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Editorial

How lovely it was to have that early taste of summer at the beginning of May. It gave us a welcome lift. Such great timing too as it coincided with the weekend of the May Ball and the Band Night – both very well run events to support two charities, Save the Children and the Bone Cancer Research Trust, raising an amazing £13,000. Our cover picture shows Celia Collett and Andy Lewis receiving the cheques on behalf of the charities – two very happy people. Well done to the organisers and all who helped make them such a success.

Hopefully, we can look forward to a return of the good weather for other summer village events. The details and dates are in this *Villager* (see page 24), so make a note now, in particular: Brightfest at the Rec on 9 June, the summer concert at St Agatha's on 17 June and the village fete on 7 July. The fete includes the annual Flower and Produce Show. Lots of talent on display but don't let that put you off if you feel a novice, its great fun to just have a go (entry forms on page 14).

A well attended Annual Parish Meeting last month heard updates on the playground refurbishments at Kings Meadow and the Rec and on the Neighbourhood Plan. The head teacher at the school gave a very encouraging report and there is a very newsy piece from her on page 6 on all the activities the children have been engaged in this year. So much has been going on it left me a bit breathless – but so good to hear the children getting opportunities like these to develop and broaden their minds.

An interesting by-product of the housing developments in our village and surrounding area is the chance to do some archaeological digs. Martins Field provided evidence of Bronze and Iron Age banks and ditches which form part of a wider network of trackways or boundaries stretching to Wallingford and beyond. You can read more on page 20 on how our ancestors have shaped our current settlement pattern.

The Safari Supper was a resounding success once again, enabling people to meet new folks and bring friends and neighbours together. If you are new to the village, or you know someone who has just moved in, ask for a welcome pack, see page 9. It's full of information on what's going on here which can help you settle in more quickly. If you get one, do give us some feedback to help improve it.

Helen Connor

Letters

I wish to thank the Parish Council for all their hard work. The recent Annual Parish Meeting in the village hall was really interesting and informative, and the speakers were excellent. With everything going on in and around the village at the moment, it is reassuring to know that we are in such capable hands. You all work so hard, as volunteers, achieving amazing things for our village. From huge and complex tasks such as the Parish and Neighbourhood Plans, dealing with developers, implementing the new speed limit, etc to small things such as manually gritting the roads during the icy weather. It is a really difficult task and we are so lucky to have you working so hard for us, to protect and improve the village for us all.

Thank you,

Laura Woodford

Flower and Produce Show 2018

Get your creative juices flowing with this year's Flower and Produce Show. All your favourite categories are there - demonstrating the village talent that abounds in cookery, gardening, vegetable production, arts and crafts.

New sections for 2018 include some topical highlights - a flower arrangement inspired by Harry and Meghan's wedding (class 2), and a men-only football-linked arrangement (class 4). Colour coding key there, I'd say!

In cookery, jams and chutneys are joined by hummus, muffins and ginger cakes (classes 24/26/27), and photography moves into the evocative with calls for entries on the themes of winter memory and green spaces (classes 33/32). All writers seeking village fame and fortune, don't miss class 38: an acrostic poem using the word 'Villager'.

We'd love younger participants to have a go at some new creative activities - from an air-worthy paper aeroplane (class 40) or colour photo of your friend (class 42) to decorated pebbles (all the rage at the moment) and hand or foot painting.

On the admin front, Alison Hedges has now replaced Paul Chilton as our Chairman, and Helen Satchell has taken over Sally Dugan's Secretary duties. Many thanks again to Paul and Sally for their sterling work and best of luck to their successors.

Robert Seatter

Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

We would like to thank everyone who came to the Annual Parish Meeting recently. We were delighted to welcome nearly 100 villagers. We have heard that nearby villages much bigger than us struggle to get more than 10!

Fin Lewis, the Head Teacher of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell School, came to talk about how the school is getting on and it was great to hear that it is going from strength to strength. There was no missing the passion and enthusiasm in her speech for the children as well as the local and village community.

Jason Debney brought us up to date on our Neighbourhood Plan. It is the only one in South Oxfordshire that is 'made' - in other words, it is not having to be rewritten or reviewed. All the other plans, including the two that went to referendum on the same day as ours, are having to be reviewed or rewritten because they are not realistic or robust enough. This is because in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, we realised that the only way to fight off hundreds of unwanted houses was to allocate the housing that we did. Even so, the planning committee still have to remain vigilant. Although our Neighbourhood Plan is the 'biggest gun we've got', we are still not totally protected from unwanted development, mainly because we live in such an idyllic place.

Graham Gilgrass told us, hot off the press, that the playground working party, along with Lucy, the parish clerk, and Graham himself, have managed to secure the last piece of funding for the installation of the new Kings Meadow playground. It is set to start soon with hope for an autumn opening so watch this space for news of a family picnic to celebrate the opening.

Salt and grit bins

A late bout of snow caught us by surprise this year. We would like to remind you that the salt and grit bins are for any villagers to use to make the roads around their property safe. Some parish councillors spread some around the corners and hills one day and it was surprisingly fun and great exercise - you've heard of the 'green gym' (gardening), well this was the white gym!

Flooding

We had another successful example of 'people power' recently when a villager reported flooding in the centre of the village to SODC. He had several visits from officials throughout the day resulting in the gullies being cleared out and the flood gone within 24 hours of the first reporting. The Parish Council had also reported the flood without so much success, sadly.

Litter picking

We would like to thank Alison Wood, the Scouts and their teams of helpers who have been out several times recently with bags, litter pickers and hi-viz jackets to pick up litter from around the village. They did a great job, and we hope you have noticed the difference. There will be more sessions and anyone is welcome to join in so look out for posters with information.

Phone boxes

We are pleased to say that the phone boxes have been painted recently and are looking very smart. If you haven't seen the photo exhibition in the Red Phone Box Gallery by the Red Lion yet, go soon. All the photographs were taken by Brightwell-cum-Sotwell children and they are very impressive.

Village tennis courts

Remember that the tennis courts are open for anyone to use. We have recently cleaned off the moss so they are safe and have instigated a programme of regular cleaning so the moss shouldn't return. See a link on village website for information on children's coaching and club playing nights at BCSKM Tennis Club.

Defibrillators

We now have three defibrillators in the parish, one in the phone box at the top of Greenmere, one by the village hall, and one in Shillingford. We hope we don't have to use them but it's reassuring to know they are there.

Website

Lastly we are working on a new website which hopefully will be prettier and easier to access. We will let you know when it's up and running.

The Parish Council

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell WI

Next meeting on 12 June is with our very own village botanist Alison Quantrell who will be giving us advice on our gardens. Always a popular topic as many of the gardens in the village are a joy to behold. It is an **Open meeting** so do bring along a friend to take advantage of her expertise. In July, again using a village expert, we are hands on pottery with WI member Jennie Pozzoni. This is not an open meeting; note change of venue that night, at Coombe House, Sotwell Street, not the village hall.

Margaret Smith

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School

It's hard to believe that, as you read this, we have finished our penultimate term of the academic year. Up until now, our contributions to *The Villager* have avoided simply listing what we have been up to and very much focussed on the most important elements of school life, our school and wider community. I had the pleasure of presenting at the Annual Parish Meeting last month and briefly shared our path thus far and our plans for the future, but I was unable to share the detail of the incredible efforts of the staff and children there, so excuse me if I take this opportunity to share this with you all now.

The improvements shared at that meeting (from 2016, 99th percentile to 2017, 2nd percentile), have been continued this year by our Assistant Heads, Natalie Collier, Nick Brown and Jayde Patterson, over only eight months! Our teachers have accessed excellent CPD and results were immediate in some cases. Their hard work is to be recognised and we are in a strong position to approach the next few years.

An excellent education does not just involve Maths and English, and so rather than focus on just this, the children have enjoyed a full range of enrichment opportunities. Our partnership sporting events in athletics, tag rugby, football, hockey, netball, cross country and swimming across several year groups have been supported by sports clubs and specialist PE teaching in school. Musical opportunities have included class and group recorder and ukulele lessons, piano and violin tuition and 'Young Voices'. Trips to The Living Nativity at London Zoo, 'Awful Auntie' at The Oxford Playhouse, a Christmas performance at The Cornerstone for the whole school and an in-school Planetarium have supported our learning in school or simply reinforced our sense of school community belonging. Our fantastic PTA (FOBS - Friends of Brightwell School) have been incredible this year. We have already enjoyed two Movie Nights, a Spooky Disco, a Christmas Fair, a Mother's Day Tea and, of course, an Easter Egg Hunt!

The Church is an important part of our school. The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed our end of term services and the performances they have given, along with our traditional Harvest Festival at St Agatha's, whilst some of our children enjoyed the Easter Explored event at The Baptist Church. Within the wider community, it was an honour to join the Remembrance Service on Remembrance Sunday, following our own school service, and we are involved in the Oxfordshire Remembers project.

The children have benefitted from our regular contact with the residents at Sotwell Hill House, whether it is singing, doing activities alongside the residents or Scottish country dancing.

We are already excited about starting next year and welcoming a new group of children, but it is worth pausing to reflect on how well we have done this year and recognising the efforts of everyone at the school who has made a contribution to such a pleasant and successful year.

Fin Lewis, Headteacher

Save the Children

The May bank holiday sunshine really blessed Save the Children and the Bone Cancer Research Trust's joint band night and Spring Ball. The weekend raised, for each charity, £6,486.50p. This is testimony to the brilliant organising skills of Sue Butt and Corinne Jones and the amazing teams they and Angela Lewis pulled together. So many people were involved collectively and individually: back stage preparations, the bands, running the bar, the Scouts running the barbecue, the team of ladies decorating the marquee, the fairy lights, the electrics, people helping to prepare and clear up and of course the generosity of donations of raffle prizes and auction items, the list goes on and on. It would take up too much space in the *Villager* to name individually every person, business and organisation that helped make this such a successful joint venture for both of the charities.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped, contributed and who came along to support the events, we couldn't have done it without each and every one of you....what a brilliant community we live in and what fun we all had!

On 12 May the Plant Stall made a further £1,010.05p... incredible!! Thank you to all the wonderful people who grew and donated all the lovely plants.

*Celia Collett, Chairman
Save the Children Wallingford & District Branch*

Many thanks to Sue & Corrine et al from us and the **Bone Cancer Research Trust**, we were honoured to be involved in this wonderful venture and it was a pleasure to see Alex's smiling face beaming out from his BCRT Memorial Fund banners over the rec, a place he had enjoyed many happy hours of his childhood. We heartily concur with all Celia says above.

Andy Lewis, Chair of Trustees, BCRT

Community Association

Safari Supper

Thank you to everybody who supported this event. I hope that you all made some new friends. We are very grateful to our hosts for this event who were generous enough to open their homes and provide a warm welcome and wonderful food. We would like to extend our thanks to Lynn Burridge for organising this event and also Hilary Rogerson and others who helped her.

Village fete – Saturday 7 July at 2pm 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. Each activity is managed by a separate group or individual (the PCC run the teas, for example). The Community Association collects the funds from each activity, then 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.

Also, 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. This year, as it is a World Cup year, we have arranged a Football Fan Zone so that you do not have to miss out on the action.

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 Fun Run Sunday 23 September

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. More details will appear in the next *Villager*.

James Davys, Chairman

Welcome pack

The Community Association's welcome pack aims to help newcomers find their feet and provide those bits of useful information that are so difficult to accumulate. If you are new to the village, or you know of someone who is, please contact Bill Horsfield on 832041 or Lynn Burridge on 833009.



Village hall

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned the questionnaire that was enclosed in the last edition of the *Villager*. Your feedback and suggestions are being analysed by the trustees and we will report back to you as soon as possible.

In the meantime there are some points we have been able to address straight away, for example the wifi codes are now clearly displayed in the hall, there are Hall User Manuals in the hall, the kitchen and the Stewart Room which provides information to help you make the most of your booking. We are looking into other points we can follow up on in the near future and will keep you informed.

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

Annette Kilworth

St Agatha's with St James' Church

High summer in Brightwell means it is again time for our summer concert, and as written on page 16, it is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Once again it is organised by Alec McGivan with our huge thanks for all his efforts over the years. I hope the village will again turn out in great numbers for this fun and entertaining evening which could be legitimately retitled as 'Brightwell's Got Talent'! Together with our spring fair, the summer concert remains a major fundraiser for the mission and ministry of the church in the village.

However, the vast majority of our income comes from our committed regular givers and we are delighted to be able to join a new scheme whereby this can be handled far more efficiently in the future. All existing regular givers are being encouraged to sign up to the new 'Parish Giving Scheme' which allows the reclamation of Gift Aid to be automated and received into our parish accounts within a few days, thus greatly improving our cash flow. Givers have the option to link their giving to inflation so that it retains its value over time – the Direct Debit Guarantee means that any annual increase is notified in advance with the option to reject any such change – in other words, the giver remains in full control. It is also possible to give anonymously, if preferred. We hope to switch all our giving to this new method from 1 July.

Andy Lewis is taking the lead on promoting this scheme among our church members and supporters, together with administrative support from our Church Warden, Margot Shawyer. Please do get in touch with either of them (or me) if you want to help secure the church's work into the future. For example, the insurance of our Grade II* buildings cost £4,250 last year and we spent around £18,000 on the initial lime mortar repairs at St Agatha's, but there is much more maintenance work to cure the drainage and damp problems which is scheduled for this summer. We are fully committed to making sure that both St Agatha's and St James' are properly maintained as village assets for future generations and it is the regular giving from our supporters that enables us to proceed with confidence.

If you are able to support us through the summer concert, through the Parish Giving Scheme, or even via a legacy, I trust whichever method you choose is enjoyable and fulfilling, after all 'God loves a cheerful giver!' (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Wishing you a blessed summer.

Kevin
The Revd Kevin Beer, teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk, 01491 599873

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

AT THE VILLAGE FETE



SATURDAY 7 JULY, 2018



**TO BE HELD IN THE GROUNDS OF SOTWELL HOUSE,
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, OX10 0PT**

By kind permission of Jennie and David Dobbin

Entries received from 9–10.30 am. 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 4 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: Best Entry in Show. Prize: £10 voucher for the village shop.

Flower Arranging

Height is unlimited, except for miniature arrangements

1. A miniature flower arrangement. Max 4" x 4" x 4" (10cm x 10cm x 10cm)
2. A circular arrangement suitable for Harry's wedding (accessories allowed). Max 15" x 15" (38cm x 38cm)
3. A bowl of floating garden flowers
4. **MEN ONLY** An arrangement: the theme - football (accessories allowed). Max 15" x 15" (38cm x 38cm). Height unlimited

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 30.5cm)
14. Box of salad vegetables. Box not to exceed 16" x 12" (40cm x 30.5cm)
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 ramekin of hummus
25. A loaf of speciality bread
26. 4 muffins
27. A ginger cake

28. NOVICE CLASS (Open to anyone who hasn't won a baking prize in the show before): 4 pieces of shortbread

Drinks

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

Photography, Arts and Crafts

Max size – 7" x 5" (17.5cm x 12.5cm) except where otherwise stated

32. Photograph, unmounted: 'Green Spaces'
 33. Photograph, unmounted: 'Winter Memory'
 34. A set of four mounted photos, b/w or colour, on any theme
 35. Photograph, unmounted: 'Make us smile'. Amusing, with or without caption
 36. A handmade party invitation. Max size A5
 37. A hand-knitted or crocheted item
 38. An acrostic poem, using the word "Villager"
 39. Decorated pebble

9-12 year olds

40. Design and create a paper aeroplane. To be judged on air worthiness
 41. 4 homemade biscuits
 42. A colour photo of my friend

5-8 year olds

43. A flower arrangement in a jam jar
 44. Decorated pebble (no boulders please)
 45. A gingerbread man biscuit

Under fives

46. A hand or foot painting
 47. Anything you've made baking

ENTRY FORM

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

The Village Stores; The Red Lion or Alison Hedges, Bramleys, High Road.
 Queries to Hvsatchell@icloud.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:

Brightwell Remembers - June 2018



'Remembrance so that sacrifices are never forgotten'

On the morning of 9 June a small party of villagers will set off from the WW1 memorial and, over the following five days, will visit the graves of all of the villagers killed in action in the years 1914–1918. In these years, twenty-five men of the village gave their lives. The youngest was 18 years old and the oldest 37 years. Two pairs of brothers, farmers, labourers, a doorman and railway men. These men died and were buried in another country, far from their beloved families and village homes. All in the firmament of the first world war. 100 years since the end of the 'Great War', our village will remember these men.

The party will travel on this memorial tour on motor scooters (with a support vehicle), arriving in Dunkirk in the evening of 9 June, Ypres on the 10th and the Somme on the 11th. The tour will be recorded and a few moments of silent remembrance held at each grave.

The tour of these graves aims to remember these men, commemorate their sacrifice and raise money for the British Legion. Please follow us on Twitter: @brightwellreme1 and at www.brightwellremembers.com.

Eliot Forster

Here dead we lie, by A. E. Housman

*Here dead we lie
Because we did not choose
To live and shame the land
From which we sprung.*

*Life, to be sure,
Is nothing much to lose,
But young men think it is,
And we were young.*

WWI Commemorations

News from the front: Men from the village who lost their lives in May and June 1914-1918 were Leslie Howard and Elliott Wells on 4 May 1915, Ernest Edward Harvey on 16 May 1916, George White 24 May 1915 & Norman Leslie Hartwell on 31 May 1916. You can read about these men on the notice boards by the WWI commemorations in the Square during May.

In June we will be placing updates on the notice boards from the tour of the War Graves by a small group of villagers, see previous page.

Clive Collett

10th Anniversary summer concert

Tickets are now available at the village shop for this year's summer concert which takes place at St Agatha's at 7pm on Sunday 17 June. It will be our 10th Birthday and as such promises to be a little bit special. So don't miss the show!

Several regular attendees have suggested it would be good if the programme could include a few highlights from previous shows. So we've included some favourites amongst plenty of new items. For the first time ever we have the bagpipes. Meanwhile, the Barbershop Boys have doubled in size, now the Barbershop Boys and Girls; the village choir is coming together for the occasion; Gary Howarth, so memorable last year on the piano, is performing once more and there are a number of other outstanding individual musical contributions lined up, all serving to emphasise the immense talent we have in this lovely village of ours.

Those of you who have been to the summer concert over the years will know that we intersperse amongst the musical items readings, poems and one or two sketches. To assist with these this time the cast includes two vicars rather than one. In addition to Kev the Rev we welcome back the one and only Jeremy Goulston who was here when the summer concert first started. Also making a special guest appearance is Radio 4 presenter Matthew Bannister, a longstanding friend of the show.

So please join us on 17th. It promises to be quite a celebration and we would love you to be part of it!

Alec McGivan



Brightwell Art Club

Our summer term started with our usual range of interesting workshops. We have already had a still life session and advice on land and cityscapes using pastels and acrylics. We look forward to subjects such as oil painting, mixed media and collage and on the last day of term we hope to be able to paint outside.

Our paintings will again be displayed in the Red Lion in July. One of our members is also exhibiting there in June, so do come along and have a look.

In the summer holiday we will have a workshop in Jane Dix's memory thanks to a kind donation from Martin for which we are very grateful.

We are a friendly group and welcome new members including beginners as well as more experienced painters. You can find us on the village website, www.brightwellcumshotwell.co.uk under 'Local Services' (just follow the instructions), or you can email me at brightwellartclub@gmail.com for further information. You could also pop in and see us on a Saturday morning, we have coffee at about 11am.

Veronica Wood, Secretary

Brightwell Supporting Refugees

Well... we have reached the £15,000 mark in just over two years - a tremendous result and the donations come mostly from you generous villagers. Thank you!

A special thank you to Caroline Oakley and Anthony Sykes for making the Pop-Up Bistro and wine tasting such a great success. We raised £1,300 - an amazing amount considering we had limited the number of guests to 34. I should also say thank you to our four 'French' waiters who added a certain 'je ne sais quoi' to the evening.

Two young girls in our village, Bea and her sister Flo, have been very industrious selling bunches of Bea's allotment grown flowers for the refugees in Jordan we help. What a great thing to do; BSR is extremely grateful to them.

In the last month we sent out £2,400 to pay for two teachers' salaries at the Hope School in Jordan. Much needed money to help those lovely, lively children continue with their much-needed education.

On 21 April, four of the BSR trustees attended a day called 'Partnerships in Hope - Working Together for Refugees' organised by CCOW (Christian Concern for One World) where we met other organisations in our region involved with working for/with refugees, heard their stories and they heard ours. A heart-warming day.

Refugee Week runs from 20-26 June, starting with World Refugee Day on 20 June. BSR has been forging links with Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School which has taken us as their charity to support for this term. We helped raise awareness with a school assembly and fundraising is likely to follow in due course. Watch out too for further announcements about BSR events during Refugee Week.

We will have a stall at Brightfest on 9 June and the village fete on 7 July so do come along to see us there and hear more about what we do.

Ann Linton, Co-chair

Village Lunch Club

The Lunch Club has been an established part of village life since the 1980s. The idea then was (and still is) to provide an informal setting where people could get together, enjoy a meal and meet other villagers. It is open to everyone, living in the village parish and even friends and carers, numbers permitting.

We meet on a Tuesday at 12.15pm until roughly 1.30pm in the village hall. The cost of our two course, freshly made meal with tea and coffee is currently £3.50 and Christmas lunch with wine is currently £6.50.

We meet four times a year coinciding with spring, summer, autumn and Christmas. Our dates are usually in the *Villager* prior to the lunch.

Our next, our spring, lunch will be on Tuesday 5 June.

If you would like to join us please contact Jacqui Brown on 01491 836018. We look forward to seeing you.

Jacqui Brown on behalf of the team

The Environment Group

AGM

The Environment Group held its AGM on 17 March, the most interesting aspect being the talk given by Richard Oram, Oxfordshire's County Archaeologist.

Richard talked about the local archaeology with particular reference to recent work. This was put into context with previous finds etc through using a background map based on a recent aerial survey that clearly shows even slight changes in the topography. The technique (LiDAR) used for the survey employs laser light and was originally carried out by the Environment Agency to help with modelling and mapping of the flood plains. It has been invaluable however in allowing archaeologists an insight into how the land was shaped over the millennia, especially in showing the existence of low banks and ditches that can run for many kilometres. These would have formed land boundaries or tracks dating as far back as at least 3000 years.

Little Martins

The evidence showed up well during recent excavations for the development at Little Martins on the western edge of the village where parallel banks/ditches dating from the Iron and Bronze ages were revealed which could be seen to extend at least 2 km on the survey. These appeared to form part of a much wider network with possible links to the two major development sites in Wallingford (Site B or Slade End and sites off the Reading Road). The Iron age covers the period roughly 800 BC to 43AD and Bronze age 2600 BC to 700 BC.

There were not many other finds at Little Martins although there were Bronze age pits (probably for grain storage). The settlement area is thought to lie just to the south of the current development site.

Earlier village finds

Elsewhere in the village, earlier finds have included an early kiln thought to be used for drying beans and, close to the Wantage Road roundabout, a Beaker burial (so called because the graves contained a particular type of pottery shaped like a beaker) which was from the Bronze age.

One of the most interesting finds recently comes from the excavations at Slade End (Site B) where, in addition to Bronze age trackways (with ruts preserved possibly created by early wheels), and Iron age roundhouses, two parallel

rows of pits were revealed over some 380 metres towards, and roughly parallel to, the southern boundary of the site. Each was approximately 2 metres square and 2 to 3 metres deep. Several pits were excavated and although there was one burial it was thought the rest were left open, possibly as a defence. The very unusual survival of a ladder, however, made from a log in the Bronze age indicates they may also have been used for collecting water – the high water table helping preserve the timber.

The collation of all the landscape information on the maps shows just how much influence our early ancestors had on the shaping of where we live today including settlement locations and road/trackways. Richard has kindly offered to send us the information in due course so that it can be made available on the village website.

During the rest of the AGM, the use of Facebook was discussed and while the Environment Group's Facebook page has a good number of followers it was clear that the great majority of the audience that evening did not use Facebook so may miss out on events etc. We therefore agreed to use the BcS village website (which has a section for the group) to also place information about our activities.

Millennium Wood

As mentioned in previous reports we are currently developing a 10 year plan for the Millennium Wood, and would like to capture your views to inform the plan. We'd be really grateful if you could take 2 minutes to complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/W5KMYLN> which can also be found on the Environment Group and village Facebook pages.

Weather

Finally, here is a word about the weather. A total of 52.9mm of rainfall was recorded at Highlands Farm in April compared to 22.7mm in February and 85 mm (of which 13.2 mm was snow) in March. The higher than long term average rainfalls for March and April have helped address the previous drier months. I think that most people feel it has been a long winter and glad that we are now getting some hot spells with temperatures into the upper 20 deg C. As I write this we have just had what I think must be one of the very few occasions (possibly the only one) when the Bank Holiday weather comprised clear skies, little wind and hot for the three consecutive days!

Steve Capel-Davies

The Red Lion

Summer Menu: Chef Charlie is cooking some delicious seasonal dishes bringing colour to the menu with many locally sourced ingredients. Come and check out the new menus and enjoy the sunny garden.

Group BBQ bookings: For larger groups you can now book a section of the garden and order a BBQ cooked specially for you. Call and discuss the menu options.

Making the most of the garden – the Stanley Moon Trio have been playing outside on the warm evenings.

Brightfest Saturday 9 June from 1pm: Brightfest will be a fun and music packed day – make the most of it by retiring to The Red Lion and enjoy music into the evening.

Wimbledon 2018: Get in the swing with Wimbledon – matches will be shown in the bar and to fully enjoy the experience there will be strawberries & cream and Pimms, come and join us.

Support your local pub ! Telephone 01491 837373 or email mark@redlion.biz.

Samantha McGowan

The Handlebards at the Earth Trust

The Earth Trust is delighted to welcome back The HandleBards, the world's first cycling theatre company! Since 2013, their two troupes (one all-male, the other all-female) have pedalled over 6000 miles across the UK to perform their unique brand of 'charmingly chaotic, environmentally sustainable, bicycle-powered Shakespeare'.

Enjoy the girls troupe performing Romeo and Juliet on Tuesday 17 July and/or the boys performance of Twelfth Night on Friday 29 June (discounts available when booking for both plays). Bring a picnic and settle down for an evening of 'gloriously eccentric' outdoor theatre. Light refreshments will also be available.

To book, go to earthtrust.org.uk or telephone 01865 407792.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Cricket Club

Now that the sun is shining, at last the village cricket season is in full swing. The senior and junior's sections are both in action. For the first game of the season for the seniors, there was also a fine showing from the emerging juniors. Both sections are always seeking new players and our fixture list can easily be found through the village website – in the sports section. Alternatively, contact Tony Windsor (club secretary) on 07909 848098 or tonywindsor2@gmail.com. Equally, I can be contacted on 07769 670894 or eliot.r.forster@gmail.com.

There are matches throughout the summer. Please come and join us! Supporters also very welcome at the Recreation Ground on a Sunday afternoon.

Eliot Forster, BcSCC club captain

Volunteering opportunities

Could you help a child to read and change their life forever?

ARCh (Assisted Reading for Children) is a local registered charity which operates in Oxfordshire primary schools to help children who are struggling with reading. All it takes is one and a half hours twice a week during the school day as an ARCh volunteer in a primary school near you. Full training is given and we provide ongoing support and reimburse travel expenses.

To find out more, visit our website www.archoxfordshire.org.uk or telephone us on 01869 320380. The charity obtains enhanced DBS checks on all volunteers before placement. Registered Charity Number 1146276

PACT – Prison Advice and Care Trust (Formerly known as The Bourne Trust)

PACT is the national Catholic charity providing support to prisoners, people with previous convictions and their families. Our mission is to support prisoners and their families to make a fresh start and to minimise the harm that can be caused by imprisonment on people, families and communities.

We are looking for volunteers to help in our play area at HMP Huntercombe. Visits run on Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday during the afternoon. We require volunteers for 3 hours during each session. You could work as many sessions as you would like to. PACT offer ongoing support and training.

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to join our very friendly supportive team please get in touch by email: nikki.knight@prisonadvice.org.uk or call Emma O'Connor on 07712 306940.

Stag Beetle Monitoring Network

This June and July, wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is asking for families, individuals or groups of friends in Oxfordshire to help endangered stag beetles by taking part in the European Stag Beetle Monitoring Network survey. All volunteers need to do is walk 500m, six times between June and July on warm summer evenings, counting and recording any stag beetles they see. So whether you're on your evening dog walk, a post-work jog, popping to the shop or walking to your local pub, you can help! To take part please visit www.stagbeetlemonitoring.org.

In brief – round and about

Open day at Wallingford Corn Exchange Saturday 2 June 10-4pm. A chance to see behind the scenes, free tours of the building, hands-on activities, etc plus cake stall, refreshments in the foyer.

Sunday brass band concerts at the Castle Gardens: Blewbury Brass Band (3 June), Roke and Benson Brass Band (24 June), Cholsey Silver Band (15 July). All at 3-5pm.

Healthy, wealthy and wise: Dr Suzanne Bartington shares her knowledge on the 'Health Effects of Air Pollution' on 9 June, 7pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. This is a South Oxfordshire Sustainability meeting. Contact Sue Roberts at doctor.sue.roberts@gmail.com or on 07913 896 874 for more details.

Wallingford Festival of Cycling 6-8 July: A weekend of activities including Sunday afternoon racing, Pump Track, rides, fix your bike, spin studio and learn to ride a penny farthing. Go to www.wfoc.co.uk for more details and to enter events.

Family Archaeology Day at Wallingford Museum: Saturday 28 July 11am-4pm. Find the Roman skeleton, handle the cannon ball, make your own pots, search the 'smelly-feely' drawers, plenty for all the family. And from 3 June, the Museum will be open additionally on Sunday afternoons (2-5pm) - £5 season ticket for adults and free entry for accompanied children

VILLAGE DIARY

June

3	Cricket: Brightwell -v- Moreton Anniversary Cup	Rec	2pm
5	Village Lunch Club	VH	12.15pm
5	Village Stores AGM	VH	8pm
9	Brightfest	Rec	1pm
9	Brightwell Remembers group departs		
12	Open WI meeting: 'Blooming Botany' Alison Quantrell	VH	7.15pm
17	10 th Anniversary Summer Concert	St Agatha	7pm
18	Coffee link up at Root One		10am
20	Start of Refugee week		

July

	Brightwell Art Club exhibiting at the Red Lion		
7	Village fete at Sotwell House		2pm
10	WI meeting: 'Hands on Pottery' Jennie Pozzoni	Coombe House	7.15pm
16	Coffee link up at Root One		10am

Advance Notice

23 September	Community Association Fun Run
31 December	By popular demand New Year's Eve Party, VH

Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Friday 1, Thursdays 14 & 28 June 12 & 26 July
Green (& brown) bins	7 & 21 June 5 & 19 July

Village website

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