

# Round and About

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

**Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter**

**February/March 2022 No 143**



## Notes from the Council.....

### Facebook

We are now live on Facebook and have a 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.

### Parish Council Clerk

We have a new Clerk for our Parish Council who started with us on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Her name is Angela Billing and, unlike many other Parish Council Clerks, she lives in Blisworth and is our Parish Clerk. Angela can be contacted via our email address, [blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com)

### Parish Councillors

We have 4 x vacancies for Parish Councillors and you can contact a Parish Councillor for details. 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.

### Traffic Issues Update

Northants Police installed traffic monitoring devices across the village in response to concerns raised around traffic speed and volume through the village. We continue to press the West Northamptonshire Council on this matter particular in light of proposed developments in the Towcester area and south of Northampton which continue to put further traffic pressure on the village.

Our July Round and About newsletter, issue 140 included an update on the Northampton Gateway Community Grant funding opportunities for traffic issues. 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.

### Community Grants

A new Covid Support Fund will provide WNC District Councillors with £2,500 each to allocate to community and voluntary groups that are in need of support. The fund is still open and 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. Please make your requests known so we can help progress the grant opportunities.

### New Mobile Speed Indicator Device

The Parish Council has now purchased an additional Speed Indicator Device, and the plan is that it will, initially, be installed in Stoke Road. The device will be moved between Stoke Road, High Street and Courteenhall Road. It will be positioned towards the village boundary unlike the current VAS (Vehicle Approach Speed) devices on Stoke Road and Courteenhall Road, it records vehicle speeds as well.

### 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. The immediate result is 3T weight limit signs close to the location of carriageway cracking, with advance warning signs at the junction of Knock Lane and at the High St.

The new weight limit has significantly reduced the number of heavy vehicles using the weak road but not removed them all, though continued use is illegal. If you have valid photographs of heavy vehicles breaking the law in the limit area, they can be passed to Police. Highways and Police do not willingly investigate without photographic evidence.

### Grit Bins

The grit bins across the village have been replenished for winter. The bins are provided for the benefit of residents moving on public roads and footways during cold weather. Of course, the grit should not be stolen for use on private property, driveways or paths because it could cause bigger problems for more people out on public roads etc.

### Play Area Improvements

Repairs have now been carried out in the Eastfield play area and a new bench is to be installed shortly. New equipment will be installed in the coming months, primarily as a result of a National Lottery grant that the Parish Council has obtained, this has been awarded to improve and provide new equipment for the play area to provide safe play for children under the age of 12. Anyone who has feedback or ideas on the type of equipment also contact the PC.

### Gigaclear Installations

The PC's Facebook page has a copy of a letter received from the contractors that shows a schedule of works including planned road closures. The works are ongoing during the first half of 2022 and we have raised our concerns following resident's feedback to ensure that the contractors and Highways complete the works properly.

### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Green Canopy

National initiatives are underway to encourage local community participation during the Jubilee (2 to 5 June) and the Green Canopy, planting as many trees as possible during the year. It is open for all community groups to suggest ideas and to organise events, from parades, street parties, beacons, picnics, music events, big lunch, tea dance, best decorated street, to a scarecrow festival.

### Blisworth Village Stores, Post Office, Shops and Pub

Please continue to support our wonderful local facilities. They provide a valuable amenity and service to our village and continue to need our support during uncertain times.

Happy New Year, and stay safe, everybody.

**David Wilson Chair Blisworth Parish Council**

## Blisworth Parish Church

*"He counts the number of the stars. He gives names to all of them" Psalm 147 v4*

*"Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name." Isaiah 40 V26*

The guiding star that showed the way to the stable in Bethlehem when Jesus was born is such a well known part of the Christmas story. From the account of creation in Genesis (*"He also made the stars" ch 1 v16*), throughout the Old Testament, stars are mentioned, and even from those ancient times, constellations are called by names familiar to us today, The Bear, the Pleiades, Orion. Dark frosty winter nights give us the best chance of viewing the glory of God's creation in the sky.

There are 18 Dark Sky Reserves in the UK, but in most places our view of the night sky is attenuated by modernity's artificial light pollution, so we observe only a fraction of the glory that is actually there all the time. I believe that in the same way, humanity's openness to God is attenuated, or dulled, by the pressures and attractions of modern life. But if we will let go for a while of all that demands our attention, all that we find so important to us, we will be freed to experience the wonder of God's presence, in the same way that finding a place away from light pollution can reveal the splendour of the heavens.

We were thankful to be able to celebrate Christmas again in church, first with a Christingle service well attended by families, who formed a ring of candles in a darkened church, and later the Christmas communion. Now we are planning Easter services, full details of which, for St. John's and for the Grand Union Benefice, will be available soon.

Meanwhile there is a service every Sunday at 11 am, often preceded by the Benefice bell ringers. Having said that, they would dearly love to welcome more ringers, either new to the craft, or possibly with past experience. If you would be interested, just contact one of the ringers, or one of the wardens who will put you in touch.

We are well aware that the pandemic is still not over, and we pray for all who are unwell, those trying to negotiate current regulations, and all still suffering from the effects of the pandemic and all that we have gone through in the past two years.

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

## Ho Ho Ho

I think Blisworth must be one of the favourites for 'Best Christmas Lights in Northamptonshire'. Led of course by the Wreford families magnificent display anyone entering the village on the Northampton, Courteenhall or Stoke roads were greeted by really first class sets of lights. Special mentions also to Buttmead and the school's 'Christmas Tree'. Well done Blisworth.

Mick Wreford tells me that the lights raised £2,507 for Help for Heroes while Father Christmas's float raised £637 for a number of worthy village organisations.

Editor

## HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Village Hall has been booked for a residents' meeting to discuss ideas for the Jubilee weekend. Please come along on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30 pm** and give your thoughts and hopefully volunteer to help.

Organisations will of course be making their own arrangements for the celebration but this is for the whole Community.

If you would like more information before the date or are unable to attend but want to take part please contact:

**Ann North** on **858579** or [ann.north@homecall.co.uk](mailto:ann.north@homecall.co.uk)



### Blisworth Heritage Society



**Friday Feb 11 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall**  
**Death in the garden – poisonous plants, magic, murder & myth**  
*by Michael Brown*

**Friday Mar 11 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall**  
**Researching the history of Blisworth Baptist Church**  
*by Ray Payne*

At the AGM held on 14 Jan, the existing Committee was re-elected, but there is still a vacancy available, if anybody would like to join the committee.

It is now 10 years since we produced the village Jubilee Scrapbook, so we feel it is time for an update to Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. More details will be on our website soon, but we are inviting local individuals, families, businesses, organisations and societies to produce one (or more) A3 Landscape pages, which reflect life in the Village now or over the last 10 years, including the impact of Covid.

The Archives are available by arrangement, if there is something of particular interest in the records. please contact any committee member.

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



We have been thrilled to return back to school and have enjoyed some extra Christmas celebrations in January for those children who missed it. The elves returned and gave out their presents, parents dropped their children off in party clothes without spoiling the surprise of the extra Christmas parties each class enjoyed on the first Friday back. There was also a video message from Santa to children who had been poorly. It just goes to show, you can celebrate any time!

We have finished our Harry Potter room and are now starting to add the finishing touches. It is a great place for children to learn and relax - the adults love it too. In the coming months, you may also see work taking place to replace some windows in the newer part of the building and the flat roof. We are thrilled as we have decorated and changed so much inside, school will look fabulous!

Our children have worked hard already and are working towards their values badges by earning stickers. We are looking forward to an Art week packed with colourful paint at the end of January to brighten our winter.

**Miss Leah Jenkins    Headteacher**

## Stitchery Do

Creating with fabric and thread



**Thursday 3rd February** a chance to explore the resources we hold, the Sissix die cutting machine, rotary cutters and sewing machine features, as well as continuing our own projects and collecting the annual £1 membership.

**Thursday March 3rd** we hope to welcome Paula Bates, who will tell us about her crafts. She recently exhibited at the Art Trail, showing a range of beautiful items.

A number of ladies have not replied to my emails. Please let me know if you no longer wish to be a member so that we can encourage new people to join our friendly craft group.

Usual details, 10.00 until 2.00pm in Blisworth Chapel Coffee House. £4 admission including refreshments. More details? Contact Margaret on 858590

### HUNSBURY and BLISWORTH COMMUNITY CHOIR (Musical Director Helen Thorman)

It seems a long time ago that we gave our Christmas Concert at St John's Church, the first and only one we were allowed to do since the Covid lockdown. You were a marvellous audience raising £450 for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice - Thank you all very much for your generosity.

We have started practicing again, Monday evenings at the Abbey Centre Baptist Chapel, East Hunsbury at 7.30 pm. If you would like to join us, please come along, no audition required, only enthusiasm!

A date for your diary:

#### HBCC Spring Concert

Saturday March 12th, 7pm

The Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury

Entrance is Free - with a retiring collection for charity

**Let's make 2022 the year that Singing beat COVID!**  
**Keep on Singing Winnie**

## BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	December	January
£30	138	102
£20	56	199
£20	176	212
£10	190	122
£10	137	84

Thank you to all our members, I still have a couple of spare numbers if anyone would like them. It is only £10 per year with 5 prizes every month, so 60 chances of winning for £10. Can't be bad. Please ring me **858482 Estelle**

### Blisworth BookSwap

The former Bring or Bag shelter is now set up for donations of books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, puzzles and board games. The children's section has been sorted into different categories and labelled up; there are labels on each shelf of where to put donations; CDs, DVDs, puzzles and board games are now in the large cupboard and magazines in the small cupboard. Keep an eye out for around the village for new posters giving further information of donations we accept. We are in the process of finding a large box for donations/returns so we can pop down each day to put them on the relevant shelves.



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

www.westnorthants.gov.uk  
0300 126 7000

**West Northants Council Councillor Covid Support Fund 2021-22.** Each WNC Councillor has been allocated £2,500 to make local decisions on grant funding awards for the benefit of the communities we represent. *"The Covid pandemic has had a huge impact on local community and voluntary organisations who rely on small grant awards to remain sustainable. The Councillor Covid Support Fund exists to support our local communities to recover from the impact of Covid during the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year. These grants are available to voluntary and community groups (not individuals or Town and Parish Councils). Each Councillor has been allocated £2,500 to make local decisions on grant funding awards for the benefit of the communities' they represent. The grant must be used within the electoral ward of the Councillor and needs to be used to empower local residents to be active in their communities' recovery from the impact of Covid. The minimum grant award is £200."*

If your group would benefit from additional funding please do contact me.

Cllr Karen Cooper West Northants Councillor for Bugbrooke Ward. Lead Member for Blisworth.  
karen.cooper@westnorthants.gov.uk Tel: 07753 638180



### Blisworth Football Club

After being held up by Covid, planning permission has finally been put in for the clubhouse rebuild.

Our youth section is thriving, we are getting requests on a daily basis from parents wanting their children to join our club and 3 out of our 4 teams playing league football find themselves top of their leagues.

The BFG continue to use our facilities for their events, if anyone is interested in hiring the clubhouse for a party please email: [Blisworthfc1898@aol.com](mailto:Blisworthfc1898@aol.com) **Sam King**

### Blisworth Film Club

As reported in Round & About last year, Tracey and I volunteered to take over the running of Blisworth Film Club, just as Phoenix Community Cinema disappeared. Resurrecting the film club without Phoenix has proved challenging in terms of finances, equipment, licences etc.....although we have been looking at Blisworth Baptist Chapel as an alternative venue.

We would like to call an Open Meeting for anyone who may be interested in getting involved with us, who may have some useful contacts, who might have some alternative ideas and skills?

The date for an Open Meeting will be **Wednesday March 2nd**. If numbers allow, we will have the meeting at our house (Heligan House, Towcester Road).

Please e.mail me at [MontyDavenport@outlook.com](mailto:MontyDavenport@outlook.com) to let me know if you will be attending. Many thanks, Hugh & Tracey."

## Blisworth Women's Institute

We ended 2021 with a Christmas party and a visit from Father Christmas, hopefully 2022 will be a better year as the world slowly gets back to some sort of normality.



With the appropriate restrictions in place, we enjoyed our first meeting of the year with an interesting speaker who told us of her 'Adventures in a Cold Climate'.

In February we have a 'Social Evening' followed by 'Silver and it's Hallmarks' in March. Our numbers are slowly growing again, and we look forward to welcoming new members in 2022.

As part of 'The Queens Green Canopy' scheme several members joined our President Denise to plant several silver birch trees on the edge of the playing fields, a muddy but enjoyable experience!

Join us on the second Thursday of each month at The Village Hall at 7.30pm a warm welcome is assured.

**Tina Alexandrou - Secretary**



## FOBS

Friends of Blisworth School



Thank you to everyone who took part in the FOBS Christmas Raffle and Quiz. Please watch out for details of more events coming up by following us on [www.facebook.com/BlisworthPTA](https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthPTA). You can also contact us via email - [blisworthpta@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthpta@gmail.com).

In the meantime you can continue to support us in other ways:

- if you are having a clear out of clothes, the bins are still in the top car park
- 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

## BMC – Blisworth Mothers Club

All Meetings in the Village Hall 7.30 pm

**15 February** Speaker Belinda Brown "Stoneyfield Vineyard" with tasting

**15 March** Easter Party

**19 April** Speaker Peter Austin "Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust"

For more information please contact Chris Lea – 857659

## Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 19th March for the April/May Issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

**[blisworthranda@gmail.com](mailto: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 FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We ended the year with a wonderful Christmas Party. Our lovely team provided a delicious 3 course dinner, we had a free raffle and then a lovely surprise. Molly Mayhews' beautiful little dancers entertained us to an enchanting performance. Special thanks to Fiona Sheehan.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our first meeting of the new year due to ill health. Our next meeting is Wednesday 2nd February, then every other Wednesday after that, 1-3 pm at the football club. We can arrange to pick you up. Interested, then please give us a call. Estelle 858482, Anne 858001, or Janet 07732 987087

## New Community Group for Blisworth

Following the closure of the Progress Group (formed originally to action the Parish Plan) a new financially independent group has been formed.

The aim of the Blisworth Community Projects Group is to identify and take forward projects for the benefit of the Community.

Chair Tony Hillier  
Vice Chair Paulette Kennedy  
Treasurer Anne Goss  
Secretary Ann North

Please come and join us to ensure that the Group reflects the needs of everyone.

For more information please contact:

Ann North on 858579 or [ann.north@homecall.co.uk](mailto:ann.north@homecall.co.uk)

## Blisworth Baptist Church

**Family Service every Sunday at 10.30am**

**Communion every First Sunday**

**Children breakout group 2nd Sunday**

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

**Tuesdays: Coffee House Open 10 - 12.30**

Every 3rd Tuesday is "Carers Support Day"

**Friday: Toddler Group 10 - 12 & Coffee House**

Toys, stories, singing for ages baby to 5

**Men's Breakfast: Last Saturday of the month at 8.30**

In the Coffee House

All men very welcome

### Room Hire

Leisure Hall, Coffee House, Fellowship Room, The Lounge, kitchen facilities. All available for parties, meetings etc Room Bookings: 01604 857654

*Pastor:* Keith Barker 07912 478227

*Assistant Pastor:* Lee Hillyard 07764 461671

*Secretary:* Ray Payne 07718 425314

**Website [www.blisworthbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.blisworthbaptistchurch.org.uk)**

## Fraud: Online, Telephone etc

I recently suffered an attempted bank fraud on my telephone. My wife tried to contact the 'real' bank but hit the inevitable menu/queue hold up. I have now been informed that you should dial 159 which then allows you to select the correct bank—possibly a bit quicker.

Editor