

Round and About

**Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter
January/February 2016 No 107**



Photo: Ed

Notes from the Chairman.....

Planning

The Chapel Hill Development

The Orbit Homes application to have condition 17 removed **“That no construction traffic should use Chapel Lane for access”** members of your Parish Council had an on-site meeting with Michael Clarke “Head of highways at the NCC”. After viewing the narrow Chapel Hill and Little Lane roads and taking in to account that road situation had not altered since the condition had been applied. Mr. Clarke stated that he felt the condition must stand and stated that he would advise the SNC planning department accordingly.

Connegar Leys Garage Block

The Grand Union Housing Group “Owners of the block” have submitted an application to demolish the garages and build 2 affordable two bedroom units and 2 affordable one bedroom units. Your PC had no objections to this scheme but have requested that as part of the conditions “bearing in mind that several of the garages were used by nearby residents” **a hard surfaced car park for up to 10 cars is constructed on the wide verge opposite the site entrance.**

Sun, Moon and Stars

On the 2nd December a presentation was made to the public and the Parish Council by the prospective developers. The design is to convert the SMS to 6 two bedroom flats, construct 2 two bed terraced houses where the old barn stood and to build a new 4 bed house in the car park to the left of the entrance. Despite worries about the parking situation the majority of the people at the presentation were in favour of the application. We presume the formal application will soon be submitted to SNC for full planning approval.

The Willow House and Solar Farm applications. Both will have been decided at the SNC Development Control Committee meeting on the 17th December 2015. Too late for inclusion in this article.

Highways and Footpaths Warden

After several years of sterling and often frustrating work Anne Goss has retired. Anne has done much to try to improve the condition of our roads and footpaths and I'm sure that without her persistence, they would be in a much poorer state. On behalf of all the village I would like to thank Anne for all time and effort she has put into the task.

We now need a replacement for Anne, is there anyone that walks the village who would like to take on this position, if so please contact any Parish Councillor.

Finally on behalf of your Parish Council, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2016.

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

Blisworth's Winter Wonderland

The grand switch-on of the magnificent Christmas Lights at the Wreford's house was performed by the ‘real’ Father Christmas. He was attended by Hero Bear, Mick Wreford and 2 or 300 people young and old from the village and beyond. Hero Bear was sent along by Help for Heroes, who have benefited from the well-over £15,000 raised for them by the tremendous efforts of Mick and Daph over the years.

It's also great to see so many others following their lead, Blisworth is becoming **the** Christmas village. *Ed*

Blisworth Parish Church

“There were shepherders camping in the neighbourhood. They had set a night watch over their sheep. Suddenly God's Angel stood among them, and God's glory blazed around them” Luke Ch. 2. The Message Bible.

St. John's Christmas Bazaar was on November 28th. For the third year this took place in church, and we were delighted to welcome the many people who came to browse, buy, enjoy refreshments and chat.

St. John's Carol Service will be on Sunday December 27th at 4.00 p.m. Remembering that Christmas does not end on the 25th, it is entirely appropriate to choose a later date. In the hope that R&A is will be out by then, a warm welcome is extended to everyone to join in an hour of singing favourite carols.

Two little girls were in church one year at Easter: their previous visit had been at Christmas. “Is Jesus a baby or a man?” one asked me, puzzled. The older one quickly said “at Christmas He's a baby – I think that's every year”. And indeed yes, every year we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ when the shepherds were called from the fields to welcome the greatest Shepherd of all. And so the School's Nativity Play is a fixture here, and took place on December 14th when the church was packed with children and their families to enact and hear the age-old story.

Rector	The Revd. Andrea Watkins	857619
Wardens	Fiona McKenzie	859541
	Angela Cheesbrough	A new number will be show on church notices when available.

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. A few places available from January, please contact **Pam** on **07803662433**

Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

The new year is a great time to take on an allotment. If you have over indulged during the festive period, working your plot is good exercise. In addition, growing your own vegetables encourages you to produce healthy meals. If the weather is cold, even a short time gardening will make you feel warmer and is good for your well being, too.

There are plots available on the site. These cost £5 per year. If you are interested in taking on a plot, I would be happy so show you around, so please contact me (Jane Hill) on 858656.

Another Art & Craft Group??

Painters and crafters take up space when they are working so we don't have room to accommodate everyone on a Monday afternoon, other people have commitments preventing them attending daytime groups. For these reasons how about starting an **evening Art & Craft group?**

Thanks to the support from Pastor Keith Barker, the Baptist Chapel Coffee House is available to hire **Monday evenings**. The format for the evening group would be similar to the afternoon i.e. a self help group with occasional visiting art tutors, once a week for 2 hours with a cost of about £15 per term including refreshments. A number of members from the afternoon group will be supportive during some evenings especially at the beginning.

So, if you would like to wield a paintbrush, pastel or pencil and enjoy the experience perhaps for the very first time (you don't have to be a Picasso but who knows?) then come along and give it a go. It will be a very safe environment, a creative way to while away two hours and an opportunity to meet old/new friends. (This is how Blisworth Art Group started nearly 10 years ago).

For this new group to be viable it will be necessary to have a committed attendance of 8/10 people. If there is a positive response to this invitation, following a "how do you do" meeting, the group can start. Realistically, this is likely to be Feb/March.

Interested? Need to know more - want advice on media/materials if starting from scratch? Please contact me on 858594 or any other member who will be happy to help.

Maggie Turton

Blisworth Play Reading Group

The Group meets the first Wednesday morning in each month. Our next meeting will be **Wed 6th Jan** (when we shall read Act 2 of "The Lady in the Van" by Alan Bennett. Then on **Wed 3rd Feb**, we shall commence a new Play.

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**.

Jazz at the Walnut Tree

Every Sunday at 12 noon, top national and international jazz bands. Phone **Tad Newton** on **858549** for details.

Blisworth Baptist Church

A Happy, Blessed and Peaceful New Year To You All

1 Corinthians 13 v4 - 7 & 13 NLT.

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

¹³ Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."

Family Service every Sunday at 10.45 am

Communion every First and Third Sunday

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Friday 25th December 10:00am Christmas Morning Service—Joint Service with St Johns at the Chapel

Sunday 27th December 11:00 Joint Service at St Johns
No Service at the Chapel

Sunday 3rd January 2016 10:45 New Year Service

Coffee House Open

Tuesday's from 10.00am until 12.30pm

Support and Advice for Carers every 3rd Tuesday

Interactive Prayer and Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7.30pm

Men's Breakfast

Every last Saturday of the month at 8.30am in the Coffee House. Next breakfast **January 30th** all men are welcome

Pastor: Keith Barker - 01327 352972

Secretary: Diane Atkinson - 01604 859590

Room bookings: Jacques Haines - 01604 859705

Nordic Walking Beginner Courses

- Uses 90% of major muscles so upper body gets toned as well as your legs and bum!
- Burns 20-40% extra calories
- It takes the pressure off your knees and joints and is great for back and neck problems
- You can get the most out of even a fairly short walk!

Schedule of Beginners Courses

Sunday 10th, 17th and 31st January and Sunday 7th February, 10:00am - 11:00am at Abington Park, Northampton.

Tuesday 26th January, 2nd, 9th and 16th February, 3:30pm - 4:30pm at Castle Ashby.

Sunday 28th February, Sunday 6th, 13th and 20th March, 10:00am - 11:00am at Abington Park, Northampton.

For more information and to book contact Sarah Harvey: SaHarvey@northamptonshire.gov.uk 01604 366752



Blisworth Bookworms

Enjoying good reads over the Christmas break? Then come and share your joy with us. **January 25th & February 22nd** - 1.30pm - 3.30pm 7 Westbrook
Maggie Turton

ARE YOU A CARER?

Northants Carers care about you

Jenny will be at the Blisworth Baptist Chapel Coffee House on:

**Tues 19th January and
Tues 16th February**

To help anyone with **benefits problems** or need **someone to sit in** whilst they have a break or just needs someone to talk to. Everyone is welcome.



Stitchery Do



Creating with fabric and threads.

Winter Programme 2016

Come along and meet us at our monthly sewing workshop every first Thursday of the month from 10 am until 3 pm, in the Chapel Coffee Shop. Only £4 per workshop including Tea/Coffee and biscuits.

7th January - Know your "Janome" sewing machine by Barbara Homer. A workshop on learning your feet and general sewing machine tips.

And

"Shopping Bags" by Margaret Holiday. Create your fabric bags ready for the January Sales!

4th February - "Sashiko" with Diane Turner. Come and learn a traditional Japanese stitching technique "Sashiko" worked in white thread on blue fabric to create wonderful geometric patterns interspersed with some floral motifs. Create a cushion, table centre or bag! Fabrics and threads on sale at this workshop. Just bring along your sewing kit!

Contact: Carol Arnall on 858776

BVHPFA 250 Club

Numbers drawn for November and December were:

£30	78	226		
£20	178	33	53	246
£10	224	186	173	141

Another year ends when again the Village Hall benefitted from over £1000 from the 250 club. Users of the hall will have noticed improvements, more decorating etc. is planned. Please help to maintain this well used facility by supporting the 250 club. Collectors will be coming round.

From January the new 250 Club Organiser will be Mrs. Estelle Rose, 28 Windmill Avenue, 858482. I am grateful to her for coming forward so readily when I decided to give up this role. Any enquiries should therefore be directed to her, but until then I am still available on 859541.

I would like to thank everyone, collectors and participants, who have been so supportive and helpful over the years.

Fiona McKenzie

Free Book Delivery

The Library in Roade has a service that delivers books to people who cannot collect them for themselves. This is a free service. They will do a home visit to find out what sort of books you require. There are no late fees and volunteers will discuss your needs and how often you would need replacements. For details phone 03001261000.

Blisworth Film Club

On **January 28th**, 'Suite Francaise' starring Kristen Scott Thomas and Mathias Schoernarts. In occupied France, a young German office is billeted in the home of a French farmer and her daughter in law, whilst her son is at war.....very good reviews.

On **February 25th** 'Keeping Mum' a dark comedy starring Maggie Smith and Rowan Atkinson, on the impact of an unknown house guest on a vicar's disfunctional family. It's quite an old film but hugely enjoyable, especially as a taster for March's choice, 'The Lady in the Van', Maggie Smith's latest film, to be screened on **31st March 2016**.

Doors open 7.00pm, with film starting at 7.30pm. Own drinks and cushions!

As those of you who were at the Film Club in November will already know, it has been necessary to increase our price of admission to £5 from January 2016, the first time in five years! This is as a result of a new contract with Phoenix, our film provider, who stated that we were not charging enough, also the increased cost of their rental, the hall charge and heating. Because of this, we have decided to stop having a monthly raffle, but just have occasional ones if we need extra funds, in effect there is no increase in the cost of the 'evening-out'. As someone said, we come to watch the film, not win a raffle prize! The Film Club is designed as a community facility and profits are returned to the village, it is not solely a money-making event and our expenses are kept to the minimum.

During 2015 we purchased a seat for the Graveyard and provided Blackout curtains for the Village Hall. We are currently seeking another organisation who would like our support. Any suggestions?

Margaret Holiday 858590



Blisworth Heritage Society



8 Jan 2016 AGM

Your chance to join the Committee and shape the future direction of the Society.

Followed by a **Victorian Magic Show**
with Steve Dimmer.

12 Feb How Railways Changed Blisworth
by Andy Newbury.

Please note the dates of both these meetings are at our new regular time "7:30pm SECOND Friday of the month".

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 any meeting or contact the Chairman.

See our webpage www.blisworthheritage.org.uk



Blisworth Canal Partnership A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of our team.

We plan to undertake a massive clear up of the offside bank by the Tunnel over the festive break. David and Denise who own and run Blisworth Wildflower Nursery in Northampton Rd have offered to support us again. Once the offside is cleared we'll be calling on their advice and putting in their great plants to improve the area for years to come.

Why not come along and help us? It's a great way to burn off that additional pudding you didn't really mean to eat. Lots of jobs including cutting back undergrowth, de-ivy'ing trees, stoking the bonfire, admiring your hard work and then planting wild flowers. As is now the custom, work is always followed by warm, hearty food in the Tunnel Hut.

We'll advertise the dates on our website and on the village noticeboards. You can always ring, text or e-mail to find out more information.

Just in case you haven't got these dates in your diary yet...

BLISWORTH CANAL FESTIVAL 2016
Saturday August 13th & Sunday August 14th
11 am – 5 pm both days

Traders and attractions are contacting us daily. Don't forget to get in touch with your ideas. Kind donations from Blisworth Baptist Church and the Belling Tower group (in the churchyard at the festival) have meant that we will be able to book Towcester Brass Band to perform at next year's event.

Some local companies have already pledged their support and we are very grateful for their patronage and donations. With a festival set-up bill expected to top £7,500 next year, this support saves us many sleepless nights. In return, we can offer some publicity linked to the event if requested. We have a dedicated member of our team with expertise in this area; she is ready to liaise with anybody that comes forward. **If you know of any companies or individuals that might like to get involved, please let us know.**

We'll be fundraising again at the festival. If you have any **bric-a-brac, books or cuddly toys** we can accept them from now on. Just ring Jan on the number below or 858023.

Our plans to extend the Spinney Path and install 4 benches along the towpath are progressing – slowly. We are just waiting on permission letters from different teams at Canal and River Trust and then it will be all actions go. At the moment they have offered no hurdles to us undertaking these projects and as always they'll support us all they can. As always the paperwork stage is the most frustrating.

Jan Andrews 07597 053062
blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Wednesday 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

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

1st Blisworth Scout Group

We would like to wish everyone in the village a Very Happy New Year.

I have been asked to temporarily take on the role of Group Contact and am gradually getting to grips with the group again. Our youngsters keep coming through our door which is wonderful but we need more adults to enable us to continue providing a quality programme for all our scouts. We are looking for a Group Scout Leader, Leaders within the sections or someone who could just give us a little time. There is always something that needs to be done.

Our biggest issue is that of the track up to the Hall, large potholes have again appeared and we are looking into both temporary and permanent repair. The track is not only used by scouts but other users of the hall and the Football Club.

Please get in touch if you or someone you know can help.
Sandra O'Connor 858764

Blisworth Women's Institute

October's meeting was our AGM, small tables of four or five were decorated with an autumnal theme and an excellent Ploughman's supper was served first followed by the evening's business. The evening finished with friendly chat and laughter followed by our raffle.



The November meeting was run by the members, giving the committee a rest! We never know what will be happen but it has always been a great success. This year was no exception, the tables were decorated beautifully with a variety of tasty nibbles and the organisers came round with trays of Bucks Fizz, Kier Royale or soft drinks. Later each committee member was thanked for their hard work all year and presented with a gift bag of lovely things.

The business for the evening was kept brief, 3 long serving committee members stepped down and were thanked for all their hard work over the years with a gift. Three new members were voted in keeping the committee at ten.

The evening continued and we formed quiz teams of 4 or 5 and each chose a name, Downton Belles and Dimwits were among those chosen. An excellent quiz master then set us a number of quiz rounds on a variety of subjects and kept us informed of the totals as we went along. It was great fun and very close with the winning team being 'Downton Belles'. The evening ended with the members who had planned the evening given our heartfelt thanks.

And so another year of fun, laughter, trips and above all good companionship draws to an end. I'm sure our December Christmas meeting will be a great evening (read all about it in the next issue). Why not come and join us next year, a warm welcome is assured.

Tina Alexandrou

Owen Bryce

Words are not enough to describe the warm support and care I received when my dear husband Owen died on October the 8th. It felt like the whole village was caring for me and my family—the warmth and kindness was, and still is, overwhelming—I can only say a big THANK YOU from my heart. **Iris Bryce, 58 Pond Bank**