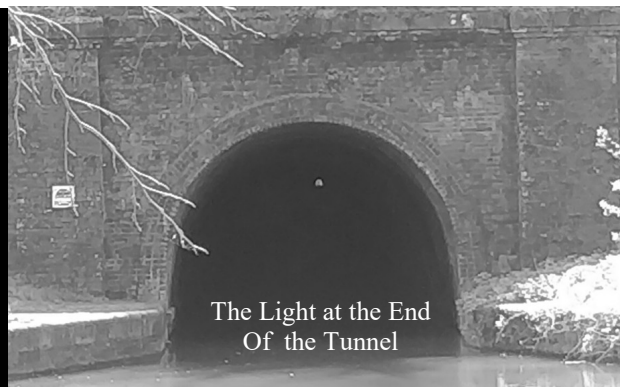


Round and About

www.blisworthvillage.org.

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

May/June 2020 No 133



Notes from the Council.....

The PC is pleased to announce that councillor David Wilson has been elected as the new Chair, with councillor Simon Bunker as Vice-Chair. These are two very able people who will be able to steer the council and the village through these difficult times.

The scheduled April 6th meeting of the PC was postponed because of the coronavirus crisis to the 20th April as a telephone conference. Thankfully, there were no technical glitches and the minutes will be posted on the PC website.

It was an unusual setting in which to say farewell to councillor David Dalton who is stepping down after 33 years' service to the village. A fine achievement that hopefully will be celebrated in better times. Also standing down after a comparatively mere 3 years is councillor Tony Hillier.

Annual Parish Meeting and AGM

It is a legal requirement to hold these each year and the government is still working out what arrangements PCs can use, to comply with the current crisis regulations and allow participation by the public. At the PC meeting it was suggested that the two be combined at a future date, along with a presentational recruitment drive for people to become parish councillors. Watch this space.

Response to Covid19

In 2019 the Progress Group set up the Blisworth Community Resilience and Response Group (CRRG) in response to a request from South Northants Council as part of a wider programme of "disaster" planning. This was initially developed by Ian Tack who set up an excellent group, which has since been handed over to Mel Lee-Patrick. I hope many of you have seen the excellent e-mail newsletter produced by her and the CRRG team. This is full of vital information and stories about the village response to this crisis (much of it is reproduced here for non-internet users, Ed). A very big thank you to the CRRG team who could never have foreseen their vital role in this crisis when set up last year.

Contact details for those who need help from the many local volunteers working hard to support those who are isolated and vulnerable are:

Text or call 07579217464, email info@blisworthcrrg.co.uk

Highways

On a more mundane but nonetheless important note, the eagle-eyed among you whose daily walk takes you over Candlebridge, will have noticed that the 30mph sign has at last been moved to the Gayton side of the bridge, following requests from the PC.

Stay safe, stay well.

Tony Hillier Parish Councillor

Coronavirus Issue

In accordance with Government instructions all village clubs, associations, groups etc are closed 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 at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives



Blisworth Heritage Society



Whilst we are unable to meet, you might like to explore the history of Blisworth in some of the following ways:

1. There is a new display in the "old newsagents" window. It has posters from the last 15 years of the Society.
2. Much of Blisworth's past is available on <http://www.blisworth.org.uk/images/search.html>
3. If you are tracing your family history, the Heritage Society has now taken over <http://www.normantewfamilyhistory.org.uk/>. *We understand that there are a few errors in this, so if you find any, please let us know.*
4. If you are exercising around the village, the Heritage Walks leaflet is now available to download from our website <http://www.blisworthheritage.org.uk/>. If you cannot print it yourself, please phone Dick on 858602 and we will send you a paper copy.

See our website <http://www.blisworthheritage.org.uk/>

1st Blisworth Scout Group

When things return to normal—and they will, we will have vacancies and a warm welcome for new Beavers.

Katie Mynard, Group Contact

Blisworth CRRG and Blisworth Parish Council

Here to Help You.

Blisworth Community Resilience and Response Group (CRRG) is a part of Blisworth Parish Council's arrangements to offer support to the community during times of emergency – made up of volunteers from our own village. The group offers help in different ways to the community including a new online newsletter. Call or text 07579 217464 for a printed copy.

Chasing rainbows

FAMILIES across Blisworth are starting to paint and put up rainbows in their windows to bring the community hope.

Children and their parents have been working together on artwork for display for others to find - creating a social-distance friendly trail around the village.



The idea originated on Facebook, and was shared to the Blisworth Notice Board and Blisworth Community Pages.

Teddies have also started featuring in people's windows as people play their part in creating a bear hunt across the village – in honour of the treasured children's book 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen.

Join in the fun and make your own rainbows for your window so we can have a trail to follow across the village while we take our time out to exercise and keep our social distance – we may need to be physically distant but as a community we can still be together.

Isolation Library

In need of a new read while you're in self isolation? Volunteers are compiling a list of books for loan to be delivered door-to-door. Call 07579217464 or email admin@blisworthcrrg.co.uk for the full list once ready.

Hospital Helpline

Northampton General Hospital has opened a hotline for families of patients currently in their care. The relative support line can be used to obtain an update on patients.

To use this service, you will need to know the patient's full name, ward location, date of birth and NHS number where possible. The hospital team will then check in with the ward to obtain details on the patient's condition and call you back. The hotline is open 9am – 5pm on weekdays and between 10am and 4pm at weekends, call 01604 545784.

Reporting Covid-19 breaches to the Police

Northamptonshire Police are currently receiving a high volume of calls about suspected Covid-19 breaches. They are asking people to report them online rather than calling 999 or 101. To report visit: <https://www.northants.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/c19/tell-us-about-possible-breach-coronavirus-measures>

Local businesses offering support

The Royal Oak is offering takeaways of both drink and a limited hot food menu each day. 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 01604 673724

The Boat Inn in 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) Basic Groceries <https://www.facebook.com/ploughshutlanger> 01604 864644
Closed Monday

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

A Note Of Thanks

The Blisworth CRRG would like to thank our founding chairman Ian Tack as he retires from the role due to personal circumstances. Ian has done a great deal of work in establishing the group and its website, as well as starting our work in the village during the COVID-19 crisis. His valuable contribution will not be forgotten.

DO YOU NEED HELP

A guide to support available in Blisworth

Extremely vulnerable?

If you have received a text or a letter from the NHS identifying you as in a medically vulnerable group and in need of shielding, did you know that the government is providing weekly food parcels **for free**? You simply need to register at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>. If you are struggling getting registered online and need assistance, please contact the CRRG via admin@blisworthcrrg.co.uk or call 07579 217464.

Everyone

Struggling to make ends meet?

COVID-19 and its impact on the economy mean that lots of hard-working people are struggling with income. We can help with food parcels – in strict confidence. Call 07579217464 or contact us via admin@blisworthcrrg.co.uk or to find out more.

Stay home, stay creating!

Members of Blisworth Art Group have taken inspiration from internet culture to draw up a new way of bringing members closer together during the lockdown.



As with other village groups the Art Group have had to abandoned meetings as social distancing requirements deem the activity as non-essential events.

Maggie Turton, of the group, said: "However, we are resourceful bunch and have taken advantage of online visual communication!"

Katherine McAdam has worked with the group so that they are still able to share creative time every Monday afternoon and evening, even though they cannot be together in person. The group paint and chat, as they would normally in person.

"We can chat, see each other and we are having some fun whilst painting," said Maggie. She added: "Through this link we're also having the opportunity to meet up with members from other local art groups- people we might never otherwise have met – an added bonus. A big *thank you* to Katherine for giving us this opportunity and making us a little more computer savvy!"

Sunlight and Rainbows

Margaret Holiday has been keeping busy during social distancing – creating fabulous rainbows to brighten up Stoke Road and show support for our NHS.



Margaret has also been for a walk up to Blisworth Tunnel on a bright and sunny day to confirm something she has suspected for a while and recorded in the image on the front page. She said: "Yes there is light at the end of the tunnel!"

Smile! It's contagious!

Villager Pat Masterman has a simple message she's sharing from her house in Pond Bank. She said: "When I worked on an isolation ward – many years ago – I wore a badge that said 'Smile – It's Contagious' - this brought a smile to patients and visitors. It is good to smile, when we laugh or smile our body produces chemicals that boost the immune system – so helping us to stay healthy." Her windows are now decorated with the same words:



Pat added: "With social distancing it is easy to give people a smile – even if they are on the other side of the road. The banner has prompted quite a few smiles as people pass our house." Pat, who had planned to mark her 50th year of residency in the street with a party this month, has also decorated a window with a smile and teddy bears for children to hunt as they walk around the village.

School's out – but community is IN

Teachers challenged pupils from Blisworth School doing school work at home – to find different ways of saying thank you to key workers, just one example among many:



Miley wrote a poem and produced a poster to say thanks:

*"We want to tell you, "Thank you"
But it doesn't seem enough
Words don't seem sufficient
"Blah, blah" and all that stuff
Please know we are really grateful
For your very generous act
We really appreciate you,
You're special, and that's a fact"*

Blisworth Parish Church

"Bidden or unbidden, God is present

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord". Romans 8 v39-39.

Despite suffering persecution and many trials, St Paul was able, with absolute certainty, to write the above to the Church in Rome. At a time when virtually the whole world is suffering unprecedented trials and fears, his words ring out across the centuries and offer comfort and hope.

Never before have all churches had to close their doors, but as posters around the village have stressed, it is the building that is closed, not the Church. Because God's people are the true Church. The Christian community continues to pray for individuals, the village and the world. The Grand Union Benefice, of which St. John's is a part, share two services a week, one on Wednesday morning and the other on Sunday morning, both at 9.30 on Zoom. However, the wider church produce a number of services and acts of worship. There is now a service on BBC TV on Sunday morning, put together with appropriate social distancing, and also there are two regular slots, the BBC's Songs of Praise at Sunday lunch time, and a service at 8.15 a.m. on Radio 4. The Diocese of Peterborough produce a 5 minute "thought for the Day", Monday to Friday. This is on Face Book, but can also be accessed by going to Google "Diocese of Peterborough", and following the link.

This has been the strangest Easter ever, and the hardest time of all for Christians to be prevented from meeting and celebrating together. However, the message is unchanging – Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

We pray for the lonely, the isolated, the fearful, the suffering, the grieving. We thank God for the kindness, helpfulness and service of very many in our village and throughout the country. When we can open our doors again, we will.

May God's blessing rest on all of us.

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

BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	March	April
£30	250	146
£20	191	166
£20	26	113
£10	209	104
£10	64	241

Thank you all for your support Keep safe **Estelle Rose**

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Monday 22nd June for the July/August 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.

Blisworth Film Club

I have been informed by Phoenix, the providers of the equipment, films and projectionist, that they will be unable to screen any films until the autumn. They are funded solely by grants and charities that have been affected by the virus and intend to rethink their strategies. Of late, Blisworth Film Club has been supported by a increasing number of regular visitors from surrounding villages, if we had to rely on Blisworth residents alone we would have made a loss on several films, so perhaps it is time for us to rethink our strategy at the same time. When there is more news from Phoenix I will contact you all through R&A to decide what we will do in the future.

After running the club for ten years, with no increase in admission and profits being given back to village organisations, is it time for a change? Whether you are a regular attendee or not, any constructive comments you may have would be welcomed.

Margaret Holiday 858590

Stitchery Do

Creating with fabric and thread



Making Scrub Bags - for NHS Northampton General Hospital

Eight Stitchery Do members are busy sewing for NGH making scrub bags. These bags are made from old pillowcases and duvet covers which can be washed at 60°C.

There are several sizes to make and on 14th April we had our first Blisworth collection by one of our stitch members. So far we have made 328 bags in two weeks. If you are interested in donating materials or helping the team please get in touch with Carol Arnall on 07946 965626 or email: carol_arnall@btinternet.com



FOBS

Friends of Blisworth School
Like everyone else all the events for FOBS are currently cancelled.



However we do still have ways in which people can support the charity, these are as follows:

- If you are having a clear out of clothes, the bins are still there to fill if you are going past
 - 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.

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.