

# Round and About

**Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter  
January/February 2015 No 101**



Photo: Walter Alexander

## Notes from the Chairman.....

### Planning

#### Candle Cottage

The Parish Council have received notice of an application to build up to 5 houses in the grounds of Candle Cottage, this had already been discussed by the council when the developers agent gave us a presentation during the summer. At present the site is untidy and scruffy. After a long discussion it was decided to object to the application on the grounds it is outside the village confines, extra vehicular traffic and the access to the site from Chapel lane would be very close to the blind spot of the canal bridge.

#### Howden's Development Junction 15.

There has been a second consultation on this development with a very detailed plan of the proposed revised junction. This plan now shows a 4 lane dual carriageway from the Howden's roundabout to the motorway. Would this help to alleviate the traffic from the A508 using Blisworth as a rat run?

### Seats

There has been a slight revision on the positioning of the seats, One is to remain by the Oak, the other is now to be positioned outside Grafton Villas "at the end of Station Road" Upon inspection it was found there were already several seats in Connegar Leys and as we had a request from Blisworth Park for a seat it was decided that a seat in this position would be well used.

### Dog Fouling

This emotive subject was brought up again at a recent Parish Council meeting. Why do some irresponsible dog owners continue to allow their dog to foul in public areas? "Have they never had to wipe dog muck of their shoes?" The PC have installed another dog waste bin at the playing field, please pick up and use the bins, We now have about 8 around the village! **To all the considerate dog walkers, We thank you, to the others, please pick up.**

### Courteenhall Road Allotments

Several rents are still due for the year 2015, would any Tenants still to pay either give the money to Jane Hill or post to the Parish Council.

Finally on behalf of your Parish Council I would like to wish you all an excellent Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

**Charlie Jeffery, Chairman Blisworth Parish Council. 07778-001780**

### Blisworth Parish Church

*"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people." Luke 1. V 68*

St. John's Christmas Coffee Morning took place on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We were delighted to welcome so many people who came to browse, buy, enjoy refreshments and chat. This was our second such event in Church, and it looks like becoming a fixture.

The "virtual Advent calendar" has caught the imagination of many in Blisworth. Each evening in Advent (from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December) a window was decorated, then lit up to reveal creative and lovely designs. A crowd gathered every evening, whatever the weather, and a carol sung. All those taking part have given a lot of pleasure. We heard that one of the Tuesday Health Walks took a route round the village to look at the windows. Thanks to everyone who took up this idea with such enthusiasm.

St. John's Carol Service will be held on Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup> at 4.00 pm. Christmas does not end with Christmas day, and at one time the tradition was to sing carols, and indeed put up decorations, after the day itself. In the hope that R&A is out by then, there is a warm invitation to everyone to join us on that occasion.

On December 15<sup>th</sup> the School came into Church for their annual nativity and carol service. As usual they were well rehearsed, and delighted their families who packed the building for the occasion.

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



Many thanks to all who have contributed to and supported the campaign for community transport. To date £2,675. 94 has been raised.

Look out in Round and About in the New Year for further updates. Hilary Spurrier

### The Art & Craft Group

Members completed this term with a workshop conducted by June Hawkins on still life with a Christmas theme. Much of the good work produced will end up as seasonal greeting cards. Thank you June for your help and support throughout the year.

We now look forward to another creative and busy year ahead. **Maggie Turton**

## Blisworth Women's Institute

The November meeting saw the village hall transformed into a French Bistro, where many small tables were decorated with red and blue tablecloths, candles and French flags! Plates of French bread, pate and French cheese along with glasses of rose wine or juice completed the picture.



Our talk by local man David Price was 'Frills & Kicks' and told the story of the origins of the French Cancan. Photographs and clips of films were shown and were most enjoyable and informative, one clip showing 'flying' splits made your eyes water! The Cancan, often performed to the music by Offenbach, has long been a favourite of my partner and mine and we learnt that the word Cancan in French means 'Scandal' very appropriate! The evening finished with David choosing a winner of the many beautifully made garters brought along by our members.

Those members who visited the BBC Broadcasting House thoroughly enjoyed their day and even sat on 'The One Show' sofa.

Likewise an enjoyable time was had at the Autumn Supper held at Kisingbury Village Hall, where good food and music made this another good evening.

The December meeting is our annual Christmas Party where members enjoyed a fun evening with seasonal food and a visit from 'Secret Santa'!

Next year 2015 is very special for the WI as it is the Centenary Year and we are planning many interesting events so why not come along and join us, new members are always welcome on the second Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the village hall.

**Tina Alexandrou**

## Blisworth Pre School

Pre-school is open Monday - Friday term time, 9.00 until 12.00. Lunch Club available until 1.00pm Tues/Wed/Thurs. Due to demand we are now taking bookings for places from September 2015, please call in to see us or call **Pam** on **07803662433**

## Highways Warden

I have checked all the salt bins are full, but we are promised some bad weather, so for top up contact me on 858001 or [annegoss47@gmail.com](mailto:annegoss47@gmail.com) or Street Doctor direct. Anne Goss

## BVHPFA 250 Club

Numbers drawn for November and December were:

£30 225 3  
£20 47, 90, 18, 203  
£10 36, 249, 201, 96

Please note that the January draw is the last on everyone's current year, and collectors will be coming round, mostly during January. This year, the village hall has benefitted by £1100 from the 250 club, and the Village Hall Committee is grateful to all who made this possible. If anyone feels able to take one of the currently vacant numbers, we might be able to give even more this year. The annual subscription is £10 and monthly prizes are 1 x £30, 2 x £20, 2 x £10.

A happy Christmas and New Year to everyone.

**Fiona McKenzie 859 541**

## Blisworth Film Club

The Blisworth Film Club is entering its 5th year, starting on **January 29th** with '**Before I Go to Sleep**', the film adaptation of the novel, starring Nicole Kidman in this slightly chilling drama. On **February 26th** we intend to screen '**Pride**' the true story of gay support for the striking miners. This has a great cast of well known British actors and has received very good reviews.

Future films reserved for the Film Club include 'My Old Lady' with Maggie Smith, '100 foot Journey', 'Mr Turner', 'The Imitation Game' and 'Night Train to Lisbon'.

As in previous years, the Film Club is happy to make donations to Village charities. If you know of a good cause, please contact me to discuss. Our prices and venue remain unchanged, thanks to the continuing generosity of Maxine and her team at the Royal Oak. We will continue to screen films on either the 4th or last Thursday of each month, so watch out for details on the posters or local press.

My thanks to the regular helpers and everyone who has supported us over the past year.

**Margaret Holiday 858590**



## Blisworth Heritage Society



### Views of Old Northampton

Pat Edwards  
30 January 2015

### AGM followed by Growing Up in a Railway Family

Ray Wake  
27 Feb 2015

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

Would you like to help Steer the Society. keeping it vibrant and doing important work exploring Blisworth's rich Heritage? New enthusiasts are always welcome to join the committee, Come along to the AGM or contact the Chairman.

See our webpage [www.blisworthheritage.org.uk](http://www.blisworthheritage.org.uk)

## Blisworth Jogging Group

Come and join us on Mondays at 6pm  
Village Hall Car Park

All ages and abilities very welcome

**Mary Griffin**

## Blisworth Play Reading Group

The Group meets first Wednesday in each month. Our next meeting will be Wed 7th Jan when we will be starting a new Play, followed by Wed 4th Feb. Over the year we will be reading a bit of everything: classics, pantomime, farce, Agatha Christie and even 60's Radio Comedy Scripts. If you would like to come along and join us, you would be most welcome. For further details, please phone Dick Hennessy on 858602

## URGENTLY NEEDED – BELLRINGERS!!!

Do you enjoy the sound of church bells?

Are you a 'lapsed' church bell ringer?

Would you like to learn to ring church bells?

**This tradition is likely to die out if we cannot recruit more ringers!**

It really isn't that difficult!

We would love to teach you.

We practice on **Monday evenings 7pm at St Johns.**

More details from Mason Masterman **858985** or Di Rogers **07702 374905**



## Blisworth Bookworms

If putting time aside to read more is one of your New Year Resolutions, then come and join us at 7 Westbrook, on the last Monday afternoon of each month. You can be sure of an enjoyable and informative time talking about your latest read and exchanging it for another.

**Dates: January 26th, February 23rd** starting at 1.30pm. **Maggie Turton**

## ARE YOU A CARER? WHO CARES FOR YOU?

The Chapel Coffee House  
with the Parks Patient Group

Would like to invite you to a monthly coffee morning on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

At the Baptist Church

Northamptonshire Carers will be there to provide Information and advice about all kind of free services available to you.

Or maybe you would just enjoy a Coffee/tea,  
A slice of cake and a chat.

Please come along and enjoy a break in  
Friendly company.

Tuesday 20th January  
Tuesday 17th February  
Tuesday 17th March

10.00am — 12am

## Stitchery Do



Creating with fabric and threads. Join us at the Blisworth Chapel Coffee House at 10am until 2.30. Bring a packed lunch.

**Thursday 8th January**

**Thursday 5th February**

For details contact **Carol** on **858776**



## Blisworth Canal Partnership [www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org](http://www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org)

Thanks to everybody who has helped us make 2014 another busy and successful year!

A great festival in August (despite the deluge on the Sunday). Lots of vegetation clearance and tidying and wild flowers planted. Lock beams for seating placed outside the Tunnel Hut, exciting bat watching sessions, picnic benches in the Spinney and lots of fun working with the village Scout groups. They've planted a community tree in the Spinney, smashed back nettles and planted saplings (in a hail storm). The older Explorers celebrated Halloween by making spooky films in and around the Tunnel Hut. It is great that this building restored by our team and other villagers is now being put to such good use. Visitors continue to be overwhelmed by the large mural painted by Blisworth Art Group, it is getting quite famous. Over 150 people enjoyed the Mikron Theatre visit in June, they are coming back again in June 2015; we'll advertise the details so that you won't miss it.

One thing we did miss was the unveiling of a Transport Trust Red Wheel plaque for the Blisworth Tunnel on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. This was awarded to the tunnel for its engineering excellence back in May 2014. Stoke Bruerne groups and Canal and River Trust were informed at that point, organised the celebrations, but did not think to tell anybody in Blisworth or invite anybody to become involved. There was a complete news blackout. Had we known from the outset, we'd have pushed for two plaques, one for each end of the tunnel. It is after all the Blisworth Tunnel. Instead if you want to see the Red Wheel, you will have to visit Stoke Bruerne. It is attached to Bob Nightingale's Smithy at the Stoke Bruerne end of the tunnel. Many people in the village remain very cross about how the village was treated. Several, including the Parish Council and the Heritage Society wrote to The Transport Trust to lobby for a duplicate plaque. District Councillor, Stephen Clarke gave his full support, but a duplicate plaque has been declined. We have been asked to apply for an alternative Red Wheel for Blisworth as a village with a prestigious canal heritage. This we will do, but success isn't guaranteed. There is a fuller account on our website. If you have any views then [james.clifton@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:james.clifton@canalrivertrust.org.uk) / 03030 404040 is the best person to share them with.

## Dates for your diary - BLISWORTH CANAL FESTIVAL 2015

**Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> & Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> 11 am – 5 pm both days**

**Jan Andrews 07597 053062**

[blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk)

## Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

The year is nearly at an end. Why not celebrate the end of the old and the beginning of the new by taking on an allotment? Chase away those winter blues by getting out in the fresh air and exercising your mind and body. You can spend time planning what you want to grow, looking through seed catalogues and in garden centres for inspiration. Plots can be dug over and fertilised so that you are ready to sow and plant as soon as the soil warms up.

If you are interested in taking on a plot, please contact Jane Hill on 858656.

# 1st Blisworth Scout Group

I write as the old year draws to a close with some very encouraging news about the Group – we now have 61 young people in uniform, 20 Beavers, 20 Cubs and 21 Scouts, and we are working closely with the Tunnel Rats Explorer Scout Unit who have over 35 members! The Group has also welcomed new Leaders for each Section during the year which is another great achievement.

Our Bonfire Night party was as enjoyable as ever, the Group plans to do things slightly differently next year and shift the emphasis away from “Bring a Firework” to “Enjoy the Adventure” – we will stick to 7:00 pm on the first Monday in November and the ambition is to keep the event intimate and friendly but to have more control over the fireworks. More on that during the coming year.

We helped celebrate Remembrance Day with a splendid parade and church service, well done to all the young people of the Group who took an active part supporting Andrea and her team.

The Beavers rounded off their term with a Christmas sleepover – a visit to the lights was made extra special because Father Christmas was there to greet us, as well as a few passers-by who got a very welcome surprise!

The Cubs had a Shelterbox Challenge sleepover – I regret I rather over-egged the warning of the disaster in the village that was the theme of the evening (a landslide that had caused the railway bridge and the canal bridge to collapse leaving only Courteenhall Road open for the blue-light service) – sorry Bobby!

The Scouts have celebrated their success in the County backwoods cooking competition and have been presented with the winners shield, the two oldest Scouts have also gained their Gold Chief Scout’s Award which is a personal achievement to celebrate, well done to you both.

We will be holding a Family Quiz Night at the Hall to raise funds for the Group as well as to have great fun, the date to keep free is Friday 27 February. There will be something for everyone during the evening, it really will be a family-focussed event.

The planning for the 2015 Village Fun Day has led to a change of date to avoid possible clashes with other local events: we are now planning to hold the Fun Day on the Mayday weekend, Saturday 2 May – please keep the date free and come along and join the fun.

We still need more material for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016, some stuff has appeared but there’s always room for more! Please, if you were a member of the Group, or if you know someone who was, have a look around and see if you can find anything that may be of interest and let me know, thank you?

Don’t forget to book the Hall through Jackie Manderfield, who can be contacted on 859 823.

As ever, I’d be delighted to hear from you, [gsl@1stblisworth.org.uk](mailto:gsl@1stblisworth.org.uk) or 07501 059 566 if you’d like to join the adventure.

Thanks for reading once again,

**Jonathan Hazell**

## Blisworth Baptist Church

*John 3 v 16 & 17 The Voice Translation ‘For God expressed His love for the world in this way: He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life.’*  
Here’s the point. God didn’t send His Son into the world to judge it; instead, He is here to rescue a world headed toward certain destruction.

A happy and blessed new year to all the readers of Round and About.

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

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

**Coffee Shop Open**

Tuesday’s from 10.00am until 12.30pm

**Interactive Prayer and Bible Study**  
Tuesdays at 7.30pm

**Men’s Breakfast**

Every fourth Saturday at 8.30am in the Coffee House  
Next breakfasts January 24<sup>th</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup>

*Pastor:* Keith Barker – 01327 352972

*Secretary:* Diane Atkinson - 01604 859590

*Room bookings:* Jacques Haines - 01604 859705



If you or someone you know is experiencing sight loss visit us in our new **Mobile Sight Centre** when it is in your area for advice, support, information or equipment. To find out more, get in touch with us: Helpline: 01604 719193, email [helpline@nab.org.uk](mailto:helpline@nab.org.uk) website [www.nab.org.uk](http://www.nab.org.uk)

We are also appealing for volunteers from across the county to assist with a variety of roles that will make a big difference on the lives of blind and partially sighted people living in Northamptonshire. Contact details as above.

## Diana Curtis

The family of the late Diana Grace Curtis, recently of Greenaway Close, wish to thank her friends and family for their condolences and attending her funeral.

We also thank the Leys Care Home for their respect and loving care of Mum in the short time she was resident.

**Brenda, Sylvia, Ann, Joyce and Charles**

## Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Thursday 19th February for the March/April issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

**[ra@blisworthparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:ra@blisworthparishcouncil.org.uk)**

or send to the temporary Editor: Mason Masterman  
7 Pond Bank, Blisworth, Northants

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