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Items for the next edition should be sent to the Editor by 10 July, 2023. *The Villager* is published every other month and delivered free to all households in the village.

Editorial

As summer approaches, we will hopefully be saying goodbye to the wet weather that seems to have dogged us for much of the year. Even the King's Coronation was wet, but the Brightwell Street Party on the Sunday was blessed with beautiful sunshine. And what a celebration it was. Tables stretched from the pub along the street and many people continued celebrating well into the evening. There was music from The Tubthumpers and Pimms sold well in aid of BSR. Thanks to Keith Brooks for the cover images.

The Red Lion was busy with drinks and food, but as you will see from Alison Leigh's article *Meet Corinne Cook*, the pub faces hard times with its rent review in September and its future uncertain. The pub is so much a part of the village, I hope we will all continue to support it for years to come. Corinne sets out many of her upcoming ideas for the pub on page 17 and has listed some of the future events on page 18; but keep an eye on the village Facebook page and on the village website www.brightwellcumstowell.co.uk for other events she is likely to slip in!

This time of year always gets busier and busier. Beating the Bounds has just taken place but unfortunately too late to include in any depth in this issue. The Church Spring Fair will also be done and dusted by the time this issue is printed, but we can look forward to the Village Fete on 1 July followed by the Summer Concert on 2 July. Please see the centre pages of this issue for details of the Flower and Produce Show and how to enter your exhibits. The Village Golf Day is always a popular event and takes place at Springs Golf Club on 14 July. The day is open to golfers of all levels, including those who only seem to dust off their clubs for this one annual event. See page 10 for details.

We are excited to learn that Mike Bartlett, the multi-award-winning writer for both stage and screen, has written a new play especially for the village, to be performed in the barn at Small's House, Mackney, on 16, 17 and 18 June. Be sure to book tickets early for this as it is bound to be extremely popular.

Do read the vicar's piece about supporting our local churches and his thoughts on how we should all, young and old, be taking advantage of a more diversified life accessible to us in the village and nearby.

As announced in the last edition of *The Villager*, Helen Connor is retiring as editor and Alison Leigh will be taking over from her. I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking Helen for her commitment and wonderful work as editor over many, many years and to wish Alison well for the future.

Anthony Finn – Guest Editor

Parish Council

Parish Council Elections 4 May 2023

Although elections were planned for the 4 May they did not have to take place as only the required number of parishioners put themselves forward to join the Parish Council.

We are sad to say that Councillor Celia Collett has decided to stand down from the Council after 40 years of service. She has worked tirelessly as Chair of the Planning Sub-Committee to ensure that the Council's codes and regulations are fairly and equitably followed. She also served as Chairperson of the full Council for a number of years. We are very grateful for all her hard work, will miss her greatly and wish her well.

We are pleased to welcome Derren Fisher who has joined the Parish Council.

Village Hall car park

Work on the car park extension is almost complete which will make a major contribution to relieving parking congestion at the west end of the village. We are grateful to Councillor Gilgrass for leading this project and to Steve Capel-Davis for all his help and advice in the planning of the new amenity.

Parish Council AGM

We are very grateful to all those parishioners who attended the Parish Council AGM. Agenda items included the role of the Parish Council, car parking, pavilion refurbishment and the upkeep of recreation and play areas.

James Davys

Barndance - a new play for the village

Barndance, a wonderful new play written especially for the village by triple Olivier Award winner Mike Bartlett will be performed by a local cast in the barn at Small's House, Mackney on 16, 17 and 18 June at 7.30pm.

Proceeds from the performances will go to Brightwell Supporting Refugees and tickets will be on sale from the Village Stores. Please join us for this exciting event!

Meet Corinne Cook, owner, Red Lion



Imagine – you've always dreamt of owning a pub. One day you are scrolling through Facebook and there it is: Lease for sale. The Red Lion, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Next day you pop in for a look. A week later you're committed. And then eight weeks after you move in – Covid strikes!

And so began a series of sleepless nights for Corinne Cook who owns and runs the Red Lion with the support of her partner Steve, aka Mouse. She has wanted to run a pub ever since she was a

young kid. On holidays in the Isle of Wight she used to help collect glasses in return for a bar of chocolate or a glass of coke. "I never guessed that I'd actually end up in a pub, it's just always been a dream."

For seventeen years she worked as a travel agent but always doing casual bar work in her spare time. After travel she worked in golf club management starting at Hadden Hill GC but moving to full-time office manager at the Oxford Golf Club. She'd probably still be there if the Red Lion hadn't come on to her radar.

So - does it match up to the dream?

She laughs. "No – not exactly! I've worked in this field all my adult life, so I know what it's like. I didn't come into this thinking we can just sit at the end of the bar all night and have a drink with the locals!"

It couldn't be more different. From Wednesday to Sunday, Corinne is front of house or in the kitchen from noon till 3 and from 6 till closing time. But her day starts around 7.30/8am with an early dog walk with Ruby. Even when the pub is closed, on Mondays and Tuesdays, she rarely has the day off. On Mondays she orders stock, pays wages and invoices and catches up on odd jobs. On Tuesday she preps in the kitchen all day with her chef. Wednesday to Sunday mornings more of the same, then open at 12 for lunch, close at 3, prep again till 6. After closing, she locks up and then places new orders for the days ahead, until finally falling into bed anytime from 10pm-1am. In other words, Corinne is working while everyone else is having fun – what's to like?

"When people have a nice experience, it makes it all worthwhile. If you want to carry on having a social life, you don't do it – your pub is your social life. I love it most days."

All this means she doesn't have nearly enough time to see her two grandchildren. Grandchildren? She barely looks old enough to have children, never mind grandchildren. She says running the pub has aged her. If it has, it doesn't show.

One thing she really enjoys about running our village pub is that she rarely gets any trouble. Brightwell residents are a very easy-going bunch and apart from the odd one being sent home after clearly having had enough, everyone is very well behaved although one thing she would change is the singing ability of some of the karaoke participants!

Her main worry, which she hinted at in the previous issue of *The Villager*, is that the pub just isn't viable anymore.

If Brightwell residents want the pub to stay open after September, when the lease comes up for renewal, we need to support them, just as we did during the Covid shutdown. What initially looked like a catastrophe turned out well thanks to a thriving take-away trade. At its peak the Red Lion was serving 50 to 70 meals a night, four nights a week. "I think people wanted to see the pub survive." And we still do.

Under the current lease, Corinne and Mouse are responsible for all the wear and tear on the building (think thatched roof, water leaks, leaking roof and more) plus the landlord is allowed to put up the rent to match the rise in the retail price index. "It's the rent that's the killer". Their recent 12% increase means they pay up to double on the rent of other pubs in the area, according to Corinne's research. In September, they will try to re-negotiate the terms of the lease to include a lower rent and a cap on rent increases. Without a change in the current terms, the pub simply cannot keep going.

Meanwhile she is calm. "All I can do is put our case forward and I am highly optimistic we will strike a good deal." Let's drink to that!

Alison Leigh

South Oxfordshire Choir

Songs of Summer is the theme for our next concert to be held on Saturday 17 June in St Mary's Church, Cholsey. We will be singing a beautiful mix of works by Edward Elgar, Clara Schumann, Eric Whitacre, Ralph Vaughan Williams and an original composition by Piers Kennedy. We do hope you can come and support the many BcS singers in the choir! For more information visit www.southoxonchoir.org.

Summer Concert

There will be a definite celebratory air to this year's Summer Concert which takes place on Sunday 2 July (7pm) in St Agatha's. This is the day after the village fete so you can enjoy a whole weekend of Brightwell festivities. Come along and see your talented friends and neighbours performing the usual mix of music and humour. Images of the Coronation will still be fresh in our



minds. The village choir, that sings for special occasions, will number about thirty, and will be performing two anthems sung at this year's Coronation and in 1953: *Zadok the Priest* and *I Was Glad*. This year's concert will also mark the 400th anniversary of the first publication of Shakespeare's plays.

Monies raised are donated to Brightwell Supporting Refugees and the Church.

Alec McGivan

The beautiful illustration for the Summer Concert flyer is by freelance artist and art teacher Hannah McCague, who grew up in the village. Her work draws on local landscapes, exploring ideas around nostalgia and fleeting moments of wonder that occur in nature. See more of her work at Hannahelizabeth.net.

Save the Children

This year the Village Diary is very busy, therefore we have decided to postpone the Dog Show and hold it next year together with another Country Fair. It will be a similar format to the last one we held a few years ago, which so many of you enjoyed. Please save the date 1 June 2024. We are looking forward to having a fun afternoon for everyone and their dogs to enjoy.

Back to fundraising this year we have some dates you may like to save:

On the evening of Friday 6 October we are holding something a little different. If you have an air fryer or you are thinking of getting one, then this is the event for you. Our very talented resident chef, Malcolm, has very kindly offered to come along and share tips, advice and his expertise. We aim to make it a lovely social event that all can enjoy.

18 November – Christmas Fair

24 December – Carols around the Christmas Tree

Celia & the Save the Children Team

Brightwell cum Sotwell Primary School

The weather may have been a bit unpredictable over the last few weeks, but one thing that has been very predictable is that life at the school has remained as busy as ever!

As the last half term came to a close just before Easter, we finished in style with our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week. We were thrilled to have lots of visitors coming into the school to work with us and talk to us about their STEM-related jobs – we found out all about how Thames Water get the water into our homes, how wind turbines are built and generate electricity and we got to learn how to create computer codes that would move Lego models that we had built!

We were also incredibly lucky to work with our friends at Wallingford School again – this time, as well as coming down to visit us for some fun PE/Maths activities with the younger members of the school, they invited some of our older children to go and spend time up there at Wallingford where they got to carry out fantastic science experiments, make bread and butter and create some fancy colour changing fabrics in DT!

Coming back after Easter, the highlight of this half term so far has to be our King's Coronation Celebration Day which we held on Friday 6 May. The whole school was awash with children in red, white and blue (we even had a king arrive in his finest outfit!), adorned with amazing homemade crowns! At lunchtime, there was a real party spirit, with everyone coming together for a tea party in the hall, complete with music, strawberries and sponge cake! As part of our decorations, our art club proudly displayed their handiwork – a fabulous banner made of individual pieces of material, each with an image related to the coronation on it.



A little later in the afternoon, it was time for a treat as the ice cream van came to pay us a visit, just before we ended the day with a beautiful assembly to all our families, where we shared the celebration songs we had been practising over the last couple of weeks. It was a fantastic way to end the week – I think King Charles would have loved it!

Sue Potts, Headteacher

The Vicar writes...

A lot has been going on in the village churches this year. Easter was a particularly busy time and it was lovely to see the church so full on Easter Sunday. Sadly, however, it seems that outside of major festivals in the church, the congregations at church services in our village has not revived to their healthy pre-Covid levels. That is a shame, as there is so much to benefit everyone within the church family.

With the summer holidays approaching, I am particularly minded to consider what we can do as a church and as a village community together to support our young people whose lives continue to be demonstrably affected by the wider consequences of Covid. Virtual learning, for example, seems to have only created an increased obsession with online activities, bringing with it an ever-growing sense of social – and familial – isolation. There are many older residents in the village who can happily recount the days when the summer holidays would arrive and they would be out and across the fields after breakfast with a packed lunch to keep them going until they returned home for their tea in the late afternoon. Such days would have been spent embracing an outdoor life of activity and adventure, relying purely on the active imagination and the available resources of nature around them. Obviously, things have changed now and this would no longer be considered either a safe or a desirable practice, but it does bring to mind the thought that something should be done within the village to foster a sense of fun, friendship and activity outside the confines of the online world of TikTok and YouTube.

It would be wonderful to restart our Junior Choir – just think how many professional performers and pop stars originally found their voice in such an environment. Another suggestion has been for young teenagers to gather at the Village Hall on selected dates over the summer for a social evening ‘at the cinema’, and another for younger ones to participate in a guided ‘wild nature’ walk (to the Clumps?) with a picnic. Closer to home, and for the much younger ones, how about a Teddy Bear’s Picnic within the church grounds? I welcome your feedback and for you to come forward with any other thoughts.

And so what about us oldies (adults!)? The church has always historically been a centre for not only Christian worship but for community gathering and support. Every Wednesday from 10-12 villagers are welcome to join us in the parish room for coffee and cake; a great way to get to know your neighbours, to get to know what’s going on in the village and, if you so desire, to become involved in giving support to one another. Did you know that the parish room is also available to hire, for a very modest sum, for use as a meeting room or

gathering space for clubs or small groups. Please contact Mina Barrett on 832293 for more information and/or to make a booking.

As well as offering support to the community, the Church also welcomes your support to keep us going. I don't have to tell you how lucky we are to be blessed in our village with not one, but two beautiful and historic buildings. But without your support, these beautiful buildings will soon fall into disrepair. Clearly, we will need to find ways to raise funds for repairs, but in the meanwhile, there are other practical ways you can help us. If you have a couple of hours to spare once a month or so, our gardening team would be very grateful for your help in maintaining our churchyards and grounds which are such an important place for so many in the village. Please get in touch if you can offer some time, however small, to help.

If you prefer the indoors, please help us to keep our churches clean and tidy by joining our small and friendly rota. Finally, if you fancy a bit of exercise and mental stimulation on a Tuesday evening, why not join our bellringers and learn the ropes of this ancient hobby for all ages from 8 to 80+.

There are many other ways in which the church can both be supported by the community it serves, and also itself act as a means of support to that wider community. But please bear in mind that unless we take action to keep our churches alive and kicking, the day will come in the not-too-distant future when the doors will have to close on a vital and beautiful source of community outreach and support.

Blessings,

The Revd Kevin Beer

Village Shop and Post Office

Following the same format as last year, Brightwell Village Stores' AGM will be held on Saturday 17 June in the Village Hall. There will be a map displaying where our most popular products come from; Pimms, squash or tea will be served from 2pm with some nibbles, and the meeting will start at 3pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, although only members may vote.

This is your chance to come along and find out about your Community Shop and Post Office, what goes on behind the scenes and meet some of the team over some refreshments. Please come along.

Finally, we hope you read the leaflet in this issue of *The Villager*, explaining the volunteering opportunities we have to offer.

Village Shop Management Committee

St Agatha's Church Bells



For this edition of the magazine, I would like to sound our hearty congratulations to our four new adult bell-ringers. They achieved, somehow, in record time, the basic skills to "Ring for the King" on Coronation Day. Well done Alex, Kate and Hilary, as well as Dave (not able to join us on the day itself). Also, congratulations to our two young ringers, Ivy and Ryan.

Casting our minds back to that day, you may recall that we rang the bells from 3pm, after the conclusion of all the day's pageantry, for just over an hour. There were eleven of us there, as per the team photo (albeit one youngster is out of photo). And our ringing was mainly 'rounds' (the bells rung in descending order) and the change of 'Kings' (bells rung 1-3-2-5-4-6).

Thanks too, to David and Rosemary for providing 'fizz' to celebrate the occasion.

Finally, for now, as ever, if you are interested to see what we do, please do pop in on a Tuesday evening around 7.30pm.

John Dowling

Village Golf Day – 14 July 2023

Following last year's successful event, golfers of all standards are invited to the Village Golf Day which will be held at The Springs Resort & Golf Club on 14 July with tee times starting at 1.30pm.

Prizes will be presented during an evening meal which will follow at The Red Lion and will include male and female top scores and 'nearest the pin' among others.

Whatever your handicap please come and join this fun event to celebrate golf in Brightwell!

To enter or for further details please contact Paul Ingrem: Paul_Ingrem@tinyworld.co.uk or telephone 07715 214062.

Entries close 7 July 2023.

Paul Ingrem

**BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL
FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW
AT
THE VILLAGE FETE**

SATURDAY 1 July 2023

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

By kind permission of Luke and Emma Clancey

Flower and produce exhibits received from 9–10.30am. No late entries after 10.15am. Judging starts at 11am.

Entrance Fee: 50p each adult entry – 25p each junior entry. **Late entries (ie forms submitted after 28 June) will be charged double.**

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 Bakers Bowl is awarded for the most points won in cookery.

THE SCHEDULE

To be judged by popular vote: Best Entry in Show. Prize: £10 voucher for the Village Stores.

Flower Arranging. Flowers from the garden to be used where possible.

Height is unlimited, except for miniature arrangements

1. A miniature flower arrangement in an egg cup. Max 4" x 4" (10cm x 10cm) height unlimited
2. A bowl of floating garden flowers
3. An arrangement – Fit for a King (accessories allowed). Max 18" x 18" (45cm x 45cm including container) height unlimited
4. A foliage arrangement featuring wood. Max 16" x 16" (40cm x 40cm) Max height 15" (38cm)
5. A posy of mixed garden flowers. Max 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm)
6. A bouquet of roses. Max height 20" x 14" (80cm x 36cm)

Flowers and Vegetables.

7. A Vase of Garden Favourites – 5 stems, one variety or mixed
8. Most scented flower, single or small bunch of up to 5 stems
9. Most scented rose
10. A rose, Hybrid Tea – 1 stem
11. A rose, multi-headed – 1 stem
12. Potted plant, flowering foliage or succulent
13. Dish of soft fruit of one kind
14. Box of vegetables – 3 varieties. Box not to exceed 16" x 12" (40cm x 30.5cm)
15. Box of salad vegetables. Box not to exceed 16" x 12" (40cm x 30.5cm)
16. 3 broad beans
17. 6 pea pods
18. 3 courgettes
19. 5 potatoes (named variety)
20. 4 named herbs in one jar

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

21. A jar of chutney – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
22. A jar of marmalade – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
23. A jar of any jam including jellies – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
24. A loaf of brown bread
25. 5 jam tarts
26. A chocolate cake
27. A cake to include vegetable/s

28. NOVICE CLASS (Open to anyone who hasn't won a baking prize in the show before): 5 savoury cheese scones

Drinks

- 29. Homemade cider
- 30. Homemade beer
- 31. Homemade sloe gin
- 32. Homemade cocktail or mocktail

Photography, Arts and Crafts

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

- 33. Photograph, unmounted: ‘Woodlands and trees’
- 34. Photograph, unmounted: ‘Action’
- 35. A set of four mounted photos, b/w or colour ‘Garden flowers’
- 36. Photograph, unmounted: ‘Make us smile’. Amusing, with or without caption
- 37. Photograph, unmounted: ‘Head and shoulders portrait’
- 38. Anything handmade, (wooden, embroidered, drawing, knitted, pottery)
- 39. Make a dog toy
- 40. An origami creation

Creative Writing

- 41. Short story, no longer than 500 words – “Walking through the graveyard, Robert couldn't shake the feeling of being watched.....”
- 42. A love poem
- 43. News headline article – “Mysterious creature living in the community orchard” (200 words)

9-12 year olds

- 42. 5 decorated biscuits
- 43. Collection of garden flowers in a jam jar
- 44. Picture of my pet (any medium)

5-8 year olds

- 45. Make a crown fit for a king
- 46. Monster made from vegetables (not to exceed 30cm x 30cm)
- 47. 5 decorated royal cupcakes

Under fives

- 48. Fancy dress a soft toy
- 49. Colour in a picture (link for picture *Colouring Picture.docx*). Available to download on the village website and Facebook.
- 50. Finger or hand painting

ENTRY FORM

Please complete by Wednesday 28 June and return, with total fees and place in the Village Fete box held in the Village Stores:

Queries to Hvsatchell@icloud.com

Name	Class No.	No.of Entries	Fee 50p Adult 25p Child	Age (for under 16's)

Total fees: _____

Address:.....
.....
.....
.....

Brightwell Art Club

Brightwell Art Club meet on Saturday mornings (10am-12 noon, term time) at the Village Hall.

They are a friendly group of people who welcome beginners as well as more experienced painters, and usually have a tutor with them helping on a differing theme each week.

Pop in and meet the group on a Saturday morning, coffee is about 11am. For further information, email: izdarby@icloud.com. The forthcoming programme is:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Tutor</i>
June 3	Painting with Pastels	Claire Cross
June 10	Drawing and Painting Stone and Brick Walls and Weathered Paintwork (outside if possible)	Janet Lueck
June 17	Acrylics from Scratch	Claire Cross
June 24	How to Paint from Your Holiday Photos	Anthony Wilder
July 1	Painting Flowers and Gardens (outside if possible)	Victoria Squires
July 8	Using Harmonising/Complimentary Colours	Janet Lueck
July 15	Painting Rocks and Waves Using Palette Knives	Janet Lueck

Isabella Darby

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell WI

Under the leadership of our new President, Jan Stockdale, the WI has planned an interesting programme of talks and activities for the year ahead.

In April a lively talk was given by a Yeoman warder of the Tower of London who came attired in his brilliant red and blue uniform. At our May meeting we learned about the interesting work of Wallingford Accessible Boat Club, providing access to the river for disabled people.

Forthcoming topics are:

13 June - 'Making Space for Wildlife in your Garden' with John Taylor
11 July - an open meeting, a return visit by military historian Roger Laing who will tell the story of 'Nelson and Emma'.

We very much welcome any newcomers or guests. If you are not sure if the WI is right for you, we offer two free taster sessions. Men as well as women are welcome at open meetings.

Our meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Brightwell. To contact the WI, please email: brightwellcumstowellwi@gmail.com

Karin Matthews

Brightwell cum Sotwell Environment Group

Swan Stream and Woodlands etc.

The wet spring has had the benefit of keeping a good flow in the stream, which, combined with warm weather will no doubt ensure that the vegetation will do very well and attract a good variety of wildlife, especially insects.

The importance of wildflowers, especially brambles, was emphasised in John Bloomfield's excellent talk that he gave to the group at the end of March. There was a good turnout and all who attended were very impressed by the quality of John's photography and knowledge. Seeing a damselfly with such vibrant colours blown up to fit the whole screen in the village hall was something to behold. John also brought along some of the equipment and guidebooks he uses in his search for insects. John's diligence has paid off as he reported on a couple of insects that he found in the parish which were one of the first recordings in the UK.

The Millennium Wood has recently gained a bug hotel of a grand design, it being several storeys high. It was kindly built and installed by the scouts which is much appreciated, as I am sure it will be by the many visiting bugs!

Weather

The rainfall recorded at Highlands farm was 109.1mm and 60.9mm respectively for March and April. March was particularly wet with 39.7mm being recorded on the 31st! Indeed, the Met Office reports that rainfall in March was over double the long-term average for southern England and the third wettest for England in 188 years. The April rainfall was below average. Taken together, March and April were slightly cooler with less sunshine than 1991 to 2020 average. No wonder the springs are running well.

Steve Capel-Davies
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Environment Group

The Red Lion

As I sit here writing an update for you from the pub, the sun is shining, it's lovely and warm outside and I'm really hoping the good weather has finally arrived, although the forecast is looking pretty bleak for the week ahead. But fingers crossed, this is the end of it and the heatwave they are predicting this summer will soon be upon us!

We have been busy getting the pub and garden ready for the warm weather and we are really looking forward to the next few months and welcoming you all. We have the diary in front of us as I type and I am looking for live bands to perform for us as we know how much you love having live music here. We are hopeful to get some firm favourites back and will keep you all posted via our newsletters and social media pages. We are yet to confirm 'Sausagefest' as we are still waiting for our lease to be renewed but once done, we will get a date in the diary!

You may have heard via our newsletter but in case you haven't, we wanted to let you know about our new Friday opening hours and offerings. Going forward for the spring/summer, the pub will now open at 10.30am every Friday where a selection of our tasty homemade cakes will be available to either eat in with a drink or if preferred, to take away. Lunch will be served as normal from 12-2pm and will then close at 2.30pm. We will reopen at 5pm (an hour earlier than normal) and dinner will be served from 5.30-8.30pm with last tables bookable at 8pm. If that's not all, we will also be offering 'Fish Friday' each week with a selection of fish dishes for you to enjoy alongside our normal menu. If you are a fresh fish lover, this is a lunch/dinner day not to be missed and already three weeks in, Fridays are getting busier and busier so please do book to confirm your table.

Don't forget we have our regular quiz night which is held on the first Tuesday of every month. For June, the quiz will be in aid of Brightwell Pre-school and for July, the quiz will be done by Mouse and me and all proceeds will go towards the roof/repair bill. Teams can be anywhere from one to eight people but please note, each month we get full so it is best to book your team nice and early to guarantee your space. I am also thinking of running a monthly bingo session but would love to know if people would like this. We would do a Tuesday evening and have a lite supper such as fish & chips to enjoy in the break. If this is something you would enjoy please let me know when you are next in or drop me an email. Please note you need to be 18 plus. We would have cash prizes for the winners and play a few games throughout the evening.

That's all from us this month; thank you for all your support and here's to a great summer.

Dates for your diary

6 June	Quiz Night in aid of Brightwell Pre-School
18 June	Jazz Jam
4 July	Quiz Night for The Pub
16 July	Jazz Jam

Corinne, Mouse & Ruby

Community Association

Coronation Street Party – 7 May

Thank you to everyone who came, helped and enjoyed the Coronation Street Party which we held in conjunction with the Parish Council and the Red Lion. It was so nice bring the whole village together to celebrate another royal occasion, the sun shone and everyone (over 700 of us!) had a great time.

Village Fete – Saturday 1 July

The village fete will be held again in the lovely gardens of Moreton House, kindly hosted by Luke and Emma Clancey. Our plans are well advanced and we hope to provide the usual fun-filled afternoon for all the family.

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 the CA invites 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. Look out for the schedule and entry forms for the Flower and Produce Show in the centre pages of this issue. The show has 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 book please.

Committee members will be collecting 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!

Jumble Sale – 16 September – Pavilion

We are in the early stages of planning this event, full details will appear in the next *Villager*.

James Davys, Chairman

Brightwell Bridge Drive

Thank you to everyone who attended our Brightwell Bridge Drive in the Stewart Village Hall on Tuesday 21 March which was a great success. Over 70 people came along to play bridge and a magnificent tea was provided by Shena Luck and her team. A very big thank you to everyone who donated cakes and lovely prizes for the raffle; the event raised nearly £1,400 for the refurbishment of the Village Hall.

Irene Lascelles

Stewart Village Hall



Thank you to everyone who came along to our AGM on 4 April where we presented our annual review. We were pleased to report that bookings and income have now returned to

pre-Covid levels, and we predict that the financial year ending 31 March 2023 will show income of £25,731 and expenditure of £19,083 giving a balance of £6,648. We also reported that we are now able to claim gift aid on donations received.

There have been some great events held in the hall over the past year, both for fun and fundraising and we support all users by advertising individual events and regular groups and activities with our 'what's on' posters, look out for these on village notice boards.

The Coronation quiz raised £94, and the winner of the bottle of fizz was Anne Brooker. Thank you for supporting this Village Hall event.

After this review we then moved on to share information and initial drawings of what the hall could look like in the future. We were pleased to receive lots of questions, feedback, and suggestions. All of this will be considered as we move forward, and we will share more updates with you as soon as possible. We plan to attend the Church Spring Fair, Brightfest and the Village Fete so please come along and speak to us, your input is invaluable.

Finally – a plea for help. We would love to hear from you if you could help in any way, for example, fundraising, grant applications, PR and social media, communication or project management.

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

Annette Kilworth

Thames Valley Festival

It's happening again!

Yes, the wine, food and drink festival is back at Brightwell Vineyard on Saturday and Sunday, 17 & 18 June 2023.

Similar to the English Wine and Food Festival in 2021, there will be wine, beer and food stalls giving you tastings and sales of superb local produce.

A diverse array of hot and cold street food vendors will prepare lunch and snacks all day, with plentiful seating and tables to dine and drink at, while you listen to music and enjoy the ambience. On Saturday we have the Acoustic Jass quartet playing many classics such as 'Sweet Georgia Brown' to get your toes tapping, and on Sunday the local 'Coverbouys' will be regaling us with familiar and popular melodies and hits.

There will be market stalls selling local foods and crafts to take home.

Come and walk in the vineyard, discover some super new foods and drinks to sample and take home. Bring the sunshine but there's cover if we get showers.

Relax and socialize with tasty food and fun music. Tickets at www.thamesvalleyfestival.co.uk.

Carol Nielsen

Brightwell cum Sotwell Cricket Club

Your village cricket club has been in existence since 1858 and has played on the recreation ground for sure since 1896 when the Parish Council bought the land for £100.

For the 2023 season there will be over 100 families involved with our senior team playing Sunday Friendly Cricket and 3 junior groups. The senior team will play 16 games home and away and 3 on tour in Dorset. The All Stars (5 to 7 years) run on a Saturday morning 10 to 11am from May to July. This year, the Bees Squad, (8 to 11years) will be coached on a Friday evening from May to August and play pairs soft ball cricket. The Bears Squad, (9 to 11 years) will play hard ball cricket with both teams being in the Oxford Youth League. Many thanks to Chris Benarr, Duncan Chandler, Alex Pearmain and Roger Gill for their dedication to coaching the juniors.

We do hope that villagers will support particularly the Bees (Sundays 10am to 12 noon) and the Bears on a Thursday evening (6-8pm). The fixture lists are on the Jubilee Pavilion Notice Board.

Tony Windsor, Secretary BCSCC, (07909) 848098, tonywindsor2@gmail.com

Brightfest - Saturday 10 June 2023 1-11pm

BrightFest, an annual charity music festival, has been running since 2008, benefitting local good causes and community projects.

This year there will be a wider variety of food served during the afternoon and evening. BBQ SAM'S will be serving burgers & chips, hot dogs and chicken wings from 1pm until the close. The Red Lion will run the beer tent also offering beef and veggie nachos. Brightwell Supporting Refugees will run the tea & cake tent. There will be the traditional 'Kids Zone' with a bouncy castle and slide. Some art and craft activities will be run by Friends of Brightwell School (FOBS).

This year there will be a wider variety of music and the closing hour is with a local DJ who plays vinyl. Brightfest T-shirts and caps are available at www.brightfest.org.uk/store and every purchase contributes to good causes.

To volunteer to help with the running of Brightfest, or for further information please contact Tony Windsor, Secretary BOC on 07909 848098 or by email to: brightfestorganisingcommittee@gmail.com.

Eliot Forster, Chairman BrightFest Organising Committee (BOC)

Brightwell Toddlers

We've been having a lot of fun at Brightwell Toddlers this term with various activities including parachute games and soft play on our new mats. We have an exciting session with special guest coming up on 13th July and we'll be having an end of term party on our last Thursday before summer holidays.

Thank you to all the lovely parents/carers and volunteers who help each week. If you think you would be able to spare some time occasionally to help with drinks and snack time we'd love to hear from you. Toddlers runs every Thursday morning 9.15-11am during term time in the village hall.

We can be contacted at brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com.

Emma Paton-Smith

A message from our MP, David Johnston

I hope you all enjoyed the Coronation weekend. Whether I was in Wantage, Didcot, Grove or Wallingford, the mood was upbeat, people were having a good time and there was plenty of food, music and activities. The Coronation itself passed off perfectly, despite the weather – and the concert was great too. It was another reminder of how this country can do events like this better than anywhere else.

While we're still crunching the data, I wanted to thank everyone who completed my health services survey. I've had responses from nearly 3,000 people, which is a really great number to give a picture of what people are feeling across the constituency.

It's clear that, as I expected and as my inbox reflects, many people feel we do not have the health services we need. Nor do I. People particularly struggle to get an appointment with a doctor or with a dentist, but this is not the only thing that people would like to see more of when it comes to health. I will continue to campaign hard on this – watch this space.

After I held a successful crime summit with Thames Valley Police in Wantage, I was asked by local residents to hold one in Wallingford. I can confirm this will take place on 15 June, 6.30–8pm and Waitrose have offered their café. Sign up on my website www.david-johnston.org.uk.

As ever, if I can help with anything please email me via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk.

David Johnston

The Corn Exchange, Wallingford

Cinema films include:

- Book Club: The Next Chapter
- One Fine Morning
- My Fairy Troublemaker
- Are you there God, it's me Margaret
- Vermeer, the Greatest Exhibition
- Mad about the Boy: The Noel Coward Story

Live Screenings include

- Sleeping Beauty from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden
- Best of Enemies, filmed live at the Noel Coward Theatre, London
- Il Trovatore from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

Live on Stage events include

- BBC's Any Questions
- 32nd Corn Exchange Drama Festival
- Sinodun Players present A Bunch of Amateurs

For dates and further information, go to www.cornexchange.org.uk

Wallingford Accessible Boat Club

Bookings are now available for river voyages from mid-May. All disabled and less mobile people, wheelchair users and ambulant, from in and around the South Oxfordshire District are encouraged to take advantage of free of charge trips in the Club's Wheelyboat, WOW-one.

For further information contact John Jenkins at john.jenkins@wabc.org.uk

Wheelyfest

A Charity Music Festival for Wallingford's Wheelyboat

A multi-genre live music event featuring rock and country bands, solo artists and local jammers. A variety of headliners include Definitely 90's, Funky Funks, Cover Bouys and Kennet Delta Cowboys will be held on Sunday 24 September 2023, 2pm-9pm at Wallingford Sports Park, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford OX10 9RB.

Further information will be available from www.wabc.org.uk at a later date.

VILLAGE DIARY

June

6	Red Lion pub quiz	Red Lion	7pm
10	Brightfest	The Rec	1-11pm
13	WI talk: Making Space for Wildlife in your Garden	VH	7.30pm
15	Crime Summit – Waitrose Café	Wallingford	6.30-8pm
16,17,18	Play Barndance	Small's House, Mackney	7.30pm
17	Village Stores AGM		3pm
17	South Oxfordshire Choir, Music of Summer	St Mary's Cholsey	7.30pm
17,18	Thames Valley Festival	Brightwell Vineyard	
18	Jazz Jam	Red Lion	6.30pm

July

1	Village Fete	Moreton House	2pm
2	Summer Concert	St Agatha's	7pm
4	Red Lion pub quiz	Red Lion	7pm
11	WI talk 'Nelson and Emma'	VH	7.30pm
14	Village Golf Day	The Springs	1.30pm
16	Jazz Jam	Red Lion	6.30pm

Advance Notice

16 September	Jumble Sale	Pavilion
6 October	WI meeting – Air Frying tips	VH
27 October	Wine tasting with Nick Zalinsky	VH

Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Thursdays 8 & 22 June Thursdays 6 & 20 July
Green (& brown) bins	Friday 2 , Thursdays 15 & 29 June Thurs 13 & 27 July

Village website

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