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

Editorial

Congratulations to Brightwell School on marking its 175th anniversary. Our cover shows the school's float at Wallingford carnival (thank you Brandon DiMassa for the photo). It was a lovely afternoon at the picnic with lots of old friends to meet up with and trips down memory lane to enjoy. The school has clearly benefited from the support you have given as a community.

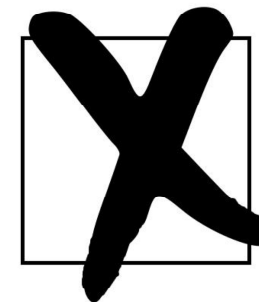
The big news this month is that the Neighbourhood Plan has reached its final stage - at last you might be thinking! Though it has been a long process, it is a worthwhile one and it is now up to you to vote. Jason provides more details on page 3.

This issue carries various reports of village events in the last month or so, all very enjoyable and a showing off of village talent, as well as making money for good causes. One of the highlights is always the flower and produce show at the annual fete and again this showed what talents we have here in our allotments, gardens and homes. The trophy and prize winners are listed on pages 11-13.

We may think we have now had our summer after the glorious warm days lately but I sincerely hope not. Happy holidays – and don't forget to vote!

Helen Connor

Brightwell cum Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 32



The Parish Referendum Don't forget to vote!

Voting open to all residents, over the age of 18 who are registered to vote within the parish of Brightwell cum Sotwell.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan has now been examined by an independent examiner (an independent examination is a statutory requirement for all neighbourhood plans). This took longer than we expected (as has everything during the whole NP process!). The examiner was appointed by SODC whose job was to read our plan to ensure that it is fit for purpose and not in conflict with any national or local policies. He also comments on the plan's robustness and appropriateness.

The examiner took the decision that our plan needed to have a public examination regarding a single issue – the proposed village boundary. This took place, in the village hall. Lots of you attended, listening intently to all the arguments on whether we should have an edge of settlement or not. It was all a bit nerve racking.

The examiner published his report on 7 July. He has recommended that our Neighborhood Plan proceeds to a public referendum, subject to a few modifications. These are all quite minor and make for a better plan.

The examiner's report, together with the revised Neighbourhood Plan (and all the supporting information) is published on SODC's website. It makes for interesting reading. You can see the Referendum Copy of the NP (and examiner's report) by visiting the Parish Office or read the paper copy in the Red Lion. Alternately, type in the following link:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/brightwell-cum-sotwell>.

As I write we are waiting for final confirmation from SODC that the plan can go forward to referendum (it is their decision). The Referendum is your opportunity to decide whether you agree with the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan or not. Everyone who is over 18 and registered to vote in the parish will receive a polling card and you will cast your vote in the normal polling stations as with any election. A simple majority will decide whether the plan proceeds or not.

Jason Debney

Village Lunch

The next village lunch will be on Tuesday 12 September at 12.15pm in the village hall – contact Jacqui 836018 or Belinda 836223 to book a place.

A big thank you from BrightFest 17

What an amazing day! A truly wonderful community spirit was evident throughout the day amongst the organisers, the villagers who volunteered their time, the musicians who gave their time for free and the crowds of people who came along to enjoy the sunshine, music and activities on offer. BrightFest17 was seen by many as one of the 'best yet'!

BrightFest 17 was a fabulous success and we are absolutely delighted to announce that the total sum raised on the day was a massive £6,967.11! First of all, a massive thank you to all our sponsors: Clive Collett Electrical, the Parish Council, the Community Association, Brightwell Bees, Waitrose, Rowse Honey, West Berkshire Brewery, Root One, Red Dog Cider, Pyrovision and all of our anonymous donators.



Huge thanks must go to all the artists and bands who generously offered to perform on our stage and entertain us. They spent their hard-earned cash and hours and hours on rehearsals to be at their best for the event. Without the music, there would be no point to BrightFest. A big thanks to the sound engineer and stage lighting

person, arguably the most important people on the pitch!

Thanks to Neil Wornham for providing the delicious food, and Celia Collett and her Save the Children team for the lovely tea tent.

Special thanks to all the wonderful people who helped make this year's Allsorts KidsZone happen, whether that was through their time, their organisation and crafting skills or by material donations. This really helped draw in the families and keep them entertained throughout the day.

We must thank the Scouts for helping to set up, looking after the site overnight, and for their help with clearing up the following day.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped organise and run the event including the organisation and management of Health & Safety (Werner,

Yives, Micky) along with the Red Lion bar staff and everyone that helped clear up in the morning (including one person who was simply going for a morning run!).

A thoroughly tremendous, happy day that will make a real difference to the charities that will be benefitting from the generosity of our sponsors and the public who came along. Thank you to everyone!

Mark Brock & the BrightFest17 Team

Community Association

Village fete – 1 July

We arranged the fete a little earlier this year and were extremely lucky with the weather and the support of the village. A big thank you to everybody who helped make this event such a success and one of the highlights of the Brightwell year; without all your hard work and generosity it could not happen. I am especially grateful to our Community Association team who co-ordinated the whole event so well and our kind hosts Madeline and Jim Sanger who welcomed us to their lovely garden. I am pleased to say that we made £4,203; a great effort by everybody involved.

Profits now get split between different village organisations, which bid to meet a specific funding need. All groups that want to apply for funds and have not received an application form should contact our treasurer, Tom Rogerson (01491 839960) or tacrogeron@aol.co.uk. While the rules are not hard and fast, we do try to favour organisations that have made big efforts to support the fete and other fundraising events during the year.

Fun Run - 24 September, 11am start

After our continued success last year, we will be again organizing a 5K Fun Run through the village. The emphasis will be on fun; there will be medals for those finishing the course and awards for the speedy participants. The start and finish is at the Donkey Sanctuary. Entry charges are £5 for adults (£6 on the day) and £1 for children under 16.

To join us please email us for a registration form at brightwellfunrun@gmail.com. If you would like to just turn up on the day, last entries are 10.30am..

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 26 September, 7.30pm in the village hall

Please come to the AGM of the Community Association and enjoy a glass of wine and a chat with the committee. New committee members are always welcome.

James Davys, chairman

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School

The end of such a significant academic year for Brightwell School is an obvious time to reflect. Having a secondary background myself, and not knowing the village very well, I had no idea what to expect. The thing that has struck me most is the powerful sense of community that surrounds the school. We have faced a number of challenges this year but every time it has felt a little daunting something has happened that has involved parents and staff working together. Then I feel tremendous hope for the future. This term we have seen the Wallingford Carnival float, the 175th birthday party, Sports Day, Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths week and gardening club – none of these would have been possible without our community. It has been a privilege to be part of each event.

The move towards academy status and our new relationship with Wallingford School has drawn governors, FOBS, parents and members of the wider community together with a real sense of purpose. I hope the village also senses the school strengthening. This term I shared extracts from the school logbooks dating back to pre-1900 as we held an afternoon assembly in the old school in, what is now, the village hall. In addition to the birthday party, we celebrated with a church service at St Agatha's and bell ringing in our honour. Events like these demonstrate where the strong sense of belonging has come from. It makes me want to get up each morning, enjoy my day's work with such a community and keep things moving forwards.

I know I am going to enjoy the things that draw us together as we celebrate the end of this year. I am also very excited about the prospects for next year, which will really see us hit our stride. Thank you to everyone who has helped. We all wish you the happiest of summers.

Fin Lewis, Head teacher and the staff at Brightwell Primary School

The Parish Church of St Agatha's and St James'

A huge 'Thank You!' to everyone who entertained us and otherwise supported our 9th annual Summer Concert, not least to Alec McGivan for organising it. We raised nearly £1,200, which will be split evenly between the charities Brightwell Supporting Refugees and Christian Aid. Our next fundraising event will be on the evening of Saturday 23 September for which we welcome the return of the village's own opera singer, Claire Booth. Along with the Spring Fair, which raised just short of £1,600 this year, such events normally provide significant funds for the running of our church. That said, as a former-Archbishop William Temple was keen to observe, '*The church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members*' and so we will be pleased to also support the Brightwell Playgrounds appeal from the proceeds of the September concert.

So, where does that leave the church? Where else can we go for help? Contrary to what many people believe, the church receives no income from the state. We rely entirely on our parishioners to fund our work and witness, and for the maintenance of our two Grade II Listed church buildings. We apply for grants when we have major repairs and building works, but our normal running costs are around £42,000 each year, with around two thirds of this coming through the sacrificial giving of our congregation.

That still leaves a significant gap and so we are looking at ways of encouraging others who appreciate the existence of the church in the village to help ensure our future presence, not only on Sundays but for the occasional services such as Christenings, weddings and funerals. I am sure that we could raise the necessary funds by declaring 'a state of emergency' and warning of the threat of closure of one of the churches, but that is certainly not yet the case. In the past, my predecessors have held annual Gift Days but we need a more permanent solution. Therefore, the PCC is hoping to launch a 'Friends of St Agatha's & St James' scheme, whereby villagers pledge a monthly donation. This allows us to reclaim the Gift Aid of 25p for every £1 given by a taxpayer.

I would welcome your views, thoughts and suggestions and hopefully a group may be formed to lead any such initiatives – I am grateful that Alec McGivan and Jason Debney are keen to get this started. Whilst I am appealing for volunteers, we would also welcome new people to consider the ongoing vacancies which we have for a church warden and PCC secretary, and also soon a new treasurer to be phased in ready for next year. Your church needs you!

P.S. The Patronal Festival of St James (Sotwell) will be celebrated with a joint service on Sunday 30 July at 9.30am, so I hope we can fill the church!

With every blessing for the summer!

Rev Kev

*The Revd Kevin Beer, email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)*

Parish Council

The 20mph signs have been installed in the village together with warning signs along the High Road. We hope that drivers will respect these new safety measures.

Unfortunately, the High Road bus shelters have been vandalised three times in the last few weeks. The glass has been broken on all these occasions. The police have been informed, but if anyone has any information please can you pass it on to either the police or the Parish Clerk. The glass is costly to replace.

The proposals to improve the playground in both King's Meadow and the recreation ground have now been widely published. The Parish Council is extremely grateful to Stephanie Di Massa and her team for the sterling work they have already done and continue to do to help the Parish Council to achieve this for the village. The need for improved play equipment was one of the priorities from the Community Led Plan.

When Shillingford Hill Park residents were faced with the loss of their bus service last year they rallied together to find a solution. With the help of a small amount of funding from the Parish Council they established a weekly mini bus service. We are pleased to report that this has been very successful and will continue.

Celia Collett

Brightwell Village Stores and Post Office

I was warmly welcomed into the Village Stores as the new manager in May this year, and have fantastic support from Nic, all of the staff past and present and the Management Committee. I now lead a small new team of staff along with our wonderful volunteers. We have recently also welcomed Michelle and Kathy on to the staff team. As they are in this initial training period, your patience and understanding will be greatly appreciated.

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our community enterprise and their value to us is enormous and so the main, and continuing, focus is to increase the pool of volunteers. By joining us, we can promise a fun, friendly and vibrant environment, a chance to get connected to the community, an introduction to a new circle of friends, a chance to learn new skills, a unique social opportunity, a chance to make a difference and hours to suit you. Our volunteers fill in 2.5 hour shifts, either regularly or 'as and when they can' via our online booking system.

As a shop we endeavour to provide not only the last minute bits & bobs that you may have run out of, but also lots of stock you don't get in the supermarkets; and much is from local producers: –

Just Biscuits – savoury biscuits – Stoke Mandeville
Loose Canon ales – Abingdon *Red Dog cider – Benson*
Bumblebee cider – Reading *Brightwell Vineyard wines*
Brightwell Bees honey *Cakes – Brightwell,*
Wessex Mill flour & cereals – Wantage *Local artists cards & publications*
Cornfield Bakery - Wheatley *RG Park Butchers – Cholsey*
Chiltern Charcuterie – cured meats – Buckinghamshire
Two Hoots (Reading) & Village Maid (Reading)
Cheese – Barkham Blue, Wiggmore, Waterloo & Spenwood
Free range eggs – Harwell *Pasties & ham – Wantage*

In addition to this we also have Ecover refills, olive oil refills, Taylor's coffee beans, a gluten free section, Field Fare frozen goods, Monty Bojangles chocolates, penny sweets, second hand books & stationery, dry cleaning, newspapers and ice creams.

Our suppliers and products are constantly reviewed so if you have anything you would like us to consider please come in and have a chat, call me on 01491 835551 or email to brightwellshop@btconnect.com.

Don't forget we also provide post office services between 9am and 5.30pm, which include all post and parcels services together with a wide range of banking services.

Can I just finish by thanking you all for your custom and patience as I have been learning, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sam and the team

An Evening for Alex

Join us for an evening of music, song and dance at the village hall on Saturday 28 October in remembrance of Alex. Alex Lewis, a local young man, tragically lost his life to bone cancer at the young age of twenty two. All profits will be donated to the Alex Lewis appeal at the Bone Cancer Research Trust. Entertainment will be provided by 'Steve' who is becoming a regular in the village. Tickets will be available from Janice Chilton tel 01491 836661 and Cynthia Hurley tel 01491 836509 at £12.50 each which includes supper. Don't leave it too late to get your ticket as numbers will be limited.

For information about the Alex Lewis Appeal go to <https://www.bcr.org.uk/get-involved/recent-campaigns-and-appeals/alex-appeal>, also at www.bcr.org.uk

Ann Caistor

Weeds steal the show



Who knew that weeds were so attractive? Judges at this year's Flower and Produce Show were spoilt for choice with the colourful specimens on offer in the children's classes. Thanks to Helen Satchell for this idea. Jars of weeds aside, the resounding winner of the popular vote to choose the best exhibit in show was Joe Satchell's miniature garden, with its bespoke patches of grass.

Another standout entry was 'The Brightwell Flower and Produce Show Lament', by Janita Clamp. Ironically for a poem which was all about how difficult it was to please the judges, this won a red First Prize card.

Allotments were judged during the week before the show, and Sandra Halstead – our fruit and vegetables judge – was impressed at the standard here. In her judging, she is looking for variety, healthy plants, and sustainability – plus, most obviously, a lack of weeds. Once more, Paul Copley's immaculate patch swept all before it, but there were some strong contenders.

The show is only ever as good as its entrants, and we are really grateful to regular and new supporters. It was particularly good to notice the number of families who had allowed their whole household to be turned upside down in the search for wonky vegetables, or the perfect chocolate brownie.

We have managed to persuade Paul Chilton to be our honorary President, with Alison Hedges stepping into his capable chairman's shoes. Helen Satchell has some great ideas for lightening the secretary's load, and we have one other potential new committee member in our sights. If you'd like to join us, we'd love to hear from you at sally.dugan@gmail.com. Sustainability is the watchword in gardening at the moment, and it applies in this case, too.

PS There was some head-scratching over the definition of a weed, but the general agreement was that a weed is simply a plant in the wrong place (or, in the case of the show, the right one!).

Sally Dugan

Flower and Produce Show - Trophies 2017

The Chilton Cup Freddie Barringer
(best exhibit in the fruit and vegetable classes)

The Win Glendenning Memorial Salver Charlotte Woods
(best flower arranging entry)

The Talbot Rose Bowl Derek Nightingale
(best rose exhibit)

The Talbot Cup Josephine Butterfield
(most points in show) Runner-up: John Rodda

The Joan Sheard Cup Oli Smith
for the best junior entry in an adult class

Junior trophies (9-12) Evie Satchell,
(5-8) Joe Satchell & Thomas Debney

The Swan Allotments Cup Paul Copley
Runner-up: Susie Beresford

Environment Group

The Environment Group had a stall at the recent village fete with a lucky dip and pond dipping allowing villagers of all ages to identify a wide range of pond life from sticklebacks to pond skaters. We also had a small display outlining some of the group's activities. During discussions on the day it was clear that some did not know much about the group and so I thought I would take this opportunity to refresh old memories and hopefully inform those who have recently moved to the area.

Briefly, the group was formed in 1995 in response to the call in AGENDA 21 from the 1992 Earth Summit to act locally. Everyone who lives in the parish is automatically a member – no forms to fill in! A committee is elected annually and I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who recently stepped down for all their hard work, especially John Rodda and Betty Price as former chairman and secretary for very many years. I am pleased to say John with his wealth of knowledge is staying on the committee.

There is no subscription and many activities are at no or little cost with the exception of the contribution to the management of the Millennium Wood for which generous donations were made by many individuals, the Parish Council and grants. Otherwise we seek occasional grants and accept donations.

The group's first main project was the preparation of the Parish Conservation Plan, published in 1998 and revised in 2013. This helped inform the Community Led Parish Plan 2014 – 2024 which in turn informed the Neighbourhood Plan. By the time this is in print, we should know the result of the independent examiner and hopefully have a date for a referendum to agree to its adoption. This will be an important milestone and I hope all will cast their vote to support the objectives of the plan, which include environmental benefits.

The group has taken on practical projects to improve the village environment, including awareness raising, development of practical skills, training, recording and monitoring. Examples include: leading on the creation of the Millennium Wood; St James's Church wildlife project to increase the biodiversity of the churchyard; surveys of hedgerows, trees, watercourses etc and in 2017 water voles; and a thermal imaging study of properties to help residents improve their energy efficiency.

The group organises talks, freely open to all, twice per year on a wide variety of topics. The spring talk is combined with the Annual General Meeting.

We see that the work to raise awareness, especially of the young, through engagement with the surroundings and ongoing monitoring of the environment is important. At the fete we were asked if we arrange nature trails for youngsters and this is certainly something we would like to do, hopefully starting later this year. We will let you know through the village Facebook page.

The promotion, use and practical management of the Millennium Wood is a good opportunity to involve the community and again we are looking for ideas to improve its usage and appeal. Additionally, we see the group as likely to have an input on how to improve biodiversity through mitigation works associated with new development.

Finally, a brief note on the weather. Rainfall recorded at Highlands Farm in June was 37.6mm which is below average for the month. Combined with one of the warmest Junes on record and rainfall already down to 80% of average, this has left farmers and gardeners wishing for more rain.

If you would like to know more or have any ideas for the group please contact Steve Capel-Davies (chairman) at scapeldavies@gmail.com or Lizzie Rhymes (secretary) at lizzrhymes@hotmail.com.

Steve Capel-Davies

Party party party!

Our second party, in June, was yet again a fun evening; this time with great jazz music provide by our local band 'Short Notice'. We will be having another chance to get together and chat, sometime in September, no music this time, so keep an eye open for posters, with the date.

However, on 9 December, from 8pm to midnight, we have booked an 'Entertainer'! Many of you will have enjoyed being at a party where Steve Asque has provided the music. Why not organize your club or group of friends to come and have your Christmas party in the hall, for only £10 per adult. It will be the same format, bringing your own drinks, nibbles and glasses. You would also have the chance to set up your table in the afternoon?

With limited numbers, there will be a high demand for places, so it will be entrance by ticket only. You will have a ticket number, which could win you a prize? These can be purchased by contacting shenaluck@btconnect.com or phoning on 01491 834543.

Shena Luck

Allsorts Preschool

The summer term saw three key themes for the children: sport, holidays/camping and castles/knights/kings/princesses. We borrowed some year 5 and 6 children from Brightwell School to come and give the children football coaching; though rain stopped play on the tennis courts we did do some tennis skills on the school playground with the use of Brightwell School equipment; and we made paper and pasta tennis rackets. With the upcoming summer holidays, we set up a tent and made the home corner into a campsite with a campfire and picnic toys; we sang campfire songs and made some craft campfires; and we made jelly fish as part of a beach theme. The children also enjoyed making tiaras and crowns, wands and spells along with making of sandcastles in our very own sandpit.

A number of children will be graduating from preschool this term and moving up to school in September. As part of this we do a number of activities to make this transition smooth. The children have been over to school for a morning to meet their new teacher and get familiar with the new setting. Their new teacher Mrs Hardwick has been over to preschool to meet the children more informally. We're looking forward to the end of school party on Tuesday 18 July.

The beginning of term 6 was very busy as we had a visit from Ofsted. We are pleased to announce that preschool has been rated 'Good'. Well done to everyone for their hard work.

We are looking forward to the summer break and being able to offer two weeks of holiday clubs. Happy holidays!

Saffron Nowinska

Volunteer for Oxfordshire's Water Blitz

Volunteers needed for one day only! Schools, local groups and individuals are invited to take part in the county-wide water blitz. Check the water quality of your local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for Oxfordshire. For your free sampling pack register today by emailing hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk subject "Water Blitz" and join in on Monday 2 October. EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map all results on their global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved.

Clare Mowbry

Nordic walking group

In March, GO Active Gold started in the village and part of the initiative was a six week course in nordic walking. The classes were instantly popular and we learned the benefits of nordic walking compared to regular walking: it tones the upper and lower body at the same time, burns around 40% more calories than ordinary walking with reduced pressure on the knees and joints. The poles propel the walker along, making it easier to move faster than normal without feeling the effort. Most importantly, it is fun.

When the classes were finished we decided to keep going, so at 9.30am every Wednesday morning we will be found striding out walking, talking and laughing together while getting fitter at the same time. We often meet at Wittenham Clumps but have ventured to Neptune Woods, Wallingford Castle grounds and our own village recreation ground.

We would love to welcome more people to our group; nordic walking is great for people of any age and fitness level. All you need is comfortable clothes and shoes for walking. If you have previous experience and want to come and join in then you are very welcome to come along. If you have never tried it before and would like to have a go, then we can arrange a taster session, lend you some poles and will offer you lots of friendly help and support.

To find out more email Annette on annette.k@hotmail.co.uk or call me on 01491 834050.

Annette Kilworth

Claire Booth in concert

(in aid of Brightwell's churches and the Playgrounds appeal)

St Agatha's
Saturday 23 September at 6pm

Tickets, priced at £15 for adults and £5 for students and under 18s, will be available from the Village Stores from 1 September.

Brightwell Art Club

The club has had an interesting summer term; as well as our usual still life and portrait workshops we have been experimenting with acrylics, using palette knives as well as brushes. This is a departure, and challenge, for some of us who have mainly worked in watercolour.

If you went into the Red Lion during June you would have seen our paintings on the walls. This exhibition is a chance for members to show what they have achieved, and several of our members have also exhibited in other venues during the year.

We are planning two open-air painting days during the summer holidays, one at Culham Lock and the other at Little Wittenham, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that we won't be rained off!

Our sessions are held on Saturday mornings in the village hall during our term time and we welcome people who would like to pop in and visit us; we have coffee at about 11am. More information can be found about us on the village website, www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk under 'Local Services' (just follow the instructions), or you can email me at brightwellartclub@gmail.com.

Veronica Wood, secretary

Breast Cancer Care fashion show

On Thursday 28 September I will be modelling in the Breast Cancer Care fashion show, which will be my first time ever on a professional catwalk!

All of the models who take part in this special event, like me, have had a diagnosis of breast cancer. The show is an amazing occasion of fashion, fundraising and inspiration proving that you can look and feel great after a diagnosis of breast cancer.

Last year's show was a fantastic event raising over £400,000 and this money made a vital difference to Breast Cancer Care. The reality is that there are more than half a million people in the UK today who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and every year another 60,000 hear the devastating news that they have the disease. Thanks to the generosity of people like you supporting the show, Breast Cancer Care is here for every one of them, providing expert information and skilled emotional and practical support when it's needed most.

My Story

I was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 and I had a lumpectomy, chemotherapy and radiotherapy at that time. In December 2014 the cancer had returned in the same breast and so there was no option but to have a mastectomy which I had in January 2015. I opted to not have any reconstruction at that time as my eldest son's wedding was in July 2015 and I wanted to ensure that I wouldn't be suffering any after effects of major surgery to spoil that occasion as a very proud mum! However, following another scare at my routine mammogram in December 2015 on my other breast I took the decision to have risk reducing surgery, another mastectomy and double reconstruction.

I already knew that I was going ahead with this surgery when I attended 'The Show' in London in November 2016 with a friend. Seeing the models on that catwalk was truly inspirational, emotional and made me realise that I was making the right decision for me! I whispered to my friend that I would be on that catwalk next year and duly applied in March 2017. I had my risk reducing surgery on 14 March 2017 and heard a couple of weeks later that I had been successful and I was going to be a model at 'The Show' London in September!

I have 'The Show' to thank for my decision making and the boost that my new modelling career has given me to ensure that I get back to fitness in readiness to 'strut my stuff' down that catwalk!

There are several ways that you can help me in raising money to support this wonderful charity:

Firstly, if you would like to attend 'The Show' then tickets are on sale now. Please follow the link below;
<https://www.breastcancercare.org.uk/fundraising/show-london-2017>

Secondly, you can simply sponsor me for my catwalk experience and donate on my JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ruthoncatwalk.

Finally, I plan to hold a fundraising event later on in the year so 'watch this space' for further details of that as they unfold.

Thank you for supporting me any way you can!

Ruth Ingrem

Allotment Club

At the AGM. John Luchford was elected as chairman to the Allotment Club; thanks goes to Alison Bloomfield our retiring chairman. We are grateful to Sue Booth who is continuing as treasurer

We hosted last month's Red Lion quiz and raised £149.00, which will go into the club's funds for general improvements to the allotments.

For those who attend the village fete, we hope you enjoyed the hoopla game, plus the entries from some of our allotmentees. Paul Copley won the best kept allotment cup, with Paul & Sue Beresford coming second.

The Allotment Club looks after the 'permissive path' for the village hall trustees. Thanks to Adrian Morrision the drains are kept clear to prevent the footpath flooding.

At the moment all allotments are taken, however if you would like to join the waiting list please let us have your name.

The diggers - Swan Allotment Club

The Bach Centre

As usual at this time of year more people have been arriving in the quiet Oxfordshire village of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell to visit the centre. At the time of writing (June), a glance at the visitors' book shows that in the last week alone we welcomed visitors from Argentina, India, Hungary, Mexico, Japan and the USA.

We have had groups in too. At the end of May we welcomed a group of students with their teacher from Holland. They studied what we call 'Level 3' here – that's our course aimed at future practitioners – all taught in Dutch of course. A week later another Level 3 (in English) included students from Canada, India, Singapore, France Spain, Bulgaria, the USA and of course the UK.

There was no let-up in June, with a Level 1 teacher-training course bringing another international group together, plus a weekend course on the business side of running a practice and a one-day visit by a group of Dutch practitioners.

Over the next couple of months a group of practitioners from Japan were here for a couple of days before an Italian group arrived for a two-day course. By the time this issue of *The Villager* is sent out, we will be back teaching Levels 1, 2 and 3, before a group of journalists is expected to arrive from Spain in September.

The Bach Centre is, you might say, a popular destination!

Stefan Ball

CornExchange@The Great Hall

Good news for filmgoers. Wallingford's Corn Exchange closed in June for major building works, but the show will still go on - at another venue, in Cholsey. The Corn Exchange is collaborating with the Cholsey Community Development Trust and throughout the summer will be showing films at The Great Hall in Cholsey Meadows.

Equipment currently used for the Corn Exchange's smaller 'second screen' showings are being transferred to the 'out-of-town cinema'. Screenings at the venue, which is located in the Grade II listed building of the former Fairmile Hospital, will also include weekend matinees and NT Live shows. There is an on-site bar and seat tickets will remain the same as those at the Corn Exchange.

Programme details can be found at the Corn Exchange website, www.cornexchange.org.uk, where tickets can also be booked. They will also be available on the door before each performance.

Carol Evans

T'ai Chi - two free tasters



Brightwell Village Hall, Monday 11 (10-11am) and Wednesday 13 September (9-10am). Regular classes to follow at £8. Contact Mark on 07966 253399 or at ThamesTaiChi@gmail.com www.HealingQi.co.uk/tai-chi

Wallingford Hockey Club

Following the success of the 2016-17 season with all of our teams consolidating league positions and the Men's 3s gaining promotion, it is time to turn our attention to next season. Our five Men's teams and four Ladies teams play across regional and local county leagues ensuring a team to suit all. Training and home matches take place at the Hithercroft in Wallingford, where we have our own pitch, on-site parking, bar, new changing rooms and physio facilities. As well as offering seriously fun hockey on the pitch, we also have a thriving social scene with many events throughout the season and the summer; and you will always find players in the bar after a match.

Our club is always looking for new members of all abilities. So whether you are a current player looking for a new club or looking to return to hockey after a while, we have something to offer you. There is no better time to join Wallingford Hockey Club as we are offering half price senior membership fees for new members for the 2017-18 season. The season runs from September – March with training commencing in August. So if you are looking for a seriously fun club to play hockey and a social way to stay fit then please take a look at www.wallingfordhc.org.uk and get in touch. Or come along to a 'Back to Hockey' session on Thursday 3 August at 7.30- 8.30 pm at the Hithercroft.

Tim Chamberlain

In Brief - round and about

STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Public Access Day on Thursday 10 August at Harwell is a fantastic opportunity to explore behind the scenes. The event will include an introduction to the site and a tour around one of their experiments. There will also be plenty of hands-on activities for families with younger children to get involved with. Registration will open on Thursday 27 July at 12:00 via the booking website: <https://publicaccessday-ral2017.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Wallingford and District Art Club

Demonstration evenings will be on 15 August, when Janet Roberts will share her expertise of silk painting and 19 September, when Eric Watson will demonstrate Animals in Pastel, 7.30-9.30pm. Members free and non members

very welcome for £3. Untutored evenings continue on other Tuesdays in August and September. Bring your materials and ideas and spend the evening with fellow artists. All meetings and demonstrations are held at Centre 70, Goldsmiths Lane, Wallingford. Further details at Wallingfordartclub@hotmail.com or tel.01865 858463.

Agatha Christie Weekend

From Friday 8 to Sunday 10 September, this year's Agatha Christie Weekend is looking to be bigger and better than ever before! Come and join us for a fabulous weekend of celebrations for the life and works of our internationally acclaimed local author! Main events include: celebrity talks by Lucy Worsley and John Curran; Agatha Christie trail walks; exhibitions, heritage train rides and guided history walks.

As the weekend is all organised by volunteers, we would very much welcome any help. It should be fun and Judy Dewey looks forward to hearing from you! (tel 01491-651127). Further details, and how to book, will be posted at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk.

Garden Visits

Wallingford Gardening Club's summer garden programme continues with a visit to Chalkhouse Green Farm on Thursday 3 August at 6.30pm, (RG4 9AL, near Kidmore End). This is a one acre garden and open traditional farmstead, with herbaceous borders, herb garden, shrubs, old fashioned roses, trees including medlar, quince and mulberries, and a walled ornamental kitchen garden, and new cherry orchard. Rare breed farm animals include British White cattle, Suffolk Punch horses, donkeys, Berkshire pigs, chickens, ducks and turkeys. Cost will be £8 which will include refreshments. Visitors are very welcome. Contact Isabelle Darby 01491 836867.

Earth Trust

The Earth Trust at Little Wittenham offer a range of activities throughout the summer including pond dipping, a night safari, pruning fruit trees, bat walk, family bushcraft and lots more. See website for What's On earthtrust.org.uk.

VILLAGE DIARY

August

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|------|
| 8 | WI Visit to Ham House, Richmond | | |
| 20 | Art Haus Club | VH | 10am |

September

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|---------|
| 11 | T'ai Chi – free taster | VH | 10am |
| 12 | Village Lunch | VH | 12.15pm |
| 12 | WI talk – Home energy savings | VH | 7.30pm |
| 13 | T'ai Chi – free taster | VH | 9am |
| 17 | Art Haus Club Super Sunday | VH | 10am |
| 23 | Claire Booth in Concert | St Agatha's | 6pm |
| 24 | Community Association Fun Run (Donkey Sanctuary) | | 11am |
| 26 | Community Association AGM | VH | 7.30pm |

Advance notice

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 15 October | Apple Day from 12 noon, Red Lion |
| 28 October | Evening of music, song & dance (in memory of Alex) |
| 9 December | Village hall party with entertainer, 8pm |

Refuse collection (food waste each week)

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Grey bins | Thursdays 10 & 24 August
Thursdays 7 & 21 September |
| Green (& brown) bins | Thursdays 3 & 17 August
Friday 1 , & Thursdays 14 & 28 September |

Village website

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