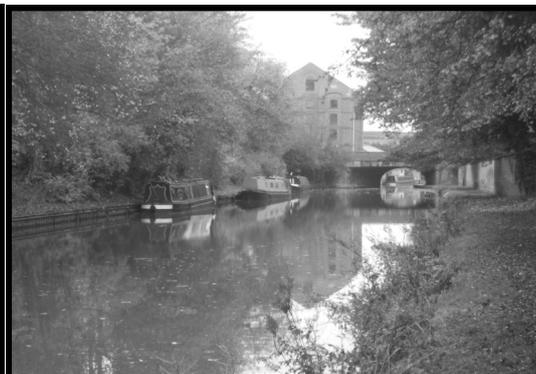


Round and About

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

May/June 2013 No 91



Notes from the Chairman.....

Many village groups were represented at the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting on Monday 22nd showing once again what a wealth of activities we have in Blisworth! The attendance was higher than last year when a different format was introduced allowing groups to showcase their achievements. The displays were extremely well thought out and demonstrated a great deal of work by the volunteers.

Proposed designs for a Village Sign were on show and the most popular was by Ivan Chester. Suggestions for a site strongly favour 'Elm Tree Corner'. We now need quotes and planning permission, what a wonderful conclusion to our 'Best Village' year if the sign could be installed before the Canal Festival! Well done to the local artists for producing designs and showing again what talent there is in the village.

Helen Howard from Highways gave an insight into the question of 'When is a pothole not a pothole' and the pro's and con's of double yellow lines. The problem of inconsiderate parking outside the Doctors Surgery is longstanding and will generate further debate. Yellow lines from the school to Windmill Avenue are possibly not so controversial and these may be put in later this year. We will have to see how effective they are!

There was some very positive feedback from the evening and we will build on this for next year. The excellent response from organisations resulted in a packed room so we may need to limit space and possibly set a word limit for the reports (copies of these are available on www.blisworthparishcouncil.org.uk).

Holding the event on a Monday presents difficulties for some groups so we could consider a different day but with such an active village nearly every evening has something happening! A huge thank you to all those who gave their time before, during and after to make the Annual Parish Meeting such a success. It will be even better next year!

Pat Masterman 858985

Blisworth Pre School

Open Monday to Friday 9.00 until 12.00, Lunch Club available until 1.00pm Tues/Wed/Thurs

We are delighted to announce that the Pre-school is already full for the year September 2013-July 2014. We are taking bookings for places from September 2014 so please call in and see us. To put you name down on a waiting list for September 2013 or to book for September 2014 please call Pam on 07803662433

Parish Plan Progress Team Report - April 2013

'Best Village' Signs

SNC are providing 5 signs "Northamptonshire Best Village 2012" for all entry points to the village. When the design is finalised we look forward to their delivery within 3 weeks.

Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Award

Following our success in this competition last year and the award of a certificate for our churchyards being hospitable to wildlife, we have now sent in our application for 2013. All 105 saplings given to us by the Woodland Trust have now been planted, in the Churchyard, the Old Graveyard a small copse on the playing field. Our thanks to Colin Wakelin who allowed them to overwinter on his farm and Colin Gardner and members of the Blisworth Gardening Group who assisted in the chilly task of planting them.

One of the requirements for the churchyard award is to monitor and record wildlife and we are grateful to Tina and Colin Adams for their help. Plans are progressing for an information board to be erected in the Old Graveyard with lists of wildlife, plus the history and the management plan of the area. A plan of the graves and names will also be displayed in the church porch.

Soldiers Award

After six months training at Catterick Rifleman Craig Bryan won a top army award which was presented at his passing out parade. Craig was voted 'Soldier's Soldier' by his fellow Riflemen. Many congratulations Craig, your family and friends in the village are very proud of you and wish you every success in Northern Ireland. **Rita and Vic**



Blisworth Football Supporters Club

Children's Teams for both Boys and Girls

Blisworth Youth are always looking for new players at various age groups. General Enquiries about Youth Football please contact Simon Curry 07545568900.

Adults Football

1st Team and Reserves as well as an over 35s Vets Team

Fully Licensed Bar Opening Times:

Friday Night/Saturday Teatime/Night/Sunday Lunch

Regular Social Events

Ringo's Bingo Eyes Down 7.30pm

For any enquiries please call 858024 during opening times or visit us on facebook

Arts & Craft Group

This year is proving to be both exciting and busy for members, several of whom will be exhibiting their paintings, sculpture and patchwork at the Blisworth Art Show for the first time.

Members are also looking forward to painting the mural in the Tunnel shelter. Designs for the boards that will surround the walls are being prepared, then, once Jan and Alan say "the shelter is ready" it will be 'all hands on deck' to get the painting done. What a challenge!!

Maggie Turton

Blisworth Parish Church

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God". Matthew 5 v.9

It was unfortunate that the Mad March Sale had to be postponed because of snow. We were relieved that the rescheduled date of April 20th was successful.

The Lenten and Easter events, services etc. were a blessing to the many who attended. It was a pleasure, also, to join with our friends at the Baptist Church on a number of occasions.

Two groups are following a course called E100. This sets out to present 100 essential bible readings, with five being read and discussed each week. There are two groups, one meeting at 5.30 on a Wednesday and the second at 7.30 on a Thursday. Milton Malsor church will also be following the course. It is possible to join in at any time, and there will be breaks during the summer. Please phone for further information.

An innovation is a weekly prayer meeting at 9.30 am in church, lasting about half an hour. All are welcome. There is also a notice board near the church door on which anyone may write a request for prayer, and all these will be included in the time of prayer on a Sunday. Also provided is a box for more deeply private prayers on any subject. Only the Rector will read these and pray for the concerns raised. All prayers can, of course, be posted anonymously. If a confidential talk would help, the Rector is always available - just phone to arrange a meeting.

Times of all services can be found on the outside church door.

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

The 35th Annual Blisworth Art Show 4th & 5th May Village Hall 11am to 5pm each day

Artists from Blisworth and surrounding areas will be exhibiting work that promises to be exciting and original as ever. Please do visit and see for yourself.

Admission is free, catalogues 50p. Most works will be for sale and refreshments will also be available. Why not view the exhibits and have a chat over a cuppa and a cake. Any profits from the refreshments will go to the Scouts. **Maggie Turton**

1st Blisworth Scout Group

The Scouts' Brass Monkey camp went well, it was fabulously well planned and organised, well done to all the Leaders involved. The young people deserve your congratulations too, it was a very cold night to be camping out!

We are heading toward a busy time for the whole Group with the various Sections' camps taking place in June and July. Leaders are busy behind the scenes planning these and the necessary back up plans! Some are also involved in the Gang Show trying to juggle rehearsals with everything else.

The AGM on 5 June, is an opportunity for parents to become involved in the Group by joining our Executive Committee: it would be a great benefit if we could persuade some of the parents of the younger members of the Group, to take an interest – their children will reap the benefit of their involvement for a long time. Some Beaver parents may also want to think about becoming more involved in running the weekly meetings. There's also the prospect of a weekend under canvas, at Spotley Wood where we hope to encourage confidence amongst the youngest members with key Scouting skills, camping, fire, map and compass.

Group numbers are holding up well, especially Beavers and Cubs. Each year there are challenges for Scouts when they move to secondary school, peer pressure that somehow sees Scouting as "a bad thing" is difficult to resist so the numbers in year 7 tend to fall away as the year goes on.

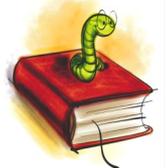
A distinguished member of the Group and the village community, has hung up her Blisworth necker – Sandra O'Connor has handed the job of Hall booking secretary to Jackie Manderfield (on 859 823). Sandra deserves huge credit for everything she did to make the dream of a new Hall come true, I cannot begin to imagine how she did it, but she did, and the Hall is a great testament to her skill, her determination and her doggedness.

As ever, if you have a particular interest or skill to share, or just want to "to actively support young people in their personal development" I'd be delighted to hear from you, gsl@1stblisworth.org.uk or 07501 059566. Please do contact me if you think you might want to help, and we can discuss where you might fit in best. Thanks for reading once again,

Jonathan Hazell

'BLISWORTH BOOKWORMS'

To avoid the Bank Holiday, the next meeting will be held on **Monday May 20th** and in June we will meet on the **24th** both at 7 Westbrook 1.30 to 3.30pm. Yes, some of us have read 'Fifty Shades of Grey'



Further details **Maggie Turton** 858594



Every year around 350 people in Northants discover they have a serious visual impairment, **nab** provides a lifeline at the time they need it most.

nab is your local independent charity providing free and confidential support for blind and partially sighted people in all aspects of their lives. **Helpline 01604 719193.**

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

Men' Breakfast

Every Fourth Saturday at 8.30am

We have rooms available to hire by the hour
at very reasonable cost, kitchen facilities also available.
Please ring Ted Ashworth for details.

Pastor: Keith Barker – 01327 352972

Room bookings: Ted Ashworth – 01327 352812

Secretary: Peter Burton - 01604 858980

Blisworth Film Club

On Thursday May 30th, we are presenting 'Quartet', a 2012 comedy drama starring Maggie Smith, Tom Courtney and Billy Connolly. A home for retired musicians is disrupted by the arrival of an 'eternal diva'. This film was nominated for a Golden Globe and received excellent reviews.

On Thursday 27th June we are screening 'Song for Marion', a 2013 British comedy, starring Terence Stamp in fine form as a grumpy pensioner who is persuaded to join the 'OAP' choir by his wife, Vanessa Redgrave. Another highly recommended film.

On Thursday July 25th we are showing the 'Les Miserables'. This is an amazing film, 3 hours long, so bring a cushion and some tissues. Don't believe the people who say it's not as good as the stage show, it's the same story and equally powerful. Hugh Jackman is wonderful as Jean Valjean, Anne Hathaway won awards for her portrayal of Fantine and although he can't sing, Russell Crowe is great as Javert.

As usual, the films are shown in the Hougemont Barn of The Royal Oak, admission £4, doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Bar and raffle available.

Margaret Holiday 858590 or Beryl Payler 858476

VHPFA 250 Club

250 club winners for March and April

£30 1 130

£20 182 66

£10 165 25

A few numbers are now available, so to join please phone Fiona McKenzie 859 541

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 and thrillers like The Ghost Train. If you would like to come along you would be most welcome. Next meeting is 8 May when we begin a new play.

For further details, phone **Dick Hennessy** on **858602**.



Women's
Institute

Blisworth Women's Institute

Spring seems to have arrived at last; lets hope that the extremely cold weather is a thing of the past and we can start to enjoy some of our outdoor activities. For several years members have enjoyed playing croquet in the grounds of St. Andrews Hospital and on a mild summers evening there is little that can beat it.

Unfortunately our visit to Highclere did not materialise but the Windsor trip took place in March, it proved very interesting although the very cold weather was challenging! We look forward to two trips in May first to the Cutty Sark to see the result of the six year conservation project, then to Derbyshire's Well Dressings visiting Stanwick and the old market town of Wirksworth which should be fun to explore.

During our March meeting at the Village Hall we were treated to a demonstration of cake decoration which illustrated the many varied products available today that enable us to decorate our cakes in quite a professional manner. At our April meeting we welcomed the artist Heather Wilson who regaled us with tales of her teaching career in art and demonstrated sculpting using Parien.

We always endeavor to make our meetings interesting and informative and a warm welcome awaits new comers so why not give it a try and come along to the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of the month.

Margaret Morbey



Blisworth Heritage Society



'What's Hiding in Your Fields'

a talk on Metal Detecting by Alan Standish

31 May at 7,30pm in The Village Hall

Last meeting of the first half of the Society's year will be a visit to the Milton Keynes Museum of Country Life, which holds a number of George Freeston's collection of treasures of the past. Names to Hilary Spurrier as soon as possible please. Full details of all of the above on our website: www.blisworthheritage.org.uk

There are no meetings during July and August

Charity Twenty20 Cricket Match

The County Ground hosts a Floodlit Twenty20 match between the Northants Disability XI and a Help for Heroes XI on Friday 19th July. All proceeds to Help for Heroes. Ring 01604 514455 for details.

Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

I am sure that when you read this, the weather will have improved and the soil warmed up. All gardeners have been very frustrated this "spring" but there has been no point sowing or planting in cold wet soil. Don't worry if you feel that you are weeks behind on previous years. Once the soil warms up and the weather improves, your vegetables will romp ahead and you will be rushing around trying to keep up with them. It will be a relief to transfer young plants from window sills or greenhouses to the plot, but remember that you will need to harden plants off before you do so.

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

Blisworth Canal Partnership
presents

A Weekend Of **FREE** Entertainment
An Exhibition of the Late
Jim Payler's Photographs

Saturday June 22nd 11am – 4pm

Sunday June 23rd 11am - 2pm

Village Hall

Jim was often seen out and about with his camera. He started taking photos of workboats and canal scenes in the early 1950's and the passion grew from there. His images were often in the Waterways Press. This is a much awaited exhibition of lots of his unpublished work.

Sunday June 23rd 3.30pm onwards

Beyond the Veil

By

Mikron Theatre

In The Old Rectory Garden

(entry is through the towpath gate just south of the Mill - Bridge 51)

Bring your own chairs

Refreshments available at both venues All FREE, all welcome, no pre-booking or tickets needed, just turn up and enjoy

Mothers Club Car Rally

Tuesday 9th July 6.30 pm start from village Hall car park.
£6.00 Members. £6.50 non-Members. Tel. 859375

Friends of Blisworth School

Blisworth School Summer fayre, **Saturday 6th July**, 2 to 5pm. Lots of stalls, games and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. Everyone very welcome. Suzee Jones

Stitchery Do

Blisworth Tapestry Charity

Come along and meet us at our monthly sewing workshops from 10 am until 3pm. £3.50 per session includes Tea/ Coffee and biscuits at the New Scout Community Hall.

Programme:

Knitting Clinic every month plus stitch tutorials:

2nd May - Shortening Skirts, Trousers/Dressmaking tips

6th June - How to make inspirational cushions with zips

4th July - "The Snowflake Project" Community projects

1st Aug - Preparation for Canal Festival Craft Stall

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 a piece of work? We can help. Bringing your own skills to share can make these workshops very special, if you have a particular skill that we could learn please get in touch with any of the team:

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



Blisworth Canal Partnership

www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org

www.blisworthcanalfestival.co.uk

'Inspirational' was just one of the words used by Canal and River Trust's Head of Engagement following a recent visit to the Tunnel Spinney and Tunnel Hut with a delegation of representatives from **national volunteer groups**. They all enjoyed a 'walkabout' and a display provided by members of **Blisworth Art Group** of their designs for the Hut's Art Boards. They were so impressed by the transformation of the hut and surrounding area that they have offered us some **heritage artefacts** from one of their other centres. Not sure what form these will take yet, but an exciting prospect.

A few weeks ago members of the Canal Partnership were invited to spend two days filming with the **Countryfile** team. Many villagers have told us they were delighted to see Alan Andrews aboard his narrowboat Kitty, being interviewed by **Matt Baker**.

Blisworth Canal Festival

Saturday August 10th & Sunday August 11th

11 à 5 both days

Planning for the Festival is continuing apace. The kissing gates have been installed at the entrances to Whitegates Field and we really want to maximise this area for Festival 2013. If anybody has any ideas for attractions and hopefully contacts, then please speak to Jan Andrews on 858023 / 07919 003704, she'll be delighted to hear from you.

Watch out on the notice-boards for the next Festival Open Meeting to be held in May.

Wildlife in Churchyards

Following the Wildlife in Churchyards Award given last year for our churchyards being hospitable to wildlife, we are pleased to note the abundance of snowdrops following last year's division of bulbs "in the green". Jubilee tree saplings given by the Woodland Trust have been overwintered on Colin Wakelin's farm, with some transplanted into our churchyards to form (eventually) hedgerows of hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel. The remainder of the saplings will be planted in a suitable site near the football field. The scouts have made some lovely bird boxes to be put in place in the autumn, as have members of the Benefice "Messy Church" group. Many thanks to all helpers and volunteers.

Sarah Sykes

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

Jazz at the Walnut Tree

Sundays at 12 noon details from Tad Newton on 858549

May 17th-7.30 pm "Jazz & Dine" Tad's Jazzfriends special guest young rising jazz star Amy Roberts, superb meal £20.

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 21st June for the July/August 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.