

Round and About

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

November/December 2013 No 94

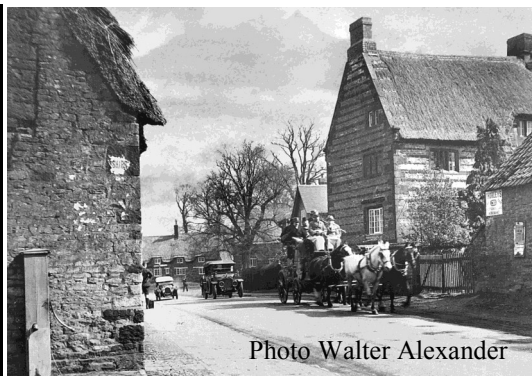


Photo Walter Alexander

Notes from the Chairman.....

What a glorious summer we have enjoyed and hopefully the winter will not be too harsh!! With the colder weather and longer nights it is time for us to remember those who are less able and offer help if needed. Sometimes just a friendly word and a bit of company can make all the difference.

The pumpkins in this issue are a good way to ensure anyone who prefers not to be disturbed does not have to worry. The pumpkins were the idea of Clare Dunkley and she has printed them for many years now. A Big Thank You to her and to the volunteers who put them in R & A! This is just one example of how Blisworth community helps each other.

Another example is the on-going work in the Old Cemetery. Possibly the autumn and winter are not showing this hidden gem at its best but it is worth a walk around to see what is happening. Enjoy the peace and quiet and perhaps think about taking on a gravestone, tree or small area. In the spring the efforts of a small band of people will reveal the cemetery at its best. Well done to all those who continue the work!

The Art Group must be justifiably proud of the mural at the Leggers Hut which is a wonderful portrayal of the canal and village! Hours of work in perhaps not the best of conditions have produced a lasting legacy for many to enjoy. I am sure the Canal Partnership will have news of an official opening.

On a final note of very good news – the *Blisworth* sign is finished and is a stunning portrayal of the iconic Blisworth Tunnel and is quite unlike any other village sign in the area. We are very hopeful of achieving the installation on the green outside the school before the end of the year.

Pat Masterman 858985

Stitchery Do

Creating with fabric and thread

Come along and meet at our friendly monthly sewing workshops. We meet every First Thursday of the month from 10.00 am until 3.00pm at the **Blisworth Scout Community Hall**. Only £3.50 per session, with complementary tea and coffee.

With support from South Northants Charitable donations we have been able to purchase a sewing machine and quilting equipment. Also financing Rebecca Ayton who teaches us patch working.

Do pop in for a coffee/tea chat to see what we are up to. Transport can be provided on request.

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



Neighbourhood Watch Alert

I have recently been made aware of numerous incidents of "missing mail". It appears that mail; including cheque books, bank and credit card statements have been intercepted at some stage during the delivery process. This has resulted in cheques being cashed (often for substantial amounts of money) and fraudulent applications being made for credit cards (notably Tesco credit cards).

Whilst I have reported this as village-wide issue it is unclear if such crime is a Police priority. Therefore, please be vigilant and check bank and credit card statements carefully and be mindful of when credit card and bank statements may have become overdue. Please let me know of any further incidents so that I can collate a full record and also report incidents to the appropriate authority.

Mark Redding 859098



Blisworth Heritage Society



The Life of John Clare, Northants Poet

David Dyke
29 Nov 2013

Northampton in Old Picture Postcards

Douglas Goddard

(Followed by Seasonal Refreshments)

13 Dec 2013

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

St. John's Christmas Coffee Morning

Start your Christmas shopping in St. John's church on Saturday 23rd November at our Christmas coffee morning, from 10 - 12.30. There will be plenty of Christmas bargains to buy in the relaxed environment of St. John's. Enjoy tea or coffee with cakes, and Christmas music. Fun for all the family.



In this issue you will find an orange Pumpkin picture. If you are happy for youngsters to call at your home on Halloween, **Thursday October 31st, please display it in your window or on your door**. Thanks for joining in the fun.

The Parks Medical Practice



Are you a carer? Who looks after you?

Please join us for a very informal gathering of local carers
Early Christmas Carers Lunch - Tuesday 12th November
12.30 for 1pm, The Globe, Long Street, Hanslope. 25%
discount on main courses for over 50s. Everyone is
responsible for paying their own bill.

Booking essential by Friday November 8th to Harvey
Gilbert 01908 310113 or harvey@harveygilbert.co.uk

Register as a Carer with your Doctor (includes Young
Carers 5 to 18). Support is available, please use it. Book an
appointment, Clinics begin October. Meeting of carers at
Blisworth Surgery planned for Nov date TBC. Registered
carers can have details sent directly

Surgery website: www.theparksmedicalpractice.co.uk

BVHPFA 250 Club

September and October winners were:

£30 - 5 and 212 £20 - 18 and 92

£10 - 105 and 117

During January we will begin collecting subscriptions,
the annual cost will become the more realistic £10.

From the February 1st draw, prizes will increase to 1 x
£30, 2 x £20 and 2 x £10. There are again some free
numbers, so join in now on a pro-rata basis.

Village co-ordinator Fiona McKenzie 859 541

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 is
Wed 6 Nov at 10am, when we will finish reading "The
Roses of Eyam" a very moving play about the impact
of the Plague on a Derbyshire Village. This will be
followed by another meeting on 4 Dec when we shall
be looking for something lighter and more seasonal. 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 Football Supporters Club

Courteenhall Road

Fully Licensed Bar with Regular Social Events

Ladies Night 23rd November

Christmas Fete 6th December

With lots of stalls for all those extra gifts!

Kids Christmas Party Sunday 15th December

with a visit from Father Christmas!!

Ringo's Crimbo Bingo 7th December

Eyes Down 8.00pm – lots of prizes!

Children's Teams for both Boys and Girls

Youth Teams are always looking for new players!

As well as **Adults** Football Teams!!

For any enquiries please call 858024

During opening times or visit us on facebook

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

No Breakfast in December

Christmas Arrangements

Friday 6th December at 7.30pm

'Musicality' will sing seasonal songs for us.

(Formerly 'A La Carte')

Sunday 15th December at 6.30pm

Carols by candlelight with children from the village school.

Sunday 22nd December at 10.45am

Family Carol Service.

Christmas Morning at 10.00am

Short Service for Christmas day

Pastor: Keith Barker – 01327 352972

Secretary: Diane Atkinson - 01604 859590

Room bookings: Ted Ashworth – 01327 352812



Blisworth Canal Partnership

www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org

Dates for your diary!

Blisworth Canal Festival 2014

August 9th & 10th

Lots of villagers have already come forward with ideas for
Festival 2014, contact us to add your thoughts. The booking
forms are about to go 'live' and demand for pitches will be
very high. If you'd like a space, please get in touch soon.

The Tunnel Hut

The **magnificent mural** created by our incredibly talented
village artists is now complete. What a **WOW factor!** Its
fame is spreading and visitors can often be seen peering at it
through the gates.

You will also have noticed that the hut roof has sprouted a
chimney. A wood burner has been installed, with the help of
a villager, Steve Starmer. This will ensure that volunteers
have somewhere to warm up for a while during our winter
work parties and the kettle will always be hot!

Very soon

A notice-board will appear on the outside, created by local
sign writer, Colin Dundas with an image of the tunnel
mouth by John Percival.

A hard surface outside the hut will be made ready for Canal
and River Trust to crane on a pair of lock beams for seating.

Once complete we'll have a 'Grand Opening' and then the
hut will be made available for community groups to use. A
great asset for the village!

PS Look out for improvements to the Tunnel Car Park.

Contact Details: 07597 053062

blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk



Women's
Institute

Blisworth Women's Institute

After the excitement of the canal weekend we have all settled back into our usual routine. Four of our members attended the WI Autumn County Lunch at Greens Norton where we enjoyed a very nice lunch and interesting talk by Group Captain Tim Hewlett, recently retired as Director of Royal Travel.

Some of our members are anticipating a Christmas visit to Chatsworth. This lovely property nestling in the Derbyshire Peak District National Park will be decorated for Christmas and should look even more spectacular than usual.

The speaker at our September meeting was 'Dusty' Roades who was most entertaining telling us about the origins of a lot of our old country customs. Our October meeting was a little more formal being the AGM but members enjoyed a harvest supper prior to formalities commencing!

At our meeting on the **14th November** the speaker will be Linda Maude presenting 'A History of Pantomime'. As always newcomers will be most welcome.

Margaret Morbey

Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

This is a plea for anyone in the village or the surrounding area, who would like to take on an allotment, to act now. There are still vacant plots on the site, which are in need of a little tlc. These were ploughed and cultivated this spring. It would be a pity if they became overgrown.

The plots are fairly small but would provide anyone willing to take one on with loads of fresh vegetables almost all year round. The soil is light which makes it easy to cultivate, even after a few months of neglect. Rents are very reasonable and there is access to water.

If you would like to take on a plot, or just to have a look, please contact **Jane Hill** on **858656**.

Perhaps the people who stole vegetables from some plots at the beginning of October would like to take on a plot. It might make them realise how much work, time and money goes into growing produce. You only had to ask and I am sure that any plot holder would willingly have given you some vegetables.

The Arts & Crafts Group

Members were so pleased to receive generous donations from village organisations as contributions towards materials to enable us to make exhibition display boards. Along with the Group's own fund raising efforts, there is now enough money to start the project. A design for the boards has been agreed and materials are being sourced. Members would like to express their grateful thanks to the Canal Partnership, WI, the Film Club and the Allotment Society for their generosity.

Members who participated in the County's Open Studios recently, enjoyed what proved to be a successful and happy event. About two hundred people visited over the ten days, it was good to welcome many villagers and to chat about our work. We are already planning next year's event.

After 8 weeks of painting by 12 members and friends, the mural in the tunnel shelter is finished. The panels just need to be varnished, then we can say "job done"

Maggie Turton

Blisworth Parish Church

'Sew righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unploughed ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.' Hosea 10: 12

We have just celebrated harvest time with a service of thanksgiving, followed by a bountiful bring-and-share lunch. Gifts of tins, etc. went to the Northampton Hope Centre, and perishable goods were distributed locally.

November 10th is Remembrance Sunday, starting in the churchyard at 10.50 and moving into church after 2 minutes silence. As conflicts continue remembrance services lose none of their impact and importance: all are welcome to take part.

Instead of our usual bazaar we are holding a "Christmas Coffee Morning" in church on Saturday November 23rd from 10 to 12.30. On the 24th we will be dedicating the new Wedding Kneeler at 3 pm.

We then move into Advent, the season of hope and expectation when we are all urged to realise that in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ there is so much more to celebrate than material gifts.

Epitomising the links between our churches, we will share our carol services with the Chapel. This year St. John's will join the Chapel for a service of carols by candlelight and enjoy the singing of the school choir, on Sunday December 15th at 6.30 pm. Next year it will be St. John's turn to host a joint service.

On Christmas Eve the Christingle service is at 4.30. Children and their families love that special moment when the darkened church is encircled with the light of a hundred candles. Everyone is welcome.

Communion follows at 11.30 leading us even deeper into the true meaning of Christmas. On Christmas morning there will be two services in the Benefice - 9 am at Milton Malsor and 10.30 at Grafton Regis.

All at the Parish Church wish everyone all the blessings of the Christmas season.

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

Lights Out!

This is the time of year when we notice street lights that aren't working. They can be reported to the Parish Clerk: 858360 or any Parish Councillor although it may be more expedient to report them direct to the relevant companies.

Lights on the main roads, maintained by *Balfour Beatty* can be reported via: enquiries@lightingnorthamptonshire or www.lightingnorthamptonshire or on **0800 0850 257**.

All other streets through the village are maintained by *E.on* and can be reported on **01604 493134**.

You will need to know the name of the street and if possible the number of the light or the nearest house number. It is helpful to inform the Clerk or a Councillor so that we can follow up on any reported faults.

Jazz at the Walnut Tree

Jazz every Sunday at 12. 22nd December, Christmas Jazz party, details from Tad Newton 858549

1st Blisworth Scout Group

A fantastic weekend in October for the Explorer Scout Unit – 3 teams of 4 aged between 14 and 17 went to York to take part in the Apex 'Special Ops' Challenge. One of our teams came 2nd out of the 84! Really well done Alfie, Henry, Luke and Max, a fantastic effort. Our other teams did well coming 23rd and 42nd, a great credit to everyone and to the Leader team which gives the young people access to these events.

The Cubs had an overnight adventure in a UN peace keeping mission in the bad lands between Roade and Blisworth, brilliantly organised and run by Bagheera. Beavers had their turn with a Halloween Hike in Hazelborough Wood. The Scouts have their mini adventure on 4th November manning the barbecues for the Group's Bring a Firework Party, and maybe a trip to Gilwell Park for the Winter Camp in January.

We look forward to the Remembrance Day service and for our young people to take an active role, be that making poppies to decorate the altar, or writing new prayers for the occasion (the Beavers' were brilliant at that last year).

Turning to less cheerful news we installed CCTV to help identify, and deter, casual vandals damaging the area around the Hall. This brought our first 'successes' a term which brings no pleasure. Some young people from the village were caught damaging memorial trees on the mound by the mast. They and their parents have been spoken to. In law vandalism is categorised as anti-social behaviour, if you go to the Hall to trash something you'll have one of us or someone from Towcester nick knocking on your door.

Looking ahead to 2014 we hope to welcome you all to join in our Fun Day on Saturday 21 June. Soon we will formally invite village bodies, clubs, organisations and societies to join us for the day to promote their activities. Please keep the date free and enjoy a great day out in the British summer!

A reminder that Hall bookings are managed by Jackie Manderfield on 859 823. As ever, I'd be delighted to hear from you on 07501 059566 or at gsl@1stblisworth.org.uk. Thanks for reading once again,

Jonathan Hazell



Blisworth Bookworms

The next meeting is **November 25th** at 7 Westbrook 1.30pm. 'The Rose of Sebastopol' by Katherine McMahon and the popular 'Kite Runner' are among the novels up for discussion. To join us just bring a book you have enjoyed and come along. **Maggie Turton 858594**

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

Young's: Visit Blisworth's very own **Christmas Wonderland**, Young's Christmas Shop for trees, lights, decorations, food hampers, stocking fillers and of course Poinsettias, Hyacinths and much, much more.

Blisworth Film Club

The film to be shown on **Thursday 28th November** is '**Behind the Candelabra**', starring Michael Douglas. This promises to be an interesting and probably rather graphic portrayal of the life and loves of the flamboyant pianist Liberace. Usual 7.00pm for 7.30pm start, £4 admission, Bar and Raffle available.

There will not be a screening during December, but we have reserved a number of new films for next year, including 'About Time', 'All You Need Is Love', 'Rush' and 'Sunshine on Leith'. Dates are dependent on when each film is released for showing in rural cinemas. It is hoped to continue using the Hougemont Barn at The Royal Oak, although alternative venues are being considered if it becomes necessary.

Margaret Holiday 858590



Prescription Collection

Here is the current list of volunteers who have kindly offered to collect and deliver your repeat prescriptions if you are unable to get to the surgery.

Janet Fall	(whole village) 859566
Denise Ingram	(whole village) 858489
Chris Lea	(whole village) 857659
Fiona McKenzie	(whole village) 859541
Margaret Murphy	(whole village) 858303
Ann Chapman	(Courteenhall Road, Greenaway Close) 858286
Jane Percival	(Stoke Road, Greenside) 858478
Mason Masterman	(Pond Bank) 858985
Les Tebbutt	(Pond Bank) 858858
Jenny Wakelin	(Blisworth + Gayton) 858288

Please telephone your selected volunteer with your name, address and date when you order your prescription. If an Answerphone message is not confirmed within 24 hours please try another choice.

Any problems? Please phone Beryl Andrews 858252

'Sid' Barker

Val Barker and family would like to say 'thank you' to friends, neighbours and customers for all the lovely cards, letters, flowers and donations after the loss of Sid.

Thanks to all who attended his funeral and a special thank you to Lisa at The Royal Oak for looking after us so well afterwards.

The kindness and good wishes have helped us get through a very bad time.

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Tuesday 17th December for the January/February 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.