

Round and About

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

March/April 2013 No 90



Notes from the Chairman.....

Hopefully we have seen the last of the bad weather with the recent spell of sunshine! The winter has taken its toll on the roads and footpaths so Charlie Jeffery and I had a walkabout with Helen Howard from Highways. Many of our pavements are breaking up on the edges with the continual parking of vehicles. This is sometimes difficult to resolve as village roads are narrow and many households have more than one vehicle nowadays. Several areas have been marked but it could still be up to 4 months before these are rectified. We must keep reporting potholes etc. either direct to streetdoctor@northamptonshire.gov.uk, the Parish Clerk, Viv Hartley **858360** or to any Parish Councillor. If areas have been marked but the situation deteriorates please let us know. Obviously everywhere has the same problems so Highways department is extremely busy.

We also looked at the possibility of double yellow lines at the junction of Greenside / Stoke Road and on Courteenhall Road from the school up to RD2 alleyway. We will have to wait to see how this progresses.

On a lighter note our **Annual Parish Assembly is on Monday 22nd April**. We would like as many villagers as possible to come and celebrate the achievements of the past year. There will be an earlier start time so that families can come to share the celebrations. Watch out for more details on notice boards nearer the date.

Pat Masterman 858985

Blisworth Gardeners

Would you like to join our friendly Group?

Set up in November 2010 by five people who had indicated in the Village Plan that they would be interested in joining a Gardening Club.

We have 11 members at present, two of whom have left the village, but remain associated. The Blisworth Gardeners are a like-minded group with mixed degrees of gardening experience, who like to share their enthusiasm and knowledge.

We meet once a month, the meetings being social as well as having a set theme or topic, hosted by a member in their home/garden; although there is no pressure to do so. Visits to places of interest happen approximately 3 times a year.

Interested? Ring Paulette on 858717.



Blisworth Canal Partnership

www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org

www.blisworthcanalfestival.co.uk

Thanks to all of those people who came along to the Festival Open Meeting, and to all of those who have contacted us since offering ideas and help. With such a buzz about it, the festival can't fail to provide the village with **another fantastic summer weekend**.

The work we do along the canal is funded by revenue from the festivals. For example, the entrance fees to the Open Gardens have been channelled into creating the Tunnel Spinney, a fitting project of which the gardeners involved can be proud.

Access to the field opposite Pondbank (used for the festival last year) is currently via a pair of rickety stiles. With support from the owners and tenants of the field, we have made a successful request to the County Council's Footpath Officers who have agreed to **replace the stiles with gates**. This will help walkers throughout the year and enable easier use of the area for the festival.

Those who walk through Tunnel Spinney regularly will have noticed that we have planted another fine specimen Oak. This joins the previously planted Jubilee Oak in celebrating another of our monarch's important anniversaries. This '**Coronation Oak**' will soon have a fine tree guard made by Bob Nightingale and a plaque added.

Watch the notice-boards for news of what will be quite a **spectacular event at the tunnel mouth**. District Councillor, Stephen Clarke has agreed to take his workboat through the tunnel to collect a pair of gates made by Bob Nightingale, the blacksmith. These will be fitted to the brick hut ready for its conversion into a field shelter. We will make a celebration of it and **all are welcome**.

Over the next few weeks we'll be continuing to carry out regular maintenance work in the Spinney and plant two more Oak trees donated by a villager. These will forever be known as the 'Hartley Oaks'. We also intend to clear the area around the hut. **Do come and join us**.

Please contact **Alan** on **858023** if you'd like to get involved in any of the Partnership's projects.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

Please note that some meetings this year (following a Bank Holiday) will be held on a Tuesday:

Tuesday 2nd April – P.C. Meeting.

Tuesday 7th May A.G.M.

'BLISWORTH BOOKWORMS'

The next two meetings are scheduled for 25th March and 22nd April. There was a "full house" for the February meeting which was a joy but it would be nice to have some new readers - how about it?



We discuss any book that we have enjoyed, from the contemporary to pre-war and the classics. Life of Pi - you may have seen the film version recently - has been one of the modern reads. Autobiographies are doing the rounds too.

Further details **Maggie Turton 858594**



Blisworth Women's Institute

Despite the adverse weather conditions experienced over the past few weeks members have continued to enjoy a variety of activities. A number of us attend a monthly Skittles sessions at the Royal Oak where although lacking technical skill a thoroughly good time is had by all. The Gilbert and Sullivan fans amongst us enjoyed a matinee performance of Iolanthe at the Derngate; theatre trips always prove very popular with our members. Our Spring County Lunch at Yelvertoft Village Hall took place in February where we also enjoyed a most interesting talk by Marc Jacobs a director of Welcome Break.

We are currently looking forward to a day visit to historic Windsor in March where we will have time to explore the interesting town as well as taking a tour of the castle. On the agenda for April is a much anticipated and exciting trip to Highclere Castle and Grounds in Berkshire the home of the Earl and Countess of Caernarvon and the setting for the Downton Abbey series.

Locally, our January meeting speaker was Judy Kendrick-Simondsen who spoke eloquently about the role of women especially during the 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's that dictated the type of clothing worn by ladies in all walks of life. Judy had kindly brought along a variety of vintage clothing that encouraged a lot of memories and discussion.

Our February meeting was "home-grown" with members sharing tips and solutions for dealing with household disasters and refreshments were served with a Valentine's theme as the meeting was held on the 14th of the month!

If you would like to take part in the fun please join us at the Village Hall on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Our March meeting includes a cake decorating demonstration.

Margaret Morbey

Jazz at the Walnut Tree

Sundays at 12 noon details from Tad Newton on 858549

- Mar 3rd Dave Harmer's New Orleans Hot Shots
- Mar 10th Sorry no jazz today!
- Mar 17th Dave Rance's Rocking Chair Band
- Mar 24th Harry Strutter's Hot Rhythm Orch
- Mar 31st Richard Exall's Shooting Stars
- April 7th Tad Newton's Jazzfriends with Trevor Whiting
- April 14th Barry Palser's Savoy Jazz Band
- April 21st Matt Palmer's Millenium Eagle Jazz Band
- April 28th Jurbena 'Frisco Jazz Band [Holland]

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

Interactive Prayer and Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7.30pm

Communion by Candlelight for Maundy Thursday

7.30 in the Chapel Leisure Hall

Good Friday

See Parish Church Notice

Easter Day Celebration Service

7.45 Preacher Ted Ashworth

Pastor: Keith Barker – 01327 352972

Room bookings: Ted Ashworth – 01327 352812

Secretary: Peter Burton - 01604 858980



Blisworth Football Supporters Club

Adults Football Teams

Children's Football Teams for both Boys and Girls

A Fully Licensed Bar Opening Times:

Friday Nights

Saturday Lunch/Teatime/Evenings

Sunday Lunch

Regular Social Events

Ringo's Bingo Monthly

Eyes Down 7.30pm

March 16th Race Night

*Come along and place your bets and watch your
Horse come romping home on the big screen!!*

For any enquiries please call 858024

During opening times or visit us on facebook



Blisworth Heritage Society



Blisworth and its People 1841 - 1901

Part two of the

Investigations into the censuses by

Hilary Spurrier and Beryl Andrews

22 March 2013

100 Years of Gardening

A Talk by

NICK WARLIKER

26 April 2013

The Village Hall at 7.30.

Admission £1 for Members £2.50 Guests.

Details on our webpage www.blisworthheritage.org.uk

Blisworth Parish Church Mad March Sale

St. John's annual giant bric-a-brac sale will be held in the village hall on Saturday March 23rd at 2 pm. It's impossible to say what treasures there may be - just come and look! Donations will be welcome at the hall from 9.30 am, but please note we can't take clothes, furniture or electrical goods.

Enquiries to Fiona McKenzie 859541

School News

There is now a big blue **Clothes Bank** in the bottom car park at Blisworth School. This is for the use of the whole village and all contributions will be very gratefully received as the money raised from the container will be given to the school in India that our school supports. This Bank replaces the old Bags to School scheme and will be an asset as we hope to be able to help the Indian school more and more.

There are three dates to note in the diary for March. The first is the Mother's Day Assembly on Friday the 8th, and then the Choir will be singing at the Chapel Coffee House on Tuesday the 19th. There will be two Easter Assemblies on Friday 22nd of March, one at 9am, the other at 2.30pm.

The Seniors Lunch Club meets at school each Thursday at 12 noon in term time to enjoy a home cooked lunch in School. If you would like to have a hot dinner and a proper pud with custard once a week, or even just now and then call Hilary at school on 858414.

Blisworth Film Club

On March 28th we are showing the latest, and some think, the best James bond film, 'Skyfall', an action packed spy drama starring Daniel Craig and Judi Dench. This film has received very good reviews.

On 25th April we have 'Gambit' a comedy caper starring Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz, Alan Rickman

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

Margaret Holiday 858590 or Beryl Payler 858476

Blisworth Art & Craft Group

Group members are progressing with their particular projects in painting, photography and patchwork in readiness for various exhibitions including the Blisworth Art Show on 5th & 6th May.

Members are also thinking about designs they may use for the mural planned for the shelter at the Blisworth Tunnel that is to become our local Field Centre. So it is a very busy and enjoyable time for Blisworth artists. By the time we finish this term, on 25th March, we will have welcomed back two local artists, June Hawkins and Roy Holding, who will have continued their workshops and demos on figures in landscapes' and working with acrylics, an inspiration to us all.

Maggie Turton

Stitchery Do

Blisworth Tapestry Charity

Needlecraft is getting more popular and big news for 2013 so why not join us at our monthly sewing workshops First Thursday of Every Month from 10 am until 3pm. **£3.50 per session** includes Tea/Coffee and biscuits. at the **New Scout Community Hall.**

Programme:

7th March - Learning Simple Patchwork/Knitting Clinic
4th April - Simple Quilt Designing/Knitting Clinic
2nd May - Shortening Trousers/Dressmaking tips
6th June - Making Cushions with Zips.
4th July - Community Quilting "The Snowflake Project"

Programme dates may be subject to change. Transport can be provided on request Bring your own packed lunch!

Need help with knitting, working your sewing machine, reading patterns? Getting started on an unfinished piece of work. We can help you? Do contact the team:

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

Blisworth Parish Church

"This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name." Luke 24 vv46,47.

By the time this edition is with you, we will already be well into the solemn and reflective period of Lent, and looking forward to the joys of Easter day - early this year on March 31st.

On Sunday 24th March palm crosses will be distributed outside before our service of Holy Communion. Palm Sunday is the start of Holy Week, and as happened last year, each day will be marked with a short service or meditation in one or other of the Benefice churches. All will be at 7.30 pm, the 25th at Stoke Bruerne, the 26th at Milton Malsor, the 27th at Grafton Regis and the 28th at Alderton (when there will also be a service in Blisworth Baptist Chapel).

On Good Friday, March 29th, there will be a Walk of Witness through the village. This will start outside the Parish Church at 10 am. We will walk around the village, stopping at various points for readings, prayers, songs etc. The walk will finish at the Baptist Chapel at 11 am, where there will be a short service, followed by refreshments. If people don't want to walk, they can just come to the Chapel.

On Easter Day there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 9.30am in Milton Malsor, and at 11 am in both Grafton Regis and Blisworth.

Everyone is welcome to come to any of the above services and events. Details will be posted on the church door.

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

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

1st Blisworth Scout Group

In January each year we complete a Census for the Scout Association, these are analysed to try to help improve the appeal of Scouting. Locally results are very encouraging; the Group increased young people in uniform from 56 last January to 64 this. This is great – appealing to the young gives us a good chance of holding on to them and help meet the aim of Scouting “to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.”

Talking of which, I hope you have seen members of the Group about in the past weeks, at the IX Lessons and Carols, shaking buckets behind Santa’s sleigh and at the Wild and Woolly or marshalling the Gayton Run. We’re beginning to form a diary which we share with parents to use as a planning tool – if we can get busy people with a few hours to give and use them at an event where they really make a difference then we’ll have done well! For example, on 27 January I was a marshal on the Gayton Run for just 21 minutes, without which the race could not have taken place and 180 competitors would have been disappointed.

What’s looming? The Group will support the St George’s Day parade at Milton, the Cubs plan to go to County Cub Camp and the Beavers to camp under canvas in the summer. In June the Group holds ‘Family Day’ – an introduction to Scouting for those who aren’t sure what their little treasure gets up to at the Hall or at Camp!

I’ve written before about ‘Community Week’ and ‘Bob a Job Week’ from 3 to 9 June: the Group will be happy to lend support to projects around the village, or perhaps we need to plan something for next year? Any ideas, please let me know, via email gsl@1stblisworth.org or on 07501 059 566.

One of our leaders is retiring, thank you Maggie for your contributions over the years. Another, will take a break this spring when she starts her own family, we all wish you every happiness Kerri. So, there are vacancies, if you have a particular interest or skill to share, or just want “to support young people in their personal development”. Please contact me to discuss where you might fit in best. Thanks for reading once again,

Jonathan Hazell

Young’s: Don’t forget your spring and summer plants are now ready at the our own Garden Centre

VHPFA 250 Club

250 club winners for January and February:

£30	175.	225
£20	223	27
£10	59	36

I am pleased to say that all 250 numbers are now subscribed, this is due to support from village organisations, and to collectors signing new people. I’ve estimated that the money raised last year would have been enough to pay for the new stair and upstairs meeting room carpets. It’s good to be able to think of a tangible benefit from our continued support.

VHPFA 250 club organiser, Fiona McKenzie. 859541

Free Seeds

Blisworth Allotment Association AGM will be on Monday March 25th at 7.30pm in the village hall. It has become a regular feature of our Allotment meetings to have a **Grand Seed Swap**. This time we also have an excellent speaker; Jo Taylor, the Plant Manager from Bell Plantation who will be giving a talk.

All leisure gardeners, friends and family, as well as members will be welcomed. There will be a raffle and a social drink after the meeting and time to sort through the seeds that others have brought. Bring along any you no longer need, packet ends or varieties you no longer fancy and go home with something different to try.

Jane Percival 858478

Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

Spring is on its way, which means a busy time for allotmenters. When conditions allow, soil can be prepared ready for sowing or planting crops. Rather than leave a prepared plot exposed to the elements, it is a good idea to cover with clear polythene. This will help the soil to warm up and give plants and seeds a head start. Annual weeds will be encouraged to germinate under the polythene and can simply be hoed off, before sowing seed.

There are a few vacant plots so, if you would like to grow tasty, healthy vegetables, far better and cheaper than anything you could buy in the supermarket, please contact me, Jane Hill, on 858656.

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 are now in the middle of The Ghost Train by Arnold Ridley (Private Godfrey of Dad’s Army). If you would like to come along and join us, you would be most welcome. Next meeting is **6 Mar** when we will finish The Ghost Train. For further details, please phone **Dick Hennessy** on **858602**.

Ella Paxton

Ella, Julie, Roy and Neil would like to thank all the friends and family who attended Pete’s funeral, also for all the lovely cards and messages of sympathy we received, and for all you kind donations for Blisworth Doctors Surgery. Also many thanks to the Reverend Mike Burton for the lovely and comforting service.

This year the Wreford families wonderful Christmas lights raised £2,364 for Help for Heroes. Very well done indeed to everyone involved. Ed

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 17th April for the May/June issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

ra@blisworthparishcouncil.org.uk

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

THE PARISH COUNCIL ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER.