

## Contents

Editorial	2
Open Gardens	3
Community Association / <i>The Villager</i> AGM	4
Save the Children / Potato Barn Dance	5
Parish Council / Village Lunch Club	6
BcS Primary School	7
Flower & Produce Show	8-9
The Vicar writes ....	9-10
Allsorts Preschool	10
Flower & Produce Show information	11
Flower & Produce Show schedule	12-13
Flower & Produce Show entry form	14
Jordan March 2019	15-16
Update from Brightwell Supporting Refugees	16
Poem 'Hope' / Tennis news / Skills put to good use	17
Report from the Environment Group	18
Summer Concert / Brightfest 19 / The Jubilee Pavilion	19
Stewart Village Hall / Cinema Premiere at the village hall	20
Earth Trust	21
Climate Commentary	22
BcS WI / Calling all golfers of any standard!	23
Village diary	24

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

## Editorial

It is lovely to receive so many notices and articles for *The Villager*. It clearly demonstrates its value as an important means of communication across the *whole* community, and also that the printed text is still a viable channel of communication in our internet age. This month however, has been trickier than usual as so much has come in. So apologies, if it looks a little more crowded this time and if I had to trim your piece a little or refuse a late request due to lack of space.

A lot is going on in June in the village as you will see in the pages that follow on the various events. Most are raising money for organisations or facilities in the village or charities, so it's about having fun *and* helping good causes. Firstly, there is Brightfest (on the 8<sup>th</sup>) and Open Gardens day (the 9<sup>th</sup>), then there is the Midsummer Mayhem weekend (21-23<sup>rd</sup>), followed the next week by the village fete and flower and produce show (29<sup>th</sup>) and the summer concert (30<sup>th</sup>), plus there are some special church services both in June and July. Phew!

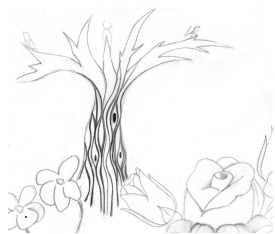
As usual in this issue, our middle pages are given over to the schedule and entry form for the Flower & Produce Show, which takes place at the village fete on 29 June from 2pm. Do visit the show tent at the fete and I would encourage everyone to have a go at entering something. The first year we came to the village I did, and won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for my redcurrants which was very surprising and exciting as I had never done anything like that before. The committee who run the Flower and Produce Show could do with more help (see page 9) and there are requests also for volunteers from other organisations in their articles here, including from the Community Association to help at the fete; Allsorts preschool; the management of the village hall; and at the Earth Trust. If you have some spare time and feel you could help any of them, please get in touch with the organisers.

There have been other interesting and varied events recently in our village hall. Our cover picture is taken from villager Mette Gauguin's talk last Friday night about her great-grandfather, Paul Gauguin, which was fascinating. It made use of the new projection and sound equipment, which is now of cinema style quality. More details of using it and a possible film club are on page 20. A big thank you to Chris Baines and John Burdass for their expertise and time spent putting it in.

That's all for now folks. Happy summer – and I hope the sun continues to shine like last year.

*Helen Connor*

## Open Gardens 2019 – an event for the whole community



Fourteen stunning gardens in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell will be open to visitors on Sunday 9 June (2-5pm) alongside a programme of activities designed to cater for everyone in the community. Money raised will be ploughed back into the village going towards new equipment for the recreation ground to help turn it into a community hub.

It's been three years since Brightwell-cum-Sotwell's gardens opened en masse, and in 2019 there will be new additions alongside some old favourites. As well as the gardens being open to peruse at leisure, the programme will include family activities, musical interludes, gardening demonstrations, talks and advice.

If you've got a gardening conundrum to solve, come along to our very own gardeners' question time where local experts will form a helpful panel. Keen gardeners will also be able to dip into gardening talks and demonstrations, which will cover topics including creating borders for a changing climate, tool maintenance, and fruit tree grafting. In other gardens, the owners will be on hand for a more informal chat.

As families wind their way round the gardens, children will be able to take part in the bird search, seeking out feathery friends hidden in the trees to win a prize. Two gardens are likely to be of particular interest to families: the local pre-school where children can do some planting or play outdoors; and a Sotwell garden offering tea, home-made cake (courtesy of the WI) and family activities – sandpits, story-telling, and face-painting.

St Agatha's Church will also be serving home-made cakes and refreshments, while another garden will specialise in offering a summery tippie of Pimm's.

A passport and map to visit all the open gardens (adults £5, children free, bird search £1) can be picked up at any of the participating gardens. The programme will be published online in advance of the day, so you can tailor how you spend the afternoon to suit your interests.

For the full programme, updates and timings, visit [www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk](http://www.brightwellcumsotwell.co.uk) and follow the links from the events calendar (June), visit the Facebook page 'Brightwell-cum-Sotwell open gardens 2019' or Twitter @BcSOpenGardens.

*Helen Wilcox*

## Community Association

### Safari Supper

A thank you to everybody who supported this event; I hope that you all made some new friends. We are very grateful to our hosts that were generous enough to open their homes and provide a warm welcome and wonderful food. We would like to extend our thanks to Lynn, Hilary and their team for organising this event.

### Village fete – Saturday 29 June, 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. Each activity is managed by a separate group or individual (the PCC run the teas, for example). The Community Association (CA) collects the funds from each activity. Then the CA invites groups to submit requests for grants from our coffers (which usually includes other money we have collected at events during the year). We are always looking for volunteers to help with the set up before this event, which is one of the highpoints in the Brightwell calendar.

Look out for the schedule and entry forms for the Flower & Produce Show on pages 11-14 of this *Villager*. The show appeals to all ages, of course, and we try to ensure the fete always has a good balance of activities. As well as the tried and tested stalls and games (the white elephant stall, coconut shies, teas, tombola, books, brass band etc) look out for something different.

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

*James Davys, Chairman*

### The Villager AGM

All are welcome to *The Villager* Annual General Meeting, to be held in the Stewart Room at the village hall on Wednesday 26 June at 8pm.

## Save the Children

The Midsummer Mayhem weekend 21-23 June is fast approaching. On Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, Save the Children is running the bar at the 'Potato Barn Dance'. The following day, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, on the Recreation Ground, 1.30 to 6.30pm, will be our major event to celebrate 100 years of Save the Children's work to help improve the lives of children in the UK and across the world. Here is a flavour of the many events:

a wheelbarrow race, 5 a side football, Tug of War, dog show, jewellery making, pony rides, chickens and ducks, a special appearance by some new 'muppets' and lots, lots more for all ages. Plus, a vintage tea tent where you can enjoy a cup of tea and cakes or maybe enjoy a glass of fizz or a beer instead, and the Earth Trust is joining us with a stand.

Also, we have been extremely lucky and grateful to the Shellfish Cow for agreeing to provide the food stand (see their message below).

*"Shellfish Cow Restaurant & Bar in Wallingford are honoured and delighted to have been asked to provide a food stand for such an important and prestigious event celebrating Save The Children's 100th Anniversary, especially so as our roots remain firmly planted in BcS. We'll be searing some Devon scallops, flipping homemade beef burgers, wild boar hot dogs, veggie kebabs and Marshfield's brilliant ice creams. We'll be keeping our 'claws' crossed for sunshine and hope that we can help to raise lots of much needed money on the day"*

Please join us, and enjoy the events and all the delicious food.

*Celia Collett*

P.S. The Plant Stall raised £1057.20p, thank you to all the lovely people that grew the plants and all those that came along and supported us.

## Potato Barn Dance

Don't miss out on the hottest tickets in town now on sale at the Village Stores – the Potato Barn Dance at 8pm on midsummer's day at Highlands Farm – with the Antlers ceilidh band, who wowed us at our Wassail Dance.

*Jason Debney*

## Parish Council

This month saw a change in the Parish Council. David Fox and Alec McGivan resigned and Janet Harding and James Davys have both joined the council. David Fox has been a councillor for 8 years, working exceptionally hard both in the finance and planning areas. We will miss his experience and expertise in both. Alec has been a regular and diligent councillor for 4 years; he has been particularly efficient at completing the playground checks, which each councillor performs each week. This is an important role as it has health and safety implications. We thank them both for their service. They are big shoes to fill but I'm sure Janet and James are up to the job.

We were delighted to see so many villagers at our Annual Parish meeting recently. Most villages do not get many attendees at all so we feel pleased that we live in such a supportive village. (Of course it may be just the Brightwell wine that brings folk along! Thank you Bob of Brightwell Wines). Thanks must go to Annette Kilworth for showing us how the new village hall online booking system works and to Robert Field for going through the challenges faced by the village hall trustees regarding the fabric of the building. Tony Windsor also outlined some of the difficulties the Brightwell youth football teams are having with volunteers and we believe a volunteer was found from the audience so that is a great result.

We continue to plan and fund raise for the Mackney Lane play and gym equipment. Hopefully, lots of people will come and enjoy the Open Gardens afternoon on 9 June, and there are plans for our resident personal fitness trainer, David Harrison, to do a mass get-fit fundraiser soon. Look out for adverts for this. We have postponed the treasure hunt until September because there is so much going on in the village we couldn't fit it in.

Despite the 20 mph speed limit in most of the village, there are still people travelling too fast. It's a sobering statistic that hit by a car at 40mph, 9 out of 10 pedestrians will be killed, hit at 30mph about half of pedestrians will be killed but hit at 20 mph, 9 out of 10 pedestrians will survive. Thank you Derek Brooker for this.

## Village Lunch Club

The next village lunch will be on Tuesday 18 June at 12.15pm in the village hall, and the following one on Tuesday 10 September. If you would like to come, please contact Jaqui Brown (01491 836018).

# Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Primary School

Time flies when you are having fun!

Where is the year going? As we approach Term 6, the excitement is building for our newest families as transition events take place ahead of them joining our Pippin Class in September. I am delighted to say that our applications for school places into Foundation Stage are at their highest in years and we can't wait for them to join our special community.

Term 6 also sees the culmination of lots of hard work by the children and staff alike and it is a pleasure seeing it 'all coming together' in everything the children do. I have included one such example. I do hope you enjoy the piece of writing below, as much as we did – a piece of 'flashback writing' by Maia in Year 6.

## ***The Sword in the Stone***

*As Arthur slowly trudged across the frozen ground path, he felt a hundred pairs of eyes filled with wonder and disbelief gaping and gawping at him. Swiftly, he glanced at a tall, bearded man standing behind the stone anvil. A familiar, magical aroma seemed to be leaking from him.*

*Arthur was filled with a flurry of emotions. Anxiety. What was going to happen to him? And confusion. What was even happening? The frostbitten church clock stiffly chimed three o'clock. The festivities were supposed to be starting now. However, everyone was here therefore they did not. Other than the rusty church clock, the graveyard was silent. The serenity sent shivers up his spine. His hands trembled. His breathing quickened. It was deathly silent. Just like the forest when all this madness started.....*

\*\*\*\*

*".....and don't be late!" The torrential voice of Arthur's brother Kay was still ringing in his ears after thirty minutes. "Uurrghhh," Arthur muttered. "Why does Kay get to be the knight and I have to be his stupid squire?" Oblivious to all around him, Arthur kicked a rock and sent a flock of birds squawking and screaming away. Suddenly, Arthur stopped dead. Kay's sword! How could he have forgotten? He'd been so caught up in his own anger, he had totally forgotten! Breaking into a run, Arthur sprinted this way and that, pointlessly hoping to find his way back. But no. He was lost. Sinking down to his knees, Arthur gave up all hope. But then he saw it. A shimmering glint of light. "I wonder what that is?" he asked himself. Slowly Arthur pushed away the leaves. And there it was.....*

Have a look at our Facebook page to see more of what is going on at Brightwell Primary School.

*Fin Lewis, Headteacher*

# Village Flower & Produce Show

## **.... it's time to get producing**

Yes, it's that time of year again – Saturday, 29 June is the Village Flower & Produce Show, to be held in the grounds of Moreton House (with huge thanks as ever to our generous hosts, Madeline and Jim Sanger).

It's THE opportunity for everyone to get producing, flourishing, creating – whether it's in the garden/allotment, in the kitchen, or in the arts and crafts room. And whether you are 8 or 80, it makes no difference, the important thing is to have a go. All the past popular sections are back, from a vase of cottage garden favourites to a jar of chutney, from a box of salad vegetables to a loaf of speciality bread.

## **New for 2019**

But we've added in some new awards/category entries this year:

- There is a brand new cup named in honour of Sally Dugan for the best entry in the creative writing section.
- 2019 is the 50th anniversary of men landing on the moon, so we've included a new moon-inspired flower arrangement
- cookery expands to feature a named dip, 4 matching canapes and a swiss roll (not roulade!), so get cooking
- photography takes on the big theme of climate change, as well as a focus on simple beauty – a single flower, and everyone can have a go at designing a postcard!
- creative writing gets more and more creative this year: we'd like your 500-word telephone-inspired stories for the Red Box Gallery, riddle poems to get everyone guessing, and some tip-top journalism for the next issue of *The Villager*
- Plus there's lots more for younger villagers to do, from vegetable mini monsters to lollipop models.

Children can enter ANY of the categories, so not just those which are defined as for children.

The full schedule and entry forms are in the middle pages of this *Villager*.

Just a final reminder to past winners to please surrender your cups and trophies from last year's show, so we can give them an extra polish for this year before the grand podium moment.

## Help!

Also, these events take a huge amount of effort and organisation, so if you would like to help in any way – it's fun too, I can attest! – then do please contact on [HVSatchell@hotmail.com](mailto:HVSatchell@hotmail.com).

*Helen Satchell*

## The Vicar writes...

The main summer festival in the church year falls on **Sunday 9 June** when we celebrate the third person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit at the festival called *Pentecost* (because it comes 50 days after the original Passover of Easter). It is also known as *Whitsun* from White Sunday as it is traditionally a time of baptism when the baptism candidates would wear white robes, hence the white Christening gowns for infants. The original events of *Pentecost* are recorded in chapter 2 of Acts when 3,000 people came forward for baptism in response to witnessing the effects of the Holy Spirit giving confidence to the disciples to publicly proclaim the Good News of Jesus – disciples who would have been totally dejected and disbanded if their leader had not risen from the tomb! Baptism for both adults and children continues to be the point of entry into the church which is why the font is usually near the door. I'm not sure if I could cope with 3,000 Christenings on the same day, but I welcome all enquiries!

High summer continues the joyful, celebratory theme with our Summer Concert (7pm on **Sunday 30 June**). This year the extended choir will sing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah* and anyone who wants to join us for this and the other pieces will be most welcome – contact Anthony Finn ([anthony@emroka.com](mailto:anthony@emroka.com)) to get involved; alternatively call Alec McGivan (07970 237083) if you would like to offer an alternative artistic or comedic performance (in the broadest sense!).

We also have a special 'water-themed' service at **9.30am on Sunday 23 June at Wellsprings**. Our junior choir will be singing as we celebrate the gift of life-giving water, the source of which gives Brightwell its identity. We invite the whole village to join in this open-air celebration.

Then, for our Family Service on **Sunday 7 July at 4pm** it will be the 'Pet Service' when we celebrate God's creation with the animals who teach us about love and care for all life, so bring your pet(s) for a blessing as we give thanks for all they give us.

Note that we join the rest of the Wallingford Team on **Sunday 21 July** to celebrate the Patronal Festival of St Mary Magdalene's Church in Crowmarsh at 11am, which replaces the 9.30am service at St Agatha's that day; then on **Sunday 28 July** we celebrate St James' Patronal Festival with a Family Communion Service at St James' at 9.30am which will combine our 8am and 9.30am congregations. Blessings,

*Rev Kev*

## Allsorts Preschool

The green of the leaves, the smell of the blossom, the tickle of the grass, the warmth of the sunshine, the sound of the birds, and the taste of the rain, are what our little ones are experiencing this spring. We have made May Day posies, created tree goblins, rolled down hills, sailed leaves down the stream, collected sticks for nests, and searched for signs of spring. The children continue to enjoy our beautiful village thanks to our volunteers for enabling us to take the children on their adventures safely. We are looking forward to the summer months when we can enjoy an ice pop from the village stores and see what people are growing in their allotments.

Brightwell watch out! The preschool has been over-run with super heroes in recent weeks, with many special powers. We have explored how super heroes can help others, play safely, share, be kind, but ultimately how to save the day from terrible disasters. As part of this, they learned about how to be a super hero in our environment and who our real-life heroes are.

We have also enjoyed a term of fairy tales, which the children still like to re-enact using various props. Our climbing frame became the bed for Goldilocks and we made a giant beanstalk for Jack to climb. The children learn so much from stories and we invite you to contact us to come and read books to the children. We read them all over the preschool: in the garden, on the decking, on mats, on cushions, on walls, on hills, at the table, anywhere and everywhere. They would love some new faces to read to them so please do visit.

## Help needed!

Do you have any previous experience in accounting or financial management? Would you like to help your local preschool a couple of hours a week? Please get in touch if you are interested, email us at [chair@allsortspreschool.org](mailto:chair@allsortspreschool.org).

*Charlotte Todd*

# **BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW**

**AT THE VILLAGE FETE**



**SATURDAY 29 JUNE 2019**



**TO BE HELD IN THE GROUNDS OF MORETON HOUSE,  
High Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, OX10 0PX**

**by kind permission of Madeline and Jim Sanger**

Entries received from 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 6pm on Tuesday 25 June 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 Sally Dugan Cup** is awarded for the best entry in the creative writing section.

## **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 bowl of floating garden flowers
3. An arrangement – the theme – Moon (celebrating 50 years since the first landing) (accessories allowed). Max 18" x 18" (45cm x 45cm). Height unlimited

### **Flowers and Vegetables**

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

### **Cookery**

20. A jar of chutney – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
21. A jar of marmalade – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
22. A jar of any jam including jellies – min. weight 12 oz (350g)
23. A named dip
24. A loaf of speciality bread
25. 4 matching canapés



## Jordan March 2019

It was with unaccustomed trepidation that I set off to Amman for a few days to visit my young cousin Bella. It wasn't the flight, nor was it the worry that I don't speak Arabic as Bella is proficient, but that I was following in the footsteps, almost literally, of my fellow Brightwell Supporting Refugees (BSR) supporters, 16 months on. I felt responsible for getting to Azraq, east of Amman, in the stony desert, midway between the Syrian and the Saudi border, and for finding the school and seeing its new building. I also wanted to visit Hope Centre, which is in the opposite direction in a suburb of Amman and to deliver cash for the teachers' salaries there.

I need not have worried. The Jordanians are so hospitable and welcoming. Owais came to pick us up early on my first day in Amman, and drove us to Azraq in his car. His English is fluent and he is a much travelled young musician. He volunteers two days a week in Azraq and is clearly much loved and respected by the children who mobbed him when we arrived at school. There was a very cold wind, but it was sunny, and the children were outside when we arrived. Break was soon over and we followed the children into their classroom, still in their warm jackets, and observed the English lesson. We were accepted easily and we tried to make a useful contribution to the lesson.

The children were encouraged, respected and rewarded for their efforts with stickers given by their teacher, and we had lots of laughs. The staff explained to us that the children had become much more settled over the last year. Predictable surroundings, regular meals, warm clothes and music had all contributed to their mood and therefore their ability to learn. Many children showed us their drawings, which they had completed during break time.

We saw the nursery class, warm and safe, but with few stimulating toys. We could hear the jets taking off from the Jordanian Air Force Base just nearby from inside the nursery portacabin, not ideal. One good aspect however is that the Air Force Medics visit the school and offer a free service to the children.

I was very struck by the talented and dedicated teachers at Azraq – and the amount of kind, and professional effort they put in.

The next day I was with Father Hassan, who runs Hope Centre. Via his family home and a lavish breakfast, I went to visit the school which is housed in what had been Father Hassan's home. The classrooms are small and cosy and the atmosphere nurturing. Food is prepared daily on the premises. The children are bussed in from the surrounding area. They were very focused, quiet and working away when we arrived. We gave the letters from Brightwell School,

and they were clearly pleased to receive the cards and drawings. Hope Centre offers music, violin, and singing, indoor games and has an outside play area. There is a women's sewing project at the centre making beautiful bags for sale. Many of the adults working at Hope are refugees from Syria and Iraq. They were all delightful and determined to do the best they could for the children and their families. It was wonderful to see such happy children, recovering enough to attend lessons and with energy to rush about like children do everywhere!

We must certainly 'be in it for the long haul', to quote Sally Dugan, and continue to raise funds so that the teachers can continue to work at Azraq and Hope Schools, enabling the children to reach their full potential.

*Jane Hawker*

## Update from Brightwell Supporting Refugees

It was so good that Jane could see at first hand the progress being made with refugee children at the schools we have been supporting with your generous donations. Last year we raised just over £7,500 bringing our total fundraising since inception in 2016 to an amazing £20,000. Our 'Meet the Author' event in March, when Emily Dugan spoke about her book 'Finding Home', raised over £700. Wallingford school Fun Run with a Ninja warrior competition raised another £1000 plus £132 from the BSR cake stall. The Run was very professionally organised by the school officers who also went into all the classes in the school to raise awareness about refugees – very impressive.

Jane's visit to Amman and also an earlier visit she made to the Rhino refugee camp on the Uganda/Sudan border (you can read more on this in the next *Villager*) has shown where our funds could go next, for example: on more books, food for the children at school, bus transport to Hope school, latrines at Rhino. We are currently discussing priorities with our on-the-ground contacts in Jordan and Uganda.

### **Tea tent at Brightfest**

A call for more cakes! BSR will be running the tea tent at Brightfest on Saturday 8 June. This is a very well attended event so we need lots. If you can contribute a cake, flapjacks, brownies or whatever, please contact Angela Lewis on 825680 or [emailbrightwellrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:emailbrightwellrefugees@gmail.com). We can collect from you nearer the time, or in advance to freeze if that suited you better.

*Ann Linton and Helen Connor (co-chairs, BSR)*



## Hope

*Hope may be small, the flicker of a flame  
It looks too shy to even bear its name  
But do beware, rely not on your sight  
Even the smallest flame displays the light.*

*Don't quench but guard and whisper into  
being  
Within yourself and others, you'll be seeing  
How hope ignites the inkling of a smile  
And proves itself extremely versatile.*

*This hope may be about a future dream  
An earthly hope for an Olympic team  
A wish you cherish, something you will do  
Aspire to be and aim to see it through*

*Or greater still, a hope past time and space  
A change of heart within the human race  
Whose onset lies in life beyond the veil  
And hope's the anchor to this Holy Grail*

*Hope can turn over mainstays like a storm  
You may feel lonely but she keeps you warm  
She still remains with you when others leave  
She be your riches! Boast in her! Believe!*

*Let hope prevail, she gives more than she takes  
She is our light before the morning breaks.  
Is still the world around you deaf and dark?  
Let hope prevail. And faith to feed each spark.*

(This poem, written by teaching assistant Claudia Geels, along with letters from children at Brightwell School were taken by Jane to Hope school in Amman, Jordan, see page 15/16).

## Tennis news

A Junior Club Night is starting up at Kings Meadow tennis courts. It will run every Thursday from 5.30 to 7pm. For more information contact James Stephenson on 07809 125657 or email [tony@bcskingsmeadowtennisclub.org.uk](mailto:tony@bcskingsmeadowtennisclub.org.uk).

*Tony Windsor*

## Skills put to good use



Thanks so much to Ann Caistor, Cynthia Hurley and all members of the Brightwell Quilting Group whose amazing expertise has produced this beautiful work of art, generously presented to us to raffle or auction in memory of Alex and in aid of the Bone Cancer Research Trust. Their kindness and generosity is very much appreciated.

*Angela & Andy Lewis*

## Report from the Environment Group

**The Millennium Wood:** The wood is beginning to benefit from the recent felling and replanting work with the new shrubs all looking healthy despite a recent lack of rain. Several villagers came on a Saturday morning to collect some firewood but we still have some logs to cut up so may have a further session later this year - probably in the autumn. We will post further events when known. In the meantime please take the opportunity to drop in and have a wander around the wood and take time to relax and reflect.

**Hedgehogs:** It may be useful to give a reminder about helping our local environment - in this case supporting hedgehogs. They have been in decline but from local observation seem to be making a bit of a comeback. They are good gardeners' friends as they eat slugs, snails etc. There is plenty of information on various websites with the following from the RSPB site about how we can help our prickly visitors:

*Hedgehogs like to move from garden to garden and it's useful to help give them openings between boundaries. If your garden is contained by a fence or wall, try to make them a small opening (13cm x 13cm), so that they can easily wander from neighbour to neighbour.*

*Making sure they have lots of thick dense undergrowth and a variety of lengths of grass to hide and nest in is always good.. You can also make your garden a hot spot for the slugs, snails and bugs that hedgehogs like to munch on.*

*You can also try to provide hedgehogs with supplementary food and water, especially at times of drought. Their varied diet allows them to eat all kinds of foods we have around the home but **never feed them milk or bread**. They can't digest them - it upsets their stomachs. A particular favourite is hedgehog food, complete cat biscuits or meaty cat or dog food.*

**Rainfall:** The rainfall at Highlands Farm for March and April was 82.2mm and 22.2mm respectively. The March figure was above average but the April one was less than 50% (as was the case for most of the eastern half of England). This relatively dry period will not help water supplies given that it follows a low winter rainfall total of between 70 and 90% of average.

**Events:** The spring talk on 'Oxfordshire's Future Environment' by Prof Richard Harding of CPRE was arranged at relatively short notice and took place on 22 May when *The Villager* was being printed. We are planning a further talk in the autumn about bats and will aim to get the details out well in advance.

*Steve Capel-Davies*

## Summer Concert

Every year after the summer concert people say '*aren't we lucky to have so much talent in the village*'. It's true, we are lucky. It's not surprising our summer event has been nicknamed 'Brightwell's Got Talent'!

So what could be nicer than a stroll through the village on a midsummer evening, meeting up with friends over a glass of Pimms at St Agatha's and enjoying some first class entertainment. This year the concert is the day after the village fete so after all your hard work, come and relax.

It starts at 7pm on Sunday 30 June. Tickets are £10 (under 18s free) and will be available at the village shop from early June. You can also pay at the door.

Rehearsals are underway. Come and enjoy the show!

*Alec McGivan*

### Brightfest 19

*It's Brightfest time again.*

One of the most popular local music festivals returns  
**on Saturday 8 June from 1-11pm**  
**at the Recreation Ground, Mackney Lane**

There will be live bands, beer and tea tents, food, a football competition, a kidzone, tug of war and various stalls.

Get your t-shirts at the online store – [brightfest.org.uk/store](http://brightfest.org.uk/store)

## The Jubilee Pavilion – can you help?

Are you updating your kitchen? Are you purchasing a new cooker and/or fridge? If so, would you consider letting the Jubilee Pavilion have your old model(s) for the use of the scout group, football and cricket teams? Our old appliances are on their last legs.

Many thanks.

If you can help please contact Hilary ([hilaryrogerson@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryrogerson@gmail.com)) or Lucy Dalby, the Parish Clerk ([bcsparishcouncil@googlemail.com](mailto:bcsparishcouncil@googlemail.com)).

## Stewart village hall

As many of you know we have recently introduced an online booking system. So to make bookings go to the hall diary on our website <http://stewartvillagehall.btck.co.uk/>. As well as the hall diary, our website has a wealth of other information about the hall, including the regular activities held there, the facilities available and items available to hire for use outside the hall. Please take a few minutes to visit the website. We would welcome your feedback and suggestions both on the website and for the hall.

**Help needed:** If anyone has some time to spare and would be able to act as minute secretary to the trustees then we would love to hear from you. We meet bi-monthly, on the second Wednesday, and would really appreciate someone attending and taking the minutes at these meetings. If you can help with this or would like a bit more information please call me on 01491 834050 or email [annette.k@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annette.k@hotmail.co.uk).

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

*Annette Kilworth*

## Cinema premiere at the village hall

Everyone is invited to a free screening at the village hall on Friday 7 June at 7pm, to experience the new cinema installation and to announce the launch of the village Film Club.

The new Ultra HD 4K projector and Surround Sound system brings a true cinema experience to the village for the first time. All film buffs and budding film makers will be able to hire the equipment for their own private screenings, as well as companies for demonstrations and conferences; individual parties and celebrations; clubs and societies; the school, the church and all public events.

All this is possible because of a generous donation from *The Villager*.

*Alison Bloomfiel*

## Earth Trust

As many of you will know, Earth Trust is an environmental learning charity based at the foot of the Wittenham Clumps. We are the proud guardian of 500 hectares of farmland, woodland, and wetland on the bank of the River Thames. We champion accessible natural green spaces and our mission is to give everyone the opportunity to engage with the natural environment through the beautiful green spaces we look after, which include community reserves in Abingdon, Didcot and Wallingford. Our learning and education initiatives, events and engagement activities, and volunteering programme all help us to achieve this.

**Volunteers** are at the heart of Earth Trust and support us in every aspect of our work – from regular work parties helping to manage our green spaces to event support and office administration. Volunteers will be running an Earth Trust information stand at the Save the Children Country Fair in Brightwell on 22 June. If you'd be interested in joining our events volunteering team, or would like to view some of the other opportunities on offer, which currently include volunteer wardens and centre maintenance volunteers, please visit [www.earthtrust.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/volunteer).

**Summer events:** There are plenty of other ways you can get involved with Earth Trust – we have a range of great events coming up over the next few months, including an Orchid Walk at Thrupp Lake (1 June), a Bat Walk at Wallingford Castle Meadows (15 June) and two outdoor performances of Shakespeare by The HandleBards: *Much Ado About Nothing* on 27 June and *The Tempest* on 5 July. Visit [www.earthtrust.org.uk/events](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/events) to find out more and book.

With the sun shining (hopefully!), June and July are great months to get out and explore. Enjoy glorious views from the Clumps, the dappled shade of Little Wittenham Wood or take a picnic to Broad Arboretum - all on your doorstep! Summer is also a popular time for school visits so if your child's school is interested in outdoor learning, ask them to get in touch.

If you have any questions please contact me on 01865 407792 or at [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk), or go to our website where you can sign up to receive regular Earth Trust news. Look out for more from us in future issues of *The Villager*.

*Nic Williams*

## Climate Commentary

Have you been wondering if June and the rest of the summer will be as hot and dry as last year? The chances are that 2019 will be one of the warmest years on record for the UK and for the world as a whole. Fortunately, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell should escape the extreme events reported by the media. However, in the coming years we can expect more spells with temperatures above 30 degrees, reduced flows from the Wellsprings, parched gardens and restrictions on water use. Most wildlife will be stressed and some crops stunted. Some relief may come from cloudbursts.

Recently, much of central London was brought to a halt by 'Extinction Rebellion' demonstrations attempting to coerce the government to take meaningful and more immediate measures to combat climate change. Then the visit by 16- year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden created more attention, highlighting the guilt of government actions which exacerbate climate change. Earlier there was the strike of school children in many parts of the country. They were campaigning about the continuing rise in the concentration of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> which pushes up the global temperature. Carbon dioxide levels broke the 400 parts per million barrier in May 2013 and could reach 413ppm by mid-2019; a level way above the pre industrial revolution level and the highest concentration attained during the last 800,000 years. This rise will continue until the use of fossil fuels stops and replaced by renewable energy, The Committee on Climate Change leads the UK effort to meet this challenge, while at the international level the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change and the Conference of the Parties to the UN' Framework Convention on Climate are the salient bodies involved.

Powers for ameliorating and accommodating climate change are within the grasp of national, regional and local governments. They can promote sustainable energy schemes, energy storage, enforce building regulations which conserve energy, encourage electric vehicles and a range of other measures. Individuals can reduce their carbon footprints in a variety of ways, walking, cycling and using public transport more often, as well as reducing home energy use. Should these measures fail, then one prediction is certain; our grandchildren and their successors will curse and castigate this generation and earlier ones for not taking action to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and sequester the CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

*John Rodda*

How quickly the months go by and here we are halfway through the year. We have had some very interesting speakers so far and quite diverse in content. In April we were pleased to welcome Hugh Warwick who so enthusiastically told of his involvement in the protection of our prickly friend, the hedgehog. He stressed how important it is for the village to allow movement of the creature through our gardens. It only needs a little gap in the fence so that they can roam freely. They eat the slugs if you have any!

A last minute cancellation in May was filled by Sotwell resident Kevin Murray who very eloquently told us about 'his life in crime', initially as a crime reporter for the Star newspaper in South Africa and latterly in the UK as a writer and management guru. It was a very entertaining evening. Our June meeting will be an opportunity to have an antique valued as Simon Jones, auctioneer from Watlington is coming along but without his gavel. If you are interested in joining us we meet next at 7.45pm on Tuesday 11 June in the village hall, or see our website [brightwellcumstowellwi.com](http://brightwellcumstowellwi.com). Or, you can meet some of us at our stall at the village fete or at the Open Gardens day where we will be serving tea in the garden of Coombe House in Sotwell.

Our WI is not just about teas, cakes and socialising, it is part of a national organisation, the NFWI, which campaigns on important issues. At our last meeting we voted on two resolutions being debated next month at our national conference – action on the decline of local bus services and 'don't fear the smear', a call to improve the screening programme, both of which were supported by a majority of members.

*Margaret Smith*

## Calling all golfers of any standard!

This year's Brightwell-cum-Sotwell village golf society's annual event will take place on Friday 14 June at The Springs, North Stoke. It is a fun afternoon, with dinner and prize giving – a good opportunity to meet and socialise with like-minded villagers. If you would like to know more please contact me at [alistairbutt@btinternet.com](mailto:alistairbutt@btinternet.com).

*Alistair Butt*

## VILLAGE DIARY

### June

7	Cinema premiere	VH	7pm
8	Brightfest	Rec	1-11pm
9	Pentecost service	St Agatha's	9.30am
9	Open Gardens		2-5pm
11	WI Meeting	VH	7.45pm
14	Village Golf Day – The Springs, North Stoke		
18	Village Lunch Club	VH	12.15pm
21	Potato Barn Dance at Highlands Farm		8pm
22	Midsummer Mayhem Country Fair	Rec	1.30pm
23	'Water-themed' church service	Wellsprings	9.30am
26	<i>The Villager</i> AGM	Stewart Rm	8pm
29	Village Fete at Moreton House		2pm
30	Summer Concert	St Agatha's	7pm

### July

5	Midsummer Night's Dream in the churchyard	St James'	8-9pm
6	Midsummer Night's Dream in the churchyard	St James'	8-9pm
7	Pet service for families	St Agatha's	4pm
9	WI meeting	VH	7.45pm
28	Patronal Festival - family communion service	St James'	9.30am

### Advance Notice

12 October 'Get involved in your village' event, village hall 2-4pm

### Refuse Collection (Food waste each week)

Grey bins	Thursdays 13 & 27 June Thursdays 11 & 25 July
Green (& brown) bins	Thursdays 6 & 20 June Thursdays 4 & 18 July

### Village website

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