

# Round and About

[www.blisworthvillage.org](http://www.blisworthvillage.org)

**Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter**  
**February/March 2024 No 155**



## Notes from the Chairman - Blisworth Parish Council

### Stay Connected:

Please join Blisworth Parish Facebook page : <https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/> for updates or view the website: <https://parish.blisworthvillage.org/>  
Contact: [blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com) 07983233501 or 01604 857602.

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

Hello all, I hope you had a great Christmas and a good time on New Year's Eve.

Love Blisworth? Then join our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NHW); one of the county's largest and most active. Villages with a dynamic NHW scheme are proven to be up to 30% safer. By becoming a member, you'll stay informed about local events, incidents, and receive warnings about the latest scams in our area and you can unsubscribe anytime at no cost. The updates will include local messages, optional warnings of the latest scams, and optional police messages on local incidents. We live in a very safe area and by becoming a member of NHW you make it even safer. Register at:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/scheme/61965/blisworth-s81>

Our local PCSO Matt Taylor will be at the Police Beat Bus on Wed, 27 March 2024, at the Royal Oak Car Park, between 3pm to 4pm. Seize this opportunity to discuss any local concerns with Matt. Future visits are set for 19 June, 11 Sept and 4 Dec (3 - 4 pm at the Royal Oak Car Park). Special thanks to the Royal Oak for generously allowing us to use their premises. Note that visits are subject to change based on operational requirements.

The Police offered a cyber awareness course in November which was kindly hosted, free of charge, by the Blisworth Baptist Church and though it was very informative, it was not well attended. If any other groups in the village would be interested in hosting this free course for your members, please contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council met to decide on the next financial year's budget. Last year (2023-2024), we didn't increase the Parish Council part of the Council Tax, but for next year (2024-2025) a 5% increase has been decided. The Parish Council part of your Council Tax is small (about 3%); nevertheless, we are acutely aware of the financial pressures on households. The Parish Council has worked hard to get better value for money but next year we cannot avoid a modest increase. We expect that this will allow the Parish Council to put some money aside to contribute towards the cost of traffic calming measures and pavement improvements in the coming years.

The Parish Council continues to advocate for action to reduce traffic through the village. Meetings with key stakeholders are scheduled in January and February, focusing on traffic, footpaths, and dropped kerbs. Efforts behind the scenes successfully convinced Network Rail not to use the village roads to access their current site on Northampton Road.

The Parish Council's work at the Closed Cemetery and the allotments is continuing according to plans and should be completed by late spring. Having cleared the overgrown vegetation in parts of Chapel Lane, we have scheduled for it to be treated with weedkiller (it may need repeat treatments) at which point the Parish Council have plans to re-seed the area with wildflowers. Thank you to the very kind resident who made some bird boxes for the Closed Cemetery. We may also be given some free trees. If you have suggestions for a good place to plant a small tree in the village, please share your thoughts with the Council.

If you come across any fly-tipping on the canal tow-path, please take a photo with a location reference and send it to the Clerk. We'll follow up with the Canal and River Trust to have it removed.

Regarding rubbish, the bin by the Tunnel Car Park was not being emptied before Christmas, prompting the Parish Council to request WNC to empty it. Unfortunately, they left a great deal of rubbish that had not been placed in the bin. An extremely thoughtful resident offered to clear up the remaining mess, even though a Councillor had already offered to clear the rubbish. We are fortunate to have such kind-hearted residents in the village.

We have finally, after much persistence, got a date from Highways to clear the vegetation that currently obscures the metal barrier on Stoke Road. Part of Stoke Road between Greenside and Knock Lane will be closed: (0930-1430) between 25-29th March 2024. The Parish Council have asked Kier to confirm if this a full closure or if there will be traffic lights, but they have not confirmed as yet.

Regards Steve

[blisworthparishbilling@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthparishbilling@gmail.com)

## Blisworth Christmas Lights

Once again our village became ablaze with festive lights, as always led by the wonderful and ever improving Mick Wreford and family's marvellous display. This year they raise a brilliant total of £1,640 For Help for Heroes. (Santa's Sleigh also raised £640 for village organisations.)

I'm sure that in any countywide poll of best lit villages Blisworth would come very near the top. Well done everyone. Ed



## Blisworth Parish Church

*"Jesus was led by the spirit to be tempted by the devil. After 40 days and 40 nights he was hungry" Matthew 4 v1-2*

### Services for February and March

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.

February 3rd, 10th and 24th 11am	Family Communion
February 17th 11am	Family Service
February 14th Ash Wednesday 7pm	Service
March 3rd and 10th 11am	Family Communion
March 17th 11am	Family Service
March 24th Palm Sunday 10am	Benefice service at Grafton Regis
March 31st Easter Sunday 11am	Family Communion

Services during Holy Week will be advertised nearer Easter.

### Lent Course

Based on the lives of Mary, Martha and Lazarus

Blisworth - 2pm each Thursday in Lent, February 15th, 22nd, 29th, March 7th and 14th at 33 Buttmead

Stoke Bruerne 10am Tuesday mornings, February 20th and 27th March 5th, 12th and 19th at the Boat Inn

Milton Malsor 7pm Wednesday evenings, February 21st and 28th, March 4th, 13th and 20th in the church

Lent is a time for reflection and traditionally many give something up. Why not give up some time to join the Lent course and explore the impact of three Christians who were friends of Jesus.

Lent Lunch 1pm onwards on the 24th March at 2 Towcester Road Blisworth. All are welcome to come to a fund raising lunch of Soup, bread, cheese and fruit. Donations in aid of World Visions work with Refugees in Gaza and children caught up in the war in Ukraine.

Rector	Rev. Canon Richard Stainer	857619
Wardens	Angela Cheesbrough	858059
	Fiona McKenzie	859541

## Stitchery Do

*Creating with fabric and thread*

### Thursday February 1st

Workshop making the famous 'Tidybags' Anyone wishing to make one please bring 3 pieces of fabric 30cm x 45cms. We provide the rest! Any questions, contact Margaret.

### Thursday March 7th

Getting creative with our stash of buttons. Lots of ideas from Angela for bookmarks, covering boxes etc.

At all of our sessions you are able to join in or 'do your own thing'.

Blisworth Village Hall, from 10.00 to 2.00pm. £4 includes refreshments and access to all our resources. New members always welcome to join this friendly group.

For more details contact **Margaret** on **858590**



## Blisworth Heritage Society



**Friday Feb 9 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall**  
**1000 Years of Northamptonshire**  
*By Laura Malpas*

**Friday Mar 8 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall**  
**A History of Duston Hospital (St Crispins)**  
*By Kathy Perkins*

*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 was 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 have over 90 entries now; we intended to close entries, on 31 Dec 23, but we know there are still at least two more nearing completion, so if you want to join in, get your entry in fast!. Entries in A3 Landscape format to Hilary Spurrier or any committee member.*

See our website [www.blisworthheritage.org.uk](http://www.blisworthheritage.org.uk)

### Happy New Year from Blisworth BookSwap

Last year was very successful for the BookSwap with lots of donations across a variety of genres. It is such a well used asset to the village.

What we have noticed however is that a lot of random items (such as bric a brac), outdated manuals and Readers Digest books are being left at the Shelter, as well as 'overspill' books being piled up on the floor or shelves which is creating a hazard. We kindly ask people to take their unwanted gifts etc to a charity shop who will be thrilled to accept them.

Blisworth BookSwap continues to be successful, and we are looking forward to seeing what happens this year.

### The Blisworth Community Projects Group

Following on from the successful Christmas Fair the Group is planning a **Spring Clean Table Top Sale** in the Village Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 1.00 to 4.00 p.m. The charge will be £3 per table. Refreshments of cake and a hot drink will be available. It could be a chance to get rid of redundant gifts and all sorts of things that need a new home. To book a table please email [blisworthvh@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthvh@gmail.com).

This will be another fund raiser for Blisworth Community Projects Group (BCPG). We want to be able to fund village projects ourselves as well as applying for grants. The Parish Council is restricted by their regulations as to what projects they can fund and are unable to apply for some types grant themselves. So please let us know of anything you would like us to consider. Unfortunately we cannot raise enough money, nor are we allowed, to subsidise Highways to repair our pavements and footpaths, despite it being everyone's top priority. Perhaps you might volunteer to help us carry out your ideas.

Please give us your support so we can help our lovely village. You can comment on our Facebook page which will be up and running by the end of January or email me at [ann.north@homecall.co.uk](mailto:ann.north@homecall.co.uk)

Ann North

Secretary

## Blisworth Film Club

### "Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February - "The Miracle Club"

Four ladies from Ballygar join a travel group going to Lourdes hoping for personal miracles to happen.  
PLEASE NOTE - this is NOT the last Thursday of the month.

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - "Wonka"

Fun, rousing, impeccably staged, jaw-droppingly old-fashioned musical prequel.

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April - "One Life"

Held aloft by outstanding work from a tremendous cast, One Life pays heartwarming tribute to a remarkable humanitarian.

All shows in the Village Hall - doors at 7pm, film at 7.30. £6 per person **No Need** to book in advance, just turn up. You are more than welcome to bring your own refreshments and extra cushions (or even your own chair)"

You can contact us at [MontyDavenport@outlook.com](mailto:MontyDavenport@outlook.com)  
Mobile on 07968 889971.

## BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	December	January
£30	142	117
£20	75	39
£20	149	57
£10	226	243
£10	11	29

Thank you to all our members, we will be coming round shortly to collect your £10. (I haven't printed cards yet). If you'd prefer to pay by bank transfer please contact me on 07964060369 for new bank details. Please note we have changed banks so different details. If you do pay us this way please tell me when you've done it, so I can let your collector know and save them knocking on your door xx  
**Estelle 858482**



## Hunsbury and Blisworth Community Choir Musical Director Helen Thorman

We are meeting every Monday in the Abbey Centre Chapel. 7.30pm. New members always welcome, particularly altos, tenors and basses. No audition, you just need to have a love for singing.

**Jon Murray 07460 617817**

## Blisworth Friendship Group

Our first meeting of the year in the Village Hall was very successful, and I've been told everyone enjoyed it. (I was away in sunny Spain). We have a wonderful team who pick up members who can't get there on their own steam, make them refreshments and make sure it's a lovely happy experience.

We are now meeting every other Tuesday at 1pm in the Village Hall. Our next meeting is 6th February then every other Tuesday after that.

If you are interested in joining us please ring me **Estelle** on 858482/ 07964060369, **Janet** on 07732987087 or **Anne** 01694 858001/07843505004.

## Blisworth Women's Institute



Our first meeting of 2024 was 'There is nothing like a Dame' it was a very amusing and interesting talk by 'Dame Dotty Trotty'. John Dowell is a local man who is part of MKAOS (Milton Keynes Amateur Operatic Society). He told us about the history of this unique English entertainment and one of his wigs was passed round, it was really heavy!

The February topic is - 'Tutankhamun's Egypt' a very different subject, but will I'm sure be very interesting.

Our members bring along items for Towcester food bank to every monthly meeting, there is always a great many items for Alison to take into them and they are of course always very grateful. Last year's total was 189.3 kgs, the second highest weight of the WI's who supply this food bank. This year we are looking to be first!

As always new members can be sure of a warm welcome at our meeting, held at the village hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

**Tina Alexandrou Secretary**

## Blisworth Arts Society

The spring term has started well with members preparing work for the Annual Art Show in the Village Hall. It will be held on **Saturday 20th April** and **Sunday 21st April**. Any artists from Blisworth are welcome to exhibit.

New members are always very welcome to join the Art group. We meet each Thursday from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall.

For more information about the Society or the Art Show contact Hilary Spurrier on 859181.



## Blisworth Past

*Who, what, where, when? Any ideas?*

## 1st Blisworth Scout Group

### 1st Blisworth Scouts need you!

We're an active Group and are the only Group in the area to be incredibly lucky to have our own Hall and Minibus but we really need some help to keep going. All 3 of our sections are looking for adult volunteers to help run the weekly meetings (you don't have to attend every week!) and if working directly with young people isn't your thing, there are background tasks that we also need some help with, such as managing our Hall bookings diary or helping us to make sure that the Group is run safely & legally.

The tasks don't have to be a huge commitment because if we can get enough volunteers, the work can be split out "many hands make light work".

Training and support is given to all volunteers to ensure that you're happy in your role.

If you would like any further information or are able to help in any way, please contact Will at [will@1stblisworth.org.uk](mailto:will@1stblisworth.org.uk) or 07874 827556.

Kind Regards

**Will Hazell District Commissioner Grafton**

07748 753200 [gdscoouts.org.uk](http://gdscoouts.org.uk)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter \(District\)](#) | [Twitter \(DC\)](#)

Registered Charity Number 1114244

We prepare young people with skills for life

Debbie 07908 644021 (Village contact)

### BMC - Blisworth Mothers Club

#### Tuesday 20th February

**Where is Malawi?** An evening with Terry Atkinson, to learn about his ongoing charity work in Malawi.

#### Tuesday 19th March

By popular demand, a visit from the Fire Service, giving advice on prevention and safety. This will be an interesting talk for us all.

Village Hall, admission £3, includes light refreshments. Doors open 7.15 for 7.30pm.

For more details Margaret on 858590

### Happy New Year from Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Field Association

A new year has begun and people are starting to plan for the year ahead. We are already getting bookings for children's parties and meetings for different organisations. The Village Hall is a wonderful place to hold a party or meeting and is in the heart of the village. Our website <https://blisworthvillagehall.com> and Facebook Page (Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Field Association) have all the details you need to book! If you would like to look around the Hall, drop me an email at [blisworthvh@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthvh@gmail.com).

**Jo Brooks (Booking Clerk)**

### Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Monday 18th March for the April/May Issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

[blisworthranda@gmail.com](mailto: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**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
TO KNOW HIM AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

### Sunday Service at 10.30am

Communion First Sunday of the month

Children's breakout group 2nd Sunday of the month

Coffee and tea are served before the service from 10.00am

And afterwards in the Coffee House.

### Community Cafe Open

Tuesdays 10.00am until 12.00pm

Every 2nd Tuesday is "Parish Council Surgery"

Every 3rd Tuesday is "Carers Support Day"

### Toddlers & Tea

Fridays 10.00am until 12.00pm

### Welcome Warm Space

Tuesdays 12 pm – 2 pm

Fridays 12 pm – 2 pm

If you would like to volunteer to support the running of these sessions, please get in touch with us via:

[Minister@BlisworthBaptistChurch.org](mailto:Minister@BlisworthBaptistChurch.org)

### What's On

Knit & Natter 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays until 19<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday 24th February - Men's Breakfast 8.30 am

**Free Film Night – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February @ 7.30pm -**

**Free entry**

**"Indiana Jones and the Dial Of Destiny"**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Café Church

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Maundy Thursday service 6.30pm

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Men's & Ladies Breakfast

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March Easter Sunday all age service

### Room Hire: from just £6 per hour

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

**If you need transport to access warm space hours, please call Estelle, and she can try to arrange it for you.**

01604 858482 - 0796 4060369

[www.blisworthbaptistchurch.org](http://www.blisworthbaptistchurch.org)

Social media Facebook @BlisworthBC



### Blisworth Football Club

The clubhouse rebuild is under way with footings being dug out from January, 18th.

Many hours, days, weeks and months were spent sorting new leases for our pitches and they have been renewed.

We would like to thank Ann North at the VHP Association and Angela Billing at the Parish Council for all their help and continued support.

We would ask dog walkers to please pick up their dogs mess which seems to be on the increase.

**Sam King (Chairman)**