

The Villager

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

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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

Summer is just about upon us and reading through the articles you have sent in this time, it's going to be a bumper one in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. From BrightFest 15 on Saturday 13 June to the Magical Midsummer Garden Party, St Agatha's Summer Concert, the Flower and Produce Show and the Fete on 11 July, plus others in between, there is something for everyone I hope. So save the dates now – see Village Diary at back on page 24

For those who don't yet know, we are saying goodbye to our vicar, Jeremy, in June. He will be missed as Margot says below. I certainly will miss his cheerfulness, sense of fun and real care and compassion for people here in the village and in the wider world, but especially the thought provoking pieces he has written over the years in the *Villager* – is there someone out there who can carry this on I wonder?

As the excitement of the General Election passes, the Parish Election results are printed on page 7. A big thank you on behalf of the parish to all those who give service to our community in this way.

I am keeping my piece short this time as I have had a lot to squeeze in.

Helen Connor

Farewell to Jeremy

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell's vicar is leaving ! Jeremy Goulston is off to pastures new (not too far away in Uffington) and we want to thank him and wish him well for the future. Jeremy, as Team Vicar in the Wallingford Team of Anglican churches, has been with us for almost 8 years during which time he has become a familiar sight at village events – fetes and fairs, concerts and carol services; the regular church services as well as at Christmas and Easter.

Many villagers will have personal memories of Jeremy's ministry whether from home visits, a special service, weddings, baptisms or funerals – times when he came along side individuals in need to share comfort, advice and God's love to mankind. People of all ages will have come across Jeremy, whether taking an assembly at Brightwell School

or for the school children in church, at the Lunch Club, serving behind the Shop counter, at the Red Lion or walking around the village.

We would like to thank Jeremy for his pastoral care, for his approachability, friendliness and fun, and for his spiritual guidance. Jeremy's last Sunday in Brightwell is 14 June (8am at St James' and 9:30am at St Agatha's). Everyone is welcome. There will also be an opportunity for the village to enjoy a drink with Jeremy at a farewell party at 7:15pm on 12 June at St Agatha's. Please let Rosemary Greasby (836943, rosiegreasby@btinternet.com) or Margot Shawyer (826677, margotshawyer@gmail.com) know if you aim to be there.

We sincerely hope that Jeremy will be replaced, but these things take time. In the meantime, we expect the current service pattern to continue with support from clergy known to us, especially Rev Janice Chilton, and others who are available.

Margot Shawyer, Churchwarden

Letter

A big thank you to Brightwell Art Club

Having handed over the running of Brightwell Art Club to a committee of four members in March, it was a lovely surprise to receive such a big thank you from all the members at the end of the Spring term. We wanted to thank all of them for the gorgeous hydrangea and pot and very naughty chocolates that they presented to us, along with a delicious coffee cake made by Sue Hunt. It was very kind of everyone, unexpected and much appreciated. We have thoroughly enjoyed (for the most part!) our three years running the club and have made some wonderful friends and discovered a fascinating new hobby.

If anyone reading this would like to join the art club or find out more, the new committee is: Chair - Anne Honeyball, Treasurer - Sue Hunt, Secretary - Veronica Wood, Admin - Irene Lascelles. Veronica Wood can be contacted on Veron.wood@virgin.net.

Once again, our sincere thanks to everyone and we look forward to being members for many years to come.

Simon Irving and Susan Ganney

Community Association

Quiz Evening 28 March

Many congratulations to Street Wise who won this year's event, and a big thank you to Clueless Association who set a great set of challenging and entertaining questions. We are grateful to all who came and supported it, which I am pleased to say raised over a thousand pounds.

Village Fete – Saturday 11 July 2-4.30pm at Moreton House

This year's Village Fete will be in the lovely gardens of Moreton House, kindly hosted again by Jim and Madeline Sanger. 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 being managed by a separate group or individual (the PCC run the teas, for example). The Community Association collects the funds from each activity. Then we invite 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 - more details overleaf and printed 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 (bouncy castle, 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 27 September 2015

Plans are being drawn up to stage a 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 follow in the next *Villager*.

James Davys, Chairman

Flower and Produce Show at the Fete

Photographers get busy: this year we are asking for photos of blossom; a local news event (SODC fire... Didcot Cooling Towers perhaps?), plus the old favourites (a set of four photos on a theme, and something to make us laugh). In our usual retro fashion, we have sex segregation in the cookery classes: bread pudding (made by men for men!) and red velvet cake (ladies only).

In our junior classes, children are invited to produce scarecrows, or to paint pictures of one or several of our community spaces. For the Under Fives there is a class for 'my ideal garden', with half an eye to the current Allsorts garden fund-raising campaign. We welcome junior entries in the adult classes too, and the Joan Sheard Cup is awarded for the best one.

The schedule and entry form can be found in the centre pages of this edition of the *Villager*. It will also be on the village website, from where you will be able to download entry forms (one for each entrant, please). Please note we have brought forward the time for last entries to 10.30 am, to try and avoid the usual mad scramble to get the tent ready for judging at 11am. It helps us enormously if you can get your entry forms to us in advance of the show – and it helps you, too, as late entries are charged double!

We are always keen to welcome newcomers to the village, or indeed anyone who hasn't entered the show before. Please do contact me (sally.dugan@gmail.com), or any of the committee members whose names appear on the form, if you have any questions.

Sally Dugan

Parish Church

Goodbyes are never easy and this is going to be no exception. In fact, explaining to those who have known for some time that I'm moving on, and to those who have heard recently, is not proving easy. The church works in mysterious ways and whilst some vicars stay for their whole career in one place, many more have several moves in their ministry. I looked at the licence I was given to minister here by the then Bishop of Reading, Stephen Cottrell, and see that come this July, I will have been here 8 years – I don't know where it has all gone!

My licensing in Uffington Benefice (Vale of the White Horse, including four villages & their churches) is fast approaching and although it will be tempting to 'hit the ground running', I might do better to 'hit the ground praying' as Bishop Stephen would say. I like to think that friendship and prayer have kept me afloat here (mainly the prayers of others alongside mine!). May I take this opportunity to thank you all for accompanying me and offering me all your friendship, tea and occasionally something stronger.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, for a small Oxfordshire village, contains an amazing variety of people, from all walks and with all sorts of outlooks on life! Long may that continue and long may peoples' paths keep crossing for good; be that on the recreation ground for cricket, football, dogwalking etc., in the pub, shop, village hall, school and last, but not least, in the church. When I take my last Baptism here on Sunday 14 June I will rejoice both in all that this village has to offer in the way of community, and all that the church can do to meet that need too.

There is every likelihood that I will be replaced here, in some shape or form, and that the church will be enabled to carry out the work of God's Kingdom (think mustard seeds and pearls of great price) in this place for many years to come. But the C of E will only survive if people are prepared to swallow pride and work *together* – so please cut Margot and all her helpers some slack! It is over the 'hard yards' of Neighbourhood Plan, ideas around housing for all, and also with the softer cultivation of fields and friendship that 'The Kingdom' (see R.S.Thomas) is slowly built and grown. Currently Rob Frost is doing a difficult but sterling job as Chair of School Governors – please lend him and his fellow governors your prayers and support.

I couldn't have ministered here without the goodwill of this community and I ask that you keep building these bridges with one another and with the school and church for many years to come. Neither could I have ministered without the church members to help me; particularly my wardens (Olive, Roy and now Margot, and Alec & Andy as assistants) not to mention Janice, David and other friendly farmers, bellringers, Derek & choristers, Fairthorne trustees and parish councillors - I thank God for my memory of you **ALL**. You must come and visit me in Uffington where the Vicarage tea urn will be brewing for all who venture along the White Horse trail.

Blessings one and all, and, as another hitchhiker of the galaxy once wrote; '*So long and thanks for all the fish!*' With much love & prayers,

Jeremy

Parish Council Elections

Following the Parish Council Election on 7 May the following people have been duly elected to the Parish Council:

Helen Baines	Sue Booth	Celia Collett	Jason Debney
David Fox	Sarah Jackson	Alec McGivan	Sue Robson
Bob Nielsen (Shillingford Ward)			

Celia Collett did not seek re-election as District Councillor, and John Rodda, Adrian Wood and Clive Collett have all retired from the Parish Council. Our thanks to all of them for the contribution they have made over the last four years and in most cases for much longer.

Particular thanks to Graham Gillgrass who was not re-elected to the Parish Council. Over the last four years, he as much as anyone has been responsible for insuring that benches, play equipment, the tennis courts, bus shelters, telephone boxes etc have been properly looked after. His contribution will be sorely missed.

Pat Dawe and Jane Murphy were elected to the South Oxfordshire District Council.

Lucy Dalby, Parish Clerk

Blossoming Orchard



Did you walk through the orchard in April or May and see the trees in blossom? It was quite a surprise that so many trees flowered as this is their first spring and had been heavily pruned after planting in November. The early varieties, like Discovery, Grenadier and Katy,

flowered as early as 23 April which is about 10 days earlier than normal. Temperatures of -2 deg C at Benson just a few days later were a bit of a worry but hopefully frosts since then won't have damaged the blossom or setting fruit.

The orchard has been sown with a native wildflower mix and now depends on optimal weather and soil conditions to flourish. Establishing wildflower meadows in a traditional orchard is notoriously tricky, so if we aren't successful in the first season we will keep trying. It is very pleasing to see that wildflowers that once grew in the previous scrub have appeared again - violet, daffodil, bugle, wood anemone and bluebell so far. Blackberries have started to remerge in the corner by the allotments so blackberry picking will resume in the autumn.

If you haven't visited the orchard take a stroll one pleasant summer evening and see how things are progressing. It is nice to see that children have been enjoying making dens in the wild woodland next to the orchard.

Alison Bloomfield

Friendly Friday

On 1 May we held our first "Friendly Friday" tea in the Village Hall. We are offering a chance for anybody to join us between 2.30 and 4.30pm to enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and cake with friends, neighbours and new acquaintances. Remember the date - 1st Friday of every month, everyone is welcome.

Please drop in for either a quick cuppa on the way to the shop or stay longer to enjoy the cake and company; we would love to see you.

Celia Collett

Brightwell Primary School - World Book Day

On 5 March 2015, many primary schools celebrated World Book Day. Brightwell Primary School was one of the many schools included. Every pupil dressed up as their favourite book character and donated one pound. There was Tigger to The Cat in the Hat, and Mrs Bentovim dressed up as Burglar Bill!

As it was World Book Day, the Year Groups got separated into different classes! Year 6 looked at some David Melling books (the author going in that afternoon) and created their own goblins, as David Melling wrote books based on them. That year group were with Mrs Watam. Year 5 went with Mrs Bentovim (Burglar Bill) and read the book based on Bill and Betty (Bill's companion). Once they'd done that they made 'wanted' posters for their chosen burglar.

Year 4 went with Mrs Morgan and looked at Alice in Wonderland. They read the Quentin Blake version, and also described how you could tell what was going on by the pictures. Meanwhile, Year 3 were with Miss Heath, and they found out about Peter Pan. They also made stick figures of either mermaids or Peter.

Year 2 went with Mrs Murray and read Whatever Next, they also planned the sequel of the book. Year 1 did Meerkat Mayhem and drew pictures of their house and compared it with the pictures of their dream holiday house. They also cut out meerkats and stuck them on.

Reception read Otto the Book Bear and made little Ottos out of salt dough. Once they'd shown them to the school, they put them in the oven with the help of Miss Cunniappen.

Earlier that week, Worcester and Discovery (Years 4, 5 and 6) went to Ladygrove Park School, in Didcot, and met Chris Riddell (author of Goth Girl books.) There was an eventful part of the trip when a Year 6 cut her finger open. But apart from that the trip was joyful!!!

We had a lovely World Book Day, and for dressing up we raised £74.08, and £42.16 for the book sale!

Gemma Robins and Scarlet Kemp

Summer Concert - Sunday 21 June

What better way to spend the Longest Day of the year than coming in the evening to the picturesque setting of St Agatha's churchyard for a glass of Pimms and some great entertainment courtesy of your friends in the village.

That's what is on offer on SUNDAY 21 JUNE at 7pm. And it's not just music but poetry and sketches too, designed to make you laugh and send you home in good humour. One special feature this year - the concert incorporates Jeremy Goulston's farewell tour! Jeremy finishes his eight years at St Agatha's the previous weekend but has promised to come back from Uffington to be part of the show.

Tickets are £8 each (under 18s free), available from the Village Shop from the beginning of June. You can also pay at the door on the night. Tickets include a plentiful supply of Pimms and canapés.

There is a lot of talent in our village. Come and enjoy the show!

Alec McGivan

Save the Children

The House to House collection in the village raised £550.24, thanks to the efforts of our collectors and the kindness of our supporters.

The earthquake in Nepal, and the part Save the Children is playing in the relief efforts, makes it even more essential that we maintain our fundraising efforts. All the money raised is put to good use. You can find details of all Save the Children projects both here and abroad on the website or I would be happy to supply you with the information.

Many thanks,

Celia Collet

Next Village Lunch Tuesday 9 June

Village Hall, 12.15pm - Contact Jaqui 836018 or Belinda 836223.

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW



AT THE VILLAGE FETE



SATURDAY JULY 11, 2015

TO BE HELD IN THE GROUNDS OF MORETON HOUSE, OX10 0PT
By kind permission of Madeline and Jim Sanger

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 8 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

The best entry in show will be judged by popular vote. 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.	Arrangement: 'The power of pink' (accessories allowed). Max 15" x 15" (38 cm x 38 cm)
3.	A bowl of floating garden flowers.
4.	MEN ONLY An arrangement on a sporting theme. 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 home-made dip (any recipe)
25.	A loaf of bread, brown or white
26.	4 cheese scones
27.	MEN ONLY: bread pudding (4 squares)
28.	LADIES ONLY: A Red Velvet Cake (recipes on internet)

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: blossom
33.	Photograph, unmounted: a local news event
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 piece of sewing
39.	Any other handicraft

Junior Section - Exhibits should be children's unaided work	
9-12 year olds	
40.	Painting: Our Community Spaces (eg the allotments, new orchard or millennium wood)
41.	A scarecrow on a stick in a flower pot
42.	A mini pizza (max size 20 cm)
5-8 year olds	
43.	Painting: Our Community Spaces (eg the allotments, new orchard or millennium wood)
44.	A scarecrow on a stick in a flower pot
45.	A mini pizza (max size 20 cm)
Under fives	
46.	Painting: My ideal garden
47.	A vegetable or flower I have grown myself

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, 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: _____

BrightFest 15 – your local charity music festival

BrightFest 15 is back and bigger than ever – more bands, more beers, a human table football tournament and even a double decker bus! We are delighted to announce that BrightFest is back, so put Saturday 13 June in your diaries and come down and enjoy one of Oxfordshire's best charity music festivals, in your own village.

This year we are raising money for:

Save The Children – helping support children in developing countries
Style Acre - in their 20th anniversary year of supporting adults with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire

Same World, Same Chance – community-led girls school in Zambia.

We have a wide range of bands including the brilliant Invisible Vegas, their debut single Run is out now. Headlining the Acoustic stage is the wonderful Emma Lawrence, National runner up in the recent Open Mic UK Original Songwriting Competition, and her first single went straight into the Top 40 iTunes Singer/songwriter charts. We are also delighted to announce a whole host of festival favourites and new bands including; Unusual Suspects, The Brazilians, Who's Alice, Yazz, Cutwater and many more.

Away from the stage we will be organising an amazing and hugely entertaining Human Table Football Tournament. This is open to children and adults alike, so get your team together. More details to follow. We will also be having our usual Family Games event. This year, with an African theme thanks to Same World, Same Chance.

If you enjoyed the food and beer last year, you are in for a real treat. Neil Wornham and his team will be setting up their wonderful pop-up restaurant grill again and Hannah will be running her mouth watering vegetarian food stall. Save The Children will be running the tea tent.

We are delighted to announce that the Red Lion will be running their usual beer tent, but this time out of a 1967 London Routemaster Double Decker Bus! Come and have a pint and give us your best "I 'ate you Butler!"

There will be the usual array of stalls and things to do, so please come along and support this event.

Matt Allen



INSPIRING WOMEN

How quickly the year is moving on. After a fairly gentle start we went completely mad in April with the Beat Street Jive, when we attempted to rediscover our youth and dance the night away. Actually it was only for an hour but I think all present thought that that was quite enough and headed for the refreshments. There was a mix up in the booking for our March meeting and members filled the gap by very generously allowing us to display some of their creative achievements. So many skilled women. The evening was such a great success that we call on them once again for our next meeting in May to tell of their Claim to Fame. Read all about it in the August Villager when we will be competing for space with the results of the Village Fete. The WI will be hosting a stall at the fete and if you want to know more about our activities do come along and have a chat.

Our garden visit this month is to Buscot Park, Home of Lord Farringdon, weather permitting.

Some book group members went to the Corn Exchange to see Suite Francaise. The book had been read some time earlier but as extension to the reading we often take in a film that relates to something we have read. It all makes for a friendly occasion which is what the WI is all about: spending time with a good group of people.

Margaret Smith

Allsorts Pre-School

The Allsorts former lobby area has had a facelift to transform it into an area where the walnuts – the children going up to school in September – can do some activities as a special group. The aim of activities in the new literacy and numeracy room is to prepare the walnuts for school by encouraging them to think about the move and concentrating on skills such as listening to instructions and playing games, for example Kim's game. Allsorts has bought some new numeracy and literacy resources which are in the room if the children wish to use them. We are not actively teaching them numbers and letters but the option is there if they wish to do some 'mark-making', as recommended for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Natasha Fuller is leading activities, and liaising with Matt Wilkinson (next year's school reception teacher) about suitable activities. When the resources are not in use by the

walnuts, they are made available to all the children in the playroom. Pre-school children of all ages have also been over to school to do PE on a Tuesday morning, and meet Pippin reception class in the playground for a 'playdate' on a Wednesday morning.

Our topic this term is Spring, which has led to activities such as making seed collages, pond dipping, playing in the mud kitchen, arranging spring flower displays, collecting eggs, looking at the lifecycle of the chicken, and making rhubarb crumble.

Our Deputy Manager Rachael Hall has just left us (as this is written) to return to Mongewell Nursery. She has been a great addition to Allsorts, bringing new ideas and lots of fun. We are now recruiting to replace Rachael.

On the social stage, Allsorts took a turn to host the pub quiz at the Red Lion at the end of April. The pub was full, with pre-school putting up three teams, and the evening raising £300 for Allsorts. Thank you to everyone who came along, landlord Mark, and our volunteer quizmaster, Andy Lewis assisted by his wife Angela.

Another social success was when children, parents and carers gathered to watch the eclipse in our garden, and the clouds luckily parted just enough for the children to view the sun behind the moon.

Places at Allsorts are starting to fill up for next year, so if you haven't been in touch to reserve a place, please do so soon. You are also very welcome to come in and see the playroom and meet the staff. Please contact Allsorts on 826387 or email allsortsadmin@btinternet.com.

We are also always keen to welcome any local volunteers who can spare an hour to come and play with, or read to, the children.

Team Allsorts

Cranford Choral Society Concert - 13 June

The choir will perform David Fanshawe's 'African Sanctus' at St Mary's Cholsey, conducted by Chris De Sousa and accompanied by soloist Maureen Brathwaite, Backbeat Percussion and Wallingford Children's Choir. For further tickets and details, visit www.cranfordchoral.org.uk.

AFC Brightwell Youth

It has been another fun and rewarding football season for the teams of AFC Brightwell Youth. The U-12s finished as champions of their division, losing only one match in the Spring League. The U-16s finished a creditable 8th in a very competitive league, with several notable victories along the way. Both teams would welcome new players for the coming season starting in September and there will be summer tournaments for those wishing to play football in the 'close' season.

The club will be having their annual BBQ on the recreation ground at Mackney Lane on 4 July (12.00 start) and all are welcome.

We are keen to see some younger teams coming through and for this to happen it requires enthusiastic children and some committed parents. We already have a number of younger boys and girls training at 3pm on most Saturdays at the Recreation Ground and would be happy to see more come along. We offer a wealth of experience in running teams and would be there to help anyone looking to take on the management of a younger age group team for next season – we are keen to grow the club!

For more information regarding the club and any of the above, please contact the Chairman, Ian Bacon, on 07789 000499 or ian.bacon@blewburtncpartners.com



Allsorts fundraising update

Garden campaign gathers momentum

We are pleased to report that donations have started to come in for our garden fundraising campaign following our letter in last month's *Villager*. If you have already donated, thank you. If you would like to donate, please drop your donation to Larch Laps, High Road, OX10 0QR. Cheques payable to 'Allsorts Preschool (Brightwell) fundraising' or bank transfers to 08-92-99 65654132.

To find out more about our project, go to <http://www.allsortspreschool.org/40-years-of-allsorts.html> for lots of information on why we need a new play garden as well as links to the design and FAQs.

Celebrate 40 years with us

We also hope that you will be able to join us to celebrate Allsorts' 40th year at our Magical Midsummer Garden Party on 20 June from 8pm - late, in the grounds of Brightwell School. This event is jointly organised by Allsorts and FoBS (Friends of Brightwell School) to raise money for the preschool's garden and reception class playground.

The enchanting evening will include garden games, drinks, and food as well as a fantastic live music line-up from funk band, the Stanley Moon Trio (TBC at the time of writing), up and coming Wallingford based band, Who's Alice, and dancing later on. In addition to the live entertainment, admission includes welcome drinks and exquisite canapés. Drinks will be on tap at our honesty bar and there'll be a posh barbeque and pudding bar for hungry partygoers. A silent auction will also kick off later in the evening.

Tickets are £25 and available to purchase at the Village Stores and the Red Lion. Alternatively email allsortsfundraising@gmail.com and, within the village, we will deliver tickets to your door. Please do join us (and bring your friends) to what promises to be a memorable evening.

Sally Jackson

At the Red Lion in June and July

Sunday Music Nights:

- **Open Mic** - 7 June and 5 July
- **Live Music** from the Stanley Moon Trio – 28 June and 26 July
- and from singer and guitarist Al Jenkins – 14 June and 12 July
- **Jazz Jam** – 21 June and 19 July

Friday Fish Nights - 26 June and 24 July

Monday Quiz Night 29 June – in aid of Save the Children.

To find out more, ring the pub on 837373 or look at www.redlion.biz.

Hannah

Environment Group

Millennium Wood

During March and April about 1000 guards and stakes were removed from the trees, collected and carried to the entrance to the Wood by volunteers. One morning the guards were loaded into the skip that had been delivered to the site and taken away. The remaining pile of stakes is going down gradually as parishioners help themselves. A professional forest worker has been employed to thin the trees and cut and burn the brambles to open up much of the centre of the Wood which was planned as a glade. A narrow path has been made around the south side of the Wood, so a complete circuit is now possible. Parishioners are encouraged to visit the Wood which is now looking so much more attractive.

Spring Talk and General Meeting

The talk by Tom Cracknel (RWE Generation) on Didcot Power Stations and the Group's General Meeting took place on 17 March. We learned about the history of Didcot A and how the site expanded for the gas-fired Didcot B. Tom widened the talk into the UK's growing demand for power and the possibility of meeting this demand from the different sources of renewable energy. How climate was being impacted by the use of fossil fuels was considered and what this meant for the future of civilisation.

At the general meeting, the Chairman reported on the Group's activities during the year and the Treasurer on the state of the finances. The present officers and committee members were re-elected: John Rodda (Chair), Betty Price (Secretary), Trevor Wintle (Treasurer), Alison Bloomfield, Paul Chilton, David Evan-Roberts, Josie McCarthy, Annabel Rodda and Chris Hollebhone. New members of the committee would be welcome.

John Rodda

Village Shop News

To all members of the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Community Village Stores Ltd - the Annual General Meeting of the Stores will take place on Tuesday 23 June 2015 at 8pm in the Village Hall. Please come and hear about what has happened in the Shop over the last year over a glass or Shop produce. We are always keen to have your ideas.

August 2015 - look out for information about the celebrations for the 5th anniversary of Store's opening

Margot Shawyer

The Bach Centre

We don't often recruit new people, but we learned in April that our gardener, Emma Broad, is likely to be moving away from the area in the next month or two. So we will be looking for a new person to take over.

Being the Bach Centre's gardener is a little unusual. We aim to maintain the garden as a semi-wild space that is friendly to wildlife and to the plants used to make Bach remedies. Almost all of the latter are native or naturalised, and in most other gardens would be considered weeds. So while weeding is needed, our gardeners need to know what they're pulling out before they pull it... Everything is done to Soil Association standards, and "flourishing" is preferred to "neat and tidy".

Another part of Emma's job has been to show visitors and students around the garden. You may not know much about us or Dr Bach or his remedies when you start, but we'd want you to learn about us as you go, so you could pick that up too. We'd put you through our Level 1 course to get you started. For obvious reasons there is less to do in the winter; in the summer you might be in three or four times a week, for three or four hours at a time. But hours are very flexible. Pay is on an hourly basis.

It would be good to have a local person, so pop in if you are interested. Aim for a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday morning if possible so that Emma can show you round. Or send an email to me stefan@bachcentre.com.

Stefan Ball

Earth Trust - June Events

Upcycling and Natural Creations: Sunday 7 June, 10am-2pm. Drop in to give upcycling a go! Make jewellery, wallets and other useful items from 'waste' and natural materials. £4 suggested donation per child, £5 suggested donation per adult (taking part).

Heritage Skills Taster Sessions –

Woolworks: Saturday 13 June, 10am-3pm Come and try out simple spinning and weaving techniques. Discover traditional dye plants and watch natural dyeing in action.

Grassland Plants: Tuesday 30 June, 7pm-9pm: A guided walk to discover the traditional uses of wild plants.

No need to book these taster sessions, free as part of our Stepping into our Natural Heritage project, for information:

volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk or 01865 409413.

Paradise Wood Open Evening: Monday 15 June, 6pm-8pm: Paradise Wood hosts the largest genetic collection of hardwood timber trees in the country. Join our Forestry Research manager Dr Jo Clark - £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or 01865 407792.

All these events are at Little Wittenham. As always, more information can be found on our website www.earthtrust.org.uk.

*Lucy Benyon
Communications Officer*

In Brief Round and about

Honky Tonk at the Corn Exchange

If you can't dance, tap your feet, if you can't do that then move in your seat - local band The Crossfire Hurricanes will play host to guests and deliver their own uncompromising rock and pop. Friday 12 June 8pm. Fundraising event towards Corn Exchange refurbishment. Tickets £6 from Box Office, 01491 825000 or www.cornexchange.org.uk.

The 2015 Dorchester Lecture

Wednesday 24 June 7.30pm in Dorchester Abbey. Professor Roger Ainsworth will talk on 'Creative Partnerships - The Brunels, Father and Son'.

Make tracks for Wallingford's first model railway show

Sunday 21 June:, St John's Primary School, Wallingford, 10am-4.30pm. More than 15 model railway layouts Admission: adults £4, children £1.50, Family £10.

Harwell Open day

Public Open Day on **Saturday 11 July** when all the facilities at the STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory will be open, as well as partners the Diamond Light Source and the Research Complex at Harwell. Open from 9.30 am. For more details, and to register for places, go to www.opendaysatharwell.org.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Post Office

Your Post Office is open in the Village Hall Monday to Friday 09.00 to 13.00, Saturday 09.00 to 12.00. Last Collection Time at the Post Office by Royal Mail is 11.05 am. A range of postal and other services is available including home and car insurance, savings, banking, bills, health lottery tickets, travel money and travel insurance, mobile phone top-ups and fishing licenses. The full range and all the latest offers can be viewed on line at www.postoffice.co.uk or ask for a leaflet at the counter.

Royal Mail and Parcel Force

May I also remind you that both Parcel Force and Royal Mail allow you to print your own prepaid postage labels on line and bring the items to your local Post Office. Do compare prices and we still believe that Royal Mail and Parcel Force offer the best rates against other carriers.

Mike Powell

VILLAGE DIARY

June

5	Friendly Friday tea	VH	2.30pm
9	Village Lunch	VH	12.15pm
9	WI Meeting	VH	7.30pm
12	Jeremy's Farewell Drinks	St Agatha's	7.15pm
13	BrightFest 15	Rec	12 noon
20	Magical Midsummer Garden Party	Brightwell School	8.00pm
21	Summer Concert	St Agatha's	7.00pm
23	Village Shop AGM	VH	8.00pm
29	Quiz in aid of Save the Children	Red Lion	8.00pm

July

3	Friendly Friday tea	VH	2.30pm
4	AFC Brightwell Youth BBQ	Rec	12 noon
11	Village Fete	Moreton House	2 pm
13	WI Meeting	VH	7.30pm
17	Brightwell School Term Ends		

Advance Notice:

August (date TBC) Village Shop 5th Anniversary celebrations
27 September - Autumn 5K Fun Run

Refuse Collection:

 Food waste each week

Grey bins: 4 & 18 June, 2, 16 & 30 July
Green bins: 11 & 25 June, 9 & 23 July

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

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