

# Round and About

**Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter**  
**January/February 2013 No 89**



## Notes from the Chairman.....

2012 was certainly a wonderful year for the country and for Blisworth especially! I am sure 2013 will be another great year for the village and the Annual Parish Assembly in April will be an excellent opportunity for us all to celebrate our achievements great and small.

We have been informed that the Community Speed Watch programme is starting again although we will now have to pay towards this. If it is agreed at the next Parish Council meeting we will be looking for a team of 10 volunteers to carry out the vital monitoring function. Traffic is a very important issue that concerns everyone so look out for more information.

Unfortunately Ron Hutchinson, our Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator has had to step down, because of this Winston Wincott would appreciate someone to work with him. If you think you could help with Neighbourhood Watch please contact me, Winston or any member of the Parish Council. We are very grateful to Ron and Winston for their efforts to help keep our village safe.

I know there are several residents who always look out for people who are on their own and with some weeks of possibly very cold weather before the spring arrives we all need to be aware of those less able than ourselves. A friendly 'hello' costs nothing but is worth so much!!

**A Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous  
New Year to Everyone!!**

**Pat Masterman 858985**

As a follow-on from the successful Open Studios, held in Blisworth in September, **Blisworth Painters** have been invited to exhibit their work at **Towcester Library**. The exhibition is running until **5th January**. The next time you are in Towcester why not pop in and view. Most work is for sale.  
**Maggie Turton**

## BVHPFA 250 Club

A happy New Year to all contributors. Participation in the scheme is of great benefit to the Village Hall. My New Year resolution is to get all tickets subscribed, so now is a good time to let me know if you are willing to help the Hall is this way. Tickets are still just £6 p.a. with monthly prizes of £30, £20 and £10. The 10 collectors in the village, will soon be doing their annual round, the VHPFA is grateful to all of them.

Recent winners are:

November: 136 124 7

December 173 114 207

All enquiries to Fiona McKenzie 859 541

## Blisworth Parish Church

*"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord". Luke 2 V. 11 (NIV)*

By the time this issue is in your hands the Advent season of anticipation and expectation may be over, but we are still in Christmastide, the 12 days which started on December 25th. The Three (?) Kings, however, have still not arrived! Nevertheless their traditional attendance at the Stable was seen over and again during the nativity display weekend St. John's put on. Grateful thanks to all who loaned over 80 nativity scenes collected from all over the world. The diversity was amazing, and the many visitors from around the County enjoyed a fascinating hour or two.

The Christmas Fair in November was a fun afternoon, and we were pleased to welcome so many people. Thanks to all who contributed to a successful day.

Messy Church continues on the first Saturday of each month from 3-4.30 in Shutlanger Village Hall. There is lots to do for all, and refreshments are served.

Details of all services are displayed on the church door. There is a warm welcome for everyone.

Enquiries to:

Rector:	the Revd. Andrea Watkins	857619
Wardens:	Angela Cheesbrough	858839
	Fiona McKenzie	859541

## Stitchery Do

Blisworth Tapestry Charity

Starts Thursday 10th January 10am to 3pm. Welcoming you to join our new creative community **Stitch Craft/Social Club** at the new Blisworth Scout/Community Hall.

Do you: Enjoy creating with fabric and thread?

Have an unfinished piece of work? and lack motivation to complete, or need help mastering a new skill?

Have a problem with techniques, are you looking for a new project?

Enjoy working as a group to make a difference by making a quilt for a good cause?

If all or any of these apply to you, then we have the skills and are a happy to help. We are here to **Inspire You!**

Any kind of stitchery: knitting, sewing, embroidery, patchwork, quilting, applique, crochet, lace. Bring your own equipment, we can provide materials to get you started.

£3.50 per month, includes tea and coffee. Easy access and parking, transport can be arranged.

Please contact the team to book your first class:

Margaret Holiday	858590
Sandra O'Connor	858764
Carol Arnall	858776
Ros Bedford	858423

## Blisworth Play Reading Group

The group meets informally once a month on Wednesday mornings to read a variety of plays in a sociable and friendly atmosphere. Over the last year we have read classics, pantomime, farce, Agatha Christie and we have just finished The Wizard of Oz.

If you would like to come along and join us, you would be most welcome. Next meeting is 9 Jan when we begin a new Play, followed by 6 Feb.

For further details, please phone Dick Hennessy on 858602.



## Blisworth Heritage Society



Friday **25th January** is the annual AGM which will be followed by an illustrated talk by Douglas Goddard:  
**Northampton in Old Picture Postcards**

Friday **22 February**: Bruce Smith will speak about:  
**Welsh Cattle Droving in Northamptonshire**

The Village Hall at 7.30.

Admission £1 for Members £2.50 Guests.

Details on our webpage [www.blisworthheritage.org.uk](http://www.blisworthheritage.org.uk)

## Friends of Blisworth School

Blisworth school are having a family Bingo evening on Friday 18th January, come and join in the fun. For more info, please call into the school office.

# 1st Blisworth Scout Group

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year, you may well have seen members of the Group out and about in the community over the festive season.

Thank you to all those of you who came along to Bonfire Night and donated a firework or two – overall I felt it was a great success and I look forward to welcoming you again next year! The Scouts did a great job manning the barbecues, Cap'n Firework and his crew did really well to organise and sort the donated pyrotechnics into such a great display. It really was a great opportunity to showcase the fabulous “new” Hall just one year after we moved in.

On a more sombre note the Remembrance Day church service went very well from the Group's point of view, a good turn out and an opportunity for each section to make a meaningful contribution to the overall service.

During the autumn term the young people seem to have been inspired by their leaders and we have presented Chief Scout's awards to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts – well done to everyone who helped make it possible – leaders, Mums and Dads!

The Beavers' programme seems to have whizzed by – it's such a pleasure to see so many of the youngsters (and the Leaders and helpers!) every week, so full of enthusiasm! Well done to Julie and all her team for growing the Colony since the start of the school year to 16 strong.

Cubs have enjoyed a good and varied programme too – unfortunately their crowning glory of the term has had to be moved – a sleepover was planned for December but clashed with the school trip to the panto.

I've had a lot of fun with the Scouts this term as well – not only did they do a great job on Bonfire night but we've had a really well organised disabilities night and, like the Beavers, a cooking night as well.

We plan to be at the Wild and Woolly in force – great to see it back after an unfortunate absence, thanks to those who worked behind the scenes to help it return to the village. We also hope to be able to help with the second Gayton Run in late January.

Do any of you remember “Bob a Job Week” – well, it's 21<sup>st</sup> century equivalent, “Community Week”, takes place from 3 to 9 June 2013 and I wondered if there were anything that the Group might do to help with a project around the village? If you have any ideas then please let me know, via email [gsl@1stblisworth.org](mailto:gsl@1stblisworth.org) or telephone 07501 059 566.

If you feel you can give an hour or two occasionally, or more frequently, or if you have a particular interest or skill to share, or you just want to encourage the young people to develop then please do contact me. Also, there must be some former members of the Group reading this – would there be any interest in some sort of loose association who might get together for a beer or two just for fun or who might want to help the Group at particular events or activities? If so, let me know, probably best via email.

Thanks for reading once again,

**Jonathan Hazell.**



### New Project to Help Isolation in Villages

A new National Lottery funded project hopes to help the isolated elderly feel less lonely. The 'Happy at Home Partnership' is led by the Daventry Volunteer Centre.

The project aims to recruit volunteers to spare **as little as one hour** a week to help befriend elderly residents who may be in need of company.

*"We are hoping to find people who have a little free time to come forward and help neighbours" said Nicola Toms, Project Officer for 'Happy at Home Partnership'. "The project aims are simple, helping people who live on our doorsteps, to improve health & wellbeing. We hope to be effective in reducing the feeling of loneliness experienced by elderly individuals living isolated lives in our villages, by bringing them information about local services and helping them to access those services" she added.*

It is hoped that the project will make sure that those most in need, due to age, mobility, illness or personal situation, can be helped by regular visits with help and information, and maybe a cup of tea and a chat to brighten the day!

If you would like to become a volunteer, get in touch, one hour a week is all you need! Please call Nicola Toms on 01327 300614, e-mail nicola@daventryvolunteers.org.uk.

### Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

2012 has been a difficult year for gardeners, to say the least. In spite of this, yields and quality of some vegetables on this very light soiled site have been extremely good. Parsnips and carrots have romped down towards Australia and most brassicas have done well. Pumpkins and potatoes, too, have exceeded expectations. Although slugs and fungal diseases have been a huge problem, there have been very few aphids. Good for growers but not so good for birds.

Who knows what 2013 will bring, but I am sure that the rewards of allotmenting will outweigh the trials and tribulations which always seem to occur when we are least expecting them.

If you are interested in taking on a plot, please contact **Jane Hill** on **858656**.

### Blisworth Film Club

On January 31st we have 'Private Peaceful' a classic story of two brothers, their teenage love for the same girl, pressures of feudal family life and the horrors of WW1. This 2012 (12 rated) film is a deeply moving portrayal of an everyday tragedy, set in Devon with some well known British actors.

On February 28th there will be something rather different! 'Hope Springs' (2012 12A) is an American 'Rom-com' starring Meryl Streep as a middle aged wife who persuades her husband of 30 years to accompany her on a week-long counselling session to work on their declining relationship. This should be an interesting contrast to January's choice.

Advance notice...March 28th 'The Sweeney'.

As usual, in the Hougemont Barn at the Royal Oak, films start at 7.30pm, with doors open at 7.00pm, admission £4 at the door, raffle and refreshments available.

**Margaret Holiday 858590**



### Blisworth Women's Institute

With the Christmas festivities well and truly over Blisworth WI is now looking forward to a new programme of meetings and events in 2013.

2012 has been an exciting year for us. It was announced at the Annual Council Meeting held at Spinney Hill that Blisworth WI had won the Challenge Trophy of the year with our entry under the heading of "High Flyers" wherein we were required to submit a poem as a handcrafted item in any medium. We were also delighted to have found ourselves awarded joint first place in the "organisations" category with our scrap book pages produced for the Heritage Society.

In November many of our members were privileged to have been escorted on a tour of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea by one of the resident Chelsea Pensioners. Although it proved too wet to tour the grounds our members found the tour very interesting and informative.

Our November meeting included a most delightful talk on Stanley Holloway given by Stephen Fall whose knowledge of the subject was awe inspiring. Our Christmas meeting was held on the 13th December when the season was suitably celebrated and we are now looking forward to our January meeting to be held on the 10th when we will be pleased to welcome a speaker on a subject close to all women's hearts "Fashion". New members and guests are always welcome so please join us if you wish.

**Margaret Morbey**

### Blisworth Art & Craft Group

Weekly sessions will re-start on **Monday 7th January** and we will work through to **25th March**. This term we will be welcoming back June Hawkins who will help us progress to figures in landscape as a follow-on to her successful session on costume figures. Roy Holding will also be returning to demonstrate acrylic painting.

**Maggie Turton**



## Blisworth Canal Partnership

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

[www.blisworthcanalfestival.co.uk](http://www.blisworthcanalfestival.co.uk)

**We are on a winning streak!** Canal and River Trust took us by surprise at a recent meeting when they awarded the Partnership a certificate for **outstanding contribution to volunteering** along a waterway. This encompasses the work we do to organise the canal festivals and the improvements we've made to the embankment. This came hot on the heels of the **joint first prize** awarded by Blisworth Heritage Society for our scrapbook pages. Both certificates will soon be on our website.

You may notice some improvements to the brick hut by the tunnel mouth over the next few months. First the gates will go on, followed by the walls being painted and boards being put up for the Village Art group to create a stunning canal scene. It will slowly be transformed into a Field Shelter / Centre for the community and beyond to use.

If you want some fresh air and a bit of exercise over the festive break, then come and join us as we carry out some routine light maintenance on the embankment. All good fun with bonfires and bacon butties! Call Alan on 858023.

Don't forget that next year's festival will take place on August 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. We are already collecting cuddly toys for our fundraising stall. Drop them off at 21 Home Close if you have any. There will be an Open Festival Meeting in January, watch the notice-boards for details.

**Jan Andrews** [blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk)

## Blisworth Pre School

Open Monday to Friday 9.00 until 12.00

Lunch Club available until 1.00pm Tues/Wed/Thurs

We would like to thank all our children for their fantastic performance in the Nativity and Father Christmas for visiting us at our Christmas Party.

We are now booking places for September 2013. Please call Pam on 07803662433 to reserve your place.

## Jazz at the Walnut Tree

- Jan 6th Chris Carmell's Vintage Jazz Band
- Jan 13th Dave Moorwood's Rascals of Rhythm
- Jan 20th Barry Palsler's Savoy Jazz Band
- Jan 27th Tad Newton's Jazz Friends
- Feb 3rd New Orleans Heat
- Feb 10th Gary Wood's Swing Band
- Feb 17th Dennis Smith's "Round About Be-Bop"
- Feb 24th sorry, no jazz
- Mar 3rd The Limehouse Jazz Band (from Holland)

Sundays at 12 noon details from Tad Newton on 858549

## Mr John Bass

John would like to thank all the staff at Parkslope Surgery for all the help they gave to Sheila over the past years. Sadly Sheila Bass died on November 4th. John would also like to say a big thank you to all family and friends for their help and support at this difficult time. Donations for the breast care unit at NGH raised £435. Once again, a big thank you to everyone.

## Poultry Show

Following the success of the Northampton and District Poultry show held at the Scout Hall in October, the Spring Show will be held there in February. This time there may be chickens and ducks for sale. If you are thinking of keeping a few hens it will be well worth a visit. For more details call Jane Percival nearer the time. Posters will be placed on the notice boards.

## Blisworth Baptist Church

**Family Service every Sunday at 10.45am**

**Communion every First and Third Sunday**

Crèche available and Junior Church  
Coffee/tea before the service from 10.00am and afterwards

Coffee House Open Tuesdays at 9.30am

**Fellowship and Bible Study**

Tuesdays at 7.30pm

**Men's Breakfast**

Every fourth Saturday at 8.30am in the Coffee House

*Pastor:* Keith Barker – 01327 352972

*Room bookings:* Ted Ashworth – 01327 352812

## 'BLISWORTH BOOKWORMS'

Christmas is always a good time for a flurry of new novels to hit the market. The Charity shops are a good source too. So we will be discussing and exchanging our Christmas reads on **January 28th.**



The following month we will be meeting on **February 25th.** If you are looking for a new activity for the New Year and enjoy reading why not come and join us at **7 Westbrook at 1.30 - 3.30pm** on these dates, just bring along a book you have recently enjoyed, you will be most welcome and if you want to bring along a friend that's okay too.

**Maggie Turton**



## Mobile Sight Centre

We are pleased to advise that the NAB Mobile Sight Centre will continue to visit locations in Northampton and the surrounding county and will be in Northampton on Wednesday Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup> in the Market Square between 10.00am and 2.30pm and Friday February 1st between 10.00am and 2.30pm outside the Central Library Abington Street.

## Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 15th February for the March/April issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

**[ra@blisworthparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:ra@blisworthparishcouncil.org.uk)**

or send to the Editor: Alan North, 89 Buttmead,  
Blisworth, Northants NN7 3DQ

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