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Items for the next edition should be sent to the Editor by 1 July 2015. The Villager is published every other month and delivered free to all households in the village.

Editorial

The village marked HM The Queen's 90th Birthday at the end of April with the planting of a mulberry tree at the bottom of Bell Lane by the Beavers and some of us went up the Clumps to watch the lighting of the birthday beacon but the main celebrations will get into full swing next month. Brightwell is planning a weekend of events on 11 /12 June. This issue has more details, see box below and inside in several articles.

I hope the weather will be as kind to us then as it was on the Open Gardens Sunday in early May. The sun shone, the people came, the gardens were beautiful and there was a lot to see and do – a great, fun day. Thank you Chris Baines for our Open Gardens cover photo this month and well done to everyone for making it such a success – a real community effort. You can read more about how much was raised and the progress of the preschool's garden project on page 9.

Traditionally this month we publish the Flower and Produce Show Schedule and Entry Form in our centre pages. It takes place at the village fete on Saturday 9 July. As well as the usual range of classes for adults and children this year there are two new ones – design a gnome for Brightwell and upcycle (reuse) an item in an imaginative way. It's always exciting I think going into the tent after the judges have been to see if you or your family have won anything (sadly usually not me). So, do have a go. If none of that appeals, why not try making a film over the summer for the Brightwell Film Festival, details of which are on page 16.

You will find more information on these and other events taking place in the Village Diary at the back on page 24 – so save the dates now.

Helen Connor

HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Weekend

- **Friday 10 June** - Open air cinema in the garden of Slade End House from 7pm. Bring your picnic, bubbles and deckchair and dance the night away to Grease.
- **Saturday 11 June** - Brightfest 2016 at the Rec, Mackney Lane, noon-10.30pm. Music, human table football, kidszone, food stalls , fireworks and more.
- **Sunday 12 June** - Celebration Service in St Agatha's at 10am and Street Party around the War Memorial at 3pm.

Jeremy Wood

We would like to thank everyone who has sent us cards and their sympathy on the occasion of the very sad and sudden death of our lovely Jeremy. Even though he had been living elsewhere for a number of years he visited frequently and he was very much part of this community. I am sure he will be missed by many people who have known him over the years and who have seen him around the village.

Veronica, Susannah, Amanda and Myron

A thank you from Margot and Mandy

We would like to thank everyone very much who so generously donated to a present for us when we left the Village Stores. We were very touched and enormously grateful for so many people's thanks and good wishes.

We were sad to leave the shop but, having expressed very clear reservations about the wisdom of incorporating the Post Office into our traditional community village shop, when the decision was made to do just that, it was time for us to leave. Despite all the hard work, we both really enjoyed running the shop together for nearly two years as managers. We both know we couldn't have done it without the tremendous support and encouragement of so many. For this we are extremely grateful.

We wish the new team at the shop well and trust that it continues to be an important part of village life, serving the community in many ways.

Mandy and Margot

Earth Trust public exhibition

Plans to improve visitor facilities at the Earth Trust Centre will be on display in an exhibition from Wednesday 1st to Tuesday 7th June at Fison Barn. Opening times vary, so check the website at www.earthtrust.org.uk. It will be an opportunity to see more and give your views on their latest proposals for a café and better access and parking.

The Parish Council

Queen's birthday celebrations

As you read this we will be looking forward to a full weekend of village events to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. The Parish Council hopes that there is something for everyone, that Brightwell-cum-Sotwell will enjoy another memorable time honouring a happy moment in history and have much fun in the usual way!

Friday evening begins the celebrations with a film evening at Slade End Farm, the home of Adrian and Alison Wood (thank you!). Saturday sees family fun and games at the Recreation Ground with brilliant music from local bands at Brightfest during the afternoon and evening. On Sunday a traditional street party for all the family concludes the festivities.

Neighbourhood Plan

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan continues and contributions to this important policy document to influence the future of the village are still most welcome. If you were not at the meeting in March but would like copies of the questionnaire distributed, please email our Parish Clerk Lucy at bcsparishcouncil@googlemail.com or just let her have your views and she will pass them on.

Grant Applications

At the start of a new financial year, the Council has reviewed its policy for the consideration of grant applications, you can find a copy here <http://www.brightwellcumsotwellpc.org/library.asp>. Please do let us know if you have a project which you believe fits our criteria, we enjoy hearing about possible plans.

New Chair

Sue Robson has taken over from David Fox as Chair of the Council, and Helen Baines remains as Deputy

Welcome to new vicar

Finally, we welcome to the Parish the Rev Kevin Beer, our new vicar. We wish him the very best of luck in getting to know us all and our lovely village!

Sarah Jackson.

On HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Weekend Village Street Party Sunday 12 June at 3pm

Venue – around the War Memorial

ALL WELCOME

- Bring your own picnic
- Tables and chairs already setup
- Tea, coffee, squash provided
- 'British icons' fancy dress competition
- Activities for children
- Prize for best dressed table
- World record conga attempt
- Music and Dancing

Don't Miss It!!

Brightfest 2016

Brightfest is back this year with a bang! Come on down to the Recreation Ground, Mackney Lane on Saturday 11 June from noon until 22.30. This year's extra-special event is part of a weekend celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday and we will be doing her Majesty proud. More than 15 acts will provide a fantastic variety of music on the Warmingham and Acoustic Stages, with local favourites including the Brazilians, the High and Mighty and the Sinner's Lounge. But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Human table football returns with a Euro 16 theme (sign up in the Red Lion or on the day), alongside the inaugural Brightwell versus Sotwell tug of war grudge match, and a drama workshop for ages 6 to 16 led by village resident, theatre director Lucy Pitman-Wallace. There will be various festival stalls and games including giant Connect Four, Twister and giant Jenga.

The expanded KidsZone features bouncy castles, a ball pit, ride-on toys, a magical Midsummer Night's Dream-themed craft tent, face painting, balloons and a kids' chillout area.

There are numerous food offerings with old favourites Porter's Grill, Hannah's Falafel stand and the Red Bus Bar run by the Red Lion team. New to Brightfest this year are wood-fired pizza van Soleluna and Daisy, the vintage ice cream van. To top it all off there will be an amazing firework display at the end of the evening to finish the day in spectacular style.

Brightfest's main aim, apart from giving everyone a fantastic day to remember, is raising funds for charity. This year we are supporting Allsorts Preschool and Save the Children. Further details can be found on brightfest.org.uk - why not treat yourself to a Brightfest souvenir t-shirt while you're there?

See you on 11th June!

Sian Norfolk

Summer concert Sunday 26 June at 7pm

It's hard to believe that we are about to embark on our 8th summer concert at St Agatha's church. This year I am pleased to say we have more choir recruits than previously. We hope to be making a good sound! We've also got some new faces amongst our readers.

The event will of course be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday, indeed rumour has it that a Royal will be present to mark the occasion. So too will Boris Johnson who has promised us his first post referendum live interview. It promises to be quite an evening. There are even stories that members of Dad's Army may be lurking in the churchyard.

So do come along and enjoy a great village occasion. You are guaranteed a good time with plenty of local talent on stage. The ticket price includes a delicious array of canapés in the interval as well as pimm's or wine if you prefer.

Tickets are £10 each (under 18s free), available from the Village Stores. You can also pay on the night. Proceeds from the summer concert will be split between St Agatha's Church and 'Brightwell Supporting Refugees', a recently formed village charity presently aiming to raise funds for a school in Jordan educating Syrian refugee children.

Do come and enjoy the show!

Alec McGivan

Community Association

Quiz Evening

Many congratulations to the Red Lion team who won this year's event, and a big thank you to Streetwise who set a great set of challenging and entertaining questions. We are grateful to all who came and supported this event, which I am pleased to say raised over £800.

Village fete – Saturday 9 July at 2-4.30 pm at Sotwell House

This year's village fete will be in the lovely gardens of Sotwell House, kindly hosted again by Jenny and David Dobbin. Our plans are well advanced and I am sure that the weather will be perfect again this year.

As usual, the fete works as a collaboration between groups in the village with each activity managed by a separate group or individual (the PCC run the teas, for example). The Community Association collects the funds from each activity. Then the CA invites groups to submit requests for grants from our coffers (which usually includes other money we have collected at events during the year). We are always looking for volunteers to help with the set up before this event, which is one of the highpoints in the Brightwell calendar.

Look out for the schedule and entry forms for the Flower and Produce Show in the centre pages of this *Villager*. The show appeals to all ages, of course, and we try to ensure the fete always has a good balance of activities. As well as the tried and tested stalls and games (the white elephant stall, coconut shies, teas, tombola, books, brass band etc) look out for something different.

Committee members will be collecting contributions to the white elephant, book and bottle stalls during the week before the fete, so now is a good time to start thinking about what you are planning to discard. Please remember that we can't take any electrical goods to sell, because of liability in case of accidents, and all donations (especially toys) must be in good working order. They simply won't sell otherwise.

Autumn 5K Fun Run - 25 September 2016

Following on from last year's success, plans are being drawn up to stage another five kilometre fun run around the village. We hope that it will appeal to all ages and abilities with the emphasis as much on fun as athletic ability. For details of how to enter please see the advert on page 15.

BAFTA Film Evening – 8 October 2016

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. Once again it demonstrated the impressive amount of talent that we have in our community. Helen and Andy have once again taken on organizing the event and details of how to get involved appear on page 16.

James Davys Chairman

Of gnomes and upcycling

You've heard of the gnomes of Zurich? How about designing a gnome for Brightwell-cum-Sotwell? That's the challenge offered in this year's Flower and Produce Show – the only limit being your imagination. The results will be judged by popular vote.

Other ideas for the show – which will be held as part of the village fete on 9 July – include an upcycled craft item. Upcycling - also known as 'creative re-use' – involves taking something that would otherwise be thrown away and transforming it into something special. It has a long and honourable tradition in produce show schedules in the form of junk models – and we're hoping to take it to new levels. We haven't set a size limit for upcycling projects, but obviously it has to be something that wouldn't crowd out everything else in the tent!

Crafty things apart, we have the usual range of classes for vegetables, flowers, flower arranging, photography and home cooking. Juniors up to the age of 16 have the chance of competing for the Joan Sheard trophy, given for the best junior entry in an adult class – and 12-year olds and under also have their own dedicated classes. We'd love to see more entries in this section, which always adds colour and fun to the show.

As ever, schedules will be available on the village website and in the Village Stores and in the centre pages of this *Villager*. If there's anything you're not sure about, please drop me an email at sally.dugan@gmail.com, or phone our chairman, Paul Chilton, on 01491 836661.

Sally Dugan

Allsorts Garden Appeal update

We have made huge progress with our garden project in the last two months: completing the landscaping phase, and raising further funds towards the final stage of work.

Over the Easter holidays the garden went through a mini transformation when we added a willow tunnel, sandpit, a new shed, an outdoor classroom for shade and shelter, a mound with tunnel and the beginnings of the sensory path. This was achieved using money raised from private donations and a grant from South Oxfordshire District Council. The children absolutely love their new outdoor space, which has made the garden more fun, smarter and even made it look amazingly bigger.

We are now fundraising to finish the project, and have already made a giant step forward with almost £4,300 being raised at the Open Gardens on Sunday 8 May. The event showcased some of the village's most glorious gardens and was blessed with beautiful weather. The sunshine brought out the crowds, attracting around 600 visitors who travelled from far and wide. Thank you so much to everyone who came along and supported to us.

It was so lovely to see the whole village pull together to make the Open Gardens such a huge success. Team Allsorts is extremely grateful to those who opened their gardens, manned ticket desks, gave talks and demonstrations, stood at information points in the blazing sun, sang and played in the folk garden, ran children's activities and served teas to the masses!

We will be continuing fundraising to help finish off the garden at Brightfest on 11 June where we are one of the beneficiary charities along with Save the Children. We will be organising the sponsorship, stallholders, children's activities, and the Brightfest T-shirts. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Kristen Dudley and Sally Jackson

Lunch club change of date

We have to change the date of the Lunch Club as the hall is in use on 7 June. The next lunch club will be on Tuesday 5 July at 12.15pm. As usual please contact Jaqui 836018 or Belinda 836223 for any queries.

Belinda Lee-Jones

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

Q: In this age of celebrity, who is the most photographed person on the planet? Here's a clue...

June sees our nation celebrate the 90th birthday of our Queen. For those below retirement age, it is hard to imagine life without Elizabeth II as our monarch. Many will not have known coins, bank notes or stamps without her image on them. When someone is so established in our lives, there is a danger that we take her for granted, so it is right that we remember her life of dedicated service over the weekend of 11-12 June, coinciding with Brightfest on the Saturday and then in a celebration service on Sunday in St Agatha's at 10am and the street party around the War Memorial at 3pm.

Sometimes, I find a simple prop helps me to pray and a coin is a useful symbol: on it, around the portrait of the Queen, you will find "DG REG FD" or "DEI GRA REG FID DEF", the Latin abbreviation for "Reigning by the grace of God, Defender of the Faith". Defending the faith is a role that the Queen has taken very seriously. Rather than vapid political soundbites about "British values", she regularly testifies to her personal faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who entered into human history to reveal his love for us.

In her Christmas broadcasts, she has spoken of Christ as 'an inspiration', a 'role model' and 'an anchor' in her life, where she makes reference to the circumstances of his birth, to his death and to his resurrection - for example, in 2002: "I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel."

As we sing our national anthem, we can give thanks for our gracious and noble Queen Elizabeth II who has long-reigned over us and continue to pray for her... God save the Queen!

Kevin

The Revd Kevin Beer Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk.
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Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday) Twitter: @RevKevBeer
My Blog revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk Wallingford CofE team, pages for each of the churches, i.e.: <http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/st-agathas/> <http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/st-james/> and a joint calendar: <http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar/> (colour-coded, such that BcS events shown in brown/yellow on weekly view).

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW



AT THE VILLAGE FETE



SATURDAY 9 JULY, 2016

TO BE HELD IN THE GROUNDS OF SOTWELL HOUSE
By kind permission of Jenny and David Dobbin

Entries received 9–10.30am. No late entries after 10.15am. Judging starts at 11am.

Entrance Fee: 25p each adult entry – 10p each junior entry. **Entries after 6 pm on Wednesday 6 July charged double.**

The show will open to the public at 2pm. Exhibitors are asked to collect exhibits and prize cards at 4pm.

TROPHIES

The Chilton Cup is awarded for the best exhibit in the fruit and vegetable classes.

The Win Glendenning Memorial Salver is awarded for the best flower arranging exhibit.

Two trophies are awarded in memory of Gilbert Talbot. **The Talbot Rose Bowl** is awarded for the best rose exhibit. **The Talbot Cup** is awarded on a points system, but may not be won by the same person for two years running.

The Joan Sheard cup will be awarded for the best under-16 entry in an adult class. Trophies will also be awarded for the top two junior classes.

The Swan Allotments Cup is awarded for the best-kept allotment. Judging takes place during the week before the show.

THE SCHEDULE

To be judged by popular vote: A garden gnome.

Prize: £10 voucher for the village shop.

Flower Arranging <i>Height is unlimited, except for miniature arrangements</i>	
1.	A miniature flower arrangement. Max 4" x 4" x 4" (10cm x 10cm x 10 cm).
2.	An arrangement fit for a queen (accessories allowed). Max 15" x 15" (38 cm x 38 cm)
3.	A bowl of floating garden flowers.
4.	MEN ONLY An Olympic arrangement (accessories allowed). Max 15" x 15" (38 cm x 38 cm)

Flowers and Vegetables	
5.	A Vase of cottage garden favourites - 9 stems, one variety or mixed
6.	Most scented flower, single or small bunch of up to 5 stems
7.	A rose, Hybrid Tea – 1 stem
8.	A rose, multi-headed – 1 stem
9.	Three stems flowering shrub, not rose – one variety or mixed
10.	Most unusual potted plant, flowering or foliage
11.	Dish of soft fruit of one kind
12.	3 sticks of rhubarb
13.	Box of vegetables – 3 varieties, box not to exceed 16" x 12" (40cm x 30.5 cm)
14.	Box of salad vegetables, box not to exceed 16" x 12" (40 cm x 30.5 cm)
15.	3 courgettes
16.	6 potatoes (named variety)
17.	6 pods broad beans
18.	6 pods peas (can be normal peas or mangetout)
19.	4 named herbs in jars
20.	6 hen's eggs

Cookery	
21.	A jar of chutney – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
22.	A jar of marmalade – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
23.	A jar of any jam – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
24.	A jar of fruit curd – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
25.	A loaf of speciality bread
26.	4 fruit scones
27.	MEN ONLY: 4 flapjacks
28.	LADIES ONLY: A celebration cake

Drinks	
29.	A bottle of beer or cider
30.	Any other alcoholic drink
31.	A non alcoholic drink

Photography, Arts and Crafts <i>Max size – 7” x 5” – 17.5 cm x 12.5 cm, except where otherwise stated</i>	
32.	Photograph, unmounted: wildlife
33.	Photograph, unmounted: a portrait, any subject
34.	A set of four photos, b/w or colour, on any theme. Overall size max. A4
35.	Photograph, unmounted: ‘Make us smile’. Amusing, with or without caption
36.	A card designed or drawn by the entrant. Max size A5
37.	A hand-knitted or crocheted item
38.	Any upcycled craft item
39.	Any other handicraft

Junior Section - Exhibits should be children’s unaided work	
9-12 year olds	
40.	A collage of something that grows or lives in the garden
41.	An insect made from vegetables
42.	4 decorated biscuits
5-8 year olds	
43.	A collage of something that grows or lives in the garden
44.	An insect made from vegetables
45.	4 decorated biscuits
Under fives	
46.	A collage of something that grows or lives in the garden
47.	A mini beast, made from any material

ENTRY FORM

Please complete and return, with money, to one of:

Paul Chilton 2 Fairthorne Cottages; Sally Dugan The Woodman; Ann Linton Waterman's Cottage, Church Lane; Brian Smith Stonybank, Church Lane; Alison Hedges, Bramleys, High Road or Claire Lynch The Croft, Sotwell Street. Queries to *sally.dugan@gmail.com*

Name:

Age (for under 16's):

Class No.	No. of Entries	Fee	Class No.	No. of Entries	Fee	Class No.	No. of entries	Fee

Name:

Age (for under 16's):

Class No.	No. of Entries	Fee	Class No.	No. of Entries	Fee	Class No.	No. of entries	Fee

Name:

Age (for under 16's):

Class No.	No. of Entries	Fee	Class No.	No. of Entries	Fee	Class No.	No. of entries	Fee

TOTAL FEES: _____

Address:

5K Family Fun Run & Walk Sunday 25 September

Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary 11.00am start

SAVE THE DATE!



For registration & all enquiries visit our stand at the village fete

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Community Association

Friends of Brightwell School (FOBS) update

Having recently contributed to the new floor in the school hall, FOBS are looking at new ways to fundraise and continue their support to the school. In early May we held a nearly new sale and on Tues 24 May we collected unwanted clothes and shoes for a recycling fundraiser.

We will be holding the school's Summer Campout on Sat 2 July and would love to hear from any musicians who would like to come along to play for a while during the evening, in exchange for suitable refreshments of course. Contact fobs001@gmail.com.

FOBS



Brightwell Film Festival



8 OCTOBER 2016

Whether you are 8 or 80, why not make a film for this year's Brightwell Film Festival? The films will be shown in Brightwell village hall in October 2016 - with an awards ceremony for everyone taking part!

Enter a film of any subject - drama, documentary, comedy, suspense, animation... anything that will grab an audience. The films need to have been made this year and should be no longer than 5 minutes. We're looking for imagination rather than technical perfection - no previous film-making experience is necessary.

To see some films from the previous festival go to the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Youtube channel.

Entry forms and guidelines are available from the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell website or email Helen Baines: mail@teambaines.plus.com. The deadline for entries is 30 September. Good luck!

Helen Baines

Orchard experts

Clearly, community orchards are the thing to have nowadays. As we were so successful in enthusing the village, raising the funds and then having a wonderful weekend planting the trees, other villages and organisations are looking to us for advice about how they can have one too.

This month we were visited by John Ogden and Eric Eisenhandler from Sustainable Blewbury and also Gabriel Hemery from the Silva Wood Centre in Long Wittenham; each hope to plant an orchard in their own villages. Even Radio Oxford visited us this month to broadcast a piece about community orchards in Oxfordshire.

Have you walked through the orchard recently? The blossom was really lovely, den making continues to be highly productive and the wildflowers are already showing through.

Alison Bloomfield

Allsorts Preschool

The children returned after Easter to find some wonderful alterations to the garden, including the addition of an outdoor classroom, a willow tunnel, an underground tunnel and a new shed. They've been enjoying it immensely and the outdoor classroom has provided some much needed shade once the long awaited sun finally arrived. We are now fundraising for the final stage of the garden project (see separate article on page 9).

The new gardening club, thanks to volunteer Helen Satchell, has been a great success, with the children planting beans, carrots, peas and sunflowers. They are now carefully watering them and waiting for them to grow. For the Open Gardens fundraiser, the children have been looking at their own gardens, which led to them making lots of craft items, some of which then found their way into the phone box exhibition.

Another popular event was the ZooLab visit. This saw the arrival of a selection of 'mini beasts' including a giant snail, giant millipede, a hermit crab, a tarantula and a snake. The children (and staff!) were incredibly brave and enjoyed both watching and touching their creepy visitors. Huge thanks to the Wallingford Children's Centre for organising and funding the visit.

The children will be partaking in the Cornerstone art exhibition again this year. The theme is 'Pattern' and the children have worked hard to produce a beautiful patchwork quilt. The exhibition runs from 24 May to 26 June, and is free of charge. This term's theme is 'Around the world' where the children will be thinking about the cultures and experiences of children from other places.

The preschool was delighted to see Lisa W promoted to deputy manager in April, taking over the role from our recently appointed manager, Natasha H. Lisa is continuing to lead small group work with the children, currently looking at phonics, shapes, numbers and nature lifecycles. This has been greatly enjoyed by the children and a particular help for those moving up to school in September.

Allsorts saw five new children start this term and now offers provision from 08.45 – 14.45 Monday to Thursday and 08.45 – 12.45 Friday. Allsorts still has spaces available for a number of sessions this year. Please contact us at allsortsadmin@btinternet.com if you are interested in knowing more, or would like to look round the preschool. We also encourage early bookings for next year to guarantee your place and help us in our planning.

Allsorts team

Stewart Village Hall - are you the one?

The trustees of our village hall need a treasurer. It isn't an arduous job, just the normal sort of financial transactions and a few annual tasks that you would expect. These would be:

- Maintaining the books and keeping the financial activity records
- Doing the banking - receipts and pay expenses
- Pay the monthly wages for just two people
- Raise invoices for our tenants
- Prepare the annual accounts for the auditors
- Look after the utility accounts and the annual insurance policy
- Help out with any capital projects and grants
- Submit annual returns to the Charity Commissioners
- and finally prepare a short finance summary for just four trustee meetings a year and the same for the AGM

Nothing unusual and nothing taxing. Ken Templeton has done a wonderful job for the trustees over many years and would now like to put his feet up. There is bound to be someone in the village who could do this role without breaking sweat. Obviously there isn't any remuneration except for deep gratitude, enhanced esteem within the village and a gift of choice at Christmas.

Steve Luck, chairman of the trustees of the Stewart Village Hall would really like to hear from you – 01491 834543 or email steve@tooleys.co.uk.

University of the Third Age (U3A)

Wallingford branch

Wallingford U3A meets in Crowmarsh village hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm. This is a national organisation which was set up in the mid 1980's for the older person with an inquiring mind, to meet people with other interests away from the working environment.

Each month we have a lecture on a variety of subjects from serious to fun via the cosmos, history, music, travel, biographies of past and fairly recent famous authors, politicians and lots more besides. There are a number of regular interest groups on subjects as diverse as books, current affairs, drama, history, music,

poetry, a lunch group, a walking group, and visiting local villages and churches. These are often added to if members are interested in a particular subject. Outings are arranged to places of interest, usually a coach is hired unless it is nearby. Also a short holiday is arranged; this year it is to Harrogate, North Yorkshire. A visit to Sonning Mill theatre is a very popular event.

New members are welcome. Come and give us a try - the cost is only £16 a year, visitors £2 including a cup of tea and biscuit. The meeting is usually over by 3.30pm. The next talk on 1 June is “Hollywood to Broadway by train”, and on 6 July it is “Robert Dudley, Queen Elizabeth and the Kenilworth Entertainment 1575”. After the talk on Kenilworth Castle we have a visit.

If you are interested please phone me on 01491 835994 or just turn up. We were introduced to U3A by a number of past villagers who were involved in the setting up of the Wallingford branch 30 years ago.

Jill Procter



Dave and Cynthia Hurley together with Adrian Collett were very encouraging when they came to our April meeting to introduce us to the game of Indoor Bowls, also known as Short Mat Bowls. After a very comprehensive talk by Dave and a demonstration by Adrian, our enthusiastic attempts showed that some members have a natural talent and we are currently pursuing the idea of perhaps forming a team for the WI. If you feel that you would be interested let us know.

Unfortunately, owing to illness, our May speaker had to cancel but we managed to obtain the services of John Tyler, who talked about *The Ridgeway, Europe's Oldest Road*. I am sure this will spark more enthusiasm for our monthly walking group that tours the countryside on the third Wednesday of the month under the guidance of Karin Matthews. The walks are generally quite gentle and cover about five miles. They usually finish with a pub lunch. You can read her reports on our website: brightwellcumsotwellwi.com.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 14 June, 7.30pm *South Sea Bubble*, speaker Dr Anne Murphy.

Margaret Smith

News from the Bach Centre

We'll be busy hosting courses in June and July. First up a group of trainers will be coming for a teacher-training event, travelling from as far away as Malaysia. Then we have a group of French practitioners here to take part in a Continuing Professional Development event, followed by a similar group from Italy.

Perhaps of more interest to local people will be our "Build Your Business" weekend on 9-10 July. This is a workshop that aims to help complementary therapists get their careers launched. The skills covered - from preparing leaflets and business cards to developing a website, giving talks and setting up newsletters - can however be applied in other sectors too. Anybody setting up a small business could gain from attending. If any readers of *The Villager* would like to take part, mention the magazine and you can book for the reduced rate of £120 (normal price is £150 for the two days). More details via the link towards the bottom of www.bachcentre.com, or call into the Bach Centre and ask.

Stefan

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 will have the chance to exhibit in the Red Lion in the "Artist of the Month" slot and do hope that people will pop in and 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. You can also find us on the village website, www.brightwellcumshotwell.co.uk under 'Local Services'.

Veronica Wood

"Artist of the Month" for April, Jamie Lewis, thanks everyone who supported his exhibition at the Red Lion, which resulted in a donation of £620 to the Bone Cancer Research Trust in memory of his brother Alex.

Environment Group

Climate change

On 23 April at the United Nations in New York more than 175 world leaders signed the document which, when ratified by national parliaments and like bodies, will bring into force the Paris Agreement. This agreement aims to limit the rise in the global temperature to 20C or less. Signatories include the three biggest emitters of carbon dioxide, namely the USA, China and India. By keeping the temperature rise to within 20C, climatologists expect that the present global atmospheric circulation pattern can be largely maintained. A rise above 20C is predicted to bring considerable and undesirable changes which would put the future of humankind on this planet in great danger. One of these changes would be a rise in sea level - "Sotwell on Sea" could become a reality.

River of Life

On 19 April in the village hall, Lizzie Rhymes from the Environment Agency and Chris Parker from the Earth Trust gave an interesting talk on this innovative project, based in our parish at North Farm. They described the problems of moving a vast quantity of earth from areas alongside the Thames to create the wetlands, ponds and lagoons attractive to wild life. Many of the new habitats have already been colonised and will continue to attract a variety of birds, mammals, fish and insects as well as water loving plant communities.

Millennium Wood

Spring has come to the wood. Buds are bursting and there is a blue and purple haze of wild flowers beneath the trees. Please take a walk to the wood to enjoy the scene there.

Environment Group committee and officers

At the meeting on 19 April the following were elected: Paul Chilton, Annabel Rodda, Lizzie Rhymes, Steve Capel-Davies, Sue Robson, Josie McCarthy, David Evans-Roberts (committee members); John Rodda (Chair), Betty Price (Secretary) and Trevor Wintle (Treasurer). Thanks were given to Alison Bloomfield who had resigned from the committee. Leon Cobb was re-elected as auditor and thanked for his years of service to the group.

John Rodda

Wallingford Drama Festival

The 29th Wallingford Corn Exchange Drama Festival takes place 13-17 June. This is an opportunity for amateur drama groups from all over the area and beyond to compete in an adjudicated competition for a variety of awards. In addition to an entertaining evening of diverse drama from both youth and adult drama groups, it's a great opportunity to learn about all aspects of stagecraft from the adjudicator's comments. This year's adjudicator is Colin Dolley.

Tickets are £5 per night or £20 for the omnibus ticket which entitles you to vote for the winner of the Punter's Prize, from the Corn Exchange 01491 825000, or online at www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Carol Evans

Donkey Sanctuary

Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary is looking for yard volunteers to help look after our rescued and re-homed animals. The donkeys need care and attention every day, but if you could visit even once a fortnight for a couple of hours, this would make a real difference. We are also looking for Visitor Centre hosts / hostesses for weekends, bank holidays and half-terms (11am-4pm). Please call us on 01491 833938 or email us at mail@donkeyrescue.org.uk.

Timea Megyeri

In Brief - round and about

Part mystery part comedy

Sinodun Players present *The Chalk Garden* by Enid Bagnold from 13-16 July at 7.45pm. Set in an English country house in the mid-1950s at a time when the Empire and English aristocracy are in decline it is described as part mystery part comedy. Tickets £10 from Box Office 01491 825000 or www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Make tracks for Wallingford's second model railway show

The exhibition will take place on Sunday 19 June at Wallingford School, St George's Rd. More than 12 model railway layouts, along with a number of trade stands, will be on show in a variety of scales from tiny Z gauge to garden sized

G scale. Highlights are the Clara-Zetkin-Stadt, a layout behind the iron curtain of East German, a Great Western branch line in Much Muckle very similar to the Cholsey to Wallingford branch line and Novion 1940, a French town scene during the Second World War. The exhibition will be open from 10am–4.30pm. Admission is £5 for adults, £2 for children and families £12.

Father's day steam special

On 19 June, fathers can travel half price when accompanied by full-fare paying children on the Cholsey to Wallingford railway. Tickets may be purchased at either station where there is also parking. For more details, look on the website www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com.

Bedding, baskets and borders

Plants a plenty at Wallingford Country Market on Fridays in the Regal Centre, now open even longer, between 8.30am and 12 noon. Annual Outside Market will be held on Saturday 11 June in the Market Square replacing the usual Friday market that week. Fruity Friday is on 24 June when baking with seasonal berries will be on sale, and fresh ones too.

Dust off that bike!

Is your bike gathering dust in a corner of the shed or garage? Have you thought about joining an organised cycle ride, but felt worried that it would be too far or too fast for you? Well, this CTC Wallingford event on Sunday 12 June is for you! Get your bike checked out by our mechanic in Wallingford Market Place between 11am and 1pm. Then join CTC Wallingford members in the Market Place at 1.30pm for a relaxed 10-12 mile ride. For more information, contact Alison Smart (alisonjsmart@gmail.com or 01491 836086).

Library summer challenge

Are you ready for a marvellous, splendiferous and mischievous reading challenge at your local library this summer? From 16 July to 17 September children across Oxfordshire can celebrate 100 years of the world's greatest storyteller Roald Dahl with The Big Friendly Read, Summer Reading Challenge 2016. Join up at your library. It's fun, free and local! Look on www.bigfriendlyread.org.uk or go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/wallingford-library to find out more.

VILLAGE DIARY

June

1-7	Earth Trust Public Exhibition	Fison Barn	
10	Film Evening: Grease (film starts 8.30pm)	Slade End Farm	7.00pm
11	Brightfest 2016	Rec	12 noon
12	HM The Queen's 90 th Birthday Celebration Street Party	War Memorial	3.00pm
14	Quilting	Village Hall	9.30am
14	WI talk South Sea Bubble by Dr Anne Murphy	Village Hall	7.30pm
26	Summer Concert	St Agatha's	7.00pm
28	Quilting	Village Hall	9.30am

July

2	FOBS Campout		
5	Village Lunch Club	Village Hall	12.15pm
9	Village Fete	Sotwell House	2.00pm
12	Quilting	Village Hall	9.30am
12	WI talk The Arcadian Thames by Jason Debney	Village Hall	7.30pm
26	Quilting	Village Hall	9.30am

Advance Notice

25 September	5km Family Fun Run & Walk
8 October	Brightwell Film Evening

Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Friday 3 , Thursdays 16 & 30 June, 14 & 28 July
Green (& brown) bins	Thursdays 9 & 23 June, 7 & 21 July

Village website

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

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