

The background of the cover is a photograph of a rusty metal fence in a field. A cluster of raspberries, some red and some black, is hanging from a branch and resting on one of the fence rails. The sky is blue with some clouds.

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

October 2026

Photo by Debra Richardson



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Blunsdon Community Shop & Cafe

Welcome to our 2 new Weekend Assistants Lily-Mai and Clara, we are really pleased to welcome you to the Team!

We are pleased to share that following the continued success of our Golden Gatherings, we have agreed to host a **Golden Hour** every other Wednesday 2 pm till 3 pm in the café, so that our Golden Gathering residents can meet up weekly. Transport is provided for the official Golden Gatherings arranged by the Parish Council but anyone is welcome to join our Golden Hour in the Café. Please pop in and socialise with other residents, we'd be pleased to see you.



Café Price Increase from 1st October 2026

You may have noticed that we have not increased our café prices in the past year and we are pleased to confirm that we will **not** be increasing the price of our tea and coffee, but we will be increasing our hot chocolate and food e.g. cakes, to cover our increased wholesale prices. We have been able to retain our tea and coffee prices because of the popularity of our café and increased sales in the shop.

Please continue to shop local with us to support our future pricing.

Shareholder AGM – We had a positive 23rd Shareholder AGM on 2nd September. Our business continues to thrive but we need your continued support in shopping with us and supporting our Fundraising Events to ensure our future. Are you a shareholder? Shareholders receive quarterly business updates from our Chair and have an understanding of our goals for the coming year. Ask for a Shareholder Form the next time you are in the shop and qualify for your Shareholder Loyalty Card.

Dates for your diary - follow us on social media for up to date event news.

Thursday 1st Oct at 7 pm

Wine Tasting Tickets £20

Mon 26th Oct – 9.30 am

Books and Brews

Wed 7th and 21st Oct 3 pm

Golden Gatherings

Tues 10th Nov 2.30 pm

Bill King Tea & Talk - History of the Poppy. Tickets £6 and include refreshments

Sat 10th October 7.30 pm

Singalong Bingo at the Village Hall. Tickets £10

******Why not join Angela our Volunteer Lead at our Volunteer Open Events in October to understand what is involved in volunteering at Blunsdon Community Shop and Café Saturday 17th October at 11 am or Tuesday 20th October at 2 pm******

Shop opening times are: Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, Sat: 8 am – 5 pm, Fri 8 am – 5pm. Sundays: 8 am – 4 pm. Café closes 1 hour before the shop.

Blunsdon Village Quiz 2026

Friday 20th November Blunsdon Village Hall

7pm arrival for 7.30pm start

Do you know the capital of Kazakhstan?

Can you identify a 1980s one hit wonder?

Do you have a friend who insists they “would have got that” after every answer is revealed?

Then this is the night for you!

- **Teams up to Six**
- **Raffle prizes**
- **Bring your own drinks and snacks**
- **Friendly competition**
- **Unfriendly competitiveness by Round 8!**

Come and pit your knowledge against the finest minds in Blunsdon whilst raising some invaluable funds for St Leonard’s Church

£5 per person, £30 for a max team of 6. Cash only please.

Please complete and deliver the below form to: 4 The Ridge, Blunsdon SN26 7AD

Lead Contact

Email address

Phone number

Address

Team

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Number of participants_____

Money enclosed £_____



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Pre orders welcome by WhatsApp or text 07515 288414.**



Parish Council Update – October 2026

As autumn settles in and the village begins to glow with seasonal colour, October brings a mix of crisp mornings, cosy evenings, and plenty happening across Blunsdon. September saw residents supporting events, and keeping our community connected. Thank you to everyone who continues to give their time and energy.

October also includes half term from 22nd October, which means a week of Halloween decorations, costumes, and doorstep fun. Please remind children to be respectful of neighboring properties; if a house's lights are off, it usually means they are not taking part in trick-or-treating. A little awareness goes a long way to keep the evening enjoyable for everyone.

With darker evenings now upon us, please encourage children and adults to be more vigilant when crossing roads, walking through the village, or cycling. Good visibility and care help keep everyone safe.

As always, if you spot anything around the parish that needs attention; fly tipping, overgrown vegetation, graffiti, or damage, then please let us know at clerk@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk. Your reports help keep Blunsdon safe, tidy, and welcoming for all.

Planning Highlights

The parish council's role is to provide local knowledge, raise concerns or objections, and represent the views of the community. Its comments are only considered part of the decision-making process. Members of the public can view applications, read parish council comments, and submit their own feedback on the Swindon Borough Council website.

SBC Decision

GRANTED: S/HOU/26/0805/JP Proposal: Erection of detached garage.

Site Address: Eden Field, Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL

GRANTED - S/HOU/26/0758/HAPA Proposal: First floor extension over existing Playroom to create self-contained annexe.

Site Address: Portquin Lodge, Portquin Cottage Broad Bush Blunsdon Swindon

GRANTED - S/LDE/26/0727/BURGES First Schedule: Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing)

Occupation of dwelling in breach of the agricultural occupancy condition for a period in excess of ten years

Second Schedule: Happy Acre, Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL

NEW applications deposited from Swindon Borough Council for comment by BPC

S/HOU/26/0805 - Erection of detached garage. At: Eden Field, Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL Comments: BPC have no planning reason to object.

S/HOU/26/0917 - Erection of a detached timber garden workshop and storage building.

Site Address: Maple Tree Cottage, 17A Turnpike Road, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7EA.

Comments: BPC are unable to comment due to plans on SBC website being unreadable on 17/8/26

Speed watch Update

It is disappointing to report that we have recently had a few incidents where male youths have verbally attacked members of the Community Speed Watch team. In particular, two youths on bikes during the August holidays chose to use foul and intimidating language towards volunteers. Not only is this upsetting for those involved, but it is also concerning to think that these two youths are believed to be from the village. These incidents have been reported to the police, who will be reviewing them alongside other reports of similar behavior in the area.

May we take this moment to remind parents and carers of the importance of encouraging children to show respect to others, especially to adults who give up their time to help keep our village safe. Speed Watch volunteers are working to reduce speeding through Blunsdon — something that directly protects all road users, including children on bikes. A little respect and understanding goes a long way in keeping our community safe and welcoming for everyone.

Speed Enforcement Summary

A speed enforcement session was conducted on Tuesday 1st September 2026, between 12:15 and 12:40, at Ermin Street, Blunsdon. During this operation, 9 vehicles were recorded exceeding the posted 30 MPH speed limit. The highest recorded speed was 44 MPH.

Following initial checks:

- 7 drivers will be offered a Speed Awareness Course.
- 2 drivers will receive a £100 fine and 3 penalty points.
- 0 drivers met the threshold for a court summons.

Further administrative processes are now underway to ensure appropriate outcomes for each offender. This includes checks for MOT compliance, valid insurance, and whether any individuals are totting up points. Captured footage will also be reviewed for additional offences such as seatbelt non-compliance and mobile phone use. Information provided by the Speed Enforcement Office, Specialist Operations, Road Policing Unit.

Village Update

An extra reminder: Please avoid parking on the grass verges around the parish. It reduces visibility at junctions and can make the area unsafe for drivers and pedestrians. It also prevents our ground team from cutting the grass properly. Where parking causes a safety concern, residents may be contacted directly.

Allotment owners: Please note that only dogs on leads are allowed in the allotment areas, dogs are not allowed to roam freely, owners are to take responsibility for any dog waste. Maintenance work has been carried out at Minerva allotments in order to clear overgrown bushes that were impacting neighboring properties and effecting access. clearing of compost area which became a dumping ground at Hillside allotment is also taking place. A reminder that the car park at the MUGA can be used for overflow carparking on Match Days held at the Rec.

Dropped Kerbs – Important Reminder for Residents

Households must use the official Swindon Borough Council process to install a legal, authorised dropped kerb for vehicle access. Only properly constructed crossings are

permitted on the public highway. Plastic or rubber “temporary wedges” are not allowed. These can cause damage to kerbs, pavements, and drainage channels. SBC Highways may request removal, issue enforcement notices, or charge for repairs where unauthorised access has caused damage. We kindly request that any resident currently using a temporary wedge applies directly to Swindon Borough Council for an authorised vehicle crossing request for a dropped kerb.

Burytown Lane Cemetery – A Helpful Guide for Families

Small changes are going on in the cemetery as the parish council attend to tree maintenance and clearing paths; we are also in the process arranging a notice board to advise residents of public notices, changes and as a form of communication if needed. Looking after a loved one’s resting place is an important part of keeping Burytown Lane Cemetery peaceful and welcoming for everyone. Here is a simple reminder of what families are responsible for and how the Parish Council supports ongoing care.

Looking After Memorials

Families are kindly asked to:

- Keep memorials in good condition and arrange repairs if they become damaged or unstable.
- Look after any permitted small decorations placed at the memorial end of the grave.
- Make sure items do not cause hazards, block maintenance, or spread beyond the grave space.
- Remove faded flowers, broken ornaments, or anything that has deteriorated over time.

When the Council May Get in Touch

Sometimes the Council needs to contact families to arrange essential work. This may happen when:

- A memorial becomes unstable, damaged, or unsafe.
- Items need to be removed because they pose a hazard or do not meet regulations.
- Larger maintenance is required, such as levelling, removing edging, or clearing heavy planting.
- A grave becomes significantly overgrown.

To ensure families can be reached when needed, please keep the Parish Council updated with current contact information. If contact cannot be made, notices will be placed publicly, and actions may proceed in line with cemetery regulations.

Want to Know More?

The full Cemetery Regulations are available from Blunsdon Parish Council website. All interment rights and memorial permissions follow current and future regulations.

Meet Your Councillor / Staff Member

Meet Jo our new councilor.

How long have you been part of Blunsdon Parish Council? - Only 2 months! Why did you want to join the Parish Council? To really understand how to help the village thrive and spread awareness through our newer residents of the PCs work and where people can contribute and help

What do you enjoy most about the village? I love the village as the seasons change - I run and walk every day and it is the hedgerows and the views that change. It's such a pretty part of Wiltshire, and it feels separate and peaceful.

What is your Favorite spot in the village? The walk down Chapel Hill and down through Front Lane along the brook.

What are you currently working on or supporting within the parish? Communication about the Rivan plans.

Is there a fun fact or interesting skill you would like residents to know about? I love art and home decoration - I'm always flipping a piece of furniture or decorating a room or taking up a new arts hobby. It drives my husband mad, but he also loves our home and the things it's filled with!

Dates for Your Diary

Parish Council Meetings – The next two meetings for the Parish Council will be on:

Full Council Parish Meeting will be on Monday 5th October at 7.30 pm

Finance Parish Meeting will be on Monday 19th October at 7.30 pm

Ward Surgery will be on 3rd October 11:30am, at the Village Shop

Golden Gatherings on 7th and 21st October at 3pm, at the Village Shop

Did You Know?

October also marks a moment of local sporting pride. Just three years ago, Blunsdon helped celebrate 70 years of Swindon Speedway, with former riders, supporters, and residents gathering at Blunsdon House Hotel to honor the Robins' long history.

Golden Gatherings

Fancy a cuppa and chat?



Dates for October: Wednesday 7th & 21st from 3pm

Blunsdon Community Café

A warm welcome awaits you.

**Come along to meet fellow Blunsdon residents,
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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



BLUNSDON WI

The September meeting was all about chocolate with a demonstration and hopefully tastings which will definitely have proved very popular with our members.

There was also a trip to Oxford for a walking treasure trail where we got locked up in the prison for a cuppa and in true Morse style solved a murder. Some very tired feet by the end.

Our book club (now at capacity) will be reviewing Blackberry Wine by Joanne Harris in October. And film club will be reviewing the 1989 film "Steel Magnolias" to honour Dolly Parton.

Blunsdon WI meet in the large hall of Blunsdon Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm from September.

To find out about our WI call Anna on **01793 706392** or visit our website jackie707.wixsite.com



Save the Date!

Christmas Crafties



Wednesday December 2nd 2026

Where: Blunsdon Village Hall 7-10pm

Tickets: available from

Sunday 1st November at the Community Shop

Book early to avoid disappointment-mince pies,crafts, mulled wine and lots of fun guaranteed.

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From the Rector's Pen.....

October – A Season for Giving Thanks

I love the autumn, many years ago I had my colours done and I discovered that I favour the autumn colours. The evenings draw in, the leaves begin to change colour, and the familiar rhythm of the year seems to slow a little, but the church remains busy. After the brightness and holidays of summer, autumn invites us to pause, take stock and give thanks.

For Christians, this is especially true at Harvest time. Harvest reminds us that despite all our technology and independence, we remain wonderfully dependent upon one another and upon the natural world around us. Every meal we eat is the result of the work of countless people – farmers, growers, drivers, shopkeepers and many others. It is easy to take such things for granted, but Harvest gives us an opportunity to say simply: **thank you**.

Yet Harvest is also about sharing. We are conscious that even in a community as fortunate as Blunsdon, there are people who are struggling with rising costs, loneliness, uncertainty or simply the challenges that life can bring. The Christian response to God's generosity is not to keep it for ourselves, but to share what we have.

I am continually encouraged by the generosity I see locally. So much happens quietly: neighbours looking out for one another, volunteers giving their time, people supporting local organisations and charities, and individuals noticing when someone needs a little extra help. These acts of kindness may rarely make the headlines, but they are what make a community a community.

October also reminds us that change is a natural part of life. The trees let go of their leaves, trusting the seasons to come. Perhaps there is something for us to learn in that. Sometimes we need to let go of what has been, make space for what is new, and trust that God is with us through every season.

So, as autumn arrives, may we notice the beauty around us, give thanks for the blessings we so easily overlook, and look for opportunities to share them with others.

And if you pass St Michael's or St Leonard's this month, please remember that our churches are here for the whole community – for worship, for prayer, for quiet reflection, and simply as a place where you can find a welcome.

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, and 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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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. 07493 978388

ADVERTS: For advert enquiries please contact Penny on 01793 722073

Front Cover: Burytown Lane

Your November Magazine will be delivered from: 30th October

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
November	21st October

Golden Gatherings are 1 year old!

This month, Golden Gatherings are celebrating their 1st Anniversary, with participants and volunteers enjoying a celebratory cream tea in the Community Cafe on Wednesday, 21st October.

Over the last 12 months there has been plenty of laughter, good conversation and a variety of activities, including quizzes, board games and guest speakers, all washed down with numerous cups of tea & coffee and delicious cake.

A few of our participants take advantage of the community transport on offer and local resident, Clive, has been Dial-A-Ride's volunteer mini-bus driver since day 1. A team of volunteers, Angela, Geoff Jo, Jim, Judy, Karen and Liz have regularly turned out, always ensuring new participants feel welcome, creating quizzes and helping to run activities, ensuring everyone feels included. The Cafe staff and volunteers always support our participants, with their welcome smiles and by taking orders at the tables.

With 16-18 local residents regularly coming to the Cafe to participate in Golden Gatherings, we are a very welcoming group and are keen to encourage others to come and join us on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Community transport, made possible through a grant from the Prestbury Cottage Trust, can be reserved in advance and help ensure anyone with mobility challenges can join us too.

A recent Cafe development is that the Community Shop has introduced a Golden Hour on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm, when Golden Gatherings are not meeting, giving local residents, particularly older ones, another weekly opportunity to meet up and enjoy each others' company, as well as the Knit & Natter sessions on Thursday afternoons.

For further information about Golden Gatherings, contact Hazel Wakefield on 07974 150250 or via email, goldengatheringsblunsdon@gmail.com.



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

A bit different!

We love Mac & Cheese in our family and I have made it in various ways. Usually, I add a vegetable in it, perhaps in my mind it makes it healthier or less of a heavy meal. However, I was curious to find this 'healthy' recipe pop up as it contains more protein and fibre per serving. So, we tried it and it is a delicious recipe which for me was more filling, the unusual ingredient? Butter beans used instead of a béchamel sauce.

Creamy Butter Bean Mac & Cheese (serves 4)

300g macaroni
1 x 700g jar of butter beans
200ml semi-skimmed milk
2 garlic cloves
1 tsp Dijon mustard (I had run out so used wholegrain)
½ tsp smoked paprika
100g mature or extra-mature cheddar, grated
20g parmesan, finely grated
150g frozen peas
Squeeze lemon juice
Black pepper and salt if needed

Crispy topping:

40g panko breadcrumbs
15g parmesan, finely grated
1 tsp olive oil

1. Cook the macaroni in a pan of boiling water, until just al dente. Drain, reserving a mugful of pasta water.
2. Add the butter beans, milk, garlic, mustard and paprika to a blender and blitz until completely smooth and creamy.
3. Pour into a large saucepan and warm gently. Add the cheddar and 20g parmesan, stirring until melted.
4. Add a good splash of pasta water to loosen the sauce.
5. Add the cooked macaroni and the frozen peas, stir until well coated. Add more pasta water if needed then finish with a squeeze of lemon juice and plenty of black pepper. Taste, before adding salt.
6. Transfer to a baking dish. Mix the breadcrumbs, 15g parmesan and the olive oil and scatter over the top.
7. Grill for 3-5 mins until golden crisp and bubbling.

Enjoy



BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB

Blunsdon Foxes completed the season with an entertaining away win at Goatacre thanks to three wickets from **Arul “Mr Average”**

Ramasamy, three catches and a stumping from **Guy “The Gloverman” Thomas** and an unbeaten 60 runs from **Dean “Deano” Tomlin**.

The final match against Norton St Philip on August Bank Holiday weekend succumbed to some much needed rain, the first since June and this left Blunsdon in yet another mid-table finish of 5th (out of ten) in Wiltshire League Division 6.

A mostly enjoyable season, finely led by new skipper **Harry “Mystery” Roke**, with superb playing strips prepared by **Mitch “The Finisher” Dodson**, the team are heading off to the training camp in Svalbard to prepare for the indoor winter season of Ice Cricket at the Link centre.



BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB

Season Opening Results

Lambourn Sports won 3 – 0

Greenmeadow won 3 – 2 Wilts FA Cup Round One

A solid start to the new season for Blunsdon, which included a stern test in the cup against lower league Greenmeadow, with a fine performance from stand-in keeper Nick Craft, a brace of goals from Harry Portlock and a world class finish from two yards out by Jack Duckers.

Duckers is a great target man, holding up the ball, bringing team mates into play, upsetting the opposition and lethal inside the six-yard box. Much like Blunsdon’s 1990s legendary goal-poacher Kirk Wheeler, who had an 87% record of finishes inside the six-yard box and a 110% record of upsetting the opposition.

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

Date	Opponent	Venue
26th September	Marlborough Town	Sutton Park
3rd October, 2 pm	Bassett Bulldogs – FA Cup Rd 2	Sutton Park
10 th October	Purton Kingsdown	Kingsdown School
17th October	FC Abbey Meads	Sutton Park
31 st October	Great Western	New College

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Well, we find ourselves very much in a transition season; experiencing glorious late summer sunshine to downpours worthy of November so I've gone for cosy books with sunshine sections.

I'm starting with *The Secret Escape* from Sarah Morgan. Milly and Nicole were the very best of friends, until Nicole drops off the radar without any explanation. Coupled with the breakdown of her marriage, Milly is hurt and throws herself into being a brilliant Mum and running a fabulous business; all for Nicole to reappear in desperate need of her help. As much as Milly wants to slam the door, she loves her friend so welcomes her back in; to discover a tale of secrets and revelations.

It's a story of friendship, strong women and a brilliant generational theme too with four fantastic women, everyone needs a Connie in their corner, Zoe is proof that teenagers can be stronger than we think and Peggy, is quite simply a force to be reckoned with. There are also the beginnings of tentative new relationships which give us all hope as the evenings start to draw in just that little bit earlier. Whilst it is based in the Lake District and not our lovely Blunsdon, there are definite similarities in lovely landscapes to walk in; either alone or join the walking group on a Thursday morning.

I paired this one with a Maison Maillet, available online from Laithwaites. It's a Provence Rosé that is subtle and delicate enough to play the background role that Milly feels she plays and yet has the zest and citrus that gives Nicole her leading lady energy. And even better, it's the perfect pairing because it's produced by a fourth-generation wine estate; curl up under a blanket to get cosy but keep the memories of summer with this very special rosé and read.

My second choice this month is *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins-Reid. We follow Joan as she embarks on life as one of the first females to be invited into the NASA programme. She experiences so much progress in some ways, a giant step for womankind! But there are also moments where you realise life was not as progressive as we thought. I loved the team dynamics and watching how work relationships became genuine friendships. I also thought it was truly clever the way that her turbulent family life was woven through her training experiences.

I'm holding onto rose season with these pairings; I'm firmly in the rosé all year camp and have some brilliant cosy season examples to share with you. For this story, go for the Toro Loco Rosé these producers are well known for paving the way in viticulture, just like Joan for women in the space industry. It's vibrant in colour that will look glorious in both sunshine or by candlelight with flavours of cherry, raspberry and hints of citrus. It's slightly lower in alcohol content at 11.5% so a nice mid week treat and a bargain from Aldi too.

If you want to head into the darker reads, go for *Too Late* by Colleen Hoover or *Into the Fire* by G.D. Wright- whether you are holding on to summer or embracing the pumpkin spice; enjoy what you read but please drink responsibly.

Reading with Wine



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The Chatterbox – Please, Mr Postman

I come from the era that remembers when a postage stamp would cost only a matter of pennies rather than the £1.80 that it currently costs to send a letter first class. Receiving a letter was exciting – especially if it was handwritten. Over the years I've kept in touch with quite a few friends who moved away from the area, so I received a fair amount of post. I loved the whole process – buying some pretty writing paper from my favourite stationary shop, getting my fountain pen and ink out, 'chatting' on paper as if my friend was still in the room, then walking to the village post office to get a stamp, and sending that letter on its journey across the country or overseas. I still love both sending and receiving 'snail mail' – it continues to give me the same kind of buzz that an email or text message never will.

I met my husband-to-be before the time of emails. We met through a mutual acquaintance but lived over 200 miles from each other. Initially, we were simply friends and started writing to each other. But those letters became more important and longed for as the months went by. Sometimes I'd be so disappointed if the postman hadn't been by the time I left for work and then on the days that I did get a letter sometimes I didn't have time to read it before leaving to get to work, so I'd keep it in my pocket as if it were some sort of priceless treasure until I'd have a quiet moment to savour it. Those messages in the post were so eagerly awaited and could take the form of letters, cards or pictures. They also contained the occasional packet of wine gums – my favourite! I once sent a Sherbert Fountain back to him but unfortunately the container broke in the post so for those of you who remember them, you can probably imagine the mess when he opened the envelope and I suppose sending any white powder through the post isn't a great idea. Those letters, funny messages, promises and love that we sent in the post to each other almost made up for the lack of mid-week dates that you take for granted when your partner lives close.

I've no idea how many letters we sent to each other between first meeting and then eventually getting married, but they've languished in a case for decades now. And what on earth do you do with your old love letters? I couldn't bear to part with them but I don't really want them ending up in a bin either after our days.

Maybe one day we'll get them out of the case, read them once more and then have a ceremonial burning of them. I do know, however, that there's one letter in there that I could never part with – even his proposal came via the postman.

Thank goodness the post was a bit more reliable then! Enjoy your October, till next time.

NOTE WE WILL JUST MEET ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

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Members work together on projects that improve lives locally while also supporting international efforts to promote education, health, goodwill and peace.

Joining Rotary is also an opportunity for personal growth. Members develop leadership skills, build friendships, learn from engaging speakers, enjoy social events and become part of a worldwide network of more than a million people across over 200 countries. Whether helping at a community event, raising funds for a worthy cause, or sharing professional experience, every member has something valuable to contribute.

Rotary welcomes people who want to give back, make connections and have fun while making a real difference. You do not need any special background — just enthusiasm, integrity and a willingness to help.

If Rotary interests you, contact us for a chat and perhaps come as a guest to one of our meetings. Contact details above. Your journey towards transforming communities could begin right now.



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- Bell Ringing every Friday 6–7pm
- Communion Service 1st & 3rd Sunday 10am
- Morning Worship 2nd Sunday 10am
- Breakfast Church 4th Sunday 9am (with breakfast!)

Everyone welcome!





Wiltshire and Swindon



PCC Parish Column

One thing I hear time and again when I meet farmers, landowners and rural residents is the frustration caused by rural crime. Too often, people think of it as low-level offending or opportunistic theft. The reality is very different. Many of the offenders targeting our farms, businesses and rural communities are organised criminals. They travel across force boundaries, target valuable equipment and think nothing of the damage they leave behind.

As Police and Crime Commissioner, tackling rural crime remains one of my priorities. That is why I have invested £10,000 to provide around 280 forensic security marking kits for trailers used by farmers, landowners and rural businesses across the county. It is a practical step that will help deter thieves and improve the chances of stolen property being recovered.

Wiltshire Police is also working closely with the National Rural Crime Unit, neighbouring forces and partners through Operation Ragwort to identify offenders, disrupt criminal networks and protect our countryside.

But policing alone is not enough. Hare coursing is a good example. Some people see it as little more than trespass or antisocial behaviour. The reality is that those involved are often linked to organised criminal networks. Intelligence and enforcement activity has repeatedly highlighted connections between some rural offenders and other forms of serious criminality, including violence, drug offending, firearms offences and exploitation.

That is why I continue to challenge the wider criminal justice system to recognise rural crime for what it is. These are not victimless crimes and they should not be treated as lesser offences. When organised criminals target rural communities, the courts must recognise the wider harm they cause and ensure the punishment fits the crime. Our rural communities deserve nothing less.

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