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Items for the next edition should be sent to the Editor by 10 May 2019. The Villager is published every other month and delivered free to all households in the village.

## Editorial

After a rather balmy (or barmy) late February, March has come in with a roar. The daffodils on the verges are dancing merrily in the breeze as I write, trees waking up with new buds and blossom, and lambs are in the fields (thanks to Keith Brooks for our cover picture). Spring has definitely arrived. Looking forward to Easter, I hope it will get a little warmer so you can enjoy the holiday and the Easter events in the village.

At the start of Holy Week, on 14 April, as well as the morning Palm Sunday procession with donkey, there is a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion in St Agatha's in the evening. Church Easter services are shown on pages 8 and 9, and other spring events on page 23. Looking further ahead to May, there is the Spring Fair and a return of the Colour and Clay exhibition in St Agatha's church (18/19<sup>th</sup>) and the ever popular Safari Supper the weekend before.

We have some interesting articles this month. Robert Seatter writes about the Red Box Gallery and Steve Capel-Davies from the Environment Group about work going in the Millennium Wood. With the help of the Beavers, shrubs have been planted to form an under-storey for wildlife, see page 15. Marion Symes writes to thank everyone for their support of the Children's Society, a less well known charity which helps children living rough and others in need of help (see page 10). And Kingerlee Homes has written an update on Little Martins. It must be hard for those living nearby, directly affected by the building work especially as there have been some unexpected disruptions and delays. The first houses will be available soon as show homes, with a pre-launch event for villagers (see pages 7-8).

The tennis and cricket seasons will soon be upon us and details of how you can get involved if you want to play (or watch) are on pages 19 and 20. There is also an article on the village Nordic Walking Group and its health benefits – why not give it a go?

*Helen Connor*

## Villager Distribution

We have a new local distributor in the Greenmere area, Sophie Salisbury, who takes over from Mrs Hilda Behan. Thank you Hilda for your help over the years, and welcome Sophie.

If anyone would like to join the *Villager* team, either on assembly days (last Monday, every 2 months), or in distribution, we can always do with more helpers, so please contact us (see telephone numbers at the foot of page 1).

# Community Association

## **Village Quiz Evening – Saturday 16 March**

Congratulations to well deserved winners Wellspring Snails and a big thank you to the A2Z who set us such great quiz. It was nice that so many teams took part in this wonderful village event. We are grateful to all who attended and look forward to seeing you all again next year

## **Safari Supper - Saturday 11 May**

This successful and popular event is being run again this year in conjunction with St Agatha's. It is a great way to meet old friends and make new ones. Full details are included in this *Villager* (see page 13-14). To book a place, please contact Lynn on 01491833009 or [lynnburridge@gmail.com](mailto:lynnburridge@gmail.com).

## **Village Fete – Saturday 29 June at 2pm - Moreton House**

Once again we are grateful to Jim and Madeline Sanger for allowing us to use their lovely garden. Please put the 29 June date in your diaries (I know that it is a little earlier this year) and ensure all holiday plans are adjusted. Look out for more details about the event. The schedule and entry forms for the Flower and Produce Show will be in the next edition of *The Villager*.

## **‘Get involved in your village!’ event 2-4pm Saturday 12 October in the village hall**

We are fortunate to have some 40 volunteer-led groups, clubs and societies, all contributing to the general wellbeing of village life. These include sports clubs and fitness groups, church groups and charities, special interest groups and those providing a variety of services. Details can be found on the village website. By joining a group you can learn new skills, make new friends or perhaps help others in the community.

Would you like to know more (and perhaps get involved)? To encourage participation, the Community Association will be holding a ‘Get involved in your Village!’ event in October, at which you can meet and chat to representatives of these groups and pick up more information. This will be held in the village hall.

If your group would like to be represented there (and has not already been contacted) please email Bill Horsfield at [wthorsfield@yahoo.com](mailto:wthorsfield@yahoo.com). Watch out for further details closer to the date.

*James Davys, Chairman*

# The Red Box Gallery: call for exhibitionists!

Opened in Easter 2015, Oxfordshire's smallest art space is looking for new exhibits for 2019.

I'm taking over the curatorial mantle (grandiose term!) from Alison Debney, who has created a wonderful roll call of themes and displays over the last four years. So I'm keen to build on her great work and get everyone involved in making this a focal/talking point for the village.

March launches with an intriguing exploration of what makes the character of our village. Our youngest residents - at Brightwell Primary School – have tackled this theme with flair and vision, and their photos/thoughts are currently on display. And I've written a short poem in celebration of their work.

Coming up, we have more contributions from them, picking up on their termly themes and interactions with village life:

## **The Politest Telephone Box in Oxfordshire**

We explore what manners mean to us, in an inter-generational project, as the pupils interview elderly residents at Sotwell House.

## **Syrian Refugee Project**

Postcards to and from our linked school give the Box a truly international voice.

## **Apple Day**

Apples and their fascinating stories take over the box in October.

## **Christmas gifts**

Gifts for the festive season will come in the form of short poems in 2019. Unwrap them and open up a world of surprising words!

I'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to get involved in the Red Box Gallery. It's whatever you are passionate about - photography, art, gardening, allotments, music, history, bee-keeping, food...

The Red Box Gallery is a small space, but it's a great space too, in which to say something fresh and creative about our village and its life. So do get in touch: [robert.seatter@bbc.co.uk](mailto:robert.seatter@bbc.co.uk) / 0773 9300258.

*Robert Seatter*

## What makes the Character of our Village?

*Old tells us something:  
church wall, church door,  
village cross – the men who marched away,  
yet their voices are here  
to tell us they were;  
rickety tells us something:  
the parts that fall off, parts that remain –  
a tractor's wheel, its dented red body,  
its tracks in the mud  
and the face of a pumpkin –  
the glow it gives when you light the candle,  
that tells us something of what's inside,  
and logs in a pile, the faces they make too,  
brown circles of their years;  
animals tell us something:  
they chew the cud, they watch and wait,  
they leap into our laps, are our best companions;  
lonely tells us something:  
a scarecrow in the allotment, its stalled getaway car;  
and young tells us something:  
fierce goalkeeper in orange pads,  
shy princess in a crown – they look out and tell us  
they are ready and hopeful,  
their voices are now.*

*Robert Seatter*

## Colour and Clay - again!

The third 'COLOUR AND CLAY' exhibition will take place in St Agatha's Church over the weekend of 18 and 19 May.

This year will feature an extended mixture of expressive mediums - paintings, textiles, ceramics, wool and wood. All produced by Brightwell-cum-Sotwell artists and artisans (but who is to say where the divide is?) Come and start the conversation - we look forward to meeting you.

**Refreshments available** Open: 10.00- 5.30pm Saturday 18 May  
10.30- 4.30pm Sunday 19 May

*Roger Symes, Marion Symes, Jennie Pozzoni, Robert Field,  
Rosemary Greasby and Annie Brooker*

## Parish Council

### Playground update

Since the successful completion of the children's playground on Kings Meadow we have turned our attention to the Recreation Ground on Mackney Lane where there are plans to install outdoor fitness equipment, a table tennis table and an inclusive roundabout. We have obtained some grant funding, and have raised some money but need to raise additional funds to complete the project. In order to do this we have got together with a group of very enthusiastic villagers to organize some exciting events in the parish over the next few months including a family treasure hunt (provisional date Monday 27 May) and an open gardens Sunday, (provisional date 9 June). There will be more!!

### Tennis courts

Since the repair of the tennis courts and repainting of the surface five years ago we have now reached a point where the surface is badly worn and slippery, resulting in it being potentially dangerous to use at times. This is a facility that is heavily used by the village, quotations have been received to resurface the courts and install a practice wall for which funding is being sought with the help of Brightwell cum-Sotwell Kings Meadow Tennis Club.

### Parking on verges

We have been made aware that some of the verges in the village - Bell Lane and Mackney Lane specifically have been brought to our attention - are getting very muddy due to cars and vans parking on them. We are trying to improve the situation in some areas by putting down chippings and reinstating some verges that have actually become informal parking and passing places. It would help the situation if people could please park in designated parking places and avoid driving and parking on verges. Many thanks.

*The Parish Council*

## The Village Stores: Easter opening times

Good Friday: 9am to midday – shop open  
Saturday: normal hours Post Office and shop  
Easter Sunday: 9am till midday – shop open  
Monday: closed

## ‘Little Martins’ – an update from Kingerlee Homes

Rachel Wood, who joined Kingerlee Homes a couple of months ago, is now fully settled into her work on site, assisting our project manager Oliver Moat. Rachel is responsible for the day to day running of the site and had been involved in several ‘issues’ as works progress.

Unfortunately, external factors have held us up completing some of the utility network connections and diversions. This is due to a combination of factors and most critically had delayed the start of the works to form the site access at Didcot Road. Recently, we had to deal with a totally unexpected sewer diversion which put us back several days.

The situation has been far from ideal but hopefully we have seen the end of the disruption to residents and traffic on the edge of the village. Once this is completed we will then concentrate on reopening Waterman’s Lane, hopefully by the end of March. After that we will work on completing the main access road through the development and then we will be able to relocate the site offices and materials storage. That will enable us to work on the first 20 plots for the rest of the year.

Several residents have, quite properly, drawn our attention to the state of the verges opposite the site. We intend to repair/reinstate the verges opposite the site entrance which unfortunately have been damaged by contractors’ vehicles.

On a more positive note, we are pressing ahead with the first homes, two of which will be fully fitted out as show homes. More details of the opening and sales launch will follow from Davis Tate, our sales agents.

They have confirmed what we already knew, that Brightwell-cum-Sotwell is a much loved village. In their experience, often when new homes become available, the local villagers miss out on the opportunity and may be beaten to the mark by out-of-area purchasers. To address this, we are pleased to announce we will be inviting local residents to an exclusive pre-launch event before opening the doors to the general public. This will be a significant milestone in delivering our project and we are very much looking forward to the day.

On the site layout we have been working with Lockhart Garratt on further landscape proposals including the ideas provided by the Parish Council. These will be submitted to SODC for approval along with an improved ‘Biodiversity Action Plan’.

We are also in the final stages of negotiations with Green Square Group for the construction of the 14 affordable homes for rent and shared ownership.

If you have any queries about the scheme please contact Rachel (07583 059257) or Oliver (07889 886340).

*Kingerlee Homes*

## News from St Agatha’s and St James’

### **New Family Service time**

Our Family Services on the first Sunday of each month at St Agatha’s have now moved to an afternoon time slot, beginning at 4pm. Although this is a trial period, the evidence so far is that this is a time which allows more families to join us. We are also increasing the variety of our sung worship to include modern worship songs as well as well-known traditional hymns, so please join us if you are able and help us shape our worship together.

### **Holy Week**

There are a number of special events and services this spring time and for Holy Week:

**Palm Sunday** on 14 April will be a busy day with the procession led by a donkey leaving St James’ at 10am to St Agatha’s where we will hear a dramatized reading of the story of the Passion of Christ.

Then in the evening at 6pm our extended choir will sing ‘The Crucifixion’ by John Stainer. All are welcome with free admission and a retiring collection for those who wish to make a donation.

**Maundy Thursday** on 18 April, 7pm: we welcome the congregation of Brightwell Free Church and others to join us at St Agatha’s for our shared supper – a sit down meal during which we will recall Jesus’ ‘Last Supper’ with his disciples.

**Good Friday** on 19 April: we join the Churches Together in the Wallingford Market Place for our united act of worship (10.45am for 11am start) and then observe ‘The Final Hour’ at St Mary Magdalene’s in Crowmarsh.

**Holy Saturday / Easter Eve** 20 April: St James’ will host an Easter Vigil Service beginning at 8pm with the lighting of the Easter Fire at sundown, followed by meditative readings and prayers and a renewal of baptismal vows as we anticipate Easter.

**Easter Sunday** 21 April: the Family Festival Communion (9.30am) will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

## The Church APCM

The Church's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which includes all the financial and other reports for 2018, will be on the evening of Thursday 25 April, 7.30pm at St Agatha's.

## Spring Fair

Our Spring Fair is on Saturday 18 May from 2-4pm in the gardens of Brightwell Manor, with our thanks to Pauline Emerson and her family for their hospitality once again. The white elephant stall are looking for saleable contributions so please consider a donation if you are having a clear out. Bottles, books, plants, etc will also be welcome!

## Rogation Service

A special Rogation Service will be held at 4pm on the final Sunday in May (26<sup>th</sup>) at Highlands Farm as we ask God's blessing on farming and agriculture, and all the things that we depend on and too often take for granted.

We hope to see you as we journey through Holy Week and Easter and the joyful activities ahead.

Blessings,

*Rev Kev*

Email: [teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk](mailto:teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk)

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Twitter: @RevKevBeer My Blog: [revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk](http://revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk)

## Relish and Savour – coming soon

From 2 April help is at hand if you have run out of inspiration for what to cook for supper. A brand new business in the village, Relish & Savour, will be supplying recipe kits, with all the ingredients you need for a delicious dinner and an easy to follow recipe card. Boxes will be available to order at the Village Stores, or directly from website [relishandsavour.com](http://relishandsavour.com), and can be delivered to your doorstep.



This is to say a big thank you to all those who came along to the coffee morning and book sale last month. Everyone was so generous that I was able to forward a cheque for £292.50 to the Society.

There was proof of further generosity in the House Boxes which I collected on the same day and which contained a total amounting to £369.29. This was further added to by the proceeds of a collection made at the Christingle Service of £166.10. This made a grand total of £827.89.

These amazingly generous donations go to help the Society in its valuable work over a wide range of issues affecting children. The Society was founded as long ago as 1881 by Edward Rudolf who was originally inspired to do so by the plight of the many street children he encountered – the large numbers of “waifs and strays” as they would have been called! The Society has changed vastly over the years, but one of its principle campaigns - The Safe and Sound campaign - carries on this work by finding and supporting young runaways and children living rough on the streets, of which there are unfortunately still many. Drop-in centres provide support and help to find safe accommodation away from the streets, where children often exist by begging, stealing and sometimes prostitution.

This, however, is only a small part of the work done by the Society which ranges widely. It supports young carers by ensuring their families receive the help they need and by providing opportunities for them to meet other young people in the same position, not least during their annual carers festival. It also helps young refugees and migrants, using their specialist staff to spot warning signs of children experiencing exploitation or abuse, and it assists young people leaving care or detention. The Society also works closely with both national and local government, carrying out research and lobbying in an effort to change policy for the benefit of vulnerable children – one of the latest campaigns being ‘Debt Trap’ which seeks to persuade the Government to introduce a breathing space for families living in poverty and struggling to get out of debt.

In short, the Society provides vital help and understanding for a wide range of children who face danger, discrimination or disadvantage in their daily lives; children who are unable to find the support they need anywhere else. If you would like to have a ‘House Box’ which is an excellent receptacle for all that small change which fills up your purse or wears out your pockets, please contact me, on 01491 837175. Small change really does make a big change!

*Marion Symes*

# Stewart Village Hall

## New booking system

The trustees are very pleased to announce the implementation of an online booking system for the hall. If you would like to check availability, to make or amend bookings, please go to the Hall Diary on our website <http://stewartvillagehall.btck.co.uk/>

If you have any queries about using the system then feel free to contact Shena ([shenaluck@btconnect.com](mailto:shenaluck@btconnect.com) or on 834543) or Annette ([annette.k@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annette.k@hotmail.co.uk) or on 834050) and we'll be happy to help.

## New sound and vision equipment

We are also delighted that the installation of the new sound and vision equipment is well under way, and looking very impressive. We will be announcing the first Film Club evening in the very near future and hope you will come along to see what a difference this will make to many events held in the hall.

## Winning lottery tickets

We would like to congratulate the two supporters of the hall who have recently won free draw tickets on the SO Charitable Lottery. This weekly online charitable lottery was created to support local causes in South Oxfordshire. Tickets are £1 each and 50p of this comes to the hall. It is a great way to support the hall while having the chance to win up to £25,000. If you would like to take part then please visit <https://www.socharitable.co.uk/support/stewart-village-hall>.

## Thank you

As always, we thank you for all your support which is very much appreciated. If you have any questions, comments or feedback please contact the trustees using the contact us page on our website or leave a note in the Suggestions Box in the kitchen of the hall. <http://stewartvillagehall.btck.co.uk/>.

*Annette Kilworth*

# Save the Children

Plans are going well for the Save the Children Country Fair on Saturday 22 June, to be held on the Recreation Ground between 2pm and 7pm with lots going on for all ages. It will be a fun filled afternoon to celebrate not only 100 years of Save the Children, also over 50 years of fundraising for the charity in the village.

Some of the older members of the community may remember the penny jar in Kew's Bakery. Nora Kew was a long term supporter and fund raiser. I was a young mum when people like Nora, Pauline Montgomery, Margaret Robertson and Pat Humphries got me involved. Forty years on I'm still on the committee and year-on-year get more passionate about Save the Children. It is absolutely extraordinary all that has been achieved since Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton first launched the charity in 1919.

Please join us during the 'Midsummer Mayhem' weekend (21-23 June), starting with a Barn Dance on the Friday and ending with a special outdoor Church service in Wellsprings on the Sunday. Some of these events will benefit Save the Children along with other good causes. We hope it will also give much enjoyment, so fingers crossed the weather will be kind to us all.

During 28 April to 4 May we will be carrying out our normal house to house collection in the village, followed on 11 May by our Annual Plant Stall (10am). As always we will be very grateful for any plants looking for a good home.

*Celia Collett*

## Brightwell Indoor Rowing Event

Come on down on Friday 29 **March** (7-8pm) to the village hall and take part in an indoor rowing event. No experience necessary. Recommended age 11-18 year olds. Big screen to watch the event. £2 on the door, raising funds for the equipment for young people at the Rec.

**Meet guest Olympic gold medallist rower!**

## Safari supper

This most popular event is being held again on Saturday 11 May 2019.

The form for joining is below. More information can be obtained by emailing [lynnburridge@gmail.com](mailto:lynnburridge@gmail.com) or phoning 01491 833009.

The closing date for receipt of the form is 20 April. Because of the huge logistics that go into organising this event, that date will need to be strictly adhered to. I hope you will be understanding.

We really look forward to seeing you there. If you have never joined this event before, it is great fun, starting off with nibbles at the church at 7pm, then 'mains' at a given venue, followed by 'pudding' at another venue, and finishing off with coffee at the pub. Suggested donation £15 and all funds raised will be split between St Agatha's and the Community Association. You can choose to be a HOST or a DINER. Hosts can claim expenses. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Lynn Burridge*

**Please complete both the front and back of this form, cut out and return to Lynn Burridge at Bell Forge, Bell Lane, BcS, together with your donation.**

..... ✂.....✂.....✂.....✂.....✂

### Safari Supper 11 May booking form (front)

Name.....

Address.....

No of tickets required..... Amount enclosed: £.....

(Suggested donation £15 per person, cheques payable to BCS Community Association)

Gift Aid signature .....

Vegetarian? Yes/ No

Dietary restrictions / allergies.....

P.T.O

## The Red Lion

### Easter 19 – 22 April

Come and enjoy the special Easter Menu at The Red Lion – seasonal dishes on our daily changing menu. Book your table to avoid disappointment.

### Music

Excellent local musicians join us on Sunday evenings – check the website or board in the pub for details.

### Brightfest 2019

Plans are well advanced for this year's Brightfest on Saturday 8 June – fantastic music, food, drink and children's entertainment. Make sure you put the date in the diary!

### Sunday lunch

Our Sunday lunches remain very popular – we offer a range of roasts including vegetarian options and can offer smaller versions for children.

Support your local pub!

*Mark Brock*

..... ✂.....✂.....✂.....✂.....✂

### Safari Supper 11 May booking form (back)

I would be willing to host a main course.....(please tick)

I would be willing to host a pudding course.....(please tick)

Number I would be willing to host (including myself) .....

Email address. ....

Contact tel no .....

Any other comments (eg mobility issues/babysitters etc).....

.....

# BcS Environment Group

## Millennium Wood

I am pleased to be able to report that after some time in the planning stage we have now completed the thinning of the trees which has allowed the planting of the shrubs to provide an under-storey. This will give additional habitat for birds and other wildlife.

We had arranged for the scouting groups to help with the planting on the first Sunday in March but unfortunately it coincided with storm Freya with gusts of over 50 mph forecast and accompanying heavy rain – not the best time to be in the woods! We rearranged for following Friday when a good crowd of Beavers and their parents came to help. They were so quick that all 120 shrubs, including guelder rose, spindle and hazel, were planted and protected from rabbits in under an hour. That gave time to gather up the remaining brushwood from the felled trees with the ash needing to be burnt as it may contain ash die-back disease. The remainder will be kept in piles to create habitats. The afternoon was rounded off by cups of hot chocolate and it was very good to see so many young people having fun in the wood. Many thanks to all involved. The next project will be to create a shallow pond or wetland scrape and we hope for a return visit by the helpers.

In the last article I mentioned that we would have wood available (for a donation) for locals. Currently the felled timber is in longish lengths (approx. 2 to 3 metres) piled around the site. We plan to cut these in half but will still need turning in to logs after collection. They should be left at least a year, preferably two, before burning in a stove. The provisional date for collection is Saturday 27 April (10– 1pm) but we will confirm on the Facebook page.

## Rainfall

The rainfall at Highlands Farm for January and February (which included snow) was 29.1mm and 34.8mm respectively. The January figure was below 50% of the long-term average for much of the region with February nearer to average. This relatively dry start will not greatly help groundwater reserves which would have needed a significant rainfall over the winter months to get to a healthy position prior to summer.

## Events

We are arranging for a spring talk which will most likely be in April – further details will be put online when available.

I have been informed that a Wallingford Wildlife Group is being formed with its start-up meeting on Thursday 28 March in the Ridgeway Community Church, 7-8.30pm. They are looking to make Wallingford wilder and are looking for ideas and help. Contact them at [wallingford.wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:wallingford.wildlife@gmail.com).

*Steve Capel-Davies*

## Climate Change - Winners and Losers

Today we can celebrate a winner, the Little Egret. It is a striking pure white bird, rather like a small white heron, with plumes on its front and back and a crest. The first time I saw this bird was in the early 1990s in the Hayle estuary in Cornwall. My first village encounter with the Little Egret was about six years ago when I had one on the stream in my garden, next to the village hall. It then spent several days on the moat at Brightwell Manor.

This winter one bird has been seen by several residents in the ditches around Brightwell and Mackney. I have seen it in a ditch near the Rec and it has been seen in the stream just over the fence from the village hall car park. Up to three birds have been around Cholsey all winter.

The Little Egret was originally native to southern Europe and North Africa and first arrived here in the late 1980s. The first breeding record was in Poole Harbour in 1996. There are now at least 700 breeding pairs in the UK including a number in Oxfordshire at Henley, Standlake and Blenheim, to name a few places.

We are lucky to still have the Little Egret as in 1885 alone 750,000 egret skins were imported into the UK and sold in London for the millinery trade. Ah, the good old days!!

*Paul Chilton*

## Dorchester Festival 3-19 May 2019

This year's programme of 62 events over 2 weeks is as eclectic as ever. We welcome back past treasures such as The Tallis Scholars, Out of the Blue, jazz singer Cate Cody and The BBC Elstree Big Band. We have some great family events such as a Science Mad afternoon, a scarecrow trail, a dog show, a teddy sleepover and a duck race, and a fabulous food & gift fair with live music and wonderful cookery demos. Plus lots more. Do take a look at our website [www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com).

*Alison Prewett*



# The Village Stores

We are here for you – please be here for us.

Retail is tricky – especially for the smaller, local shops like ours.

Your Brightwell Villages Stores offers:

- **Loyalty to Local** – amazing cakes, top quality fresh meat, eggs, wines and spirits, fruit and veg, honey, greetings cards and gifts from local suppliers within a few miles of the village.
- **A wide array of services** – newspapers and magazines, pet food, dry-cleaning, Bach remedies, “free from” range, environmentally friendly refills for olive oil, cleaning products and, wild birdseed to name a few.
- **Convenience** – ditch the car and see the beauty of the village as you walk to us, or make the most of our free car park. We can help out with deliveries too if you can’t get to us or carry heavy items.
- **Brightwell branded** chocolates and biscuits – special mementos of Brightwell for relatives and friends.
- **A social space** – friendly staff and volunteers always here to greet you with a smile and an anecdote or two!
- **Our new Loyalty card scheme** – load your card with credit and be like the Queen and go cashless, or send the children along for those last minute essentials.
- **Reasonable, comparable pricing** – as well as those special luxuries our goods are very well priced and we work hard to pass on any saving we can to our customers.
- **Those little extras** – many gluten free options, the opportunity to buy smaller quantities with our extensive Field Fare frozen range, a huge amount of reading material about the village as well as second hand fiction and DVDs.
- **Post Office services** – why queue elsewhere when we provide a huge range of postage and banking services on your doorstep including cash withdrawals and cheque deposits now those pesky banks have closed their local branches.

By using your local village shop you are providing support directly to your community and the local producers in the area.

If you rarely use the Village Stores, we would be interested to understand why, and if you have any feedback or recommendations to help us remain sustainable please let us know. Why not pop in for a chat or contact us using [Brightwellshop@btconnect.com](mailto:Brightwellshop@btconnect.com) or 01491 835551.

Brightwell Village Stores – we are here for you.

*Sam Reeve, Manager*



## Brightwell Art Club is 25!

We have been reminded by Olive Sutcliffe, a former member of the Art Club, who also ran it for a while, that it is our 25th anniversary this year. The club was started in 1994 by Paul and Sylvia Cocks who lived in Mackney Lane. They had been going to a class in Crowmarsh and thought it would be nice to have one in the village. They ran it with a tutor, Mike McGregor.

In 1995 the village celebrated the 50th anniversary of the end of WW2 when members were asked to provide some wartime-themed paintings which could be included in a memorabilia exhibition in the village hall. This was very successful and provided the inspiration for an annual exhibition, initially as a means of displaying members' work. However, some members were persuaded to sell their paintings and so the exhibition became a sale of work as well as a chance to exhibit.

Unfortunately we have no original members of the Art Club but we do still have a few people who joined a couple of years after the start. The club was kept much smaller in those days but due to the increase in costs and the fact that we want to keep the subscription low, we now have more members. We are lucky that we can still have a tutor every session; Mike McGregor retired some time ago and now we have a rotation of four tutors.

If anyone is interested in joining the club or just wants to know more about us, you can pop in to see us on a Saturday morning during term time. We also have a web page accessed through the village website under 'Local Services', or you can email us at [brightwellartclub@gmail.com](mailto:brightwellartclub@gmail.com).

*Brightwell Art Club Committee*

## BCS Kings Meadow Tennis Club (BCSKMTC)



We are pleased to advise that your tennis club continues going from strength to strength, maintaining an annual membership of circa 160 members which includes 60 junior members.

The Parish Council has had the courts pressure-washed so reducing the chances of slipping whilst playing.

As this article goes to press, we are awaiting the results of an application by BCSKMTC to Sport England for a Community Grant to contribute to the nearly £30,000 required to resurface the courts and erect a practice wall. We will contribute £5,000 from our sinking fund along with a matching amount from the Parish Council.

A 100 Club will be run to raise further funds towards the resurfacing costs of the courts - 1st Prize £80, 2nd Prize £40. The competition is open to all BCS Parishioners. **\*\*Please contact Tony Windsor to buy tickets\*\***.

Your club continues to be a registered venue with LTA and therefore eligible to participate in the LTA Annual Club Venue Wimbledon Ticket Allocation. This year, 93 members over the age of 11 years opted-into the draw. The allocation of tickets (expect circa 14 pairs) will be by 18 March 2019 and we plan to undertake the club ballot at the AGM – all opted-in members in good standing at the time of the AGM will be eligible for the draw. This will be held on Wednesday 10 April 2019 starting at 8pm, at St Agatha's Church Room.

The Annual Club Subscription is due for the club year starting on the 1 April 2019. Please see the email sent to members with methods of payment. Club membership cards will be available for collection on the clubhouse notice board.

Coaching has continued every Saturday afternoon during the autumn and winter, delivered by Josh from the National Tennis Association. Please look out for details for signing up from 1 April: Mini Reds (5-7 Years) 2-3pm and Mini Orange/Green (8-11 Years) 3-4pm – Tel: 0800 888 6030 or look on website: <https://brightwell.nationaltennis.org.uk/Coaching/Junior>.

**\*\*You can contact me at [tony@bcskingsmeadowtennisclub.org.uk](mailto:tony@bcskingsmeadowtennisclub.org.uk) or on 07909 848098 if you require information about club membership and activities or wish to participate in the 100 Club. Our Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/BCSKingsMeadowTennisClub/>.**

*Tony Windsor - Chairman*

## BCS Cricket Club

As the clocks roll forward, the days are longer and we all yearn to be in the warm spring air, you might ask yourself just what to do with those lazy Sunday afternoons of the coming balmy summer. The sounds of heavy roller and low mower perhaps give a clue. Starting on Sunday 5 May the village cricket club swings into action. The U11s are away at Watlington CC with a 10am start - good luck boys and girls - and the senior team have a 1.30pm start at the village Recreation Ground against our neighbours Ewelme & Benson CC. All spectators welcome! Wander along to join our burgeoning group of club VPs (new VPs are very welcome; just ask Phil Jones how to do it!).

The rhythm of the day sees the fielding team bake under the burning sun for 2-3 hours. A break for tea of course. As the fly rise, that same, now cake-filled and medium-rare, group of players go to bat for a further 2-3 hours. At last, they go to the Red Lion to rehydrate and reflect on another glorious English summer's day of leather and willow. Why would you miss that?!

For players, nets will start in April (weather and refurbishment permitting) and all new players of any standard (if you can stand up for a couple of hours you're in!) are very welcome. Drop me a line ([eliot.r.forster@gmail.com](mailto:eliot.r.forster@gmail.com)). See you then.

*Eliot Forster - BcSCC captain*

## Hallelujah!

This year's Summer Concert will be at St Agatha's on Sunday 30th June (7pm). In a special feature we are inviting as many singers as possible to come and sing Handel's magnificent Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah. So if you like to sing why don't you come along and enjoy! For further information see posters around the village or contact Anthony Finn on 835540 ([anthony@emroka.com](mailto:anthony@emroka.com)) or Alec McGivan on 07970 237083 ([alec.mcgivan@gmail.com](mailto:alec.mcgivan@gmail.com)).

## Nordic Walking



### **Are you looking for a new interest? Why not try Nordic Walking**

#### **What is Nordic Walking and why you must try it?**

Nordic Walking involves using poles to assist with the walk, meaning that upper body muscles are used as well as lower ones, thus reducing the pressure on knees and joints. It is also great for posture and, if done correctly, can burn up to 40 per cent more calories than normal walking!

#### **Village Nordic Walking Group**

This was formed following a GO Active Gold programme to encourage people living in rural areas to live more active lifestyles. We meet for two walks each week – Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30 to 10.30, usually meeting in the village or at Wittenham Clumps car park. We are always open to ideas for other walks.

We are a friendly crowd, not too competitive, keen to teach new members and the atmosphere is informal so we all have a lot of fun.

We have one spare set of Nordic Poles, or other walking poles could be used initially. Other than that, comfortable clothing and sensible walking shoes are the only equipment required.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy and you would like to give it a go, please contact one of the people listed below.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Annette Kilworth 01491 834050 annette.k@hotmail.co.uk  
Roger Symes 01491 837175 rjs\_well@hotmail.com*

Our February speaker Liz Woolley on ‘Beer, sausages and marmalade’ proved to be a good choice and we had a very good attendance at our meeting. We learned some interesting facts about Oxford in the nineteenth century, much of which can still be explored today. This is our second talk by Liz and she is an excellent speaker with great enthusiasm for the city.

March was the occasion of our Annual Meeting when we cover all the formal business of the WI. We presented our financial report to members and elected our committee and officers including our President. Helen Connor has agreed to hold that position for another year and although two of our committee members stood down, two other members very kindly agreed to be elected to fill the gap. Our WI is in a very healthy position financially with a steady membership over the last few years of around 45-48. But we would like to reach the half century and so are always ready to welcome new members and there is no age limit or restriction on this. If you are interested in joining us, come any second Tuesday of the month to the village hall at 7.30pm for a taster or look at our website *brightwellcumsotwellwi.com*.

Our next meeting on 9 April is a talk on the care of hedgehogs from a local man, Hugh Warwick. Our garden visits start again this month and the venue is Lime Close, Drayton on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We have been before and know it is a very pleasant garden to visit especially in the spring.

#### **Coffee Link Up**

Although started by the BCS WI, the Coffee Link Up is not officially a WI function, but we have been pleased to welcome so many people to our coffee mornings at Root One on every third Monday between 10 & 12.30 pm. This began on World Kindness Day in 2017 and still continues. It is a chance to meet and socialise for people not necessarily in the WI, so why not go along if you are free and feel like a bit of company and a chat.

*Margaret Smith*

## Spring and Easter Events

### Earth Trust Lambing weekends

Get behind the scenes of a working farm at the annual Lambing Weekends at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham on 23/24 and 30/31 March. Meet lambs, piglets and goats and enjoy craft activities. More details at [earthtrust.org.uk/whats-on/lambing-weekends-2019](http://earthtrust.org.uk/whats-on/lambing-weekends-2019).

### Didcot Gospel Community Choir Spring Concert

Saturday 6 April 2019 at St Mary's Church, Wallingford - in aid of The Felix Fund.  
Doors open 4.30pm. Concert starts 5.00pm.

### The Crucifixion by John Stainer

Sunday 14 April at St Agatha's Church at 6pm. The Choir of St Agatha's.  
Tenor: John Linton  
Bass: Anthony Finn  
Organist: Derek Nightingale

Admission free, retiring collection.

### Wallingford Country Market

The spring market on Friday 12 April will have an array of spring flowers and plants and home baking, including some especially for Easter. Orders can be taken for most items we sell, including simnel cakes and decorated Easter sponges. Easter cards, small gifts and novelties will also be available.

Do pop in and see us at St. Mary-le-More Church, situated in the Market Place, any Friday between 9.30 am and 12 noon. Please note our Easter Market will be held on Maundy Thursday, 18 April and not Good Friday.

### Sinodun Players: the comic play *Dead Funny* by Terry Johnson

10 - 13 April 7.45pm, at Corn Exchange Wallingford  
Tickets: Adults £12, Corn Exchange box office 01491 825000  
[www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk).

## VILLAGE DIARY

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### April

9	WI talk – Hugh Warwick on <i>The Care of Hedgehogs</i>	VH	7.45pm
14	WI garden visit to Lime Close		
14	Palm Sunday procession from St James'		10am
14	Palm Sunday Concert - Stainer's <i>The Crucifixion</i>	St Agatha's	6pm
18	Churches Shared Supper	St Agatha's	7pm
20	Easter Vigil	St James'	8pm
21	Easter Sunday Service and Easter egg hunt	St Agatha's	9.30am

### May

11	Save the Children Annual Plant Sale	Square	10am
11	Safari Supper	St Agatha's	7pm
14	WI talk – <i>The History of Nursery Rhymes</i>	VH	7.45pm
18	Church Spring Fair at Brightwell Manor		2-4pm
18	Colour and Clay Exhibition	St Agatha's	10am
19	Colour and Clay Exhibition	St Agatha's	10.30am
26	Rogation Service at Highlands Farm		4pm

### Advance Notice

8 June	Brightfest
9 June (tbc)	Open Gardens
18 June	Village Lunch
21-23 June	Save the Children Midsummer Mayhem weekend
29 June	Village Fete at Moreton House
30 June	Summer Concert

### Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Thursday 4 & 18 April Thursdays 2 & 16, <b>Friday 31</b> May
Green (& Brown) bins	Thursday 11 & <b>Friday 26</b> April <b>Friday 10</b> , Thursday 23 May (extra brown bin/garden waste on <b>23<sup>rd</sup> May</b> )

### Village website

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