

Round and About

www.blisworthvillage.org.

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter
December/January 2021/2 No 142



Notes from the Council.....

Facebook

We now have a Parish Council Facebook page where residents can contact the PC, @BlisworthParishCouncil. We share information on this page and keep residents updated on subjects such as Highways, Planning, Community Grants and West Northants official information that needs repeating

Parish Councillors

We have 4 x vacancies for Parish Councillors. Information is also on our website and Facebook page. If anyone would like an informal chat about the role, we would be more than willing to help you understand what is involved.

Local Planning Appeals

The appeal against the proposed housing development on land off Northampton Road was dismissed by The Planning Inspectorate in November 2021. Initially the application to grant outline planning permission was refused by West Northants Council. This follows another appeal for planning permission for housing development on adjacent land on Station Road being dismissed a few months ago.

Traffic Issues Update

Blisworth continues to be a village with heavy through traffic, often speeding in places that are dangerous. Our July Round and About, issue 140 included an update on the Northampton Gateway Community Grant funding available to Blisworth. If you missed this issue and have any feedback or ideas for how we use the Grant, you can still contact our Clerk by email, blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

Community Grants

A new Covid Support Fund will provide WNC District Councillors with total £2,500 each to allocate to community and voluntary groups across their Parishes that are in need of support. This will help effectively allocate money to Parishes to make a positive impact on the areas we represent, helping us to empower local residents to be active in their communities' recovery from COVID-19. A Grant pot has also just opened for applications from local community and voluntary groups, excluding Town and Parish Councils, across the whole of West Northants. Community Groups can ask the Parish Council for additional information. Full details are also on WNC's website.

Northampton Village Awards 2022

Northamptonshire ACRE has announced that the annual Village Awards are back. These provide an opportunity for villages and groups to celebrate and share what they like

about their village and what makes it a great place to live.

Villages can enter until 31st January 2022 and judges will visit each entrant during April and May to assess them. One village will be chosen as the overall Northamptonshire Best Village 2022. Full details for any village group on how to enter can be found at <https://www.northantsacre.org.uk/northamptonshire-village-awards-2022>.

Defibrillator Update

After our training in November, the defibrillator is now in operation and registered with the First Responder system. The device is owned by the Parish Council and located on the external wall of the Primary School.

If you go into cardiac arrest, without a defibrillator, you have a 6% chance of survival. If a defibrillator is used on a patient within 3-5 minutes, the chances of survival increase to over 70%.

Carriageway near the village boundary on Stoke Road

The carriageway near the Blisworth Tunnel entrance and car park has deteriorated over recent years, partly because of the volume and weight of traffic using our village routes. Highways has carried out surveys and vegetation clearance to the carriageway / footway / edge.

They have instituted an immediate 3T weight limit, until work can commence. The sign is close to the location of the carriageway cracking with advance warning signs at the junction with Knock Lane and on the High St.

This new weight limit has significantly reduced the number of heavy vehicles using the weak road but has not removed them all, though it is illegal for them to continue to use this stretch of road.

Play Area Improvements

Blisworth Parish Council has obtained a National Lottery Grant for £7,530. The grant has been awarded to improve and provide new equipment to the Eastfield parish play area which is aimed to provide safe play to children under the age of 12 years. We ask that anyone who has feedback or ideas on the type of equipment also contact the Parish Council. We are hoping that the appointment of the successful contractor will be made soon so that the grant can be used before the middle of 2022.

Gigaclear Installations

Gigaclear has started installing high speed fibre cables across the village. This is a major infrastructure improvement for our rural village and should be welcomed as a part of our future, because usually villages say they are left behind when other parts of the country receive improvements. Although many residents have said the contractors have been sensitive to their requests and

PTO

considerate, there have been some complaints including inconvenience caused by the work. In every case where the Parish Council is notified, we have contacted Gigaclear to ensure they communicate better with us all so we understand what really happened and improve or rectify specific areas of complaint.

The Parish Council Facebook page has a copy of a letter received from the contractors that shows a schedule of works including planned road closures in 2022.

Blisworth Village Stores, Post Office, Shops and Pub
Please continue to support our wonderful local facilities. It is Christmas time and they provide a valuable amenity and service to our village, especially at this time of year, and need our support.

Stay safe everybody and have a very Merry Christmas.
David Wilson Chair Blisworth Parish Council

BLISWORTH FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We continue to meet every other Wednesday at the Football Club. We have changed the times to 1-3pm so members can get home before it's dark. Our next meeting, 8th December is a craft sale and the excellent Blisworth Hand Bell Ringers. The following week 15th December is our Christmas Party.

It's been lovely since we could start up again. A very big Thank You to all the lovely people who have entertained us especially Hilary Spurrier and John Woodhouse, and a very special Thank You to the family of the late lovely Tilly Holding who funded us a beautiful cream tea and wine in her memory. **Estelle on 858482**

Stitchery Do

Creating with fabric and thread



Next meetings: **Thursday December 2nd** from 10.00 until 2.00pm in the Coffee House of Blisworth Chapel. £4 admission includes festive mince pies in a friendly atmosphere, where you can brush up your skills, learn a new skill and share Christmas ideas. New members always welcome. Volunteers will be able to assist with covering the new seat pads for the Village Hall chairs.

Thursday January 6th 2022. Same place, time and admission details. Start the new year by officially joining the group by paying your annual membership fee for 2022 of £1. This entitles you to obtain discounts at a number of outlets, including The Mill Shop in Northampton, where you can buy loads of different fabrics and haberdashery.

There will be the opportunity to talk about future events, including the visit by Paula Bates at the February meeting. Bring your completed items for a 'Show and Tell' or any unfinished projects that you would like to swap.

Any questions? Contact Margaret on 858590

Blisworth Pre School

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8am - 1pm

Tuesday and Thursday 9am - 3pm

Children accepted from 2 years

Ofsted Registered and approved

Experienced, nurturing, longstanding staff

Warm friendly village location

For more details please contact Pam on 07803 662433

Blisworth Parish Church

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3 v20.

The above is not one of the usual "Christmas" quotes, but relevant, I think. Of course the Bible gives no clue to the exact date of Jesus' birth, but December 25th was selected in distant times to mark this amazing and world impacting event. I once saw a poster outside a church which read "Jesus, the Reason for the Season". Certainly we never fail to mark the season with parties, shopping, posting, cooking, eating. But imagine if when we celebrate the birthday of a loved one – family member or friend – we completely ignore that person. We do not think about them or consult them. Finally we sit down to the delicious meal for which we have been preparing for so long but leave the chief guest out in the cold. Let's not do that. Let's make Jesus a part of all that we do. Let us hear His voice, in our minds and hearts, and let us open ourselves to Him, and ask Him to sit and eat with us, not just for a season, but into next year, and for the years to come.

It is wonderful to be able to make plans again – something which even a few months ago was in doubt. The church is now open during the day, as far as possible, and all are welcome to drop in for a visit or a time of quiet reflection. We are delighted to welcome the Blisworth and Hunsbury Community Choir to give a concert on Saturday December 11th at 7 p.m. Those who have been to their concerts before will know that this is a treat not to be missed.

Our service of lessons and carols will be held at the normal service time of 11 a.m. on Sunday December 12th. On Christmas eve, December 24th, a family Christingle service will be held at 4.30 p.m. This is a lovely time to get away from the busy preparations at home for a while. Later that day, in a departure from previous timings, the Christmas Communion will take place at 9.30 pm.

On Christmas Day there will be a service at 9.30 a.m. at Milton Malsor, and no service at St. John's. On Boxing Day, Sunday, there will be no services in the Benefice.

We pray for our village, for all who will enjoy the coming weeks, but especially for those who have reasons to find this time of year hard to bear. May the love of God surround us all, now and always.

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

Bring or Bag update

We have decided to stop the food part of the shelter (however still continuing with the book/CD/DVD swap) but have teamed up with Towfood community larder for those who do need support with food parcels. This is held at Roade Village Hall on Mondays 1:30-2:15pm. They operate a membership programme (annual joining fee of £10 and then £4 for 10/£8 for 22 products) providing access to surplus groceries at heavily discounted rates. To join all you need do is turn up and sign up. For those who will find it difficult to go and access this, we have volunteers who can collect payment, shop and deliver. If you need further information have a look at www.towfood.org.uk or contact Jo on 07522529699.

Blisworth Women's Institute



After our AGM the present committee agreed to stand again along with Denise Ingram who agreed to serve another year as President. We were joined by a new committee member – Sarah Sheard who we are glad to say is very 'tech savvy' and I'm sure will help drag us all further into the 21st Century!

We continued to support Towcester Food Bank over the year with donations from our generous members, and we will continue to do so in the future.

In November some members enjoyed a Literary Lunch at The Marriot Hotel where, ex barrister, now author, Michael Simon, entertained us before our three-course lunch. After lunch he had a book signing and this proved so popular, he sold out! Our November meeting was on 11th and we had a very appropriate speaker, a gentleman from The British Legion, he was very interesting and informative, and we raised extra money selling handmade poppies.

We will be at Windmill Avenue Christmas Market on December 4th, selling preserves, cakes and handicrafts. Our 2022 programme is at the publishers, we have many very varied and interesting speakers planned for the year – so lots to look forward to.

This last year has been very strange for everyone, but I personally have found that this village of Blisworth has done so much in helping us all to cope and get through this very testing time and for that we should all be grateful.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Tina Alexandrou - Secretary

Come and enjoy an evening of fabulous music!
HUNSBURY & BLISWORTH COMMUNITY CHOIR

Musical Director: Helen Thorman

Present their



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS 2021

Saturday 11th December 7pm

St John the Baptist Church Blisworth
and

Saturday 18th December 7pm

The Abby Centre, Overslade Close
Northampton NN4 0RD

Free Entry

With a Collection for
and EVE



Cynthia Spencer Hospices

Windmill Avenue Christmas Market

Just a reminder that our Christmas market is on Saturday December 4th 2-6pm. Where you will hopefully do all your Christmas shopping in one go. Either come early in the light or enjoy (what I love best) the lit up stalls and the Christmas music.

Another lovely day in Blisworth's build up to Christmas. Please come and support us and be introduced to our local talented crafters for future birthday presents. Can't wait.

Estelle x

Blisworth Baptist Church

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor,^[d] Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

A Happy and Blessed Christmas to all R&A readers

Carols By Candlelight

6pm Sunday 12th December

Minced Pies and Mulled Wine afterwards

Please let us know if you plan to join us for catering purposes

Worship Service every Sunday at 10.00am

(Also available on line over Zoom)

Communion every First Sunday

Everyone is most welcome to join us again.

Other Events to which you are welcome:

Tuesday: Coffee House 10 - 12.

Fridays: Mums and Tots. 10 - 12

Men's Breakfast: 8.30 on January 29th and February 26th
Come and share some friendship and a good breakfast. All welcome. Please let us know you are coming for catering purposes.

Please ring the Pastor / Secretary for Zoom Codes

Pastor: Keith Barker 01327 352972

Assistant Pastor: Lee Hillyard 01604 857654

Secretary: Ray Payne 01604 877442

Room Bookings: Office 01604 857654

Website www.blisworthbaptistchurch.org.uk



Blisworth Allotments & Gardens Association

Plot Vacancies

We currently have 2 plots available for rent and more to offer over the course of next year. If you are interested in being a bit more self-sufficient and have the time, drive and ability to commit to keeping a plot contact Gemma Roberts email blisworthallotments@gmail.com. or 'phone 859029. All applicants are subject to an interview and ideally live in Blisworth and not live at the same address as any existing members.

Floating Market

You still have time to visit the Blisworth's very own floating market, on the canal between Candle and The Mill bridges at the weekend of the 4th and 5th December.

A wide range of produce and crafts is available, well worth a visit.

BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	October	November
£30	48	140
£20	223	195
£20	200	215
£10	119	232
£10	115	212

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas, and please don't spend all your money, as our collectors will be knocking at your doors very soon for your tenders. A big Thank You to all our collectors.

Estelle Rose 858482



Blisworth Heritage Society



Friday Dec 10 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall
A Christmas Celebration with a Victorian Theme
by The Committee and Members

Friday Jan 14 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall
A.G.M including election of a Committee, followed by
A History of the Northamptonshire Police
by Andrew Tennet

Andrew lives locally and spent most of his working life in the Northants Police.

The Archives are available by arrangement, if there is something of particular interest in the records, please contact any committee member and we will try to make it available for you.

See our website www.blisworthheritage.org.uk



Blisworth Football Club

As we head to the Christmas break, all our Junior teams have full squads, its an area we are looking to expand to give more children the chance to play and enjoy football.

We have Xmas Bingo on Sat 11th December 8-30pm and a Children's Xmas party on Sun 19th Dec, please book a place for the party on 07799 713055.

Please contact us on Blisworthfc1898@aol.com or via our Facebook page, Twitter @FCBlisworth.

Sam King

BMC – Blisworth Mothers Club

All Meetings in the Village Hall 7.30 pm

21 December Xmas Party
18 January A.G.M. and Social
15 February Speaker Belinda Brown "Stoneyfield Vineyard"
15 March Meal Out
19 April Speaker Peter Austin "Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust"

For more information please contact Chris Lea – 857659.



FOBS

Friends of Blisworth School



FOBS Christmas Raffle and Christmas Quiz are both back in December. Raffle tickets can be bought from the School Reception. The Quiz can be purchased online. Please email follow us on www.facebook.com/BlisworthPTA.

You can also continue to support us in other ways:

- If your having a clear out of cloths the bins are still at the top of the car park
- If you shop at Amazon the carity is registered with Amazon Smile
- If you shop online use our Easyfundraising account, many retailers are on there

Please email blisworthpta@gmail.com for more details on any of the above.

Icebreaking
on the canal
at the Mill
bridge.

Mid 1930s?



Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 21st January for the February/March 2022 Issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

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.

Northamptonshire Hearing Advisory Service

A new free of charge service to assist in maintaining locally dispensed NHS hearing aids. Call 01707 324582 or email info@hhas.org.uk to book an appointment during a Blisworth visit for new batteries, cleaning, re-tubing and replacement of open fittings.

Next visits are: Tuesday 7th December and Tuesday 1st February, 2.00 to 3.30 pm at the Village Hall car park