

# The Villager

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

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# Editorial

The icy winds of January have made many of us hunker down by the fire but there are lots in this issue on the year ahead to get you up and going, I hope. The village calendar for 2015 is printed in the centre (page 12) so you can make a note now of the dates of village events not to miss like the Village Fete.

2015 is an important anniversary year for big events such as Magna Carta and the end of the Second World War. Here in Brightwell, Allsorts Pre-School is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. It is trying to collect memories to preserve its history so if you had a link with the pre-school (or 'playgroup' as it was once known), they would like to hear from you (see page 13). Allsorts is planning also several exciting events in 2015 as part of their garden fundraising campaign, more details in the next issue. An appeal for memories and information on the 11 people who fell in World War II and commemorated on our village memorial is on page 18. It is hoped to mount an exhibition similar to the very moving one displayed in the church on the fallen of the First War.

I am pleased to have been given some writing by young people for the Villager, on the Wassailing and from the school. Please continue to send me any contributions – be they poems or reports of village or school events I'd be happy to publish them.

Has your New Year Resolution been about getting more active or taking up a new activity? If so, there are reports from several of our village clubs and groups. More details of them and others are on the home page of the village website [www.brightwellcum-sotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcum-sotwell.co.uk). Have you tried sharing news of events or meetings on the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Community Facebook page? There are also notices of meetings of clubs in our surrounding area in the In-brief section on page 22, if you fancy trying something new there.

Finally, good news about the defibrillators, which have now been installed by the Parish Council at Shillingford and Greenmere. There is still time before end January to pop your green tokens into the BCS Defibrillator box in Waitrose to help boost the funds for a planned third one.

Hoping that Spring is just around the corner – the snowdrops in my garden think so anyway.

*Helen Connor*

## **STOP PRESS – SODC FIRE !**

A temporary website has been set up for service updates after a dramatic fire destroyed 85% of their headquarters at Crowmarsh.  
<https://southandvalecouncils.wordpress.com/>.

The council has emergency plans for just such a disaster, and they emphasise that everyday services such as bin collection will not be affected. **An emergency line** is available for urgent enquiries, for example if people are at risk of being made homeless today, or they have a dangerous structure that needs urgent inspection: **01235 520202**.

## Letters

### **Race Night**

AFC Brightwell Youth would like to say a massive "thank you" to everyone who came and supported us on our Race Night on Saturday 15 November. The evening was a great success; everyone had fun and we raised over £2000 for the club!

Many thanks

*Alison Zalinski*

### **Christmas hampers**

A big thank you to all the people involved for the lovely Christmas hamper.

And...PLEASE please please, can people make sure they put all carcasses and bones in food containers and make sure lids are locked. This morning after taking dog for walk, came back and found turkey carcass in garden (which rooks or kites had dropped), and the dog had picked it up, which could have resulted in a very expensive vets bill, had we not been there to take it off her.

*Hilda and Tony Behan*

# Parish Council

## **Elections 2015**

Would you like the opportunity to represent your community and help shape the future of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell?

May 2015 brings the General and Local Elections giving residents the chance to serve their community as a Parish Councillor.

This is an exciting time in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell with the recent completion of the Community Led Plan and the start of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council will be following through the action points from the CLP in the coming months and Councillors are needed to ensure that effective decisions are made.

This important level of local democracy cannot survive without volunteers.

If you would like further information please contact the Parish Clerk Lucy Dalby.

## **Salt Bins**

Salt bins are provided in several locations around the village that are for use by residents on the road and pavements. A guide to spreading the grit can be found on the Parish Council Website.

[www.brightwellcumstowellpc.org](http://www.brightwellcumstowellpc.org)

## **Defibrillators**

The first two defibrillators have been delivered and will be installed at Shillingford Hill and the Greenmere telephone box. Funding has been secured for a third defibrillator through the Waitrose Charity token scheme and a generous donation from The Fairthorne Memorial Trust.

## **Village Lunch**

The first Village Lunch of 2015 will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17 March. All members will get a phone call in late February to remind them and check numbers.

Please contact Jacqui on 836018 or Belinda on 836223 for any queries.

# Community Association

## **Carol Evening – Monday 8 December 2014**

It was great to see so many people enjoy another festive fun-filled Carol Evening in the Village Hall! Sincere thanks as ever to Andy Lewis for organising it (with great behind-the-scenes help from the Baines Partnership and Anthony Finn). Everyone was in fine voice, led by John Musgrove on the piano. There were many talented performances including an invocative reading by Robert Seatter about the Christmas truce in 1914 and a comedy sketch about the village shop written by Andy that rounded off the evening. Many thanks to all who took part and came to support this event.

## **Christmas Hampers**

Profits from the Carol Evening go to help pay for Christmas hampers for our senior residents in the village. The Fairthorne Memorial Trust has made a very generous contribution again this year and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them again for this.

We are very grateful to Celia Collet and Margot Shawyer for selecting and sourcing the hamper items – and to the scouts and cubs (especially Hilary Rogerson, Tim Scane and families) for packing and distributing the hampers. I am pleased to report that we are distributing more hampers than ever - if you know anybody who is eligible please let me know so that we can update the list for next year.

## **Village Quiz Evening – Saturday 28 March 2015 at 7:30, Village Hall**

Please note that the date has changed. We plan to send entry forms to all teams that took part last year. Anyone else who wants to enter a team should contact me on 01491834195.

Numbers are limited because of the event's popularity and fire regulations, so entries will be accepted in strict order of first receipt of completed forms. All entry forms will be despatched at the same time to ensure everyone has an equal chance of acceptance.

## **Advance Dates for the diary in 2015**

Saturday 11 July    Village Fete at Moreton House.

*James Davys, Chairman*

# Brightwell Art Club

Our thanks to everyone in the village and beyond who came along to our Annual Art Club Exhibition on 6 December in the Village Hall and made it such a success. Lot of paintings, lots of people, lots of Roy Thorpe's famous mince pies and nearly £150 raised for Paintings in Hospitals from the raffle! The Art Club sold 24 paintings and we are really grateful for such enthusiastic support for our work.

Apart from the 23 local artists who make up the Art Club, we had the wonderful Quilting Group whose display looks more gorgeous every year. The Knitting Group came again this year along with a new jeweller, pottery by Alice Auckland, woodwork, toys and a really great display of original art cards of local scenes by Art Club members that made it feel like a real village event. Thank you to everyone involved.

If all that artiness made you feel like trying a new hobby in 2015, or revive an old interest, do take a look at the Art Club entry and 2015 programme on the village website under Local Services. If not, give our Club Secretary, Veronica Wood, a call on 01491 837367 or email [brightwellartclub@gmail.com](mailto:brightwellartclub@gmail.com) and we'll send you all the information you need to get started. Happy New Year!

*Susan Ganney, Brightwell Art Club*

# The Children's Society

On the morning of Tuesday 23 December, a children's Christingle Workshop was held in St. Agatha's Church. This was combined with a coffee morning, the objective being for the children to make their own Christingles whilst Mums and Dads enjoyed coffee and cake. A big thank-you to all who helped on the day and those who supplied delicious cakes, and also to Waitrose who kindly supplied all the necessary oranges free of charge. We hope to repeat the event next year in the run up to Christmas, so look out for posters and please come along and bring your children or grandchildren, or indeed just yourselves! !

I would also like to thank those at the village shop for their help in selling calendars in aid of the charity. The proceeds from the sales in the shop, along with the cards and calendars sold at the art fair amounted to £445 which was duly donated to the Society.

*Marion Symes*

# Save the Children

Many thanks to everyone who supported us on Christmas Eve for Carols round the Christmas Tree. A special thanks again this year to the Hand Bell Ringers, Frankie & Lottie (the Clarinets'), Angus for the sound, our two brilliant compères, Xana & Natasha, plus Leah, Ava and Hermione. Last but not least the tree team - Clive, Mark, Johnny & Ed who made sure the Square looked beautiful again.

This year we raised £498.58 on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Brightwell School who came and sang carols around the tree on 17 December and collected a further £65.82 and added another £28 from a collection made at the Schools Nativity play.

As a branch we have raised over £9,500 in 2014, which will help Children in the U.K., and all around the world to have a better future.

*Celia Collett  
Chairman Wallingford & District Branch*

## The new orchard has been planted

After two weeks of rain we had glorious sunshine to plant trees on the last weekend in November. One of the best things about the weekend was the mud. It was fantastically muddy; the sort of mud where you can't lift your legs up without losing your wellies – great fun for the kids – disaster for mum.

We asked Ron Wood, age 95 to plant the first tree along with Thomas Colam, age 10. Ron was born and brought up in the village when it was full of orchards; he might even have scrumped one or two apples as a lad. Thomas will be one of the many children in the village who we hope will look after the new orchard for many years to come.

We planted 40 apple, 3 pear and 2 plum trees. A tree was planted by each of the five classes at the school – Bramley, Pippin, Worcester, Discovery, Russet and one by our landlords, the Stewart Village Hall Trustees. The Bell Ringers planted the Revd. W Wilks, Mark Brock planted the Red Falstaff for the Red Lion and some Beavers planted a Spartan.

It was lovely to see so many people having fun digging the holes, planting the trees and then constructing the protection guards, which was no easy task in all the mud. Why not have a walk down to the orchard and have a look at their efforts? You can see some of the results on the group website – [www.brightwellorchards.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.brightwellorchards.blogspot.co.uk)

None of this would have been possible without the help and generosity of those who gave time and money to the project. With donations and awards we are grateful to the many individual donors but also the Bach Centre, Nelsons Natural World, Bell Garage, Dawns Country Store, Oxfordshire County Council, Brightwell cum Sotwell Parish Council, Community Association, Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2), Biffa Award and North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

*Brightwell Orchard Group*

## The Allotment Club

The Allotment Club is going from strength to strength with all the allotments taken at the moment. Our clubhouse is the Red Lion where we have meetings three to four times a year.

King Edward, Charlotte, Maris Piper – on the allotments we grow them all. Many of you will have passed the allotments in the summer and seen the allotmentees beavering away. If you are interested having an allotment we have no one on the waiting list at the moment. If an allotment becomes available you need only try it for a season and you wouldn't have to take a whole plot; you might like to share with a friend or neighbour. However much you know about growing there are others on the plots that can provide encouragement and top tips.

This winter the Orchard Group will build some compost bins for us to use on the strip of a land at the bottom of the allotments and we have installed the first fence to help keep out deer.

If you are inspired to put your name down on the waiting list please contact me for more details.

*Clive Collett  
Chairman Allotment Club*



# The Parish Church

I type this after the chilling murder of the journalists from the French satirical paper, Charlie Hebdo, by Muslim extremists. I find it a hard subject to tackle since I am aware that through history people of all faiths have used them as a weapon of intolerance over others. However, I have been encouraged by the words of another cartoonist, Martin Rowson, writing in The Times a day after the shooting of his fellows:

*'Laughter, it needs to be shouted, is one of the things humans do best, mostly because it makes us feel better...moreover, we're very, very good at laughing at those who place themselves above us, either as our leaders or intending to impose their beliefs to make everyone else exactly like them.'*

What I think Rowson is saying here is that humour is important in that it can 'tweak the nose' (Baldrick's words?) of Power, be that secular or religious, and make it take a long, hard look at itself.

What struck me about the two brother killers was that they appear to have been so isolated from their communities. They came from the 'banlieue'; suburbs of Paris, divided into autonomous administrative entities which do not constitute part of the city proper. As I Wassailed with friends and strangers alike on 4 January, I marvelled again at the sense of community we can enjoy here in the villages of South Oxfordshire, and how easy it is to take this sense for granted or to neglect it.

As Sam Wells put it in 'Thought for the day' this Friday – 'values come in packs' - in other words, as we hold up our pencils in solidarity with thoughts of liberty, we must not neglect equality or fraternity either. 'Taking the Lord's name in vain' does not mean swearing or making pictures of God, rather it means turning a God of love, humanity and gentleness into a God of hate, inhumanity and autocracy. We are all capable of this kind of thing, maybe not on a grand scale, but often with those we should be kinder to in our homes, or just down the road.

What are the antidotes? For me, coming along to Church occasionally (I would say that wouldn't I?) and a sense of humour. For the former, come to Ash Wednesday, 18 February, 7.30pm in St Agatha's, and watch out for other dates on our notice boards. But any Sunday will do. And we do laugh in Church where, in the words of Paul Weller, 'all shapes and classes sit and pray together'. Here are a couple of puns to conjure with in the meantime; 'Herod went to the gym every morning. He was fit for a

king.’ ‘I had a dream last night I was chopping up carrots with the Grim Reaper – dicing with death.’ (Thank you Tim Vine).

Keep your peckers up and have a very Happy, if challenging, New Year!  
Love & Prayers,

*Jeremy*

## **Dates for your diary**

15 March - Mothering Sunday, St Agatha's

29 March - Palm Sunday - Procession to St James, led by donkey

3 April - Good Friday 'An Hour at the Cross', 2pm St Agatha's

5 April - Easter Service St Agatha's

## **Wassail**

My name is Lizzie Bloomfield but most people know me as the 'Apple Lady's Daughter'. I have been involved with all the apple events since 2009, when we first did the survey, and that includes the last two years when we have done Wassail. Last year we tried it for the first time and it was a great success. We went to five different orchards and ended up at the pub. This year, when we were planning it, we realised that five orchards was too much for some of the smaller children so we went to three this time round and we had a lot more villagers than last year.

Wassail is great for the kids because, no matter the age, they can still beat the trees and put toast and cider out for the robins. It's a good opportunity for them to learn, through having fun, about orchards and nature, and that we need to protect and preserve them. The idea of community orchards and Apple Days are becoming more and more popular around the country and we need to teach the younger generations about them. We also need to get people my age more involved because when kids get to 12 and then into teenage years they find it embarrassing to go with their parents wassailing; when really it's great fun.

If you missed wassail this year come along in 2016 because going wassailing and singing around the village orchards with fire torches and Border dancers to lead the way is a wonderful sight; like you're going back in time to when our village was a huge orchard in Victorian times. Bring anything that makes a noise and I hope to see you next Wassail.

*Lizzie Bloomfield*  
*Age 12*

## Allsorts Pre-school

Just before Christmas, the Allsorts children turned into an array of cute nativity characters. They performed beautifully while Sarah (who masterminded the event) read out the nativity story. The children also sang some Christmas songs with wonderful actions to a playroom packed with their families. The playroom looked very festive, adorned with snowflakes and paper chains made by the children and a Christmas tree donated by Root One.

Festivities continued with family and carers joining the children for a very tasty Christmas dinner brought over from Brightwell School. The following day, pre-school held a Christmas party with lots of games and a visit from the bearded man himself. In the run-up to Christmas, the children also made a stocking full of Christmas craft items, and enjoyed other fun festive activities, such as playing with glittery foam and scented play dough.

Earlier in the term, activities centred on Bonfire Night and two books (the Gruffalo and Peter Rabbit), and included making a pretend fire, Peter Rabbit masks, and playing with scrambled snake spaghetti.

Allsorts welcomed three new starters in term 2, and six more started in January. With some existing Allsorters increasing their sessions from January, the preschool is almost full to capacity for most sessions. We have therefore taken on two new members of staff this term (Lisa and another Natasha), who will also help replace Karen S.

In December, work on transforming the garden began. The large flat area has been resurfaced with wet pour, a soft and squidgy material, which is much kinder on toddler tumbles. The new surface is predominantly green with a blue river running round the edge, to allow the children to continue enjoying driving and running round in circles.

This is just the first phase of the garden project, which aims to create a space where children can learn and play in a safe, inspiring environment. Next, we need to re-landscape the garden and replace various bits of play equipment. To pay for this, we will need to raise more money, and we are going to organise a garden fundraising campaign in 2015 alongside our celebrations of 40 years since the founding of Allsorts (see page 13).

If you are interested in looking round Allsorts, or wish to reserve a place for your child next year, please contact Julie Carr, manager, on 826387 or email [allsortsadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:allsortsadmin@btinternet.com).

# Village Annual Calendar 2015 – Main events

## March

Brightwell School Term 4 ends	27 March
Community Association Village Quiz	28 March
Palm Sunday Procession (St Agatha's to St James)	29 March

## April

Easter Day Service, St Agatha's	5 April
Brightwell School Term 5 begins	13 April

## May

Art Exhibition St Agatha's	23 -25 May
Church Spring Fair	23 May

## June

Summer concert at St Agatha's	21 June
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## July

Village Fete, Moreton House	11 July
Brightwell School Summer Term 6 ends	17 July
St James' Patronal Festival	26 July

## September

Brightwell School Autumn Term 1 begins	2 Sep
Teddy Bear Parachute Drop, St Agatha's	19 Sep
Harvest Festival	20 Sep

## October

Community Association Autumn Event	TBA
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## November

Remembrance Sunday	8 Nov
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## December

Art Club Exhibition	5 Dec
Community Association Carol Evening	7 Dec
Brightwell School Term 2 ends	18 Dec

# 40 years of Allsorts Memories

Allsorts Pre-school is celebrating 40 years. In preparing for our celebrations we have realised that an Allsorts' history has never been recorded. So, in this very special year, we are trying to establish a Memory Bank.

Did your children go to the pre-school?

Were you a former pupil?

Have you worked there or do you have any other connection?

We would love to hear your memories as well as what you are doing now.

Over the next few months these memories will be added to a special 'Allsorts Memories' section on the village website.

Here are a couple of the very first memories about the start of Allsorts, which was originally known as a 'playgroup' to many:

*'When we first came to the village in 1973 there was a private nursery. The lady who ran it wanted to retire or move away - I cannot remember which.*

*Kate Griffin, Lynn Debney and others set up the playgroup. Anita Stock was the first leader (she had teaching experience) and Pauline Valentine and Bella Brooks were the paid helpers. I became the first treasurer. We had four sessions a week, 9am-12pm, and a parent helper on a rota.'*

(Annie Brooker)

*'Parents were fed up having to go to Wallingford for playgroup so Liz Witney and I approached North Berkshire Council for permission to set one up in the village. They were reluctant at first but then very supportive.*

*'The playgroup was first held in the old village hall - a wooden hut down The Street. Then, after a year it moved to the building we now know as the village hall, where it remained for many years. There was room for 24 children. Furniture, toys and books were begged and borrowed and Tony Debney painted all the chairs!'*

(Lynn Debney)

To contribute a memory, please email it to [allsortsmemories@gmx.com](mailto:allsortsmemories@gmx.com).

# Brightwell School

Our pupils have been working hard with their writing.. Here are two pieces of writing by two of our Y5 pupils.

This is by Phoebe:

## **World War 1**

Bombs are burning our homes  
Fire is crackling in my face  
Planes are shooting our people  
Men are fighting for us

'My feet are freezing' screamed the soldier  
'I see Germans, quick arm yourself!' shouted Josh  
'I can hear guns being fired' shouted Joey

'Poppies are growing like the blood on the battlefield  
People are crying for there loved one

This is an excerpt from a scary story written by Albert:

He'd spent many days carving that flint knife its handle was made of deer hide and bone he'd made it when he was 8yrs old. His parents were killed in a great battle of the Stallions where to feisty villages made war. There were many deaths and many families' lost their homes. Only few survived the harsh winters of hunger and thirst, illness roamed the land for many decades. Those cruel memories swam in his head, filling his life with misery. He lived to survive, and now he had messed up. "This is going to be difficult without my knife, i'll make a net to carry it back to the shelter. On his travels he met Satyr Pan the greek god of wildlife. If you give me that deer I shall grant you one wish and one wish only....."

*Rachael Bentovim, Headteacher*

### **Calling all Wimbledon fans - Urgent message for members of BCS Kings Meadow Tennis Club**

The LTA has changed its rules and require all LTA members to opt-in to the 2015 Wimbledon Ballot before 14 February. Please look at your email LTA and click on the link.

# WI

We ended the year with more homespun activities than usual. Our November meeting was a very successful hands-on occasion where committee members demonstrated various craft activities with a Christmas theme. Members were invited to participate and have a go at making Christmas crackers, gift boxes, tree decorations and knitting Christmas puddings to name but a few. The evening went very quickly and it was suggested that another similar evening could be included in our programme for 2015. We shall see.

A hard act to follow we thought but our evening in December when all members participated to some degree was just as happy an occasion. This time we attempted to replicate an old fashioned evening of entertainment such as we had when there was no television to do the job for us. Various performers, introduced by a master of ceremonies, amused us with readings, poetry and songs. All rounded off by community singing of seasonal carols. We were all ready to sample the excellent array of food and drink at the half way interval. Next year will be a bit more sober but do come along and join us for an evening. Everyone is welcome.

*Margaret Smith*

## Brightwell Shop News

Thank you to everyone who supported the shop in 2014 by volunteering and/ or using it for their first stop shop.

Margot and Mandy will continue to look at providing a well-balanced stock and are also planning to introduce new items during the year. On this note keep an eye out for Fairtrade items during Fairtrade fortnight 23 February to 8 March 2015.

Easter is early this year- Good Friday 3 April- therefore the next edition of the Villager will only just be delivered, giving no chance for us to tell what we plan. We will have many Easter goodies so come and see and buy from our stock during March. In the meantime don't forget Valentine's Day and Mothers Day (15 March), as we will have a supply of gifts for both of these occasions.

*Staff and Management Committee*

# Environment Group

## **The weather again**

Raging storms, intense rainfall, extensive flooding and a few dry spells--- what more exciting weather could a year contain than 2014? Angus Dart's rain gauge caught 811.8 mm for the year and Rosemary Greasby's 814.5, both approaching 30% more than the long term average. The springs in Church Lane flowed freely and the Mill Brook submerged the fields on either side of its course. On the other hand, Angus recorded just over 7mm for the month of September, one of the lowest monthly totals ever. Fortunately we did not suffer flooding as did parishes in Somerset and elsewhere.

## **Millennium Wood**

We had a visit by members of the Oxfordshire Woodland Group in November to advise on the management of the Millennium Wood. They were impressed by how well the trees have grown and made a number of suggestions. Removing the guards, a modest thinning of trees that are not growing well, taking out the lower branches of many of the trees and removing most of the brambles were their proposals. These are being followed up. A long-term management plan will be prepared.

## **Spring Talk**

Since the early 1970s the bulk of Didcot Power Station has dominated the landscape of Oxfordshire and surrounding counties. Some have grown to like the familiar sight of the chimney and cooling towers. Others consider it an undesirable blot on the rural scene and the source of much atmospheric pollution. With the demolition of three of the cooling towers and the fire some time later, Didcot Power Stations has hit the national headlines.

On 17 March in the Village Hall at 8pm the Group will host a talk on the Power Station. It is to be given by Tom Cracknell. Please come and learn about the past and future for electricity generation at Didcot. The General Meeting of the Group will also take place.

*John Rodda*



## Arias at the Abbey 2

**Saturday 14 March 7.30pm**

Following the success of the October 2012 concert we are pleased to announce another evening of popular classical music and song at Dorchester Abbey in Oxfordshire featuring soloists Stuart Pendred, Hannah Pedley, Kylie Watt and Anthony Gregory; The Oxford Chamber Orchestra conducted by Neil Farrow and the award winning Wallingford Parish Church Choir directed by Sue Ledger, in aid of the Bone Cancer Research Trust. The programme will include excerpts from Carmen, Tosca and Les Miserables, and drinks and canapes will be served in the interval. Tickets £25, students/U18 £15 at [www.bcr.org.uk/ariasattheabbey](http://www.bcr.org.uk/ariasattheabbey), enquiries [toariasattheabbey2@bcr.org.uk](mailto:toariasattheabbey2@bcr.org.uk) or tel 01491 825680.

*And also in the Abbey...*

## A Concert for the Nasio Trust

**Saturday 28 February 7.30 pm**

Following their highly successful fundraising concert for the Nasio Trust in 2013, Didcot Community Gospel Choir, Berkshire Brass and the Abbey Choir return to Dorchester Abbey by popular request for another joint Nasio fundraiser.

The programme ranges from Baroque to Gospel with something for everybody in between! Entry is free with a collection at the end of the concert , which goes to the Nasio trust (after expenses).

## Missa Solemnis

**Saturday 28 March 7.30pm**

Benson Choral Society and the Elgar Orchestra, conducted by Chris Walker, will be performing Beethoven's Missa Solemnis. Tickets for the concert are expected to sell out quickly, so early purchase is advised. They can be obtained either by phone 01865 407395 (evenings) or by using email - [tickets.bensonchoral@gmail.com](mailto:tickets.bensonchoral@gmail.com)

## World War Two Exhibition - can you help?

The exhibition and display covering the twenty five village men who gave their lives in the First World War, and which ran from mid October to the end of December 2014, gave us all a fascinating glimpse of the village in the early 1900s. More importantly, it told us something about the individuals themselves and it is this which has inspired us to now do the same for the village fallen of the Second World War. Once again, at the moment they are just names for most of us, read out every year at the Remembrance Day Service.

We will be able to do quite a bit of the research, but our efforts will be limited by what is available to us on websites and so on. For instance, the latest Census which is available to the general public is, of course, that of 1911. Most of the ten men, and the one woman, would not have been born then so details of their families and previous occupations and so on might not be easy to find.

We are lucky in having the wonderful Book of Remembrance compiled by Eddie Sinclair and other members of our village British Legion some years ago - and that is a great starting point. It gives us regimental details, when and where they died and where they are buried or remembered on an overseas memorial. However, we are pretty certain that there will be people around at the present time who have recollections, memorabilia and photos of some of these eleven individuals – or who perhaps know of family members and can put us in touch with them. We would particularly like to be able to exhibit photographs of these men and one woman, alongside family details. We have already been contacted by the son of one Royal Berks soldier who has pointed out an error with a Christian name on the village memorial.

So we are on another journey of discovery which, if it compares with the previous one, could be very rewarding and uplifting.

The names of the fallen for 1939-1945 are:

Edward Charles Allen	William Currill
Ronald Arthur Douglas Graves	Alexander Mackay Harkness
Christopher George Harvey	Richard Wycliffe Spooner Inge
Donald Thomas William Prangnell	Norman Taylor
Reginald Thomas Whichello	Reba Joyce Williams
Edward Victor (George) Woodgate	

If you can help with any information about these villagers listed above, please contact me on 01491 836063 or email me at [olive.sutcliffe@btinternet.com](mailto:olive.sutcliffe@btinternet.com).

*Olive Sutcliffe*

## Crime Reduction

My name is PCSO 9825 Sue Harris based at Wallingford Police Station. I would like to take this opportunity to offer you some simple crime reduction advice for the winter months.

### **Sheds**

Please ensure sheds are locked with a strong padlock and have strong doors which cannot be kicked in. Consider having lockable steel boxes fitted to the floor to keep and valuable tools in. You can mark your property with Smartwater (kits are available from police stations for£15.00).

The Wallingford team can also mark lawn mowers, strimmers etc free of charge. Please email, see below. Also please ensure back gates are locked and that the lock cannot be undone by reaching over the gate.

### **Rogue Traders**

Please do not trade on the doorstep. If someone turns up on your doorstep offering to cut your trees or saying you need work doing on your house, please do not let them do this and phone the police non emergency 101 number. If you can get any registration and vehicle makes relating to these callers, we find this information extremely helpful. Also be aware of bogus caller who may wish to gain entry into your home to commit crime. They often say they are from the Water Board, have lost a dog, their car has broken down along with many other excuses. Please be on your guard for these people and if in any doubt phone the police.

### **Burglary**

Buying a timer light and using it can reduce your chances of being broken into.

If you require any further information or a free crime prevention survey done on your property please email me on [sue.harris@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sue.harris@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

# The Bach Centre

In June 1978, the Bach Centre's Newsletter carried an editorial about Mount Vernon and what it was like in Dr. Bach's day. It had been written by Bach's assistant Nora Weeks, shortly before she died. What she wrote may stir memories for older villagers:

"It may interest you to know what Mount Vernon was like when Dr Bach and I first came to live in it in April 1934. A little red brick house standing on a bank with three bedrooms upstairs, two sitting rooms and a kitchen downstairs. There was no main water supply nor sewerage in the village. Everyone had a pump for their water and a bucket in a little shed in the garden, as did Mount Vernon. As we had no bathroom, we had a tin bath in the kitchen and used to boil buckets of water on a small oil stove, so that it took several hours to have enough water for a bath! But it was great fun.

The fairly large garden delighted the doctor and he set to work immediately to put it into good order and plant vegetables and flowers. The countryside around abounded with wild flowers, many of these flowers Dr Bach had already prepared and others he had still to find. The peaceful little village and the quietude and simplicity of the little house were just what the Doctor needed during the final years of his life."

Dr Bach's work still grows and grows, and many people when they come here for the first time exclaim, "s this little house the Bach Centre? - I expected to see a big house standing in large grounds." But after they have come inside and talked to us and seen the furniture Dr Bach made himself, they say, 'What peace there is here, please do not change it'."

*Stefan Ball*

## Earth Trust Lambing Weekends

**21-22 March and 28-29 March, 10 am - 4 pm**

Enjoy a day out on a working farm, visiting the new Spring lambs. There will also be a variety of craft activities to enjoy and refreshments from the Peom Tree café.

Prices and booking: £6 adult, £3 child, Free for Earth Trust Friends.

No need to book, just drop in.

See also a range of other forthcoming events, from biking to hedgelaying, at the Earth Trust in their newsletter and at [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk).

# If you love food and crafts, love your local producers!

Wallingford Local Producers' Market, or WLPM, is a friendly and vibrant market, selling meat, award-winning cheeses, super-fresh organic vegetables and fruit, as well as prepared food, cakes and crafts.

During February and March the WLPM will be held each Saturday from 10am to 1pm in the Regal Centre, Goldsmiths Lane car park, a short walk from the Market Place. On 7 February, chef Matt Cockman from The Partridge will be demonstrating how to make the most of the best seasonal vegetables and meat.

Wallingford's artists and photographers, including Mark Wood, Doug Harbour and John Hailstone, create beautiful cards and pictures, which make perfect Valentine's gifts. Heart-shaped brooches and other knitted and felt goods will be for sale on Debbie and Rose's stall. Other crafts on sale include handmade jewellery, soaps, glass and wooden products, and pottery.

Buy from local farmers Dan and Lauren Marriott's Little Wittenham Lamb and Bruce Garside's Black Pig from the Chilterns and you're assured of top quality, traceable meat - perfect for Sunday roasts and midweek meals. The Cheese Stall sells award-winning cheeses Barkham Blue and Rosethorn, which received stars in the Great Taste 2014 awards, and sheep and goat's milk cheeses from Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

The General Stall, which is run by volunteers raising funds for the Treehouse School in Cholsey, sells eggs, honey, bread, beer, wine, dairy produce and award-winning Wessex Mills flour.

Sign up to the WLPM weekly e-newsletter on [www.wlpm.org.uk](http://www.wlpm.org.uk) to find out what's in season, and make sure you never miss your favourite products. Occasionally the WLPM is held in the Market Place instead of the Regal Centre, so please check the website for market dates and locations.

WLPM was set up in 2007 by people who wanted to buy sustainably produced food from local growers and farmers, and to give a retail outlet to local crafts people. Growing sustainable local businesses is fundamental to the market. The WLPM committee includes stallholders and customers who want to have a role in ensuring the market continues as a thriving business. We welcome new food growers and farmers, and provide a marketing opportunity for people starting a food or craft business

*Wendy Tobitt*

# GO Active, Get Healthy

The recent Go Active - Get Healthy newsletter from SODC has some ideas for a fitter healthier new year, such as:

- One month unlimited swimming for £5
- Dance away in Benson, Crowmarsh Gifford and Sonning Common
- Ride your bike in and around Oxfordshire
- Train as a Rounders Umpire
- Turn your walks into workouts - Learn to Nordic Walk

Full activity listings are at [www.getoxfordshireactive.org](http://www.getoxfordshireactive.org)

## In Brief –Round and about

### **Wallingford Gardening Club**

At the February meeting, Tony Clear will give an illustrated talk on Cottage Gardens. Tony trained in landscape and amenity horticulture in Surrey and has been involved in horticulture for more than 45 years. He has been Head Gardener at Brook Cottage Gardens near Banbury for the past 20 years. The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th February. Visitors very welcome - £2. The March talk will be 'The Incredible World of Bees' - Steve Mott (12 March)

### **Wallingford Country Market**

Every Friday at Regal Centre. 8.30 – 11.15 am (2 hours free parking behind Regal Centre). 'TASTE IT TODAY' Friday 13 February - sample a variety of our home-baked goods and enjoy a free cup of tea/coffee too.

### **Wallingford U3A**

Next meeting is on 4 February --- held as always in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2pm. (We meet on the first Wednesday of each month.) Professor Gregory Store will speak on " Charles Dickens as Social Reformer and Medical Observer". You can find more about us, our outings, interest groups and holidays, by visiting our website

[www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford), or phone Jill on 01491 835994, or Margaret on 01865 340850.

## **Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS)**

February's talk will be by Ben Ford on ' Winchester - A City in the Making '. Ben is from Oxford Archaeology and his illustrated talk will describe the archaeological results from the largest recent excavations to be published from Winchester. Friday 13 February, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

In March, Liz Woolley will talk on 'Children's experiences of WW II in Oxfordshire'. Liz's talk looks at how the lives of Oxfordshire children – both those born in the county and those evacuated here – were affected by World War II. It is likely to prompt older listeners to recall and share their own wartime experiences, whether from Oxfordshire or elsewhere. Friday 13 March, 7.45 for 8pm. at Wallingford Town Hall. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

## **Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Post Office**

**Opening Times:** Monday to Friday 9.00 to 13.00, Saturday 9.00 to 12.00 in the Stewart Room of Village Hall. Last Collection at the Post Office by Royal Mail is 11.05 am. For the full range of facilities available at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Post Office see [www.postoffice.co.uk](http://www.postoffice.co.uk).

You can collect parcels from Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Post Office rather than the Delivery Office in Wallingford. Both Parcel Force and Royal Mail will very often leave parcels in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Post Office rather than your address if no one is in.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Post Office is not just for Christmas so do come and see what Special Offers we have for your Easter Holiday plans.....on say Travel Insurance, Currency and Money Cards. You can draw cash for most banks, bank cheques and pay bills. Do support your local Post Office.

The latest special offer is 6 months free surfing. You do not have to change your number and once you place your order through Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Post Office, all is actioned on your behalf. Do call for a leaflet.

*Mike Powell*

# VILLAGE DIARY

## February

10	WI – Medical Detection Dogs	VH 7.30pm
10	Quilting Group	VH 10-1pm
24	Quilting Group	VH 10-1pm

## March

10	WI –Chocolate Delights	VH 7.30pm
10	Quilting Group	VH 10-1pm
17	Environment Group Meeting	VH 8pm
24	Quilting Group	VH 10-1pm
28	Village Quiz Evening	VH 7.30pm
29	Palm Sunday Procession St Agatha's to St James	9.30 am
17	Village Lunch	VH 12.15

## Refuse Collection:

Food waste each week

Grey bins: Feb 12, 26 Mar 12,26

Green bins: Feb 5,19 Mar 5,19

**Reminder to distributors of The Villager:** Please ensure that you have a replacement distributor for when you are on holiday and then inform Keith Brooks (839044) of your arrangements.

**For information on Brightwell-cum-Sotwell** visit the village website: [www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk) or the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Community Facebook page.

## Welcome Packs

If you know of a newcomer to the village, please give their name and address for a Welcome Pack to Bill Horsfield 01491 832041 [wthorsfield@yahoo.com](mailto:wthorsfield@yahoo.com) and/or Andy Lewis 01491 825680.