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Chairman: Anne Brooker 835109

Secretary: Gill Dexter

Editor: Helen Connor 834754 (thevillagerbcs@gmail.com)

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

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Editorial

Phew! What a scorcher it's been. The heat of the last few weeks along with the excitement of England's performance in the World Cup have left many of us drained. But, speaking for myself, oh so happy to have a hot sunny summer at last and be able to enjoy sitting out on long warm summer evenings. My poor garden though is looking sad but has perked up with rain last Friday evening. Hope the good weather continues now the children are on holiday. Some interesting information about the rollercoaster weather pattern we have had this year is on page 17 from Steve in the Environment Group.

The village fete was, as always, a greatly enjoyed event but suffered this year from the heat I think - rather unexpectedly as it's usually the rain we need to shelter from! We are all grateful for the many hands who help out on the day but especially the work done by members of the Community Association and the committee for the Flower and Produce Show. Their tent looked magnificent with lots of fabulous entries from adults and children. I'm not sure how they managed it but it was actually one of the coolest places to be in that day. The full results of the show are printed on pages 11-13.

Our cover picture is based on a drawing of a sunflower by Esme, a talented pupil at Brightwell School - quite appropriate for this month we thought.

On a sadder note, we have lost two of our villagers this past month, Malcolm Sutcliffe and Sally Dugan. Both were amazing talented people who gave such a lot to our community. You can read about their lives on the next pages. A big loss to the village; they will be sadly missed. We send our condolences to their families

Many of you will now be on or getting ready for your holidays, but before you rush off, if you have time to help out in the village shop in the next few weeks, Sam would love to hear from you, see page 15.

Happy holidays!

Helen Connor

Malcolm Lindon Sutcliffe 1933-2018

Born in Bradford, but growing up in Sheffield, Malcolm trained as a metallurgist before a move back to Bradford set him up at English Electric's Iron Foundry where he won the Bourne Cup as outstanding apprentice. It was during these early years that Malcolm's lifelong love of cycling developed with Bradford Racing Cycling Club and he was still doing a weekly 'training run' right up to becoming ill in 2009.

National Service had been delayed until he was 21 when he served his two years in the RAF, based in Cyprus, Iraq and finally Aden. He and Olive married in 1957 and Malcolm's career as foundry technician progressed with various moves to Langley, Chester-le-Street, Halifax and finally, in 1969, with three children, to Brightwell-cum-Sotwell where he took over from Frank Wilder as Managing Director at Walter Wilder's Iron Foundry in Crowmarsh.

In Halifax, Malcolm became involved with amateur theatre and this carried on with Henley Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society at the Kenton Theatre. He was a very good actor, performing in many plays, but really excelled in musicals. Over the 28 years with Henley he played many roles but the highlight was probably that of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Many village friends will remember regular trips to the Kenton to see its latest production.

In the village, Malcolm is remembered for the many other roles he filled - church choir, bell-ringing, organising the 'churchyard gang', helping with the Produce Show, his comic monologues, leading the village hall carols, and more.... just so many! People looked out for the parasol and buckets of beautiful flowers which appeared regularly on Sunnybank's drive - the results of the chrysanthemums, dahlias and gladioli started off in his beloved greenhouse and then grown on his allotment. All proceeds went to his favourite charity, Save the Children.

Sadly, all that activity ceased in 2009 and it was heartbreaking then to witness his decline. But in the many cards the family has received, Malcolm is recalled as always cheerful, generous spirited, willing to lend a hand, and indeed providing compassion and friendship at difficult times. Other special memories include playing football in Malcolm's Under-11s at the Rec in the 1970s - and him breaking into a tap dance in the bell tower!

We will all miss him.....but can imagine him tap-dancing in that great bell-tower in the sky!

Sally Dugan 1954-2018

Sally Dugan was a journalist, author and teacher, who lived with her family in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell for 38 years. She was devoted to this village. Having grown up in a north Oxfordshire village, Steeple Aston, she had a strong sense of village community spirit and became involved in many activities.



At this time of year, the dining room table would be awash with produce show entry forms and cards as she got ready for the village fete. She was the secretary of the Flower and Produce Show, encouraging young and old to enter as many different categories as possible. She liked gardening and ran the allotments for several years. Her classic cottage garden in front of The Woodman & Old Bakery on Brightwell Street stopped many passers-by in their tracks.

Sally was a regular contributor to *The Villager* and was a founding member of the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell web group. She was editor of the website since it began fifteen years ago.

Sally used her skills as a writer and editor in many village roles. None was more testing than the first Parish Plan fourteen years ago. She navigated the many conflicting interests and raised voices into a coherent document. It was held up across Oxfordshire as a model of what Village Plans should be. She was a strong advocate of the village primary school, becoming a governor and then chairman of the governors. At St Agatha's Church she was a sidesman and organised the church rota. For many years she was a keen bell-ringer, having learned to ring bells as a child.

In recent years, she was a founding trustee member of Brightwell Supporting Refugees and went on the fact-finding mission to Jordan. This led her to volunteer in Oxford for Asylum Welcome, teaching refugees who were learning English.

When Sally moved to the village with David in 1980, she was Woman's Editor of the Oxford Times. She went on to write many articles for The Times and the Radio Times after having two children, Christopher and Emily, who went to the village primary school. Later she retrained as a teacher at Oxford

University and taught English at Wychwood School from 1993 to 2002. While teaching she wrote several books to accompany television history series, including one with her husband, David: *The Day The World Took Off*, a history of the industrial revolution.

Sally had a strong work ethic and liked to write in a shed in the garden, holing up there with her computer in the mornings. She received a PhD from Birkbeck College, London on *Baroness Orczy and The Scarlet Pimpernel*, when she was 55. She later turned the thesis into a book and went on to lecture in English literature at Oxford Brookes University. Before she died, she had begun work on a book about 1922 and why it was a seminal year for popular literature. She was diagnosed with bowel cancer on Christmas Eve 2017 and died in Sobell House on 18 June, aged 64. A service to celebrate her life was held at St Agatha's Church on 29 June.

Family life in Brightwell was always close to Sally's heart. She loved living here and was delighted to take her two-year-old granddaughter, Matilda, to play on the swings and seesaw in the recreation ground, just as she had done over three decades before with our children, Chris and Em.

Her passion for the village is best summed up in her own words on the back of the 2004 Parish Plan:

"To the passer-by, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell is simply a rather odd name on some signs between Didcot and Wallingford. The village itself is well hidden from the road, and may attract little more than a casual glance. However, to its inhabitants – and to the many people who visit to enjoy its pub, footpaths, and green open spaces – the parish of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell is special. It is an attempt to define this 'specialness' that is the driving force behind this Parish Plan. For, all too often, people only realise something is special when it is gone."

This sentiment applies as much now as it did in 2004.

Small booklets of Sally's memoirs are available to anyone who would like to read them from David Dugan (dugan@windfallfilms.com).

Donations in memory of Sally Dugan can be made to: Brightwell Supporting Refugees - Sort Code 30-99-03 / Account No 26236060. (Please include your name as reference).

David Dugan

Parish Council

Playgrounds

All funding is now in place and the contract agreed for the improvements to the Kings Orchard play areas. The site was surveyed by the contractor at the end of May and general layout drawings for approval were due w/c 9 July. Delivery and installation is scheduled to commence on Monday 20 August. Fencing and safety surfaces will commence once installation of the equipment has been completed and we expect to be in a position to approve and accept the completed works in the first half of September.

In preparation for the new equipment to be installed at Kings Orchard, the existing infant play area was removed during May and the turf laid over the area that was previously covered by the safety surface. Thanks to the assistance of Brightwell School, this was being watered every other day until 21 June when it was found that the hosepipe had been stolen from just inside the school gate.

A scheme for improvements to the Mackney Lane play area, proposed by a village team lead by Abbie Stephenson, has been completed and quotations requested from suppliers. The proposal includes retaining the slide & exercise bars, refurbishment of the swings and possible replacement of the see-saw. If you have any views or comments regarding the proposed work at Mackney Lane could you address these to the Parish Clerk at bcsparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan & planning applications

If you are considering having plans drawn up prior to submitting a planning application, please remember to refer to the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). As a statutory document, these policies need to be adhered to and sit alongside the District's Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and will be used in determining planning applications.

Celia Collett

Village Lunch

The next village lunch will be on Tuesday 11 September at 12.15 in the village hall. Please contact Jaqui on 836018 or Belinda 836223 to book a place.

Community Association

Village fete

Once again we were extremely lucky with the weather and the support of the village. A big thank you to everybody who helped make this event such a success and one of the highlights of the Brightwell year; without all your hard work and generosity it could not happen. I am especially grateful to our Community Association team who co-ordinated the whole event so well and our kind hosts David and Jennie Dobbin who welcomed us to their lovely garden. We were even able to show the World Cup in our own Fanzone. I am pleased to say that we made £3600, a great effort by everybody involved.

Profits now get split between different village organisations, which bid to meet a specific funding need. All groups that want to apply for funds and have not yet received an application form should contact our treasurer Tom Rogerson on tel 01491839960 or tacrogeron@aol.co.uk. While the rules are not hard and fast, we do try to favour organisations that have made big efforts to support the fete and other fundraising events during the year.

5 Mile Fun Run - 23 September, 11am start

After our continued success last year, we will be again organizing a Fun Run through the village. In order to attract a wider participation we have extended the course to 5 miles. The emphasis will be on fun; and there will be medals for those finishing the course and awards for the speedy participants. There will also be a race around the field for younger children.

The start and finish is at the Donkey Sanctuary. Entry charges are £5 for adults (£6 on the day) and £1 for children under 16. To join us please email us for registration form at the following address: brightwellfunrun@gmail.com. If you would like to turn up on the day, last entries are 10.30am.

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 25 September, 7.30pm, village hall

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

James Davys, Chairman

Try pilates for free!

There are two new pilates classes starting up in the summer at Brightwell village hall: a gentle remedial morning class (Wed 10.30am) and a stronger evening strength and tone class (Tues 6.15pm). Claire Saunders is a sports therapist, pilates teacher and nutritionist (BsC Hons). She brings to the classes a deep understanding of body structure through her 17 years experience in the field of sports injuries and anatomy.

Many people know that pilates flattens the stomach and strengthens pelvic floor muscles but there is in fact much more to pilates. Structural misalignments, aches and pains often result from a lack of core stability, weak postural muscles or muscle imbalances. Claire uses the Alan Herdman Pilates Method (Alan Herdman <http://alanherdmanpilates.co.uk>) of physio-based exercises - specifically designed to make you feel stronger, leaner and more upright, even after your first class!

- The 10.30am remedial class is suitable for anyone who can get down on the floor. Flexibility, balance, strength and posture are the key goals. Although this is a group class situation, Claire has the training and experience to give individual guidance where needed and structural problems can be often be worked around.
- The 6.15pm strength and tone class is a stronger class with more flow and deep core strength elements. Aimed at those who want to see and feel a difference in their power, body shape, muscle tone and symmetry.

The classes begin on 31 July and 1 August. The good news is YOUR FIRST TIME IS FREE. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Claire on 07906 652603 or email claire.saun@gmail.com.

Claire Saunders

August coffee mornings

I am holding coffee mornings between 10.30 and 12 noon on the following dates: 9, 16 and 23 August.

Please join me for a tea/coffee & piece of cake Griffen House, Datchet Green, OX10 0QB. There is no charge but donations towards Brightwell Supporting Refugees or Bone Cancer Research Trust would be welcome.

Amanda Potter

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School

As we end our first academic year as an academy, it presents an opportunity to reflect, acknowledge and look forward to next year and what a year it has been!

Our Leavers Yearbook goes to print today, and it serves as a timely reminder of the experiences, friendships and successes of the year and the excitement that is to come for our Year 6 children as they move on. They offer themselves some advice for the future and the phrases ‘never give up’, ‘follow your dreams’ and ‘be happy’ feature over and over again. This step up in resilience has been seen in bucket loads this year through the focus on Teaching and Learning and we thank Assistant Heads Mrs Collier and Mr Brown for their work on leading this. Thank you to our teachers and Teaching Assistants for their terrific work this year leading to a pleasing set of outcomes; it’s always a pleasure to show a parent, governor or colleague around the school to gain a snapshot of the day in each class and see the hard work by staff and students first hand. Our recent surveys with parents and children have highlighted the increased enrichment opportunities in all years, something that I would like to thank Mr Brown and the staff at the school for supporting – no mean feat given the size of our school! Visiting teachers from Wallingford School have further enhanced some of these opportunities and we are really grateful for their support and the time they have given us in amongst their own day job. Alongside the great work undertaken in our school office by Mrs Major, the ICT, Facilities, Finance and Administrative teams at Wallingford School have ensured that the important stuff outside of the Teaching and Learning runs professionally and smoothly, and I would personally like to thank them for their hard work which can often go unnoticed.

The parents and the children of our school, ably led by our School Council, have raised over £1000 for charity this year, in addition to the food donated for the Wallingford Food Bank! Thank you to our parents for their support with activities and opportunities in and around school, sending the children in on time, neatly dressed and ready to learn and it wouldn’t be right if we didn’t thank the children who are such a delight to work with every day!

I have referred to our sense of community in previous articles and this one is no different. So finally, a ‘thank you’ to community for your ever-reliable support at events and for thinking of us when events arise and involving us. With support like this we are already looking forward to the next academic year and the opportunities that await us!

Mrs Lewis, Headteacher

Stewart Village Hall

It has been another good two months in the hall with regular activities and other parties and events. If you would like to know more about the events and activities held at the hall then do look on our website at <http://stewartvillagehall.btck.co.uk/>.

The trustees are reviewing a report based on the results of the recent survey. We really appreciate all your feedback and suggestions. The decisions on the way forward for the hall are yet to be made but in the meantime we are currently investigating the cost and feasibility of implementing some of your suggestions: installing a dishwasher, providing cutlery and crockery for events, introducing an online booking system and, as a priority, removal of the chimney on the west side of the building.

We are also investigating upgrading our projector and speakers and hope to be able to put on regular film shows over the autumn and winter months. We would love to know what films you would like to see. Please let any of the trustees know, use the ‘contact us’ page on our website or drop a note in the suggestion box in the hall.

Finally, as the enclosed leaflet shows, you can support the hall and have the chance to win up to £25,000 through buying lottery tickets from South Oxfordshire Charitable lottery. Go to <https://www.socharitable.co.uk/> and select Stewart Village Hall as the cause you would like to support. Thank you for your support and good luck in the lottery draws.

Annette Kilworth

Flower and Produce Show 2018

In the famed words of Leonard Cohen, the sun poured down like honey on Brightwell’s annual fete in the beautiful grounds of Sotwell Manor – a big thank you to David and Jenny for hosting us this year. And there the village showed off its legion talents - of both young and old - and a good time was had by all.

The young in particular were delightfully in evidence. At just four years old, Beatrice Debney grabbed the Best in Show award for her rococo cake, complete with candleabra atop its multi-coloured layers!

It was a hard-won victory, especially given the array of wonderful children’s hand/feet paintings – including a show-off lobster which practically leapt off

the page, a splendidly glittering peacock and subtle face-in-a-foot portrait. Painted pebbles popped up everywhere too, and were much admired, from a shy mallard duck – head under its wing, a hedgehog and a maternal penguin with its chick.

And the taxing acrostic competition (each line of the poem must spell out one letter in a sequence to spell the word VILLAGER) was won by six-year-old Elizabeth Rooney with its praise of Brightwell’s loopy lanes and Dad-delighting pub! Watch out for a display of winning and commended acrostics in the village’s own Phone Box Gallery opposite the Red Lion pub (courtesy of Alison Debney).

Flower arrangements, garden produce, baking and photography were of a high standard – flowers wafted their last perfume, vegetables lay regimented on their plates, and photos reflected back the past year’s memories of faces and places. Outside, something called the World Cup was playing... but only a football-themed floral display sprouting from a boot briefly reminded us!

And it won’t be long till next year’s fete – so if you have any ideas of new competition categories to get everyone in the village involved, do please email Helen at *HvSatchell@hotmail.com*.

A big thank you as ever to the tireless team of judges, organisers and helpers who make all this possible. Everyone involved this year remembered with fondness Sally Dugan’s quiet grace in co-ordinating: ‘I think we did Sally proud’ was the parting comment at the bottom of one of the judge’s thank you emails.

Robert Seatter

Flower and Produce Show –Trophies 2018

The Chilton Cup (best exhibit in the fruit and vegetable classes)	Elena Boland
The Win Glendenning Memorial Salver (best flower arranging entry)	Josephine Butterfield
The Talbot Rose Bowl (best rose exhibit)	Alison Cowley
The Talbot Cup (most points in show)	Kristen Dudley Runner-up: Clara Bevis
The Joan Sheard Cup (for the best junior entry in an adult class)	Evie Satchell
Junior trophies	(9-12) Thomas Debney (5-8) Beatrice Gordan
The Swan Allotments Cup	Susie & Paul Beresford Runner-up: Celia Collett
Most Improved Allotment:	Simon Maughan

St Agatha's with St James' Churches

A different voice writing in *The Villager* in these summer months, and, as church warden of Brightwell with Sotwell parish, I am fortunate to be very aware when the village community and church community meet. As a village and church we share the good things and also the challenges of life, often involving church services, where we can together bring these big life events before God - whether it is asking His blessing on new lives in baptism or as people come together in marriage, or thanking Him for the lives of those who have died and asking for His support and comfort following a loved one's death. Like many others, we were very saddened to say goodbye to Malcolm Sutcliffe and Sally Dugan, both regular members of the St Agatha's congregation and who both contributed hugely to church and village life. It is also important to remember those in our community who are coping with ill health and difficult treatments at this time. As well as the lows, we have the highs, and we look forward to two weddings in August of young people who have grown up in the village.

Other recent events bringing the communities together have been the successful Spring Fair, and the 10th Summer Concert, some proceeds of which were given to the village based charity, Brightwell Supporting Refugees. It is always good to see children in church – families are very welcome anytime, especially at the monthly family service (1st Sunday of each month). A pet service thanked God for the animals which live with us (including the dogs, ducks and tortoises which were in church) and reminded us of our responsibilities to care for God's creation. The children, staff and some parents of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell school regularly come to church for special services and we look forward to their contributions at Harvest and Remembrance Day. As the school is a church school, it is good to be able to have regular contact with the school and in church, and to wish the Year 6 leavers well as they move on to secondary school, being part of 'It's Your Move' and each receiving a bible.

I expect many of you know that Kevin is a vicar who is keen on his sport and not just bell ringing. As his annual retreat, and accompanied by his equally active dog, Kevin is paddling 150 miles of the Thames, taking approx 5 days starting on 13 August. Please sponsor him raising funds for our churches – forms are available just as you walk into St Agatha's, which is open every day. With good wishes.

Margot Shawyer

What's on at the Red Lion

August Summer Holiday Special Offer

To add to the enjoyment of the summer holidays - all children of 15 and under having a meal with an adult in the restaurant in August will receive free ice cream as a dessert.

Bring your children and enjoy chef Charlie's delicious seasonal menu.

Charity Quiz Night

We offer our restaurant as a venue on the last Monday of the month for any charity group that would like to hold a quiz. Please ask for further details of dates available.

Local Artists in Residence

We have a range of different artists displaying their work, come and see the following over the next few months - August: Rachael Hibbs; September: Flick Whitehead; October: John Hailstone

Music Sunday

A variety of local bands play at The Red Lion on Sunday evenings. On the second Sunday of the month it is the wonderful Al Jenkins, and on the last Sunday it is the Stanley Moon Trio. On warm evenings they set up and play in the garden so come and join us. Check the website for other band details.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PUB - USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Mark Brock

Village Stores

Fancy being in the coolest place in the village? How about helping out by volunteering in the shop over the summer? We are always on the look out for willing helpers, especially during the holiday months.

We offer a lovely cool environment complimenting our warm staff and customers!

Pop in and have a chat or call us on 01491 835551.

Sam Holt



We had two successful meetings in June and July. Several guests came to Alison Quantrell's demonstration in addition to our members in June and we had an enthusiastic gathering at Jennie Pozzoni's house and garden in July for pottery. You can read more about both on our website – www.brightwellcumshotwellwi.com, look under Newsletters.

Our August meeting is an away day, when we have organised a trip to Kew Gardens in London with a guided tour of the refurbished Temperate House. In September, we are back to the village hall for a speaker on 'A Balkan Railway Adventure' on the 11th (note, a change in the published programme).

The NFWI chose the resolution on Mental Health at its annual meeting this year, with an overwhelming response to support this from across the country. It is so important that people have healthy minds as well as bodies.

A big thank you to all who supported our garden produce, plants and home baking stall at the village fete. Every third Monday some of us meet at Root One for a 'friendly coffee'. You are very welcome to join us and bring a friend, make a note in your diary for the next ones on 20 August and 17 September from 10-12 noon.

Margaret Smith

WWI Commemorations

News from the front: In the month of June, throughout the four years of war, no one from the then two villages (Brightwell & Sotwell) were lost. Sadly in July 1916 Arthur Williams and 1918 Ernest Thomas Harris fell in battle. The month of August saw two more heroes fall: in 1914 John Garlick and in 1918 John Hazel Lay. You can read more about these four men on the notice boards in the Square.

Clive Collett

The Environment Group

We have had a good response to date from people giving us their views on how they would like to see the Millennium Wood managed over the next 10 years. With over 40 responses we will be reviewing the results and coming forward with a plan although the provision of some form of seating was requested by many! Thank you to those who took part in the survey.

The Environment Group had a stand at the village fete where those not so interested in the World Cup could try their hand at pond dipping and find out more about the village's wildlife. We are continuing to improve our knowledge of village wildlife through our survey work. Using a sophisticated app and hardware for an iPhone to pick up their call frequencies, we were able to identify both soprano and common pipistrelle bats in St James' churchyard one evening in early June. We also recorded what was most likely to be a serotine bat – one of the largest in the UK with a wingspan of approx 37 cm. A water vole survey has also been carried out, at our request, by the Environment Agency. They not only found evidence of water voles on the Kibble Ditch, but also saw one – a sight that has evaded many observers!

We have carried out several moth surveys, mainly in back gardens, which have given a chance to see some of the over 900 species of moth found in the UK - which dwarfs the 60 or so species of butterfly! Photos of some of these and notes from the survey are up on the group's Facebook page. Additionally, as mentioned in the last *Villager* we are beginning to put information on the Village Community web site.

A useful tool for finding out what happens at night is the infra red sensitive camera which takes photos when activated by an animal. You may recall a polecat was observed this way in a local garden. If you would like to borrow the camera for use in a secure location then please get in contact and see what lurks in your garden during darkness!

A book I have from 1928 on British floods and droughts says that 'Among the beliefs which the Briton holds about the weather, is none to which he clings to more tenaciously than his belief that it is getting worse'. That seems as true today as then. We started the year with a long cold and miserable winter followed by a rapid change to a hot summer. However, it is the rainfall pattern that has caused much interest. The following figures show the percentage for the month relative to the long-term average for readings at Highlands and Sherwood Farms. January (109%); Feb (49%); March (227%); April (114%); May (159%); June (16%). The June figure represents only 10.6mm at Highlands and 5.2mm at Sherwood Farm. Through this rollercoaster we have

ended up with about 10% more rain than average to the end of June. However, we have now had quite a period with little or no rain and high temperatures and not much in sight which could lead to water supply problems in addition to dry crops and gardens. 1976 was the last extensive drought with no rain recorded between 21 July and 27 August although there were many months before then with low rainfall so we have a long way to go to match that.

We are pleased to be working with the Brownies with our secretary Lizzie Rhymes giving a talk on swifts and the impact of pesticides to help them achieve their environment badge. Indeed, this year many of you may have noticed a great reduction in swifts, swallows and martins in not only the village but elsewhere. The cause of this sudden reduction in numbers coming into the UK is currently unknown, but it is well documented that the number of breeding pairs has declined by over 50% in the last 10 years. We can all help to address their decline by considering swifts, swallows and house martins when renovating our homes. Installing nest boxes is a really important part of the conservation effort.

Steve Capel-Davies

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Nordic Walking Group

Our group have been walking together for over a year now. We are a very friendly and informal group who enjoy walking and talking together. We meet on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 9.30am and walk for around an hour. We often meet at the Earth Trust car park and walk one of the many paths around Wittenham Clumps and the Arboretum but have ventured out to walk at Neptune Woods, Wallingford Castle Gardens and along the river from Shillingford to Benson and back (with a very welcome coffee break at Waterside cafe).

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

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

Annette Kilworth

Brightwell Supporting Refugees

It is with great sadness that the first thing I write about is the loss of Sally Dugan who died on 18 June. She had been with us from the very beginning and became one of our trustees, always nudging us gently to use the right words to express ourselves in what we wanted to put over and with her intelligent input, helping us to push forward. Irreplaceable, we will miss her hugely.

We are delighted to have heard that Wallingford School has chosen Brightwell Supporting Refugees - to quote: 'as one of our two main charities to focus on. Our officers have come up with some great ideas that we think could raise money for the charity and are also very interested in helping in your events that may involve the primary school or wider community.....we are very keen not only to raise money but also to raise awareness.' We are looking forward to hearing more about their plans next September at the start of the new school year.

A date for your diaries - Friday 12 October: Peter Adamson, a village resident whom some of you might know, has kindly offered to give a talk on his novel 'The Kennedy Moment' in the village hall on the evening of 12 October. Tickets will be available from the village store nearer the time. More details will be in the next *Villager*.

Sadly there is still news of a war torn Syria, along with other countries with unrest causing horrible displacement of innocent people. We are determined to carry on with the important fundraising we do to help the children in Jordan feel they are not being forgotten and can continue in their vital education. If you want to find out more and/or donate then please do contact us at brightwell_refugees@gmail.com.

Ann Linton Co-chair

Wallingford U3A

At our July meeting Dr Jim McWhirter gave an inspiring talk on his work in helping rural mission hospitals in Uganda. He has been going to Kamali in Uganda since 2009, with the Rotary Doctor Bank. Although Jim McWhirter did not say this, he showed what very few people with drive, imagination and staying power can achieve. With a Rotary Global Grant, they have refurbished the maternity ward and operating theatre, and organised vocational training schemes where doctors, midwives, nurses and ancillary staff go out to Uganda

to help with staff development. The advances achieved have spread to many other areas and are ongoing.

Dates for your diary:

- 1 August, Marcia Watson on 'The work of Great Ormond Street Hospital'
- 26 September Outing, to the Postal Museum in London, includes 500 years of history on display and a ride through hidden tunnels on the mail train.
- 8 December, Sonning Theatre: 'Guys and Dolls' Matinee, and buffet lunch.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome for the talk, tea and biscuits, and the chance to meet new friends. For more information visit our website: u3asites.org.uk/Wallingford, or phone Hermione on 01865 858024.

Dierdre Wilson

'Be Water Aware' this summer

With the hot sunny days and the summer holidays now here, there is a temptation to cool off in one of Oxfordshire's many rivers and inland waterways. And while there may not be any river monsters waiting down there, unfortunately rivers and waterways can be very dangerous places - 255 people accidentally drowned in 2017 in the UK.

That's why, at this time of year, Oxfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service is reminding all residents to Be Water Aware to help everyone stay safe this summer.

Knowing what to do when someone gets into trouble in the water could help save someone's life:

- Call 999
- Float: tell them to float on their back
- Throw: something that floats
- ... and don't jump in yourself

Find out more at www.365alive.co.uk/BeWaterAware

Chris Barber

Home and Community Safety Station Manager

A Wimbledon Thank You

On Thursday 12 July my brother and I went to Wimbledon, thanks to the King's Meadow Tennis Club's members' ballot. Our seats on centre court were placed to perfection, with a splendid view of the court and situated in the shade. On the day we were lucky enough to see the women's semi-finals and saw players Angelique Kerber and Serena Williams, the eventual winner and runner up respectively, play their semi-final matches.

This visit to Wimbledon has reignited our tennis passion and now we have become avid tennis players. My brother and I would like to thank the King's Meadow Tennis Club for giving us the opportunity to purchase much sought-after tickets.

William Wauchope.

Brightwell Toddlers

Brightwell Toddler Group is looking for some extra helpers from September to join the lovely people who already lend us a hand (Thursdays, 9.15-11.15 in the village hall, term times). Volunteers help keep things tidy, clear up at end, play with children, chat and make cups of tea. Sometimes they even bring cake!

The difference it makes to our parents and children is enormous as we have a lot of working parents and many with a new baby and toddler in tow. So opportunities to sit down for 5 minutes, spend quality time with the children and build social networks can be few and far between. You can really make life a lot less hectic at our group. We always make volunteers very welcome and they and parents often comment that meeting different people helps strengthen our village community. No need for a regular commitment, most volunteers come just 3 or 4 times in a year.

If you are interested, please contact Laura through our Facebook page or at brightwelltoddlers@gmail.com.

The Toddler group is now on holiday but will start back on 6 September with creative crafts, delicious home baking, and maybe even some special guests! So come along and join us.

Laura Woodford

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club will be holding its annual exhibition in St Mary's Church Hall, Wallingford on Saturday 1 September. Around 100 prints will be on display covering a wide range of subjects and photographic styles, showcasing the work of club members. Information about this friendly and welcoming club will be available, and club members will be on hand to answer any questions. Tea/coffee and homemade cakes will be available.

So why not visit the exhibition to see some inspiring photography, enquire about how you can join, and enjoy a cuppa while you are there!

Michael Parrott

Castle Day @ Wallingford Museum

On Saturday 18 August 2018 from 11am–4pm, Wallingford Museum has organised a special Castle Day at the Museum. Besides displays about the Wallingford Castle and the research that has been done, we shall be asking people to help build a model of Wallingford Castle during the day.

Also in attendance will be our special Castle Knight with a wonderful display of weapons, armour and other things that would have been in daily use in the castle. He is very keen to tell people about how things were made and used. There will also be other 'hands-on' activities for children and adults alike, providing a great opportunity for a family day out with a difference.

Entry is by museum ticket at the door - £5 per adult (which gives unlimited entry until 30 November) but accompanied children are FREE.

Stu Darby

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Wassail 2019!

Brightwell cum Sotwell has the biggest processional Wassail in England and is now a firmly established and cherished village tradition. A provisional date has been set for this Christmas' extravaganza - the afternoon of Saturday 5 January 2019. There will be dancing in the village hall afterwards with a Wassail Barn Dance from 8pm. So help keep this quirky village tradition going by saving the date. We are just waiting for our fabulous Morris Men to confirm! More details next time.

Jason Debney

In Brief Round and About

Bunkfest

Annual music and beer festival now in its 17th year, weekend of Friday 31 August – Sunday 2 September. A free family orientated weekend of music and dance plus children's entertainment and a variety of stalls on the Kinecroft and various town centre venues. www.bunkfest.co.uk.

Wallingford and Cholsey Railway will be offering 'singing trains' on Saturday and Sunday and Wallingford Museum has extended hours and special admission prices.

There is also a festival walk on the Sunday led by a member of the Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society, meet at 11am at the Museum.

Wallingford Allotment and Garden Society (WAGS)

WAGS Annual Show is on Saturday 8 September at Centre 70, public viewing 2-4pm, see www.wags-wallingford.com.

Sculpture in the Vineyard

Saturday 8 – Sunday 23 September at Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath OX13 6QW, 10am–6pm every day. Contemporary sculpture in a timeless setting. - sculpture, music, workshops and refreshments. Workshops now open for booking, www.sculptureinthevineyard.uk In support of Wild Oxfordshire & The Heartstone Fund.

VILLAGE DIARY

August

9	Coffee mornings at Griffen House for BSR & BCRT	10.30
14	WI Awayday to Kew Gardens	9am
16	Coffee mornings at Griffen House for BSR & BCRT	10.30
20	WI 'friendly coffee' at Root One	10am
23	Coffee mornings at Griffen House for BSR & BCRT	10.30
27	Red Lion charity quiz	8pm

September

6	Brightwell School & Toddler Group term start	
11	Village Lunch	VH 12.15pm
11	WI meeting & talk 'A Balkan Adventure'	VH 7.15pm
17	WI 'friendly coffee' at Root One	10am
23	Community Association 5 mile Fun Run – start & from Donkey Sanctuary	11am
24	Red Lion charity quiz	8pm
25	Community Association AGM	VH 7.30pm

Advance Notice

12 October	BSR event: Peter Adamson on 'The Kennedy Moment'
17 November	Art Club Exhibition
31 December	New Year party in Village Hall
5 January (TBC)	Wassail 2019

Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Thursdays 9 & 23 August
	Thursdays 6 & 20 September
Green (& brown) bins	Thursdays 2, 16 & Friday 31 August
	Thursdays 13 & 27 September

Village website

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