

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

March 2025



Photo by Debra Richardson



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Is that spring in the air? That may be wishful thinking, but after making it through the cold, grey days of January and February, it feels nice to have a few things to look forward to. And we have lots going on in March and beyond...

Upcoming events

You may have spotted our new “Month View” Chalkboard Calendar in our café area showing all our regular and special events, but here are a few more dates for your diary:

- Pancakes will be available on pancake day (Tuesday 4 March) in support of St Leonard’s CE Academy PTA.
- Our next tea and talk will be on Tuesday 18th March @ 2.30pm – Bill King will share Blunsdon’s role in WW2.
- We’re also planning and prepping for Mother’s Day and Easter – make sure you’re following us on our social media as we’ll share more information there.
- Our next Wine Tasting event is on Wed 19th March – we have a few tickets available in the shop for £20 each if you’d like to join us with Grape & Grain.

A couple of reminders....The **Blunsdon Community Shop Monthly Draw** has been running for a couple of months now. We were able to award a first prize of £120 and a second prize of £60 in January! In case you need a reminder, you can 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.

The **Shareholder Loyalty Scheme** continues to prove popular too – 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!

We’ve been trialling ‘**Warm Lunch Wednesday’s**’, offering jacket potatoes in the café every Wednesday between 12.30-2.30. There are three toppings options; just cheese for £6, cheese & coleslaw for £6.50 and cheese & beans for £6.75. We’re eager to gauge the interest in this, so please do come along, try them and let us know your thoughts.

Late night openings We’re continuing to open late on a Thursday and Friday night until 7pm. If you’re nipping down for Fish and Chips from Food for Thought, why not pop into the café to enjoy them with a cuppa and maybe a little dessert for afters?

And finally...Thank you for supporting us by purchasing our Blunsdon tea towels. We’ve sold 150 to date, so have more on order and are adding a red version alongside the original blue. Have you bought yours?

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



Whether you believe that the first day of Spring is the 1st March or the 20th it will soon be here. Already our gardens are beginning to show signs of waking up from their Winter rest with the beautiful hellebores on show and crocus, muscari and daffodil buds beginning to raise their heads.

Soon to be followed by the wonderful Spring blossoms.

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 March 2025 in the small Village Hall.

Our speaker this month will be Nicola Hope whose talk is entitled Organic Gardening, Happy Plants, Happy Minds. Nicola is a regular visitor to the club and is an excellent speaker and holds the title of RHS Master of Horticulture. She is a consultant organic horticulturalist, planting focussed garden designer and writer.

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 for a small cost of £3, refundable if you later decide to become a member for the very reasonable cost of £15 per year. At each meeting there will be an interesting sociable evening with refreshments and an optional raffle.

Jenny 07949087317

Book and Table Top Sale

St Leonards Church

10-12noon

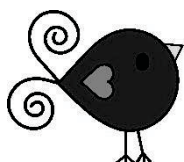
Saturday 15th March

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



It's Bean 10 years!- A Tribute to Mo Squires

Swing Birds Celebrate a Decade of Music

Join Swindon's only all-female big band for a live performance, in aid of the Prospect Hospice, at The Deanery CE Academy, Swindon on 27th April 2025.



The idea for Swing Birds was hatched in 2014 by local musician Mo Squires. Her intention, to bring together local musicians and fulfil her lifelong ambition of playing in an all-female lineup, inspired by bands such as Ivy Benson's.

What began as a "one-off" performance quickly gained popularity with both the band and audiences. Ten years later, Swing Birds are still together, boasting a loyal and enthusiastic following and having a fantastic time!

In June 2024, Mo sadly lost her battle with endometrial cancer. The Prospect Hospice were compassionate and supportive, and provided Mo with exceptional care during her final months at home, in hospital, and in her final hours at the hospice in Wroughton. Consequently, when Swing Birds decided to organize an annual birthday concert in her memory, choosing Prospect Hospice as this year's charity was an easy decision.

Hospices nationwide are facing significant financial challenges. Despite rising care demands and costs, government support has remained unchanged for over a decade, forcing tough daily decisions. Prospect Hospice have had to reduce in-patient beds at Wroughton from 12 to 6, impacting their ability to provide end-of-life care. Even with this reduction, they still face a £1 million shortfall in their annual budget.

Every member of Swing Birds has experienced Prospect's incredible assistance in one way or another, and they are immensely thankful for the care their Bird-in-Chief received. They appreciate the opportunity to give something back to Prospect Hospice.

On the night Swing Birds will revisit their favourite music from the past 10 years, including some of Mo's favourites. The music will span many genres: jazz, funk, pop, rock, blues, ballads, Latin and swing (occasionally all within the same song!). As well as tried and tested big band melodies, Swing Birds are delighted to feature exceptional arrangements by talented local musicians, with new pieces being premiered at this event.

Tickets: Available from **3rd February** for just **£12.50** each. Purchase online at <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stardustevents> or scan the QR code.

Venue: The Deanery CE Academy, Peglars Way, Swindon, SN1 7DA

Parking: Plenty of parking available, with fully accessible (flat access) front-row seats.

More Info: for more details leading up to the event, follow Swing Birds on Facebook

Swing Birds band members are giving their time free of charge, and all profits from this event will be donated to Prospect Hospice.



Whether you're a regular Bird Watcher or new to their sound, the evening promises something for everyone! Come along for an unforgettable evening of live music, delivered with the unique flair, elegance, and humour that only Swing Birds can offer!



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BLUNSDON WI

Big news for Blunsdon WI

New time and place for the Blunsdon WI meetings - now the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month at 7.30pm in the LARGE HALL at Blunsdon village hall.

First meeting at this new time will be Wednesday 19th March.

It will be "What happened after Henry VIII?" by the excellent and very entertaining Rev Dr Nick Henderson.

If you are now able to join our group at this new time please come along and give us a go.

Just give Anna a call to find out more 01793 706392 or to find out more visit our Blunsdon WI website (jackie707.wixsite.com)

Down Memory Lane

For all of you who enjoyed a special meal or night out on Valentines Day, in 1982 for the pricey sum £2 you could have been entertained at the Village Hall with a ploughman's supper and a dance!



VALENTINES DANCE
Fed up with the gloom and despondency? Where can you enjoy a good evening out for £2.00?
Come along to the Village Hall on Valentines Evening - Saturday February 14th; dance to the fabulous XL4; chat to your friends; enjoy a ploughmans supper; licensed bar provided.
Tickets £2.00. Ring 721582 or ask at Village Stores. Profits to Roughmoor Centre for contribution to International Year of Disabled People.

And if you have found your dancing shoes, how about this Barn Dance from 1983 at £2.50.

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What a bargain! Does anyone reading this remember attending?



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Parish Council News –March 2025

One more month of the tax year to go. Time for budgets and March winds, let's hope the winds don't bring snow.

We announced last month that we have added two new part-time staff to the Parish Team. The staff structure is now reset to deal with the growing Parish.

As part of that restructure, **Tracey Judd** our **Parish Clerk** has decided to retire at the end of this month. Tracey joined us just as the Parish, which included St Andrews at the time, was split into two with a government reorganisation. It was certainly a baptism of fire for her but she coped admirably with the changes and since 2016 has grown into an incredibly supportive and valuable member of staff. We will miss her guidance and common sense when councillors drift off the point. Thank you, Tracey, for your nine years helping to keep Blunsdon Parish running. Enjoy your retirement and certainly more golf!

Will Stone MP

At our last February meeting we invited the new Swindon North M.P., The Right Honourable Will Stone to come and answer questions and to ask for help in some areas.

Two of the key topics for which we have asked for his help are:

- The poor quality of the broadband signal in the Parish
- The increase of housing in the Parish but the poor state of the infrastructure to cope with it

He has vowed to look for help for us with the Broadband and will engage with the Highways to look at further ways to help us with the increasing traffic. We discussed the issue of the dangers of the road from the bottom of Blunsdon Hill to the 3 schools and the medical centre in Tadpole Garden Village and we will liaise through him with SB Cllr Chris Watts who is Cabinet Member for Highways to look for solutions.

Also, a reminder that there will be the regular **Borough Ward Councillors' surgery** at the Village Shop and Café on the first Saturday of the month, Saturday March 1st at 11:30 a.m.

Parish Precept

The Precept is a part of the Council Tax which you pay to the Parish each year in order that we can maintain open spaces, grass areas and verges, dog and waste bin emptying, tree maintenance, building maintenance, churchyard and cemetery, allotments etc etc.

The Parish is facing a difficult year ahead as Swindon Borough Council struggle with their budget to provide the services we have all been used to in years gone by.

You will notice that we have increased your Precept payment this year from around **£1.50** a week to **£1.92** a week for a **Band D** household. This is down to several reasons:

- During covid and later during the cost of living crisis we have kept any increases to the Precept as low as we could
- We will have to take on more of the services which the Borough are currently not doing during this year –

- e.g. Sams Lane hedge which we have paid £1200 to our contractor to cut back as it was dangerous and causing damage to residents' cars
- tree maintenance, where we have had to take action for safety reasons
- We have an ageing Grade II listed Village Hall which needs some detailed and costly maintenance and repair
- The Pavilion needs some investment to make it accessible and serviceable
- Contractor costs will increase significantly with the change to the National Insurance rates and will continue to rise

All of which we will explain in detail at the Annual Parish Assembly on Thursday May 1st.

Village Hall

We have had reported some instances where the entrance doors and fire doors have been left open and unsecured. If you are a user of the Village Hall, please make sure that all doors, internal and external are closed securely when you leave and the fire doors are only to be used in an emergency. Thank you.

You may have seen across social media, plans for an **Energy Park in Little Rose Lane, Lower Blunsdon**. There is **no planning application in place** for this with SBC and we await further news.

Planning Applications

S/25/0086 Erection of 2. No dwellings Land Adjacent to Happy Acre Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon SN25 5DL. **Parish Council have objected**

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.

Parish Council have objected

S/HOU/25/0099 Erection of a single storey side/rear extension. 93 Ermin Street Blunsdon SN26 8AA. **Parish Council supported**

S/HOU/25/0095 Erection of single storey rear extension, loft conversion with rear dormer and Juliette balcony. Claymore Broad Bush Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7DH. PC to consider

S/25/0122 Erection of 2 no. dwellings together with associated ancillary development. Land At Burytown Lane Blunsdon. PC to consider

S/TPO/25/0109 Works to trees within BOSTPO-27-2009. Holdcroft House Broadbush Blunsdon SN26

S/TWC/25/0199 | Large Yew Tree in the front garden of the property growing up the side of the neighbouring property. Streetside Application is for the removal of the tree | Longways Front Lane Blunsdon SN26 7BJ.

Planning Decisions

S/24/1297 | Erection of 1no. dwelling and associated works (Variation of Condition 15 - Plans from planning permission S/14/0950). | Land To the Rear of Orchard House Hunts Hill Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BN – Application Granted

S/TPO/25/0021 Works to trees within TPO 25 2009. Land At Hill Cottage Blunsdon Hill Blunsdon SN26 8BZ. - Application Granted

S/LDP/24/1401 Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for the erection of single storey rear extension. 1 Jupiter Close Blunsdon SN26 8AH. - Application Granted.

Parish Council Meetings –

The next months' Parish Council meetings will be on **Monday 3rd** and **Monday 24th March 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

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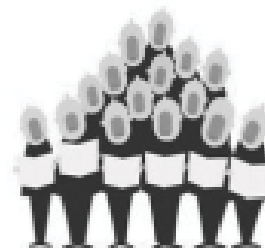
(CONDUCTOR: SIAN HAYNES)

St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon SN26 7DG

7.30pm March 22nd 2025
Admission free
Retiring collection in aid of church refurbishment
Refreshments available



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If you would like to make soup,
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: Snowdrops in the churchyard at St Leonards

Your April Magazine will be delivered from: 29th March

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
April	19th March 2025
May	16th April 2025

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Phone lines are open to book appointments from 8am Tues, Thurs and Frid and from 3pm on Mon and Weds. EMERGENCIES - Call NHS 111 (outside surgery hours)

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Mon	3.10pm - 4.40pm	3pm-6.15pm
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

Colin Shiner (12/10/1933-15/12/2024)

Beloved Husband to Margaret and the beloved father to Alison, Andrew, David and Jonathan.

An afternoon of music and memories celebrating the life of Colin Shiner at St Leonard's Church Blunsdon April 25th 2025 at 2.30 P.M.

Colin was chair of Blunsdon Parish Council from 1998-2004 and along with his council colleagues was responsible for many fine achievements and improvements to Blunsdon Village life. Not least the Millennium gardens at the bottom of Holdcroft Close and he was the driving force behind the eventual building of the Blunsdon bypass, spending numerous hours on the phone and writing letters to the incumbent Environment Minister of the day, until finally getting the go ahead.

We would like to invite anyone who knew Dad (in our 30 odd years of living in Blunsdon) to come and help us celebrate his life. And afterwards join us at the Blunsdon House Hotel.



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

Rich and spicy!

Looking back over the 50+ recipes I have posted there has not been a curry among them. Unusual as this is a favourite weekend meal for a lot of people. I often cook a chicken curry, a vegetable curry or for something special a Lamb Dhansak. But this recipe is for a deliciously different curry that my daughter introduced me to. It has a rich curry sauce and uses halloumi as the main ingredient. (Halloumi is known as 'squeaky cheese' in our house.)

Creamy Halloumi Curry (serves 6)

1 cauliflower
1 onion, sliced
500g halloumi
2 garlic cloves, grated
15g ginger, grated
1 tsp turmeric
2 tsp chilli powder
2 tsp garam masala
1 ½ tbsp. tomato puree
2 x tins plum tomatoes
1 x tin coconut milk

1. Chop the halloumi and cauliflower into bite-size pieces.
2. Heat a large pan with a splash of vegetable oil, add the onions and cook on med-high until they soften and begin to brown. Add the cubes of halloumi.
3. As the halloumi starts to brown add the ginger, turmeric, chilli powder and garam masala.
4. Mix everything together and stir through the cauliflower and tomato puree.
5. Pour in the tinned tomatoes and coconut milk. Simmer over a medium heat until the curry is nice and thick.
6. Serve the curry with rice or naan breads, sprinkled with freshly chopped coriander (optional).

TIP: I keep my ginger in the freezer and then just grate it frozen when needed. Don't worry about taking the skin off.

You could toss in some cubed sweet potatoes or potatoes to make it more hearty.

Enjoy



BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB

Only a couple of months until the start of the new Wiltshire Saturday League Cricket season, where Blunsdon will again compete in Division Six.

Anyone interested in playing cricket either regularly, or on odd occasions, would be more than welcome to come along to indoor net practice, which takes place every Tues from 7:30 to 8:30 throughout March at Cricklade Manor Sports Hall. Just contact cricket, rugby, speedway and modern pentathlon loving Guy on 07753 446614 for more information.



BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB

First XI Unfortunately, the first team have pulled out of the Wiltshire Senior League following their final fixture at Larkhall Athletic where they suffered a further defeat by 6 goals to one. Spiralling costs of running a village team at this level and trying to compete against big town clubs with far higher revenue streams and support have proved too much for the club to continue. This brings an end to one of the most successful periods in the clubs history, led by player/then manager, Iain Rosewell. Thank you Iain, for all your years of hard work in taking the club through the Cirencester Leagues, Swindon and District Leagues and into the top league in Wiltshire.



Reserves – 3rd out of 10, Swindon & District Premier League - Recent Results
 Poulton, Cup – drew 3 – 3, won 4 – 3 on pens
 Old Town Athletic – lost 0 – 1
 Purton – won 4 - 1

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

Date	Reserves	Venue
1 st	Coleview	Sutton Park
8th	Moredon	Moredon Sporting Hub
15th	Shield & Dagger, 2p.m.	Southbrook Rec
22nd & 29th	tbc	

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

The Chatterbox – A Treasure in our Village

Since coming to live in Blunsdon over 20 years ago, we've seen some major changes to the village and not all of these have been initially welcomed. Fields have been given over to houses, trees have been felled, big changes were made to the junction at The Cold Harbour and many had an anxious time before the plans for the deer field on Broadbush were rejected. These changes and applications for alterations occur in every village throughout the country, however, and those which cause consternation at first eventually and inevitably become part of the fabric of the locality and a time comes when villagers can't remember when they didn't exist. Change is inevitable.

One of the best, if not THE best change to our village, in my humble opinion, has been the building of the village shop and the café therein – Blunsdon Community Shop. I think this one facility has brought so much positivity and unity to the village which can't be underestimated. I'm a fairly regular customer of both the shop and the café and going there has the potential to brighten my day. Many things in life seem better after a cuppa and sharing a smile or a few words with a familiar face can lift a dark cloud. The staff are friendly, kind and make an excellent drink! The surroundings are light and fresh so that even if it's pouring down outside or that north wind is blowing, it's a warm hub from which to watch the world go by. The little flower arrangements on the tables are changed frequently and add a touch of rustic charm. I think it's a lovely, welcoming place to go. Oh, and did I mention the cakes? And doughnuts!

Sitting by my window early some mornings, I can see people coming back from the shop with their bags of bread, milk or a daily paper. Going to the shop may seem like a very ordinary and banal thing to do, but it can give us a reason to get out of the house for a while, breath in some fresh air, have a little exercise and get the blood pumping around our sometimes-stagnant bodies – well, mine anyway! Add to that the opportunity to have a chat and find company for people who would perhaps otherwise not see anyone all day, and it's an excellent addition to any village.

I also like the fact that the café has become a focal point and meeting place for many groups and organisations, such as the monthly Councillors' Surgery and local Neighbourhood Police whereby villagers can bring up issues and concerns with them. I've seen myself that these meetings are well attended, and it brings a personal touch and physical presence which I think is often more helpful than sending an email to a name on a page. In a world of technology, meeting face-to-face is still very valuable. It's also been good to see the venue is being used for interesting talks and presentations and organisations are using it for their meetings, including the Ridgeway Breast Care Support Group. Another great initiative has been the weekly work placement opportunities for students from Uplands to help them gain experience and confidence in being a part of a working environment. In addition to all of this, our Community Shop also supports local crafters and artisans. If you haven't been already, I'm sure you won't be disappointed when you visit. I might even see you there and did I mention the cakes and doughnuts?

Have a great month!

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Reading with Wine

Well, here we are again, this time for my March Mentions! I loved receiving some of your recommendations for Feedback February so please keep that up this month- as always, I'm on Instagram @reading_with_wine or email readingwithwine@yahoo.com

My first mention is Sara Cox, **Thrown**. I've always been a fan of hers and this book is a summary of why. She just seems to get people. The Inventor's Housing Estate is home to a variety of women and a mixed bag of partners too. Each character is so real that you feel that you know them as friends.

Becky, is taking her new start into her own hands- literally, by organising a new pottery class to start in the community centre. The class attracts the eye of Louise, Sheila and then by default, her new friend Jameela. All four characters from different walks of life, with their own secrets and worries. What I loved most about this book, is that it is a look at modern day life and those women were there for each other (wait for the trip into London to see what I mean!) The women all evolved as the book went on and I loved how that was celebrated beyond finding a new hobby. This all comes together in honest emotions but also with some cheeky comedy. I knew I was going to like Sheila and Jameela from the minute Jameela arrived to buy a treadmill from Sheila and they ended up opening two bottles of wine- say no more!

I paired it with a white Rioja- the Campo Viejo is widely available as well as some good supermarket ones, as a nod to the life Sheila dreams of starting in Spain. I chose the white over the traditional red as I think Thrown shows us to look at things from new perspectives where we can have a go at trying new things, you never know where it might lead. It still has all the flavours a Rioja should have, it's bold like Sheila, but with a surprisingly fresh twist of white flowers, something that would be welcome in Becky's world...try it and see for yourself.

My second pairing is hot off the press as I only finished it yesterday- thanks to a recommendation from one of you! **Home** by Harlan Coben is the story of two boys that go missing at six years old. Ten years later, there is a successful rescue of one of the boys...but is all as it seems? I can't give too much of the story away as it is full of twists and turns, where family ties and friendship are tested to the absolute limits. A wonderful writer that manages to blend real feelings and raw emotion with a dark world that many of us know nothing about.

This one has to be paired with a deep, dark red and I've gone for the Grand Vin De Pauillac- its rich and concentrated blend matches the depth of a cold but not forgotten case with the spice that Myron and Win need to show to get the results that they want. The flavours of berry, redcurrant and cedar give just the right amount of hint as to where it comes from which then matches where the story takes you (you need to read it to find out what that means!) You'll enjoy both from the start to the finish.

Until next time, read as much as you like but please drink responsibly.

ROTARY'S YOUNG MUSICIAN COMPETITION 2025 IS IN HIGHWORTH



Rotary Club of Swindon
North & Thamesdown

The Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown's Young Musician of the Year 2025 Competition is taking place in Highworth on Saturday 22nd March.

The competition is in two parts - a Junior Section for entrants aged up to 14 years and a Senior Section for those over 14. The young musicians have all been put forward by their school's music teachers. There is no entry fee, the Rotary Club covers all the overheads. The young performers will be judged by an accomplished adjudicator and every one of them will receive a certificate of achievement in recognition of reaching the level of accomplishment needed to enter the Rotary competition.

Members of the public are more than welcome to come and watch. There is no charge. You are assured of an afternoon of brilliant entertainment given by some very talented and promising youngsters, completely free of charge. The competition is in St Michael's Church, Highworth, starting at 1.p.m. Refreshments will be available during an interval.

For further information about the Competition, contact Rotarian Terry Williams on 01793 762669. And if Rotary in general interests you, please get in touch with the Club that meets at the Blunsdon House Hotel. website: www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk Email: rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com Phone: 07710 228697 (Ken)



[In the picture: the Junior Section in last year's competition]



The North Wiltshire branch RAeS meets at the Deanery C of E Academy Peglers Way Swindon SN1 7DA on the first Wednesday of the month at 1930hrs. Are you interested in the history, current and future of aviation? If science, engineering exploration or history interests to you why not come along. We welcome all ages from 14 upwards. We are proud to have many world leading experts talk to our branch and this coming season is no exception. Annual membership cost £20 (Free under 18). Why not come along to a lecture and see what we have to offer free of charge (1 lecture) a member of the committee would be pleased to tell you more about the branch. Our lecture program for 2025 is as follows-

March 5th. Prof. Mike Bagshaw Kings College, Heavy Breathing at the RAF institute of Aviation Medicine.

April 2nd. Ms Amy Labrum Director of Operations Apian. Drones and the NHS.

May 7th Mr Mark Jabbal. Principle Investigator WingPulse. WingPulse - Advancing active flow technologies for more efficient aircraft.

June 4th. Mr Grant Lewis Project Manager Lockheed Martin. Space in the UK

July 2nd. Mr Gianluca Maestri Senior Master Planner Heathrow. Future Heathrow Infrastructure.

Sept 3. Dr Johnathan Ayling. First Waltz-Building Blue Danube. Britains first Atomic Bomb

Oct 1. Mr Russel Porter. Head of Future Flight Engagement NATS. The Future of Flight over the UK

November 5th. Sqd. Ldr (Ret'd) Wally Epton British Business and General Aviation Representative. Corporate Flying.

December 3rd. Mr Nathan James. Chief of Aerostructures. Cranfield Aerospace Solutions. Project Fresson- Hydrogen and Aerospace.

Interested in coming along. Contact our membership secretary at Howard.chandler@raes-volunteer.org.

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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