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Chairman: Anne Brooker 835109

Editor: Helen Connor 834754 (thevillagerbcs@gmail.com)

Secretary: Gill Dexter

Treasurer: Betty Price

Advertising: Trevor Morgan 838920 Martin Dix

Assembly: Shena Luck 834543

Distribution: Keith Brooks 839044

Production: Angela Lewis, Trevor Morgan, Gerard Varley, Susanne Tuffey

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

Editorial

It's that time of year when we can sit back and enjoy the autumnal colours in our gardens but sadly the hoped for Indian summer has not materialised, though we have had a few glimpses in some warm sunny days. However, as the days shorten the colours seem to get brighter don't you think which is lovely, and from the vegetables and fruit donated to the village shop, it seems to have been a bumper harvest for many of you. There are reports that the apple crop is especially good this year so don't miss out on our Apple Day on 11 October at the Red Lion which looks like being better than ever, more information on page 5.

It's also that time when you might be thinking of starting something new to fill the long winter evenings or take up a new sport. In this issue we have a full listing in the centre pages of all the regular activities and clubs on in the village plus articles on exercise classes, youth football, a singing workshop, local orchestras, photography club, and the usual round up of events nearby. So, hopefully, there is something for everybody.

On page 6, you will find an update on the fundraising campaign to restore St Agatha's church bells – Save Our Bells. It has got off to a very good start but needs your help to keep the money coming in. Book now for the Safari Supper on 17 October which looks like being another great village event and look out for posters of other fundraising events over the next few months.

In the last issue, you may have noticed some style changes to refresh the look of the Villager and improve its readability and also give us more space to print your contributions. Next time we are hoping to introduce a change of cover to give it a more contemporary look. The design will feature seasonable images of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and to this end, I am appealing to all photographers and artists in the parish for help. If you have any good images - of village events, countryside views, landscapes, buildings or whatever - which can be reproduced well in black and white, could you send them to me at thevillagerbcs@gmail.com, as jpeg files or something similar. We will then select one for each issue in the coming year.

Helen Connor

Community Association

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 29 September 7.30pm Village Hall

As I am writing this slightly in advance a big thank you to everybody who came to the AGM of the Community Association, I will provide more details in the next edition.

5K Fun Run/Walk – Sunday 27 September 11.00 am start at the Donkey Sanctuary

If you get your Villager delivered early there may still be time to get out your running shoes and take part in this jog, power-walk or amble through our beautiful village. There are medals for all finishers and trophies for first place in various classes. A full report will follow in the next Villager. This event is open to all ages except children under five.

Fete funds' distribution

This year's Fete profits have been distributed to the following organisations in response to their requests for help with capital projects and other funding:

Brownies	- £300	Pre School Group	- £350
Allotment Group	- £300	Scouts	- £750
Environment Group	- £100	PCC	- £400
FOBS	- £250	Toddlers	- £150
Football Club	- £250	Tennis Club	- £150
WI	- £250	Bells Appeal	- £500

Christmas Concert – 11 December 7.30 pm

Andy, John and Helen are working with many of the talented people of Brightwell to put on a fun filled evening of entertainment for the whole village. Please come along and enjoy the show. Please note we have changed the day to a Friday so hopefully more children can stay for the whole evening.

James Davys, Chairman

The Shop

On the afternoon of Sunday 2 August we held a tea party to celebrate the Community Shop's 5th anniversary.

In some respects it seems only yesterday when we opened the doors for the first time...but haven't we come a long way. We are now firmly established thanks to the commitment of the past and present excellent committee members, brilliant staff, amazing volunteers and our wonderful customers. Without this community team spirit we would not be able to continue to go from strength to strength. Each and every one of us can ensure this success continues.

When we first started on this journey together in 2002 to re-instate a village shop, we knew it would be difficult. However, we did it despite the challenges and setbacks we have faced over the years.

Now we are faced with another big challenge - to find a way to keep the Post Office. I can assure you that the team is totally committed to doing everything possible to see if this can be achieved. We know how important it is to the community.

To date we have completed the Post Office application for a Post Office Local. If we successfully pass the first stage, we will work with the Post Office to see if we can find a way to maintain a Post Office service. We will keep you informed as matters progress.

Celia Collett

New Exercise Class

Starting on Wednesday 7 October from 6:45 to 7:45 is the new village Keep Fit class, featuring Body Conditioning. The exercises are designed to suit any age and ability and will focus on general fitness as well as improving coordination, strength, flexibility and stamina.

Cost: £5.00 per session or £35 for 10 consecutive sessions.
Please contact me for more details 01491 834543.

Shena Luck

Apple Day – Sunday 11 October

The Apple Day in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell is a unique event and not to be missed. Paul's giant apple display is truly spectacular, made up of over 70 different heritage varieties of apple presented in the traditional exhibition style; these are apples you might never have heard of and will certainly never see in supermarkets.

In the Pop-up Food Market you can taste over 10 varieties of apple - how about Ashmead's Kernel, Lord Lambourne, Ingrid Marie or Spartan? ... or even try Laxton's Superb, Ellison's Orange and Blenheim Orange ?

The cake tasting competition last year was a great success and very popular. Can you pick a winner? Other delicious autumn produce includes jams and chutneys made from village fruit and returning this year - Brightwell Orchards Apple Juice. Why not try before you buy?

Have you seen the press in action? From 11.00 you can watch apple juice being made and taste the juice as it flows from the press. Try each combination and see which flavour you prefer. Why not bring some of your own apples to press? Bring a bottle and take some home.

If you haven't been before this is a great family day out; children can have fun bobbing for apples and have a go at other apple games as well as help to make juice themselves.

Apple Day is very popular and so are the Red Lion Sunday lunches. It starts at 11.00 and lunches start from 12.00 to 2.30 - to book call Mark 01491 837373.

Robert Field

Save the Date – Opera in North Moreton

Date for your 2016 diary – Monday 13 June – Puccini's La Boheme will be performed at Melhuish Farm, North Moreton by the Regent's Opera Company. Black tie event. Tickets go on sale on 3 January, £55.

Save Our Bells

A great start....

The St Agatha's Bells Restoration Appeal to raise £45,000 to keep the bells ringing has got off to a very encouraging start thanks to the generosity of the Village. In just a few weeks, over £30,000 has been pledged or donated. We hope that even more of you will wish to contribute and pledge forms are available from St Agatha's and the Village Stores.

This level of funding gives us the necessary evidence of local community support to seek grants from various charitable trusts, but this can be a rather frustrating process. Trusts have many competing demands on their charitable giving and decisions can take 4-6 months or longer to emerge. Efforts will continue to be focused on local fundraising as well as approaching institutions.

Any publicity is

As I am writing this article I am told that there is a feature on the Bells Appeal in today's (1 September) Oxford Mail and Oxford TV have just telephoned and wish to film a feature on the Appeal at St Agatha's next week. We already have had good coverage on the front page of the Oxfordshire Guardian and in the Henley Standard. It all helps. Our local web wizard Myron Edwards is putting together a webpage for the Appeal, which will keep everyone up to date with progress.

Autumn Open Garden & Harvest Fayre – Sunday 27 September

By the time this issue of *The Villager* appears the Open Garden Day at Sinodun House will have passed. I am sure that, provided the weather was on our side, this will have been a great success and our sincere thanks go to Anne Elliot for offering her lovely garden and arranging all the other activities for the benefit of the Bells Appeal.

Safari Supper – Saturday 17 October

This is promising to be an exhilarating Village event, judging by the number of people already signed up to participate. There is still time to join in. Hilary Rogerson and her team are working hard on the arrangements; book now by downloading a form at village website www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk or pick one up in the Shop or at Red Lion.

Sponsored Organ Marathon – Saturday 31 October

Our redoubtable Church organist, Derek Nightingale, is undertaking a mammoth challenge on the last day of October. He is to play 50 pieces of music on St Agatha's marvellous organ by 50 different composers over a three hour period starting from 2pm. Derek says it is a "pop-in pop-out" affair rather than a three hour concert. We wish Derek well; please sponsor him - forms will be available in St Agatha's, the Village Stores and during the Safari Supper evening.

Thank you again for the tremendous support – keep it coming!

Tony Lascelles



INSPIRING WOMEN At our July meeting, a speaker from *Age UK* came along to tell us where we could obtain information and assistance if we should find ourselves in the position of being an unsupported carer. There were lots of very useful leaflets for us to study. It is good to know that there are people out there willing to give their time to help us in times of need.

Our annual garden party in August was again spoiled by inclement weather but, undaunted, we all had a great time making clay petunias and sipping Pimms in the garden of Jenny Pozzoni, our hostess for the evening. Food was provided by the members and refreshments by the committee. The rain finally blew away for us to enjoy a marvellous sunset as the evening came to a close.

The walking group took themselves off to Oxford for an audio tour following in the footsteps of radical thinkers. Maps and equipment were collected from the Oxford Playhouse. The walk was found to be enjoyable although some of the content was less exciting and thought to be inappropriate for a walk.

Our programme continued in September with an open meeting when a volunteer for *Children in Need* talked about 'Projects in Nepal'.

We now have a new web site up and running. It is still being formulated but if you want to find out more about us log on to *brightwellcumshotwellwi.com*.

Margaret Smith

Parish Church

September was a busy month for the parish churches - a special service to celebrate the Queen's long reign, Ride and Stride Day when many folk cycled or walked around this and other parishes, the Teddy Bear Drop from the church tower on behalf of Allsorts Pre-school, Harvest Festival and an Open Garden and Autumn Fayre event held in aid of the Bells Restoration project, courtesy of Anne Elliott (see page 6). It is always encouraging when the churches can be used for community events as well as for worship. Pupils, staff and parents from Brightwell School come termly to St Agatha's, which also hosts exhibitions, meetings and musical events.

Appointing our new vicar

During this time without a Team Vicar, we aim to maintain the regular pattern of services, perhaps with new faces being involved. We are fortunate to have Rev Janice Chilton living in the parish who is regularly able to lead services, and have welcomed visiting clergy as well as familiar faces occasionally moving from the pews to the front of the church to lead services!

The Brightwell PCC has prepared a profile of the parish to inform applicants to the Team Vicar post. The process of appointing the new Team Vicar now moves from the local Wallingford Team discussions on role etc to the involvement of the Bishop of Dorchester, leading to the post being advertised nationally during October.

Services

While we await the appointment of a Team Vicar, the pattern of 8am services at St James' will be: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month - no service; 2nd Sunday - Holy Communion; 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer.

Special Services coming up before Christmas include:

- All Souls' Day service - 1 November, St Agatha's at 4pm
- Remembrance Sunday - 8 November, with a parade beginning at the Red Lion at 10.30 am and the service starting at the War Memorial
- Advent Carols - 29 November, St James at 9.30 am

We look forward to welcoming you to our regular, special or seasonal services or to events held in the churches. Please let me know if you have any queries concerning baptisms, weddings, funerals or possible pastoral visits and I will pass on your requests. Margot Shawyer - 01491 826677
margotshawyer@gmail.com.

Parish Council Update

Defibrillators

All three defibrillators are now in position. One is located in the phone box at the entrance to Greenmere, a second one is outside the Village Hall and a third is at Shillingford Hill. Hopefully they will never need to be used but if you are in a position to need to use one and have not received any training do not worry. Those of us at the training at the Village Hall were relieved to know that the machine will talk you through every step.

Recreation Ground

Following reports of some frustrations regarding the locked gate to the recreation ground, it was decided that the gate to the car park will now be left open but the gate to the field will be locked and the code only available to those who need it.

Speeding

The council is looking into the feasibility of reducing the speed limit in the village to 20 mph.

Noticeboard

It has been agreed that a noticeboard should be erected at Greenmere.

Minerals and Waste Plan

The Parish Council are considering the Minerals and Waste plan and will respond in due course. Consultation ends on 30 September so any comments will have to have been made by then. Details on the consultation can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy>.

Verges, footpaths and lanes

In line with our new method of managing our verges, footpaths and lanes the Parish Council would be interested to hear from anyone who would be able to help with verge cutting.

Audit

The 2014/2015 audit is now complete and available from the Parish Clerk

Full details of the Parish Council's work and the latest on the Mineral and Waste Plan can be found on the Parish Council's website.

www.brightwellcumsotwellpc.org. Or you can go through a link on the village web site: www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk - click Community life section and Parish Council is the third one down.

Sue Robson

Save the Children - South Oxfordshire Autumn Fair

The Regal Centre, Wallingford - Saturday 31 October 10am-4pm

A prestigious Autumn Fair will be held to support the work of Save the Children, both here in the UK and overseas; all money raised will help vulnerable children. There will be many stalls catering for all tastes and pockets, a chance to shop early for Christmas for goods of high quality, variety and design.

A wide range of Save the Children Christmas cards, wrapping paper, tags etc. will be on sale. There will be a home-made cake stall with a huge variety to tickle your taste buds; also a chance to try your luck with a raffle - lovely prizes. Coffee / tea and cakes will be available. Please come and enjoy the fun and give your support to the valuable work of this charity. Entrance £3.
Contact Celia Collett 01491 835988

New Zumba Gold class

Age UK Oxfordshire is starting a new Zumba class aimed at over 50s, Thursdays (starting 17 Sept) 2-3pm at Masonic Hall, Goldsmiths Lane, Wallingford. £4. First session free.

Anna McKay

Environment Group

What weather!

Once again we seem to have missed out on a proper summer. While conditions have been really hot across the Channel, lately cloud and rain have characterised our weather. Both Angus and Rosemary each recorded a rainfall of over 50mm for the month of August; not so much by comparison with over 130mm in August 2004.

Millennium Wood

Brambles have been a pain in the centre of the Wood where they claimed much of the area designated as a glade. However, last month members of the Group armed with trimmers removed many of the offending limbs. The Wood is looking quite attractive and there are blackberries to pick as well as lots of apples.

On-going projects

Parts of St James's churchyard have been tended by the Group to reduce the fertility with the aim of encouraging the growth of some of the dormant species of plants. Disappointingly, monitoring these areas has not shown the changes that might have been expected.

Monitoring the wild flower population at the Wellsprings Pond and its surrounds has been resumed after a gap of several years.

Local and National Issues

The Group is concerned that the possible cutbacks proposed by the County Council to the recycling centres will have adverse effects, one result being a large increase in fly-tipping. There are worries that the Government's recently announced changes in its support for renewable energy will make it much more difficult to achieve the target reductions in CO2 emissions.

Autumn Talk

Butterflies will be the subject of the talk on 17 November by Richard Soulsby. It will take place at 8pm in the Village Hall. You are very welcome to attend.

John Rodda

What's On in Brightwell Village?

These are the regular daytime and evening classes and activities taking place in the Village Hall (VH), Pavilion (JP), Red Lion (RL) and Church Room (CR). For information, phone relevant contact.

Activity	Day	Times	Venue	Contact
Keep Fit	Monday & Wednesday	9.00am 6.45pm	VH	Shena Luck 01491 834543
Toddlers	Monday	10.00am	VH	Saffron 07955 608231
Brownies	Monday	6.00pm	VH	Tora Hallett 07827 239094
Badminton	Monday	8.00pm	VH	John Percival 01491 837372
Quilting	Alternate Tuesdays	9.30am	VH	Cynthia Hurley 01491 836509
Upholstery	3 Tuesdays per term		VH	Sue Gibbons 01235 764821
Bespoke French	Tuesday	7.30pm	VH	Sandrine Arnould 01491 598675
WI	Tuesday (2 nd in month)	7.45pm	VH	Anne Brooker 01491 835109
Betty Bloom Dance	Wednesday	3.30pm	VH	Kally 07785 232862
Bowls	Wednesday Thursday	7.50pm 2.00pm	VH	Cynthia Hurley 01491 836509
Tiny Tune Time	Thursday	9.30am	VH	Rosy Gardner 01235 851091
Pilates	Thursday	6.30pm	VH	Nathan Clayton 07815 735165
Art History	Friday	10.00am	VH	Sandra Grainge 01491 839166

Activity	Day	Times	Venue	Contact
Tennis Mini/Junior Tennis Coaching (Oct - March)	Friday	4.00pm	VH	Ed Nieburg 0800 888 6030
Art Club	Saturday	10.00am	VH	Veronica Wood 01491 837367

Jubilee Pavilion, Mackney Lane, Brightwell cum Sotwell

Cubs	Monday	6.00pm	JP	Anne Addison 01235 511018
Yoga	Tuesday	9.30am	JP	Sanna Ratilainen 07508 178315
Rapper Dance	Tuesday	8.00pm	JP	Angie Cole 01844 3542
Cycling Club (Didcot Phoenix CC - Sep-Mar)	Thursday	7.00pm	JP	Mike Coupar 07801 240898
Beavers	Friday	6.00pm	JP	Hilary Rogerson 01491 839960
Scouts	Friday	7.15pm	JP	Tim Scane 01235 511444

In addition at **The BCS Recreation Ground** there is:

BCS Cricket Club Senior Section		Apr –Sept Sunday PM		Tony Windsor 07909 848098
AFC Brightwell Youth Junior Football		Oct-April Sat and Sun AM		Ian Bacon 07789 000499
BCS Cricket Club Junior Section		May – July Friday Practice 6.00pm Sunday Games 10.30am		Alan Jenkins 07803 940463

Red Lion

Bespoke	Monday	11 00am	RL	Sandrine Arnould
French	Tuesday	10.30am	RL	01491 598675
	Thursday	10.00am	RL	

2015 Shoe Box Campaign

As many of you know I have been running the South Oxfordshire branch of the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Campaign for several years.

Brightwell School and many friends from the village have supported this wonderful work. Each year we have collected between five and seven thousand boxes from schools and other organizations and individuals throughout the region. Sadly, this year, because of increased transport costs and lack of funds available from Samaritan's Purse, some of us have been requested not to hire a warehouse but to use local facilities where we can obtain their use free of charge.

To this end, Brightwell Free Church has kindly offered the use of their facilities free of charge; and we will be collecting and checking our boxes in their premises during the month of November.

I would like to invite anyone who feels they can donate a portion of their time to help with checking boxes or transporting them to a bigger depot (which will probably be in Thame) to call me on 01491 201399.

In the mean time if any of you would be kind enough to knit some mittens or scarves, collect fillers e.g. soap, toothpaste, sweets, pencils etc they would be gratefully received.

This is a wonderful work and the films we have seen of needy children opening their shoe boxes and the joy on their faces is truly moving.

I would like to leave you with words from Matthew's Gospel 25 verse 40: *The king will reply "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did me."* Many thanks.

Liz Parker

Wallingford Gardening Club

The next meeting will be 'Pruning: a practical talk' Geoff Hawkins, Thursday 8 October, 7.30pm at Ridgeway Community Church. Visitors Welcome £2. On 12 November – 'Grow Organic'- a talk by Christie Leary.

The Red Lion

We will be continuing with our popular live music on Sunday evenings as well as our monthly fish night, pie nights and charity quizzes. In addition...

Halloween 31 October

Spooky dinners for kids from 5-7pm, followed by a fancy dress party for the grown ups in the evening.

Patriotic Pies

As the Rugby World Cup continues we will be offering Patriotic Pies during all home nations games, with pie and a pint for £12.50.

Additionally, there will be a special Pie Night on 18 November with a range of special new pies as well as all the old favourites

Christmas Bookings

We are now taking bookings for Christmas dinners from 1 December right through to lunch time on 24th. This year's Christmas menu is up on our website www.redlion.biz and available via e-mail on request.

What's on

In October:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sunday 4 th | - Open Mic Night |
| Sunday 11 th | - Apple Day, followed by live music, Al Jenkins |
| Sunday 18 th | - Jazz Jam |
| Friday 23 rd | - Fish night |
| Sunday 25 th | - Stanley Moon Trio |
| Monday 26 th | - Quiz for Save the Children |
| Saturday 31 st | - Halloween |

In November:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday 1 st | - Open Mic |
| Sunday 8 th | - Al Jenkins |
| Sunday 15 th | - Jazz Jam |
| Wed 18 th | - Pie Night |
| Friday 27 th | - Fish Night |
| Sunday 29 th | - Stanley Moon Trio |
| Monday 30 th | - Quiz for Oxfam |

Artist of the Month at the Red Lion

The first Artist of the Month exhibition went really well with local artist and Brightwell Art Club member, Jean Johnson exhibiting her fun, colourful landscapes and still lifes. This was followed in September by the vibrant abstract paintings of local professional artist, Lizzie Hingley. And if you missed Lizzie's work at the Red Lion, you can still see her amazing paintings on her website at www.lizziehingley.co.uk. Take a look and be inspired!

In October, another Brightwell Art Club member, Alice Auckland will be exhibiting her gorgeous still lifes in subtle palettes. Then in November, it will be professional artist and art club tutor, Victoria Squires, who produces fabulous, textured paintings and textile art. Something really different, so do go along and have a look. You might even find some early Christmas presents! And if you want to know more about Victoria Squires, you can read all about her on her website www.victoriasquires.co.uk.

In the next issue of *The Villager*, I'll give you an update of just how much The Red Lion and the artists have managed to raise from the sale of paintings. 20% of all sales go to local charities and we are really hoping to raise some money for local, good causes over the year.

Susan Ganney

AFC Brightwell Youth

The football season is back with us and the Club is keen to see if there is enough support within the village to form some younger age group teams. With this in mind, we will be holding fun and informal 1 hour training sessions at the Mackney Lane Recreation Ground throughout the season, on Saturday mornings at 10am. These will be run by Arthur Morris, a Level 2 FA coach with long experience in training all age groups of children. All children, boys and girls, in School Year Groups 1-4 are welcome, with the first session scheduled for Saturday September 19th.

The Club is now down to a single team with last year's U16s now mostly heading on into senior football, many with Wallingford Town. We wish them all well as they progress with their football and thank them for the dedication and fun they have brought to the Club over the years.

Our one remaining team, the U13s, will be competing in the Oxford Mail Youth League D Division this season, following promotion last season. This year will see a number of challenges for the team, not the least of which will be the step up to full size pitches and goals! The team have shown themselves to be adaptable in the past and with the addition of several new players, we are confident they will take the D Division in their stride. Home games are at Mackney Lane Recreation Ground on Sunday mornings at 10.30am and all positive support is welcome - you could even have a hot drink and bacon butty from the tuck shop! Fixture list on Jubilee Pavilion notice board.

We will keep you informed of progress through the season and if you have any queries or would like to get involved, please contact our Chairman, Ian Bacon on 07789 000499 or at ian.bacon@blewburtonpartners.com.

Allsorts Pre-School

Many of the children who were at Allsorts last academic year have moved across the playground to Brightwell School. It's lovely to be able to watch and chat to former pre-school children and older siblings across the fence at break time. We wish our leavers all the best and hope that Allsorts has helped prepared them for an easy transition to school.

Much of last term was dedicated to helping prepare the older children (the 'walnuts') for school. A mini classroom was set up in the playroom and children enjoyed dressing up in school uniform. We ran our literacy and numeracy programme where children could practise learning letters and numbers if they wished. The reception teacher, Matt Wilkinson, came on several visits to Allsorts, and the walnuts went on a move-up visit to school, spending time in their future classroom with Mr Wilkinson, and eating lunch at school. In the last week of term, Allsorts children took part in a joint sports day with the then reception class in the school grounds.

The children who attended Allsorts on the last Wednesday of term got a special bonus outing when the Darts (thank you very much) hosted them at their farm. The children loved travelling to the farm on the tractor and trailer, and had a wonderful tour, which included the milking parlour and some large farm vehicles.

This year at Allsorts, we have eight new starters in the first term. We are starting the term with the theme of the summer holidays, after which we will move on to looking at self-care and people who help us. The literacy and

numeracy programme for the walnuts will run all year. Nic Frost, who previously worked at Allsorts, will continue to do Tatty Bumpkin yoga with the children, and our team will take out the children on forest school excursions around the village. Visiting French teacher Florence will also come in on Thursday afternoons to teach the children French through singing, games, stories and activities.

We are a pre-school run by a voluntary committee made up of parents and community members. The current chairs are due to stand down in September 2015 and we are seeking new chair(s) and other committee members. If you may have time to volunteer on our committee, you can find out about roles on our website: www.allsortspreschool.org. If you would then like to know more, please email chair@allsortspreschool.org. We are also always grateful for volunteers who could help us with anything from building maintenance to reading to the children.

Places at Allsorts are starting to fill up for this 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.

Team Allsorts

In Brief – Round and About

Friends of St Mary's and St Leonard's Churches 'Quilting the Large Hadron Collider', illustrated talk by Kate Findlay, Sat 3 October, Wallingford Masonic Hall, 7pm. Tickets £12 including supper. Bar. Contact Sheila Findlay, 01491 836517.

Wallingford Country Market, held every Friday, Regal Centre, Wallingford 8.30 – 11.15 am. Seasonal Baking and Preserves on sale at 'Harvest Home' on Friday 2 October.

Castles of the Thames Valley: Conference at the Methodist Church Centre, St Leonard's Square, on Sat 24 October, from 9.45am to 5pm. For anyone wishing to visit the site of Wallingford Castle there will be a brief guided tour led by ^{Judy} Dewey. Booking essential, contact www.twhas.org.uk.

'What my DNA Test told me:' Writer and historian Tony Hadland returns to TWHAS with a further talk on Friday 9 October, 7.45 for 8 at Wallingford Town Hall. On Friday 13 November, the talk will be on 'Fairmile Hospital, Cholsey'

Remembrance Sunday

Rain.

Rain for Remembrance day.

Rain to mingle with tears of those remembering.

Matchstick figures against the wet road

Marching to the old familiar tunes, thinking of

Faraway days when they and their pals were young.

Poppies bright on their coats, hats, wreaths.

Bringing a warmth to the miserable November morning.

On and on they come, a tide of humanity.

Granddads, aunties, mothers, brothers, marching, marching,

Arms swinging, heads turning, remembering.

The red wreaths spread further and further on the ground.

A solitary tear rolls down her cheek as she too remembers.

Will there be an end?

Will there ever be an end to conflict, suffering, war?

For some there will never be an end.

We must be thankful, and remember.



By Margaret Smith

Calling all young singers (who would like to be life-savers)

In support of Wallingford Mayor's Defibrillator Fund to raise money to have defibrillators situated around the town (one is already outside the Old Post Office), Sue Huntigford-Ledger (who directs Wallingford Parish Choir) and Emma Parr (who directs the Wallingford Children's Choir) are holding a Singing Workshop for children aged 6-14 years at St Mary's Church on Saturday 3 October from 2-6pm. The cost will be £5 per child. Any youngster who would like to enjoy an afternoon of singing is encouraged to take part. They will be joined by junior choristers and the Children's Choir so it should be a great sound!

There will be a wide range of fun music, from Disney favourites to the Musicals and lively songs with actions. It is an opportunity to see how the choirs work and what fun they have but there is no obligation to join one of them.

At 5pm there will be a concert open to all to showcase what we have been working on. No tickets needed. Please contact Sue on doctorsue@hotmail.com to book a place for your keen young singer.

Sue Huntingford-Ledger

Local orchestras need new members

Do you or did you play an instrument when you were younger? Do you wish you still had a chance to play it now? If so, then there are two local orchestras who would love to hear from you.

The Didcot and Wallingford Orchestra meets every Monday evening at 7.30 at the Northbourne Centre, Didcot. It is a small, friendly rehearsal orchestra and in the last year have played a range of music, from Bach to modern pieces. Contact didcotandwallingfordorchestra@gmail.com or visit www.didcotorchestra.org.uk for more information.

Langtree Sinfonia meets on Wednesday evenings in Langtree School, Woodcote. It gives concerts and opportunities to enjoy music making with an annual workshop together with a patrons evening of music and socialising. Anyone interested can contact Nick Kiff on 01491 833515 or nick.kiff@tesco.net. For more information see www.langtreesinfonia.co.uk.

The Bach Centre

We often explain to visitors that the Bach Centre is both small and large. Small, in that just a few people work here, while the house itself is a two-up, two-down cottage with few additions. Large, in that remedies made here go all over the world; and that we have lots of people associated with us, in lots of countries.

One way to measure the latter point - the size of the network of people - is to look at where the practitioners on our Register live and work. We did a bit of number-crunching recently to find out. The country with the largest number turned out to be France, with 323 currently registered practitioners. England was in second place with 309, closely followed by Japan with 305. The next-most populous country for BFRPs was Italy (204), then came Argentina (185), the USA (179) and Brazil (157). In terms of continents, Europe had twice as many registered practitioners (1560) as the next largest continent, the Americas (769).

At the other end of the chart quite a few countries - from Estonia and Poland, to Bolivia and South Korea - have just one BFRP each. Africa as a whole had just 10 practitioners. One of the constraints on Bach remedies is that they are usually preserved in alcohol, and that causes a problem in countries where religious beliefs make its use problematic. So the presence of the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Indonesia on the "just one" list was to be expected - alcohol-free remedies are not very widely available.

BFRPs are people who have done all three levels of training and in addition sign a Code of Practice to say they will work with the remedies in the way Dr Bach wanted - that is, using a very simple approach that focuses on self-help and teaching the system to clients. So they are a self-selected group. Many people just do one or two courses and are happy to use the remedies at home. Some train to practitioner level but want to work in a different way. So a better measure of scale might be to look at the courses we have run and approved since 1991. A calculation on that basis says that around 100,000 students have attended a Bach Centre-approved course somewhere in the world over the last 24 years, many of them travelling to Brightwell-cum-Sotwell to attend classes at the Centre itself. Talking of which, we have four more courses running this month!

Stefan Ball

Clifton Hampden Surgery Patient Group

The overall response to a patient questionnaire sent out last Autumn was extremely positive with well over 80% of respondents rating their experience of the surgery and their GP as good.

Following some generous local donations, a defibrillator is available for emergency use at the entrance to the Surgery as well as a 24 hour heart monitor to pick up infrequent but potentially serious arrhythmias. Additional meningitis vaccinations are being made available for children and infants; patients with raised blood sugar levels are being invited for further diabetes tests; 20% of patients per year in the 40-74 age range are being offered general health checks.

To hear about meetings or register for Group emails including the full bi-annual newsletter at the Surgery, contacting Roger Mitchell (Group Secretary) at rogermmit@aol.com.

Interested in Photography?

The Wallingford Photographic Club meets every Thursday. This is a very sociable group and new members are welcome regardless of whether you have just started your hobby, or have more advanced skills. There are several members from the village. The Programme includes members activity and discussion evenings, visiting speakers and competitions. Full details can be found on the WPC web site. www.wallingfordphoto.club.

Eric Dore

Brightwell's Bright Young Things

Congratulations to Anais Arnould who won a SODC Sports award for Ice Dance. She was one of 60 young people given awards to mark their accomplishments in art, sport and citizenship this summer. Recently, Anais was placed 4th at the British Solo Dance Championships.

If you know of any other bright young things in Brightwell please let me know so we can give them a well deserved pat on the back. Send details to thevillagerbcs@gmail.com.

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Post Office

Your Post Office is open in the Stewart Room of the Village Hall from Monday to Friday 09.00 to 13.00, Saturday 09.00 to 12.00. The Last Collection Time at the Post Office by Royal Mail is 11.05 am. For the full range of facilities available go to www.postoffice.co.uk. In brief they are:

Royal Mail Parcels: Second class parcels are only £2.80 for up to 4 times a Shoe Box size and first class £3.30, again for up to 4 times a Shoe Box size. Come and see the template. This does represent very good value for money.

Royal Mail Letters: Most UK letters both Large and Normal size are up to 100grms before the cost increases. For second class, prices are 54p and 74p.

Royal Mail Guaranteed Next Day Delivery: Gives compensation up to £500.00 and the first price starts at £6.45.

Royal Mail Signed For are available on both Normal Letters, Large Letters and Parcels and can be First and Second class with prices starting at £1.64.

Travel Insurance from as little as £2.05 a day, for UK and anywhere abroad. Can be purchased over the counter at your local Post Office.

Euros available over the counter at your local Post Office. Special rates for over £500.00. Other Currencies can be obtained within 24 hours.

Travel Money Card Plus available in most major currencies with your name and can be used like a Credit Card but with no charges. UK Sterling Cards also available again for use like a Credit Card. Both can be Topped Up.

National Express Coach Tickets available over the counter.

Banking and Bill Paying: All Cheques and Cash can be paid in and Cash withdrawn for almost all major Banks from the Post Office Counter PIN PAD. American Express and Contactless Transactions also available. Cash can also be drawn from Nationwide.

Other services available at your local Post Office are Fishing Licences, Mobile Phone Top Up, ITune Cards, International Phone Cards and The Health Lottery. There are also leaflets available on Post Office Savings products, Broadband and telephone special new offers, and Insurance. The Growth Rate Bond has just gone up. Take advantage of these by calling in.

Mike Powell

VILLAGE DIARY

October

2	Friday Friendly Teas	StR VH	2-4pm
3	Children's Singing Workshop	St Mary's	2pm
6	Quilting Group	VH	9.30am
	WI	VH	7.30pm
	Apple Day	Red Lion	11am
20	Quilting Group	VH	9.30am
26	Save The Children Quiz	Red Lion	8pm
31	Halloween Party (Kids / Adults)	Red Lion	5pm
31	Sponsored Organ Marathon (Save Our Bells)	St Agatha	2-5pm
31	Save the Children Autumn Fair	Regal C	10-4pm

November

3	Quilting Group	VH	9.30am
6	Friday Friendly Teas	St R VH	2-4pm
8	Remembrance Sunday (with parade - Red Lion)	St Agatha	10.30am
10	WI	VH	7.30pm
17	Quilting Group	VH	9.30am
	Environment Group Autumn Talk - Butterflies	VH	8pm
29	Advent Carols	St James	9.30am
30	Oxfam Quiz	Red Lion	8pm

(Other Red Lion dates on page 15)

Advance Notice

4 December	Friday Friendly Teas	Stewart Room, VH
5 December	Art Club Exhibition,	VH
11 December	Christmas Concert	VH

Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	8 & 22 October	5 & 19 November
Green (& brown) bins	1, 15 & 29 October	Extra brown bin waste 15th 12 & 26 November

Village website

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