

## Contents

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Editorial   | 2     |
| Community Association                                   | 3     |
| St Agatha's with St James'                              | 4-5   |
| Brightwell Art Club / New floral service in the village | 5     |
| Summer Time Dreamin'                                    | 6-7   |
| Stewart Village Hall                                    | 7-8   |
| Save the date to save the bone 2020                     | 8     |
| News from the orchard                                   | 9     |
| Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School                   | 9-10  |
| Web group news  | 10-11 |
| Parish council / Thank you Lucy                         | 11    |
| What's on in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell                     | 12-13 |
| The Red Lion  | 14    |
| Allsorts Preschool                                      | 15    |
| BcS Environment Group / Brightwell Toddlers             | 15-16 |
| WI / Village lunch club                                 | 17    |
| Save the Children / Fiji newsletter / Wassail!          | 18-19 |
| Earth Trust   | 20    |
| Sinodun Players / Wallingford Photographic Club         | 21    |
| The Bronze Age and Iron Age in Wallingford              | 22    |
| What's on – round and about                             | 23    |
| Village Diary   | 24    |

**Editor:** Helen Connor 834754 ([thevillagerbcs@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagerbcs@gmail.com))

**Chairman:** Anne Brooker 835109

**Secretary:** Gill Dexter

**Treasurer:** George Birt

**Advertising:** Martin Dix 836204

**Assembly:** Shena Luck 834543

**Distribution:** Keith Brooks 839044

**Production:** Anne Brooker, Angela Lewis, Steve Luck, Trevor Morgan, Susanne Tuffrey

**Items for the next edition should be sent to the editor by 7 November**

**2019.** *The Villager* is published every other month and delivered free to all households in the village.

## Editorial

As late summer slips gently into autumn I am sitting writing this in the garden enjoying the warmth of the sun and the lovely soft colours of the flowers and grasses. An enforced spell of sitting for me as I recover from my hip replacement, but good to be giving myself time to rest more after a rather busy summer. It is a quieter time of year in the village too compared to the hectic months of June and July. A highlight was the performance of *Midsummer Night's Dream* in St James' churchyard, a magical place to put on this play. Well done to everyone involved, it really was fabulous. We feature a scene with Bottom, Titania and some of the fairies on our front cover and you can read more about who took part in the play in Robert's article on page 6. Thank you Chris Baines for the lovely photos.

It is a time of year when some of you or your children might consider taking up a new sport or activity. There's lots on offer here in the village – badminton? Nordic walking? yoga? football? keep fit? Or a new hobby – quilting? photography? painting? Or perhaps a society – WI? art history? The various activities which regularly take place in the village hall, pavilion, recreation ground and the Red Lion pub are shown on pages 12 and 13 with contact details. You can find more on other pages of this magazine. A special afternoon is being held in the village hall on 12 October to help people find out what's going on and get more involved in your village. Over 24 village clubs, charities and societies will have stalls, a little like a 'Freshers Fair', so you can talk to them and see what new things you might do.

One of the club's represented on the 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Saturday morning art club. Their exhibition is in November (see flyer enclosed) where they will be exhibiting and selling their work.

No Apple Day this year as it is an 'off' year, in other words not the usual amounts of apples in the orchard or around the village; see more on page 9.

Finally, our next issue will be our Christmas one covering December and January. We would love to have some seasonal artwork or a photo for our front cover. If you would like to submit something, just remember that we have to print it in black and white. If you need more details re format etc contact Susanne on [s.tuffrey62@gmail.com](mailto:s.tuffrey62@gmail.com). There will be a prize for the one chosen!

*Helen Connor*

# Community Association

## Get Involved in your Village – 12 October, 2-4pm, village hall

Please join us for the chance to meet the villages' volunteer-led groups, clubs and societies who contribute so much to the wellbeing of our community. Representatives of these groups will be there to chat to anybody who is interested in joining.

It will give everybody a way to make new friends, learn skills and help the community. Already 24 groups have signed up including sports and social clubs, churches and charities. Whether you recently moved to the village or are long established, don't miss this opportunity to get involved. Free refreshments will be available.

If your group would like to be represented (and have not already made contact) please email Bill Horsfield at [wthorsfield@yahoo.com](mailto:wthorsfield@yahoo.com).

## Distribution of Funds

I am pleased to say that we have been able to distribute the following grants to local groups and charities from money raised by the Community Association throughout the year:

|                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Village Hall - £400      | St James/St Agatha's Churches- £750 |
| Pre-School - £400        | Scouts - £750                       |
| Tennis Club - £250       | Football Club -£250                 |
| Cricket Club - £250      | Brightwell School - £250            |
| Environment Group - £250 | Toddlers Group - £150               |

## AGM – 24 September 7.30pm - village hall

A big thank you to everybody who came to our AGM to hear about our work for the community in the past year and our plans for the future. As I am writing in advance of the meeting, I will update you next time.

*James Davys*

Please note that my email address has changed to [James.davys@icloud.com](mailto:James.davys@icloud.com)

# St Agatha's with St James'

Autumn brings our Harvest Festival family service with our Junior Choir, at 9.30am on Sunday 6 October. At harvest, we recognise our dependence on nature and the climate and the need to work with them to produce the things that we rely on – not just food and drink, but even the air that we breathe. Concern for the environment is deeply rooted in Christianity and the Bible, from Genesis - where humans were given the responsibility as stewards of God's creation in the Garden of Eden - through to 'a new heaven and a new earth' at the end of Revelation. However, this final picture of the new earth is one which encompasses redeemed aspects of the present earth, finally free from exploitation and oppression. This is not a distant hope but something that Christians are called to actively work for.

Awareness of the harm that we are doing to our planet and environmental issues should help us to reflect on our lifestyles and choices. Much of this is just good common sense based upon science which challenges every person to reduce their carbon footprint and our dependence on plastics, among other things. But for the Church of England there is also a religious obligation to respect all life as created by God. Think of St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226, who is remembered on 4 Oct) – he wrote the original words that became the hymn 'All creatures of our God and King' in which all creation is united in praise of the Creator. Indeed, one of the five 'marks of mission' of the Anglican Church worldwide is 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

One of the ways which the church contributes to the environment locally is through maintaining our churchyards as green spaces which encourage wildlife. We are reliant on small teams of people who look after these areas at both St Agatha's and St James', but we now need more volunteers to help cut the grass and shrubs when required. If you can help with the grass cutting and general tidying of St Agatha's then you would be a very welcome addition to Roy Thorpe's team on a Friday morning, perhaps for a couple of hours each month. You might like to think of this as a 'green gym' to maintain your own health and fitness whilst reconnecting with nature – good for the body and soul alike!

Looking ahead to November and the season of Remembrance, join us for:

**Sunday 3 November:** 9.30am All Saints' family service at St Agatha's  
4.00pm All Souls' memorial service for those we have loved and lost

**Sunday 10 November:** 10.45am Remembrance Sunday service beginning at the War Memorial

**Sunday 17 November:** 9.30am The Wallingford Team join us for our Service at St Agatha's

*The Revd Kevin Beer*

## Brightwell Art Club



The art club had a good summer term with plenty of activity. Due to the lovely weather we had two outdoor painting sessions in gardens in the village. As it was our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year we had a small celebration at the end of term with some visitors who had been involved in the art club in the past. We now look forward to an interesting and productive autumn term.

We have decided to have our annual exhibition in November again this year, which means that our leaflet is in this issue of *The Villager* as the next issue will be too late for the insert. It does seem a long time ahead but please make a note of the date – Saturday 16 November. As usual we will be having stalls, refreshments and a raffle, as well as exhibiting and selling our work.

If you are interested in the club, you can always pop in and see us on a Saturday morning during term time or email me at [brightwellartclub@gmail.com](mailto:brightwellartclub@gmail.com) for further information. You can also find us on the village website, [www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk) under 'Local Services'.

*Veronica Wood*

## New floral service in the village

If it's flowers you want to brighten up a kitchen table ...or beautiful flowers for whatever the occasion – weddings, parties, funerals - then look no further as Ann Linton here in the village can help. Email me at: [annlinton1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annlinton1@hotmail.co.uk) or phone: 07885639832.

*Ann Linton*

## Summer Time Dreamin'

I think it was about two or three years ago that I first imagined *Midsummer Night's Dream* taking over St James's graveyard... I could see it so clearly: fairies popping up from behind gravestones, Puck shimmying down the chestnut tree, lovers lost in winding semi-darkness, a band of amateur fanatics putting on a play. Then I woke up, dear reader, and it had all happened!

Yes, in a little under two weeks in June, and led by the indomitable and ever-enthusiastic Chris Baines (director) and his committed production team (Paula Moulton, Caroline Annetts, Claire Lynch with John Burdass on tech) villagers young and old put on a reduced version of the Bard's best loved comedy, just 45 minutes long.

The great thing - in organisational terms - is that this play breaks into neat rehearsal groups. So, the fairies turn up to rehearse, then the lovers, then the mechanicals etc. Then, like a tried and tested recipe, you mix them altogether in the last couple of days, adding the setting of the loveliest graveyard in South Oxfordshire, the lulling warmth of a late June evening, and somehow it all works.

There were so many memorable moments: the quarrelling lovers falling in and out of adolescent love (Lea Gordon, Bea Marshall, Ali Luck, Billy Lines); William Watkin's Bottom disguised in a fabulous furry donkey head, braying in disbelief at Titania's (Helen Baines) declarations of love; Sheila Quince's (Sue Robson) vain attempt to control her raggle taggle band of would-be performers (Rob Lines, Pete Norfolk, Madeleine Lowe, and even husband



Bob who had his lines stuck on his lantern stick in case of sudden forgetfulness!); 11 year-old Puck (Luca Watkins) speeding to and fro to drop flowers as spells at his master Oberon's bidding (that's me). Plus a host of talented fairies too numerous to mention here.

When I asked cast and crew what they most enjoyed about doing the show, the overwhelming feedback was just sharing the experience and making new friends across the village. Which is what it's all about.

But, as Puck says so memorably at the play's end, the last word must go to the audience. So here's what one audience member sent in an email to Chris:

*'I've been to many events in the village over the years, but without doubt, the production last night was outstanding in so many ways - production, acting, humour, wistfulness, combined with kind weather and the perfect location created a very memorable evening. Congrats to everyone involved'.* (David Greasby).

Finally, watch out for a Dream display in the Red Box Gallery shortly.

*Robert Seatter*

## Stewart Village Hall

### Annual Review

Firstly, the trustees would like to invite you to join us in the hall on Wednesday 9 October at 8pm for our Annual Review. Your input and views on all matters relating to the hall are really important to us and to help guide future plans, so please come along.

We will also be present at the Community Association's 'Get involved in your village' event on 12 October to answer your questions and gather your views.

### Recent work

Hopefully you will have seen the recent improvements to the outside of the hall with a newly painted front door and repointed chimney. The flowers around the hall have been particularly lovely this year and we would like to say a big thank you to the kind person who took the time to put fixings in the wall and tie up the hollyhocks, as it was very much appreciated.

The access to the car park has been improved by removal of the kerb at the entrance to the driveway and the pothole at the drain repaired, however it is still a tight corner and we would ask you not to park in that entrance way. If disabled parking is needed for you or any of your group, please speak to Shena when making bookings and she will advise on this.

### Christmas tree

I hope it's not *too* early to mention Christmas! For the last two years the Brownies did a brilliant job decorating the Christmas tree, which looked lovely when the hall was set up for parties and celebrations. As (sadly) we don't have the Brownies in the village now we wondered if anyone, or a group or a class, would like to get involved and enter the Christmas spirit by decorating the tree. Please let me know at [annette.k@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annette.k@hotmail.co.uk).

As always, we thank you for all your support, it is very much appreciated. If you have any questions, comments or feedback please contact the trustees using the contact us page on our website or leave a note in the Suggestions Box in the kitchen of the hall.

If you would like to know more about the events and activities or to book the hall then please look on our website at <http://stewartvillagehall.btck.co.uk/> or contact Shena at [shenaluck@btconnect.com](mailto:shenaluck@btconnect.com) or on 01491 834543.

*Annette Kilworth*

## Save the date to save the bone 2020

Following the huge success of the event that Save the Children & the Bone Cancer Research Trust held in the spring of 2018 we are delighted to announce that we will be organising a Music Evening/ Summer Ball on the 3/4 July 2020 in a marquee on the recreation ground. Tickets sold out very quickly for the last event and many of you commented that you would have loved to have come along. Tickets for the Music Evening will be sold on the door and tickets for the Summer Ball will be sold in advance both as individual tickets and by table.

Plans are already in motion and we are very excited. We hope that as many of you as possible will come along and join the fun. Further details will be announced in due course but if you have any questions or want to reserve tickets in advance, then please contact Sue at: [s.e.butt@btinternet.com](mailto:s.e.butt@btinternet.com).

Although it's a while off, please note that we will be hosting a fundraising quiz at the Red Lion on 27 January 2020.

*Save the bone team*

## News from the Orchard

The orchard is looking wonderful now the wildflowers have been scythed. A team took up the challenge at the end of the summer cutting with traditional Austrian scythes, wooden rakes and pitchforks. We were joined by volunteers from the Earth Trust, the village and the city, and celebrated with a cider at the Red Lion when it was all finished.

When you walk through the orchard to see how good it all looks you might notice that there aren't any apples. The trees are fine but this is an 'off year', meaning that they are not producing much fruit. Sometimes this occurs if there is a late frost, or there is moth damage or other random factors. Paul Chilton will say that the life of a fruit farmer is precarious especially as his farm had 17,000 trees. So this year Apple Day will be taking a break but we plan to be back next year, fruiting conditions permitting! For further information and updates, keep an eye on [www.brightwellorchards.co.uk](http://www.brightwellorchards.co.uk).

*Alison Bloomfield*

## Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School

I am writing at the start of the new academic year at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell CofE Primary School. What an exciting stage of the year - full of new experiences, relationships, excitement, learning and potential. In fact, this is a good description of my feelings as I start my role of co-headteacher alongside Fin Lewis. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to contribute to the story of our fantastic village primary school, that does such a great job of serving the local community.

My first impressions are nothing but positive. The children at Brightwell are happy, energetic and make the most of opportunities inside and outside the classroom. There is an air of enthusiasm throughout the school, with a genuine engagement in learning. Importantly, pupils get on very well and look after each other maturely. Their approach is no surprise, given the outstanding role models they come into contact with on a daily basis in the form of the staff here. Teachers, teaching assistants and support staff at Brightwell are an inspiring bunch. More than anything, everyone I have met has demonstrated a caring approach to the children, their families and colleagues. They are motivated by the obvious difference they make in the lives of young people and they work incredibly hard to ensure high standards of teaching and learning are maintained. Rightly, the adults here have high expectations of

pupils and it's clear that Mrs Lewis has developed a culture of success over the last 3 years.

Our school governors seem to strike the right balance between challenge and support. They are committed to the school, determined to help its development however they can. Decisions are made collaboratively, taking into account the local and national context and the members of this important group are well informed. Above all else, there is a strong sense of moral purpose. Finally, I have been made to feel incredibly welcome by our parents and the wider community. It is lovely to see some familiar faces, such as parents whose children I have taught at Wallingford School - the increasing link between our two schools is a big part of teaching in the area. The community here is friendly, supportive and engaged in the work pupils do at Brightwell. I get the impression that people are very proud to be part of this primary school - rightly so!

I feel very privileged to be able to serve the Brightwell community as Headteacher and hope that my 'fresh eyes' will bring further positive progress. With a very impressive set of academic results in 2019 and an upward trend in pupil numbers, there is certainly lots to build on. Why not visit us yourself, as I'm sure you'll get the same inspiring experience that I am lucky enough to be part of this year.

*Nick Lamb - co-headteacher*

## Web group news

Exciting times ahead for the community web site - [www.brightwellcumshotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcumshotwell.co.uk) - with a major upgrade in the pipeline.

As well as a new look and feel, the new site will feature greater security with SSL certification; more adaptability for ease of viewing on different devices and browsers; improved search facilities and enhanced presentation of pictures and multimedia content, plus closer integration with the community Facebook group. The design has been completed and we now begin the mammoth task of transferring content from the current site. The rate of progress will depend on available funds, and you can help to support the process *and* have a fun night out by taking part in our pub quiz at the Red Lion on Monday 28 October.

The editorial team is expanding alongside the relaunch, and we can always use new members. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us.

The Facebook group (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Community Web Group) is also going from strength to strength, with nearly 700 members and a new admin team keeping it running smoothly. If you haven't joined yet, this is a great way to share news and (polite) views of life in the village.

You can find out more at our stand at 'Get involved in your village', in the village hall on Saturday 12 October.

*Myron Edwards*

## Parish Council

The Parish Council are pleased to announce that the contractors for the refurbishment of the play area at the Recreation Field have been appointed as the funding is now in place. The Parish Council would also like to thank Kingerlee and Wallingford School volunteers for helping to prepare the field for the work.

With approach of winter please remember there are grit bins dotted around the village to be used in icy conditions. The grit should be used sparingly (you really don't need that much for it to be effective) and there is a grit spreader available if you would like to use it. Please also keep an eye out for your neighbours especially if they are vulnerable particularly if the village should lose power.

Finally after eight and a half years as your Parish Clerk I am hanging up my laptop to move onto another job. I would like to thank all the councillors I have worked for over this time and all the residents I have been lucky enough to come into contact with for all your help, support and patience. It has been a privilege to work in such a special community and I will miss Brightwell-cum-Sotwell very much.

*Lucy Dalby - Parish Clerk*

## Thank you Lucy

On behalf of our Parish Council I would like to thank Lucy for her incredible work for us over the past 8 years. She has definitely gone above and beyond what was expected of her and I know that I personally have benefited greatly from her experience and expertise. She will be a hard act to follow. Hopefully by the time you read this someone will have been found to fill her shoes!

*Sue Robson*

## What's On in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

These are the regular daytime and evening classes and activities taking place in the Village Hall (VH), Jubilee Pavilion (JP) and Church Room (CR). For information, phone relevant contact.

| <b>Activity</b>                  | <b>Time</b>      | <b>Venue</b> | <b>Contact</b>   |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| <b><u>MONDAYS</u></b>            |                  |              |  |
| Keep Fit                         | 9am              | VH           | Shena Luck 01491 834543  |
| Cubs                             | 6pm              | JP           | Anne Addison 01235 511018  |
| Badminton                        | 8pm              | VH           | John Percival 01491 837372   |
| <b><u>TUESDAYS</u></b>           |                  |              |  |
| Quilting (alt Tues)              | 9.30am           | VH           | Cynthia Hurley 01491 836509  |
| Nordic Walking                   | 9.30am           | Check        | Annette Kilworth 01491 834050  |
| Yoga                             | 10am             | JP           | Sanna Ratilainen 07508 178315  |
| Pilates                          | 6.15pm           | VH           | Claire Saunders 07906 652603   |
| WI (2 <sup>nd</sup> in month)    | 7.30pm           | VH           | Anne Brooker 01491 835109  |
| Rapper Dance                     | 8pm              | JP           | Angie Cole 01844 3542  |
| <b><u>WEDNESDAYS</u></b>         |                  |              |  |
| Nordic walking                   | 9.30am           | Check        | Annette Kilworth 01491 834050  |
| Pilates                          | 10.30am          | VH           | Claire Saunders 07906 652603   |
| Coffee/Cake                      | 10-12 noon       | CR           | Janice Chilton 01491 863331  |
| Keep Fit                         | 6.45pm           | VH           | Shena Luck 01491 834543  |
| <b><u>THURSDAYS</u></b>          |                  |              |  |
| Toddlers                         | 9.15am           | VH           | Laura Woodford 07714 408576<br>or <a href="mailto:brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com">brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com</a> |
| Pilates                          | 6.30pm<br>7.30pm | VH           | Nathan Clayton 07815 735165  |
| Cycling Club<br>(Didcot Phoenix) | 7pm<br>Sep-Mar   | JP           | Mike Coupar 07801 240898   |
| <b><u>FRIDAYS</u></b>            |                  |              |  |
| Art history                      | 10am             | VH           | Sandra Grainge 01491 839166  |
| Beavers                          | 6pm              | JP           | Hilary Rogerson 01491 839960   |
| Scouts                           | 7.15pm           | JP           | Tim Daly 07798 766036  |
| <b><u>SATURDAYS</u></b>          |                  |              |  |
| Art club                         | 10am             | VH           | Irene Lascelles 01491 837910   |

In addition at **The BCS Recreation Ground:**

|   |                      |              |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| BCS Cricket Club                            | Apr – Sept           | Tony Windsor |
| - Senior Section Games                      | Sunday pm            | 07909 848098 |
| - Net Practice                              | April - June         |              |
| BCS Cricket Club                            | May – July           | Tony Windsor |
| Junior Section                              |                      | 07909 848098 |
| - Development Group                         | Friday Nets Coaching |              |
| (8-13 years)                                | 6-7.30pm             |              |
| - All Stars Cricket)                        | Saturdays            | Tony Windsor |
| (4-8 years)                                 | 10-11am              | 08909 848098 |
| AFC Brightwell Youth FC                     | Sept - May           | Tony Windsor |
| - Coaching Friday evening                   | 6-7pm                | 08909 848098 |
| - U11 Team League games                     | Sundays 10-11am      |              |
| Fitness Training                            |                      |              |
| Circuit Training                            | Sundays 9am          | H Harrison   |
| ‘One to One Training’ at times to be agreed |                      | 07769 645069 |

**The Red Lion (01491 837 373)**

|                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Last Monday of the month            | Charity quiz 8pm                |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month | Live Jazz with Gli Avanzi 6-8pm |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month | Jazz Jam 7-9pm                  |

## The Red Lion

Thank you to you all for the tremendous support you have given to us over the summer. It has been lovely to see so many of you visiting the pub. We have our Christmas menu out now and would love you to think about coming to us for your family/work/friends Christmas celebration meal. It is available on the website, Red Lion Facebook page and hard copies are available to take away from the pub. If you send me an email I could even send you a copy. We have live jazz early evening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. I would love to start an open mic night on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. There's so much talent around it would be great to provide a venue for musicians to play or sing to an audience. We have had an offer of the sound equipment required but need someone to organize it. If you or anyone you know would be interested let me know.

The last Sunday of the month is now a chanter evening so if you want to hear bagpipers practising (!! on the chanter (which is the recorder bit of the bagpipes and much quieter), come along. Actually, most of the guys are very good and some of them also play small pipes and the bodhrán drum so it's almost a band!

We still have regular charity quizzes on the last Monday of the month - September's quiz was for Save the Children, October's quiz (28<sup>th</sup>) will be for the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Web group and November's quiz, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, will be to raise funds for Brightwell Supporting Refugees. Please ring to book a table as both these quizzes are likely to be very busy.

We have a couple of ideas in the pipeline: a book group has been mentioned and we are also talking about reinstating the Friday morning art class. Do let us know if you would be interested in either of these. We are hoping that the Red Lion is providing what you need from your village pub but would love to hear any ideas of events or things that we could be doing to entice you in. Thank you,

*Sue and Bob*

### 2020 Diary dates Red Lion

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Wassailing  | 5 January 2020  |
| Burns night | 25 January 2020 |

## Allsorts Preschool

Change for our little ones can be daunting but it is also an opportunity for growth and learning. Like the changing of the seasons the children move through their developmental stages, experiencing new activities as the year changes. As the summer sun blazed down, we watered the children, blew them with bubbles and tickled them with grasses as they rolled down the hills. The children were bumped up and down on a tractor, and wafted with farm smells, thanks to the great team at Sherwood Farm. They were skipped down the lane and hugged by the warmth of our friends Bob and Dee who told stories and shared songs. We climbed the beanstalk with Robert Seatter to the Red Box Gallery, each leaf with a story to tell. Thanks also to Brightwell School for enveloping the older children in their school community and their warm welcome in the new term. Change maybe isn't that bad after all. New things can become an adventure. Our community really is a special place.

As summer fades to autumn we welcome new little ones into our family, to experience what our wonderful village has to offer. The children can be fed with fresh apples and blown with the leaves. We can't wait to experience the changes that are to come.

A huge thank you to our outgoing committee for their care and dedication to our preschool. If it wasn't for the hard work of volunteers we would not be here and the children would not experience what our village has to offer.

*Natasha Hillier*

## BcS Environment Group

### Millennium Wood

It has been a fairly quiet period in the wood this summer but I am pleased to report that the shrubs planted by the scouting groups last March, to form an understorey in the areas where the trees had been thinned, are generally doing well although could do with some more rain! We hope it won't be too long before this newly created habitat attracts more wildlife. We are currently planning to create the pond/wetland area in the coming months which will further widen the habitat diversity. Members of the Environment group also continue to manage St James's churchyard for wildlife.

## Weather

The rainfall recorded at Highlands Farm for July was 32.1 mm and for August, 34.1 mm. From the Met Office maps, our area received about or a little below the long-term average for these months and indeed for the summer months as a whole. This is in contrast to the significant dry and wet periods earlier in the year. The mean maximum temperature for the summer was around 22/23 degrees C which is about 1 degree higher than the long-term average. Of note was the hottest day on record for an August Bank Holiday with 33.4 degrees recorded at Heathrow on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the hottest day ever recorded in the UK , 38.7 degrees, at Cambridge Botanic Centre on 25 July. So yet another year where records are being broken – surely a concern for us all given the projected impacts of climate change. If you would like to see the changes in temperature over the years then it is well worth viewing the graphical 'colour stripes' devised by Ed Hawkins of the University of Reading. This shows the mean temperature for each year, dating back in some examples to 1772, as a narrow vertical stripe with colours ranging from blue to red. It is very effective and can be found by searching for 'Climate lab Book colour stripes'.

## The Life of Bats

We have booked an expert speaker, David Endacott - Chairman of Oxfordshire Bat Group, to give a talk about bats on 30 October at 8pm in the village hall. It will be interesting to hear how bats are faring as I have only seen a few around my garden this summer. In recent years, however, bats were frequently flying during long summer evenings. Hopefully they will be back in force next year.

The Environment group will be having a stand at the Community Association's 'Get involved in your village' event on Saturday 12 October in the village hall. Please come along and let us have your views and ideas about what we are doing or could do.

*Steve Capel-Davis*

## Brightwell Toddlers

We have had a lovely start to the new term at Toddlers - lots of new faces, delicious home baking and lots of happy children! Please come along and join us for some fun if you have little ones under 5, or if you would like to help us out as a volunteer! Thursday 9.15-11.15am (term time) in the village hall. For further information please email [Brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:Brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com).



Unfortunately, we had to cancel our trip to Portsmouth Dockyard as there were insufficient numbers to fill the coach. However, Gill Dexter very kindly opened her garden for us and we had a really pleasant evening with our bring and share plates which, as usual, was far more than we could manage to eat. A big thank you to Gill for giving us that opportunity.

Emma, the shepherdess from Wittenham, came in September and gave a very interesting talk about her life with sheep and cattle. We were able to sample some of her by-products and several purchases were made. She works extremely hard and is very deserving of her success.

With autumn now with us we are looking toward the annual festivities and relaxing a bit. To help us manage our spending we have Helen Gordon, an Independent Financial Adviser, putting us wise at our October meeting. This will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month at 7.45 pm. Come and join us if you think this will be useful for you. Then on 12 November we are having a 'Hands On' craft evening when we have a chance to make some lovely Christmas decorations. This is always very successful and so why not come along. You can try us out for 3 visits for free.

Have you been along to our monthly Link up at Root One cafe? We meet for a coffee, tea and a chat from 10-12 on the third Monday of the month. Next one is 21 October. All are welcome. The swimmers are likely to be still there after their breakfast at the 'noisy' table near the patio doors. Ring Anne Brooker on 835109 if you would like a lift (or if you want to join her and the swimmers one morning – leave at 7.45 to go to Didcot Wave).

Check out our website and find out more about Brightwell-cum-Sotwell WI at [brightwellcumshotwellwi.com](http://brightwellcumshotwellwi.com). We will also be at the 'Get involved ...' event on 12 October.

*Margaret Smith*

## Village lunch club

The Xmas lunch will be the next village lunch on Tuesday 3 December at 12.15pm in the village hall. To book, contact Jaqui on 836018 or Belinda on 836223.

## Save the Children

We will be selling Save the Children Christmas cards and wrapping paper again this year. Please look out for posters and on Facebook for details of events or you can contact myself or Sue Butt. We will both hold a selection of cards and wrapping paper. All money raised goes to Save the Children, not just a percentage as is the case with in-store charity cards.

In my last article for *The Villager* I ended with the line '...what brilliant young people we have in this village'. It is really great to know, even when they go off to university and start their new lives, about the brilliant things they are doing to help other people in the world. Please read below Abigail Carr's account of the time she spent recently in Fiji helping in a village school, one of the many schools and projects that receive money from Save the Children. This highlights how Save the Children work with other organisations and charities both here and abroad to improve children's lives.

*Celia Collett*

## Fiji village newsletter

In late June this year I travelled to a remote part of Fiji, to volunteer with the organisation *Think Pacific* for a month. *Think Pacific* is backed by the Fijian government and aims to improve the education system especially for young children through the help of volunteers. This is particularly crucial as 75% of children in rural Fiji live in poverty. The hope is to decrease this.

The aim of the trip was to educate not only the children of the remote village in English and numeracy, but also their teachers so that the benefits can continue after our expedition. Education is sparse in rural areas and lacks basic amenities, with only 5% of children having access to early years schooling. With the help of volunteers, *Think Pacific* has already made a huge positive impact on the access to education for local Fijians especially after the natural disaster of Cyclone Winston in 2016, which damaged over 200 schools.



I spent my time in the Year 1 class of Cautata District school in the Tai Levu region of the mainland. We worked with the teacher to identify slower learners for one to one help, which focused mainly on number and letter recognition. The most rewarding feeling was seeing a young girl who, for the first week hardly interacted with us, gradually become more confident and learning that it was okay to progress through making small mistakes. By the end of our time there she could recall and recognise her numbers 1-10 in English.



The children's pure happiness was something that really stood out for me, although many of them have very few belongings. But that never stopped them from having huge smiles on their faces.

The expedition was not solely focussed around education, and throughout the month I was there, the afternoons were spent carrying out non-curricular activities with the children such as sport, drama, and art, thus aiming to increase the livelihood of the people in such rural areas.

Our time in the village was pretty jam-packed with activities to interact with the villagers and the Fijian families we lived with, to try and give them health education whilst they taught us aspects of their traditional culture eg. fan weaving and bilo making. However, when we did have spare time we often spent it visiting other families in the village, as Fijians have an open-door policy meaning anyone is welcome in their home for a cup of tea or just to say hello - probably one of my favourite aspects of their culture.

*Abigail Carr*

## Wassail!

We have Wassailed orchards in Brightwell and Sotwell so we thought that this Christmas it should be Mackney's turn. We will be Wassailing on Sunday 5 January starting at 3pm in the magnificent Smalls House barn for Lamb's Wool punch and the annual Mummers Play. We will make our way through several orchards back up Mackney Lane (including the crowning of the Wassail King and Queen, a massive Shepherds Hey dance on the Rec and fireworks at the Community Orchard) for the fire dance outside the Red Lion at 5pm before warming up in the pub! Put the date in your diary - more details in the next issue of *The Villager* or from Jason Debney.

## Earth Trust

### Volunteering opportunities

Have you visited the volunteering section of the Earth Trust website recently? We've made some big changes to provide more engaging content, improved navigation and to make it even easier to register as an Earth Trust volunteer. Take a look and let us know what you think! Don't forget to check out the range of exciting new opportunities currently available, including a project assistant volunteer. If you're looking for project management experience, this could be the ideal role for you. The project assistant volunteer will support our Gateway Programme manager as we develop and implement our plans for improvements at the Earth Trust Centre; find out more online: [www.earthtrust.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/volunteer).

Another of our updates is to bring you our volunteers' stories in their own words. Check out the new testimonials page to find out how they got started, what they get up to and why they love volunteering with us! Like Katie, one of our volunteer community wardens:

*'Through wardening I am helping to maintain my local environment as well as getting back to nature. All without a large sacrifice on my part, as spending time in the beautiful Castle Meadows can hardly be considered a chore! Definitely get in touch with Earth Trust – there are so many varied volunteering roles that can fit around your commitments and reflect your interests.'*

And from events volunteer Michael:

*'Helping with events is like visiting family where everyone works together and enjoys each other's company. I always look forward to visiting Earth Trust and meeting with old faces!'*

### DigVentures

This autumn there'll be plenty more volunteering opportunities, along with a programme of events and education sessions, as we embark on the next stage of archaeological investigations at the Earth Trust centre with DigVentures. As a site of historical significance dating back to the Stone Age, we must conduct archaeological surveys before any building works can start. The team will be on site from November – keep an eye out for more details

*Nicola Willams, Volunteer Officer*

## Sinodun Players - Blood Wedding

The Sinodun Players present Federico Garcia Lorca's 1932 emotional tale of family animosity from 16-19 October at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford. Tickets £12, from Corn Exchange box office 01491 825000  
<http://www.cornexchange.org.uk/whats-on/blood-wedding/>

Blood Wedding is based on the true story of a passionate and repressed love affair, where the concept of human fatality is inevitable.

*“Knives, knives. Cursed be all knives and the scoundrel who invented them”.*

It is a tragedy that plays out the conflict between individual wishes and societal decrees and laws. The play focuses on a woman and the two men who love her - their tragedy is the tragedy of love missed. It examines the societal norms that keep her from being with the man she loves. It explores the behaviour that drives our humanity by exposing a love that was denied yet never forgotten and the consequences of society, social standing, repression, desire, betrayal and loss.

*Jayne Reddihoff*

## Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club welcomes people of all ages and levels of experience to come and learn how to improve their photography, meet like-minded individuals and hear from some inspirational speakers.

The club meets every Thursday at 7.30pm for an 8pm start (7.45 start on competition evenings) at Crowmarsh Pavilion.

The programme for October includes a talk by Bob Brind-Surch entitled ‘2017 A Year Of Wildlife – UK & Tanzania’ on the 10<sup>th</sup>; a critique evening at which anyone can receive feedback on their images on the 17<sup>th</sup>; a practical evening on the 24<sup>th</sup>; and our first No Set Subject competition of the 2019/20 season on the 31<sup>st</sup>. In November, we will have a talk by Alan Colegrave ARPS called ‘Why and a Little How (7<sup>th</sup>)’; then a talk by Rojer Weightman on ‘Still Life - Allegory, Vanitas and Momento Mori’ on the 14<sup>th</sup>; followed by our No Set Subject 2 competition on the 21<sup>st</sup>; and a practical evening on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

See [www.wallingfordphoto.club](http://www.wallingfordphoto.club) for more information and come along to a meeting –visitors are always welcome!

*Emily Dunn*

## The Bronze Age & Iron Age in Wallingford: the results of excavations at Slade End Farm

This latest talk at the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will focus on the proposed Slade End Farm housing development in Wallingford, which covers some 20 hectares (200,000 sq.). This site was unusual for the Thames Valley, in that Roman archaeology was almost entirely absent. The presentation will discuss the prehistoric remains, with some attempt to place these within the wider landscape, especially in regard to previous investigations around the town. Slade End Farm archaeology dates from the Mesolithic era to the late Iron Age, with relatively few gaps in between. Although earlier remains are present, the site really comes alive in the middle Bronze Age when we see the advent of the first true field systems, of a type we may recognise in today's agricultural landscape. During the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age a double alignment of pits was excavated along the southern boundary of the site, and a later Iron Age crouched burial was inserted into one of these. The talk will also describe the extensive Iron Age settlement of the site, when numerous roundhouses were present, along with waterholes and grain storage pits and platforms.

Our previous talk about the Winterbrook excavation will be briefly discussed to describe some of the findings from that site and how they relate to Slade End Farm.

Our speaker, Gerry Thacker, has worked for Oxford Archaeology for some 20 years, and is a Senior Project Manager specialising in running large scale rural excavations throughout the Thames Valley and beyond - although he has dabbled in everything from the Upper Palaeolithic through to industrial era sites.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 9 October 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

*Katharine Keats-Rohan*  
[www.twhas.org.uk](http://www.twhas.org.uk)

## In Brief - round and about

### Cholsey Repair Cafe

Cholsey Repair Café offers repairs to many kinds of domestic items, advice on getting things fixed, a sharpening service and more at its regular sessions on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months. You can even drop off those plastic shopping bags that are no longer so welcome in our green bins. The next event will be at the Cholsey Pavilion on Saturday 16 November, opening from 11 to 13.45. More helpful information can be found at [www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com).

### A Night at the Museum

Wallingford Museum will have a special one-off evening opening at half price (adults £2.50, accompanied children free as usual), on Friday 25 October, 6-9pm, offering a chance to see the current exhibitions and also take a look 'behind the scenes' at a time when the museum is usually closed. You can also find out more about how the museum is run and what opportunities there are to join the team of volunteers!

### Normandy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibition

This new exhibition, *Normandy 75: Oxfordshire to the Orne*, is on display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum from 7 August – 3 November 2019. It combines a travelling exhibition from the National Army Museum with stories that staff at the museum have collected from around Oxfordshire told through objects, a map of key locations, and quotes from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire-born soldiers who served on D Day and beyond. It will end with a special collecting day on 2 November when members of the public can bring objects to the museum and tell their stories of Oxfordshire from the Second World War to the 1970s. Any objects donated or loaned on the day will be used to form our Second World War and Reminiscence displays.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is open from Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 11am - 5pm and Sunday 2 - 5pm. It is located in the grounds of the Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock.

## VILLAGE DIARY

---

### October

|    |                                       |        |        |
|----|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 6  | Harvest Festival service              | St Ag  | 9.30am |
| 8  | WI meeting – speaker Helen Gordon     | VH     | 7.45pm |
| 9  | Village Hall annual review            | VH     | 8pm    |
| 12 | 'Get involved in your village' event  | VH     | 2-4pm  |
| 21 | Coffee link-up                        | Root 1 | 10-12  |
| 30 | Environment Group talk – Life of Bats | VH     | 8pm    |

### November

|    |  |          |         |
|----|--|----------|---------|
| 3  | All Soul's Memorial service            | St Ag    | 4pm     |
| 10 | Remembrance Day service - War memorial |          | 10.45am |
| 12 | WI meeting – 'hands on' craft evening  | VH       | 7.45pm  |
| 16 | Art Club Exhibition                    | VH       | 10-1pm  |
| 18 | Coffee link-up                         | Root 1   | 10-12   |
| 25 | Brightwell Supporting Refugees quiz    | Red Lion | 8pm     |

### Advance Notice

|               |                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3 December    | Village lunch club Xmas dinner       |
| 5 January     | Wassail                              |
| 25 January    | Burns Night at the Red Lion          |
| 3/4 July 2020 | Save the Bone music evening and ball |

### Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Grey bins            | Thursdays 3, 17 & 31 October                          |
|                      | Thursdays 14 & 28 November                            |
| Green (& brown) bins | Thursdays 10 & 24 October                             |
|                      | Thursdays 7 & 21 November + <b>extra garden waste</b> |

### Village website

For more information about Brightwell-cum-Sotwell visit the village website: [www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk).