

Round and About

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

July/August 2014 No 98

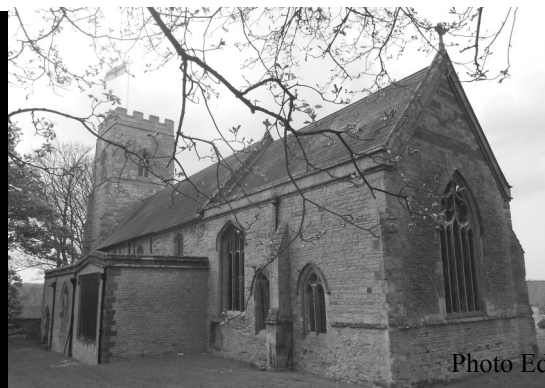


Photo Ed

Notes from the Chairman.....

At the Parish Council's AGM in May I was elected as your new Chairman. First I would like to thank my predecessor Pat Masterman for the excellent work she did over the last three years. Pat took the Chair at a difficult time with Clerk Tony Lack retiring and long term Chairman Colin Gardiner stepping down. Pat has done sterling work, bringing the PC together and dealing with some very difficult situations.

The Chapel Hill development I am pleased to report that due to the Parish Council's insistence, a temporary road will be constructed off the Northampton Road for all heavy construction traffic. The developers attempted to have this condition removed, however your council lobbied SNC and the condition has been retained.

Under the section 106 agreement on the development your Parish Council have applied for a Pedestrian Crossing on the High Street. This has met a varied response and we have sympathy with the householders affected. However we must remember the High Street is a very busy road and although not everyone needs a crossing, there are many older or infirm residents that **do**. It will also assist our School Crossing lady and, by parents using the crossing; we hope the children will develop the habit of using it also. **If the crossing saves one person from injury or worse it will be well worth it.**

Neighbourhood Watch We are lucky in having Mark Redding as our new co-ordinator; Mark is highly motivated and has some very positive ideas. He is looking to get as many people involved as possible and still requires street wardens for some areas, if you are interested please contact Mark on 859098 or e-mail mark723redding@btinternet.com I suggest you sign up to his mailing list and receive early warning of any criminal activity in the area.

Footpath Warden The Parish Council is looking for a Footpath Warden. If you are a regular walker and use the local footpaths would you be interested in the position? It is not very onerous; just note any problems with gates, overgrown paths etc and report them to the PC.

CPRE Litter Heroes 2014 Award The PC won first prize of £500.00 "To be spent on litter related projects" This is a little unfair we had little to do with the achievement, the organizing was carried out by the Parish Plan Team, ably assisted by the pre School group and other volunteers. Congratulations and thanks to all concerned.

Don't forget it's the Canal Festival 9-10th August. Alan & Jan Andrews and co. put a lot of effort into organizing this event and it brings a lot of funds to village organizations. Come along and support the festival and have a great weekend.

Charlie Jeffery, 07778 001780



Blisworth Canal Partnership
www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org

Blisworth Canal Festival 2014

Saturday August 9th &
Sunday August 10th 11 am – 5 pm both days

Festival fever is growing with villagers telling us all of the time just how much they are looking forward to the festival weekend. We still need some volunteers to help with our fundraising stalls and the Car Park. Just an hour during the event would be really appreciated, if you can help please get in touch (details below).

Why not join the Saturday night boat trip, always popular! It leaves Candle Bridge at 7pm for a two hour cruise, just £8 per adult, £4 per child with a family ticket (2+2) for £20. We put free nibbles out and there is a fully licensed bar. Contact details below for more information or tickets.

By the time this edition goes to print, hopefully lots of people will have enjoyed the annual visit to the village by Mikron Theatre. Mike and June Hawkins kindly allowed the use of their wonderful garden at the Old Rectory and the Canal Partnership sponsored the performance. Hopefully the weather was kinder this year.

Members of the Canal Partnership team have been invited to the House of Lords at the end of June as part of Canal and River Trust's second anniversary celebrations. This is in recognition of our achievements, none of which would have been successful without help from lots of villagers and our thriving boating community. We have been asked to chat about 'motivational volunteering' with the dignitaries present and Canal and River Trust executives. This is a real accolade for Blisworth.

We have now installed two notice boards by the towpath, one by Candle Bridge and one by Mill Bridge. These will soon display a village map with information about local amenities. This will encourage towpath users to enjoy our village. We will leave some space for local organisations to publicise events.

Jan Andrews 07597 053062
blisworthcanalpartnership@hotmail.co.uk

Potholes

After the very wet winter which eroded a lot of the top dressing of tarmac, the Highways Department have nearly completed all the ongoing problems; if you feel there are any that have been missed please contact Anne Goss on 858001.



Blisworth Women's Institute

Once again it has been and will continue to be a busy summer for our members with many opportunities to join in WI activities.

A last minute replacement speaker found by our President for June gave us a really interesting insight into the involvement of her narrowboat in the Jubilee pageant last year. We were told that the preparations were relentless but presumably necessary for the smooth running of such an enormous event. Our July meeting is 'Members Night'; always a surprise but inevitably proves to be a most enjoyable evening.

Several members are looking forward to a Literary Lunch where they will be entertained with a talk by Liz Bradshaw on Richard III. A day visit to the Suffolk Punch Trust Stud in Woodbridge, Suffolk takes place in August when members will be able to take a guided tour and see these wonderful animals 'up close'. Our annual croquet game is also in the programme – lets hope the weather is kind to us.

If you think you would like to join us at our monthly meetings and take part in any of the activities on offer we are happy to welcome new members at any time.

Margaret Morbey

Jazz at the Walnut Tree

Jazz on a Summer's Day, Monday 14th July 8pm, US Sax/flute star **Greg Abate** with **Tad Newton's Jazz Friends**

Keyboard Required

If anyone has a keyboard (musical not computer) they wish to donate to the Village Hall please contact Maureen Lucas (maureenlucas7@hotmail.com) or any of the committee. Our current keyboard has a key missing which has stretched the ingenuity of visiting pianists. **Ann North**, Secretary Blisworth VHPFA

Blisworth Baptist Church

1 John 4 v9&10 *God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love – not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins*

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 10.00am till 12.30

Mens' Breakfast

Every Fourth Saturday at 8.30am in the Coffee House (served on 26th July but not in August)

But

During the Canal Festival We are serving Breakfast from, 8 – 10.30 Saturday, 8—10 Sunday. Plus Hot and Cold Meals and Refreshments 12-4 both days

Pastor: Keith Barker – 01327 352972
Secretary: Diane Atkinson - 01604 859590
Room bookings: Jacque Haines – 01604 859705

Blisworth Litter Heroes

We did it!!! All your efforts have been rewarded with First Prize! Well done to all the volunteers and the pre-school for helping us to collect loads of litter and get some brilliant photos to enter the competition.

The award of £500 accepted by Pat Masterman and June Hawkins on behalf of all the volunteers and the Parish Council at the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) AGM on Monday 23rd June has to be used towards "Litter related project/s". We are planning a competition related to litter and recycling during the autumn and will use some of the money as prizes.

In the meantime people are commenting that there seems to be less litter in the village so the pre-school message **Keep Blisworth Tidy** has made a difference! Thank You All!

Parish Plan Progress Team Report

The improvements to the cemetery to encourage wildlife have brought more visitors. Plans are underway to make a safer access from the High Street; South Northants Homes have given a generous donation. This and restoration of the magnificent gates will complete this project.

We are keeping everything crossed for the Village Sign to be in place on 'Elm Tree Corner' and unveiled before the end of the school year! Watch this space!

The team have endeavoured to implement the action points from the Parish Plan since its publication in 2011 with a good deal of success in several areas. The team make-up has changed during this time with members leaving and new people joining. New blood is needed to bring fresh skills into the team and work together in readiness for a review of the Parish Plan due at the end of next year. If you have ideas that would benefit the parish or think the Team could do more, we would love to hear from you!

Copies of the 2011 – 2016 Parish Plan are still available, if you are new to the village or no longer have a copy.



Blisworth Bookworms

The next meeting will be **July 28th** starting 1.30pm at 7 Westbrook. We will resume again in September after a short August break.

Maggie Turton 858594

The Art & Craft Group

Blisworth Art Show - a great success. 47 artists representing 11 local Groups and independent artists from Northampton and Kettering exhibited 154 pieces of work.

It was the debut of our display boards that received a number of favourable comments. Many thanks to the 180 visitors who supported and a special '**thank you**' to the village ladies who made cakes. A donation has been sent to VH&PFA for their kind cooperation over the week-end.

Blisworth Art & Craft Group now look forward to the Canal Festival. There will be a **Gallery of Art** and members are doing a bit catering for the first time called '**Picasso Pantry**' both in the Village Hall. So please visit, peruse the paintings while you eat some tasty morsels. What a challenge....we hope to see you there.

Blisworth Film Club

Forthcoming films and dates for your diary:

July 31st 'Saving Mr Banks' the story of Walt Disney's collaboration with the writer of 'Mary Poppins'. Starring Emma Thomson

August 28th 'The Monument Men' A team of four men's search to discover stolen artworks during Nazi regime in Germany. Highly recommended

As usual, films are shown in the Hougemont Barn of the Royal Oak, doors open at 7.00 for 7.30 start, admission £4.00, with bar and raffle available.

Margaret Holiday 858590

Interested in Playing Rugby at Your Local Club

Northampton Mens Own RFC are looking for players. We are a friendly, family club based in Ashton, we have teams at mini, junior and senior level and are looking for players at all levels and abilities for next season. Interested please contact Sean Finn, (sean@finns.myzen.co.uk / 07958 763384) or Gerrard Herring 07521 979764)

Courteenhall Road Allotment Site

There are still vacant plots on the site. This is a great pity as I feel that there must be many people out there who would benefit from the sense of satisfaction and achievement that growing your own food brings. A few hours a week spent in the fresh air in the company of enthusiastic growers is a tonic for the mind as well as the body.

You don't have to be an expert or even to spend vast sums of money to ensure that you have fresh vegetables for a good part of the year. A packet of seeds will provide far more vegetables than you could ever eat. The plots only cost £5 a year, making veg growing a relatively inexpensive hobby. You only need a few basic tools to get started.

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

Young's

Don't forget to go to Young's your village Garden Centre for your summer bedding plants and perennials for planting out your borders, patios and baskets. A wide selection is available now.

Stitchery Do Events

Thursday 3rd July Lunch visit to Royal School of Needlework 'Summer Exhibition' To see students work at Rugby Art Gallery and Library. Leaving Blisworth 11.00 am for lunch in Rugby before visiting free exhibition. Cost of travel and lunch TBC. Please contact Carol for details on 858776

Thursday 7th August 'Stitchery Do' Workshop at Community Scout Hall. From 10.00 am until 3 pm.

9th/10th August Blisworth Canal Festival, 'Stitchery Do' Craft Stall at Blisworth House. *In aid of the Blisworth Jogger campaign.* Blisworth Tapestry Charity - *Working in the Community*

BVHPFA 250 Club

The most recent winners to be rewarded for their loyal support of the Village Hall were:

May and June £30 117 and 15.
 £20 81 and 218, 55 and 61.
 £10 137 and 25, 66 and 182

Village co-ordinator **Fiona McKenzie 859541**

Blisworth Parish Church

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11 v. 28

Bishop John's visit at the end of May was a memorable weekend. Many people will have seen and met him around the Benefice. The Talent Show on the Saturday was a fantastic evening – what a lot of gifted people we have in the village! It was lovely that so many came to enjoy and support the event. I don't think I have ever seen the village hall so full.

I'm afraid that people visiting graves in the churchyard may encounter dog mess on the grass. I know that this is a village-wide problem, but around the church it is really unpleasant, not only for visitors, but for the volunteers who cut the grass. Bags can be put into either of our black bins. We will all be so grateful if this problem now stops.

The church will be serving tea, coffee, cakes etc. during the Canal Festival, there will also be a display by the Heritage Society, and family history information. The mini-ring will be in the churchyard, and we look forward to welcoming even more visitors than last year!

The church is usually open during the day, many people find it a quiet refuge from the rush of their normal life. I apologise if anyone does find it closed, sometimes this is unavoidable due to keyholders being away. There is a prayer board, prayers written there will be mentioned in a weekly service. Also there is a box nearby into which you may place a prayer confidentially, this is opened only by the Rector.

Times of the Sunday services are posted on the outside door. Services do not all follow the same pattern: some are more formal, some less so. Some are lay led, and different styles of worship will be found throughout a month.

Visitors are welcome, whether regular or occasional churchgoers, or never been before, seekers or just a bit interested (perhaps!): bring nothing – come as you are, God's house is for all.

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

Grand Union Dancing Club



Square Dancing

Great low cost fun hobby. Exercise for mind & body.

First two weeks are free

Blisworth Baptist Leisure Hall

Wednesdays 7.20pm - 8.45pm

Contact Paul 07939 241412

p.radcliffe@hotmail.co.uk

www.gudancing.co.uk



Neighbourhood Watch Alert

Holiday Crime—Northants Police reported an increase in burglaries where criminal gangs, often travelling some distance to perform their crimes, are identifying homes where residents are obviously on holiday or away for an extended period. They advise some simple measures to present the appearance that the house is occupied. These include asking a neighbour to: open and close curtains at different times; remove mail from around the letter box; park a car on your driveway; turn lights on and off (or you can fit timers). Neighbourhood Watch is all about helping each other to avoid becoming the victims of crime.

To report incidents or to obtain up to date information on crime in our area please contact your neighbourhood watch coordinator **Mark Redding** on **859098**.



Blisworth Heritage Society



A Talk about Towcester Museum
by members of the Museum Trust
27 June 2014

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

Visit to Towcester Museum & Heritage Trail
25 July 2014

For details of times or if you need a lift
see our website or speak to any committee member

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 web site www.blisworthheritage.org.uk

The Big Lunch

Thank you to everyone who came and brought such delicious food to share and made our "Big Lunch" such a lovely event. From all the comments we had, we know it was a huge success. Here's to next year (if not sooner).

We still have a white plate and a tea towel belonging to someone. **Estelle and Bud Rose**

Blisworth Play Reading Group

Having just finished reading our most exiting play yet (House Guest by Francis Durbridge) the group will now be "resting" for the next 2 months during our summer break. We meet again first Wednesday in September (Sept 3rd) when we will be commencing a new play. New members are always welcome, please contact Dick Hennessy on 858602 or speak to any group member.

Margaret Charras

Margaret's family wish to announce the sad news of her death on 12th April, 2014. She will be best remembered as the 'Lollypop Lady', a position she held for over thirty years, safely crossing generations of village children.

She also gave her time to many village activities, such as reading with the children at school and the Lunch Club, both at the Chapel and the school. She was always involved in the village, but in later years was effectively housebound with chronic arthritis. Her wish was to donate her body to science, but this was not possible, so, after a private cremation, her ashes were scattered. She will be greatly missed.



A campaign to raise funds for community transport for Blisworth

Raffle tickets are now on sale with the chance to win a holiday in Cornwall, various meals and hampers and an array of other prizes. Tickets from The Royal Oak, from individuals and at the Canal Festival 9/10th August. Only £5 per book. £1 a ticket. Phone: 859181, 879629 or 858776

Garden Party 22nd July at 2 Towcester Road 4 - 7pm. Relax on a summer evening with a glass of wine and food. All welcome, free entry, donations in aid of the Jogger.

Blisworth Canal Festival - Blisworth Jogger stalls in 3 locations: Blisworth House Gardens/1 Church Lane/Canal side garden. Raffle tickets and 'Stitchery Do' handmade crafts will be available. Raffle prizes drawn at 3.30pm on Sunday 10th August 2014.

Help us to Help You! To learn more about Blisworth Jogger please contact Carol Arnall on 858776

1st Blisworth Scout Group

The Beavers had a wonderful weekend away under canvas in early May chasing the Big Foot – sadly, they never caught up with him! We also had a very successful pond dipping evening when we actually caught live wriggling things. Our numbers are strong so we have a waiting list, let us know if you would like to put your name down?

The Troop worked hard on Community Week projects with Jan and Alan at the canal and planting bedding plants, generously donated by B&Q, around the Hall.

The Explorers are getting ready to play Monopoly on the streets of Nottingham, well dashing round the city in competition with loads of other Explorers seeing the sights as though the city were a huge games board.

Everyone made their own special contribution toward Fun Day, which I hope was enjoyed by everyone – particular thanks from me to the Committee members, the Leaders and the helpers who volunteered behind the scenes.

The 50th anniversary of the registration of the Group falls in 2016 and we'd like to plan a few events to help celebrate that great achievement, but we'll need your help. I've had a few contributions so far, but if you have been rummaging for any memorabilia will you let me know?

A reminder that Hall bookings are now being managed by Jackie Manderfield, who can be contacted on 859 823. As ever, I'd be delighted to hear from you, 07501 059 566 or gsl@1stblisworth.org.uk to join the adventure.

Thanks for reading once again, **Jonathan Hazell**.

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Monday 18th August for the September/October 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.