

Round and About

www.blisworthvillage.org.

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter
January/February 2021 No 137



Wreford's Wonderful Lights

Notes from the Council.....

Our Parish Council Clerk

We have completed a recruitment process for a replacement Clerk after our previous Clerk left at the start of December. A new Clerk is about to be appointed and is planned to start with us in early January. This is great news for the Parish Council and Blisworth residents. More information will be published in January. Until we have our new Clerk on board, the best contact method for reaching the Council is to email, blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com. Messages will be passed to the most appropriate person for a response.

New Councillors

A new Parish Councillor, Chris Read, was co-opted onto the Council at our December PC meeting. Chris lives in the village and has been active in many village activities, especially helping with our responses to a number of large planning applications. We all wish Chris well in his new role.

The Council now has vacancies for 2 Councillors. The role of a Parish Councillor is explained on the PC's website: <http://parish.blisworthvillage.org/about-us/general-information/>. Please let any Councillor know if you have an interest.

Planning Applications for Housing

As you may remember from our previous newsletter, South Northants Council (SNC) rejected an outline planning application for approximately 30 dwellings accessed from Station Road. The outline planning application for a similar number of dwellings accessed from Northampton Road, has since been rejected by SNC in the last few weeks as well. There were a number of objections to these developments including from the PC who made pre-recorded 'virtual' submissions to the Planning Committees.

In addition, we have the already approved development in Chapel Lane for 27 dwellings, for which the start of construction is on hold until 2021.

Our PC looks at all planning applications and treats them all on their individual merits. Each time, we consider what is the application is for, where is it and what does it bring to the village or how does it affect the amenity of the village.

Street Lighting

The Council's proposed improvement to our street lighting has been approved at our December meeting. We have held a tender process and selected a preferred supplier. It is hoped that the changes can take place in early 2021. Please contact Councillor Simon Bunker, brackleybunkers@btinternet.com, if you have any questions or comments.

Pond Bank

The Council has received some concerns raised by residents regarding restricted sight as a result of parked cars near the

exit of Pond Bank and Chapel Lane near Candle Bridge. We are considering potential options to resolve and would welcome feedback and your views of this issue. Please speak with a Councillor, if you know them, or email blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com to start a discussion.

Speeding Traffic Through Village

Speeding and traffic congestion is one of the most common complaints and concerns for many residents. The Council continues to work with SNC and the Police to find ways to reduce speeding through the village, and to enhance signage to discourage heavy vehicles from using the narrow village streets as a through route. The PC has agreed amendments to our statutory VAS license so that we may position additional vehicle speed warning devices (VAS devices) around the village. It is proposed that these will be mobile devices moved around to ensure the largest number of drivers are aware of the limit and their speed.

Candle Bridge

We continue to have reports and evidence of heavy vehicles up to 5 axle 40-ton articulated lorries regularly using Candle Bridge, which is subject to a 10-ton weight limit even when the vehicle is empty. Weak bridges are protected by structural weight limits to ensure no damage is caused to them. Please help us by reporting incidents like this to blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com. We will need time / date, which direction, type of vehicle, registration number and any other identifiers such as company name and especially photos.

Old Sun, Moon and Stars Pub

In November, there was, allegedly, an accident that damaged the footway wall near the canal. No driver stopped at the scene. Subsequently, a large part of the wall fell down. The incident was reported to the Police and SNC. Highways have placed large concrete barriers and 3 way traffic lights. We appreciate that this causes congestion and some delays but Highways tell us that they are working on fixing the wall so they can remove the road works.

Stay Safe

COVID-19 restrictions remain in place over the Christmas / Holiday season. Although news sites and the media report on Coronavirus 24/7 and each hour, it is still valuable to refer to the Government website, gov.uk/coronavirus, for all the latest law, guidance and support, plus recent and upcoming changes. You can even sign up to receive emails when information is changed on the gov.uk website.

Wishing you all a safe and prosperous New Year
David Wilson Chair of the Parish Council

Blisworth Women's Institute



Along with most village groups we are still not able to hold our meetings in the village hall, so as such we continue to hold meetings via Zoom which are proving to be quite successful.

In November we delivered to all our members a plant pot, planted with narcissi bulbs to brighten up the grey November days.

Our November and December Zoom meetings were well supported where we enjoyed chatting and getting answers to the quizzes that had been sent out. At the Christmas meeting all members joined in wearing Santa hats, tinsel or Christmas earrings and we raised a glass to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. We also played a couple of games one of which sent members dashing round their homes to find items starting with the nine letters in CHRISTMAS!

Before the Christmas meeting the committee delivered to all members a Christmas treat box which had a slice of homemade Christmas cake, mince pie and chocolates topped by a Christmas card and next year's programme. Wishing all our members and everyone in Blisworth a Very Happy Christmas, Let's hope 2021 will be a good year for everyone. **Tina Alexandrou - Secretary**

A Note from Jenny Cahill

A big thank you to Denise Ingram our WI president and the committee, for keeping up friendly contact with members throughout the unwanted trials of 2020. Not only regular 'phone calls and emails, but innovative gifts appearing on our doorsteps, from daffodil bulbs to Christmas goodies and for walks when rules allowed. All served to lift our spirits. Bravo. Jenny

BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	November	December
£30	190	150
£20	74	104
£20	125	70
£10	151	111
£10	201	5

Our collectors will be around to collect your money early in the new year. It is still only £10 per year with 5 prizes every month. £30, 2 x £20 and 2 x £10. I have a few numbers available if anyone would like one please contact me. Thank you all for your support. Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2021.

Estelle Rose 858482



Play with Clay Blisworth Community Pottery Group Charity

We have managed to hold seven out of ten meetings this last term in the Village Hall. We have been very productive creating mugs and pots of all sizes. We are enjoying our time at the Village Hall but look forward to returning to the Baptist Chapel Rooms.

Next term we hope to be able to start on 13th January 2021 if we are allowed to with Covid-19 restrictions. Look out for posters if you are interested to join our vibrant group or phone: Anne Marie Newton on 07833 150126

Blisworth Film Club

Unfortunately our hopes of showing a film in January have been dashed, we will of course let everyone know when it is safe to restart.

Meanwhile we are still looking for someone who is willing to take over from me, with Beryl taking the money! I am, of course, happy to offer my support during any changeover.

Margaret Holiday 858590

A Note from Estelle Rose

I would like to personally thank Margaret Holiday for 10 years of keeping us entertained with our popular film club. We will miss you but sincerely hope someone else will step into your shoes and with Beryl's help keep the club going. Come on you youngsters, us oldies are working to full capacity to keep our lovely village the wonderful community it is. Estelle

Coronavirus Issue Five

Many village clubs, groups etc remain closed or have their activities curtailed until further notice, these include:

Mothers Club, Bowls Club, Art & Craft Groups,
Stitchery Do, Bookworms, Community Choir,
Play Reading Group, Fishing Club.

These organisations have cancelled all activities and will let you know when they are going to re-start.

Blisworth Baptist Church

For this is how much God loves the world—he gave his one and only, unique Son as a gift. So now everyone who believes in him will never perish but experience everlasting life.

The Church Family wish you all, the Blessings of Christ Child, this advent season. Our love and prayers go out to you at what will be a very different Christmas.
God Bless You all and Please Stay Safe.

Worship Service every Sunday at 10.00am over Zoom
Virtual Communion every First Sunday
Please ring the Pastor / Secretary for Zoom Codes.

Other Virtual Event

Film Night: Friday 29th January at 7.30pm:
Don't forget your drinks and nibbles.
Again please ring the Pastor / Secretary for Zoom Codes at the numbers below.

Pastor: Keith Barker 01327 352972
Assistant Pastor: Lee Hillyard 01604 857654
Secretary: Ray Payne 01604 877442
Room Bookings: Office closed during the Lockdown
Website www.blisworthbaptistchurch.org.uk

Light Fantastic

Blisworth is once more contesting for the best lights in Northamptonshire. Lead as always by the fabulous Wreford display, the whole village is ablaze of light in a great effort to supply some badly needed cheerfulness. Well done everyone, particularly Stoke Road, Buttmead and of course Mick Wreford and family. Ed



Blisworth Allotments & Gardens Association - Stoke Road

Plot Vacancy

We currently have 1 plot available for rent. To apply, please contact Gemma Roberts on at blisworthallotments@gmail.com. or on 859029. You must live in Blisworth and not live at the same address as any existing members.

A big thank you to **Beryl Payler**, our Treasurer who has now handed over her role to Anne Marie Newton. Beryl has been a very long standing and conscientious volunteer with the Association keeping the accounts in apple pie order! On behalf of the Old and the New Committees we would like to show our appreciation and thanks for all her time and dedication - 'A much valued team member'. **Pete Roberts**

Pete & Gem Roberts - Joint Chairman - Phone 859029
Arthur Ellis - Vice Chairman
Carol Arnall - Secretary/Admin - Phone 07946 965626
Anne Marie Newton - Treasurer
Dave Dalton - Site Supervisor



Blisworth Community Primary School has had a fantastic term. We arrived back after closure to balloons, banners and music - a real celebration to be back together as a school community.

The children loved going back to their original teacher for the first few weeks to settle back in - they even had an end of year surprise party in September after not being able to have one in July! In their new classes, children have worked very hard and we are proud to see their determination not to let the gap in schooling affect their learning.

Each year group has enjoyed curriculum days including dressing for the occasion:

Reception children had the Gruffalo to tea.

Year One held a 1960s fashion show with T-shirts they created.

Year 2 held a fire of London event, with real flames burning cardboard houses (watched safely from afar) and also worked with a fireman to understand fire safety. They also enjoyed a space day.

Year 3 had a Stone Age day, enjoying a fire pit and a hot chocolate.

Year 4 participated in a Roman day with cooking, art and games.

Year 5 were Anglo Saxons, making shields - they really looked the part.

Year 6 were on a mission to Mars to build space buggies that could transport an egg across a space landscape without breaking - they achieved it!

Every class has participated in lots of specialist sports sessions and our older children are running miles during cross-country each lunchtime. Whilst the current pandemic has had its challenges, we had a great time during the Autumn term, closing with some exciting Christmas activities including a Christmas Shop, a Santa visit, online Pantos and Christmas Parties. We cannot wait for many more special times making memories.

Miss L Jenkins Headteacher



Blisworth Football Club

Football returned on Sat 5th December for our Junior teams. We took the decision not to restart our adult sides until January depending on the Covid situation.

Our Junior set up is thriving at the moment but our Under 9s and Under 10s are looking for new players. Please contact us on Blisworthfc1898@aol.com or via our Facebook page. Gary Edwards

1st Blisworth Scout Group

1st Blisworth Beavers ... have spaces!

WHEN Wednesdays 6-7pm
WHERE Blisworth Scout Hall
WHO Boys & Girls 6-8 years old (can join 3 months before their 6th birthday)
CONTACT Lynn (L.whitlock@talktalk.net) or Janet (jmheeler58@gmail.com)

Try new things. Make new Friends. Joining Beavers is just the beginning of your big adventure.

For more information about beavers contact Lynn or Janet above, or go to Scouts.org.uk

Katie Mynard, Group Contact

Blisworth Friendship Group

As we had to cancel our much looked forward to Christmas Party, and we already had our prizes, we decided to go ahead and hold a little raffle. The results are:

1	Hamper	pink 46	Andrea Higham
2	Hamper	yellow 685	Polly Timms
3	Hamper	green 20	Joy Boyde
4	Sherry	blue 66	Barbara Homer
5	Chocs	green 141	Janet Heeler
6	Biscuits	yellow 555	Beryl Payler
7	Toiletries	green 795	John Bass



Drawing the raffle

Thank you to all who bought tickets. With this we made up little boxes of goodies to distribute to all our lovely members, to bring a bit of Christmas Cheer and these were received with lovely smiley faces. Hopefully it won't be too long before we are all vaccinated and can continue meeting up every other Wednesday.

To join in the fun, or volunteer to help, please contact **Estelle Rose** on **858482**.



Blisworth Heritage Society



For the last 10 or more years, Blisworth Heritage Society has always had a bit of a Christmas Party at its December meeting. Clearly this was not possible in Dec 2020, but we tried to continue the tradition by arranging a "virtual" Christmas celebration and circulated a DVD of "Christmas through the Ages" to our members. If we missed you by mistake, our apologies, please contact us as we have some spares left over.

Other projects continue. We have first drafts of some of our new Walks Leaflets, although it is currently a bit muddy under foot for testing them! The updated info board for the Royal Oak is ready to put up, we are just waiting for a dry, modestly warm day to replace the existing board. We are making some progress in arranging the display of the "wagon wheels". So, although our regular monthly meetings are currently on hold, there is lots still going on. If you would like to get involved please contact any committee member. See our website www.blisworthheritage.org.uk

Local businesses offering continuing support

Janine & Paul at The Royal Oak invite you to join them for a daily special 'substantial' meal. Take away possible. **Booking essential call 858723.**

Sam Lee's New Tunnel Hill Farm Shop (Stoke Road on the right, just past Knock Lane.) Free range eggs, veggies, meat, cheese, bread and much, much more, Saturday and Sunday 9 till 2. **07745 327430**

Collins Fresh Produce are offering **home deliveries** of fresh foods – visit their website www.collinsfresh.com or 'phone **01604 673724**

The Boat Inn at Stoke Bruerne are offering groceries and fresh fruit and veg, alongside ales and ready meals. Call **01604 862428** to order.

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 of basic groceries, **plus delivery** of some hot meals <https://www.facebook.com/ploughshutlanger> **01604 864644** Closed Monday

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

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Monday 22nd February for the March/April 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 Parish Church

BIDDEN NOT BIDDEN, GOD IS PRESENT

"I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him." Psalm 34 vv 1,2a,8

At the time of writing we are still in the Advent season. In the Anglican church this is the four weeks before Christmas day when we look forward to, think about and await, the coming of Christ. Of course, December 25th is the day that we celebrate the mind-blowing fact that at a particular point in time, God entered human history as a fragile baby.

Advent is a period of waiting for the celebration of knowing Christ's first coming, and at the same time awaiting His promised final return. We are living in the in between time, of now-but-not-yet. In the last nine months we have experienced waiting as never before: waiting to see friends, to go out, to get a haircut, go to a garden centre, for schools to open, for churches to approach normal, for a vaccine, and so on. We are so aware that all our waiting is tinged with uncertainty. But we can all be secure in the knowledge that Christ, the focus of Advent waiting, promises wonderfully the security of His love and His presence, whatever the human condition.

We have lost so much this year, and it was truly heart wrenching to decide to cancel our Christmas Eve Family Service and Midnight Mass. However, these normally attract a capacity congregation from across the village: at this time, to be Covid safe, we can accommodate less than 40 worshippers, and we could not envisage standing at the door and turning folk away.

In any event, with no singing, no sharing of wine, no kneeling at the altar – and no greeting of each other – things are not what they were. However, next year, let us gather to raise the roof in praise and greeting for the coming to earth of the Christ Child.

We thank God for modern technology. This has allowed interaction with the three schools in the Benefice. Every child was given an orange and all the elements of a Christingle, then watching a video talk from the Rector, they were able to assemble a Christingle orange to take home. The Benefice "Open the Book" team, unable to enter schools, made up a video presentation of the Christmas story, and gave each child a Bible Society book.

We continue to pray for the world and for our community. Especially we think of the many who have suffered bereavement, sickness, poverty or loss or trouble of any kind. May God be with us all, and may we know His coming to be among us.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you". Isaiah ch 60 v 1

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