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

Editorial

A bumper edition! What a change from last year. Village life seems to be back to normal now with a full summer calendar of events. I have had to squeeze a lot into this issue so apologies if some of your articles have been chopped a little bit.

All the details of upcoming events are here but you can keep up to date on the village website - brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk - or the Brightwell Community Facebook page. We kick off with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations on the long bank holiday weekend (2-5 June), starting with the beacon and fireworks on Thursday night (see page 5 for times) and rounding off with the big Street Party on Sunday afternoon and a band in the Red Lion in the evening. The road will be closed and tables laid out from the Red Lion to the War memorial. Bring your own chairs and picnics, but food and drink will be available from the Red Lion (see page 8) and a Pimms stall at the War memorial end.

The following Saturday sees a return of BrightFest, a great music event and community activity day at the Recreation Ground (read more about it on page 5). Then later in the month there is a charity ball and band night on the weekend of the 24/25 June - 'Save the Bone' - a joint venture between Save the Children Fund and the Bone Cancer Research Trust.

Our annual village fete, including the Flower and Produce show, is back to its traditional time in July with all the usual stalls and games. This is run by the Community Association, but they are always looking for helpers and organisations to take part (see page 6). As usual the schedule of entries for the Flower and Produce Show can be found here in the centre pages. It's amazing to think that the fete has been going for over 100 years. It was one of the first things the newly formed village WI organised in 1922, as you can read in Lesley Dore's article, page 19.

Lastly, on a personal note, I have decided to stand down this year from editing *The Villager*. I have done it now for 10 years, which I think is enough! It's been hugely enjoyable partly due to the great team I work with, but I feel it's time now for someone new to take it on. If anyone (or a couple of people maybe?) are interested in getting involved, please get in touch and I can tell you more about how it's done. Phone me on 07790 025908 or email me at helenconnor21@btinternet.com. It's not a huge time commitment, spread over a few weeks every two months, and doesn't need specialist skills. I hope to hear from someone!

Helen Connor

Parish Council Update

Annual Meeting 3 May 2022

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was very well supported this year and councillors were pleased to engage with villagers on the work that they do on their behalf. Our chair, Cllr Robson introduced the meeting to council members and explained their responsibilities. Cllr Neilson explained how we obtained the CIL grant and what our plans are for spending it. Cllr Collett clarified how our planning committee works and Cllr Debney outlined the work that he and others had done on rewriting the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Baines explained the plans for investigating the potential for ground source heat pumps in the village.

A wide-ranging discussion followed on topics including concerns such as speed limits and parking. Thank you to all who attended.

Road safety

We are pleased to report some successes recently with road safety: a 20mph speed limit is to be introduced on the High Road. A pedestrian crossing across the A4130 has been approved. We are very grateful to County Cllr Pete Sudbury for his help in making this a reality.

These projects will be added to the County Councils task list, which is quite a long one, so it may take many months (or even years!) to complete.

Village hall/shop car park

Mr Frank Thorne has kindly gifted land for the extension of the Village Hall and Shop Car Park. Plans are currently being drawn up to combine it with the existing parking area providing up to 13 additional parking places.

Cllr James Davys

Street party!

As you can see from the poster on the front cover, we are having our Platinum Jubilee Street Party on Sunday 5 June from 1 pm along The Street, on tables stretching from the Red Lion to the War Memorial. The road will be closed to traffic. Music, competitions for children, a Pimms stall, take away food at the Red Lion, and more - plus a band at the Red Lion from 6pm. (see more in Red Lion's piece on page 7).



BrightFest Charity Music Festival Saturday 11 June 1pm to 11pm

BrightFest is an annual music festival and community activity held early in June each year, for families during the afternoon and adults in the evening. The festival has been running annually since 2008 in the village with the aim of raising money for local good causes and community projects.

BrightFest started in a small way in the car park of the Red Lion pub in Brightwell. After a few years, due to its popularity, it transferred to the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell recreation ground.

In 2019 BrightFest was formed into 'a not-for-profit association' governed by a constitution and run by an organising committee (BOC) with trustees who are elected every year and are legally and financially responsible for the festival. BOC decided that future spending of free funds would go to local good causes and community projects.

Historically, the free funds raised have been donated to Save the Children, The Scouts Group, Tree of Hope charity for Maeve Norfolk (to fund her rehabilitation enabling Maeve to eventually walk unaided), and Brightwell Supporting Refugees. The bulk of the funds raised in 2019 contributed to providing new interactive play equipment for children at the Brightwell recreation ground.

This year, in 2022, the money raised will be used to buy a defibrillator at the Recreation Ground and make donations to the Scout Group, Brightwell Supporting Refugees charity and families in the parish where a donation would improve their quality of life. It will also create a 'setting up fund' to ensure the future of BrightFest.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the running of BrightFest, please contact Tony Windsor, Secretary BOC, Telephone: 07909 848098 or by email to: brightfestorganisingcommittee@gmail.com.

*Eliot Forster
Chairman BrightFest Organising Committee (BOC)*

Community Association

Open Gardens Sunday 22 May 2022

I am writing this in advance, so a big thank you to all the garden owners who worked so hard to prepare such beautiful gardens and open them to the public. We are also very grateful to all the helpers who made this very successful event possible on such a lovely day.

Platinum Jubilee Beacon on Brightwell Barrow, 2 June 2022

To start the village Jubilee celebrations a beacon will be lit on Brightwell Barrow at 9.45pm by kind permission of David and Rosemary Greasby. The Community Association will be assisting them. There will also be a firework display provided by Jonathan Hares. Gates will be open from 8pm with a voluntary collection, the surplus of which will be used to give grants to support village groups through the year. Once again, we very much hope to see you there.

Village Fete and Flower and Produce show – Saturday 9 July Sotwell House 2-4.30pm

This year's village fete will be held again in the lovely gardens of Sotwell House, kindly hosted by Jenny and David Dobbin. Our plans are well advanced and 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. We then invite groups to submit requests for grants from the money which has been raised.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the set up before this event - one of the highpoints in our village calendar.

Look out for the schedule and entry forms for the Flower and Produce Show in the centre pages of this *Villager*. The show has entry and categories for all ages.

Our aim is to make sure that the fete has a good balance of activities for everyone to take part in and enjoy. 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. We would like to make the book stall more

manageable this year, so we would prefer donations of paperback fiction and children's books only please.

Committee members will be collecting for contributions to the white elephant, book and bottle stalls during the week before the fete, so now is a good time to start thinking about what treasures 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. Thank you!

*James Davys
Chairman*

Flower and Produce Show 2022

Let's hope the sun shines and we have a record number of entries for the produce tent.

This year's Flower and Produce Show - on Saturday 9 July at the village fete - gives you a chance to display your creations from homemade wine and sloe gin to the tastiest vegetable or fruit smoothie. In Class 45, 5-8 year olds can enter their funniest shaped vegetable!! While in Class 17, adults can enter their longest carrot. We have the usual range of classes for vegetables, flower arranging, photography and home cooking.

For the crafty and arty people, you can have a go at making your own bag, or entering anything you have made. Not forgetting the creative writing section, which this year includes 'A Postcard to a Royal'.

Children are able to enter ANY of the categories with a chance of winning The Joan Sheard Cup for best entry in an adult class.

As ever, schedules will be available on the village website and in the Village Stores and in the centre pages of this *Villager*. Please return your trophies from last year to Helen Satchell or return on the day polished and shiny to the Produce Tent.

Please ensure all entries are returned to the box in the Village Stores by Wednesday 6 July.

Good luck and we look forward to seeing everyone on the day.

Helen Satchell

Village Shop and Post Office

You are all invited to a celebration in the village hall on Saturday 18 June at 3pm. Please do join us to raise a glass to 12 years of success as a community shop and 6 years since the Post Office was taken into the shop. In May our Post Office came 2nd in the region and was voted 5 stars for the customer service we provide. Not bad for a small community shop run mainly by volunteers.

There will be a selection of the shop's tea and coffee plus sweet and savoury snacks for you to enjoy, time to discover more about our local products and our wide range of stock. Also, an opportunity to meet the team and learn more about flexible opportunities and ways to get involved.

The event will be followed by the village stores AGM at 4pm. All are welcome to attend, with members only voting.

Shop Management Committee

The Red Lion

Here at the Red Lion we are busy getting ready for a summer full of events which is music to our ears since this will be the first year since taking over that anything has gone as planned, so we are super excited!

Jubilee Long Bank Holiday Weekend

Our opening hours will be: Thursday 2 June - 12-3pm & 6-11pm; Friday 3 & Saturday 4 June - open all day; Sunday 5 June - 12-9pm. Lunch as normal Thursday to Saturday.

On the Friday evening, we will be hosting the Red Lion's first ever evening of ...Pop Master! If you are a fan of Ken Bruce's daytime music quiz like we are here, keep this evening in mind and we will announce more details very soon. The only difference to the original Pop Master is that instead of individual players, we will have small teams of 4 up against each other, with rounds of 9 questions, a bonus round to select from and the most vital part of the quiz - Name the Year. So, if this sounds like fun, get your team of 4 together and keep the Friday early/late evening free in your diary.

For the Street Party we will be offering food all afternoon so if you don't fancy making/bringing your own, why not grab some food from the pub and

take it back to your table. For something different, we will be cooking a huge Chicken & Seafood Paella outside the pub (weather dependant) with a veggie Paella also available and a selection of other dishes to keep the kids happy. We will also have some of our delicious homemade cakes on the bar.


Some of the villagers have got together to perform music outside the pub at the edge of the road closure so it would be great if you could come up and listen to show them your support. In the evening, we have booked a great band to perform inside the pub. Everyone is welcome. 'The Faith Healers' describe themselves as a 3-piece bluesy/funky and generally fun band and do covers of Bowie, Gnarl's Barkley, The Bee Gees and Prince just to name a few! They will be on straight after the much-loved Red Lion Sunday Meat Draw which takes place at 6pm. Be sure to get your tickets as we will have a super bumper draw for that date with even more prizes than normal!

BrightFest

We then of course are doing the bar at BrightFest on Saturday 11 June and are very much looking forward to being there. The pub will be open all day for those who perhaps want to drop in on their way there or back or even just for a sit down and rest part of the way through the day and we look forward to seeing you there.

Families and young children

To finish, I would like to reassure all families with young children in the village and surrounds that everyone is welcome to the Red Lion. We want to see everyone enjoy themselves, but for health and safety reasons and the enjoyment of everyone, we must insist that children are supervised at all times. We are not a playground and do not have the space or equipment of some of the larger chain pubs but please feel free to bring a game with you to enjoy as a family or the kids can enjoy together. We are going to source some things for the garden where space allows. If you are wanting lunch/supper as a family, please ask us what we can offer your children to eat as we always have options if they don't fancy a smaller version of some of the main options or contact us in advance to chat about any dietary requirements or perhaps requests from any fussy eaters, and that includes the adults.

Thank you everyone for your support, we have come through this time together and we look forward to a summer of fun, sunshine, laughter and just some lovely days/nights spent in your local! 

Corinne, Mouse & Ruby x

Stewart Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who visited our stall at the Church Spring Fair. It was great to have the opportunity to share information on the hall refurbishment project. As we move forward, we will continue to keep you informed and involved. Please come along to our stall at BrightFest on 11 June to find out the latest developments and have some fun taking part in the hall activity. We will also be present at the fête on 9 July.

But first, please join us in the village hall on Saturday 4 June to watch the **Platinum Party at the Palace** live on the big screen. Hosts Kirsty Young and Roman Kemp will lead live coverage of the party from 8pm to 10.30pm*. This Jubilee celebration will see famous faces from the world of entertainment celebrate the most significant and joyous moments from the Queen's seven-decade reign. (*times may change according to BBC schedules)

In the meantime, if you have any comments, questions or feedback you can use the 'contact us' page on the hall website (see below), pop a comment in the mailbox at the rear of the hall or speak to any trustee.

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

Annette Kilworth

Village Golf Day – Friday 1 July 2022

Arrangements are well in hand for the Village Golf Day which will be held at The Springs Resort & Golf Club on Friday 1 July with tee times starting at 12 midday. An early evening meal and presentations will follow in the village at the Red Lion.

Prizes will be awarded for the first three places and additional prizes will be awarded for 'nearest the pin' and 'longest drive'.

Golfers of all standards are welcome to join our social, villager only, event to celebrate golf in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

To enter or for further details please contact Paul Ingrem:
Paul_Ingrem@tinyworld.co.uk or telephone 07715214062.

Entries close 24 June 2022.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School

'Pupils flourish at this happy school.', Ofsted, March 2022.

Every term is a busy term in any school, but alongside the daily teaching and learning routines across the school and the rapidly increasing enrichment opportunities, we welcomed school inspectors (Ofsted) to the school in early March (thanks to the relaxation of COVID rules).

Ofsted reports can mean a great deal or very little depending on the audience, but there is no doubt that the long-awaited inspection was an important one for the school. Many of you will understand the journey the school and the school community has been on over the last six years since academisation. It is a report we are very proud of, and hope you are too. With comments like, *'Pupils enjoy learning and thrive on being challenged'*, *'Pupils are inspired to work hard'* and *'Staff are ambitious for all pupils'*, how can we not be.

Most importantly, we are delighted that the inspectors saw our school as we see it; day in, day out, and it leaves the school perfectly poised to continue to deliver a strong education for all our children in years to come. You can read our full report on our school website or on the Ofsted website.

In addition to what the inspection team saw in school, they received overwhelmingly positive responses from parents, children and staff alike. The inspector commented that they hadn't received such a number of responses for the pupil questionnaire before and they were left in no doubt that we are very lucky to be part of such a school community!

The school now finds itself over-subscribed for September 2022 in our Reception class and continues to steadily grow in numbers across the school. This is an exciting time for Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School and as we look to share news of our newly appointed headteacher with you very soon, it is clear that there is a great deal of support for the school that we have all worked hard to become over the last six years.

Fin Lewis, Headteacher.

Thank you

A big thank you to Jean Johnson for her commitment over many years to delivering *The Villager* in Church Lane. She is now stepping down and Lesley Dore will take over her 'walk'.

FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW
AT
THE VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 9 July 2022

**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 (none would be even better). Judging starts at 11am.

Entrance Fee: 50p each adult entry – 20p each junior entry.

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 including container, red, white & blue theme)
2. A bowl of floating garden flowers
3. An arrangement – Fit for a Queen (accessories allowed). Max 18" x 18" (45cm x 45cm including container). Height unlimited

Flowers and Vegetables

4. A Vase of Garden Favourites – 5 stems, one variety or mixed
5. Most scented flower, single or small bunch of up to 5 stems
6. Most scented rose
7. A rose, Hybrid Tea – 1 stem
8. A rose, multi-headed – 1 stem
9. Potted plant, flowering foliage or succulent
10. Dish of soft fruit of one kind
11. Box of vegetables – 3 varieties. Box not to exceed 16" x 12" (40cm x 30.5cm)
12. Box of salad vegetables. Box not to exceed 16" x 12" (40cm x 30.5cm)
13. 3 broad beans
14. 6 pea pods
15. 3 courgettes
16. 5 potatoes (named variety)
17. 1 longest carrot
18. 4 named herbs in one jar

Cookery. Note – please ensure new lids are used on jars

19. A jar of chutney – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
20. A jar of marmalade – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
21. A jar of any jam including jellies – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
22. Anything pickled
23. A loaf of sour dough
24. 5 savoury tartlets
25. A coffee & walnut cake
26. NOVICE CLASS (Open to anyone who hasn't won a baking prize in the show before): Lemon drizzle cake

Drinks.

- 27. Tastiest vegetable smoothie
- 28. Tastiest fruit smoothie
- 29. Homemade sloe gin
- 30. Homemade wine

Photography, Arts and Crafts

- [Max size – 7” x 5” – 17.5cm x 12.5cm, except where otherwise stated]
- 31. Photograph, unmounted: ‘Guess the object’
 - 32. Photograph, unmounted: ‘Something beginning with B’
 - 33. A set of four mounted photos, b/w or colour (old garden or practical tools)
 - 34. Photograph, unmounted: ‘Make us smile’. Amusing, with or without caption
 - 35. Photograph, unmounted: ‘Predominantly red’
 - 36. Drawing any medium: ‘Celebration’ Max size A4
 - 37. A homemade bag
 - 38. Anything handmade

Creative Writing

- 39. Surreal story, no longer than 500 words – “The clock struck 13, I jumped out of bed, opened my window. Yes, it was Brightwell, but not Brightwell.....”
- 40. Limerick – “There once was a person.....”
- 41. WANTED POSTER – You know the characters: bumptious Toad, river-loving Ratty, shy Mole – but they have escaped the village and need to be found. Write the WANTED poster to identify them and bring them back

9-12 year olds

- 42. A metre of bunting
- 43. 5 biscuits
- 44. Make something that flies

5-8 year olds

- 45. Funniest shaped vegetable
- 46. A gingerbread animal
- 47. Drawing or painting of your favourite superhero

Under fives

- 48. Nature collage (leaves, twigs, moss, petals etc) on a paper plate
- 49. Anything made from toilet rolls
- 50. Eggshell cress head

ENTRY FORM

Please complete by **Wednesday 6 July** and return, with money and place in the village fete box held in the village shop.

Queries to Hvsatchell@icloud.com

Name	Class No.	No of entries	Fee 50p Adult 20p Child	Age (for under 16's)

Total fees: _____

Address:

.....

.....

The Environment Group

Running the Group

In January I mentioned that there had been a number of changes in the group with several new members joining which is very encouraging. More recently, I am sad to report that two of the Group's key founding members, John and Annabel Rodda, have felt it necessary to retire from their positions. John and Annabel have contributed a great deal in helping the village through raising and dealing with environmental issues.

Formed in 1995 in response to the call in AGENDA 21 from the Earth Summit to act locally, the Group embarked on a programme designed to involve people of all ages in a wide range of activities concerned with the environment. Villagers have taken part in a range of activities such as hedge laying, surveying hedgerows and ditches, recording traffic and observing and recording the birds in their gardens, in a survey of apple and fruit trees and in a hydrological study of the Parish.

A major project was the preparation of the Parish Conservation Plan in 1998 which later had a second edition in 2014 that influenced the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan. The creation and management of the Millennium Wood, management of St James's churchyard and most recently helping create the Swan Stream are all practical activities aimed at making the village a better place.

I would like to thank John and Annabel for all their invaluable work over the years and wish them a happy 'retirement'!

Swan Stream and Wood

Although I walk pass the recently erected bird boxes, I haven't been lucky enough to see if there are any inhabitants yet – hopefully they are there but keeping out of site. If the national housing boom is being followed, then they shouldn't be empty for too long.

In addition to the ever-developing habitats alongside and within the stream, its use as a training ground for budding water engineers is growing with great fun being had in building bridges and small dams etc around the waterfall!

Weather

The rainfall recorded at Highlands farm was 47.2mm in March but just 10.3mm in April. The local averages for the months are about 36 and 52mm

(based on the records in 'Portrait of a Rural Parish' published by the Group in 2013). Although April was particularly dry, the rainfall was lower in 2017 with only 7.7mm! The Met Office report for the area indicates around average rainfall for March with only about 25% for April based on the 1991-2020 averages. March was notable for some long periods of sunshine amounting to over a third more than the average.

Steve Capel-Davies

Brightwell Toddlers

We have had lots of lovely busy sessions at Toddlers recently and even managed to fit in some crafts for Mother's Day and Easter. We love our Thursday mornings sessions and would welcome any families who would like to come along and join us.

We meet in the village hall on Thursday mornings (term-time only) 9:15-11am. Ages 0-4yrs, £2.50/family.

For more information, please email brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com. You can also keep up to date with what we are doing on our Brightwell Toddlers Facebook page.

South Oxfordshire Choir performance

South Oxfordshire Choir (formerly Cranford Choral Society) are performing The Armed Man on 11 June at 7.30pm in St. Mary's, Wallingford. For details and how to obtain tickets, go to www.southoxonchoir.org.

Li Ho Fook's restaurant

By Tony Vincent Isaacs

Chinese waiters in Chinese whispers
Will serve you noodles and Peking duck,
With the chow mein comes the bill now,
They clear the table and wish you luck.

Jasmine tea-time and flowered chopsticks
The steaming paddy in separate grains,
Twenty courses and one hour later
You are feeling new hunger pains.

Save the Children

Fun Dog Show

In April we held a Fun Dog Show on the Recreation Ground. Thanks to the generosity and support from our sponsors, the fantastic team that ran the dog events, the compere and the team in the tea tent, we managed to put the event on with no expenses. This enabled us to send the whole of £960 raised to the Ukraine Appeal. It was so successful that we are planning to do another one next year.

Plant Sale

Thanks to everyone in village and beyond who donated plants to the annual Plant Sale on 14 May. The money raised will be sent to Save the Children General fund to help projects across world and in the UK.

Brightwell's Save the Children branch started our annual Plant Sale outside 'Kew's Bakery' in the Street well over 45 years ago. Since then we have raised thousands and thousands of pound from our wonderful green fingered supporters. They amaze us every year by the variety of plants they provide. Many gardens in the village are full of plants which have come from the Plant Sale, with all the money going to help Save the Children improve children's lives - it's a win win!

Thank you for your continued support.

Celia Collett

'Save the Bone' Weekend Band Night - Friday 24 June 7-11pm

So lucky to have 3 local bands playing in aid of Save the Children and Bone Cancer Research Trust (in memory of Alex Lewis) in the marquee at the Rec. Brightwell's own Hot Ashes are back, smouldering with a mix of new songs, classics and a touch of gypsy jazz, and are joined by Della Fox, playing their own alternative rock with a few covers thrown in, and 6 Feet of Snow featuring strong vocals & performing a varied set to get the audience on their feet and rocking. A great evening of live music - with food and a bar open from 7pm. Entry by cash donations of £5+ - please give generously.

Contact c.jones9551@gmail.com for the last few Saturday night Ball tickets available - £55pp.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell WI

Our latest meeting was an excellent talk about 'Dogs for Good' a small charity based in the Banbury area, though sadly was not well attended due to a combination of members taking early holidays, covid cautions and competition from a Red Lion quiz that same night!

What members missed was meeting 'Maggie' a puppy almost at the end of her initial socialising stage, and learning how the charity has grown to offer all sorts of assistance from helping children with autism to older people with dementia, and also helping train dogs within families with disabled children. For more information about the work of this charity visit their website dogsforgood.org.

Members had a chance to vote on the proposed resolution going forward to the NFWI annual meeting, 'Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported'. It was carried unanimously by those present.

We meet every month at Root One on the 3rd Monday of the month from 10am for coffee and chat. Everyone is welcome to join the noisy table!

Several garden visits are planned, including of course our own Brightwell Open Gardens, on 22 May.

Next month will be our Centenary Birthday tea, celebrating our 100th birthday, at a slightly earlier time, from 4pm on 14 June in Gill Dexter's lovely garden. Look out for an exhibition around that time in the Red Box Phone Gallery on 100 years of the WI in Brightwell, with a fuller exhibition of books and papers from the archives planned in the village hall for the autumn. You can also read about the Womens Institute in 1922 in Lesley Dore's article (page 19). She will be writing a second one on the WI's activities during the last century in the next issue.

Anne Brooker, President
brightwellcumsotwellwi@gmail.com

Village Lunch

The next village lunch will be on Tuesday 14 June at 12.15 in the village hall. Jaqui will be phoning members but if you would like to go and haven't heard from her, ring 01491 836018 or Eastlyn on 01491 832041 to book a place.

The year the WI came to the village

One hundred years ago, in 1922, visitors to the village would have been surprised by the gruesome sight of rabbit skins pegged out on boards in the gardens, drying in the sun. These had been treated with salt and saltpetre and were being cured to make warm, fur-backed mittens for the ladies of the newly formed Women's Institute. Members had been inspired by a visiting speaker at one of the meetings now taking place in the Stewart Memorial each month. Fifty-six ladies had joined and with a committee of 18 they were well served with talks and demonstrations on cookery and crafts, gardening and animal husbandry. Lectures on 'Old Berkshire' given by Mrs Squire of Steventon were popular (the village was in Berkshire not Oxfordshire then).



Husbands initially teased their wives, calling the newly formed WI 'Women Idlers' who had found a new excuse to meet for a gossip, but they changed their opinions when delicious new dishes appeared on the table after the county Home Economics Adviser had visited. And then there was a new wool hearth rug by the fire which all the family had worked on, and even slippers fashioned from old felt hats. Miss Joan Crouch remembered her slippers as being too tight for her toes, but the mittens looked very smart and 'were lovely and warm when cycling, if a bit crackly'.

That year, the WI played a major role in the organisation of the Summer Fete in the Rectory gardens. Entrance cost 6 pence, or 3 pence for the evening, but those who wished to dance from 8 until 10pm paid one shilling. The Hon Mrs Cross opened the fete and spoke of the origins and usefulness of the WI. 'Each little village now has its own parliament as well as all the benefits of social intercourse', she said, and she wished that men would have their own institute. Three stalls selling needlework, provisions and vegetables did a brisk trade and there were side shows including bowling, obstacle golf and a bran tub. For the children there was a Fancy-Dress Parade and a tortoise race and even the youngest members of the community were included - in a Baby Show! Altogether the fete raised £56, a considerable sum.

In September that year the committee offered members and their children an excursion to Friar Park in Henley (the Gothic mansion purchased in the 1960s by Beatle George Harrison). Two motor charabancs were hired, friends brought cars, each passenger paid 3/6d, and off they went. The children never

forgot the exciting underground caves with distorting mirrors that made even the most rotund person look sylph-like, and altogether it was a highly successful and enjoyable day out.

Women from all walks of life found friendship, fun and new interests through the WI, and looking back at the records of their meetings and reading their memoirs reveals fascinating details about women's lives in our village in the last century.

Lesley Dore

Brightwell Pre-school

Spring in our village is a magical time for little ones. There is no better way to understand the changing of the seasons, the wonder of nature, than to throw yourself in, literally head-first. We have seen many of you driving by, wandering past and smiling at the chatter and the energy which emanates from the children as they bustle through the lanes. Hill-rolling, a firm favourite, followed by stream-splashing, followed by duck-feeding, followed by allotment-exploring, followed by frog-spotting, followed by tree climbing, followed by the nose-rub of a flower or four until they sneeze out the pollen. They love to spot what they call 'wild animals', such as squirrels, blackbirds and ducks.

Spring is celebrated on the pre-school site too, standing under the snowy-blossom as it floats overhead. They showed much joy and surprise at the emergence of the daffodils planted earlier in the year, thanks to the generous donation from our friends at the Root One Garden Centre. We are now looking ahead to the summer months with the nurturing of sunflower seeds and the preparation of our vegetable patch. The children are keen to grow their own vegetables, as part of our 'Healthy Me' theme. They have tried different vegetables for snack, such as beetroot, and are making fruit smoothies too. The children have learnt about healthy choices for lunches and the complications of what may be good for your body may not always be good for your teeth. Life can be complicated like that, good to learn when you're young.

We will be celebrating the Jubilee too, helping the children to understand our heritage through fun activities and tea parties. They can never resist some crown decorating, especially if we get the glitter out. We are always happy to welcome people from the village into our pre-school, whether helping us to get out and about or to come and read stories, bake with the children or just sit

and have a chat. Please do get in touch if you would like to be a part of the adventures: admin@brightwellpreschool.org or call us on 01491 826387.

Pub Quiz Tuesday 21 June

Perhaps you would like to support us by coming along to the Brightwell Pre-school pub quiz, an evening sure to be packed with entertainment. Entry is £4 per person, with a maximum team number of 8. Call Corinne at the Red Lion to book your team's place on 01491 837373 or email info@theredlionbrightwell.co.uk.

We are also delighted to announce that we now have our very own JustGiving page, so supporting your village pre-school has never been easier! Simply visit: [justgiving.com/brightwellpreschool](https://www.justgiving.com/brightwellpreschool).

Natasha Hillier

Brightwell Supporting Refugees' warm welcome to our Ukrainian friends

If you have spotted new faces in the village through the month of May, they may well be one of the newly arrived nine Ukrainian families being hosted here under the Homes for Ukraine scheme – please give them a cheery smile and warm welcome, and perhaps try out hello in Ukrainian ‘*pryvit*’. From a village mailout and Zoom meeting at the end of March, we are delighted to have nearly all the families matched now here. After an agonisingly slow start with visas, later applications came through speedily. We are grateful to North Moreton for their lead and introduction to Oksana Solomou, a London based Ukrainian lawyer who dedicated extraordinary hours of her time to her countrymen fleeing the horrors of war, and to us in our endeavours.

BSR will be visible at 2 exciting village events coming up in June; please visit our Pimms stall open throughout the Jubilee Street Party on Sunday 5 June (at the War memorial end of the street) and indulge in tea and cake at BrightFest on 11 June. Your support, not only for Ukraine but BSR's other projects in Jordan, Uganda and closer to home is as always very much appreciated.

Thanks also to Mike Bartlett and Ellen Robertson for staging their acclaimed one woman show ‘Mrs Delgado’ in the village hall recently, which was a sell-out. Thank you to all those of you who attended this and other BSR's inventive events.

Angela Lewis

Oxfordshire 500: doing more together

‘Do your little bit of good where you are’ Desmond Tutu once said. ‘It is those little bits of good put all together that overwhelm the world.’

That's the simple idea behind Oxfordshire 500. If enough people pledge a small amount of money, together they can make a real difference to local people's lives.

Wendy Roderick and Liz McGivan set up Oxfordshire 500 in September 2021 after hearing about a similar scheme in Bristol. Oxfordshire 500 now has nearly 100 members donating what they can afford, some as little as £1 a week, but together able to commit £500 monthly to help the local community.

Those funds are used in all kinds of ways to ease short-term problems. ‘Be Free Young Carers’ was able to put on a great Christmas party for 50 young carers in Didcot. Individuals and families grappling with serious illness and other personal issues have had vital temporary financial relief. Four Afghan refugee families had help setting up in their own accommodation.

The key is that all nominations for financial support are recommended by and voted on by members. And there are no administration costs, as funds go directly to individuals or via credible local charities or organisations.

The potential for numbers of members and level of donations is unlimited and we would love to give more. Many villagers are members of Oxfordshire 500. Would you like to join us, or encourage friends or family to do so? Please look at our website for details www.oxfordshire500.com.

Then all you need to do is set up a Standing Order of a minimum of £1 a week to Lloyds Business account, Sort code 30-98-97 Account no: 46557962 and email oxfordshire500@gmail.com to let us know that you have joined.

As a member you will get a monthly invitation to nominate people who you think need our help, and a choice of everyone else's nominations so you can vote on your preference.

Wendy and Liz

Wallingford Country Market

The first ‘Outside Market’ of the season will be on Saturday, 4 June 2022, 9-12.30 in Market Place, replacing the usual Friday market that week. Bedding plants, bakery goods, preserves and crafts.

Silver Swans

A brand new beginners Silver Swans Class will start on Monday 6 June at 5.55pm–6.55 pm at the Stewart Village Hall in Brightwell.

Silver Swans is a ballet class for the over 55's, run by Virginia, an RAD Registered Teacher and Silver Swans Licensee.

The first class is free of charge. Book your place on my website www.dancefirstthinklater.co.uk. Or contact me at v.chell1501@gmail.com or on my mobile 07776 150903.

Virginia Chell

FA Cup 150 book nominated for sports award

Congratulations to villager, Phil Annet, who has had his 'FA Cup 150' book nominated in the Football Book of the Year 2022 category of the Sunday Times Sports Book Awards. It is the only book in the list that is self-published.

If you would like to acquire a copy visit Phil's website facupfatfile.co.uk or call him on 07805 748933.

What's on at Wallingford Corn Exchange

Live on stage:

Wednesday 25 May to Saturday 28 May, 7:45pm Sinodun Players present *Nell Gwynn* by Jessica Swale. Tickets £12 (special offer of £9 on the first night).

Saturday, 4 June, 7:45pm. *Pulse (a Pink Floyd Tribute Band)*

Wed-Sat 22-25 June *Shakespeare Shakeup* presented by Encore Youth

Cinema:

Monday 30 May to Thursday 2 June *Downton Abbey: a new era* 7.30pm.

Friday 3 June *Elizabeth: a portrait in parts*, 2,30pm and 7.30pm

Sunday 5 and Monday 6 June *Benediction*

Contact Box Office at www.cornexchange.org.uk for full programme

Village Diary

June

2	Jubilee Beacon (gates open 8pm)	Brightwell Barrow	9.45
3	Pop Master	Red Lion	
4	Platinum Party at the Palace on the big screen	VH	8pm
5	Street Party	The Street	1pm
11	BrightFest	The Rec	1pm
14	WI Centenary birthday tea	Gill's garden	4pm
19	Father's Day lunch and Jazz Jam	Red Lion	6.30pm
21	Village Lunch	VH	12.15pm
21	Pre-school Quiz	Red Lion	7.30pm
24	Save the Bone Band Night	The Rec	7pm
25	Save the Bone Charity Ball	The Rec	6.45pm

July

1	Village Golf Day	The Springs	12 noon
9	Fete	Sotwell House	2pm

Refuse Collection

(Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Fri 10 , Thurs 24 June Thurs 8 & 22 July
Green (& brown) bins	Sat 4 , Thurs 16 & 30 June Thurs 8 & 22 July

Village website

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