

# Round and About

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

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

June/July 2024 No 157



**Keep in touch:** Join our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/> or view our website: <https://parish.blisworthvillage.org/> for updates.

**Contact Us:** [blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com) 0798 3233501

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

## Notes from the Chairman - Blisworth Parish Council

After much correspondence and badgering from the Council, Network Rail agreed to monitor all traffic from their site on the Northampton Road. Up until the beginning of January 2024, the vast majority of the trucks were not going through the village. But that has changed: Councillors have already set up traffic surveys to get evidence that these trucks are actually going through the village to access the site but the trucks have stopped going through the village recently (possibly due to complaints and numerous phone calls from the clerk again). Blisworth Parish Council invited Network Rail to attend the Annual Parish meeting to address residents' concerns, however they rejected our invitation. They have now officially stated that they will have to use the village as an access route. We will reschedule further surveys to collect data. The Council will pursue this further but we need evidence from residents that

includes: Dates and times, Registration number, Company logo, Photos and Videos of trucks going over the kerbs. Without this information, we cannot pursue them. It is very important to send this information to the clerk and not to share it on any social media platforms, otherwise the Police will not be able to use the images.

The Council has worked hard to get value for money through the year as we know that there are many demands for funds to tackle the traffic/roads issues in the village, which were the main focus for residents at the last Annual Parish meeting. We have engaged in close to 100 contacts with all the stakeholders involved and we have started to make some progress. The Council would like to include regular Traffic and Highways updates (both positive and negative news) to keep residents informed. Please see below our latest update:

**Traffic and Highways Update:** The Parish Council has no statutory responsibilities or powers over pavements, roads or traffic: responsibility lies with West Northants Council (WNC), their contractors and with Highways. As a Parish Council we can only seek to influence and persuade.

**Potholes and Pavements:** We suffer from pavements and roads in a poor state of repair. As soon as one area is repaired, another pothole appears. But residents will, we hope, have seen the repairs that have been made in the village – on the High Street, Stoke Road, Eastfield, Windmill Avenue, Pond Bank. We also have a commitment that Courteenhall Road will be repaired in the next month or so, and that Stoke Road will be repaired once the current works above the canal are concluded. The bridleway between Connegar Leys and Courteenhall Road has also been repaired at each end, and the middle section (which is a more complicated drainage need) will be addressed over the summer.

One area of particular concern has been the corner of Stoke Road and the High Street where the narrow sloping pavement has already seen a number of accidents. We have spoken with WNC engineers about this stretch three times, but unfortunately the consistent response has been that it is simply not possible to make this section safe due to a combination of no foundations, narrowness and slope. So, instead, we demanded that work to be done to improve the

quality of the pavement on the opposite side. This has been done. It is not an ideal solution, but at least we have one safe pavement for residents, particularly those with mobility issues, to use.

**Dropped Kerbs:** Bids have gone in for four new sets of dropped kerbs – two in Chapel Lane, one in Little Lane and one in Courteenhall Road. We are waiting to hear if the bids have been successful.

**Traffic Calming:** WNC will not approve any traffic calming measures that involve a vertical build – so no sleeping policemen, speed bumps or speed pads. This is WNC policy. So as a Parish Council, we have pursued other traffic calming improvements. The following are now planned:

- A 20mph zone in the middle of the village. A map showing the proposed area will be available on our website. We have gone back already to WNC to ask that the zone covers the full length of the High Street, Gayton Road as far as the Boatyard, and Stoke Road up to and beyond the Surgery. We will continue to press. A public consultation is planned and we will let you know when this is scheduled;
- Improvements to the village Gateways to make them more visible, including signage and traffic calming lines painted on the roads;

Continued overleaf

- We requested and have now set up 20mph advisory signs in both the centre of the village and Blisworth Arm. They will be moved around regularly to encourage compliance.
- New signage is due to be put up in Church Lane to warn about the narrowness of the road;
- We also applied for a 40mph limit on Towcester Road. Unfortunately this was refused, so we are now strongly arguing for repairs to the footpath, which is clearly unsafe given the speed of the traffic;
- In the longer term, we have agreement from WNC to look at both a chicane on Stoke Road (near the allotments) and a pedestrian crossing by the School. Both these projects are at an early stage, with engineers scheduled to assess feasibility in the first instance. If approved, then consultations will take place, so there will be an opportunity for everyone to express their views;
- Lastly, we are continuing to press for changes to the signage on the new Knock Lane roundabout which is currently funnelling traffic down Knock Lane and through the village as a rat run to the A43 and Northampton. It is proving difficult to get a response, but we will continue to argue for changes to what is clearly a growing problem for the village.

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



**Blisworth Heritage Society**



**Friday Jun 14 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall  
Part 2 of Maureen Smith's  
Oral Histories of Blisworth**

*A follow up to Part 1 which was enjoyed by many in Jan this year*

**Our July meeting will be a Summer Outing rather than a talk**

This year we will be visiting the Cowper and Newton Museum in Olney. This will be in the **afternoon of 12 July**. Places are limited, so if you would like to come, please book with Hilary Spurrier or any Committee Member. Would you please also let us know whether you need a lift to Olney or whether you can offer a lift to others.

*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 in the Summer, see future Round and Abouts or speak to any committee member for more details.*

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

## BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	April	May
£30	225	213
£20	186	4
£20	135	247
£10	59	210
£10	86	221

Thank you all for your support and good luck next time.

Estelle 858482

*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 Chapel 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"  
New 2nd and 4th Tuesday "Community Connect"

### Toddlers & Tea

Fridays 10.00am until 12.00pm  
New Blisworth Young Parish Council 4th Friday at 7pm  
*If you would like to volunteer to support the running of these sessions, please get in touch*

### What's on:

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Café Church 10.30 am  
Saturday 29th June Fellowship Breakfast - Men's & Ladies Breakfast 8.30 am  
Free singalong – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July @ 2 pm - Free entry.

### 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 for more details on 01604 857654 (answer phone)

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

Social media Facebook @BlisworthBC

## Celebrating 80 years since D-DAY Proms and Prosecco

by  
Hunsbury and Blisworth Community Choir

Holy Cross Church  
Milton Malsor

Friday 21st June  
7pm

Tickets £10

Jane T 07729311988

Refreshments included

Proceeds to Holy Cross Church and The British Legion

## Blisworth Film Club

**Thursday 30th May** - The Holdovers.  
Nominated for five Oscars!

**Thursday 27th June** - Wicked Little Letters starring Olivia Coleman & Jessie Buckley

There will be no film club in July & August but we will be back in September."

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](mailto:MontyDavenport@outlook.com)  
Mobile on 07968 889971.



## Blisworth Parish Church

*"God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in Truth"*

### Services for June and July


**June 2nd, 9th, 23rd** 11am Family Communion Service  
**June 16th** 11am Family Service  
**June 30th** 10am Benefice Communion Service at Alderton  
**July 7th, 14th, 28th** 11am Family Communion Service  
**July 21st** 11am Family Worship

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

Sadly we have had to say farewell to one of our churchwardens, Angela Cheesebrough who has moved to Dunchurch. We wish her and her husband John good wishes for life in their new home.

The church is now in the part of the church year known as Trinity. This period lasts until December and the start of Advent. It is a time when we are reminded of the importance of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, three facets of one being. If you are exploring the county this summer then an unusual building to visit is the Triangular lodge near Rothwell which is a building constructed by Thomas Tresham to celebrate the Trinity. The Tresham family were later involved in the Gunpowder plot.

Rector	Rev'd. Canon Richard Stainer	857619
Warden	Fiona Mckenzie	859541

**Scouts**  We continue to provide great activities to the young people of Blisworth, and surrounding villages, and we're very grateful for the lighter evenings so that we can get back outside again to continue doing what we do best – giving young people Skills for Life.

All 3 Sections (Beavers 6-8 years, Cubs 8 – 10.5 years and Scouts 10.5 – 14 years) have had a really varied programme this year and are looking forward to upcoming events, including of course Summer Camp.

We want to reach as many young people as we possibly can and are therefore always pleased when new people join us. We have spaces in all 3 sections so please do get in touch if your young person is interested in joining us.

We love welcoming new adults too! We are in desperate need of more wonderful volunteers to help us keep the Group running, especially for our Cub Section (aged 8 – 10.5 years) and would urge you to consider if you can help. We of course need volunteers to work directly with young people at meetings, but we also have a role for you if you couldn't think of anything worse than standing in front of a group of young people but still want them to develop Skills for Life! Volunteering to be a Trustee of the Group would mean helping us make sure that we run safely and legally and is such a vital role.

Volunteering with us is very flexible and we will work with you and your availability – it doesn't have to be a weekly commitment. Training and support is provided to make sure that our volunteers have everything that they need to succeed.

**Debbie** 07908 644021.

## Blisworth Women's Institute



We had illustrious visitors at our April meeting - Queen Victoria, Lady Roxburghe and John Brown! We were shown how many layers of clothing were needed before Her Majesty was ready to go out, starting with undergarments, petticoats, a bustle and top layers. Several members joined in the evening by dressing suitably to be in the presence of Royalty! Various articles of clothing were handed round for a closer look, a very amusing and interesting evening.

In June we have 'Gold Work' an intriguing title! Members will have to wait until the day to find out what it is all about.

In July we have a visit from a local poet, her talk is entitled "I'm a poet, but not as you know it". She has a unique style in both her writing, mode of transport and fashion sense!

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

**Tina Alexandrou** Secretary



We would like to use this entry to thank some individuals for kind donations to school and voluntary work. Mrs Lorna Frances Bailey left a generous gift in that she wished to have donations for books in our school library instead of flowers at her funeral. Her daughters, Karen and Jo, attended our school as well as some of her granddaughters. We are currently choosing books that we know the children will be really excited to see in their library. We also have had a donation from Graham Cadd and his dog Albie for two years in a row. This has helped us to fund our next story room - post apocalypse alien invasion - the children have spotted the start of the room and are very excited. We are creating story areas that come alive for many of the children's favourite books. Thank you - such an exciting project we have been able to undertake!

In sport, our children have finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the County at girls' netball. Thank you to our wonderful volunteer Mrs Stewart who provides the coaching alongside a former pupil, Yasmin. We would also like to thank Mr Gwilliam for his voluntary work with our allotment and helping the children to grow food and Mr Burgess, our new cleaner, for attending a number of trips voluntarily to help our children thrive. Finally, our wonderful FOBs (PTA) for amazing events and fundraising.

We are a community school and it is a more magical place to have such kind actions from the community. Enjoy the summer now that it is here!

**Miss Leah Jenkins** Headteacher

## Blisworth Arts Society

Thank you to everyone who supported our Art Show in April. The quality and standard of work was excellent.

The Art group continue to meet each Thursday in the Village Hall between 2pm and 4pm. New members are always welcome. Currently our members include painters in a wide range of media, textile artists and photographers. We aim to have at least one work shop each term. For more information contact **Hilary Spurrier** on **859181**.



### Blisworth Friendship Group

We still meet in Village Hall alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm. If you'd like to join us for a cuppa and refreshments, it's only £3 plus we have a raffle.

Join us for a bit of fun. Please contact:

**Estelle 858482 Anne 858001 or Janet 07732987087**



A 'soldier' will be taking up residence on the bench at the Bus Stop by the school to commemorate the D-Day landings. Many thanks to Harry who donated the brilliant mannequin, Andy for help with the Army uniform all the knitters for the poppies, and to Ann and Janet for the Banner. **Anne Goss**  
All co-ordinated by the Community Projects Group

### Stitchery Do

*Creating with fabric and thread*

#### June 6 th

Own choice day. We have so many ongoing projects to complete that today's session will be largely up to individuals to finish off or revisit previous work. Tell us where you would like help so we can provide the expertise!

#### July 4 th

Getting creative with our stash of wools and threads. Bring your ideas, we have the resources. We also hope to demonstrate our Sissex cutter to make appliqué shapes to enhance bags, patchwork and recycled clothes.

Usual details, admission £4, includes refreshments and use of all our resources. 10.00 to 2.00pm, Blisworth Village Hall. All welcome

For more details contact **Margaret on 858590**

### Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Field Association

Promoting the hire of the Village Hall over the past 10 months has included a much-needed update on the website which provides more information (including hire costs and booking, photos of all the facilities available, and the history behind the Hall), creating a new Facebook page (Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Field Association) and setting up an online booking system through Hallmaster.

Why not have a look and book your next event with us! We are starting to see an increase in bookings for parties, functions and play rehearsals as well as the potential for new groups/classes. We would also like to promote the use of the Hall as a wedding venue. So don't delay, if you have a party or event coming up (big or small), drop me an email:

**Jo Brooks (Booking Clerk) at [blisworthvh@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthvh@gmail.com)**



### Open Garden and Plant Sale

Our annual Open Garden and Plant Sale is on **Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June**  
**10.30 am - 5.00 pm**

£5 Admission to include tea and homemade cake  
**Navigation Cottage, Blisworth Arm NN7 3EF**

### BMC - Blisworth Mothers Club

#### Tuesday 18th June

Our annual walking **Treasure Hunt**, this year in and around Gayton, with level paths and pavements. Cost £5 pp includes a buffet supper at The Eykin Arms, payable on arrival. Teams of four can be arranged on the night, starting from 7.00pm. Parking is available near the pub. Numbers to Linda Yuill by June 14th to assist with organisation.

#### Tuesday July 16th

A summer evening in **Delapre Abbey Gardens**. Bring your own picnic, a chair or blanket. There is an easy walk around the grounds and lake for the more energetic, or just sit and enjoy the atmosphere. We will meet in the Delapre Abbey car park at 7.00pm. If the weather is really unkind, we'll have an indoor picnic in the Village Hall. There is no charge for this event. Transport can be arranged.

#### A date for your diary

On Tuesday August 20th from 7.00pm, we have another fun Victoria House supper garden party, the theme this year is the Olympics, so food and clothes from around the nations, traditional or sporting kit! More details later.

New members are always welcome to join this friendly group, who meet every third Tuesday. Details are posted on the Blisworth Facebook page and members regularly receive updates/reminders by email. At several of our meetings visitors (male and female!) are welcome, we aim to provide something for everyone!

For more details contact **Margaret on 858590**

### Dr Derek Bull

Dr Derek Bull sadly died on 6th May aged 95. Derek was the family doctor for Blisworth and surrounding villages from 1955 until his retirement in 1992.

Many of you will remember him as a very caring, kind, compassionate person, who was also a superb doctor. He was very dedicated in his work, during a time in general practice when doctors had responsibility for their patients day and night, for 365 days of the year. He taught many doctors who were training to be the GPs of the future, including myself. He was an excellent teacher and mentor. Wise and full of sensible advice.

He was particularly skilled in obstetrics and paediatrics and delivered exceptional care to pregnant mothers, their newborns, and children as they grew. He was greatly missed by his patients when he retired and is missed by his family and friends now that he has died.

**Dr Tony Hillier**

### Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 19th July for the August/September Issue.

Please email items you 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.**