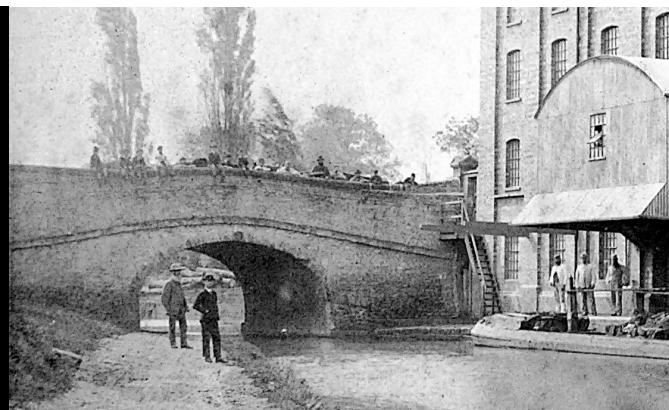


Round and About

www.blisworthvillage.org

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

April/May 2024 No 156



Notes from the Chairman - Blisworth Parish Council

Stay informed: Please join Blisworth Parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/> or view the website: <https://parish.blisworthvillage.org/> for updates.

Contact: blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com 07983233501 or 01604 857602.

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

Next Blisworth Parish Council meeting: 8th April 2024.
May Annual Parish Meeting of Blisworth Date: TBC

We've been tasked by the Government to develop our village's biodiversity. Currently, we have a no-mow policy in place only in the Closed Cemetery, which helps nature thrive while also saving public funds. We recognize the potential to expand this initiative to other areas within the village where we would allow the grass to grow through the year. Your thoughts on this matter are valuable as we work towards creating a more sustainable environment. We would like to encourage residents to consider adopting a No Mow May approach in their own gardens. By letting grass and wildflowers grow freely, you can contribute to local biodiversity, provide essential habitats for pollinators and wildlife, and create a more beautiful and vibrant neighbourhood for everyone to enjoy.

Update on Stoke Road Subsiding Section: We have been notified that the tender for the works has been awarded with a provisional start date in the second week of April 2024 and a suggested timeframe of 13 weeks. Blisworth Parish Council (BPC) has been in communication with the Team Lead and they have assured us that we will receive up-to-date information nearer to the time, which will be posted on our website and social media page.

BPC continues to pursue action on improving the roads, pavements and traffic in and through the village. As you know, we have no actual power or responsibility for these, but we are doing all we can to lobby and influence Highways and West Northants - and the response has been encouraging. You will have seen recent repairs to potholes and some sections of pavement. Over the next few months, you should also see further repairs to the bridleway from Buttmead to Courteenhall Road (the drainage issue has been noted, but is more complicated to fix and will therefore take a bit longer), to the pavement on Stoke Road and to the road junctions at Eastfield and Windmill Avenue. More extensive repairs have been agreed for pavements on Connegar Leys, Buttmead, Chapel Lane and Church Lane by the Church, but these can only be carried out during the limited summer months so will be slower to complete. We also got agreement that the potholes on Stoke Road need urgent attention. Watch this space!

Applications have gone in to reduce the speed limit through the village, and on the entry stretch on Towcester Road. We are waiting to hear if these have been successful and in the meantime have ordered 20mph advisory signs which we will be putting up through the village shortly.

West Northants Council has also agreed to improve the village gateways to calm traffic entering the village, to put in additional dropped kerbs and alter the signage on Church Lane to slow the traffic on that particular rat run. The Councillors have volunteered to paint the gateways and add the reflective strips (as this will save money).

Lastly, a group of volunteers (including many of the Councillors) carried out a monitoring exercise on Stoke Road to log the number of HGVs ignoring the weight limit. For which many thanks. All the companies identified have been individually contacted and warned. If we can find enough volunteers, we hope to repeat the exercise later during the spring.

Once again, please can we ask all residents to log any potholes, pavement repairs etc on Fix My Street at <https://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/>. We do this regularly, but BPC is only one voice and the greater the number of individual voices, the louder the cry! Please continue to submit issues with regard to traffic accidents, damage to cars and property to the Police as this helps them build a clearer picture of the impact of the traffic on residents and supports our application to slow the traffic down and to budget for further traffic calming opportunities.

The Councillors have been diligently working to secure value for money in all our endeavours. Negotiating a more favourable mowing contract, successfully applying for grants and making savings in other areas of the 2023-2024 budget, has left us with further funds to carry over into the next financial year to support vital projects in the village. Last year we did not increase our budget. This year, we have asked for an increase in the precept of 5%. We specifically asked for this increase so that we could set aside funds to improve the village.

Moving forward, our plan is to use these funds to hopefully submit bids for works on the footpaths, dropped kerbs, and traffic calming options in the village. These projects are dependent on agreement with West Northamptonshire Council and Highways, and it would seem that we need to offer financial contributions to get these projects higher up their order of works in order to get them actioned as soon as possible. These funds will also be directed towards other long-term projects aimed at further improving our community. We are working hard to make these achievable.

Continued overleaf

Recently, we have had a number of complaints about the number of cars parking on grassed areas in the village. In particular; Connegar Leys/Buttmead green, parts of Church Lane and also on the small green on High Street and also at the entrance of Pond Bank, blocking sight lines for pedestrians and drivers. The parking of cars damages the grass, making it difficult/impossible to mow. Residents have asked the Council to intervene. What are your thoughts?

We encourage you to attend our April Council meeting. This is your chance to contribute to the discussion on No Mow May or give your views about parking issues in the village. We also welcome any other ideas or suggestions you may have for the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting of Blisworth May meeting (date to be confirmed). We propose an update from last year's meeting where we discussed residents' top areas of concerns. We value your feedback and want to ensure that your voices are heard. Whether it's discussing local events, infrastructure improvements, or community initiatives, we're here to listen and act on your behalf. What issues would you like the council to prioritise? Let us know by attending the April and May meetings.

Regards Steve blisworthparishbilling@gmail.com

BMC - Blisworth Mothers Club

Tuesday 16th April

Line Dancing lead by Marian and Julie.

A fun evening, even if you have two left feet! Learn the basic steps or just watch, but remember to wear your comfortable shoes.

Tuesday 21st May

Men's Questiontime.

Following the success of last year's 'Loose Women' event, we have invited a panel of well known local men to answer our questions. This promises to be a lively, entertaining evening. Visitors (male and female!) are welcome to join us.

Blisworth Village Hall, admission £3 includes light refreshments. Raffle. Doors open 7.15 for 7.30pm start. Watch Blisworth Facebook page for reminders and any further details nearer the dates.

For more details Margaret on 858590



Blisworth Newspaper Delivery Service

We deliver any newspaper or magazine purchased at Blisworth Post Office Stores, 7 days a week.

Delivery by 7:30am on weekdays, 8:00am on Saturdays and 9:00am on Sundays.

Prices

Delivery costs are 30p per weekday and 50p per weekend day. You pay the shop for the papers/magazines directly. We accept cash and bank transfer, with invoices sent out every four weeks as a reminder.

Contact

blisworthnewspapers@gmail.com Phone number: 07879 632054 or visit 37 Stoke Road during work hours, 43 Buttmead at other times, or leave a message at the shop.

Blisworth Women's Institute

We often challenge our members to use their many talents in many other ways apart from cake and jam making!



At our January meeting we challenged our members to make something out of lolly sticks and bring it along, to the next meeting. As usual they came up trumps and we had several dollies, a cat, a bee, a garden gate, a house and our WI logo to name a few!

Then we asked our members to help with a request from a WI in Oxfordshire regarding marking 80 years since the D-Day landings. There is to be an installation of 1475 soldier silhouettes across the wild meadow fields in Normandy called "For Your Tomorrow" between April and September 2024. They have been asked if WI's could supply knitted or crochet poppies to be part of this display. Once again, we had a wonderful response from our members and it is so nice to know that Blisworth WI will be part of this event.



Our next meeting in April is a visit from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, the topic - Queen Victoria's wardrobe.

New members are always welcome at our meetings, held at the village hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

Tina Alexandrou Secretary

BVHPFA 250 Club Results

| | February | March |
|-----|----------|-------|
| £30 | 16 | 139 |
| £20 | 195 | 148 |
| £20 | 145 | 183 |
| £10 | 179 | 211 |
| £10 | 52 | 83 |

Thank you to all members

Estelle 858482

Stitchery Do

Creating with fabric and thread

Thursday 4th April

Using fabric from our stash, or bring your own, learn patchwork techniques such as foundation piecing and 'crumbing'.

Thursday 2nd May

Scarf making from our donated Liberty fabric. Threads and trimmings provided.

For both these sessions, bring your own sewing machine or use the ones from our store.

At all of our sessions you can continue with your own projects if you prefer.

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 Arts Society

Our summer term meetings start on April 11th. We meet every Thursday afternoon in the village Hall from 2pm—4pm. All are welcome to join this friendly and encouraging group.

The annual Art Show is on the 20th/21st April from 10.30—4.30 in the Village Hall - do come and see a wonderful variety of work produced by the group.



Art Show

**20th/21st April Blisworth Village Hall
10.30 – 4.30**

Tea/Coffee and cakes

**All are welcome to come and see/buy
a wide range of art from our talented artists**

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

Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Field Association

It has been a successful couple of months at the Village Hall with more bookings being made for children's parties and other functions. There is now a new online booking system called Hallmaster on our website for people to book out the Main Hall or Meeting Room. The link can be found on the tab labelled 'Calendar & Bookings'. Any questions regarding this can be sent to me at blisworthvh@gmail.com

If you would like to take a look around the Hall to see if it is the place to hold your event (children's party, other types of party, wedding reception etc), please also email me on the address given above.

Jo Brooks (Booking Clerk)

Blisworth Friendship Group

We continue to meet in the Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm. In February we took 47 of us for a meal at The Royal Oak courtesy of the very generous donation from Hollowell Steam Rally and a very big Thank You to Mick and Daphne Wreford for nominating us. We also enjoyed a trip down memory lane when John and Maureen Smith came along and showed us footage of our VE Day 50th anniversary celebrations. What a wonderful day that was.

We also had a visit from Jenni Hedges from ACRE who brought along warm packs for those who'd like them. They included a blanket, a hot water bottle, a radiator key and foil backing for behind your radiator.

We don't have visitors every time, sometimes we are just happy to chat amongst ourselves or do a quiz between the tables. We always enjoy tea, coffee, cake or something savoury, and a raffle. It's a lovely afternoon.

Estelle 858482



Blisworth Scarecrow Festival

**Bank Holiday Monday 27th May
10am—7pm**

Scarecrow Theme 'B' for Blisworth

All profits to the Blisworth Friendship Group

Villagers wishing to take part book your scarecrow in via Facebook or email Blisworth Scarecrow Festival Facebook or scott@firstavenuesupplies.co.uk

Event sponsor First Avenue Supplies Ltd



Hunsbury and Blisworth Community Choir

Musical Director Helen Thorman

Hunsbury and Blisworth Community Choir will be giving a spring concert at St. Benedict's Church, West Hunsbury at 7.00pm on Saturday, 12th April. Entry is free but there will be a collection in aid of the local charity, Home Start. Please come and enjoy an evening of wonderful music with a very varied programme.

Jon Murray 07460 617817



Blisworth Heritage Society



**Friday Apr 12 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall
Easter and Springtime Customs
By Michael Brown**

**Friday May 10 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall
Lacemaking in Northamptonshire
By Marion Swindall**

We are now in the process of transferring our archives (pictures, films, cassettes and other records) to an upstairs room in the Village Hall where we hope they will more accessible to all. We are planning a Grand Opening early in the Summer, see future Round and Abouts or speak to any committee member for more details.

See our website www.blisworthheritage.org.uk

Beyond Photography

Andy Carter

Following the art event in St. John the Baptist Church, Blisworth at the end of September, I'm excited to have been awarded a solo exhibition by Northants Open Studios! This is at Abington Park Museum, Northampton from 10th Feb to 21st April, Weekends and School Holidays 12 – 4pm. Abstract, floral, interactive and some simply *strange* images will be on display. Details on the museum web site:

<https://www.northamptonmuseums.com/info/6/visit/8/abington-park-museum>



Photo Andy Carter 'By the Light of the Silvery Moon' the Jackdaws are paired up for spring all around Blisworth.

Blisworth Film Club

Thursday 25th April - "One Life" starring Anthony Hopkins. The true story of Sir Nicholas Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis.

Thursday 30th May - "The Holdovers".

This multi-Oscar nominated film stars Paul Giamatti as a strict Classics teacher at a New England boarding school, forced to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go on the Christmas break.

We will also be showing a film on Thursday 27th June.....but yet to be decided.

Films are shown in the Village Hall. Doors at 7pm, projector rolls at 7.30. Bring your own refreshments and drink. £6 on the door, no need to book.....just come along.

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



Blisworth Parish Church

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Genesis 3v 22

Services for April and May

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

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| April 7th, 14th, 28th | 11am Family Communion |
| April 21st | 11am Family Service |
| May 5th, 12th, 26th | 11 am Family Communion |
| May 19th | 11am Family Service |

After the celebration of Easter and the hope and joy that brings this is a period of looking forward. The daylight increases, there are new leaves on the trees and every day brings more colour to our gardens. We can look forward to the joy of summer. Similarly as Christians we can feel the hope and renewal that Easter brings. It is a good time to give thanks for all that God has done for us and will continue to do if we trust in Him.

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



The children have had an exciting term. We were honoured to host a visit from the HM Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire James Saunders Watson. It was amazing for the children to welcome him and a lot of excitement filled the air. Our children learned so much about his role and our King and what was amazing, was their feeling of importance due to his visit. We were very proud of them and how they spoke to him - Lily - one of our pupils recited him a poem that she wrote herself!

We have also had another great few sports events. Our children won the district Basketball tournament, and we now go on to the County finals. One of our pupils ran in the national cross country - Oliver - and placed really well. The children have been active in both competitions, PE and in their play.

In school, we now have a Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe display - featuring a real wardrobe and a very large lion! Our children all still love to read. The term has flown by - it's been great fun, and we will all look forward to the summer term and all that it brings.

Miss Leah Jenkins Headteacher

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 17th May for the June/July 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.