

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

February 2025



Photo by Debra Richardson



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SEASONED FIREWOOD



We hope you've had a lovely start to 2025 and are looking forward to the spring days ahead.

New Year, new initiatives It's been a busy start to the new year for us with the launch of two new initiatives; firstly, the **Blunsdon Community Shop Monthly Draw**. Purchase a £2 ticket in the shop and choose your lucky number between 1 and 300 (increase your chances of winning by purchasing more than one ticket). A winner will be selected on the 1st of every month using a random number generator. Half the money raised from the ticket sales will be the prize pot, the other half will support ongoing improvements in the shop and café.

And secondly, we're trialling a new **Shareholder Loyalty Scheme**. Each time you spend £10 in the shop (only) you'll receive a stamp. Once you have a full card of 10 stamps, you'll receive £5 off your next shop transaction. If you're not a shareholder yet, just ask a member of staff next time you're in the shop about joining!

Upcoming events

Back by popular demand, we're hosting another singalong bingo event on Friday 21st February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets are £7 each and songs will be from the 60's and 70's! We had a lot of fun at the last one, so please do consider coming along.

In terms of Tea and Talks, we also have a couple of dates for the diary:

- Tuesday 18th February @ 2.30pm we'll be hearing from our honey supplier
- Tuesday 18th March @ 2.30pm Bill King will share Blunsdon's role in WW2

We'll share more information closer to the time on our social media.

Have you considered volunteering with us?

While we employ staff on a part-time basis, in order to retain prices at an affordable level we also rely heavily on our volunteers. It's been a joy to witness how many of our volunteers have taken the opportunity to be barista trained, while others help on the till, clear tables and generally support staff during peak periods. With lots going on in and around the shop and café, we're appealing for anyone who may be considering a volunteering opportunity to come forward and explore how they could contribute.

Regular weekday slots are available, as well as ad-hoc or monthly volunteering opportunities. If you're interested, please contact volunteering@blunsdoncommunityshop.co.uk

Finally, just a quick reminder that we're still open late on a Thursday and Friday. Our current opening times are: Mon, Tues, Weds, Sat: 8am – 5pm Thurs -Frid: 8am - 7pm Sunday: 8am – 4pm Café shuts at 4pm Mon - Sat, 3pm on Sundays

Blunsdon Village Garden Club



Even though January has been a cold wintry month there are already signs of Mother Nature's magic, with snowdrops, aconites and catkins making an early appearance. As February progresses there will be many more green shoots and blossoms getting ready to welcome Spring.

We have a varied programme of talks and activities throughout the year. If you are interested in finding out

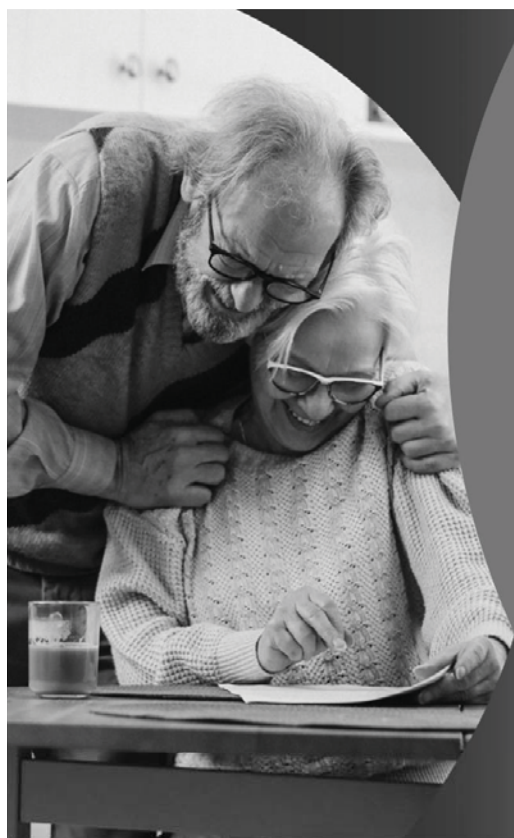
more about us, why not come along and join us at our next meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th February 2025 in the small Village Hall.

Our speaker this month will be Rebecca Brain whose talk is entitled Myths, Magic and Medicine in the garden. Rebecca is a regular visitor to the club and has given us several interesting talks, she is a very knowledgeable gardener and runs her own plant nursery in Bishopstone.

To find out what else we have coming up in 2025, please visit our website at bvgc.freehostia.com where the full programme for this year can be found.

Visitors are very welcome and for a small cost of £3 there will be an interesting sociable evening with refreshments and an optional raffle.

Jenny 07949087317



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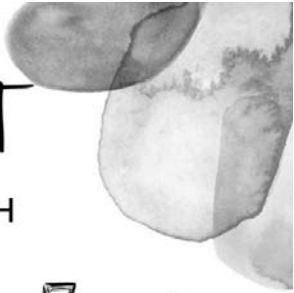
Down Memory Lane

There was a poem published in the Jan 1980 Magazine which with the recent weather seems appropriate to reprint here

They were there

They were there all the time in the frozen clay
They were down in the dark when the thick frost lay,
But I could not believe they would come again
As I sought them there in the wintry lane.
And now they are here where my snow boots trod,
Primroses, fresh from the hand of God.
A yellow carpet, and green I see,
Mocking my incredulity.
Just like the blessings we long to find
When we are troubled in heart and mind.
Blessings, like primroses, hidden from view,
They were there all the time, but we never knew.

Anon.



CREATE and CONNECT

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
10:00-11:30 AM &
 FRIDAY 21ST FEB 5:30 - 7PM

**Blunsdon Community Shop and Cafe
Unit 1 Blunt Rise Broad Blunsdon
SN26 7DA**

An opportunity to meet with others over a cuppa and cake to create. Whether you draw, paint, knit, crochet or simply colour, you can bring your own project, or you can use our materials. Or you can just come along for a chat!



CREATE • CONNECT

Our Annual Christmas Dinner was held at the Heart in Hand with over 30 of us attending a superb meal with musical accompaniment. Thank you HiH.

We also collected 94kg of food for the foodbank - thank you ladies.

Our first meeting of 2025 was an exciting talk on Wing Walking by Kirsten Pobjoy. She was so enthusiastic she almost convinced us that we'd like to have a go and maybe one or two of us actually will - here's looking at you Judy. AeroSuperBatics Wingwalkers based at Redcombe airfield are the world's only formation wing walking team and if you fancy having a go, they can be contacted at www.aerosuperbatics.com

Other trips included a visit to 'the longest yarn' at Tewkesbury Abbey. A fascinating display commemorating D Day - all knitted! And in beautiful surroundings. And then a visit to the tea shop.

More locally we visited the recently relocated Swindon Museum and had a guided tour. Fossils, Roman remains and items we remember ourselves (now what does that tell us) as well as art exhibitions. And a great gift shop too.

We will shortly be visiting snowdrops at the Rococo gardens in Painswick.

Book club's next book is Frank and Red by Matt Coyne whilst our next film club will be discussing 'the last bus journey' which can be found on iPlayer.

This is just a sample of what is available to do. It would be exhausting to attend all the events. It's aimed to cover a range of interests to allow members to attend what interests them.

Our February meeting is on 18th February at 7.30: "What lies beneath- a history of corsets, knickers and petticoats"

If you fancy joining our friendly group, please don't hesitate to give Anna a call to find out more 01793 706392 or to find out more visit our Blunsdon WI website (jackie707.wixsite.com)

**Social Walking from
Blunsdon Community Shop**

**Every 2nd and 4th Thursday
of the month at 10:00am**
We start and finish at the shop.

**Any queries, please message
Alex on 07554 811779**

New
walkers
always
welcome



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Parish Council News –February 2025

Welcome to 2025. We are past dry January and Blue Monday and well on our way into Spring – perhaps. Eowyn welcomed us back to storm conditions and we hope February won't make us shiver too much.

We welcome two new additions to the Parish Team. **Claire Boles** has joined us as part-time **Assistant Clerk** to support the growing administration demand as the Parish has developed, and **Alex Marasco** will join us as a part-time **Operations Manager** for the Parish. His job will be to ensure we support our vision for the Parish of '**keeping it clean, keeping it safe and keeping it beautiful**'. Welcome both.

Our lovely **Village Hall** has spaces on **Monday and Wednesday evenings** which would suit a weekly Club/Society booking so if you are looking for a well-equipped place to meet on a regular basis just go to <https://blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk/page/village-hall>

You will also notice the appearance of the **new Village Maps** which we have updated to include all the new development and facilities in the Parish. This includes the **Blunsdon Heritage Trail** – an up to 10 kilometre walk around the beautiful Wiltshire countryside with some amazing views and historic sites along the way. See the new map outside the Village Shop and Café.

Finally, we have changed our website and domain and with this our e mail addresses. We are all now (name)@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk so all previous e mail addresses will not get to us.

Blunsdon Recreation Ground and Pavilion The deep clean went well in the Pavillion and we have plans to install better extraction and ventilation to help with condensation. We are also looking to extend the 'patio' area to the front, rear and side and install some better matting to help protect the Club Room floor. We are also looking at increasing the storage area for users of the facility and upgrading the kitchen area.

It is now much more habitable and we hope the users will respect the investment and help us look after this valued Pavilion.

We have had complaints about **dog fouling** on the Rec and with the many children using the facility this is unacceptable so please make sure you pick up please as I know most of you do. The ground as you know is very wet and muddy so please could all users make use of the **boot scrapers** near the gate to clean the worst from your footwear as you leave. Thank you.

Blunsdon Multi Use Games Area – Linley Road. Bad weather and a glitch in the contracts over Christmas meant that we didn't make the start last month that we promised. We are in agreement with the local developers, **S and C Slatter Ltd** now and will update you with a start date as soon as we have it. There will no doubt be some inconvenience to local neighbours and the School and we apologise, but the benefits later should outweigh the disruption.

Planning Applications

S/HOU/24/1365 | Replacement of single storey front extension / entrance porch & replacement front access steps / raised platform. | 37 High Street Blunsdon SN26 7AG. **PC Supported**

S/LDP/24/1401 | Erection of single storey rear extension. | 1 Jupiter Close SN26 8AH. **PC Supported**

S/HOU/24/1477 Erection of first floor rear gable projection. 64 High Street Blunsdon SN26 7AE. **PC Supported**

S/HOU/25/0077 | Erection of a single storey and first floor rear extension to existing garage and conversion of garage into living accommodation. | 17 Turnpike Road Blunsdon SN26 7EA. **No PC Comments made yet.**

Planning Decisions

S/HOU/24/1293 | Erection of a two storey side extension. | 29 Ceres Road Swindon SN26 8AF.

Permission Refused

S/HOU/24/1365 Replacement of single storey front extension / entrance porch & replacement front access steps / raised platform. 37 High Street Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7AG. **Permission Granted**

S/LDP/24/1401 | Erection of single storey rear extension. | 1 Jupiter Close SN26 8AH – **Permission granted**



Your Speedwatch Needs You!

Our hardy volunteers are out regularly helping with road safety in the Parish. This has led to many prosecutions by local Police for those abusing the law. They always need volunteers and provide training.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping and I will arrange for someone to contact you.

Date	Vehicles	Speeding	%	Maximum	Speed Limit	Start	Finish		
22/11/2024	397	9	2%	47	30	14:55	15:55	Lady Lane	
25/11/2024	56	9	16%	30	20	13:15	14:00	Heart in Hand	
27/11/2024	220	10	5%	43	30	15:00	16:00	Minerva Heights	
29/11/2024	164	13	8%	47	30	13:00	14:00	Minerva Heights	
02/12/2024	218	9	4%	46	30	12:25	13:25	Lady Lane	
09/12/2024	267	6	2%	43	30	14:25	15:15	Lady Lane	
11/12/2024	267	1	0%	36	30	14:30	15:30	Broadbush	
13/12/2024	113	13	12%	43	30	14:30	15:30	Minerva Heights	
06/01/2025	44	5	11%	45	30	14:30	15:30	Turnpike Road	
08/01/2025	215	4	2%	42	30	14:30	15:30	Minerva Heights	
09/01/2025	61	5	8%	37	30	10:00	10:30	Minerva Heights	
10/01/2025	386	4	1%	40	30	14:30	15:30	Lady Lane	
15/01/2025	253	6	2%	42	30	14:30	15:30	Broadbush	
16/01/2025	135	2	1%	39	30	10:00	10:30	Broadbush	

Parish Council Meetings – The next two months' Parish Council meetings will be on **Monday 3rd** and **Monday 17th February 2025**, at 19:30 in the Village Hall. If you want to come along, please let us know, details are on the Parish Council, notice boards, Website in the Blog section and on our Facebook page.

Ian Jankinson – ianjankinson@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk – **07702 684281**

Blunsdon Advent Windows 2024

Thank you to the 28 households who made a window display for Advent. It was lovely to see such a diverse array of windows and ideas. As always the weather wasn't always conducive to going out every night especially when storm Darragh hit, but we managed to see them all nonetheless. Thank you also to the social walking group who changed their timings to do a tour of the open windows on the 19th. We had a fabulous walk, with clear skies, and a little refreshment pitstop in Lower Village!

The event raised £80 for the Blunsdon Community Shop, and is held alternate years- so watch out for 2026!



Christmas Crafties

Wednesday December 4th 2024



We had another wonderful event this year. Thanks to everyone who attended, we hope you enjoyed yourselves and the event filled you with Christmas Spirit!

The event raised £718.12 for The Open Door Project





St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon
Connecting with God, each other
and our community

From the Rector's pen

Welcome to February, the shortest month. Why is this month the shortest and why does it change its length every four years? As someone what was born in February, I am always surprised at how quickly it passes. I blame the Roman king (not emperor) Numa Pompilius (you might like to look him up) who instigated the Roman Calendar and all sorts of other strange things.

As I thought about this season, what is good about it as we transition from Winter to Spring. From Valentines Day (14th Feb) to Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday (4th & 5th March) the historic Christian events marking the beginning of our Journey to Easter. I Googled Christian events near me and Google found something that both intrigued and appalled me. 'OH MY GOD ITS THE CHURCH' featuring "SexyJesusCansaveUrSoul" this turned out to be a Rave / nightclub in Bristol.

I am not going to go on a rant about modern culture, but I do suggest that we reflect as we journey towards Easter how do we keep our focus on what is good and wholesome. Are the things that build up our faith holding onto ancient traditions, or can we find something of God as we look to the future. Is there hope in our changing world? God is faithful and Just, he is not threatened by people who take his name in vain, but we need to continuously turn our eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his beauty and grace.

God Bless

Rev Phil Goodey

Blunsdon Baby and Toddler Group

We meet every Wednesday morning in St Leonards church from 10 to 11.30am, term time and holidays.

The group includes foster carers, parents and grandparents, so a good mixture and plenty of experience if you wish to pick people's brains!

We ask £1 per session to cover costs; this includes hot drinks and biscuits. There might be singing and craft sessions as well so come along and see who we are.



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St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon
Connecting with God, each other
and our community

Fundraising at St Leonard's Church – not for us but for others.

The church family at St Leonard's wants to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to our fundraising in 2024 for a variety of different causes. This might be the organisers or those who come along and spend their money. People in Blunsdon are very, very generous.

Some money is raised during services e.g. On Remembrance Sunday or the Carol Service.

Other monies are raised through a lot of hard work by members of the church, ably assisted by people who just want to help. There are many people in Blunsdon who help and support us without necessarily being an official member of the church. This is not us blowing our own trumpet. We are saying thank you to everyone for their efforts.

Christian Aid – Lent Lunches - £1,014 Jane Ockwell organises this, with various people taking responsibility for each week in Lent.

Open Gardens – the church played a small part in this and was the beneficiary as well as helping to raise funds for Twigs. £1,400 raised for both church and Twigs.

Christingle - £255 raised for the Children's Society

Remembrance Service- £106 raised for The Royal British Legion

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Barbara Carlson, along with Jane, organises this annually and raised £230 in 2024

Carol service – offertory given to Gloucester House and raised £230

Christmas Book and Craft Fair – Jane and Barbara and Josie, raised £256 for Women's Aid in Swindon.

Come In For Lunch:

Homemade Soup & bread

Tuesdays in Lent, noon-2pm

March 11th, 18th, 25th

April 1st, 8th

Venue: St Leonard's Church

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and/or bread, please contact
Jane:

jane_ockwell@hotmail_com

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Notes from the Editor

The magazine is run by volunteers from the village. All your ideas, comments and contributions will always be welcome.

Blunsdon Village Magazine is available to read online at Blunsdon Parish Council website: blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk

EDITOR: Please email all items for the magazine to blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com
Arlene tel. 01793 727306

ADVERTS: For advert enquiries please contact Penny on 01793 722073

Front Cover: Bodhi, a 2-year-old Border Collie enjoying the snow at The Rec

Your March Magazine will be delivered from: 28th Feb

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
March	19th Feb 2025
April	19th March 2025

THANK YOU

The family of **Ann Cox** would like to thank all who attended Ann's funeral service on 23rd December at St Leonard's Church especially everyone who sang in the choir, Reverend Phil Goody and Mrs Helen Griffiths who made everything go so smoothly. It was just what Ann wanted. We had her instructions!

John Mitchell and Elizabeth Jones.

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Tues	8.30am - 10.40am	8.45am - 12.15pm
Weds	4pm - 7.10pm	3pm - 7.15pm
Thurs	8.30am - 10.40am	8.45am - 12.15pm
Frid	8.30am - 10.40am	8.45am - 12.15pm



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

A Healthy New Year

All I want to do in the winter is be cosy. put on extra layers and go on winter walks and eat comforting foods. For me that means soups for lunch. I have one of those recipe books with a soup for each day of the year, but I still can't resist collecting more. This is one of my favourites because I am trying to eat more protein at meals and cut out snacks. This recipe using red lentils, has a good amount of protein per serving.

Spiced Lentil Soup (serves 6)

1 ½ tbsp olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
Pinch of ground cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg
1 tsp chilli flakes
3 garlic cloves, chopped
2 tsp ground cumin
350g dried red lentils
1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
2 bay leaves
Natural yoghurt and pumpkin seeds to garnish (optional)

1. Warm the oil in a large pan and cook the onion gently for 10-15mins until softened, not browned.
2. Add the spices and garlic and fry for 2 mins.
3. Add the lentils, tomatoes, bay leaves and 1.8 litres of water. Bring to the boil, then simmer until the lentils swell and soften – about 25mins.
4. When the lentils are tender and breaking down, season and take off the heat. Remove the bay leaves.
5. Spoon into bowls, swirl with yoghurt and sprinkle with pumpkin seeds.

TIP: I put a handful of red lentils in Bolognese sauce or cottage pie as it adds a plant-based protein and makes the meat go further.

For a really quick, easy yet rich and tasty soup try this soup.

Pea Soup (serves 4)

1 tbsp oil
1 onion chopped
750ml vegetable stock
450g frozen peas

1. Heat the oil in a large pan and softened the onion for 5 mins.
2. Stir in the stock, cover and cook for 5 mins.
3. Stir in the peas, bring back to a simmer and cook for a further 5 mins.
4. Blend the soup until smooth.

TIP: try adding some chopped mint or basil at the end or a swirl of cream.

Enjoy

The Chatterbox - Giving and Receiving

Welcome back! Christmas has been packed away for another year but I hope that you had a lovely time and your new year has got off to a good start. This little message is still Christmas-related, but I promise that after today, we can all move on. Please consider this a post-Christmas 'wash-up'.

As I get older, I find the act of giving has become far more meaningful than receiving and I enjoy shopping for presents and wrapping them up as nicely as I can. Sometimes, my choices aren't successful, and probably like all of you, I've also received gifts that have left me scratching my head.

However, with age also comes the art of being appreciative and grateful whilst quietly searching the wrapper for a gift receipt.

This year, after giving my son's partner an outfit in which I'd pictured her looking fabulous, she smiled gratefully and went to try it on. I was in the room directly below and I could clearly hear the conversation she was having with my son. "There's sparkly, and then there's THIS! I look like I'm wrapped up in foil." Yes, I'd got it wrong, but there was no issue, the gift receipt was enclosed, and she returned the offending article for something much less foil-like.

Being on the receiving end of gifts, especially handmade can also be a bit hit and miss. Many years ago, I received a handknitted, very lacey, pink jumper from my now-departed but much-missed mother-in-law. It was made with love, had taken a lot of time and effort with a complicated pattern but was also at least two sizes too small and let's just say that I've a sturdy frame. I mustered up all my enthusiasm for the lovely jumper and wore it for the rest of the day, trying to ignore the image I had in my head of two bright pink, lacy nuclear warheads and a large, upturned mixing bowl. It was never worn again but the fact that she had gone to all that trouble meant that I couldn't possibly disappoint her, and she was so pleased I liked it.

A few years ago, we gave my husband's stepmother a new jacket. That Christmas she had a cough and a cold and was convinced she wasn't going to make it through. She wanted us to return the jacket - even though it was 'the nicest one' she'd ever had - and said it would be a waste because she was going to die! In the end, we managed to persuade her to keep the jacket just in case her premonition was wrong, and I'm pleased to say that she's still wearing it today.

One family member gave us a snow shovel one year which is a very useful present. However, he'd also given us one for two previous Christmases, so we now had three. Maybe he was convinced the next ice-age was on its way. The same relative also re-gifted a tie to my husband that we'd given him several years previously. I'm okay with recycling presents if they're not to your liking, but you do need a good memory for this. Husband accepted it with good grace, however, as all gifts should be. Giving presents can be a bit of a risky guessing game but, as long as it's done with a kind heart and with no expectation of receiving anything in return, it's one of the warmest feelings in the world. Giving or receiving - both are a delight to experience. Just don't forget the gift receipt!

. FOOD FOR THOUGHT.
Outside Catering



Mobile fish & chip van will be at Blunt Rise, Blunsdon

Thursday 6th Feb and Thursday 20th Feb
Thursday 6th March and Thursday 20th March

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Book and Table Top Sale

St Leonards Church

10-12noon

Saturday 15th March

Now's the time for that post-Christmas clear out!

**Sell your unwanted or pre loved possessions. Good
quality items that can start a new life somewhere else.**

If you would like a table (limited space available)

Please contact: jane_ockwell@hotmail.com



First XI – 15th out of 18, Wiltshire Premier Division - Recent Results

Larkhall Athletic – drew 2 – 2

Kingsdown – lost 0 – 7

Pewsey Vale – lost 0 – 1

Kingsdown – won 3 – 2

Royal Wootton Bassett – drew 2 – 2

Park United – lost 1 – 9

Letcombe – lost 1 – 6

Reserves – 3rd out of 10, Swindon & District Premier League - Recent Results

Moredon, League Cup – won 7 – 0

Chiseldon – lost 1 – 7

Coleview – lost 2 - 3

Ramsbury – lost 2 – 3

Moredon – won 8 - 0

February fixtures, Kick Off 2.30 p.m. Saturday, unless stated

Date	First XI	Reserves
1 st	Larkhall Athletic (away), 3 p.m.	Old Town Athletic (home)
8th	Bemerton Heath Harlequins (away), 3 p.m.	Purton (away)
15th	Shrewton United (away), 2 p.m.	Shield & Dagger (home)
22nd	Salisbury (away), 2 p.m.	Chiseldon (home)
1 st March	Kintbury Rangers (away), 3 p.m.	Coleview (home)

Hopefully 2025 will bring better fortune for the first team, after a period of some heavy defeats, interspersed with the odd fighting win or draw, which places us in a relegation fight.

Meanwhile, the Ressies still have a chance of a Championship push if we can just do a Keegan and always score one more than the opposition. Despite the entertaining goal fest games, one nil wins, 90s Arsenal style, would do nicely.

Speaking of Arsenal, all connected with the Club wish former Blunny player and manager, John “Gooner” Collins, a full and speedy return to health and hopefully we will see him back on the touchline sharing his words of wisdom soon.

Come and support the Amber & Black at The Theatre of Trees, Sutton Park and beyond.



Reading with Wine

I hope you had lovely festive break with time for reading with wine!

This year, I'm going to share some favourite choices of mine as we go through but I'd also love to hear recommendations from you so if you discover a book you need to tell someone about or a wine worth discussing please get in touch- either on Instagram

@reading_with_wine or my email address is readingwithwine@yahoo.com

I set myself a Try January challenge in both books and drinks, and here are my thoughts as we move seamlessly into Feedback February! My first recommendation is a new release by Beth Duke called **Anywhen**. It is a fascinating dual timeline of a sci-fi future world set in the 2100's where people have a more bot like personality and a timehop back to Woodstock in 1969- the festival of music and free love. I learnt lots about science, AI, music, festival vibes and an element of pre-war life for young American men, it's both a fascinating read and one that is about all types of love and expression. I highly recommend this one if you have enjoyed The Gift or The Midnight Library.

My second recommendation is from Katie Piper; **a little bit of Faith**. The book is daily affirmations that gives you something to think about each day and her thoughts on them and it is genuinely like reading a letter from a friend. My favourite (so far) is 'If you can't change it, change the way you think about it.' This was a present from my Mum and I reread different sections as and when I need something to change my viewpoint, and I've gifted it to several others as it's such an uplifting book.

Many of you may have been doing Dry January so will be more likely to have more recommendations for me than the other way around. I've fully embraced Try January and have some alternative wine styles for you as part of Feedback February.

First up, WTF...it's a wine just not as we know it. Instead of grapes, the wine is made from fruit and specifically, berries. I have tried the strawberry, and raspberries version and warm version of the blackcurrant flavour. I enjoyed the raspberry as it was vibrant and invokes a taste of summer. The warm blackcurrant is good to warm us through on these chilly evenings. It arrives with spices for you to add so you can make it to your own liking. The wine comes in cans so really easy for walks (or the beach come summer!) and is produced right here in England- have a look at www.winethatsfruit.com

And to follow, for those amongst us with a sweet tooth, Chocolate Wine. I recommend the Rubis version, a deep rich red created from the decadent Spanish Tempranillo grapes with the additional essence of dark chocolate. It is a smooth wine that would obviously go well with any dessert but also makes a good contradictory flavour for a cheese board. You can buy direct from www.rubiswine.com

As always try as many new books as you like, but please drink responsibly.



Rotary Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SWINDON NORTH AND THAMESDOWN

The Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown was founded in 1966 – its original name was the Rotary Club of North Wiltshire. 59 years ago, its first meeting was at the **Blunsdon House Hotel**. It still meets there today.

What is Rotary? Rotary is one of the largest and most successful global membership and humanitarian service organisations in the world. It has 1.2 million members in over 200 countries. It all began in 1905 when it was founded by Paul Harris, a lawyer in Chicago, and it quickly spread across the USA and Europe. The first Rotary Club in Swindon was chartered in 1926; today there are 4 Rotary Clubs in the town.

What has Rotary done for Swindon? It has supported the Prospect Hospice ever since its formation in 1980 and it kicked off the £3m appeal for Prospect's new building in Wroughton in 1994. It contributed £1m towards the £3m Brighter Futures Appeal for the Radiotherapy Centre at the Great Western Hospital. It has organised 7 Poppy Balls at STEAM which have raised tens of thousands of Pounds for the Royal British Legion and other charities. And it has supported 100's of local charities.

All around the world Rotary promotes goodwill, understanding and fellowship. It bridges cultures and connects continents. No challenge is too big for Rotary. Rotary's global community mobilises rapidly in the wake of human and natural disasters in collaboration with its project partners. Rotary is fighting disease to build healthier and happier communities in developing countries.

Rotary's key humanitarian priority since 1985 has been to rid the world of polio. At that time there were over 1,000 cases a day paralysing and killing children in 125 countries. Thanks to Rotary's End Polio Now Campaign the number of cases today is down by 99.9%.

Rotary fulfils its purpose and achieves its goals thanks to the dedication of its members.

If Rotary interests you, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Club that meets in the Blunsdon House Hotel.

website: www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk

Email: rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com

Phone: 07710 228697 (Ken) or 07712 078942 (Chris)



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