

# Round and About

**Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter  
March/April 2015 No 102**



Photo from R.C Riley collection from "The History of the Stratford on Avon & Midland Junction Railway" By R.C. Riley & Bill Simpson Lamplighter publications 1999

## Notes from the Chairman.....

### Planning

#### Howden's Campus Facility, Junction 15.

Roxhill The Developers have submitted a formal planning application for the above development. Your Parish Council have objected to this over concerns regarding an increase in traffic through the village. Roxhill's traffic Consultant Mr Steve Johnstone attended our meeting on 2nd February to explain that the proposed improvements at Junction 15 would improve the traffic flows on the A508 despite the increased traffic from the new development?? Our main concern is the potential of northbound traffic visiting the site, leaving the A43 at the Blisworth turn and using Blisworth as a short cut. I hope that most of you will have attended the P.C. meeting on 23rd February and given your views to Howdens' Representatives.

#### Blisworth Primary School

The only other main planning application was for the proposed roof conversion at the Primary school to create extra teaching spaces and storage areas. Your parish council voted to support this application and will no doubt be supporting the school in their fund raising.

#### Broadband Questionnaire

The Parish Council has received a questionnaire from the C.P.R.E. about the broadband service in the village. I know a lot of the councillors have replied as well as some residents, if you would like to respond or comment please e-mail Viv Hartley at blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com and Viv will forward you the questionnaire.

#### Seats

I'm sure most of you will have seen the new seat installed next to the bus stop outside The Oak. Even in the winter it seems to be well used. We hope to shortly have the other seat installed near Station Road. Once again our grateful thanks to Mick Wreford and the Hollowell Steam and Heavy Horse organisation for their kind donation.

**Charlie Jeffery, Chairman**

**07778-001780**

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

The Chapel Coffee House with the Parks Patient Group  
Invite you to a monthly coffee morning  
On **Tuesday 17th March 10.00 — 12.00**

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

Please come along and enjoy a break with coffee and cake in  
friendly company.

*Was this the 1st Blisworth Jogger?*

## Village Quiz

We have decided to hold another general knowledge quiz in aid of St John's Church, as funds are always urgently required for a variety of needs.

The main aim of this event will be to raise enough money to replace the dilapidated Church notice board which can be seen in the Church yard from the corner of High Street and Church Lane.

Teams of 4 people can enter for £10 a team.

There will be a General Knowledge Quiz, with separate Sports Quiz and Pop Music quiz so plenty of variety to test your knowledge as well as enjoying a very sociable event.

There will also be a raffle (any donations for prizes would be greatly appreciated) with tickets sold on the night as well as food and refreshments available for a reasonable donation.

**Saturday 28th March 2015 7.30 pm**

**Blisworth Community Scout Hall** If you would like

to register a team in advance please contact:

**John Smith 859361 or John Dorward 858523**

## The 39th Annual Blisworth Art Show



### The Village Hall

2nd & 3rd May 11 am - 5 pm each day

Original art from countywide artists

Free entry Catalogue 50p

Enjoy cake & a cuppa while you browse

We look forward to seeing you

Please could anyone living near the High Street maintain  
two new planters - particularly watering in the summer!

Please contact **Pat 858985 or Paulette 858717**

**YOUNG'S NURSERY NOW CLOSED**

**RE-OPENING FOR A**

**GRAND CLOSING DOWN SALE**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March— Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**EVERYTHING MUST GO!**

**Trees, Shrubs, Flowers, Pots etc.**





## Blisworth Heritage Society

27 March—Colin Rowe

**"Going for a Spin"**

**A History of Motoring up to 1930**

24 April —Michael Brailey

### History of the Royal & Derngate Theatres

The Village Hall at 7.30

Admission £1 for Members £2.50 Guests

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Start from The Parish Church

Easter Sunday 5 April 2-4 pm

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 or contact the Chairman **Hilary Spurrier 859181**

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

### Blisworth Short Mat Bowls Club

We are still going strong after 25 years! If you fancy a friendly, 'not-too-serious', couple of hours come along on a Monday about 1.45 or Tuesday at 7.45.

We are holding our **25th Anniversary Celebration**

Fish & Chip supper on Saturday **14th March**.

**A 3 course meal for £7.50!! Why not join us?**

For more information call **Stan Tyrrell 07775 522012**

### BLISWORTH PARISH CHURCH SPRING EVENTS

#### MAD MARCH SALE

New Venue!!! This year the bric-a-brac sale will be held in the Church on Saturday **Mar 14th at 2 pm**. It's impossible to say what bargains and treasures there may be – just come and look! Donations will be welcome from 9 am but please no clothes, furniture or electrical goods. Come early – the best things go quickly.

Enquiries to **Fiona 859541**.

**SPRING QUIZ NIGHT** March 28th (details page 1)

#### MIDLIFE CRISIS COVERS BAND

On Saturday **April 18th** we will be delighted to welcome this popular and talented band for an evening of 60's, 70's and 80's hits. In the Church at 7.30 pm. tickets are £5 to include a buffet: bring your own drinks. Enquiries/tickets from **Rev. Andrea Watkins 857619** or **John Smith 859361**



### Blisworth Bookworms

Next sessions will be **23rd March & 27th April 1.30 pm at 7 Westbrook**. We do enjoy lively

discussions about our good reads. Do join us!

Maggie Turton

### Blisworth Play Reading Group

We meet first Weds each month. Our next meeting is Wed 4th March when we will explore the Greek Tragedy BACCHAI, followed by another meeting Wed 1st April. Over the year we will be reading a bit of everything: classics, pantomime, farce, Agatha Christie and even 60's Radio Comedy Scripts. New members always welcome! For more details, **Dick Hennessy 858602**.



Blisworth Canal Partnership

[www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org](http://www.blisworthcanalpartnership.org)

### BLISWORTH CANAL FESTIVAL 2015

Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> & Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>

11 am – 5 pm both days

Festival planning is going well with plenty booked in for all to enjoy. **We need cuddly toys again and prizes for our Grand Tombola**. These are for our fundraising stalls which help pay for the festival set up costs. If you have any just contact Jane Percival on 858478 or Jan Andrews on 858023.

There will be a **Festival Open Meeting** soon, watch out for the date and time on the village noticeboards, our website and in the Chronicle and Echo. As usual we need ideas and offers of help.

Wandering, dog walking or sitting watching the birds in the **Tunnel Spinney** seems to be growing in popularity. Regular visitors will notice we've cleared brash away, cut back brambles to give better views of the canal and de-ivied lots of trees. The route for the next length of hard path is now almost clear and installing it is a job for the not so distant future.

Many people have asked us whether anything can be done about **improving the towpath**, which is very muddy and dangerously slippery in places. We have approached both Canal and River Trust and our District Councillor S. Clarke to look for a way forward on this. Stephen immediately took up the case. A meeting will soon take place to investigate whether it might be possible **to achieve a new hard towpath between Candle Bridge and Gayton Junction**. At the same time we will try and establish **what remedial work is needed to restore the current hard towpath** between the tunnel and Candle Bridge.

We are still waiting to hear whether The Transport Trust are going to award Blisworth a **Red Wheel for its prestigious canal heritage**. The wording for the wheel and a place to site it has been decided. After discussion all parties agreed that the brick boundary wall between the car park area of the Old Canal Workshop and the towpath was the best place for the plaque. We'll let the village know when we hear any news. If successful, then we'll set an unveiling date and ask for any ideas as to how to celebrate!

How many people have noticed the cracks in Stoke Road above the canal embankment getting bigger and longer?

We are going to ask the Highways Department for their opinion.

**Jan Andrews 07597 053062**

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

### The Art & Craft Group

Members are working hard preparing their artwork for this season's various exhibitions. Our renowned May Art Show attracts Artists from Northampton and across the County so expect a high standard of paintings, mixed media work, photography and cards.



Refreshments will be made by our kindly village ladies ..... and we can show off the spanking new car park. Maggie Turton

Come to **Blisworth Allotment Association's A G M on Monday 30th March 7.30 pm** in the **Village Hall**.

The Region Representative of the National Allotment Soc.

will be **'Talking a Lot of Rot!'**

Bring any seeds that you didn't use last year and pick up some interesting ones at the Grand Seed Swap.

Member's friends and families are welcome. Raffle for fun and enjoy a social drink and a chat after the meeting

Enquiries to **Jane Percival 07956 11074**

## Blisworth Parish Church

*"Christ .....suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all – was put to death and then made alive – to bring us to God".*

1 Peter ch 3 v 18. The Message Bible.

Details of a Mad March Sale, a Quiz Night and a visit from the band Midlife Crisis appear separately in this newsletter.

We are now in the season of Lent, when you may notice that the church looks somewhat "plain", with the sombre blue altar frontals, and no banner – and immediately leading up to Easter, no hangings at all. Also during Lent there will be no flowers but all that will change on Easter Morning when we celebrate and rejoice in our Lord's Resurrection.

The normal Sunday services will of course continue, but during Holy Week there will be additional short services around the Grand Union Benefice:

Monday March 30th Evening Prayer 7.30 Stoke Bruerne.  
Tuesday 31st Evening Prayer 7.30 Blisworth.

Wednesday April 1st Evening Prayer 7.30 Milton Malsor,  
Maundy Thursday April 2nd Communion 7.30 Grafton Regis.

Good Friday April 3rd Meditation and Stations of the Cross and Communion 12 Noon Grafton Regis.

Easter Sunday, 5th April Easter Communion in Blisworth at 11 a.m.

Rector: **The Revd. Andrea Watkins 857619**

Wardens: **Angela Cheesbrough 858839**

**Fiona McKenzie 859541**

## OLD CEMETERY

For those that have not had a chance to walk around this lovely area of the village (gates opposite St. John's on the High Street) the next time the sun shines take a little look. The spring flowers will be arriving anytime soon. Snow drops looking brilliant now. There are two benches one at the top and another at the Pond Bank end giving two excellent views. There is a good path however if you want to walk amongst the memorials just remember it is a little uneven.

Lee Wykes the great, great, great grandson of William Whitlock has completely restored the memorial to the two "Williams" (first memorial from the High Street entrance on the left) both sextons of St. John's Church. The cross is now standing proudly and the inscription around the grave can be seen. Brilliant work, thank you so much Lee. To those who have already taken on the task of clearing and maintaining A BIG THANK YOU !

If anyone can help us move and dispose of the tree trimmings from last year that are stacked at the Pond Bank entrance, please get in touch. I can arrange help but transport and a place to burn this debris is needed.

Paulette Kennedy **01604 858717**

## Blisworth Baptist Church

Chapel Lane

1 Corinthians ch 15 v 3 & 4 (The Voice)

*"For I passed down to you the crux of it all which I had also received from others, that the Anointed One, the Liberating King, died for our sins and was buried and raised from the dead on the third day".*

All this happened to fulfil the Scriptures; it was the perfect climax to God's covenant story.

God loves us all so much that He sent His Son to die for us and because of this we can know abundant, eternal life.

Family Service every Sunday at 10.45 am

Communion every First and Third Sunday

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

### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

**April 2** at 7:30 in Leisure Hall

Remembering "The Last Supper of Our Lord"

**EASTER SUNDAY 5th APRIL at 10:45**

**"COME AND CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST"**

Pastor: **Keith Barker 01327 352972**

Secretary: **Diane Atkinson 01604 859590**

Room Bookings: **Jacques Haines 01604 859705**

### Coffee House

Open Tuesday's at 10.00 am until 12.30 pm

Interactive Prayer and Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm

### Men's Breakfast

Every Last Saturday at 8.30 am in the Coffee House

Next Breakfasts: **March 28th & April 25th**

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME

## Blisworth Film Club

Forthcoming films in the Hougemont Barn are as follows:  
March 26th **'100 foot Journey'** concerning the feud between an established French restaurant and a newly opened Indian restaurant in a small French town. Starring Helen Mirren.

April 30th **'The Imitation Game'** the highly recommended film about Alan Turing, the Enigma code scientist, starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

May 28th **'Mr Turner'** Timothy Spall is outstanding in his portrayal of the famous artist. Visually beautiful.

June 25th either **'Pride'**, **'My Old Lady'**, **'Testament of Youth'** or **'The Theory of Everything'**

Unfortunately there may be changes to the films selected depending on the date of their release onto DVD, which has been the case in February, when the booked film 'Pride' was not available, nor was 'Mr Turner'.

Please check posters and the local press for details or phone **01604 858590**



## 1st Blisworth Scout Group

The official stats for the Group are now: 17 Beavers, 25 Cubs and 21 Scouts – 63 young people enjoying their Scouting in Blisworth every week which is great news.

We are busy planning Fun Day, on Sat. 2 May starting at 12:30 with the Grafton District Scout Band. Stalls and attractions are already showing an interest – if you've ever fancied Zorbing or paintballing come along! There will be gentler pursuits to enjoy as well, and I hope the village organisations will take the opportunity to show case their work. We will be celebrating St George's Day in Milton Malsor as usual joining forces with their scout group to parade to the village church. We hope to meet our Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, at an event being organised by our County when he drops in (literally I don't doubt) to Overstone on 16 May.

The Beavers Christmas sleepover was such a success that we've begun to plan the summer camping this time over at Yardley Hastings – all I've got to do now is put some stunts to go with the chosen Hansel and Gretel theme.

The Cubs have a sleepover planned at the Hall in March – after my performance at their Shelterbox event I'm not expecting to be invited back! I rather over-egged the disaster warning for the village (a landslide that had caused the main bridges to collapse) causing a sleepless night for one or two! Last year's camp success in the New Forest has prompted another visit this year.

The Scouts programme for the next few weeks will be encouraging the development of certain basic scouty skills – tying knots, making useful things from scrap, map reading and so on. This will help prepare the Troop for the Explorers' Firefox Challenge, a new challenge competition event being organised between Salcey Forest and Cosgrove for a summer weekend.

The Tunnel Rats are all set for two very different challenge competitions. The Chiltern Challenge in February involves yomping through the open countryside to activity bases around Hemel Hempstead, where fortunes in the past few years have been mixed. Then, in early July, they will be storming around Nottingham on public transport on the Monopoly Challenge, trying to get to as many bases as possible within strict time limits. We are delighted to welcome the Guides as new users of our Hall. We hope that we can enjoy a long and fruitful relationship! We still need more material for our 50th 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!

The Hall can be booked through Jackie Manderfield 859823.

Thanks for reading once again.

Jonathan Hazell 07501 059 566 or [gsl@1stblisworth.org.uk](mailto:gsl@1stblisworth.org.uk)

### Bellringers

Following a great response to January R & A we now have an additional practice session for learners on

**Saturdays at 10 am at St John's**

We still meet on Monday evenings at 7 pm

More learners are always welcome

Details from **Mason Masterman 858985**

or **Di Rogers 07702 374905**



### BVHPFA 250 Club

Many thanks to all those who have again joined in the 250 club to support the village hall. The new car park is fantastic, and has been long needed. Recently a new stair carpet was fitted, and some decorating is planned, so improvements are ongoing. Perhaps many people who feel they "never win" will be lucky this year! Co-ordinator **Fiona McKenzie**, 14 Buttmead, 859541.

## Stitchery Do



Come along and meet us at our monthly sewing workshops.

**EVERY FIRST THURSDAY** of the month.

Workshops start at **10 am until 3 pm**

Only £4.00 per session which includes complimentary Tea/Coffee & biscuits.

**"SEWING MADE EASY"**

### WINTER VENUE

*Chapel Coffee House, Chapel Lane NN7 3BU*

**5th March** - Sewing Waistcoats and Shirts — Advice & Tips

### SUMMER VENUE

*Community Scout Hall, Playing Fields, NN7 3DD*

**2nd April** - Working with Wool— Knitting / Crochet

**7th May** - Enjoy Curtain Making— Advice and Tips

### SATURDAY SPECIAL WORKSHOP

**10 - 4 pm - £5 per day**

**9th May** - Restyle and Update. Charity clothes challenge!

\* **WORKSHOPS** dates may be subject to change.

If you have a particular skill that we could learn from you please do get in touch.

If you fancy being creative or are looking for a new project, we are happy to help with ideas, give practical advice and provide a range of materials and resources.

Transport can be provided on request

**Carol Arnall 01604 858776**

Bring your own packed lunch!



Our Annual Party in December was the usual fun & happy evening. Thanks go to a member's husband for the log table decorations complementing the festive theme. The hand bell players entertained us with seasonal songs and joined in for the rest of the evening. The task of creating 'Christmas tree shaped' sweet holders was rewarded with a delicious variety of 'bring and share' buffet and 'Secret Santa gifts' This being our Centenary Year the January meeting treated members to a talk by Iris Bryce about the start of the WI movement in Wales. Iris informed us that there was actually a Women & Home Institute in Stoney Creek, Canada as early as 1897. Members were also asked to bring along any tidbits about 1915. The topics were many and varied, some very sad as of course it was during the First World War but also some funny and interesting facts were unearthed. Tea and homemade cake rounded off another enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday March 12th** at 7.30 pm in the village hall, this is an 'open meeting' with a talk by Capt. William Wells 'The life and times of a ship's pilot', (members friends welcome) visitors are assured of a very warm welcome.  
**Tina Alexandrou**

### Sunday Lunchtime Jazz

March/April @ The Walnut Tree 12-2.30 pm.

March 8th-Tad Newton's Jazz friends featuring Trevor Whiting [international clarinet/sax star!]

Admission £8 on door.

Real Ales/Good food **01604 858549**

Next Round & About copy deadline is:  
**Friday 17th April for the May/June issue**

Please email items you wish to include to:

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