

Round and About

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter
January/February 2014 No 95



Photo Jim Payler

Notes from the Chairman.....

A Very Happy New Year to All!

The past few years have been very eventful for the village and I'm sure 2014 will be just as full and exciting. Several organisations are already making plans with the Scouts Fun Day and also the Micron Theatre in June. Please look out for notices and support these events which help to make Blisworth the great community it is.

One of the earliest celebrations of the year will be the unveiling of our Village Sign. Unfortunately red tape has delayed the installation but it should be in place in the next couple of months. It has been long awaited and will be a stunning welcome to the village on 'Elm Tree Corner'.

Many of you will have noticed the transformation in the cemetery opposite the church. This is mainly due to the hard work of Paulette Kennedy who has enlisted the help of several volunteers.

A huge thank you to everyone involved and we look forward to the official unveiling of the new Interpretation Board in the Spring. If you haven't seen it yet, it is just inside the entrance from the High Street.

We will soon be seeing our Highway Warden around the village. This is the most recent volunteer role taken on by Anne Goss. She will be working with Highways and the Parish Council to report problems and hopefully improve the condition of our roads and footpaths. We are very grateful to Anne and all the volunteers in the village – many of them unseen and unknown – but they help to make Blisworth a wonderful place to live.

Many Thanks to You All.

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 taking bookings for places from September 2014 so please call in to see us or call **Pam** on **07803662433**

Blisworth Online Archive

blisworth.org.uk/images/changes.html

Why not take a look at **2013** on the "Recent Additions" page. See what the Heritage Society have prepared from Victorian census forms, what the Canal Partnership has been up to, what the Blisworth Art Group have been creating in the Tunnel Hut, what the Parish Progress Team have been doing and what Beryl Payler has achieved with many of Jim Payler's canal photos.

Note that a piece of 16th century stone carving has been rediscovered in Stoke Road and that someone has been riding his hobby-horse in discovering old track-ways across the parish whilst maintaining a watch on "Orbit news."

Also, please take 5 minutes to fill out the survey on the homepage.

Tony Marsh

Blisworth Film Club

The next film to be shown in the **Hougemont Barn** on **Thursday January 30th** 2014 will be:

'Love Is All You Need'

This is a Danish made, light hearted rom-com about a lonely middle aged Englishman living in Denmark (played by Pierce Brosnan) who meets a Danish hairdresser who has recently recovered from cancer. This film has received good reviews, there are lots of sub-title opportunities when dialogue goes Danish and it has been described as 'Mamma Mi'a without the singing! It should make a feel-good start to the year.

I am very pleased to report that the new landlord of the Royal Oak is happy to continue allowing us to use the barn, we certainly received a really warm welcome in November! Same price £4, same time 7.00 for 7.30 start.

February's film is still to be decided, we have a number of recent releases on order, it's just a question of when they become available for us, so watch out for posters and in the Chronicle & Echo.

Margaret Holiday 858590

Brenda and Eric Warner

Thank you for your generous support at our Art and Photographic Exhibition in aid of CRY (Cardiac Rick in the Young) the magnificent sum of £786.18 was raised for the charity. We had a wonderful Golden Wedding and big Birthday celebration that we will never forget.

May we remind you that screening for young people between 14-34 years old is now definitely organised for May 31st 2014 at the Cobblers Football ground in Northampton, please check the CRY website for further details on how to book a space and what the screening entails.

Please encourage your children and grandchildren to go, if it saves one child and their family the ultimate pain and anguish of a cruel sudden death it will be worthwhile.

Best wishes **Brenda and Eric**



Blisworth Heritage Society



AGM

24 January 2014

This is your opportunity to have your say on the way the Society is going, or join the committee and help shape the future

followed by

Forging Ahead

a tale of forged money and wartime deception
by Alan Dimmer

28 Feb 2014

Hayes Boatbuilders of Stony and Old Stratford
by Alison Leighton

The Village Hall at 7:30

Admission £1 for Members £2.50 Guests

CDs and memory sticks containing a copy of the **Scrapbook** will be available for sale at the meetings or from any committee member

Details on our webpage www.blisworthheritage.org.uk

Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

The period after Christmas and at the beginning of the new year can be flat and depressing. If you feel that you need a boost and a reason to get out in the fresh air, why not take on an allotment? Rent is only £5 a year. The plots are big enough to produce a decent amount of vegetables and fruit but not so big as to be daunting. The soil is light, so very workable, even in the wettest of conditions. Cultivating a plot is like going to the gym but instead of costing money, you are rewarded with fresh produce, good health and the chance to meet like minded people.

If you are interested in taking on a plot, please contact **Jane Hill** on **858656**. I would be pleased to show you around.

1st Blisworth Scout Group

We hope those of you who came up to the Hall on Monday 4 November enjoyed our Bonfire Night party? If you did, put 7.00 pm Monday 3 November 2014 in your diary and we'll do it all again, but bigger!

I was very pleased once again with the young people who took part in the Remembrance Day service, especially the courageous Beavers who wrote and performed their prayers.

In 2014 the Group will have to re-visit some old challenges: we need to get back into the groove with fundraising, and the search for adult volunteers is becoming urgent!

We hope that the idea of a fun day on 21 June has taken hold, we will open up the Hall to as many of the village bodies, organisations, clubs and societies as we can so that they can promote their activities whilst some of our young people demonstrate a few Scouting skills. There is also Community Week (which I knew as Bob a Job week when I were a lad) in early June when the Group will make itself available to help with planned activities – one idea that has already been broached is some help with the care of the Old Cemetery on behalf of the Parish Plan Progress Team.

We have had to say farewell to Rainbow, our Beaver Leader: I know she was disappointed that she couldn't carry on, thank you to her for all that she brought to the Colony. But we do say hello to Bubbles, our new Assistant Beaver Leader, who has been brilliant already, especially with the Christmas decorations!

Two of our Scout Leaders are planning to stand down at the end of the summer term, they will leave a huge hole as umpteen years of experience will go with them. My challenge is to try to find someone, or indeed some people, who can in time replace that loss – it won't be easy but few of life's most rewarding challenges are.

Looking further ahead 2016 is the 50th anniversary of this iteration of the Group (we believe there had been Scouts in the village as early as 1909 – is that right?) and we'd like to mount an exhibition to show where we began and how far we have come in that half century. If you wouldn't mind could you look out any memorabilia you may have tucked away in a corner of the garage or up in the roof and tell me all about it?

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,

Jonathan Hazell

Jazz at the Walnut Tree

Jazz every Sunday lunchtime at 12 noon, great food available, details from Tad Newton 858549



Blisworth Football Supporters Club

Courteenhall Road

Fully Licensed Bar with Regular Social Events

Ringo's Bingo 25th January
Eyes Down 8.00pm

Quiz Night Friday 7th February
Teams of 4 all welcome!

Children's Football Teams for both Boys and Girls
Youth Teams are all ways looking for new players!
As well as Adults Football Teams!!

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

Stitchery Do

Creating with fabric and thread

The Charity has had another successful year with a good attendance at the monthly 'Stitchery Do' events. The Christmas Saturday workshop in November was very productive and enjoyable.

We will be looking for tutors for 2014 to increase the diversity of our craft skills. Please let Carol or Sandra know if you know of anyone willing to help. The team have given three successful talks about the Tapestry and they are always very well received.

Fund raising for the Blisworth Mini Bus Appeal will continue next year in earnest with the 'Cookery Do' recipe book and other initiatives.

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. Because of the Christmas and New Year holiday, there will be no meeting in January.

Our next meeting will be **5 Feb** when we shall be reading Billy Liar. If you would like to come along and join us, you would be most welcome. For further details, please phone **Dick Hennessy** on **858602**.

BVHPFA 250 Club

A Happy New Year to all contributors and collectors. Participation in the scheme is a great benefit to the Hall, especially this year when an updated kitchen and car park repairs are planned. Just a reminder that after more years than anyone can remember at £6, the subscription is now £10, and the prizes have increased to £30 x 1, £20 X 2, £10 X 2. The collectors will be doing their annual round soon - please help them by making a single payment if possible.

Any enquiries to **Fiona McKenzie 859541**.

Blisworth Parish Church

'Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. Isaiah 12 v 2.

By the time this issue is with you the Advent season of anticipation and expectation is over, but we are still in Christmastide, the 12 days which started on December 25th. It is perhaps a time to reflect on all that has taken place in the church over the past weeks. In place of our usual Christmas Fair in the Hall, we enjoyed a Christmas coffee morning in the Church. Stalls of gifts, cakes etc. were all there, and refreshments; we were delighted to welcome so many people. This is likely to become an annual event.

In another departure from our usual custom, we have agreed with our friends from the Chapel that we will join together for carol services. The first was held in the Chapel, next year will be in St. John's. It is always a joy to welcome the school who bring the Christmas story to life with singing and acting for the benefit of their families. They are in Church for three rehearsals beforehand, so some of us get a sneak preview!

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

Details of all services are displayed on the church door, and there is a monthly sheet listing all events in the Benefice.

Lastly, our grateful thanks to the Revd. Andrea who (like all clergy) undertakes many extra services in her six churches at this time of year.

All enquiries to

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



Blisworth Women's Institute

Another year over and once again Blisworth WI is looking forward to an exciting programme of events and meetings in 2014.

Our November meeting was extremely interesting; Linda Maude's 'A History of Pantomime' proving to be most informative and was illustrated with some of the beautiful costumes specially made for such productions. Our Christmas meeting/party held on 12th December was very well attended. We were sad to record the death of one of our members and past president, Mrs. Valerie Penn, whose cheerful contribution to our monthly meetings will be sorely missed.

Some of our members visited Chatsworth early in December reporting that this beautiful stately home was wonderful as ever and worth visiting time and time again especially as the gardens are spectacular in all seasons.

Our January meeting is to be held on the 9th January and the speaker will be enlightening us on all things 'William Morris', a very interesting subject. If any newcomers or indeed any other members of the community wish to join us on that date and find out what W.I. membership is all about please join us; we will be happy to see you.

Margaret Morbey



Blisworth Canal Partnership
www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org

WHAT A YEAR!

Blisworth Canal Partnership would like to thank everybody who has helped to make 2013 such a successful year for us. The **spectacular festival**, **Jim Payler's Photographic Exhibition** and stunning **new bench**, the **Mikron Theatre** visit, the continuing work in the **Tunnel Spinney** and last but not least the absolutely **stunning transformation of the Tunnel Hut**, home to the **Art Club's mural** which is attracting an audience from far and wide. What a list of achievements!

Lots already planned for 2014. We'd love you to join us. Some clearance of offside vegetation close to the tunnel is planned in the forthcoming weeks. If you fancy an hour or so in the fresh air, lending a hand, then get in touch (details below).

Today (Dec 17th), we have had endless approaches from people complaining about the extent of the tree clearance on the moorings by Mill bridge. They had wrongly assumed that the Canal Partnership was undertaking the work. Be assured that this work has nothing to do with the Partnership. It is part of the landowner's preparation for a new house to be built on the site. All concerns or questions should be directed to SNC's planning dept.

Jan Andrews 07597 053062
blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk



Blisworth Bookworms

Our next 2 meetings will be held on January 27th and February 24th when we will share our Christmas holiday reads.

If you would like to join us please contact me or any of the other 'bookwormers'. **Maggie Turton 858594**

Foodbank

Are you aware there is a foodbank in Towcester which provides emergency food for local people in crisis, including Blisworth?

The foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK-wide foodbank network and provides bagged food for 3 days to those in need, who have a voucher.

The Parish Church and Baptist Chapel collect donated food for the charity. If you would like to help by donating, there is a basket at the Coffee Shop, Chapel Lane on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12.30pm. Suitable items are milk (UHT or powdered), sugar, fruit juice, pasta sauces, tinned sponge puddings, cereals, tinned rice pudding, tea bags, instant coffee, instant mashed potato, rice, soup, pasta, tinned meat or fish, tinned fruit, jam, biscuits or snack bars.

If you know of anyone who may need help e.g. by being unpaid due to sickness, starting a new job, monthly paid instead of weekly etc. then vouchers are available from Rev Andrea Watkins. Details of how to get a voucher are posted in the porch of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist.



In answer to the many questions, this Walter Alexander 'photo, 'Easter Racegoing' is from the online village archive, blisworth.org.uk/images.

Blisworth Baptist Church
Family Service every Sunday at 10.45am
Crèche available and Junior Church
Communion every First and Third Sunday

Coffee and tea are served before the service from 10.00am and afterwards in the Coffee House

Interactive Prayer and Bible Study
 Tuesdays at 7.30pm

Coffee House Open
 Tuesday's at 10.00am

Mens' Breakfast
 Every Fourth Saturday at 8.30am in the Coffee House

Pastor: Keith Barker – 01327 352972
Secretary: Diane Atkinson - 01604 859590
Room bookings: Ted Ashworth – 01327 352812

The Arts & Crafts Group

Members were saddened to hear of the death of Phil Charles recently. He and his wife Jill were founder members of Blisworth Art Group, as it was then known, from September 2006 until his illness. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Phil's kindnesses and the support he gave to the Group from its inception. *'Thank you Phil'*.

Maggie Turton

Parish Plan Progress Team Report

Now that the interpretation board is in place near the entrance to the Old Cemetery, the Parish Plan Progress Team are turning their attention to the gates. Quotes for the work from experts in the field have been obtained but it will be quite costly to do a lasting refurbishment. In the New Year we will look at what grants are available and devise a plan for fund raising.

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Monday 17th February for the March/April 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.