

Round and About

www.blisworthvillage.org

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter
October/November 2023 No 153



Notes from the Council....

Firstly I would like to thank the hard work, integrity and professionalism of ALL the parish councillors on my team. I would also like to thank, on behalf of Blisworth Parish Council (BPC), all those residents (and some that do not even live in the village anymore) that regularly, with kindness, enthusiasm and lovely humour volunteer in the village. But they do need help! Please consider helping to look after your village. Can you help to clear some litter, weeds or cut back some overgrown hedges? Maybe you could help an elderly neighbour to do outside their house too? Why not get the children involved – most kids are happy to help and engage with their community. Give it a thought – it is a lovely way to meet your neighbours and get involved.

BPC have paid for contractors to clear some communal areas in the village; the path next to the Stoke Road allotments and part of Chapel Lane. Some areas have been treated with weedkiller so we will reseed with grass next year. More works are due in October when they will be clearing areas of High Street and also cutting back areas in the Closed Cemetery. We are trying to secure the help of the Community Payback team to help to clear the weeds at the Closed Cemetery and also to clear overgrown areas at the BPC allotments. If we are not successful, I have been asked to put out a request for some muscle-power to help clear the Closed Cemetery – more info on <https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/> nearer the time. We now have an enthusiastic group of volunteers that are working with Tony Hillier to maintain the Closed Cemetery and increase the biodiversity of the plants to help the bees and butterflies in Blisworth. We will need help to take the rubbish off-site. Are there any locals that have access to a trailer/truck that they would be happy to volunteer to help us? The Clerk has also been in contact with Fix My Street to ask them to clear some areas of vegetation along the Stoke Road barriers and to improve signage around the village but they work at their own pace and the usual response is 26 weeks! But we will continue to remind them that the work needs completing. Also the free fencing at the BPC allotments has been completed. A number of grants were applied for and this grant was agreed mainly because it safeguarded the allotment users and their children. Hopefully it will reduce fly-tipping, theft and dog fouling. As the fencing was being completed a joy-rider drove into the nearby farmer's crop and then crashed into the fence post. If the fence post had not been there, they would have crashed into the allotments!

Halloween: The Blisworth Community Projects Group have kindly agreed to pay for Pumpkin leaflets. Residents can

display them in their windows to let children know that they are happy for trick or treaters to call.

Our Traffic Nightmare: We are currently suffering from a “perfect storm” of roadworks on the A508 and A43 which has increased traffic through the village to intolerable levels. BPC with the support of a particularly supportive resident, has been in regular touch with WNC, Highways, WINVIC (the Contractors) and the Police about this. Queuing traffic, violation of the 3-tonne limit on Stoke Road and 10-tonne limit on Candle Bridge, signage, aggressive or dangerous behaviour of motorists are just a few of the issues we are concerned about. It would be very helpful to the cause, if residents could use their mobile phones to take images or videos of any dangerous behaviour they see. Send these Jonathon Dunn, Leader of West Northants Council: jonathan.nunn@westnorthants.gov.uk, Andrea Leadsom MP for South Northamptonshire: andrea.leadsom.mp@parliament.uk and Stephen Mold, Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner: commissioner@northantspfcc.gov.uk. Do not post them on social media as this impedes action from the authorities. We have asked the authorities and companies concerned for a meeting with BPC to urge them to act now to resolve the traffic issues.

BPC have also written to the Heritage Team at WNC to ask them to review their comment of ‘no objection’ to the proposed new massive HGV development west of Northampton Road by the old Young’s Nursery. Please continue to send your objections. Type in the address: <https://wnc.planningregister.co.uk/Planning/Display/WNS/2022/1134/MAO> and select COMMENT ON THIS APPLICATION, or write to: Mr Daniel Callis, Principal Planning Officer – Major Projects Team, West Northants Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, Northants NN12 6AD. Quote Planning application no. WNS/2022/1134/MAO Land west of Northampton Road.

We agreed to pay for the 5 dog waste bins on the Blisworth canal tow path for the benefits of the residents at an extra cost of £832.00 per year because the Canal and River Trust (C&RT) have withdrawn their service. We judged it is better to continue to have the dog waste bins along the towpath emptied, than have them removed by C&RT. We have contacted our contractor to ensure the bins are emptied weekly and he has assured us that he does. Remember if the bin is full, you can deposit it in any litter bin on route or at

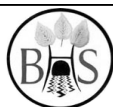


In this issue you will find an orange Pumpkin picture. If you are happy for youngsters to call at your home on Halloween, **Tuesday October 31st, please display it in your window or on your door.** Thanks for joining in the fun.

home, please don't just leave it by the bin or in a hedge. We thank the vast majority of responsible dog owners that clear up after their pets but if owners could make a special effort not to leave waste, particularly as nights are drawing in and it is dark.

BPC have been advised not to respond to Blisworth Notice Board Facebook page. If you any have concerns please direct them, in writing, to the Clerk. All issues and concerns are addressed as soon as possible and treated in confidence and with professionalism. If your complaint is about the Clerk, then please address your concerns to myself as the Chair and to the Vice-Chair. Steve Billing Chair of Blisworth Parish Council blisworthparishbilling@gmail.com All links are on the BPC website <https://parish.blisworthvillage.org/> and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/ Email: blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com 07983233501 or 01604 857602.

Council Meetings: First Monday of the month, 7:30 pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Rd, Blisworth.



Blisworth Heritage Society



Friday Oct 13 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall
The 2023 Village Scrapbook

Your chance to preview entries for the new Village Scrapbook

Please note this is your last chance to complete and submit your entry

Friday Nov 10 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall
Grandad's War – A history of an English Tommy 1915 - 1919 by Ted Barnes

One final reminder that we are producing a new Village Scrapbook to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation. The aim is to provide a snapshot of Village life (domestic and business) over the past 10 years; reflecting all that has happened to the village in that time. We would like all entries in as soon as possible please, so they are available for our October Meeting. Entries in A3 Landscape format to Hilary Spurrier or any committee member.

See our website www.blisworthheritage.org.uk

Stitchery Do

Creating with fabric and thread

Thursday, October 5th

Catch up session, with the chance to re-visit Crazy Quilting (all materials provided), finish off doorstops, own projects and a chance to 'Knit 'n Natter' about Christmas ideas.

Thursday November 2nd and December 7th

Christmas gifts, decorations, cards etc. More details nearer the date!

Usual arrangements, 10.00 - 2.00pm, Blisworth Village Hall, £4 includes resources and refreshments. All welcome. It was great to welcome recently two young visitors to the group, so bring along family and friends to our supportive group. Look on the village Facebook to see some of the things we create.

More details contact **Margaret** on **858590**

Blisworth Short Mat Bowls Club

Since the club was formed in 1989, apart from the enforced COVID break, we have bowled through the years for about 50 weeks a year. In our heyday we had about 45 members and bowled 5 times a week, but alas, now due to a variety 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,

We are at the moment the largest user of the Village Hall, long may it continue. 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 you may have.

Stan Tyrrell (Chairperson)

Blisworth Women's Institute

Along with other groups and individual people we joined in the Garage Sale on the 2nd December, it was a long but enjoyable day and good to see so many people visiting our village.

Our next meeting in October is a musical one where we will be entertained by 'Three in Accord, followed in November by a talk on The Blisworth Tapestry.

This year we introduced our 'four seasons meal', the idea being to enjoy an evening meal out with members during each season of the year at a different venue. So far despite the many road closures we have been to The Boat at Stoke Bruerne and The Greyhound at Milton Malsor, the next one in October will probably be at the Crown at Ashton.

Before long, our thoughts will be focused on Christmas, this year seems to have flown by and soon we will all be digging out those Christmas decorations!

New members always welcome to our meetings on the second Thursday of every month, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Tina Alexandrou Secretary



St John the Baptist Parish Church Christmas Coffee Morning and Bazaar

This popular event will take place in the church on Saturday November 25th from 10 am to 1 pm.

The stalls will include Christmas goods, gifts and toiletries, tombola, cakes and produce. We look forward to giving everyone a warm welcome. Come along to enjoy refreshments as you browse, buy, relax and chat.

BMC - Blisworth Mothers Club

(although you don't have to live in Blisworth, or be a mother, just a lady who enjoys the company of other, like minded people, with speakers, demonstrations, light hearted fun, meals out...!)

Tuesday October 17th A Special Ukrainian Evening
Sounds, sights and flavours of present day Ukraine. Learn first hand from our Ukrainian guests about life in their city since being invaded by the Russian forces, then enjoy typical food that they have prepared for us in order to raise funds to support their families in Ukraine.

Tuesday November 21st Rock those Frocks
Although the little shop in Towcester has closed, usually retailing online, tonight you can pick up a bargain straight from a selection of gifts and garments from Jackie's stock. Credit cards accepted!

Usual admission details. Doors open from 7.00pm, with meetings starting at 7.30pm. £3 includes refreshments. Ros' Raffle. There's no need to come any earlier, there's room for everyone!

More details **Margaret** on 858590

Blisworth Arts Society

Our meetings have restarted on Thursday afternoons in the Village Hall from 2pm-4pm. Our members cover a range of arts from painting and drawing, botanic art, textile art, collage, tapestry and photography. All are welcome to join us just come to the Village Hall.

For more information contact **Hilary Spurrier** on 859191



The children have started back to school raring to go and we have had some really happy weeks back. We have recognised the particular achievements of two pupils for integrity. Emma has had her hair cut and raised over £1400 to have a wig made for someone without their hair and Alfie spends his weekends trying to raise money for the Saints Foundation.

We are thrilled to let you know that we have reached the finals in Northamptonshire's Education awards for: Environmental and Sustainability and Maths team and leader (our very own, Sarah Price). Rhino Sports Academy have reached the finals of the Northampton Excellence Business Awards for Innovation related to their work to support children in the classroom and their partnership with us. We all feel like winners just reaching this far! You can see the children finding the winning, golden tickets on videos on our Facebook page!

Miss Leah Jenkins **Headteacher**

Village Planters

After many years arranging and caring for the five village planters (which I hope has given pleasure to residents and visitors) my circumstances have changed and it is time to pass this on to others.

Could you take this on? Perhaps two or three people could share the task?

The Parish Council fund the plants and compost - it's just buying, planting and watering.

Contact **Paulette Kennedy** on **858717**

BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	August	September
£30	133	195
£20	206	198
£20	147	126
£10	212	76
£10	149	11

Thank you all for your support.

Estelle **858482**



Blisworth Football Club

The Clubhouse rebuild will start (weather permitting) during the second week of January.

The club would like to place on record its thanks to Ann, Colin and Alan at the Village Hall & Playing Field Association and to Angela Billing at the Parish Council whose help and advice has been instrumental in helping us through some legal issues recently.

The plan is for a 6 month build so hopefully an opening date of July/August can be pencilled in.

The club continues to thrive on the pitch and we now offer football to over 400 players which is a fantastic effort for a club of our size.

We are always on the look out for volunteers to get involved with the club as we continue to grow. Anyone interested in helping out please contact Secretary@blisworthfc.co.uk.

Sam King (Chairman)

GARAGE SALE

The sun shone on Saturday 2nd September and helped to make the Garage Sale a very successful event. Residents paid £5 to the recently formed **Blisworth Community Projects Group** to have their names on a map. The money will go towards improving village amenities.

There was a wonderful community feel to the village as the 40 plus residents put up bunting and displayed their wares on drives and gardens. Youngsters had their own stalls and sold home-made goodies and toys that they had outgrown. Most people were selling for themselves but some were raising funds for charity. Estelle did a roaring trade with bacon and sausage baps and raised a good sum for St Johns.

Buyers came from Northampton, Bugbrooke, Kingsthorpe, Roade, Hartwell and several other nearby villages. They bought maps for £1 which gave them a chance to win a meal for two at the Royal Oak, kindly donated by Jan & Paul. The winner was a lady from Hartwell.

The money from the maps and the residents who held sales raised nearly £300 for the **BCPG** which will enable a kick-start to improving amenities in the village. A big thank you to all concerned as a great deal of effort was put in to making the Garage Sale a success. Many residents look forward to recycling their pre-loved items and hope to make it a regular event in the village calendar.

Watch this space!

Blisworth Friendship Group

We continue to meet at Blisworth Football Club every other Wednesday 2pm for lovely company, refreshments and some form of entertainment, even if it's only a quiz, which is done per table. But the sound of happy chatter is what I love to hear most.

On 6th September we all went for a delicious meal at The Royal Oak. Jan and Paul and their lovely staff served us with a wonderful meal. I don't know how they managed it without a proper kitchen installed yet. But it was delicious. They did us proud.

For further details please ring Estelle on 858482.

Blisworth Film Club

Thursday 26th October - "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton. The film is "impeccably acted, sincerely intended and often beautifully shot."

Thursday 30th November - "A Man Called Otto" starring Tom Hanks. As one reviewer put it "Check all cynicism at the door and allow the film to tug at your heartstrings with its tried-and-true tune - it just might sing!"

All films are shown in the Village Hall. Films start at 7.30, doors at 7pm. £6 on the door, just turn up, no need to book.

You can contact us at MontyDavenport@outlook.com
Mobile on 07968 889971.



FOBS

Friends of Blisworth School



Dates for your diary

Bingo Night - Friday 6th October, doors open at 17:30, eyes down at 18:00 - All welcome

Christmas Bazaar - Friday 24th November 5pm to 8pm. Come along for festive food, Christmas market stalls, Santa's Grotto and more...

Call-out for prizes and donations

Local businesses - could you support us with raffle prizes? Please do get in touch. Unwanted items in your cupboards? We will be calling for donations for raffle and tombola prizes soon. Please watch our social media and we will let you know how and when to donate. 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

Contact blisworthpta@gmail.com Find us on Facebook

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Tuesday 21st November for the December/January 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 Parish Church

"the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Pillipians 4 v 7

Services for October and November

All are welcome to join in worship in our Church. The Church is open every day for anyone who wants a quiet place to pray, reflect or just enjoy this historic building.

1st, 8th and 22nd October 11am Communion Service

15th October 11am Family Worship

29th October Benefice Service Alderton 10am

5th, 26th November 11 am Communion Service

12th November Remembrance Service - 10.50 at the war memorial in the Churchyard

19th November Family Worship

Saturday 25th November Christmas Coffee Morning and Bazaar. 10am - 1pm

A chance to find Christmas presents and decorations. Home made cakes and produce, Tombola, teas and coffees with cake/mincepies.

The Harvest Festival collection for the Towcester Food Bank resulted in 29 Kilograms of food being donated. An excellent and much appreciated achievement.

As the daylight shortens and the nights draw in it is timely to remember that Christ is the Light of the World giving us hope and direction in our lives.

We wish Helen Mander Our Lay Reader well as she embarks on her training to become a minister in the Church of England.

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

The Blisworth Community Projects Group 2023 Christmas Market

Village Hall Saturday 2nd December 10am to 5pm

Following last year's great success:

Lots of stalls, great donated raffle (supported by local businesses). Christmas café, lots of things for Christmas presents, Stonyfield wine, Christmas style homemade cake stall (be there early before they all go)

If Santa is not too busy we hope he will be there too.

We are also looking for volunteers to help the group with projects throughout the village. To join this friendly, fun group please ring **Janet** on **07732 987087**



Hunsbury and Blisworth Community Choir Musical Director Helen Thorman

Two dates for your diaries, this year's Christmas concerts will be in the Acorn Barn at the Royal Oak, Blisworth on Friday, 15th December and St. Benedict's church, West Hunsbury on Saturday, 17th December. Both concerts start at 7.30 with free entrance but there will be a raffle and collection in aid of local charities.

Jon Murray 07460 617817