

Round and About

www.blisworthvillage.org

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

July/August 2020 No 134



Notes from the Council.....

Planning developments

As many of you have seen recently, the posters placed around the village for the Stop Rail Central campaign have been removed. Although the Secretary of State for Transport allowed the issuing of a Development Consent Order for Northampton Gateway in December 2019, the application for the separate Rail Central development was withdrawn at that time. Our campaign team decided that the posters should be removed but will be re-instated, probably refreshed, if a further application comes in.

The village has received two new planning applications for a total of up to 70 new build houses (residential dwellings) on the Northampton Road and Station Road. We already have a development of 27 new houses just started in Chapel Lane. The three developments will be effectively linked, because of their position, to form one large development of nearly 100 dwellings on one side of the village. Details of all the developments can be found on the South Northants Planning Application website. In March, the Parish Council submitted its objections to the Northampton Road development. The latest website application reference is S/2020/0930/MAO for outline permission to construct up to 35 dwellings at land south of Station Road Blisworth, NN7 3DN and comments can be made to SNC by 2nd July 2020. The PC will also submit its objections to this development in Station Road. All residents can view the application on the public SNC website and submit their own comments.

Council meetings

The PC has held its monthly meetings since April 2020 by telephone conferencing. All residents are invited into these virtual meetings during Coronavirus lockdown and the contact details are always included in each meeting agenda posted on the website and on the village hall notice board. The PC now has a new Chair, David Wilson and a new Vice Chair, Simon Bunker. We hope this will be a better result than a rotating Chair voted at each monthly meeting. Our thanks to two departing Councillors, Tony Hillier and Dave Dalton, who have done years and decades of great service to Blisworth Parish. Thank you for your valuable contributions.

Parish Councils are for the benefit of their local community. However Councils need local residents to participate, so that Councillors, get a wide range of views to ensure the council carries out its task properly and gets things done for the benefit of the community. Blisworth PC has vacancies for 5 Councillors. Without more Councillors it is difficult for the existing 6 Councillors to get things done. The role of a Parish Councillor is explained on the website: <http://parish.blisworthvillage.org/about-us/general-information/>. Please let the Parish Clerk know if you have an interest.

Highways

The village entry signs on Stoke Road and Northampton Road were damaged during recent storms. South Northants Council has repaired the Stoke Road sign and are in the process of replacing the larger sign on Towcester Road. The PC is proposing street lighting improvements across the village. It is initially working with contractors for fact finding and will ask residents for views about what improvements should be made.

Village Play Area

The PC is working to repair and refurbish some of the play area items, especially the multiplay item and the swings. After many years in the open air, the items need some TLC and a spruce up, hopefully before the play area is reopened. If you have any feedback about additional items that could be provided for the play area, please let the PC Clerk or Councillors know about it.

Stay safe, stay well.

David Wilson Your New Chair of the Parish Council

Coronavirus Issue Two

In accordance with Government instructions all village clubs, associations, groups etc remain closed or have their activities curtailed until further notice, these include:

Parish Church, Baptist Church, Primary School, Pre School, WI, Mothers Club, Film Club, Art & Craft Groups, Play with Clay, Stitchery Do, Heritage Society, Bookworms, FOBs, Community Choir, Play Reading Group, both Allotment Associations, Football Club, Friendship Group, Scouts and Cubs, Bowls Club, Fishing Club, VHPFA.

All these organisations have cancelled all activities and will let you know when they are going to re-start. They have all asked me to ask you to:

Stay Alert, Protect the NHS and Save Lives

Brave Little Alfie

Brave little Alfie made Page 1 headlines in the Chron and Echo when a large group of villagers turned out to welcome the little hero home. He had just battled through a long, very difficult but successful course of tough treatments. Team Alfie continues to fundraise to support him and his lovely family.



Volunteer Villagers - Blisworth CRRG

As the COVID-19 crisis has progress volunteers in Blisworth have been hard at work helping those in need of support.

Since lockdown began on March 23, the members of Blisworth Community Response and Resilience Group (CRRG) – set up by Blisworth Progress Group and Blisworth Parish Council - have been out in the community bringing vital supplies of food and medication.

Members of the CRRG, which is constituted entirely of volunteers from our community, have been doing shopping, collecting prescriptions, carrying food parcels, delivering leaflets and helping out those who have been shielding, self isolating or have been otherwise affected by the crisis.

The group offers help to the community in many different ways including a online newsletter at admin@blisworthcrrg.co.uk. Call or text **07579 217464** for a printed copy.

Mel Lee-Patrick, of the CRRG, said: "Even at a time when social distancing is key, our volunteers have come together to form an amazing team who have been ready to go above and beyond to help everyone in Blisworth."

"I am very proud of every one of our members, none of whom have asked for any thanks or reward, for putting themselves out there to help. I would like to personally thank every single one of them for doing their bit in making sure no-one is left behind – thank you team!"

'And so say all of us' many, many villagers agree. (Ed)



Blisworth Heritage Society



In this year's programme, the Heritage Society had arranged a talk on Canon's Ashby Gardens, followed by a visit to the Gardens. We have reluctantly decided that it is not feasible this year, so both are postponed. We have provisionally booked them for June and July 2021.

Whilst people are largely restricted to the Village and are going on regular walks, we have been distributing free copies of our Heritage Walks leaflet. So far about 80 copies have gone (*and we have seen very few paper darts made with them!*) so presumably people are exploring some of the historical treasures of our village. If you haven't got a leaflet and would like one, they are available in the Post Office, on some of the Notice Boards or from Committee Members or email us at web@blisworthheritage.org.uk or phone Dick on 858602.

Blisworth ROCKS!

Members of the Blisworth Rocks Facebook group have been encouraging children and their families to hide painted pebbles around the village to give children a fun trail that they too can contribute to.

But because of social distancing, a snake of stones has now been set up on Courteenhall Road adjacent to Ladyfield, so villagers can safely work on a project together.

The organisers have asked that stones not be removed to allow the snake to grow, which indeed it has, from an initial dozen or so stones, look at our super-special serpent now!



Food for Thought!

Did you know that Blisworth CRRG is bringing food parcels to households in our community for free?

More than fifty boxes have been distributed for free to people in need of food support. Charities SOFEA and Fareshare have been providing the boxes, which are delivered to the Roade Community Larder.



From there the boxes are taken directly to recipients homes.

Blisworth CRRG volunteers have even helped support Milton Malsor, delivering boxes to their co-ordinator.

Mel Lee-Patrick, of Blisworth CRRG, said: "We hope that the boxes we have brought to people have been making the difference, whether they have been self-isolating or had their income affected by the lockdown restrictions."

Any individual or household struggling to afford or obtain food as a result of the Covid-19 emergency can apply for a food box.

In addition to the food parcels the CRRG has also put together a small emergency foodbank which can be taken out to families in need at very short notice – to get help ask at admin@blisworthcrrg.co.uk, call or text **07579 217464**.

Local businesses offering continuing support

The Royal Oak is offering takeaways of both drink and a limited hot food menu each day plus Sunday lunch. To find out more call them on **01604 858723**.

Collins Fresh Produce are offering home deliveries of fresh foods – visit their website www.collinsfresh.com or 'phone **01604 673724**

The Boat Inn at Stoke Bruerne are offering groceries and fresh fruit and veg, alongside ales and ready meals. Call **01604 862428** to order.

Jaspers Catering Milton Keynes - Basic Groceries <http://www.jaspersonline.co.uk/catering-milton-keynes-contact> **01908 569996**

Meat Factory Northampton (delivery) <https://www.facebook.com/FCMeatFactoryShop> **01604 761746**

CBC Meats Blisworth (delivery) <https://www.facebook.com/cbcmeats/> **01604 858115**

Raisa & Sons Roade (collection) <https://www.facebook.com/raisa.sons> **07835 034496**

The Plough Shutlanger collection of basic groceries, plus delivery of some hot meals <https://www.facebook.com/ploughshutlanger> **01604 864644** Closed Monday

Perkins Northampton (2 days to door) Fruit & Veg <https://www.facebook.com/perkinsfresh> **01604 218486**



Blisworth Baptist Church

"Be still, and know that I am God" Psalm 46 v10 NIV.

With all the fear and anxiety that pervades at this time of lockdown and uncertainty, it is comforting to know, with assurance, that we have a God that loves us and cares about every aspect of our lives. I have heard it said that Covid 19 is a judgement from God, I don't believe that a Loving Heavenly Father who sent his only Son into the world to die for us and enabled us to Know and Love Him, would destroy the very people He died for and came to save, that doesn't make sense. God is Love and Jesus shows it.

Since "lockdown" was announced and normal life was suspended, Church buildings have been closed, but we have tried to find other ways to reach out and to serve the community. Our thanks go out to all those lovely people of Blisworth who have reached out to help, in so many ways, make this time more bearable for those who have had to stay inside.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you, for all you have done and are doing. God Bless You.

At Blisworth Baptist Church we are still open "virtually" over Zoom to meet both the Spiritual and Physical Wellbeing needs of the community we serve. If you would like to join us please feel free to contact myself, Lee or Ray to obtain the Zoom Codes for our Services.

Worship Service every Sunday at 10.00 am over Zoom
Communion every First Sunday
Everyone is most welcome to join us.

Every Friday Morning, for those looking after 1 – 5 year olds, from 11.00 "I want To Tell You a Story" Story time for toddlers for ½ an hour.

Pastor: Keith Barker 01327 352972
Assistant Pastor: Lee Hillyard 01604 857654
Secretary: Ray Payne 01604 877442
Room Bookings: Office closed during the Lockdown

Website www.blisworthbaptistchurch.org.uk
Latest information is on the Website

Blisworth Community Choir **(Musical Director Helen Thorman)**

Regretfully we've had to cancel all rehearsals and Summer Concerts due to the Coronavirus Lockdown.

"We'll meet again, don't know where? don't know when ? but we'll meet again some sunny day!!! Till then, " Keep on singing!!! God Bless You All

Winnie Bateman winnie@greenside1940.plus.com

Wanted Blisworth Village Reporter for the Chronicle and Echo

Due to pressing personal reasons Janet Steeper, the current correspondent, is no longer able to continue with the task of reporting weekly to the Down Your Way column in the Chronicle and Echo.

The report normally contain details of village events and news of interest to villagers. It is an important role as various clubs and institutions gradually come out of lockdown.

If you are interested please contact Janet on 879629

1st Blisworth Scout Group

We know that our young people have missed their regular face to face scouting meetings, so our fabulous scouting leaders, with support from the wider scouting movement, have organised various remote activities to keep our members challenged, engaged and most importantly ... in touch with each other.

May saw our first ever 'virtual' district camp, which had members across Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, camping at home. During the camp they participated in various building, camping and cooking challenges ... and even came together over Zoom for a campfire!

Our members have also been making the most of their time at home to complete their badge work, getting involved in a vast choice of activities from art to circus skills.

Our leaders have even started running their weekly meetings via Zoom, which has been a great way to keep everyone connected during these difficult times - cubs even socially distanced invested their newest member on their driveway!

All of this has been possible thanks to the spirit of both our leaders and members - well done all.

When face to face Scouting restarts, we will have vacancies for new members, so please do get in touch.

Katie Mynard, Group Contact



Blisworth Bookworms

A high proportion of the nation have taken to reading more in these unprecedented times. Needless to say members of **Bookworms** continue the habit and are exchanging some really good historical novels & thrillers and reporting their opinions via email. **Maggie Turton** 858594

Blisworth Art & Craft Groups



It is a year since members of the Groups painted four litter bins that have since been used around the village. This one stands at the junction of Buttmead and Connagar Leys. All remain in good condition, it was well worth researching preparation, paint & varnish to make the decoration durable for years to come, to raise a smile as people drop in their litter.

The Groups continue having fun painting together via Zoom every Monday. We can't wait for our next Exhibition to show you what we have done during lockdown. **Maggie Turton** 858594

Blisworth Parish Church

God is with us

These last few months have been unprecedented for many of us. None of us has ever known a time when the doors of the church buildings have been locked for so long.

We have read in the news that some churches can be open for private prayer, but only if they can fulfil specific criteria. We have given this great consideration and prayer while at the same time doing a risk assessment. We have decided, for the health and safety of the community not to go along this route at the moment, but this could change over the coming months. I know it is difficult for some not to be able to go into this beautiful sacred space to pray, but I am sure it will not be for much longer, so please do bear with us.

We are reminded in scripture on many occasions that the most sacred place is the human heart; this is where Christ dwells within his temple. With this in mind, we can pray wherever we know that Christ is within us and without.

I'm sure many people have heard in the community that we have managed to have St John The Baptist decorated inside during the lockdown. This has enhanced the interior of our building in so many ways, bringing out the beautiful architecture that we have so long taken for granted, it has also made the building appear much lighter and spacious. The reason we could have this work carried out is due only to the generosity of one of our church members who has paid for all of the work to be done, at no cost to the church. We as a community are indebted to them not only for their generosity but also to the dedication to Christ himself. St John The Baptist is a living symbol that has stood within our community for generations as a reminder of the presence of a loving, generous and gracious God; who is here for all of us in times of celebration and in times of great need.

May Our Lord continue to bless every one of us and keep us safe wherever we are.

Rector	Revd. Canon Richard Stainer	857619
Wardens	Fiona McKenzie	859541
	Angela Cheesbrough	858059

BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	May	June
£30	68	52
£20	143	76
£20	65	237
£10	26	181
£10	231	20

Thank you so much for your support, this year we made £1,350 for the upkeep of the Village Hall and Playing Field. Keep safe **Estelle Rose** 858482

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 21st August for the September/October Issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

Email: blisworthranda@gmail.com

or send to the Editor: Alan North
89 Buttmead, Blisworth, Northants

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



FOBS

Friends of Blisworth School



There are a number of different ways you can still support FOBS

(and thank you to everyone who has done so already) these are as follows :

- if you having a clothes clear out, the bins are still there and being emptied regularly, however please do not leave bags next to the bins if they are full
- if you shop (and are a member) at the Coop - we are one of the local causes
- if you shop with Amazon, the charity is registered with Amazon Smile
- if you shop online, we are registered with Easyfundraising - many retailers are on there

Please email blisworthpta@gmail.com for more details.



On 29th October 2019, Ashfield Land and Gazeley withdrew its application for a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI), Rail Central, where the West Coast Main Line and

Northampton Loop Line intersect, adjacent to the A43 and within 2 miles of Junction 15A of the M1. A statement on Rail Central's website reads:

"Ashfield Land and Gazeley will now continue to progress their work on the highways mitigation package for the project and intend to submit a revised application to PINS at the earliest opportunity, following completion of the highways work, public consultation and finalisation of the application material".

Stop Rail Central would like to make it clear that it does not necessarily believe that the developers have gone away forever but have certainly gone away for the time being.

As a result, you may have noticed that we have recently removed most of our banners from Blisworth and the surrounding villages. This is also because many of them were beginning to look rather old and tired.

We would like to reassure you all that Stop Rail Central remains active as a campaign group and will be ready to leap back into action in the event that Ashfield Land and Gazeley follow through on their intention to resubmit their application. Let's hope that we don't have to do so!

Henry Newby – Chairman, Stop Rail Central

Blisworth Friendship Group

We'd just like to reassure our lovely members that we haven't forgotten you and the minute we can get back into the Chapel Hall we'll ring you all to let you know. In the meantime, you have our numbers if you feel like a chat. Looking forward to seeing you again as soon as possible xx

Blisworth thanks all Key Workers; NHS and all support staff, carers, truck and bus drivers, refuse collectors, supermarket and small shop staff plus their network of suppliers and deliverers.