

Round and About

www.blisworthvillage.org

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter
February/March 2023 No 149



Notes from the Council.....

Welcome to the new year!

The Parish Council are working in unison with Blisworth Baptist Church to provide a number of 'welcoming and warm room' sessions. We have applied for a grant from West Northants Council (WNC) to help the Baptist Church with the running costs and this has been agreed in principle. In addition to the hours already being provided (please see the postcard below), we are trying to extend the hours on Tuesdays to include 2:00 – 4:00 pm but we do require volunteers to help with provision of tea, coffee and soup. If you feel you could give a helping hand on a Tuesday between 2 and 4 pm until the end of March, please contact blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com or minister@blisworthbaptistchurch.org. Our thanks again to the brilliant group of volunteers that helped the councillors to deliver a copy of the postcard below to the residents in Blisworth.

The PC awarded a grant to the Blisworth Litter Campaign group to support them with their wonderful work, with their band of volunteers, to keep Blisworth clean and free from litter. The group also works with the local school to engage the children with the issues and repercussions of litter on our local environment and wildlife.

Talking of the environment, you have probably noticed that the road alterations outside the Northampton Gateway and M1 Junction 15 are nearing completion. Once it starts operation, we understand that HGVs leaving the complex will not be allowed to turn right onto the A508 but must proceed to J15. Also, part of the permission for commercial operation of the site requires the junction with the A508 and Courteenhall Road (from Blisworth) to become left-turn only. This means anyone wanting to turn right from Courteenhall Road will have to turn left and then do a U-turn at the next roundabout on the A508. In addition,

Courteenhall Road (and the residential roads off it), Knock Lane and all Stoke Road will have a 7.5t weight restriction. As publicised previously, the PC and many other residents objected to the proposed amendment to allow SEGRO to begin commercial operation before the railway is connected. We are still awaiting a decision from central government on this issue.

As discussed in the last issue of the Round and About, the PC undertook a very detailed review of the PC finances and it has endeavoured to maintain a flat budget for the next year (2023-2024). This means that there should be no increase to the Blisworth Parish precept in Council Tax.

The PC's website, thanks to Cllr Read, has been updated to include sections with information from the Police/ Neighbourhood Watch and WNC. We hope this information will be of interest to Blisworth residents. Please check out the information detailing support for residents struggling with the 'cost of living' crisis which is available from WNC on our website, <https://parish.blisworthvillage.org/>.

The PC have been contacted by Char.gy.a company which supplies options to allow drivers to charge an electric car on the street (where there is no off-road parking). Char.gy can utilise either lamppost smart charge points that fit onto existing street lights or bollard smart charge points.

This initiative is funded by the government and therefore residents would not incur any costs for its installation or maintenance. The scheme does not include the cost of applying to Highways for dedicated charging bays. This means that other road users (other than electric car users) could also park next to a charging unit.

The company are looking to install 5 charging units around the village and if there is sufficient uptake, this may, in the future, provide an income stream for the village, as the village may receive an income from the profits. We would like to hear residents' views about this proposal. Please let us know if you would be interested in having a charging unit on the street near your property or do you envisage that this may increase parking issues?

We still have a number of vacancies on the Parish Council, which inevitably means an increased workload for the residents who already kindly volunteer as councillors. Please consider becoming a parish councillor, the residents and current councillors would love to hear your ideas, plans and would welcome your skills.

Steve Billing Chair Blisworth Parish Council

PC contacts

Email: blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

Website: parish.blisworthvillage.org

Clerk: 07983233501 or 857602

Blisworth Parish Church

"Worship the Lord your God and worship Him only"
Luke 4v8

Services for February and March

5th, 12th and 26th February 11am Communion Service
19th February 11am Family Worship

5th, 12th and 26th March 11am Communion Service
19th March 11am Family Worship

23rd February 7pm Ash Wednesday Service to mark the start of Lent

All are welcome to join in worship in our church, which is open every day for anyone who wants a quiet place to pray, reflect or who wants to visit this historic building

By now many New Year Resolutions will have been abandoned and forgotten. As we approach the season of Lent we may be contemplating giving up chocolate, cakes or alcohol as a form of self discipline. Just as effective is giving time or support to those who need it in our own community or beyond.

It is now a year since the start of the war in Ukraine with no sign of an end anytime soon. Many Ukrainians have left their homes to seek security in another country. We now have many in our own region. May the welcome they receive and the support they are given enable them to find security, peace and hope for a better future.

Rector	Revd. Canon Richard Stainer	857619
Wardens	Angela Cheesbrough	858059
	Fiona Mckenzie	859541

Blisworth Short Mat Bowls Club

Apart from the enforced COVID break, we have bowled all through the year for about 50 weeks since the club was formed in 1989. In our heyday we had about 45 members and bowled 5 times a week, but alas now, due to a verity of reasons, we only bowl twice a week—Monday and Wednesday afternoons. We still have a membership of 18 who turn up at either session and enjoy a couple of hours gentle exercise with a cup of tea and a biscuit at half time all for £1.50 per session, so if you fancy a try, we provide the bowls—all you need is a pair of flat heel less shoes.

We are a fun loving group who set out to have a laugh and a joke whilst enjoying a game. (we leave the serious bowls to the league bowlers). If you need any further info just come along on either day at about 1.45 or give me a ring on 07775 522012 and I will try to answer any query.

Stan Tyrrell (Chairman/Secretary)

Blisworth Community Projects Group

The Blisworth Community Projects Group, or BCPG, is an independent voluntary community organisation. Its legal status is as an unincorporated community association.

The Group will take on a wide range of tasks to support the village. Current projects: developing an updated Village Directory, producing a Welcome Pack for new residents, and looking at celebrations for the coronation of King Charles in May. New volunteers are urgently needed to join the group and will be very welcome. Please contact: **Tony Hillier** on 07545 196427, email tony.hillier@aol.co.uk or **Ann North** on 858579/07831 538382.

BookSwap

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had a peaceful time over the festive break. The shelter is looking great with lots of new books being donated. A huge 'thank you' to everyone who is donating.

What we have noticed over the past year is that people aren't interested in VHS videos, Readers Digest books, magazines or manuals. If you do have any of these that you wish to donate, please could you drop them off at a local Charity Shop.

For the year ahead we will be rotating books around more so that a variety of genres are on the shelves for all to have access to. This has already started and is proving to be a success. **Jo**

Volunteers Needed

The High Street planters need regular watering in High Summer. Is there someone who would be kind enough to take this on for a few weeks.

Very grateful thanks to Bernice Hennesy for the planting, watering and maintenance of the two large planters on the Towcester Road - a stunning welcome to those entering the village.

Also, the Northampton Road large planter - I need help watering during July and August.

Call **Paulette 07810177181**

Christmas Lights

Once again, Mick Wreford and family have led the way in raising over £1,500 for the Help for Heroes charity with their wonderful lights which continue to draw visitors from far and wide. They are now well supported by many other residences of the village helping to make Blisworth one of the Christmas Light Centres of Northamptonshire. Well done one and all.

BMC – Blisworth Mothers Club

February 21st A Flipping Good Evening! Pancakes to toss, pancakes to eat (not the same ones!) and toppings available.

March 21st An evening with Emma Irwin of Thatch and Bowl bakery, with cupcakes, cookies and more...

All meetings in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. For more information contact **Margaret** on **858590**.

BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	December	January
£30	145	39
£20	192	191
£20	127	218
£10	194	114
£10	17	49

Thank you to all our members. This year's membership is now due so our collectors will be around. Or if you'd rather pay by bank transfer please contact me on 858482 for bank details. It's still only £10 a year with 60 chances of winning a small prize, 1 x £30, 2 x £20 and 2 x £10 every month. I have a couple of numbers spare if you'd like to join.

Estelle 858482

Stitchery Do

Creating with fabric and thread

February 2nd 'Recycling old Jeans' workshop with Chris and Margaret. Bring your own ideas or examples and old jeans to cut up. Sewing machines are available for use.

March 2nd Early Easter projects, with ideas for cards, decorations and gifts, lead by Angela. These can be continued on April 6th if necessary.

Usual details, Village Hall, 10.00 to 2.00pm, refreshments and resources available. Own projects always welcome if workshops are not to your liking! More details? contact Margaret on 858590.

1st Blisworth Scout Group

Try new things. Make new Friends. Joining Scouting is just the beginning of your big adventure, we'll introduce you to lots of new activities, people and experiences.

BEAVERS

Wednesdays 6-7pm - Boys & Girls 6-8 years old
Contact - Lynn (L.whitlock@talktalk.net)

CUBS

Thursdays 6.25 - 7.55pm - Boys and Girls 8-10½ years old
Contact - John (cubs@1stblisworth.org.uk)

SCOUTS

Mondays 7-8.30pm - Boys and Girls 10½-14 year olds
Contact - Debbie (scouts@1stblisworth.org.uk)

Help!

Do you have any old photo's of the original Scout hut? We'd love to know anything you can share about the original hut. What it looked like? When it was built? Who was involved in building it? If you have any photo's or stories you can share, please contact Debbie on debbie.adams@1stblisworth.co.uk or [07908 644021](tel:07908644021).



Our school had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas. After two years of the pandemic making it more tricky, both adults and children really enjoyed the opportunity to come together and celebrate Christmas. Santa visited a few times and the children really enjoyed singing some of our traditional songs including 'Must Be Santa.'

The term has begun with some excellent work from our pupils. We have also already had some great sporting success. We won the local Sports Hall Athletics and are soon attending the district final. Two of our pupils also finished in the top half of their races in the cross-country county finals. This term also sees us attending the County Rugby final.

A great start to 2022. Do remember to follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthPrimarySchool/>
Miss Leah Jenkins Headteacher

Blisworth Arts Society

This terms sessions will run from the 13th January to the 31st March. We meet in the village Hall from 10.30 - 12.30 every Friday. New members are always welcome.

For more information contact Hilary Spurrier on 859181.

Blisworth Friendship Group

We are still meeting at Blisworth Football Club every other Wednesday at 1pm during the winter months, so it is still light when we go home. The next meeting is on Wednesday 8th February, then every alternate week after that.

We enjoyed a delicious 3 course Christmas dinner at our Christmas party cooked perfectly by Yvonne Barker. A good time was had by all. It really is a lovely group. If you would like to join us or know someone who would benefit from a lovely afternoon out. Please contact me on 858482. We can arrange pick ups as necessary.

If you would like to join our friendly, happy group, please contact **Estelle 858482. Anne 858001 or Janet 879629.**

Blisworth Film Club

Thursday 23rd February - "The Lost King".

An amateur historian defies the stodgy academic establishment in her efforts to find King Richard III's remains, which were lost for over 500 years.

Thursday 23rd March - "Ticket to Paradise"

A divorced couple team up and travel to Bali to stop their daughter from making the same mistake they think they made 25 years ago. Starring Julia Roberts and George Clooney.....so what's not to like!

DATE CHANGE - We made a mistake, Thursday April 13th will **NOT** be a Film Club night. We are busy trying to identify another date in April when both the Projectionist and the Village Hall (or another space?) are free.

As usual, it will be £6 on the door - no pre-booking needed, just come along. Doors will open at 7pm, for a 7.30 start.

Very best wishes, Hugh & Tracey

MontyDavenport@outlook.com Mobile - 07968 889971)



Blisworth Heritage Society



Friday Feb 10 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Youngs Nursery

an illustrated talk by **Carolyn Young**

Friday Mar 10 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

The Notorious Culworth Gang of

South Northamptonshire

by **Richard Blacklee**

At the AGM we confirmed that the Membership Subs and Meeting Admission charge will remain unchanged for the 19th year running. Is this a record low rate of inflation?

We are now accepting entries for the **Platinum Jubilee Scrapbook**, local individuals, families, businesses, societies and organisations are invited to produce one (or more) A3 Landscape pages, which reflect life in the Village now or over the last 10 years. 10 years ago we had over 120 pages, let's make this scrapbook even bigger?

The Tapestry can be seen in the Coffee House when open, or by special arrangement. The Archives are also available by arrangement. If there is something of particular interest, please contact a committee member to make it available. Finally, there is still a vacancy on the Committee if you would like to join and get involved in some of our projects.

See our website www.blisworthheritage.org.uk



Blisworth

BAPTIST CHURCH
TO KNOW HIM AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

Sunday Service at 10.30am

Communion First Sunday of the month
Children breakout group 2nd Sunday of the month
Coffee and tea are served before the service from 10.00am
And afterwards in the Coffee House.

Cafe Church

Sunday 26th February 10.30am
A relaxed service held in the Leisure Hall,
refreshments throughout the service.

Community Cafe Open

Tuesdays at 10.00am until 2.00pm
Every 2nd Tuesday is "Parish Council Surgery"
Every 3rd Tuesday is "Carers Support Day"

Toddler & Tea

Fridays at 10.00am until 12.00pm

Community Café Open

Fridays at 12.00 until 2.00pm

Men's Breakfast

Last Saturday of the Month at 8.30am in the Coffee House

Next Breakfasts: 25th Feb & 25th Mar

All men are very welcome

Feb 25th March—Ladies also invited

Warm Space

In partnership with the Parish Council, we have extended the opening hours of our community café to 10-2 on Tuesdays and Fridays, but between now until the end of March, Tuesdays we will be open until 4pm. On Tuesdays and Fridays, roll and soup will be available from 12.

Everyone is welcome, any age, and the children's toys will still be accessible.

Room Hire:

Leisure Hall, Coffee House, Fellowship room, The Lounge, Kitchen facilities are all available for parties and meetings. Disabled toilets, AV equipment & Free Wifi. Call for more details on 01604 857654 (answer phone)

Pastor Lee Hillyard Tel: 01604 372483

www.blisworthbaptistchurch.org

Social media Facebook @BlisworthBC

Christmas Market

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who helped and attended the Christmas Market in the Village Hall. It was great to see so many people chatting and catching up with friends. The Grotto was also a great success.

The money raised from the event is being used to fund the Blisworth Community Projects Group (BCPG). In the meantime, if you have any questions please drop me a message at Janetsteeper569@btinternet.com

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Wednesday 15th March for the April/May Issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

blisworthranda@gmail.com

or send to the Editor: Alan North
89 Buttmead, Blisworth, Northants

THE PARISH COUNCIL ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Blisworth Women's Institute

Like most of the organisations in our village we ended the year with a Christmas party, which was shared with Milton Malsor WI at their village hall. A good time was had by all, with good company and good food. I expect that like me, many people also joined other village groups for their Christmas celebrations, December was certainly a busy month!

We welcome 2023 and hope it has less problems than we have all had over the last couple of years. Our January meeting was a talk titled "The wheels on the bus" and told of the loss of so many of our bus routes and buildings.

In February our talk is "Sole to Soul" if you are intrigued by the title why not come along and join us as a visitor.

March is our AGM, a change of month introduced by NFWI and we also have a guest speaker. New members always welcome on the second Thursday in each month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Tina Alexandrou Secretary



FOBS

Friends of Blisworth School



Thank you to everyone for your continued support of FOBS. Events coming soon:

Family chocolate bingo night on Fri 3rd March. Doors open at 5.20, eyes down at 6pm. No need to book, just turn up on the night.

Save the date for Friday Fun Fest - Fri 7th July 5pm-8pm

Please watch out for more details of the events coming up by following us on www.facebook.com/BlisworthPTA or by contacting us via email - blisworthpta@gmail.com.

You can also continue to support us in other ways:

- if you are having a clear out of clothes, the bins are still in the top car park
- if you shop online, we are registered with Easyfundraising—many retailers are on there



Blisworth Football Club

Our Senior teams continue to do well on the pitch with all 3 either top or in the top 3 of their respective leagues. The Junior section is thriving with our Girls team top of the league. Our girls section is something we will be looking to increase and develop over the next few years.

The Club has now secured all the leases and planning permissions required for the clubhouse rebuild. We are actively looking to secure more funding to help finance the build and hopefully will have more news in June.

The club are hosting a quiz night on Friday 10th February at 8pm. Teams of up to 5 people, £10 per team which includes chilli, bolognaise and jacket potatoes, please contact 07799713055 to enter.

Sam King