

Round and About

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

March/April 2014 No 96



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Notes from the Chairman.....

As usual the Village Diary is filling quickly with many different activities and celebrations! The date has yet to be decided for the Annual Parish Assembly but it should be in April or May. As several groups find Mondays difficult it may be held on a different evening. A decision will be made at the March P.C. meeting. Please watch the notice boards for dates of all the various groups meetings and activities.

A frame has been ordered for the Village Sign and we are hopeful that the red tape will be in order soon so that installation can be completed. We have waited a long time for a village sign so if you have any suggestions for the 'unveiling' please get in touch.

A new chairman will be elected at the Annual Parish Council meeting (not the Parish Assembly) as I have completed the 3 year term (I will of course remain as a councillor). There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor so if you would like to join us and do your bit for Blisworth please contact either the clerk or me. My term as chair has been challenging at times but most interesting and rewarding. Colleagues on the council have given me constant support and the positive comments from many residents have been heart warming. It will be good to have a new chairman with fresh ideas and enthusiasm and I am sure the council and villagers will give whoever is elected the same help and encouragement that I have enjoyed.

Many Thanks to you all!
Pat Masterman 858985

Hello! I'm **Anne Goss** and I have taken on the role of **Highway Warden**. If you have a query about obstructions (not vehicular) on footpaths, potholes (which have to meet a criteria of depth/width), salt bins, signing, speed limits, road markings. To check whether a problem has been reported you can go to:-

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/streetdoctor

Follow directions to a map of Blisworth which will show you where potholes have been reported, if not you can either carry on through the Streetdoctor program or give me a ring on **858001**.

I met with a representative from Highways on Feb.12th for a walkabout and drew attention to the excessive number of potholes in Buttmead and Connegar Leys in particular as well as other problems. I am hopeful that something will be done for Buttmead and Connegar Leys soon.

I hope to send a monthly report to Parish Council as well as regular updates in *Round & About*.

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. Our next meeting will be **5 March** when we will complete reading **Billy Liar**, we will then be starting a new play on April 2nd. If you would like to come along and join us, you would be most welcome. For further details, please phone **Dick Hennessy** on **858602**.

BLISWORTH PARISH CHURCH

MAD MARCH SALE

St. John's annual giant bric-a-brac sale will be held in the village hall on Sat **March 15th at 2 pm**. **It's impossible to say what bargains and treasures there may be** - just come and look! Donations will be welcome at the hall from 9 a.m., but please no clothes, furniture or electrical goods. Come early - the best things go quickly! Enquiries to Fiona **859541**

The Art & Craft Group

Members are working hard to prepare work for the 38th annual **Blisworth Art Show** to be held in the **Village Hall on the 3rd and 4th May**. The open exhibition attracts artists County wide, so if you paint, take photographs or do something crafty and would like to exhibit your work then you will be very welcome. Invitation letters, along with the schedule, will be posted during March.

We should have some of our display boards, that some members are earnestly working on at the moment, finished by May..... something else to look forward to.

So, please everyone, put these dates in your diaries now and watch for posters nearer the time.

Let's make this a bumper year for artists and visitors alike.

Further details: Maggie Turton **858594** Ivan Chester **858702**

Blisworth Film Club

On **Thursday 27th March** it is hoped to screen 'About Time'. This is a British romantic comedy revolving around time travel and a young man's ability to alter the course of his life to have a better future. This film is directed by Richard Curtis, famed for 'Four Weddings and a Funeral, Notting Hill etc'. The next film, due to be shown on Thursday April 24th, will be 'Sunshine on Leith'. It is based on the stage hit of the same name, following the lives of Dave and Ally as they struggle to re-learn and readjust to life in Edinburgh after serving in Afghanistan.

In May we hope to show 'One Chance' and in June, either 'Le Weekend' or 'Philomena' if it is released on DVD. Films are always subject to availability, especially as so many villages are realising the popularity of the Rural Cinema project, although we always try to reserve film choices well in advance, especially if there are specific requests or recommendations.

Films continue to be shown on the last Thursday of each month, admission £4, doors open from 7.00pm for 7.30 start, bar and raffle available, in the Hougemont Barn of the Royal Oak.

We are very pleased to announce that, in keeping with our policy of giving back to the community, a donation has been made to the Blisworth Pre-school Playgroup to help their fund raising initiative.
Margaret Holiday **858590**

**Blisworth
Football Supporters Club**

For any enquiries please call 858024



STITCHERY DO - Forthcoming Workshops
@ The New Community Scout Hall

Our monthly workshops will start on **Thurs 3rd April** 10am to 3pm £4 per session includes teas and coffees. Bring your sewing machines and sewing kits. Transport can be arranged if required.
Tel: Carol Arnall on **01604 858776**

Special Easter "Take Away Gifts" Workshop Saturday 12th April from 11am until 4pm £4.50 per session.
* Suitable for 8 years of age and over accompanied by a grandparent or adult working alongside them. An opportunity to learn new skills and take home some exciting home made Easter gifts all included in the price. (Sewing machines and sewing kits required)

The Grand Union Benefice Wedding Kneeler Dedication Ceremony will take place at St. Johns Parish Church for the Mother's Day Service on Sunday 30th March at 10.30am. Our local artist Maureen P Smith and members from the Blisworth Tapestry Charity, Sandra O'Connor, Beryl Andrews, Margaret Holiday, Ros Bedford and Carol Arnall were involved in the making of this double kneeler.

Carol Arnall Chairman Blisworth Tapestry Charity

STOKE ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Members, associates and all leisure gardeners will be welcome at the spring meeting on Monday **March 31st**. The speaker is Nicholas Warliker, professional gardener, writer and broadcaster. His humorous approach is both informative and very entertaining. The meeting is the A.G.M. but business will be kept to a minimum at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Take along your surplus seeds from last year and pick up some different ones at the FREE SEED SWAP. Exchange garden magazines, support the raffle and enjoy the refreshments. Jane Percival **07956 111074**
blisworthallotments @ gmail.com



Blisworth Women's Institute

It is hard to feel romantic with all this water 'sloshing' around but we certainly tried with our February meeting which was valentine themed from the refreshments to a card competition judged by the Speaker. Sue Edwards gave a very enlightening insight into the 'Story behind the Painting' which was enjoyed by all present. Our March meeting will be musical with the relatively recently formed W.I. County Choir entertaining us at the start of our meeting and we are all looking forward to hearing them.

During January some of our members attended a performance of *HMS Pinafore* in Northampton and it was agreed by all that it was an extremely good performance that was thoroughly enjoyed.

The monthly skittles evening is starting again and this is held on the third Thursday of the month. If skittles is your 'thing' please join us; maybe we can then persuade you to join the W.I.

Margaret Morbey

Jazz at the Walnut Tree

Jazz every Sunday lunchtime at 12 noon, great food **March 9th** "Swing into Spring" with a 2 Band Special details available from Tad Newton **858549**

1st Blisworth Scout Group

Plans for the Fun Day on **21 June** at the Hall are beginning to take shape, a wide range of stalls and displays inside, the young people from the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to camp the night before so that you can see how we do things when we're away from home, stalls and attractions outside – let's hope the weather has improved by then!

I have been given an idea for a long-term project that we might kick off in Community Week from **2 – 8 June**, to create a five-star bug hotel for the Cemetery. It sounds to be good fun and probably quite messy which ought to make it attractive to the young people!

I wrote last time that two of our Scout Leaders, Stuart and Steve, are standing down at the end of the summer term, and they will leave a huge hole as umpteen years of experience will go with them. Can you help me to find someone, or indeed some people, who can in time replace that loss – it won't be easy, but that doesn't lessen the challenge! If you have any ideas then please let me know. We have found another Rainbow! Miranda has stepped forward to help Janet lead the Beaver Colony and I'm really encouraged by the great ideas the two of them and their three young leaders have had, for Colony nights as well as for a weekend camp! The Colony is proving to be quite a success at the moment, so much so that we have had to start a waiting list so if you are thinking of joining the Colony in the near future let me know and we'll get your name down! The Beavers hope to go back to Spotley for 24 hours in the open air over the Mayday weekend, but if it's too wet then we'll have to follow Plan B which will take us back to Hazelborough, the site of our excellent Halloween sleepover.

The Cubs have had a couple of really good themed sleepover in recent months, the latest was a science night, and they are planning to go further afield when they camp later in July, a Scout site in the New Forest which sounds idyllic. The Cubs and Explorers are working together serving the community with fund raising bag pack at Waitrose in Wootton on Saturday **8 March**. The Scouts are hoping to have one last summer camp in Wales organised by Stuart and Steve before they both retire, they had hoped to take a few of the keener Scouts away for a weekend in early March but unfortunately that will not now happen.

The Explorers are getting ready for a long weekend in the Chilterns on a 24 hour challenge camp, sadly the autumn equivalent (the Apex event in Yorkshire) has had to be cancelled this year as work commitments mean the organiser will be unavailable. Perhaps something can be organised to fill the gap?

Have any of you old scouts been rummaging for any memorabilia you may have tucked away in a corner of the garage or up in the roof? Our 50th anniversary falls in 2016 and we'd like to plan a few events to help celebrate it.

A reminder that Hall bookings are now being managed by Jackie Manderfield, who can be contacted on **859823**.

As ever, I'd be delighted to hear from you if you'd like to join the adventure.

gsl@1stblisworth.org.uk or **07501 059 566**

Thanks for reading once again

Jonathan Hazell.

Blisworth Baptist Church

Chapel Lane

Matthew 16:18

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Church can look like a hundred different things because our Heavenly Father is so creative. Try to copy any of them and you will find it turns lifeless and empty. The Church thrives when people are focused on Jesus, not when they are focused on Church. This is a great time to learn to enjoy Him together with us at Blisworth Baptist Chapel. Together we are learning to live, love and listen, and to discover what expression of Church life best fits His plans. Church is not something you can point to and say "that is the Church!" We are the Church. Don't be afraid to live in that reality. God has amazing plans for Blisworth and you in 2014, So come and be a part of Gods living Church.

Family Service every Sunday at 10.45am

Communion every First and Third Sunday
Coffee and tea are served before the service from 10.00am and also afterwards in the Coffee House

COFFEE SHOP Tuesday Mornings from 10.00 till 12.30

Men's Breakfast

Every fourth Saturday at 8.30am in the Coffee House

Easter Arrangements

Thursday 17th April 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Easter Sunday Celebration Service 10.45.

One off **CAMEO** on Wednesday **1st May 10.00**

"ANTARTICA" By Hilary Spurrier

With lunch available afterwards

Pastor: Keith Barker **01327 352972**

Secretary: Diane Atkinson **01604 859590**

Room Bookings: Ted Ashworth **01327 352812**



Blisworth Heritage Society



Friday 28 March 2014
Blisworth Parish Records
by members of the Society

The Village Hall at 7:30
Admission £1 for Members £2.50 Guests

Easter Sunday 20 April
The Great Heritage Easter Egg Hunt
2:00 – 5:00pm starting in the Parish Church

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

Blisworth Pre School

Open Monday to Friday 9.00 to 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 Parish Church

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 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".

Easter is late this year, on **April 20th**. Our church's observance of Lent will commence with an Ash Wednesday service at **7.30pm on March 5th**. Later in the month there will be a Lent course held on three evenings at 7.30pm, on **March 26th and April 2nd and 9th**. This will focus on paths of spirituality, and will be led by Sue Cutts.

Sunday **30th March** is Mothering Sunday, and a benefice service will be held in St. John's at **10.30am**. Each day Holy Week, commencing on Monday **April 14th**, will be marked with a short service or meditation in churches around the Benefice, leading up to Good Friday (**18th**) when there will be a period of meditation from 12 - 3pm at Stoke Bruerne.

On Easter Day there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 11 a.m. in St. John's. There will not be an 8 a.m. service that day.

Full details will be posted on the church door and other notice boards.

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

Don't fall foul of the law

Most dog owners are responsible and pick up after their dog, those that don't are breaking the law as dog faeces pose a public health risk. Members of the public can help reduce dog fouling by contacting the environmental protection team on **01327 322323** or filling in an online form at www.southnorthants.gov.uk/998 It is important to include the name and address of the person in charge of the dog if known, a description of the dog plus the date, time and place of the offence.

If fouling occurs at regular times it may be possible for an officer to witness the fouling and take the necessary action. Dog owners should always take a poop scoop or bags to clean up after their dog. The waste can be put in any public bin, not just the designated dog waste bins.



Some owners take the trouble to wrap the dog mess in a plastic bag, but then leave it at the side of the path. This is a littering offence and if the offender is found guilty in the Magistrate's Court the fine could increase to £2,500+costs.

BVHPFA 250 Club

Thank you to all who have renewed when collectors called recently. This is the first month of the increased prizes, and the numbers that came up were:

£30-118 , £20-120 & 109 , £10 -185 & 51.

There are some numbers available, and anyone joining in will pay slightly less in order to take them up to the next renewal.

Organiser Fiona McKenzie **859541**



Blisworth Canal Partnership www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org

Thanks to all of the people who have helped with clearing some of the **offside vegetation** by the **tunnel**. We worked, we laughed, we made new friends, we made bonfires, we de-ivyed trees, we ate scrummy food in the hut and we did a brilliant job. We've cleared away most of the brash left after Canal and River Trust contractors felled some large trees and have already planted some donated wild flowers in that area. The Scouts will help us plant some more. We need foxgloves if anybody can spare some. We've also started clearing back some of the small trees hanging right over the water, this has made it far easier and safer for boaters to navigate, as they can now see oncoming craft.

Why not come along and join us, look for the date of the next work party on our website or contact us (details below).

We've just taken delivery of two Canal and River Trust **notice boards** which we are going to install with their support. One will be placed near Candle Bridge and the other by Mill Bridge, both facing the towpath. The Royal Oak will put a poster on each and we'll encourage other local amenities to do the same. Bus timetables, Church Service times and GP surgery details will also be added. Space will be left for local organisations to publicise their events. All towpath visitors will then know what our village has to offer.

Festival planning is definitely hotting up. Many already booked to come, some new and some regulars. Hopefully lots of people came along to our open meeting and gave us their ideas and offered to get involved. It is great that so many people love the weekend and it has certainly put Blisworth on the map!

We are collecting **cuddly toys** again for our fundraising stall, just get in touch if you have any. And please keep giving us your ideas!

Jan Andrews **07597 053062**
blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk

There is money to be won!

Campaign for Rural England (CPRE) are running the annual spring clean-up from Friday 28th March to Sunday 6th April.

For the 5th year they are running the **Litter Heroes Awards**. Every group in the county who holds a litter pick between now and midsummer is eligible for a cash prize, which may be spent on anything connected with a litter campaign. This year there will be a **main prize of £500 and two runner-up prizes of £150**. Please contact June Hawkins **859494** or Pat Masterman **858985** if you can help with litter picking. We will organise dates, times and meeting points when we have enough volunteers. You will need to agree to having photos taken as we have to send photos of the pick to enter the competition. **Many Many Thanks!!!**

Work in the cemetery was suspended during the bad weather and until the drain problem was resolved but we are sure it will soon get back on track. Many thanks to the W.I. for taking on the Mona Clyde Clinch and 2 adjacent graves. The unveiling of the interpretation board is provisionally booked for **Saturday 3rd May**. Notices will be posted when it is confirmed. Refreshments will be available in the Church and we hope to see you all on the day!!
Parish Plan Progress Team

Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

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

Blisworth Village Garage Sale Raising Funds for Blisworth Pre-School Sunday, 13th April 2014 (10:00-16:00)

The first Blisworth Village Garage Sale has been organised by the 'Friends of Blisworth Pre-School Committee' to raise additional funds for the local pre-school.

Any villagers wishing to participate and open their garage doors to sell items to visitors should contact Laurence Bolden on **07875698134**.

It costs just **£5** to take part and your house will appear as a sale location on a map that will be sold for £1 to those who attend on the day.

There will be other events running throughout the village, more details of these to follow soon.

Please keep your eyes on the village noticeboards and encourage your friends and family to attend by spreading the word.

This event is great for our community; bringing visitors to the village, raising money for our pre-school and giving you the opportunity to earn some extra cash in the process.

Please join our Facebook Group by searching 'Friends of Blisworth Pre-School' for additional updates and upcoming events. Thank you.

WARNING!!! BEWARE – THERE IS A THIEF ABOUT!

On the evening of Tuesday January 28th between 8 and 10pm. an unknown person entered the front door of the Village Hall and passed into the inner lobby area (where the toilets are situated). Whilst the members of the Bowls Club were enjoying a game in the main hall, this unknown person stole the Dyson vacuum cleaner from out of the Bowls Club equipment cupboard, which is situated in the inner lobby area. How desperate someone must be to sink to these depths!!!
So please BE WARNED ---- there is a thief or thieves about! Remember to keep all your doors and windows locked at all times – it could be you next time!!



Blisworth Bookworms

Our next two meetings will be held on **24th March and 28th April**. One of the books we will be discussing is 'The Poet's Wife' - a sensitive novel based on the life and works of poet John Clare by local author Judith Allnatt. If you would like to join us please contact me or any of the 'Bookwormers'.

Maggie Turton **858594**

Next Round & About copy deadline is:
Monday 17th April for the May/June issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:
ra@blisworthparishcouncil.org.uk
or send to the Temporary editor for Issue 97
M Masterman, 7 Pond Bank, Blisworth

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