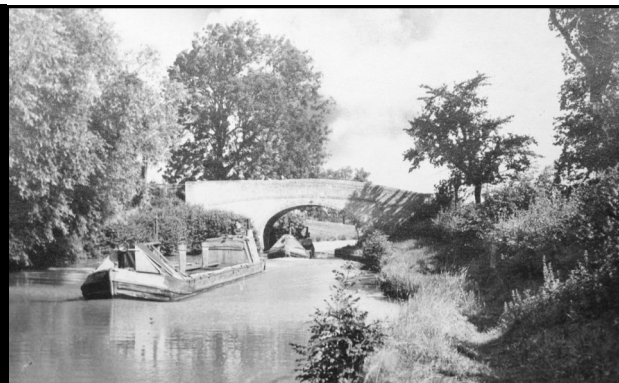


Round and About

www.blisworthvillage.org.

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

June/July 2021 No 139



Notes from the Council.....

New Unitary Local Authority

From April 2021, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is the new single unitary council responsible for providing a range of public services to residents and businesses in the areas of Daventry, Northampton and South Northants. Through one council, they are transforming these services for the better, and delivering them in a more joined-up and cost-effective way. It has replaced Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council and South Northamptonshire Council, and now delivers all the services which were previously provided by these councils.

These services include collection of your household waste, maintenance of parks and open spaces, street cleaning, environmental health and planning services. WNC also delivers many of the services which were provided by Northamptonshire County Council, including Education, Highways, Adult Social Care and Libraries.

New Councillors

After our recent local elections, the Council still has two vacancies. The role of a Parish Councillor is explained on the Parish Council website: <http://parish.blisworthvillage.org/about-us/general-information/>. Please let the Parish Council Clerk or any other Councillor know if you have an interest.

Street Lighting

The replacement of the street lights has been completed, and we can now look forward a significant reduction in our ongoing lighting costs, as well as better lighting. Contact Councillor Simon Bunker, brackleybunkers@btinternet.com, if you have any questions or comments.

Council Tax

You may have noticed that the PC managed to reduce its budget for the current financial year, partly as a result of the anticipated savings from the street light replacement.

Traffic Issues

The Parish Council continues to share the concerns of many residents in the village regarding the increasing volumes, speed and size of vehicles passing through the village. Although the PC has no direct control over such matters, it will continue to work with the relevant authorities in order to look at ways of improving the situation.

School Allotment

The PC has provided an allotment for the School. It has been prepared for the School by the kind and generous support of the Courtenhall Estate and the Wake family. The allotment has been fenced, with a gate for safety. The first challenge for the children will be to grow summer plants.

Planned New Dog Bin

An additional dog bin will soon be provided in the Connegar Leys area. Dog owners and walkers are reminded that they are responsible for clearing up their pet's waste and putting it into the dog waste bins. Dog waste on the footways and verges is one of the most often frequently reported problems by Residents.

Cemetery

Treatment to trees and the planned repair to the cemetery wall have been booked and will be done later this year when the contractor is available.

Playground

During 2020, the Parish Council made improvements and repairs in the play area. The Council is in the process of arranging a professional inspection in order that it can prioritise further repairs this year. The council is also planning to replace one of the benches soon.

Parish Assets Review

We have been busy reviewing the Parish Assets, as we are responsible for many items across the village such as signs, grit and litter bins, dog waste bins, playground equipment and benches. Part of this review is to identify the condition of these assets and we have been prioritising where equipment needs to be supplemented or replaced. We will be replacing a bench in the play area and providing a new dog waste bin. If any members of the community have views on what items need review, we would love to hear from you on our parish email address blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

Stay Safe

COVID-19 restrictions remain in place over the next few months as the Government has announced the roadmap out of the restrictions of our third lockdown. Although news sites and the media report on coronavirus 24/7, it is still valuable to continue 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 website.

David Wilson Chair of the Parish Council

Village Hall

The Village Hall has now been reopened but under some government defined restrictions. Please ask my lovely wife Ann North for details on 858579.

Coronavirus Issue Seven

And we all fervently hope the last.



We have really enjoyed having our children back at school where they belong. They have settled wonderfully and are working hard to learn lots of new things. The children have particularly enjoyed their active lunchtimes and sport sessions. At lunch, children at our school are active doing many things: basketball, football, table tennis, cricket, cross-country running, playing with tyres, using the exercise equipment, completing the obstacle course and sailing the pirate ship. All this is topped off with dancing on a Friday (apologies to those who may be nearby and hear the music but we have such fun!).

Rhino Sports Academy have also moved into our school as a base. The children really enjoy seeing the coaches on a regular basis as well as being involved in many of their specialist sessions in school and attending their sports clubs.

You may also have seen a lot of work on the school building. At the front, we are thrilled to have put up our new sign reminding our pupils to 'be the best they can be.'



We have also had the front of school slabbed, the flat roof is due to be replaced (hopefully over the summer). Inside we have begun decorating and creating displays from art projects. You can see what is happening at the school on our Facebook page (without an account) if you wish, on: <https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthPrimarySchool/>

It's great to have our children back at school and everyone is working hard in all their learning.

Miss L Jenkins Headteacher

Blisworth Film Club

As yet, no one has offered to take over the running of the monthly screening of films in the Village Hall. If this is to start again after Covid restrictions have been eased, a volunteer (or group of people) needs to contact me in order that I can explain the responsibilities involved.

Margaret Holiday 858590

Bell Ringing—The Sound of Silence

During this strange and difficult year we have missed many things but something that may not come immediately to mind is the sound of Church Bells. For eighteen months the bells have been silent except for a single bell tolling for 2 residents' funerals and on the death of Prince Philip and a solitary bell tolled once a minute for an hour before his funeral. The five other bells remained silent.

It would be so sad if this was to become permanent but due to lack of ringers it could well be the case.

It is not a difficult skill to learn and is a good way of keeping fit. It means practising once or two evenings a week – then eventually ringing on Sundays before 1 or 2 services. It is a great social activity and younger people would be especially welcome, possibly as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. If you would like to help preserve this great tradition please contact: **Mason Masterman 07707 034247, Chris Lea 07801 596824**

Blisworth Parish Church

"My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart, he is mine for ever"
psalm 73 v26 NLT

"But God" is underlined because this powerful phrase is found throughout the Bible, in both old and new testaments. People suffered persecution, sickness and failure, But God stepped into situations, brought healing and forgiveness even where, to human thought there seemed no way forward. These little words introduced hope then, and they still do. Most people will be able to recall times when a worrying situation has been unexpectedly resolved, when you have not known what to do, But God has provided the answer. However, we must all be prepared to be God's instrument in His healing work – to make a phone call, speak a word of comfort, be there to listen, volunteer for some task. And we may never know the reason or the outcome, But God is at work!

Did you vote in the May elections? Lists of people about whom, frankly, very little was known. Not who they were, not what they stood for, not what they promised, and certainly not their ability to deliver. How different is the certainty found in the Bible. The Bible does not give us a list of gods from which to choose. The Bible reveals the one true God, and we can be completely secure in who He is, what He promises, what He stands for, and the wonderful effect on our lives when we vote to follow Him.

As things stand, we plan to open the churches of the Grand Union Benefice in June, working towards a more normal rota. So there will be services in Blisworth at 11 am on June 6th, 13th and 27th. On those dates other churches will have a 9.30 service, and on the 20th, the third Sunday, there will be services elsewhere at 9.30 and 11 am. One service each week will still be available on zoom. Also, the Wednesday morning Celtic themed service at 9.30 am will continue on zoom. Initially if folk from Blisworth parish want to attend other churches, they should make enquiries as to available space. There is still no singing, but organ music is allowed, and the bell ringers are investigating what they are allowed to do. A single bell tolled 99 times to mark the passing of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, and again for an hour on the day of his funeral. Government and ecclesiastical regulations have to be adhered to, and will continue to impact what we can do for the foreseeable future. We do prefer to err on the side of caution, and ask for forbearance as we make our way through uncharted territory. We pray that we will continue to move forward without further setbacks, and continue to pray for countries less fortunate than ourselves.

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

OPEN GARDENS SUNDAY 11th JULY

Blisworth Arm 11.00-5.00pm

**Tea, Cake, Plants and Textile Art for sale
Supporting our local charity Crusader Community
Boating
Boat trips to Blisworth and back**

Blisworth Bring or Bag

Blisworth Bring or Bag continues as an effective resource for the community. Please continue to follow the guidance on donations for books, board games, food and toiletries.

We hope to hold an event soon where we can meet you all! Look out for more information on the village notice boards and the Blisworth Notice Board on Facebook. Thank you, Sarah 07599 053320.

Blisworth Pre School

Some of you may have noticed our beautiful new gates for our outside area. Maureen Smith has kindly painted them with beautiful pictures. Thank you very much Maureen!



We currently have spaces available. Please do get in contact if you are interested in enrolling your child. We take children from age 2-4 and accept 15 and 30 hour funding. Contact us on: 07803 662 433. You can also follow us on our Facebook page.

Blisworth Arts Society

The group is looking forward to welcoming back artists of all specialisms and abilities (including crafts) on Mondays in September to either the afternoon group 2 to 4 pm or the evening group 7 to 9 pm. The planned venue is the Baptist Church Coffee House. We hope to start on September 6th. If you wish to join us please contact Hilary on 859181.

Blisworth Women's Institute

Our monthly meetings have been continuing via Zoom, in April we had a very enjoyable evening with a performance from a magician. Steve is a professional magician who usually works on cruises and due to Covid has had to find other ways to continue his art. We certainly benefitted from these unfortunate circumstances as he gave a first class show and left us thinking "how did he do that"!

We continue to keep in touch with all our members as much as possible and gave out an Easter treat of simnel cake, chocolate bunnies and chocolate hearts. Quizzes continue to be sent out and the answers given out at our monthly meetings. In May we delivered 10 cakes to Cynthia Spencer Hospice as we do every year, they are always very well received.

If things go to plan with the gradual opening up and getting back to normal, we along with other village groups hope to get back to indoor meetings from September.

Tina Alexandrou - Secretary



Blisworth Baptist Church

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.
Heb. 13 v8.*

In line with the roadmap out of lockdown, we are planning to reopen the Church at the end of June. This hopefully will enable our buildings activities to resume at the beginning of July, so we welcome again the community we serve, love and Cherish and miss very much. We so look forward to seeing you all again soon.

**Worship Service every Sunday at 10.00am over Zoom
Virtual Communion every First Sunday**

Pentecost Celebration 23rd May at 10:00
Everyone is most welcome to join us.

**Other Events to which you are all welcome:
Film Nights Quiz Nights**

Usually the last Friday in the month at 7.30
Don't forget your drinks and nibbles.

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

A Memorial to Ajay, the village postmaster

Ajay Kataria was a good friend to the village and we would like to have a lasting memorial to him. Sadly he died of Covid helping to keep the village shop going through lockdown. We have discussed this with his family and the Parish Council. They are agreed that a new bench by the bus shelter at the primary school is a good site because it's a prominent position with many potential users.

If you would like to contribute, please do so to the Village Hall & Playing Fields Association's bank account, details below. If possible pay online otherwise paying in at the Post Office or your bank is fine. Cheques can be paid in at the Post Office, but if you do this please let us have a note or e-mail to tell us so that the donation can be picked up.

Bob Daniel and Mary Lewis
email: ajaymemorial@blisworthhouse.co.uk

HSBC
BVHPFA (Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Fields Association)
Sort code 40 35 04
Account number 60169692
Please use reference "Ajay memorial"

BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	March	April	May
£30	76	96	248
£20	230	190	228
£20	32	75	64
£10	197	210	191
£10	242	47	211

Thank you all so much for your support, we raised £1450 for Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Fields, which helps keep them both in the great condition we enjoy.
Estelle Rose 858482

1st Blisworth Scout Group

At last, we are back to face to face meetings for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts which is great news for all the kids,



Where will it take you?

‘Young people need positive role models. They also need a safe, nurturing and supportive environment where they can try new things and not be afraid to fail. Scouting is one of those places.’

Ellie Simmonds OBE, Scout Ambassador

#SkillsForLife Copyright 2018 The Scout Association
Registered Charity numbers 306101/SC038437

However all this does mean that we are desperately looking for more adult support. In particular we need a **Treasurer (training possible) and anyone willing to use their talents to benefit young people. We're counting on you!** 1st Blisworth Scouts is part of the Scouts, offering fun, friendship and skills for life to over 460,000 young people across the UK. Interested? Contact Kevin Jeffery on 07966 477117 or email kcj.rft@gmail.com

Katie Mynard, Group Contact



Blisworth Football Club

We are starting a new under 7s team, please contact Matt Goude via matthewgoude@sky.com 07720 032599.

Girls training, every Wednesday, 5-7 5.30/6.30, 8+ 6.30/7.30. All sessions free.

Please contact us on Blisworthfc1898@aol.com or via our Facebook page, Twitter [@FCBlisworth](https://twitter.com/FCBlisworth). **Gary Edwards**

I would just like to say to all my dear friends in the Village; Thank you for the cards, flowers and messages of support you have sent me.

I am now at home quietly on the slow road to recovery from an unusual pneumonia (NotCovid). I feel very loved by you all. Onwards and Upwards. **Chris Lea**

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Wednesday 21st July for the August/September 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 Heritage Society



At long last the lockdown restrictions are easing: larger outdoor meetings are allowed and indoor meetings become possible. Last summer we had planned a visit to Canons Ashby gardens, that was not possible and they are still unable to accept parties this summer, perhaps next year? We are arranging an outing to a local Heritage site and a Village History Walk for this summer, we will be in contact with members in early June. We are aiming to recommence our regular meetings in the Village Hall on 17 Sept.

Meanwhile we continue admin and maintenance work. A first draft of a new walks leaflet is nearing completion and we are working on a Heritage Display and updates to the "Info Boards" at Elm Tree Corner and opposite the Sun, Moon and Stars. If you have any information you feel should be included in these, please let us know, before we go to print. We look forward to seeing you all again soon. For more information, see Posters on the notice boards or our website www.blisworthheritage.org.uk

Blisworth Friendship Group (BFG)

We are a group set up to enable the older residents of our village to come out and enjoy each others company. We provide tea/coffee and a piece of delicious home made cake, and entertainment. eg. Quizzes, Games, Speakers Bingo, and hopefully outings. We are a lovely happy group.

We will resume again on Wednesday 23rd June for our Middlemas party, named as we had to cancel the Christmas party and the one planned for the middle of the year. We will have a lovely lunch and entertainment. It will cost £5 each, after that we will meet every other Wednesday and it's just £3. If you'd like to join us, please give one of us a call Estelle on 858482, Anne 858001 or Janet 879629.

Greta Bodsworth

It is with regret that we report the passing of a previous Blisworth resident, Greta Bodsworth.

She and husband Den became very active in Blisworth Scout Group. It was largely their drive, passion and enthusiasm which moved the group from an overcrowded Village Hall to the top of the playing field. Persuading the PC to release the land, raising money and obtaining and building the original scout hut. A tremendous legacy, for without their perseverance and determination the current facilities enjoyed by Blisworth Scouting would not exist.

Phil Cahill

My family has been touched and overwhelmed by the cards, messages and acts of kindness following Phil's death on 4th January.

Phil moved to what was the building site of Home Close in 1969 and never for one moment regretted it. When family commitments allowed, he became a founder member of the Art Group and the Heritage Society, doing a spell on the committee and became tower captain of the church bell ringers. He will perhaps best be remembered for helping to raise money to refurbish the bells, adding a sixth in memory of George Freeston, designing the Blisworth tapestry and for his canal ware painting.

Heartfelt thanks to you all. **Jenny**