music calming, enchanting all

And quenching wild-life's thirst
In this shielded, magic place,
While songbirds sing, fit to burst.

In time to come, my silvering days,
I'll greet you all, some silvering too,
And rest you down, let you gaze

Upon the field of youthful play,
The games and music of our village life,
In deep of night or blue of day.

I am the brain-child of Celia and Clive -
Please stop, look and listen, relax with me.
I'll be here waiting for you to arrive.

Tony Vincent Isaacs, June 2021

The oak bench is pictured on the cover, photo taken by Suanne Tuffrey

Brightwell Toddlers

We have been having great fun in the park for the last few months - it has been so nice to get back together again and catch up with old friends and meet some lovely new families!

As usual, we are having a break over the summer holidays but are hoping to be back in the village hall on Thursday 9 September. Please keep an eye on our Brightwell Toddlers Facebook Page or email brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com for updates.

For anyone thinking of coming along, the group is for new-borns up to 4 years and runs 9:15 -11am on Thursday mornings (term time only). It's a great way to meet other families and we provide yummy treats and strong coffee! The cost is £2.50 per family and we have toys, crafts, singing and story-telling.

Have a really lovely summer everyone and we look forward to hearing all your news in September!

Laura Woodford

Looking forward

With the summer holidays now well underway, plans are already in place for the start of the new academic year at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell school, welcoming our new Pippin children and our Year 6 children starting at their new secondary schools. We are full of optimism for the new year with a recognition that the pandemic has presented many opportunities, alongside the many challenges.

This coming year sees Mrs Collier and Mrs Lewis leading the school as Co-Heads. We welcome Ms Eggleston to Pippin class, whilst Ms Fleming begins her maternity leave, Mrs Fearn to Bramley class and Mrs Long to Year 4, Gala class as we separate our Year 3/4 class this year due to growing numbers in the school. Our numbers have grown significantly in recent years, rising to over 130 next year, but we do still have some spaces in some year groups so please get in touch with Mrs Major in the school office if you are seeking a space.

Our hope, at the time of writing, is that fewer Covid arrangements will be in place in September and we will see as close to a pre-Covid Brightwell Primary

School as possible, with the full complement of clubs and enrichment opportunities this year. Although we are not expecting a year free of disruption, we have every confidence that the experience of the last year continues to place us in a strong position to deliver the very best for our school community.

*Fin Lewis
Headteacher*

Wanted – new Community Governor for our primary school

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School is looking to appoint a new Community Governor.

The role of the governing body is to provide strategic management and to act as a 'critical friend' supporting the work of the headteacher and other staff. The governing body is responsible for ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction for the school, holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Following a review of governor skills and capabilities, we are particularly keen to recruit a governor from the local community who is experienced in the analysis of budgets and monitoring financial performance.

If this may be of interest to you, then please get in touch with Alastair Wilcox, Chair of Governors at awilcox@mtoat.co.uk for an initial discussion.

Alastair Wilcox

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell WI

Our August meeting will be an afternoon visit to Oxford Botanic Gardens on Tuesday 10th and we will be back in the village hall for our September (14th) meeting with a talk from Roger Laing on the 'Story of the Unknown Warrior'. This will be an open meeting so visitors welcome. More details will be in members' newsletter.

Helen Connor, Secretary

**BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL
FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW**



at
THE VILLAGE FETE
SATURDAY 11 September 2021



**TO BE HELD IN THE GROUNDS OF SOTWELL HOUSE,
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, OX10 0PT**

By kind permission of Jenny and David Dobbin

Entries received from 9–10:30am. No late entries after 10:15am. Judging starts at 11am.

Entrance fee: 50p each adult entry – 10p each junior entry.

PLEASE NOTE NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY DUE TO SEVERAL OF OUR HELPERS BEING ON HOLIDAY.

The show will open to the public at 2pm. Exhibitors are asked to collect exhibits and prize cards at 4pm.

TROPHIES

The Chilton Cup is awarded for the best exhibit in the fruit and vegetable classes.

The Win Glendenning Memorial Salver is awarded for the best flower arranging exhibit.

Two trophies are awarded in memory of Gilbert Talbot. **The Talbot Rose Bowl** is awarded for the best rose exhibit. **The Talbot Cup** is awarded on a points system, but may not be won by the same person for two years running.

The Joan Sheard cup will be awarded for the best under-16 entry in an adult class. Trophies will also be awarded for the top two junior classes.

The Swan Allotments Cup is awarded for the best-kept allotment. Judging takes place during the week before the show.

The Sally Dugan Cup is awarded for the best entry in the creative writing section.

THE SCHEDULE

To be judged by popular vote: Best Entry in Show.

Prize: £10 voucher for the village shop.

Flower Arranging

Height is unlimited, except for miniature arrangements

1. A miniature flower arrangement. Max 4” x 4” x 4” (10cm x 10cm x 10cm)
2. A bowl of floating garden flowers
3. An arrangement: The theme – Party, celebrating with friends (accessories allowed). Max 18” x 18” (45cm x 45cm). Height unlimited

Flowers and Vegetables

4. A vase of garden favourites - 7 stems, one variety or mixed
5. Most scented flower, single or small bunch of up to 5 stems
6. A rose, Hybrid Tea – 1 stem
7. A rose, multi-headed – 1 stem
8. Three stems flowering shrub to attract bees - not rose – one variety or mixed
9. Potted plant, flowering, foliage or succulent
10. Dish of soft fruit of one kind
11. 3 apples, any variety
12. Box of vegetables – 3 varieties. Box not to exceed 16” x 12” (40cm x 30.5cm)
13. Box of salad vegetables. Box not to exceed 16” x 12” (40cm x 30.5cm)
14. 3 courgettes
15. 6 potatoes (named variety)
16. 6 runner beans
17. 1 marrow (not exceeding 40cm)
18. 4 named herbs in one jar
19. 6 hen’s eggs

Cookery

20. A jar of chutney – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
21. A jar of marmalade – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
22. A jar of any jam including jellies – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
23. Anything pickled
24. A loaf of earl grey tea bread
25. 5 biscuits on a plate
26. An apple cake
27. NOVICE CLASS (Open to anyone who hasn’t won a baking prize in the show before): Victoria sponge cake

Drinks

- 28. A bottle of beer or cider
- 29. Any other alcoholic drink
- 30. A non-alcoholic drink
- 31. A named cocktail using ingredients of your choice - can contain alcohol

Photography, Arts and Crafts

[Max size – 7” x 5” – 17.5cm x 12.5cm, except where otherwise stated]

- 32. Photograph, unmounted: 'Lockdown'
- 33. Photograph, unmounted: 'Wilding'
- 34. A set of four mounted photos, b/w or colour, on any theme
- 35. Photograph, unmounted: 'Make us smile'. Amusing, with or without caption
- 36. Watercolour drawing: 'Village life' Max size A4
- 37. A homemade craft item
- 38. An item of jewellery, any materials

Creative Writing

- 39. Short story, no longer than 500 words beginning, "It was an ordinary day, in Brightwell village shop when I walked....."
- 40. My pandemic rap:- 10 surprising things I learned from the pandemic
- 41. My other-worldly postcard: – a Martian lands in Brightwell and sends a postcard home (100 words)

9-13 year olds

- 42. Make a model vehicle for the future
- 43. 5 Decorated cup cakes
- 44. A one minute movie – theme 'Village Life' (email to Helen@teambaines.plus.com with name and age no later than 5pm Thursday 9 September)

5-8 year olds

- 45. Best sunflower
- 46. A model made from junk - no bigger than 40cm in any dimension
- 47. Decorated egg

Under fives

- 48. A painted/decorated pasta necklace
- 49. A minibeast made from clay, playdough or plasticine
- 50. Family or self portrait

ENTRY FORM

Please complete by Thursday 9th September 12pm and return, with money to:

The Village Stores: Queries to Hvsatchell@icloud.com

Name	Class No.	No.of Entries	Fee	Age (for under 16's)

TOTAL FEES: _____

Address:

Save the Children

The final total raised from our Plant Sale was an amazing £1,839. Thank you again to everyone who donated all the wonderful plants and all those that bought them.

After a very difficult fundraising year we are continuing to plan future events: in the autumn we will hold at least two events to sell Christmas cards, gifts & cakes (dates to be confirmed) but we have decided to delay our planned Dog Show as this year's late summer village diary is filling up with events. We now hope to hold it on 9 April 2022, followed by our Plant Sale in May and then the long awaited Summer Ball on 25 June 2022.

Save the Children in the UK and around the world supports children to learn, grow and become who they want to be, despite where they are born and what life throws at them. This is more important than ever with the impact that conflict and climate change is having on the planet and all our lives.

Please support Save the Children, together we can make a difference to many children's lives and help them face the future with hope.

Celia Collett

Stewart village hall

A thank you to everyone who has been back in the hall and to those who have booked for the coming weeks. It has been a pleasure to welcome you back.

As legal restrictions are lifted, we would like to assure you that we take the safety of everyone who uses the hall of key importance and ask you to continue to follow the systems in place, for example using the Track and Trace system or providing contact details to your group or event organiser, using hand sanitising and cleaning stations provided.

We appreciate some of your group may not be ready to come back into the hall just yet, so if this is the case then please consider using our excellent video conferencing equipment so they can join in via Zoom. This is a great way to keep everyone engaged and involved in meetings, classes and group activities. It is freely available to all hall users on request, just select 'video conferencing equipment' as a line item on the booking request.

It is great to see the hall in use again and if you would like to visit to see the facilities available or discuss changes you may need to accommodate your group or event then please do get in touch. We are very happy to help any way we can.

We would also like to thank the people supporting the village hall through the SO Charitable Lottery, we really do appreciate your support. We have had some lucky winners of cash prizes and free tickets into the following week's draw. This month's star prize is a luxury forest lodge holiday, to take part please visit:

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

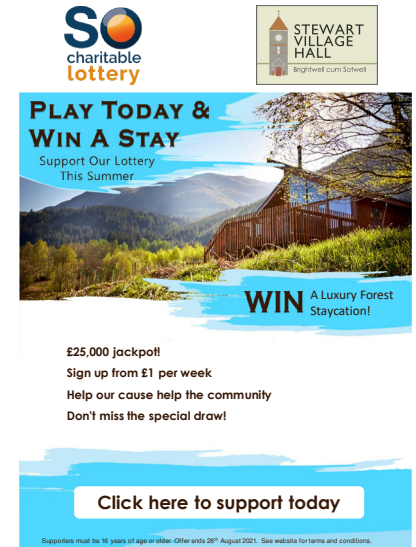
If you have any queries or would like to book the hall please visit our website: stewartvillagehall.org.uk or contact Shena at shenaluck@btinternet.com or on 01491 834543.

Thank you for your support.

Annette Kilworth

Keep fit in the village hall

There are spare places in either the Monday (9:00-9:40 am) and Wednesday (6:45-7:45 pm) session. Both are suitable for any level of fitness and are exercises to music, in a relaxed atmosphere. Contact Shena, on 01491834543 to check availability; the first class is FREE and after, £2.50 on Mondays and £4.00 on Wednesdays. No weekly commitment!



Landmark in Time: The world of the Wittenham Clumps

In 1844, Joseph Tubb from the village of Warborough was so inspired by the views from the Wittenham Clumps that he composed a poem listing the momentous ancient conflicts that had occurred within sight of the twin hills. He carved his poem into the bark of a hundred-year-old beech tree, now sadly lost.

The same views have more recently inspired Peter Adamson, a prize-winning author and Sotwell resident, to collect stories about the varied events and characters associated with this landscape. Through online and bibliographic research, he has uncovered and written about many little-known details in a series of 20 enjoyable essays, contained in his new book 'Landmark in Time: The world of the Wittenham Clumps'. Some essays bring to life poets and artists, adventurers and innovators, whilst others contemplate related topics, whether trees, wildflowers, teasels, dog-walkers, red kites or nuclear energy. All should be of interest to those who love the Clumps.

The book is on sale in the Village Stores and in The Wallingford Bookshop. The author will be talking about his book in the village hall on 17 September, at an event in aid of Brightwell Supporting Refugees.

Bill Horsfield

Brightwell Youth Football Club (AFCBYFC)

AFCBYFC plays at the recreation ground in Mackney Lane and last season ran two teams - U12 Panthers and U15 Revolution in the Oxford Youth League. For the 2021- 2022 season both teams will move up an age group to under 13 Years and under 16 Years.

The U16 Team is managed and coached by Brandon DiMassa and Paul Whitty with coaching on a Thursday evening and matches played on a Sunday morning.

New players are always welcome for both teams. Currently, we are looking for new players to play in the under 13 Panthers to strengthen the squad (players need to be under 13 Years on 31 August 2021) as the team moves up from 9 to 11 aside and play on the full-size pitch. This team is coached by Mickey Rooney on a Friday evening, also playing on a Sunday morning.

If you would like to join AFCBYFC please contact:

U16 Revolution Team: Brandon DiMassa on 07455 002056

U13 Panthers Team: Mickey Rooney on 07770 456839

Many thanks to Richard Gross of E&W Plumbing & Heating and James Gesner Estate Agents for sponsoring the team's shirts.

Tony Windsor, Secretary AFCBYFC

HENGE21 Festival – Update

Art Challenge

As part of the **HENGE21 Festival** in September 2021, you are invited to exhibit as a budding artist, either digitally or in the WW2 Pillbox (surely a first). Photograph your own interpretation of the Dykes hills and send to hengefestival@gmail.com by 3 September. Go to the website for more up to date information www.hengefestival.com, or Instagram: henge.21 or on Facebook at hengefestival.

Writer's Workshop

Calling local poets – if you are 16 and older you are invited to participate in this year's festival by creating poems that relate to its circle of life themes. Poets are invited to join an intense, day-long workshop in the village of Dorchester-on-Thames on **Sunday 1 August**, (10am–5pm) led by Henge21 resident poet, Jill Battson. In the morning you will visit the site of this September's celebration – the Dyke Hills – for inspiration, gain insight on the history of Dorchester at the museum and spend the afternoon crafting and critiquing poems that will be published on the Henge21 website. Registration is £25 at: jillbattson@gmail.com.

Performance

Jill Battson will perform at the Wallingford Corn Exchange on **Saturday 31 July** at 3:30pm. Tickets are available through the Corn Exchange box office at: 01491 825000.

The Environment Group

Allotment Stream and Swan Wood Project

Work on the stream has pretty much been completed with the only significant work outstanding being the reconstruction of the inlet structure using locally donated stone. Some trees about 8 or 9 years old that were kindly donated (having been carefully nurtured after being planted by a squirrel!) have been replanted in the woodland. The remainder of the trees in the woodland will be planted in the autumn.

A real bonus to the scheme was the bench that was so generously donated by Clive and Celia Collett to allow people to 'Stop, Look, Listen and Relax'. Sited in the shade by the overfall is certainly a fine place to while away some time and enjoy the surroundings. Hand crafted in wood from Sherwood Forest it is a great addition and will no doubt be much used and appreciated for many years to come. Anyone walking along the stream today would be hard pushed to think that it was only created a few months ago as the vegetation has recently taken a very strong hold – indeed to such an extent the stream has been hard to spot in places! To give the wildflowers a chance, we have pulled up some of the most vigorous self-sown broad-leaved plants followed by a light trim as recommended by the suppliers of the seed mix. We will see whether the hard work yields the hoped-for results although I expect that 'what will be will be' will rule the day!

The information sign has been made and will be erected close to the one for the orchard in the coming weeks when we hope to have a small informal 'opening'. This again has been created by local talent.

We were fortunate to have obtained a grant to cover most of the cost of the work from The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) with a representative expressing very positive views when she was shown around the site in June. Without the grant the ideas would still be on the drawing board so we are very grateful for TOE's support. And of course, even with a grant, the scheme would not have happened without the willing band of locals who put in so much work!

Weather

The rainfall recorded at Highlands farm was 101.7 mm in May and 82.3mm in June. Both months were wetter than the long-term average (1981 – 2010) with May being noticeably wet and cold with around 10–15 days of ground frost. In June the temperature rose to above average.

The overall effect of both months has been noticeable on the growth of crops (I have seen barley and beans reaching to above eye-level) as well as alongside and within the stream.

Steve Capel-Davies

The Chairman's report at *The Villager* AGM, June '21

This last year has been a very different one in many aspects. Lockdown came as a blow in March last year and so that issue (March/April) was only available online, the first time in our history that we have not printed copies.

By the end of May 2020 we had found a strategy. One person printed the text on their own and another the adverts (thank you Angela/Susanne and Steve). Assembly could not be done in the usual way so the Luck Family stepped forward and collated all 700 odd copies over one weekend in the hall. They also distributed at least one issue. Another big thank you. The same members produced the July/August, September/October and November/December issues. By January/February the Brookers were able to shoulder some of the assembly work and this continued for the last March/April issue. I am glad to report that we are back now to some sort of normal!

There have been no particular issues with the printer, and print teams have produced the magazine without problems. Steve manages the adverts and Angela and Susanne the text and front cover. Martin, as advertising manager, liaises with Charlotte Morgan about any advert changes. Assembly happens on the last Monday morning every other month and Shena still manages to fill the slots with volunteers even on bank holidays. However, if anyone knows of a volunteer to add to her list, it is always useful. George Birt, our Treasurer, reported that the accounts were in good shape.

Thank you to the committee for their continued support and also the various teams; production, printing, and distribution for their efforts which produce the magazine, to Ken Templeton who audits the books, and not forgetting of course the scores of assembly and distribution volunteers who give their time,.

Anne Brooker

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Cricket Club

I am pleased to report that your village cricket club continues from strength to strength, with a thriving junior section. The senior team, led by Captain Eliot Forster, supported by Vice Captains Rob England and George Potter, both sons of the village, has benefitted from additional new members enabling extra games to be added to the fixture list this season, against Turville Park CC and Cholsey CC. A special thank-you to Corrine and Mouse from the Red Lion for providing great take-away teas for our home matches during the pandemic.

The BCSCC Junior Section comprises 3 age groups for all genders:

All Stars Cricket 5 to 8 Years

10 Coaching sessions have been delivered on Saturday mornings from May to July for 21 All Stars, coached by Mickey Rooney and Roger Gill, this year supported by Jamie Zalinski, Thomas Debney, Paddy Rooney, and Stan Vowles as assistant coaches. Each child has at least one parent with them every week who also participates in the sessions alongside their All Star, making it very much a family occasion.

The Development Group has two groups for 8 to 10 Years and 11 to 13 Years

The main aim for the coaching sessions, particularly for the younger age group, is to have fun while learning and continue to reinforce the positive experience at All Stars.

This year, we are incredibly lucky to have a new villager join the club who is a cricket coach, Chris Benarr, living in West End. Chris has two children participating as part of the 19 children in the 8 to 11 years group. He has been assisted with the younger group by another father, Duncan Chandler, whose help has been invaluable. Coaching for the development groups is on a Friday evening from April to July starting at 5:30 through to 8pm.

The older group 11 to 13 Years, comprising 17 children, participates in the Oxford Youth Cricket League for Under 13 years, led by Captain Freddie Barringer supported by Vice Captains Evie Satchell and Henry Plant. This is proper cricket, hard ball and is played using the laws of cricket in 20 over matches on a Thursday evening. Thank you to Simon Plant and James Barringer for your unwavering support and for scoring every match in addition Lee Simpson, for your time behind the stumps in the nets.

With a total of 57 children from 5 to 13 Years, and with Chris taking the helm for the Juniors, it is hoped that the Cricket Club will continue to have a bright future.

Coaching continues in summer holidays

Cricket coaching this year will continue on a Tuesday morning at the BCS Recreation Ground during the school summer holidays from 20 July through to 17 August at 9:30 to 10:30 for the 8 to 11 Years age group and 10:30 to 11:30 for the 11 to 13 Years group, delivered by Adam Muttit who coached the juniors last year. He is an ECB Coach who plays for the MCC. A Cricket Camp is also planned on Wednesday 4 August from 10am to 3pm with a parent and kids game during the afternoon – look out for more details on the Village Facebook Page.

Tony Windsor, Secretary BCSCC

A village star!

Linda Deacon has been awarded Star of the Year in 2021 by the Small Charities Coalition (SSC) in appreciation of the work she has done for people with vision impairment. In 2015, the way braille is written changed. Linda, who has been blind from birth, stepped up to rewrite over 1300 books into the new form of braille over 5 years. Amazing!

In recognition of this fantastic achievement, she has had a star named after her - Conis major – as can be seen in her certificate below. Congratulations Linda.



Brightwell Supporting Refugees -

Sadly because of Covid restrictions we were not able to run our fundraising event in July but the good news is that we have rescheduled it for **Saturday 21 August**.

Question: Do You know your Village?

Why not put your knowledge to the test and come along to the Recreation Ground on from 2pm to register and take part in the trail-quiz to find out? £10 PER FAMILY £5 INDIVIDUAL to enter.

Bring your answers back to the Rec and then from 5pm enjoy some delicious food and drink from the bar, accompanied by musical entertainment. Perfect for a summer's evening on the Rec - we really look forward to seeing you there!

We are starting our monthly Friday evening events in the village hall on 17 September at 7.30 pm with local author Peter Adamson on his book on the Wittenham clumps, reviewed on page 17. Look out for more details coming soon.

Best wishes from us all at BSR.

Ann Linton

What's on at the Corn Exchange Wallingford

The social distancing algorithm currently in place at the box office, with only groups of up to 6 from allowed groups able to book seats together, will be lifted from the beginning of August if government rules allow. The box office system automatically spaces out any new bookings.

A cinema programme will run from 1-20 August (see details at www.cornexchange.org.uk) and then the Corn Exchange will be closed from **Saturday 21 – Sunday 29 August** inclusive for annual maintenance and deep cleaning.

Coming in September (22nd -25th) is live theatre with performances by the Sinodun Players of 'A Daughter's a daughter', published by Agatha Christie under the name Mary Westmacott. Contact box office for tickets.

VILLAGE DIARY

August

- 10 WI visit to Oxford Botanical Gardens
- 14 Colour & Clay Exhibition 10-5:30pm St
- 15 Colour & Clay Exhibition 10:30-4pm Agatha's
- 21 BSR Trail (from 2pm) & bar/food (from 5pm) Rec
- 30 Church Fete at Brightwell Manor

September

- 11 Village fete at Sotwell Manor 2-4:30pm
- 14 WI talk Roger Laing 'Story of the Unknown Warrior' VH 7:45pm
- 17 BSR talk: Peter Adamson 'Landmark in Time' VH 7:30pm

Advance Notice

Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

- Grey bins Thursdays 5 & 19 August
Friday 3 & Thursdays 16 & 30 September
- Green (& brown) bins Thursdays 12 & 26 August
Thursdays 9 & 23 September

Village website

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