

## Update from Progress Team for the Parish Council meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012

1. The Best Village Competition entry has been prepared and submitted jointly by a team of people from both the Parish Council and the Progress Team. There are three judges visiting Blisworth on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and several villagers are helping to show them around. The owners of the erstwhile Paper Shop have kindly agreed to posters from the Heritage Society being placed in the old shop window. These are now in place and greatly improve the look of the centre of the village. We need to continue the good work being done by volunteer litter – pickers.

2. Churchyard Conservation Scheme. A bid has been put in to the Woodland Trust for 105 new trees, which if the bid is successful would be delivered in November. These would be available to improve hedgerows suitable for small nesting birds in the churchyards, and could also be placed in other suitable areas around the village. The trees would include another Jubilee Tree. Could the Parish Council consider where this might be placed to best advantage? and whether there are particular places, apart from churchyard hedgerows, where trees are needed? The Wildlife Trust has visited the four village churchyards with a group of over twenty villagers, and an application has been submitted to them for a Conservation Churchyard Award. A small team of volunteers have divided snowdrops and added donated aconites in the churchyards. The mowing of the churchyards has been slightly modified to improve conditions for wildlife. We have also been given cowslip seeds to distribute in the village – kindly donated by the Churchwarden of Newton Bromswold Parish Church, which has won the Northamptonshire Conservation Award for twelve out of the twenty-five years it has been awarded.

3. A Central Village Feature in the area around the pub bus stop would enhance the environment for everyone. We have measured the area and drawn up a few ideas for discussion. Could this draft be presented to the Parish Council for discussion and ideas? We plan to present it to the Parish Assembly too. The Craft Group kindly designed some possible features. The draft has been circulated to several village groups for comments. There are other copies for anyone who would like to see it and make suggestions. We do not have a Village Sign, for example, and if this could be started this year it could perhaps be a Jubilee Sign. Funding and Planning would need to be addressed, and this is likely to be a very long process. However if we had a long-term plan for how we would like this area to be, it could perhaps be managed in stages.