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VILLAGE MAGAZINE



March 2024

Photo by Richard Walker



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SEASONED FIREWOOD



At the end of this month, it'll be the first anniversary of our new shop and café. It's been a delight to witness how our café has been embraced by so many local residents of all ages; grandparents giving grandchildren an end of the week treat, busy parents snatching a catch-up with friends over a cuppa, the knitters and natters meeting every Thursday etc. Our tasty sausage rolls have become 'famous' in the village and the Pippins doughnuts we stock are always popular on a Saturday. The café is now established as a place for locals to meet and socialise, as well as for others to bring their laptop and work or meet colleagues. However, with this fantastic development, comes a fresh set of challenges – how we resource it!

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 up the opportunity to be barista trained, while others help on the till, clear tables and generally support the café staff during peak periods. With lots going on in and around the café, we find ourselves in need of more volunteers. We're appealing for anyone who may already have café experience or may be interested in gaining barista training, to come forward and explore how they could contribute. Regular weekday slots are available, as well as ad-hoc or monthly volunteering opportunities, but we're looking for anyone who'd be willing to support as at the weekends, as these are our busiest times. If you're interested, please contact info@blunsdoncommunityshop.co.uk.



In other news... you may have seen we were presented with our King's Award last month. It was definitely not a normal Friday lunchtime when the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton, arrived and spent about an hour chatting with various groups of volunteers both old and new, our paid staff, students from the Uplands School, our Duke of Edinburgh students, regular customers and both our management and operations

committee. She then presented us with a crystal trophy and certificate which are now on display in the shop for everyone to see – in case you missed them, we've shared some pictures on our social media. Maggie Banda (Chair) and Karen Donovan (volunteer) will attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May.

Another exciting event in February was the launch of our new website, which you'll be able to find at: www.blunsdoncommunityshop.co.uk – it's split into four sections; home, our story volunteering and contact. We've tried to share as much information as possible, in a simple and easy to find format. We'll continue to keep the website update, particularly with upcoming events happening in the café. In March, we've got a tea and talk with Andy Binks, a local Swindon historian, our social walking group will continue on the second and fourth Thursday of the month and we've got knit and natter each Thursday afternoon. Do keep an eye on our website and social media as more events are planned as we'll share all the details there.

And finally, this month, just a quick reminder that personalised blocks are still available to buy. We're so close to selling the amount we need to get this new section down, so we'd love to see the last few go. They're priced at £40 each and you can have up to 16 characters over 2 lines – pop your orders in at the shop till. We think they'd make a great gift idea!

Normal Opening Hours Monday – Saturday: 8am – 5pm Sunday: 8am – 4pm
Café shuts an hour before close



BLUNSDON WI

Our February meeting is about Henry VIII's wives Catherine Howard & Catherine Parr - this third in a series of talks by Rev Dr Nicholas Henderson has been eagerly awaited by Blunsdon WI. Sorry no

synopsis - but I think you may know what happened to them both.

The speaker on the 19th March is Fiona Turnbull whose talk is Photography: General composition and hints on taking more interesting photos.

It's our annual meeting on the 16th April and there'll be an American supper after the business section.

In between the main meetings we have lots of other events planned that members can dip in and out of as they wish. These include trips to snowdrops at Welford Hall, the National needlework archive in Newbury, a guided tour of Highworth, a visit to a very local vineyard and of course theatre visits. Even a suggestion of a triathlon at Stanton Park (well ok it was really only meant to be a cycle ride). We are also taking King Charles wish from his coronation to heart and do regular good deed events to give back to the community, our next being a litter pick on 16th March.

The book club book coming up for discussion next is The Whalebone Theatre by Joanna Quinn which is well worth a read.

The National WI have launched a home hub making many talks and courses accessible from home via zoom. Most are free for all WI members. There is something there for most interests. <https://learninghub.thewi.org.uk>

Blunsdon WI is a busy active group that always welcomes new members. We meet the third Tuesday of the month in the Blunsdon Village small hall on the High St starting at 7.30pm For more information, please contact Anna on te:706392 or check out our website:

www.blunsdonwi.co.uk



Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association

With the confirmation of one or two items the programme for our organisation for 2024 is now complete. We will go on one holiday to Pembroke in June, we will go on 7 day-trips to various National Trust properties and we will meet together to hear from 6 speakers on a variety of subjects in a variety of places.

Additionally, we have identified some mornings when we meet simply to drink coffee and talk amongst ourselves. Anyone out there who wishes to join us will be most welcome to all of our events.

Various members of our committee organise these events but a starting point to make enquiries is our secretary Derrick Beer on 01793 762070. We would love to see you.

Calling all 14 - 18 year olds looking for adventure!

Athena ESU is your local explorer scout unit, meeting at Blunsdon Village Hall every Friday night. We're just about to begin another year of camping, hiking and scouting activities and we'd like you to come with us!

We're hot off the press from our trip to Switzerland last year, and in the early planning stages of our trip to Norway next year, there's plenty for everyone to be getting involved with and we're looking for young people who are interested in coming along.

So, if you're between the ages of 14 - 18 and you're looking to become more outdoorsy, meet some new people, or just to learn something new, just email ESUAthena@gmail.com and we'll let you know all the details of our next meeting!





Parish Council News – March 2024

Rachel Smith

Rachel has been associated with the Parish Council for 35 years, as Parish Clerk and most recently as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Rachel has been the friendly face of the PC and has served four Parish Chairmen and many Parish Councillors during her tenure. She has been a stalwart supporter of the Parish and Village and worked hard to keep the Parish safe and keep down costs across the board. She has made sure the Parish works effectively and has kept us volunteer Parish Cllrs in good order. In April she will be finally retiring and we can't thank her enough for her dedicated service over the years. We wish her well in her retirement and hope that she will enjoy time with her family and friends. Thank you Rachel.

We would like to welcome her replacement as RFO to the Parish. She is called **Debbie Braiden** and comes to us with a great deal of experience and knowledge of council and Parish operations and finance. She will work alongside Rachel to get to know how Blunsdon works and take over the role when Rachel fully retires. Welcome aboard Debbie.

Thank goodness, the boiler in the Village Hall is fixed and thankfully the weather has been milder than normal so its not been too disruptive. We must pass on our apologies for any inconvenience to our hirers. However, to ensure that the boiler can work most effectively and not fail as it did before, it requires an upgrade. This will cost a further £5,760, a bit of a shock to say the least.

Swindon Borough Council – Transfer of Services

Swindon Council, like many Councils across the country are struggling to make ends meet and are looking to transfer some of their responsibilities and costs to the 21 Parish Councils across Swindon. Because of the Council Tax cap, they are telling us that if these services aren't transferred with a financial buffer the Council will not be able to carry out their statutory duties. The Parishes have offered their help and are in negotiations and discussions with them about how this might be done. It appears that the plan is for the largest Parishes to take on these services and the financial support and that the smaller Parishes will call upon them to do their requirements. We will see how this might work over the next few weeks.

Dumped Litter Bags at High Street/Ermin Street

It appears that the phantom black bag dumper is a really helpful couple of residents. They have been doing a voluntary litter pick up and down Ermin Street and Blunsdon Hill and leaving the bags to be collected. Thank you, anonymous Wombles, for your kind and thoughtful work.

Hedges and Pavements

Thank you to those of you who have cut back your hedges and vegetation. We see some of you have still got work to do. There isn't much time before the 'nesting season' so please get it done. We have been working with the school and their groundsmen to ensure that their trees in the school's 'Wild Area' don't overhang the Recreation Ground and interfere with the football.

We have commissioned the first bit of work along Ermin Street and Blunsdon Hill to create a new, safer and more effective hedge line. This is in preparation for the planting of more significant trees and spring wildflower beds along its length. So, apologies if we have to close parts of the footpath as it is being done. It will look a bit messy for a year or so before we will see the improvement.

Planning Applications

S/HOU/24/0133 | Erection of a single storey rear extension. | Grove House Front Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BJ

Planning Decisions

S/HOU/23/0738 Erection of a detached ancillary outbuilding to provide a garage and home office and associated works. Combe Rise Broad Bush Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7DH. Status:

Application Granted

S/21/0900 | Erection of children's residential care home (Use class C2). | Ringstones 1 Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL. Status: **Application Withdrawn**

Speedwatch and Police Monitoring

Here are the most recent Speedwatch figures from our dedicated Speedwatch team and where their stats demonstrate there is a 'hot spot' we can see that the Police are following up and taking 'instant' action with offenders on the spot. So, watch out and think road safety please. If you want to help our team, please just let us know. Thank you – there is full training and support.

Date	Location	Vehicles	Speeding	%	Maximum	Speed Limit	Start	Finish		
12/12/2023	Turnpike	40	12	30%	46	30	14:25	14:55	Layby Opp No 16	
20/11/2023	High Street	204	38	19%	33	20	15:25	16:25	Heart in Hand	
29/01/2024	High Street	134	23	17%	29	20	15:30	16:30	Heart in Hand	
15/12/2023	Ermin St	131	14	11%	47	30	13:30	14:30	Minerva Heights	
21/11/2023	High Street	144	13	9%	32	20	15:25	16:10	Heart in Hand	
28/11/2023	High Street	107	9	8%	29	20	15:30	16:00	Heart in Hand	
16/01/2024	Ermin St	144	6	4%	40	30	08:30	09:00	Minerva Heights	
23/11/2023	Broadbush	309	10	3%	45	30	07:55	08:55	The Shrubbery	
15/01/2024	Broadbush	250	8	3%	40	30	14:30	15:30	The Shrubbery	
13/01/2024	Tadpole Lane	223	7	3%	40	30	13:15	14:15	telephone Box	
31/01/2024	Ermin St	395	10	3%	40	30	15:30	16:30	Minerva Heights	
12/01/2024	Ermin St	218	5	2%	44	30	14:30	15:30	Minerva Heights	
06/01/2024	Tadpole Lane	230	5	2%	39	30	13:00	14:00	Telephone Box	
19/01/2024	Turnpike	51	1	2%	40	30	14:30	15:30	Opp Fied Gate Entanc	
02/02/2024	Lady Lane	407	7	2%	48	30	15:00	16:00	Cycle Track	
24/11/2023	Lady Lane	352	4	1%	39	30	15:00	16:00	Layby	
27/01/2024	Tadpole Lane	180	1	1%	37	30	09:00	10:00	Telephone Box	

From Wiltshire Police...

Speed enforcement session on January 16th at Ermin Street Junction Minerva Heights and **5 vehicles** were issued with notices of intended prosecution for excessive speeding.

The roads monitored are 30 MPH and the fastest vehicle was captured at **58 MPH**

Depending on previous convictions and history,

3 drivers will be offered a speed awareness course,

1 driver will be given £100 fine and receive 3 penalty points.

1 Driver will be summoned to court.

Speed enforcement session carried out Feb 7th during Project Zero at Minerva Junction and **3 vehicles** have been issued with notices of intended prosecution for excessive speeding.

The roads monitored are 30 MPH and the fastest vehicle was captured at **46 MPH**

Depending on previous convictions and history

2 Drivers will be offered a speed awareness course.

1 Drivers will face £100 fine and get 3 Points.

Proceedings will now be undertaken to ensure the most appropriate outcome for the offenders takes place, which includes checking for MOT, Insurance & Point Totters.

Captured footage will be analysed for other offences like seat belts and mobile phone use.

Parish Council Meetings – The next two Parish Council meetings will be on **Monday 4th** and **Monday 17th March 2024**, 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@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk – **07702 684281**



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**** Apologies for the misprint in the
previous Village Magazine... 2nd and
4th Thursdays, not 1st and 3rd! ****



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News from the Pews

St Leonard's Church Reordering: Update

Greetings from St Leonard's, our village church, where, increasingly, we will all find a warm welcome in a facility that is welcoming and equipped to meet the needs of the people – a central feature and function of village life as it has been down through the centuries. You will probably be aware of the proposed plans to develop the church to meet the needs of the current century – but of course without losing sight of the value of the heritage we have been blessed with in the eight centuries of the church's existence. There have been changes to the church's structure, fittings and equipment in many of those periods of time, and it is so important that any changes we make are both valuable and sympathetic.

It's now well over a year since initial planning began, and while there is still a long way to go, we have made some very significant steps on the journey. An encouraging start has been made on funding; architectural plans have been drawn up in detail, and a number of practical elements have been assessed – issues around ventilation, sympathetic internal secondary glazing, variations on heating systems and floor surfaces, kitchen design options – and we are very close to having our plans accepted by the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

This means that we are hoping to be in a position to see action on the ground later this year; no guesses at a completion date at this point, or for some time to come, in all likelihood – but we are on our way!

There are a number of current and possible future users of the church facility within our community who have expressed their support for the project – at last count around a dozen – it will be wonderful for the church to be available and properly equipped for as many different groups as possible; if you are aware of any groups that might like to use the space, do please let us know – contact any member of the PCC. We look forward to sharing progress as it happens; 'News from the Pews' in the village magazine will also contain further updates as and when.

Thanks to so much interest and support, we're getting there: please feel free to ask any time for further information – and watch this space!

Paul Medlock, St Leonard's PCC

March Services at St Leonard's

<u>Sunday 3rd March</u>	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>Holy Communion</u>
<u>Sunday 10th March</u>	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>
<u>Sunday 17th March</u>	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>Holy Communion</u>
<u>Sunday 24th March</u>	<u>9.00am</u>	<u>Palm Sunday Breakfast Church</u>
<u>Sunday 31st March</u>	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>Easter Day Holy Communion</u>

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FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community

The Resurrection of Jesus

It's not uncommon to have a main character in a film, novel or soap opera dying and coming back to life. In a world of zombie movies and cryonics (freezing a body with the hopes of future resurrection), coming back to life is not far from our imagination. In Chapter twenty of the gospel of John we hear the account of the resurrection of Jesus from two women visiting the tomb early in the morning. The miracle of the resurrection is one of the core doctrines of the Christian faith. But why does it matter that Jesus rose from the dead? And will we also be resurrected?

A poet writes:-

He goes before you.

Hammer and nails cannot contain the Lord of all life.

In his absence is his very presence.

by daily coming among us.

May we know you when we see you.

In many books and films, the protagonist dies and then comes back to life. Can you think of some examples? Neo in 'The Matrix', Gandalf in 'LOTR Two Towers', Aslan in 'the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' Harry Potter in 'the Deathly Hallows'

In thinking about Easter, we need to ask ourselves these questions - What is accomplished by his death, is it a great sacrifice or a great injustice. How does he live again? Is it a gift or a product of his own power?

I often reflect on how technology issues are often solved by a restart. Closing down the computer and then restarting it again. May be this can shed some light on God's plan of resurrection. A way for us to start again, a seed is buried in the ground and springs up to new life - reborn. So, we are offered new life as we surrender our lives to God, As he brings Jesus out of the tomb on Easter morning. He also brings us to new life. The mistakes and sins of the past are dead, and we have new life in and with Jesus.

Phil Goodey, Rector of Highworth and Broad Blunsdon.

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: Maggie Banda, Chair of Blunsdon Village Shop receiving the King's Award from HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton.

Your April Magazine will be delivered from: 29th March

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
April	20th March
May	17th April

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Frid	8.30am - 10.40am	8.45am - 12.15pm



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A Recipe from CookFoodFan

Christmas over and the shops start stacking up the Easter eggs! So, with Easter coming up I thought I would turn to a chocolate recipe. We all love the thought of chocolate Easter Eggs, in this instance eggs representing new life and rebirth, but we also need to be aware of our health versus too many treats. So, this recipe is a 'virtuous way to enjoy chocolate' as it contains 70% dark chocolate, nuts, seeds and oats.

Oaty, Nutty, Seedy, Fruity Chocolate Tiffin

75g jumbo oats
50g skinned, whole almonds, roughly chopped
50g pumpkin seeds
25g sunflower seeds
150g 70% dark chocolate, broken into chunks
50g coconut oil
100g raisins or chopped apricots
2x pieces preserved ginger, (no syrup) finely chopped

- Preheat the oven to 200°C/gas 6. Line a baking tin (about 20cm x 15cm) with baking paper.
- Spread the oats, almonds and seeds on a large baking tray and toast in the oven for about 8 mins, checking often, until the oats are crispy and the nuts are lightly browned. Tip onto a plate and allow to cool. (Turn the oven off.)
- Put the chocolate chunks and coconut oil in a bowl over a saucepan with water on a very low heat and melt gently. (You can also do this in a saucepan.)
- Just before the chocolate is fully melted, stir in the oats, nuts and seeds.
- Add the raisins or apricots and the ginger. Stir together.
- Spread the mixture evenly in the lined tin and leave in the fridge to set.
- Cut into squares when completely cold.

If you have children to entertain over Easter, make some cornflake nests with them.

Chocolate Nests

50g butter
100g chocolate (broken up)
3 tbsp golden syrup
100g cornflakes

- Melt the chocolate, butter and golden syrup (as above)
- Stir in the cornflakes and coat them.
- Put spoonfuls into cake cases, leaving a dent in the top (to look nest like).
- Put in the fridge to set, then add mini eggs in each nest.

Enjoy!

The Chatterbox The Homecoming Tree

Fairly close to where I grew up there is a large field next to a busy road. The field is one of many belonging to a farm. In the middle of this particular field, standing majestically, is a single, steadfast sycamore tree that was growing there long before I was born. This tree has a beautiful shape, its trunk is massive, and it has stood there proudly for decades. It was considered the favourite tree of my great-grandmother who was born in 1875, and I can easily understand why. It has weathered storms, droughts, gales and gives refuge to an assortment of farm animals in the blazing heat of summer. Locally, it's affectionately known as, 'The Homecoming Tree'. As people walk or drive past it on their journeys home, it's a familiar and comforting sight. A constant, living presence upon the landscape, the tree is as reassuring and dependable as the daily rising and setting of the sun and its beauty is present as it alters with each passing season. Even when bare, it still exudes a stark and dramatic silhouette against low winter sunsets and stands hauntingly beautiful when it's shrouded by the milky fog of bitter January mornings. It has given a huge amount of pleasure to the local people, artists and photographers for many, many years.

From an aesthetic perspective, trees are beautiful all year round – in the spring when they're covered with confetti-like blossom, in the summer when they provide fruit and leafy parasols for those needing respite from the sun and in autumn, they are dressed in cloaks made from the colours of precious metals. In winter they provide an ethereal, haunting beauty as nature takes a well-earned rest.

From an environmental aspect, they help combat pollution and climate change. They provide habitats and havens for wildlife, ensuring continuation of species. They cool our streets and cities. Their root systems protect against flooding and water pollution. From a mental health perspective, being amongst trees and nature helps maintain and improve our emotional wellbeing by providing quiet spaces to counteract the stresses, strains and sounds of modern life. So far, all positive.

Seeing a healthy tree cut down and removed can be heartbreaking and we can really lament its loss. However, as a living part of our landscape, trees don't always live in harmony with us. Aside from the constant quest for more housing, improved roads and transport, etc., where the countryside loses the fight, there are situations when trees have to be taken down. If the growth of a tree or its roots threatens the stability of nearby homes or other structures then they must be removed. If they become unsafe either due to storm damage or disease then, clearly, we need to put safety first. Additionally, trees are sometimes planted without adequate foresight, and they can become very tall, very quickly and their impact may not have been anticipated in terms of light and space. Overgrown trees can become serious bones of contention between neighbours so it's always a good idea to keep both trees and neighbourly relations as well-maintained and as healthy as possible!

Sadly, in Blunsdon we've recently witnessed the loss of quite a few mature trees but, hopefully, in years to come, the young saplings of today will become 'The Homecoming Trees' of tomorrow.

Have a good month, good people of Blunsdon.

Blunsdon Village Garden Club

February's guest speaker, Joff Elphick, gave us a virtual tour around the South Cotswolds and seemed to have a fairly encyclopaedic knowledge of plant names, including those which have recently been changed due to advances in plant genetics which are now attributing them to different species. I don't think it will catch on at village level! He actually did come across one incident of a crayfish on a lawn (unfortunately one of the invasive species) which he put in a friend's pond!



Thursday 14th March is the date of our next meeting and the guest speaker is Rebecca Brain (a proponent of the no-dig system) is giving us a second visit to talk about Wild Flowers in the Garden. It seems increasingly popular for folk to leave an area of garden devoted to rewilding if they have the space.

It promises to be entertaining so why don't you come along to the village hall on the 14th March, 7.30 pm and see for yourself. Entry cost is £3 per person. All are welcome.

Brenda Boyd 01793 725928

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BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB

First XI – sixth (out of 16) Wiltshire Premier Division

Recent Results

Royal Wootton Bassett – won 1 – 0

Larkhall Athletic – lost 1 – 2

Calne Town – lost 1 - 2

Blunny have been missing their goalscoring boots recently, but thankfully the goalkeeping gloves of our talented keeper Harrison Ellis have been golden, with some fantastic saves, including penalties, which have kept Blunsdon alive each game.

Harrison is arguably the best goalkeeper seen at Sutton Park since Keith Butler in the 80s & 90s. Butt could put off an opposition penalty taker with just a cheeky grin, where he would reveal a challenging lack of dentistry. Butt went on to play higher level Hellenic League Football for Supermarine and he was renowned for the dark, but useful art of not being in a rush, when his side were hanging on to a slender lead, upsetting many of the grumpy locals at away games.

Reserves – 2nd (out of 11) Swindon & District League One

Recent Results

Poulton – won 5 - 1

Abbey Meads – won 7 - 0

The Ressies have their sights set on the league title following comprehensive victories which keep them just a point behind leader Moredon with 3 games in hand.

March fixtures

Date	First XI - 3 pm	Reserves – 2.30 pm
2nd	Pewsey Vale (away)	Stratton Juniors (home)
9 th	Larkhall Athletic (away)	Lower Stratton (home)
16th		Drunken Masters (home)
23rd	Shrewton United (home)	Spectrum (away)

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

Reading with Wine



Hello! I hope the start to the new year has treated you well and you've discovered some new reads and good wines.

As mentioned last time, every month I'm going to go with a book and wine prompt. I thoroughly enjoyed *Sister Stardust* by Jane Green which was my choice for a new start. It's a journey through the 60's and I learnt a lot about the partying that went on. The book is largely set in Morocco before the characters return to a grey London and this got me thinking about this month's prompt. As any classic English person, I talk (moan) about the weather way too much; how wet it is, how cold it is, how much I dislike the wind! So, in honour of that I've gone for a weather theme this month. Any book that mentions weather in the title or includes a weather-based storyline. My recommendations would be *The Weather Girl* by Rachel Lynn Solomon. The story focuses on Ari and her career goals of being a successful weather girl but there's also a secondary depth of how she struggles daily with her mental health. In a nod to Valentines just passing there is also a warming element of an unexpected love story. I enjoyed it as it just goes to show that you can sometimes not know anything about what's going on in people's minds just because they often have a big smile on their face. There's some comedy, matchmaking, sports, religion, co-parenting and the sweetest girl in Elodie so it really packs a punch in covering all bases. I read it snuggled under a blanket listening to the wind and rain outside...and it suits that set up perfectly!

If you'd like something to suit the wind outside, try *The Fury* by Alex Michaelides. Author of the incredible *Silent Patient*, Alex is back with a thriller that is just as clever. Opening with the line 'Never open a book with the weather' it is the perfect prompt for this month. A modern Greek tragedy based on a Greek island, *Aura* and focuses on the vicious wind, named Fury and how it swirls the island into chaos, and in this case an unsolved murder. The group of 7 friends turn on each other at an alarming rate as the feeling that there must be more to the story than they initially think; and they are right. I won't say anymore as I don't want to give it away, but you'll be swept up in it for sure.

Other options could include the classics of *Gone with the Wind* or the nostalgic *Wind in the Willows*. On a child note, I also recommend *Storm Keepers Island* by Catherine Doyle; lots of twists and turns that young adventurers will love. *The Beach Street Bakery* by Jenny Colgan is set in a lighthouse so has lots of weather-based settings, which sounds cosy but also a bit chilly for me!

In terms of wine, I recommend *The Weather Man*; a fairtrade Sauvignon Blanc, available from the Co-Op for £7.75. Featuring a world on its label only serves to give you an indication of the journey of this wine. Hailing from South Africa and you can taste the sunny climates through lemon and pear. The tone is smoothed by an earthy depth giving a blend that is a swirling mix of weather climates. If you like white wine, this will be a fridge staple for you to stock up on. If you prefer a red, go for the Spanish 'Gathering Storm' an easy drinking red that gets its name from the thunderstorm that affect the soil in the La Mancha region. The key elements are red berries, which evokes a soft juicy flavour. And it's currently on offer in Majestic for £6.49 when you mix six bottles, so what's not to enjoy?

I hope that gives you something to think about this month, let's find the silver lining in all this bad weather; good books and wines! Let me know what you go for via Instagram [@reading_with_wine](https://www.instagram.com/reading_with_wine) or readingwithwine@yahoo.com As always, read as much as you like but please drink responsibly.

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Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd June 2024

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and Lucy **csturgess@btinternet.com** for the scarecrows.
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Don't forget to enter a Scarecrow too!

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Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 12-week consultation opens for proposed new Community Safety Plan

A 12-week consultation has been launched for Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority's proposed new Community Safety Plan.

The plan sets out the priorities and challenges for Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service from now until 2028, covering areas such as prevention, protection, response, governance and people.

Chief Fire Officer Ben Ansell said: "The plan details how we intend to continue working, but also what we intend to review and do differently to meet and reduce the risks we face as an organisation. Public sector finances are under extreme pressure, so it is vital that we look at all parts of the Service to ensure that we are working as efficiently and as effectively as possible."

The consultation runs from 9am on Friday 9 February until 9am on Friday 3 May. Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority will then consider the consultation responses and the final plan at its meeting in June.

CLlr Rebecca Knox, Chair of the Authority, said: "The Community Safety Plan is our 'roadmap' for the coming years, so the views of people from across our communities are essential. Whether you are a resident, a local business, a partner, a voluntary group or a charity, we would very much like to hear from you."

A copy of the draft plan, a summary video and details on how to give your views – including an online form – can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/draft-csp-2024-28-consultation

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