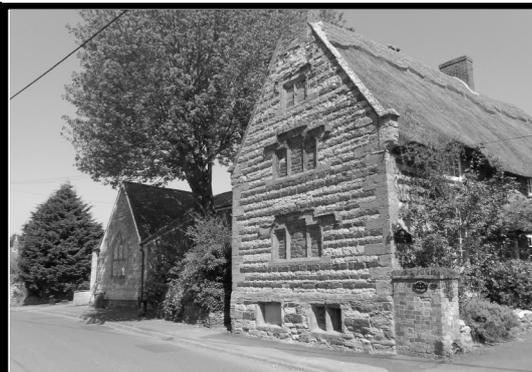


Round and About

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

July/August 2013 No 92



Notes from the Chairman.....

Exciting things are happening in the village in the next few months! The Canal Festival with a vast range of entertainment and venues promises to be bigger and better than ever!! The Village Sign chosen at the Parish Meeting is underway and although not likely to be in place at Elm Tree Corner we are hoping it will be on show at the festival.

South Northants are contributing signs celebrating our success as Best Village 2012 on or near the 5 main roads into the village. These are of a distinctive heritage design and will be a permanent statement of our achievement.

The Wildlife Conservation Silver Award for the old churchyard (cemetery) is another great achievement! It will be displayed on the stunning new information board which is nearing completion. When the formalities of permission from the diocese and planning are completed the board should be put in place. It is a sensitive design and will complement the churchyard which has been a controversial subject in the village for some time. Hopefully this will reassure everyone that it is a special place for all to enjoy and look after.

Special thanks to Carolyn and David Young for replenishing the planters on the main road and to the volunteers who maintain them. They are a lovely welcome to the village. Grateful thanks also to those who continue to litter pick, it can be a thankless task when there are so many thoughtless people who don't care about our village or the environment.

Unfortunately some *not so good* happenings have been reported during recent weeks. While leaving the Royal Oak with her fish and chips a lady was knocked over by a youth on a bicycle and suffered some nasty injuries. As the main road is so busy with speeding cars I can understand cycling on the pavement for safety **but** cyclists **must** ride at a sensible, appropriate speed with care and consideration for pedestrians who, after all have right of way on the footpath.

An odd occurrence – and possibly not that important to some – is the disappearance of the 5 mile marker on the footpath halfway up the hill into the village. I believe it was put there by George Freeston and marked the equal distance between Towcester and Northampton. It was taken around about 10th June, if anyone has any information we would be pleased to hear from you.

Finally an event that went unmentioned was the milestone for Dave Dalton at the Parish Council meeting in May. This marked Dave's 25th year as a Parish Councillor!! There are possibly others who have served the village and this may be an appropriate time to say **well done!** And **thank you!** for all your efforts and from me personally for all your support.

Pat Masterman 858985



Blisworth Canal Partnership

www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org

www.blisworthcanalfestival.co.uk

Blisworth Canal Festival

Saturday August 10th & Sunday August 11th 11 à 5 both days

It's going to be another bumper event with lots of new things in place. Come along and share what's planned at the **Festival Open Meeting on Friday 5th July** at 7.30pm in the **Village Hall**. It's not too late to get involved!

The Jim Payler Photographic Exhibition was enjoyed by well over 350 people, some travelling from as far afield as Wakefield, Somerset and London. Feedback has been incredible with many pronouncing it to be the 'best exhibition of its type ever seen'. This was followed by a performance by **Mikron** in the Old Rectory gardens. Over 150 braved the inclement weather which didn't manage to dampen spirits. Another stunning show! Thanks to the Football Club for providing the refreshments.

Tunnel Spinney & Hut

The Beavers enjoyed being the first group to use the hut recently as the venue for investing some new members. The Art Group will soon be able to turn it into a 'studio' as they paint the art boards. We are beginning to think up ideas for a grand opening, possibly involving burgers and bats! You'll also soon notice a set of lock beams arriving, they will be placed each side of the gates for seating.

A group of us, including the village gardening club, will soon feature in a double page magazine spread showing the work that has been done in the Spinney following a day's visit from a journalist and photographer. We are also just about to embark on some sessions to create a promotional video alongside Canal and River Trust. Sounds exciting!

For further information contact: Jan Andrews
blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk
858023 / 07919 003704

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 even 60's Radio Comedy Scripts. Our next meeting is Wed 3rd July at 10am, then in true theatrical tradition, we will be "resting" in August and continue again on the first Wednesday in September. If you would like to come along and join us, you would be most welcome.

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

New Recycling Scheme

We will soon be getting new **Blue Bins!**

Louise Gibney from SNC will be at the

Coffee House

Tues 9th July 9.30 - 12.00

To explain the new system and answer questions while you enjoy a cup of tea and homemade cake!!

Blisworth Parish Church

"A righteous man will be remembered for ever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is secure, he will have no fear." Psalm 112 v 6-8

I was pleased to meet a gentleman this week who wanted to photograph some of the ancient and beautiful windows. Of course, he was very welcome, as are all visitors. Many come in, especially during the summer, just to look at this historic building, but there is a wealth of opportunity for research and photography, and possibly painting or sketching.

We are delighted to have been awarded a churchyard silver award in respect of conservation work already done. There is more planned, including bird boxes. Many thanks to everyone in the village who has helped to make us aware of how we can be more wildlife-friendly. We should also all be aiming to do something positive in our own gardens.

The canal festival is not many weeks away, and again the church will be open to supply teas. There will be much to see, including the 2012 village scrap book.

Messy Church continues on the first Saturday of each month in Shutlanger Village Hall from 3 to 4.30. This is offered for all children of the benefice, Alderton, Blisworth, Grafton Regis, Milton Malsor, Shutlanger and Stoke Bruerne. There is always lots to do for children of all ages and their families, and refreshments are served.

Rector: The Revd. Andrea Watkins 857619
Wardens: Angela Cheesbrough 859839
Fiona McKenzie 859541

A New Directory For 2114

The Parish Council has agreed to issue a new copy of the very useful Little Blue Book.

This time it will be yellow, but just as useful. Some of the information remains the same but some changes are due. If the secretary of your group or organisation has changed during the past two years, or if you are a local tradesperson who would either like to be in the book or would like to be taken out of it please contact **Jane Percival** who is collating the changes. Information is needed by the end of October for publication in January, but the sooner it is in the more likely it will be included. Space is limited but all entries are free. Call **858478** or email janepetsplants@onweb.co.uk.

Jazz at the Walnut Tree

Jazz on a Summers Day, Monday 15th July at 8pm Tad's Newton's Jazzfriends special guest sensational US star Greg Abate, details from Tad on 858549

The **village history website** carries 500MB of archived information and rising! There is a keyword search box and indexes for pictures, historical articles and news items but the question is, how might it serve the village better. Please take the five question survey linked on the homepage at www.blisworth.org.uk/images. Ideally well over half of the 900 households within the parish need to reply for a worthwhile anonymous sampling of local views. **Tony Marsh**

Blisworth Film Club

July 25th 'Les Miserables'

Note earlier start time, as this highly acclaimed film runs for 3 hours, so bring a cushion. Intervals/comfort breaks will be provided! Starring Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway, Russell Crowe, Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter in this award winning adaptation of Victor Hugo's epic novel. Doors open **6.45pm for 7.15pm prompt start** Admission £4 Bar and raffle available.

August 29th 'I give it a Year'

A look at the trials and tribulations of a newlyweds during their first year. Very good reviews, starring Stephen Merchant "Funniest British film in years" Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30 pm start Admission £4 Bar and Raffle available.

Dates for your diary...we have reserved two great new films. On September 26th 'Summer in February'. On October 24th 'Behind the Candelabra' Margaret Holiday 858590 or Beryl Payler 858476

Arts & Craft Group

Members are looking forward to exhibiting their work at the Village Hall (Gallery & Bistro) during the Canal Festival weekend. The hut by the Tunnel is nearly ready for us to start painting the mural on interior walls, a fun challenge.

Eight Artists will be participating in Northampton Open Studios from September 14th to 22nd in the Barn behind the 'Royal Oak' Please put the dates in your diary.

Maggie Turton

Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

During June and July work on the allotment slows down and there is time to enjoy the fruits of your labour. Although spring was very late this year and vegetables are still not as far advanced as they should be, you can expect to harvest early potatoes, broad beans and young carrots.

Carrots are invariably affected by carrot root fly; the best way to beat this pest is to grow them under enviromesh. Try to sow sparingly so that you do not have to thin the young plants and don't weed on a windy day.

At the time of writing this article, a very good, newly cleared plot has become available. If you think you would like to take on an allotment, please contact me, **Jane Hill**, on **858656** and I shall be very pleased to show you around. The site is very friendly and the soil is light, making it easy to work. Plot holders grow all sorts of vegetables with great success.

1st Blisworth Scout Group

It only dawned on me a few days after our AGM that it marked my first anniversary as GSL. What's happened in those 12 months, and what is coming up?

Most of the year has been about learning, what happens when and lead-times for various activities? Some time has been spent thanking the people in the village for making the Hall possible, and a little more continuing to raise funds.

What did I learn? Well, it was confirmed that the leader team is brilliant and ever ready to put themselves out, behind the scenes they spend hours making plans, arranging their work commitments to suit the Group and attending hosts of meetings, my thanks to you all. It was also confirmed that some of our young people and their parents make every effort to support the Group and I know that they and the leaders really do appreciate their efforts, whilst perhaps hoping that others might join in with them. Maybe next year.

Some of our Beavers were invested in the Canal Partnership's hut, you may have seen the photos in the paper (thanks Jane). The Beavers have their Challenge camp after my copy deadline! I hope we can get to Spotley Woods, but have fall back plans. Some parents are supporting the Colony by helping run the weekly meetings, thank you – we will lose two adult helpers at the end of term as their children move up to Cubs. We have a good number of young people and I hope we can persuade a few more adults to become more formally, and frequently, involved.

During June the Cubs went to County Camp at Overstone – the young people had a fantastic time, my thanks to the Leaders, it is quite difficult to imagine all that is required to be done to make these things a success. Cub numbers will drop at the end of term, there will be plenty of space for 8 – 10 ½ year olds who want to give us a try.

Scouts continue to enjoy a great, varied programme in the outdoors, for example there will be a hike and bivouac camp the day after I post this off to the Editor, I hope it keeps dry!

So, what's coming up? In order to thank the village for their help in getting the Hall built we will host another Fun Day in the summer of 2014 on Saturday 21 June and invite all village bodies, clubs, organisations and societies to join us to show off and promote your activities. We will put the tents and marquees up – all you need to do is fill the spaces! Please keep the date free and we'll all have a great day out in the fabulous British summer!

More immediately we are keen to be involved where we can help out without introducing risk. It's worth pointing out that Scouts now move on to Explorers at 13 ½, so a Scout may not have all the worldly experience that may be required for certain jobs, without the support of an adult.

A reminder that Hall bookings are now being managed by Jackie Manderfield, who can be contacted on 859 823.

As ever, I'd be delighted to hear from you, gsl@1stblisworth.org.uk or 07501 059 566 if you'd like to join the adventure. Thanks for reading once again, and have a great summer.

Jonathan Hazell

Raising Awareness in Uganda

In October half term I will be travelling to Jinja, Uganda to represent Campion School at an International Youth Conference, the aim is to raise awareness of global issues such as war and poverty with Ugandan students.

Whilst there, we are hoping to implement a partnership with secondary schools through a literacy programme to develop Ugandan student's English skills and provide greater opportunities to improve their quality of life in the future.

I will be fundraising to make all this possible and would really appreciate donations of old or unwanted **clothes and textiles like towels, hats, curtains, shoes and sheets** that I could recycle. I will also be completing the **Moulton 10K race on 25th August** and would be especially grateful for any sponsorship. Please drop off any donations at **6 Westbrook**, or **ring 858943** for collection, or email ellencpainter@gmail.com.

Thank you very much for your help
Ellen Painter

Blisworth Baptist Church

Family Service every Sunday at 10.45am
Communion every First and Third Sunday

Coffee/tea before the service from 10.00am and afterwards

Interactive Prayer and Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7.30pm

Mens' Breakfast

Every Fourth Saturday at 8.30am

Canal Heritage Weekend

We shall serve a full English breakfast and hot lunches on **Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th August**
Breakfast from 8.30, Lunch from 12.00 noon until 2.00pm
in the Coffee House

Please ring Ted Ashworth for details.

Pastor: Keith Barker – 01327 352972

Room bookings: Ted Ashworth – 01327 352812

Secretary: Peter Burton - 01604 858980

Stitchery Do

Blisworth Tapestry Charity—Creating with fabric and thread

We meet every First Thursday of the month at the **New Blisworth Scout Community Hall** from 10.00 am to 3.00pm. Just £3.50 per session. Tea and Coffee included, bring your own packed lunch.

Forthcoming Workshops

4th July 'The Snowflake Project' Quilting Community Project with tutor Rebecca Ayton

1st August Preparation for Canal Festival Craft Stall

10/11 August Craft Stall at Victoria House, Stoke Rd

5th Sept Talk by **Joan Mason on 'Project Linus'** an organisation providing comfort to traumatised and sick children by supplying quilts and blankets.

We are delighted to announce that we been awarded some funding from South Northants Homes Charitable Trust to pay for new sewing equipment and tutoring. Interested in joining our very friendly and sociable group contact:

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

Neighbourhood Watch

We now have a new coordinator! Mark Redding has agreed to take on the role which is excellent news. If you used to be a street representative you should be contacted shortly. If you want to volunteer please contact one of your parish councillors.



Blisworth Women's Institute

Some of our members have recently taken advantage of two of the many trips offered by the Northamptonshire W.I. The Derbyshire Well Dressing trip proved to be delightful although as seems to be the norm these days, the weather was inclement for at least some of the day. There were several well dressings and some pretty walks to be enjoyed in Stanwick and the Roman market town of Wirksworth where there was also the opportunity to see a well actually in the process of being dressed.

A day visit to the Cutty Sark at Greenwich also took place in May. The members were most interested to see the result of six years of extensive conservation undertaken on this historic ship. The National Maritime Museum, the Queen's House and The Royal Observatory are in close proximity allowing people to extend their visit if they had the time and energy!

We are now looking forward to a trip to Helminghall Gardens in Suffolk with a visit to nearby Bury St. Edmunds. The gardens have been magnificently designed and restored by Lady Tollemache who resides in the Tudor moated building set in a 400 acre deer park. Also available in July is a trip to St. Albans a city steeped in history with a wonderful cathedral and medieval streets to explore.

Locally at our June meeting we were fortunate enough to hear Mr. Malcolm Deacon who spoke to us extremely eloquently and gave us a fascinating glimpse into Elizabethan Northamptonshire. It seems that in Elizabethan times anyone who was anyone had a country home in this area!

Our July meeting is 'Members Night' when the Committee take a back seat - anything can happen! We would also like to draw attention to the W.I. plant stall located on the driveway of 14 Stoke Road which has a variety of plants for sale available for all. Why not come and have a look; we may have just the plant you are searching for.

During the last few months we have welcomed several new members but needless to say 'the more the merrier'. If you are not sure whether the W.I is for you why not attend a meeting at the Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month and see what a friendly lot we are.

Margaret Morbey

'BLISWORTH BOOKWORMS'



Short stories by Frederick Forsyth and novels by Jeffrey Archer are among those discussed at our June meeting. The following meeting will be held on **July 22nd** 1.30 - 3.30pm at 7 Westbrook, which will be our last meeting

until **September 23rd**.

Further details **Maggie Turton** 858594

Blisworth Art Show

Following the recent success of the Art Show where 54 local artists exhibited 154 art works, Members elected to share the proceeds between 4 village organisations that benefit the Community.

Grateful thanks to Village ladies who baked cakes and all the Group Members who helped in many ways to produce a vibrant exhibition that attracted over 200 visitors.

Parish Plan Progress Team Report

You may have noticed a bench has appeared in the front of the garden of the Baptist Chapel., many thanks to them. It is for the use of everyone so please rest a while on that walk up Chapel Lane. We are very grateful to the Film Club for their generous donation towards the seat. Many thanks also to the members of the Chapel did all the installation work.

Blisworth Tapestry Charity

The Charity's aim is to purchase a Mini Bus to provide transport for village organisations to get their members to and from meetings and organise trips out for the disabled or house bound.



As a Community Charity we aim to raise funds through various projects in the next two years. It would be really helpful if all village organisations came on board with us to help us achieve this goal. Do let us know if you can help.

Our First Initiative.....**The Snowflake Project** where '**Stitchery Do**' Blisworth's Sewing Group will learn new quilting skills to create professional products to sell at '**An Auction of Quilts and Promises**'.

Our Second Initiative....'**Cookery Do**' Recipe Collection. Have you a heritage recipe or family favourite you could donate to our Cookery Book? We are looking for tasty ideas with a local theme to put Blisworth on the map again with inspirational cookery recipes and tips!

Email donations to carol_arnall@btinternet.com

VHPFA 250 Club

The 250 Club, supporting the Village Hall. Winning numbers for May and June were:

£30 179 86

£20 151 42

£10 209 104

Organiser - Fiona McKenzie 859 541

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 17th August for the September/October 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.