

## Contents

Editorial	2
Letters	3
Parish Council News	4-5
Community Association	6
Village shop	7
The Parish Church of St Agatha's and St James'	8
Brightwell Supporting Refugees: helping refugees in Jordan	9-10
Potholes....and how to get them fixed	10
Of gnome referendums and vegetable insects	11
Produce show results	12-13
Neighbourhood Plan update	14
Environment Group	15-16
Brightwell Art Group	16
Allsorts	17-18
Artist of the Month at the Red Lion fundraising	18
The WI / Save the Children	19
Bach Centre / Wallingford Photography Club / Summer tennis	20
Wallingford Museum	21
What? No longer Wallingford LETS? / Earth Trust	22
In brief	23
Village diary	24

**Chairman:** Anne Brooker 835109

**Secretary:** Gill Dexter

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

**Treasurer:** Betty Price

**Advertising:** Trevor Morgan 838920 Martin Dix

**Assembly:** Shena Luck 834543

**Distribution:** Keith Brooks 839044

**Production:** Angela Lewis, Trevor Morgan, Susanne Tuffrey, Gerard Varley

**Items for the next edition should be sent to the Editor by 1 September 2016.**

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

# Editorial

We've had a fairly hectic period in politics in the last few weeks and it's been anything but quiet in the village too with lots of events. Last month saw our community at its best I think with the celebrations over the Queen's birthday weekend followed by the summer concert and then the fete last weekend, bringing us together in fun and friendship, as families friends and neighbours, as well as fundraising for the village and elsewhere.

Many of us feel we are fortunate to live in such a lovely place as this. But as Sue Robson, Chair of the Parish Council, reports on page 4, and Jason Debney on page 14 on the Neighbourhood Plan, there are pressures that make it difficult to keep our village and surrounding areas how we want them to be. The recent spate of petty vandalism and crime in the village is a particular concern so it is good to know that action is being taken to try to keep us safe and there is information on page 5 on what to do if you see anything suspicious. Also, please take note of the importance of registering any problem with poor broadband as it seems the only way that we can get any real improvement, see page 3; and there is advice from our County Councillor, Lynda Atkins, about how to get potholes fixed, on page 10.

One of the highlights of the year is our Flower and Produce Show at the fete, featured on our front cover (thank you Susanne Tuffrey for your photo). This year saw over 80 individual entries not including the block entries from the beavers and Allsorts. Well done everyone for entering and congratulations to the winners (see pages 12 and 13). I also think we should congratulate the organisers, Sally and her committee, for doing such a fantastic job in managing it all so efficiently and displaying everything so beautifully.

As we now head into the summer holidays, things quieten down here a little but there is lots to look forward to including the return of our restored bells, hopefully by the end of August and a chance then also to see the two wall hangings in the Church Room, which many of you helped to make ,at a social provisionally set for 20 August. Also, don't forget the deadline is 30 September for entering your film in the Brightwell Film Festival.

*Helen Connor*

<p><b>Village lunch</b> - The next village lunch will be on Tuesday 13 September at 12.15pm in the village hall. Contact Jaqui 836018 or Belinda 836223 for any queries.</p>
--

# Letters

## **George Baldwin (1925-2016)**

We would like to thank everyone who has sent us cards and their sympathy at our sad loss.

*Hazel and family*

## **Poor Broadband? Make your complaint now**

There are many pockets in the village where internet speed is frustratingly slow and unreliable. Despite residents complaining to BT or Open Reach, there has been no consistent service improvement. A number of us have now made formal representation to Oxfordshire County Council who fund improvements through Oxfordshire Broadband. They are currently looking at ways to improve the service, but funds are limited. To secure funding and improvements it is vital that they are fully aware of the extent of problems in this community and have asked for individual complaints to be registered.

As Sue has said in the Parish Council news (page 4), it is very important that as many people as possible send an email about their specific problem to the following address: [broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

You can also visit this website: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/better-broadband-oxfordshire>. Copy your original email to 'Contact Us' - see the right side of the web page and register under 'Stay Informed' to get updates. There are also notices in The Village Stores, on the Parish Notice Board and on the village website.

So please complain. This is our only chance to improve the service.

*Eric Dore*

## **Bob's Bulletin**

Bob is making some progress albeit slow, however his speech is not impaired 'nothing changed there then'. I would like to thank everyone for their kind words of support, encouragement, and offers of help - it just keeps me going.

*Dee Howarth*

# Parish Council News

## **Annual Parish Council meeting**

It was great to see such a good turn out at the annual village Parish Council meeting. I hope those who came found the talks illuminating and enjoyed the delicious nibbles from the shop and the wine supplied by Brightwell Vineyard. Thanks must go to Reverend Kevin Beer, our new vicar, for telling us a bit about himself and his plans; Cameron Lancaster, the acting head, and Robert Frost, the Chair of Governors at Brightwell School with school news; Jason Debney updated us on the Neighbourhood plan; and Sally Jackson filled us in about the very successful fundraising for the new Allsorts Preschool playground.

## **20 mph speed limit**

One of the topics that created quite a bit of discussion was the proposed implementation of a 20 mph speed limit in the village. This was something that came out of the Community-led Parish Plan as something a large percentage of villagers wanted. The majority of people at the meeting were in agreement with this so we are going ahead with the next stage of the process.

## **Cutting of grass verges**

We are aware that there has been a problem this summer with the verges not being cut and causing a hazard when trying to get out of the village. We are addressing this and are planning to have full control next summer so that the verges will be cut more regularly.

## **Queen's Birthday celebrations**

I hope everyone enjoyed the various village events arranged to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in June. The Parish Council facilitated grants to support the Open Air Cinema, BrightFest, Shillingford celebrations and the afternoon tea party at the War Memorial. We were amazingly lucky with the weather and the whole weekend was very successful and enjoyable.

## **Broadband**

Eric Dore has been working very hard at getting our broadband speeds increased in the village (see previous page). At the moment there are huge discrepancies on speed depending on which end of the village you live. Apparently, the powers that be didn't realise we had a problem so it is important

the as many people as possible email *broadband@oxfordshire.co.uk* and report inadequate internet speeds.

## **Petty vandalism and burglary**

We are very concerned about the increased level of petty vandalism and burglary that is happening in the village just now. Just to mention a few: cars have been damaged in Mackney Lane and Kings Orchard; the cricket nets have been damaged; windows in Jubilee Pavilion broken and broken glass spread around the children's play equipment at the Recreation ground; Brightwell School's outside area has been vandalized; and the hut at the Strawberry Farm has been broken into and everything thrown about (but luckily no money is kept there overnight). There was also a robbery at the Village Stores but we don't believe this is linked.

We live in a gorgeous parish and this increase in trouble is worrying and something we must try to nip in the bud. I met with the police this week and they have said to ask that everyone in the parish should be vigilant and if you have any property damaged or even if you just see something suspicious or people acting suspiciously to ring 101. That way they will notice that a lot of phone calls are coming from Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and start to look into it in more detail. I am also trying to contact all the people involved in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme which was once very active in the village but seems to have died down a bit, possibly because we were in the fortunate position of not needing it very often. It would do no harm to re-institute the Neighbourhood Watch just in case of future incidents.

The police have agreed to drive through the village when travelling from Wallingford to Didcot when they can. I realise the police are stretched at the moment but the old adage "the squeaky wheel get the most oil" comes to mind. So please, if your property is damaged or even if you see anything suspicious please dial 101 and tell the police, and email our community police officer *sue.harris@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk*. If you could copy your mail to the Parish Council office too that would help us keep tabs on activity. *bcsparishcouncil@googlemail.com*.

Hopefully this little spree is now over and we can get back to living in the idyllic and safe village we all know and love.

*Sue Robson*

# Community Association

## **Village Fete – Saturday 9 July**

Choosing the date of the fete is always a leap of faith and this year (like most years) 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 Jennie and David Dobbin who welcomed us to their lovely garden. I am pleased to say that we made £4,133.58, a great effort by everybody involved.

Profits will now be split between different village organisations, which bid to meet a specific funding need. All groups that want to apply for funds and haven't received an application form should contact our Treasurer, Tom Rogerson, tel 01491839960, or [tacrogerson@aol.co.uk](mailto:tacrogerson@aol.co.uk). While the rules are not hard and fast, we do try to favour organisations that have made big efforts to support the fete and other fundraising events during the year.

## **Fun Run – Sunday 25 September 11.00 am Start**

After our initial success last year we will be again organizing a 5K Fun Run through the village. The emphasis will be on fun; there will be certificates or medals for those finishing the course and awards for the speedy participants. The start and finish is at the Donkey Sanctuary. Entry charges are £5 for adults (£6 on the day) and £1 for children under 16. To join us please email for a registration form to [Brightwellfunrun@gmail.com](mailto:Brightwellfunrun@gmail.com).

If you would like to turn up on the day, last entries are 10.30 am.

## **BAFTA Film Evening Saturday 8 October 7.30 pm**

A few years ago we ran a very success Brightwell film evening where we showed a number of short films made by people in the village. It demonstrated the impressive amount of talent in our community. Helen and Andy have once again taken on organizing the event. If you would like to enter please contact Helen at [mail@teambaines.com](mailto:mail@teambaines.com). Tickets for the event, to be held in the village hall, will be available on the door or at the Village Stores.

## **Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 27 September 7.30 pm**

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

*James Davys Chairman*

## **Village Shop**

2016 will go down in local and national history as a year that brought many changes.

Our community shop has been on a roller coaster of change, especially made difficult with the shop robbery which took place recently. Only a small amount of cash was taken from the shop till thanks to our new security systems that worked very effectively. The police response was quick and excellent.

May and June were dominated by carrying out all the alterations to the premises and training staff. We have lost two of our new staff, but are very pleased that Nic has agreed to take the position of manager, with Amanda joining the staff as assistant manager. Together with the help of Donna, Annette, Carol and the management committee we are determined for it to be business as usual. We are actively seeking additional staff.

Due to the above, we have had to close the Post Office for the odd hour or two some days until we get further people trained. The Post Office is being very supportive through this difficult period. Our wonderful volunteers and customers continue to support and help us; we are extremely grateful to everyone.

The way everybody has rallied round goes to prove what a strong and good community we live in.

*Celia Collett  
Chairman of the Management Committee*

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

## From the Vicar...

As a sports fan, I particularly look forward to these long summer days, with the European football and athletics championships followed by the Olympics, together with cricket and golf as well as my personal favourites which involve wheels and speed: the Tour de France and Formula 1 Grand Prix. I was very lucky to have a leaving present from my previous parish which included two tickets to the Saturday Qualifying session at Silverstone, hence my absence from the Village Fete as I was watching Lewis take pole position! My son went with me last year to the Friday practice session, so perhaps next year I'll manage to negotiate a Sunday off for the race itself...

By now you may be asking why the vicar is on about sports instead of religion. Well, I believe God is involved in every aspect of life – especially the things we are most passionate about, the things we spend our spare time doing, whether it's art, science, gardening, literature, politics, travel or whatever. God is in the midst of it and sport is no different. Many sports teams have a dedicated Christian presence in the form of a chaplain who accompanies the team and helps with any spiritual or pastoral issues so that everyone is at peak performance. This is in exactly the same way as our hospitals recognise that people need to be treated holistically, as a whole person. And many sportspeople themselves are Christians, witnessing to their faith by pointing upwards and thanking God when they do well, winning a race or scoring a goal. In Formula 1, Ayrton Senna was the most publicly open about his faith, and Lewis Hamilton is following in his footsteps, acknowledging God in all he does, both on and off the track.

I have belonged to an organisation called *Christians in Sport* (see [www.christiansinsport.org.uk](http://www.christiansinsport.org.uk)) for many years, and I am deeply aware of God's presence particularly when I'm out running. In the film *Chariots of Fire*, the Olympian Eric Liddell says 'when I run, I feel God's pleasure' which is all about the enjoyment of God's creation and purpose for our lives, including our physicality in this 'human race'. Christianity is the most physical of religions, culminating with Christ's physical resurrection, not just a detached spirit, but with a renewed human body.

So, enjoy this wonderful summer of sport, and give thanks to God for the enjoyment and pleasure of our physical bodies!

*The Revd Kevin Beer*  
Email: [teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk](mailto:teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk)



## Summer concert

The 8<sup>th</sup> summer concert at St Agatha's was a great success with its distinctive mix of song and verses, humorous and serious – many said it was the best yet. A thank you to all who came and took part, and especially to Alec McGivan who once again organised it all. Over £1200 was raised, half going to the church and the other half to Brightwell Supporting Refugees (see below)

## Dates for your diary

**Social evening** – to welcome back the Bells and see the Wallhangings, Church Room, Saturday 20 August (provisional)

**Ride and Stride** – sponsored walk.cycle or ride round the churches of Oxfordshire, Saturday 10 September

**Worship at the Well** – outdoor service Sunday 11 September (date to be confirmed)

**Harvest Festival** St Agatha's Sunday 2 October

*Margot Shawyer*

## Brightwell Supporting Refugees: helping refugees in Jordan

Fund-raising for the village's newest charity, Brightwell Supporting Refugees, has got off to a great start. Thanks to the generosity of villagers (£425.50 raised at the Red Lion Quiz, and £219.25 at our Brightfest stall) we have been able to send our first donation to our contacts in Jordan. This will enable the purchase of library books for Syrian refugees north of Amman. These are children struggling to get some sort of education in crowded schools, some just in tents and caravans.

Since then, our funds have swelled considerably with our share of the proceeds of Alec McGivan's summer concert at the church (£610), and we have been busy planning future events. Next up will be a lunch in the village hall on Sunday 9 October. This will be a simple meal – an Oxfam-style hunger lunch – to raise awareness of the plight of Syrian refugees who have fled for safety to their nearest neighbour. There will be a speaker, and a short film; more details available on posters nearer the time and on the village website [www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk). Meanwhile, please save the date.

Syria's civil war has been described as the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. Half the country's pre-war population – more than 11 million people – have been killed or forced to flee their homes. In Jordan, one in every 13 people is currently a Syrian refugee. Meanwhile, a generation of children are missing out on their education. Young girls are especially vulnerable.

Britain has offered to take 20,000 refugees, spread over five years – and local charities such as Asylum Welcome in Oxford offer volunteering opportunities to help them: <http://www.asylum-welcome.org/>. But many Syrians have neither the money nor the opportunity to go abroad, and for them Jordan – where people speak the same language – has proved a safe haven. However, its resources are stretched to breaking point.

The vast majority of refugees in Jordan live in communities, rather than camps, where they are trying to find work and a semblance of normal life. But most have no jobs, and even if they can find a place for their children in a government school, they struggle to pay for it. Boys come under pressure to earn money; girls to make an early marriage.

We have local contacts on the ground – including Brightwell residents John and Griselda Davies – and our aid is being channelled through Catherine Ashcroft, of Helping Refugees in Jordan. This is a volunteer organization working with Mercy Corps and community charities to set up and support schools in the North and East of Jordan.

If you would like to be kept in touch with news and future events, please drop an email to founding members Helen Connor [helenconnor21@btinternet.com](mailto:helenconnor21@btinternet.com) or Ann Linton [annlinton1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annlinton1@hotmail.co.uk).

*Sally Dugan*

## Potholes ... how to get them fixed

Any local resident will have noticed that we have had an outbreak of potholes recently. Reporting them is very easy. You can go to a website called 'Fix my Street Oxfordshire' where there is a very user-friendly reporting form and you can show precisely where the hole is on a map. Alternatively, call 01865 792422 and tell them you want to report a pothole.

*Lynda Atkins*  
*County Councillor for Brightwell-cum-Sotwell*

# Of gnome referendums and vegetable insects

A colourful display of garden collages, vegetable insects and mini-beasts was a highlight of this year's Flower and Produce Show – thanks to imaginative individual entries, matched by spectacular contributions from Beavers and Allsorts. The flower and vegetable classes held up well, too, despite difficult growing conditions.

This year saw new awards for allotment holders – with a commendation for the runner-up, plus prizes for the best first season. We also welcome a new committee member, Helen Satchell, who – with Natasha Hillier – helped to create artistic order among the chaos of the junior display. The 'gnome referendum' – choosing one of three garden gnomes by popular vote – was won by Louise Paynter.

Grateful thanks to our judges: Fay Crabbe (flower arranging), Sandra Halstead (allotments and produce), Gwen Strong (cookery), Nick Zalinski (drinks), David Brown (photography), Kate Malenczuk (arts and crafts), Andrew and Jenny Reid (juniors).

*Sally Dugan*

## **FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW - TROPHIES 2016**

**The Chilton Cup:** John Arbuckle

**The Win Glendenning Memorial Salver:** Sue Myatt

**The Talbot Rose Bowl:** Andrea Frost

**The Talbot Cup:** Alison Hedges

**The Joan Sheard Cup:** Benji Davys

### **Junior Trophies**

(9-12) Rachel Daly

(5-8) Henry Toms

**Allotment Awards** (Judged the week before the show)

**The Swan Allotments Cup** for the best-kept allotment: Alison Bloomfield  
Commendation: Adrian Collett

**Best First Season:** John Geddes and Hannah & Matt Ball

Page 12 & 13 Produce Show results showing separately

Page 12 & 13 Produce Show results showing separately

# Neighbourhood Plan update

Over the summer and early autumn we will be carrying out further consultation regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, and starting to firm up some of the detailed policies and proposals that will form the basis of the plan. This will involve discussions with both landowners and parishioners. We need to be confident that the final plan sets out a way forward which meets our needs and aspirations in order that we can ensure our vital services survive and the character of the parish is conserved.

The pressure for new housing in our region has never been greater so we must make certain that we get our Neighbourhood Plan right. By having a plan, the parish will be in a much stronger position to steer development where we want it and get the type of housing we need. This is the wonderful thing about Neighbourhood Planning – it is not about stopping development, rather it is about deciding as a community how development should take place.

The Community Led Parish Plan, published in 2014 gave a good indication on the way forward and the subsequent Housing Needs Survey set out what our housing priorities should be. This included a need for some starter and family homes but also houses suitable for downsizing so that existing residents can stay in the village. Trees, hedgerows, glimpses to open countryside, long sweeping views across open countryside, leafy footpaths and peace and quiet were all regarded as important: 98% of residents (who responded to the Parish Plan questionnaire) indicated that the rural character of the parish is important, with 88% wanting development to be restricted to the existing built-up areas. A majority of parishioners wanted housing to be prioritised on sites within the village including in-fill development or on disused agricultural sites such as former nurseries. These are the type of factors that the Neighbourhood Plan is trying to grapple with. We need to ensure that the village is sustainable and the character is conserved whilst playing our part in meeting the housing needs of the district set out in the local plan.

Over the past couple of months, there have been some important changes to local and national planning policy – notably South Oxfordshire's emerging local plan. These changes could affect our parish's Neighbourhood Plan. As such we will be leafletting households and holding a public information meeting on 26 July at the Village Hall (8.00 pm) to set out what these implications are and how they could have an impact on the parish.

*Jason Debney*  
07761169343

# Environment Group

## Protecting the environment

During the in-fighting leading up to the referendum on 23 June, the environment was rarely mentioned. This was despite the fact that every UK citizen has been affected by the comprehensive initiatives on environmental protection and management emanating from the European Union over the last 40 years. Local examples are the improvement in the quality of the River Thames on our northern boundary and the monitoring of nitrous oxide levels in Wallingford. The campaigning literature, the press and the BBC ignored the environment and said little or nothing about how it would be impacted by an OUT vote. One exception was the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee which reported that ‘membership of the EU had improved the UK’s approach to environmental protection and ensured the UK environment has been better protected’. The committee noted that if the UK was free to set its own environmental standards, they would be set at a less stringent level.

## Brexit – what next?

This potentially poorer level of protection must now be the concern of the host of environmental bodies and of every British citizen. EU-based legislation has required measures to be undertaken and management practices followed which have safeguarded and improved the quality of air, fresh water, land, coastal waters, countryside, habitats and so on, in a manner which would not have happened through action by the UK government alone. Pressure from big business and lobby groups ensures slow progress at Westminster on acts to protect and conserve our environment, as happens in several other fields. Indeed EU environmental standards are often blamed by some as Brussels ‘Red Tape’. But remember the 1980s, when Mrs Thatcher’s government was taken to task over its slow implementation of environmental directives and we were accused of being ‘the dirty man of Europe’. However, the, as yet unknown, terms of the UK’s withdrawal from the EU may require EU legislation to be followed as a condition of access to the single market. This is the case in Norway, which although not a member, has to follow EU legislation and, in addition, contribute to the EU budget. Adopting the Norway model could ensure our environment continues to be protected at the present level. However the UK would have no voice in future environmental initiatives coming from the Union. Accepting other models of association with the EU would probably degrade environmental protection and management in Britain.

## **Local action**

At the local level, members of the Environment Group have taken part in a range of EU and UK government led environmental activities both outside and inside the parish. Co-operation with outside bodies include, the Environment Agency, Oxford University, BBOWT, the Earth Trust, SODC and Sustainable South Oxfordshire over matters such as the Freshwater Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive and on issues like air quality and energy conservation. In the village this year, the focus has been on St James's Churchyard and the Millennium Wood, and there are plans for a water vole survey and for continuing the monitoring of moths. The bats have returned again to St James's Church as they do every summer. After the spring tidy-up more work on the Wood is needed to maintain the paths. Would you like to come to help?

## **Autumn talk**

Please make a note of the two possible dates for the autumn talk in the Village Hall: 25 October and 22 November. We have yet to arrange a speaker for this meeting which will mark the 21st anniversary of the setting up of the group in 1995.

*John Rodda*

## **Brightwell Art Club**

Members were challenged with a still life on their first week back this term and we are expecting to have some interesting workshops during the coming months by our regular tutors and a guest tutor. In July we had the chance to exhibit in the Red Lion in the 'Artist of the Month' slot and do hope that people will have popped in to see our paintings. We are also hoping, during July, to have an open air painting day... weather permitting of course!

We are a friendly group of people who welcome new members. Our sessions are held on Saturday mornings and we have three terms a year of 12 weeks each. If you are interested in learning more about us you can always pop in and see us on a Saturday - we have coffee at about 11 am - or email me at [brightwellartclub@gmail.com](mailto:brightwellartclub@gmail.com). You can also find us on the village website, [www.brightwellcumshotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcumshotwell.co.uk) under 'Local Services'.

*Veronica Wood*



# Allsorts Preschool

Many of our children get really attached to Allsorts, and we are therefore, at parents' request, offering a holiday club for 3 to 8 year olds this year. Two dates are initially being offered – 16 and 17 August (08.45 – 14.45) with themes of 'at the beach' and 'pirates and princesses' respectively. We are likely to add another the week after, if there is sufficient demand. Please look at our website for more details: [www.allsortspreschool.org](http://www.allsortspreschool.org).

As the end of this academic year approaches, Allsorts will be saying a fond farewell to the children heading off to start school. The end of year graduation ceremony is always an emotional time for both children and staff, although the very successful transition visits the children have attended is sure to make the move a smooth one.

Highlights of this term have included a fun filled sports day for those moving to school, organised by the year 6 children from Brightwell School. The Allsorts children took part in running races, bean bag throwing, and chucking balls into nets. Forest school continues to be popular, even though it has often been wet. Luckily, we have been able to wear the new waterproofs, which were very kindly paid for by the Parish Council, for our outings. The children have visited the allotments, been on bug hunts and have watched the ducklings in the pond grow. Back in the preschool grounds, gardening club has continued, and despite the peas and carrots being eaten by the slugs and snails, the children dug some fantastic potatoes which were entered into the village fete.

The children's hard work was also on show at the Cornerstone Art Exhibition. Many of the children and their parents met up to enjoy a visit to see the multi-patterned quilt, which the children had made by sticking on squares of material. More of their art work was also displayed in Brightwell's phone box art gallery.

Events have included Brightfest, where Allsorts ran the children's zone. Much fun was had on the bouncy castle, especially by those who had all-day passes! The family fun day in the school grounds saw more bouncing and a yummy barbeque despite the pouring rain. Finally, Allsorts provided face painting at the village fete.

The Allsorts team would like to use this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the parents and volunteers from the community who have helped with forest school, reading to the children, helping with the garden and gardening club and helping to run the fundraising events.

Finally, Allsorts welcomed three new children this term, bringing the number on role to 28. With more children in the playroom, we needed some new bank staff, and therefore took on Deborah A and Lorna G. Next year, Allsorts will continue to offer provision from 08.45 – 14.45 Monday to Thursday and 08.45 – 12.45 Friday. We still have places available so contact us at [allsortsadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:allsortsadmin@btinternet.com) if you are interested in knowing more, or would like to look round. We will be checking the email intermittently.

*Allsorts team*

## Artist of the month at the Red Lion fundraising

We were going to wait until we had done a full year of Artist of the Month exhibitions and fundraising, but the news was too good to keep to ourselves any longer! At the time of writing, the June exhibition by Edward Michael Jones is drawing to an end and Brightwell Art Club are about to bring the first year to a close in July. However, we really wanted to share the fact that we have sold almost £8,500 worth of artworks in The Red Lion and, therefore, raised almost £1,700 to date - and this has benefitted the following charities:

St. Agatha's Church Bells Appeal, Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, The Children's Society, National Osteoporosis Society, North Moreton Church Appeal, Cancer Relief UK, Help the Homeless and an arts project in a local care home. Plus, in April, Jamie Lewis's exhibition raised an astonishing £620 for The Bone Cancer Research Trust and, as a result of our Oxfordshire Artweeks exhibition in May, Simon and I were able to donate £150 to Allsorts Preschool's Garden Project and £150 to The Earth Trust.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported these talented local artists and our efforts to bring art to the pub. It has made all our hard work worthwhile. And another big thank you to Mark Brock for always being so accommodating and for letting us nail so many holes in his walls!

We hope you will all continue to enjoy and support the exhibitions at The Red Lion. In August, art student Julia Zelazko will be exhibiting. Some of you may know her as she is sometimes working behind the bar! You can see some of Julia's work on her Facebook page [juliazelazkoart](#). In September, North Moreton artist Greg Ryder will be exhibiting.

See the village website, [www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk), for more details each month and the BcS Community Facebook page.

*Simon Irving and Susan Ganney*

We welcomed Dr Anne Murphy to our meeting on 14 June to talk to us about the South Sea Bubble. Many members had only a vague idea of what this actually was so it was very enlightening to hear about it. Briefly, the South Sea Bubble in 1720 is often labelled as the first stock market crash and there are many parallels to be drawn between what occurred then and similar events in recent years.

By the time you read this, we will have had our July meeting when we welcomed Jason Debney to talk about the Gardening Revolution - very appropriate as it followed the village fete which usually inspires villagers to 'have a go' for next year. If you visited our stall you will have seen some of what we are involved in generally, but we also give support to various charities and activities. It is what the WI is about as well as our monthly meetings. Look out for our posters around the village at the beginning of each month. We meet on the second Tuesday at 7.30pm in the village hall. During the past year we have been pleased to welcome new members but there is always room for more. August is the month for our annual party and we are planning an active evening on the 9th with croquet and possibly petanque at the Pavilion whilst we polish off the refreshments washed down by a glass of Pimms.

*Margaret Smith*  
*brightwellcumsotwellwi.com*

## Save the Children

The Plant Stall in May raised a £701.70p all credit due to our wonderful growers and customers.

In June Save the Children received £1437.33 from Brightfest.

A further £187.38 was raised by Xana Butt and her friends from a Rock & Pop concert they put on.

Many thanks to everyone involved in all these events.

*Celia Collett*

## News from the Bach Centre

As part of last year's repairs and redecorations to the Centre we converted one of the upstairs offices into a small museum. We were thinking of opening it officially on Dr Bach's 130th birthday, in September this year. But bearing in mind how down-to-earth he was, we're sure he would have laughed at such formality, especially if it stopped visitors over the summer from seeing it. So we opened it, quietly and without fuss, back in June.

The museum is at the top of the stairs on the left. You can see old remedy-making and bottling equipment, first editions of books, photographs, and personal effects from the past at Mount Vernon. As with the Centre itself, there is no charge to come in and have a look around - so please ring the bell if you're passing along Baker's Lane.

*Stefan Ball*

## Wallingford Photographic Club welcomes all photographers

The Wallingford Photographic Club meets on Thursday evenings from 15 September at 7.45 to 10.00pm. We have a very friendly membership of about 60 including several from the village. We welcome photographers from all levels. The programme includes presentations from leading photographers, member support evenings, competitions and practical sessions. The club website gives full details of programme, events and location:

*[www.wallingfordphoto.club](http://www.wallingfordphoto.club).*

*Eric Dore*

## Summer tennis

Brightwell Tennis School is running summer tennis camps on Tuesday 9 August, suitable for players aged 5-10 years (mini camp, 10am -12 noon) and 11-16 years (junior camp, 12.30 -2.30pm). Book on line at *[brightwell.ctatennis.org](http://brightwell.ctatennis.org)*. Other tennis camps are at Benson and Wallingford in August if you can't make these dates. Don't miss out.

*Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Kings Meadow Tennis Club*



# Wallingford Museum

## History Walks

Guided historic town walk will take place every Saturday morning until the end of September starting from beneath the Town Hall at 11.00am. Walks last 1 - 2 hours and cost £5 per head, which will be donated to support Wallingford Museum. These are general walks covering the rich history of our town, but also touching on the links with Agatha Christie and 'Midsomer Murders'. No need to book, just turn up at the Town Hall at 11.00am (Please note, there will be a walk on Sunday 4 September instead of Saturday 3rd, due to BunkFest),

If you'd like to organise a town walk like this for your group/society/school at a different time, then please contact Philip Burton on 01491-836200 or [pburton6@talktalk.net](mailto:pburton6@talktalk.net).

## William the Conqueror Day

Another lively family day is planned at Wallingford Museum on Saturday 20 August with themed activities and entertainment for our own 'William the Conqueror' event.

- a Norman knight will be there all day, showing weapons and armour,
- for children, a competition for the best dressed Saxon warrior or lady/ Norman knight or lady (you can choose which side you wish to be!).
- have a go at drawing and cutting out figures for our own version of the Bayeux Tapestry.

As this is a very special year in commemorating Wallingford's historic role, entrance to the Museum will be FREE to adults as well as children, for this day only. However, donations are never refused! For full details, see website [www.wallingfordmuseum.org](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org).

## Celebrating Agatha Christie Weekend

Various events are organised over the weekend of 9-11 September in Wallingford and Cholsey including an interactive murder mystery play, exhibitions, guided walking trails and cream teas. Further details, and how to book, can be viewed at [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk).

*Philip Burton*

# What? No longer Wallingford LETS?

That's right. But don't worry, we have just had a name change. To reflect our wider membership from places other than just Wallingford, we have changed our name to South Oxfordshire Local Exchange Trading Scheme.

We are still the same friendly and lively group, who enjoy helping each other, swapping items or providing information, practical help or expertise. We even go on holiday sometimes. So if you can help with the weeding, do a little mending, give a lift to places near or far or know how to prune a rose, do come and join us.

So many people feel they have no skills to offer, but we work very well as a group with a lot of people who say that, and in fact there are lots of ways to participate. Perhaps you are good at knitting or sewing, do you know the best way to prune a fruit tree? Do you make a great birthday cake or pot of jam, could you take in a parcel for someone who knows they will be out when it is due to be delivered? Or do you have equipment you might be willing to lend? There are all sorts of ways to contribute. And, of course, there is the help you need to get the grass cut, sort out that niggling computer problem, take you to the train station or feed the cat while you are away for a few days.

Look us up at [www.southoxfordshire-lets.org.uk](http://www.southoxfordshire-lets.org.uk) and get in touch. We love getting new members!

*Catherine Somerville*

## Earth Trust

As usual, the Earth Trust has activities running over the summer holidays at Little Wittenham. A few highlights are:

- **Clumps Club** (12-14yr olds) Join us on Thursday 4 August for a Survival and Bushcraft adventure and/or be a Wildlife Warden for the day on Friday 5th. £30 per child per day; booking essential: 01865 407792
- **Pond Dipping** Discover what's living in our pond on Sunday 7 August, 10am-2pm. Use a net to get a closer look and then be inspired to create a clay creature. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.
- **Meteor Shower Walk** Enjoy a starlit walk on the Wittenham Clumps before settling down to watch the Perseid meteor shower on Friday

12 August, 9pm-11pm.. Bring a flask of hot chocolate! Suitable for adults and older children. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: 01865 407792.

- **Family Bushcraft** Explore the woods, make shelters and learn how to light a fire and use a knife safely on Friday 26 August, 10am-4pm. £20 adult, £15 child; booking essential: 01865 407792.

More information can be found at [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk).

*Lucy Benyon, Communications Officer*

## In brief

### Garden visits

Wallingford Gardening Club is visiting The Grange, Chalgrove (OX44 7RQ) on Thursday 11 August at 6.30 pm. Cost is £6, includes tea and cake and a guided tour. Visitors are very welcome, contact Isabelle Darby 01491 836867.

Clematis Corner in Shillingford (recently seen on Gardeners World) is open each Wednesday and Sunday afternoon through July and August from 2-5pm, raising funds for Cancer Research UK and Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice. Plough Close, OX10 7EX. For more information, call 01865 858721 or email [clematiscorner@btinternet.com](mailto:clematiscorner@btinternet.com).

### Capability Brown Festival

Family friendly events are taking place across the country this summer to celebrate the 300th anniversary of 18th century landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Two in our region are: Horse and Carriage Rides at Blenheim Palace 19-21 August, and a Capability Brown Family Trail at Compton Verney, Warwickshire, 1-31 August. For further details, visit [www.capabilitybrown.org/events](http://www.capabilitybrown.org/events).

### Style Acre Fete and Cake Competition

Style Acre is holding a Summer Fete and Cake Competition at the Tea Room, Savages, Blewbury on Sunday 14 August, 10.30-2.30pm. Bring along cakes on the day but to enter competition, contact Chris at [cburrows@styleacre.org.uk](mailto:cburrows@styleacre.org.uk), tel 01491 827593.

# VILLAGE DIARY

---

## August

9	WI Party	Pavilion	7.30pm
9	Quilting	VH	9.30am
9	Summer Tennis Camps (10-12 & 12.30-2.30)	KMTC	
16	Allsorts Preschool Holiday Camp	Allsorts	8.45am
14	Style Acre Fete	Savages	10.30am
17	Allsorts Preschool Holiday Camp	Allsorts	8.45am
20	Social Evening	Church Room	
23	Quilting	VH	9.30am

## September

6	Quilting	VH	9.30am
13	WI Meeting 'Samaritan Purse Shoe Box appeal'	VH	7.30pm
13	Village lunch	VH	12.15pm
20	Quilting	VH	9.30am
25	Community Association Fun Run	Donkey Sanctuary	11am
27	Community Association AGM	VH	7.30pm

## Advance Notice

2 October	Harvest Festival St Agatha's
8 October	BAFTA film evening, VH, 7.30pm
9 October	Brightwell Supporting Refugees Lunch, VH

## Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	22 & 25 August, 8 & 22 September
Green (& brown) bins	4 & 18 August, <b>Friday 2</b> , 15 & 29 September

## Village website

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

**Printed by *The Villager*, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.**

Reproduction of extracts from this publication is permitted provided that due acknowledgement is given to *The Villager*, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.