

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

October 2024



Photo by Debra Richardson



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SEASONED FIREWOOD



For many of us, September is associated with that back to school feeling and the change in seasons on the horizon. There's definitely an autumnal chill in the air first thing in the mornings, which means it's the perfect time to try our pumpkin spice syrup in your coffee. Flavoured syrup is an additional 55p, but you can save 10p by bringing your own reusable cup! We're also trialling a new children's lunch meal deal, for £5 you'll get a ham or cheese sandwich, a babybel, yogurt, piece of fruit and a drink.

Suggestion box

When we ran our customer engagement survey earlier this year, we got some fantastic feedback and have been able to make some changes based on your suggestions. But we don't want it to stop there! If you have any other requests or ideas, please pop them in the suggestion box in the cafe. We're an organisation run by the community, for the community, so, we're always interested to hear your thoughts. On that note, thank you for letting us know you'd like more vegan options – we've added a vegan sausage roll to our café menu, priced £1.85.

Upcoming events

As the colder months draw near, we'd like to remind everyone that we're a warm welcome space for anyone that needs it. Whether that's enjoying a hot cuppa and a treat in the café, joining our knitters and natters at their weekly Thursday meeting or coming along to an event we hold, everyone and anyone is very welcome.

With that in mind, our next tea and talk events will be:

- 'Let's explore carbon footprints' on Tuesday 8th October at 2.30pm with John Ranford
- Then on 19th November at 2.30pm, Stuart Armstrong will join us to talk about his role in the production of the BBC series Mammals

And finally...

We'd like to wish a very warm welcome to our new volunteers who are joining us in the shop and café, we hope you settle in quickly and enjoy your new roles supporting our community shop.

And a big thank you to the Swindon North & Thamesdown Rotary for their kind donation that's covered the cost of a new laptop for our shop manager, Laura. Your continued support is appreciated.

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

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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BLUNSDON WI July and August WI were busy on several outings. The July trip was a lovely trip to Cliveden

NT property including plenty of tea and cake and a guided tour of the ground floor of the house, now a very swanky hotel, learning all about the Dukes, Earls and the Astor family who have owned it and the visitors and scandal that the house has been host to. We also enjoyed wandering around the beautiful gardens, finding a tortoise fountain, a topiary-filled vegetable garden, and managing to not get lost in the maze! We finished the day buying a few plants & souvenirs in the shop. Our summer trip was to Blenheim Palace by coach which was equally enjoyable touring the house and splitting into groups for walking/strolling/sitting and admiring the grounds in the afternoon - some of us even got a virtually exclusive talk on Churchill's love letters. Again, tea and cake were consumed but the gift shop was a bit on the exclusive/pricy side so most gifts remained there.



The book being discussed at book club in September is 'The people on Platform 5' by Clare Pooley.

The recently formed film club reviewed "Mr Jones". We all discovered a part of Ukraine history we didn't know; all enjoyed James Norton's acting and would recommend this to others to watch.

Other activities over the summer have included a beautiful walk around Waterhay, a loud theatre trip to the Wyvern, an interesting trip to the Makers Cafe near Henley and a canal boat trip. We do try to cater for a range of interests and arrange lift shares between us. In October we have a short treasure trail around Purton and a visit to the health hydro lined up. The programme for the WI meetings for the rest of 2024 is as follows: -

October 15th	SOCIAL	Craft Evening
November 19th	Alan Holland	TWIGS: Therapeutic work in gardens in Swindon
December 10th	SOCIAL	Christmas meal

If you fancy coming along and trying a meeting we'd love to see you. It's a great way to meet other people from the village. Please contact Anna for more information on Tel 01793 706392

Parish Council News – October 2024

Hope all those children and young people moving on and starting new schools, colleges and Universities have settled in well. Not much to say this month – at the time of writing a large proportion of the PC were enjoying well-earned holidays.

Speedwatch

Our hardy volunteers are out regularly helping with road safety in the Parish. This has led to many prosecutions by local Police for those abusing the law. SEE BELOW They always need volunteers and provide training. Please contact me if you are interested in helping and I will arrange for someone to contact you.

Date	Location	Vehicles Counted	Exceeding limit	Max speed mph
19/08/2024	Ermin St	232	15	50
22/08/2024	Ermin St	63	3	39
23/08/2024	Lady Lane	408	13	41
28/08/2024	Broadbush	306	11	39
30/08/2024	Ermin St	192	6	39
02/09/2024	Lady Lane	72	1	37
11/09/2024	Broadbush	204	10	42
16/09/2024	High St	64	7	32

As you can see Ermin Street and Lady Lane are the worst hot-spots for speeding. As a result of their work, they again have been supported by Wiltshire Police who carried out speeding checks in Blunsdon.

Planning Applications

S/23/0683 - Erection of 1 no. detached property with associated landscaping works.

At: Land Adjacent to Littlecroft, Pontings Close Blunsdon Swindon

Revised Consultation. PC agreed to object

S/OUT/19/1267 - Outline application for the erection of up to 100 no. dwellings, open space, landscaping and associated works - Access not reserved. Land East of Sams Lane, Blunsdon

Revised Consultation. PC agreed to object

Planning Decisions

S/TPO/0808 - Works to trees within BOSTPO 1982 01 T1. 21 Beech Lea, Blunsdon, SN26 7DE
 Consent Granted

Transfer of Services from SBC to Parishes

We are no nearer reaching any agreement about how this might happen nor how much it might impact the Parish Precept, which is what you pay to the Parish Council to maintain the Parish. We are currently trying to get the Borough to actually do anything for us here in the Parish – we haven't had a road sweep in nearly 5 years, no work to verges and kerbs has been done for a similar period and the footpaths are now cracking with weeds growing through making them uneven and unsafe.

As no agreement has been forthcoming, The Swindon Local Councils Forum (includes Blunsdon PC) has voted to not accept any transfer from April 2025. Some of the larger parishes remain in negotiation with SBC.

Parish Council Meetings

The next two Parish Council meetings will be on Monday 7th and Monday 21st October 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



Blunsdon Village Garden Club

It seemed last week that winter was making an early appearance judging by the temperature drop but now, however, maybe it was only teasing us and is giving our garden vegetables and plants a brief final fling! No doubt things will

change again before you read this.

This month's meeting is on 10th October at 7.00 (please note earlier time for the AGM) before we welcome the guest speaker, Mandy Bradshaw. She is a Cotswold-based Gardening Journalist, also known as the "Chatty Gardener" and has combined her two interests of gardening and writing for the past 25 years. She will have cards for sale at the meeting (cash only). As always, we meet in the smaller Village Hall. If you are interested and have recently moved to Blunsdon, you will be made welcome should you decide to come along.

Brenda Boyd 01793 725928



**Social Walking from
Blunsdon Community Shop**



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and our community

From the Rector's desk

Autumn is a favourite season for me. I love the changing colours of countryside and the variety of harvest celebrations.

All over the world ceremonies are held to celebrate and give thanks for God's continued provision. Here in the UK people will gather in decorated Churches to sing traditional songs and hymns like "We plough the fields and scatter."

A plethora of traditions mark this season, Scottish people bake bread, In Africa many countries give thanks for rain after a drought and celebrate the Yam harvest, Polish people throw flowers into rivers and Asian countries celebrate the rice harvest.

The harvest season is well documented in the Bible, in particular the story of Joseph seven years of drought after seven years of plenty. Also, there is the festival of Sukkah where all meals are taken in the open air, remembering the journey of the Israelites to the promised land.

We struggle at the moment to find things to celebrate, in our war torn world. So let us take a break from the hurt and anguish, and remember God's good gifts to us. The first petition in the Lord's prayer is "Give us this day our daily bread" which God continues to bless us with even when we turn away from him. The thread that flows through all these harvest celebrations is our grateful thanks to God for providing us with bountiful harvests that help to sustain our lives. Long may these celebrations continue all over the world.

God Bless

Rev Phil Goodey



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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: Coffee time at Blunsdon Community Shop and Café

Your November Magazine will be delivered from: 25th October

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
November	16th October
Dec/Jan	20th November

Thank you

Helen Griffiths and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness following the death of Tony and for all the cards, flowers and gifts.

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



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

It's that time of the year when apples are in abundance, well my apple tree has many. Lots of stewed apple going in the freezer and jars of chutney made. But we haven't had a cake for ages so I thought I would make this indulgent treat. Think cinnamon bun flavour in an apple cake, sweet and irresistible. I shared it round the family for comments and they were all positive 10/10s, make it again please.

Cinnamon Apple Cake

Apple mix: 2 x apples, peeled and diced

45g granulated sugar (I used 25g to cut down on some sugar!)

1 tsp cinnamon

Cake Mix: 360g plain flour

200g granulated sugar

4 tsp baking powder

300ml milk

1 tsp vanilla

2 large eggs

110g unsalted butter, melted

Cinnamon swirl: 110g unsalted butter, melted

150g light brown sugar

2 tbsp cinnamon

Glaze: 200g icing sugar

40ml milk

1. Line a 8x10" baking tin and put oven on to 170C (gas mark 3).
2. In one bowl put the apple mix ingredients and stir until the apples are coated in the sugar and cinnamon. Leave to one side.
3. In another bowl put the cinnamon swirl ingredients and mix well to create a paste. Leave to one side.
4. In a larger bowl make the cake mix by adding the plain flour, sugar and baking powder. Add the milk, eggs and vanilla and mix until combined, slowly add in the melted butter and stir until smooth.
5. Add the apples to the cake mix and stir. Pour into your baking tin and smooth the top.
6. Stir your cinnamon paste, then put dollops all over the cake top and swirl it with a knife. (Don't mix it right in.)
7. Put in the oven for 40 - 45mins. Mix together the icing sugar and milk until smooth.
8. Remove from the oven, while the cake is still hot pour over the glaze. Leave in the tin to cool for at least 45mins and that's it.

Remember it's a treat cake.

Enjoy

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Books and Bygones St Leonard's Church

A nostalgic look at items from the past

10-4pm

Saturday 19th October

**Search through the Books, view the
Bygones (opportunity to buy).**



**Enjoy
Coffee
and
Cake**



Regular Book Sales are held every third Saturday

The Chatterbox A Change in the Weather

As the memories of summer (what summer?) are fading and the prospect of darker evenings, darker mornings and colder weather are on the horizon, I'm trying to think of all the things I love about this half of the year, rather than its negative aspects. So, here's a little list of them, written to the Sound of Music song, "My Favourite Things." Here we go, feel free to sing along with me.

Gold, red and copper and

Frost in the hedgerows.

Snug on the sofa in

My onesie and fur throw.

Mugs of hot chocolate –

So creamy and sweet.

Hats, scarves and mittens,

Thick socks on my feet.

Black, velvet, night sky

With the silver moon; shining.

Low, freezing fog

And the lone barn owl flying.

The smell of damp woodsmoke that fills the chilled air,

The trees around Blunsdon will all soon be bare.

Mulled wine season.

Guy Fawkes' treason.

Pumpkins selling fast!

Kicking up leaves in the woods and the parks.

Poor autumn is so miscast!

Wishing you a rich and warm autumn!

. FOOD FOR THOUGHT.
Outside Catering



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Thursday 3rd Oct and Thursday 17th October

Thursday 7th November and Thursday 21st November

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Save the Date!

Christmas Crafties



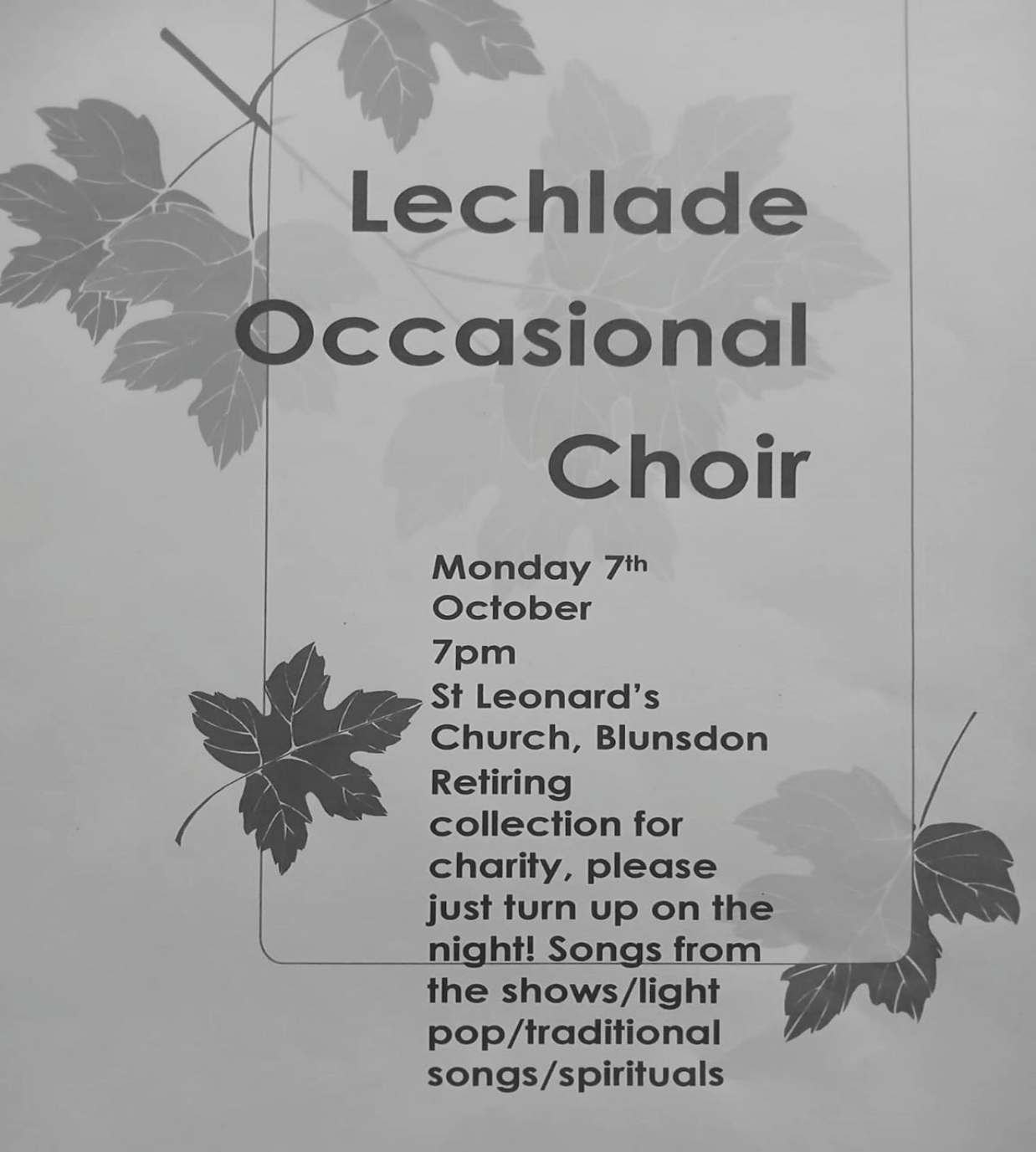
Wednesday December 4th 2024

Where : Blunsdon Village Hall 7-10pm

Tickets : available early November at the Community Shop

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

CORRECTION *** PLEASE NOTE REVISED START TIME OF CONCERT is 7.30pm *******



Lechlade Occasional Choir

**Monday 7th
October
7pm**

**St Leonard's
Church, Blunsdon
Retiring
collection for
charity, please
just turn up on the
night! Songs from
the shows/light
pop/traditional
songs/spirituals**

Join your local village Explorer Scout Unit!

Athena ESU is your local 14–18-year-old section of The Scout Association.

We do everything from hiking and camping, to supporting local charities and going on international trips and we're looking for more members to join us on our adventures.

We're into our 5th year of Scouting as a unit and we've had the opportunity to travel to Switzerland, hike some of the UK's highest peaks and have plenty more of this adventure coming up.



So, if you're finding yourself looking for something to do for a couple of hours on a Friday night, then email us at ESUAthena@gmail.com and we'll get you along to one of our meetings! <https://instagram.com/AthenaESU>

****Down Memory Lane

The Magazine Committee have been a bit busy over the past few weeks but hope to be back next month with some stories from old Blunsdon Magazines.



Reading with Wine

Hello and so the Autumn is upon us, we can begin to look forward to walks through the leaves and cosy reads under a blanket...and that is the theme for this month.

For the ultimate in Autumnal reads, I am recommending the Pumpkin Spice Café and Cinamon Bun Store as a duo. Last year, the Pumpkin Spice Café was the read to get your hands on and Laurie Gilmore is back this year with the follow up. They both stand well alone so you can read both, but you don't have to. If you are a fan of the Gilmore Girls and Stars Hollow, this will be right up your all-American sidewalk. A classic sunshine girl meets grumpy farmer but with all the autumnal details thrown in. Jeannie is left the Pumpkin Spice Café by her beloved Auntie and arrives full of fall cheer; will the seemingly unmoveable Logan be swept along like the leaves? There is an element of ongoing mystery which takes it a step above your average 'will they, won't they' storyline. This is then picked up in book Two where we return to Dream Harbour (yes, really) for a treasure hunt that has been set up for Hazel. She runs the bookstore next to the Pumpkin Spice Café and creates delicious cinnamon buns; I believe I could actually smell them! She is longing for a lovestory adventure of her own when she is thrown together with thrill seeker Noah. Can she be the grounding he needs to keep both his heart and feet in Dream Harbour? Both books are the epitome of snuggle in and read, perfect for this month's prompt.

If you want something cosy but also not, try the much talked about Thursday Murder Club from Richard Osman. A murder takes place, and an unlikely foursome take it upon themselves from the community room of their retirement care home. With Elizabeth at the helm, the group should be feared as they whittle down their suspects one by one, in a surprisingly meticulous manner! If you liked Famous Five as a child, this one is for you; it's like an adult version where the ginger beer has been swapped for wine at lunchtime! The book has already been adapted for Radio Four, if you prefer listening and the film is in production now so get ready to be able to compare it.

In terms of wine, for the cosiest vibes, it must be a mulled wine. However, you can be adventurous with new flavours popping out every year. I thorough enjoyed the Gingerbread Wine from Three Mills last year and would highly recommend that. I wonder when there will be a Pumpkin Spice Wine to follow the major coffee chains and their favourite flavour! Maybe you could mix up your own, let me know what flavours you try! I'm always available on Instagram @reading_with_wine

If it seems a tad early to be warming the Mulled Wine, try something from an oak barrel instead. An oak developed Chardonnay will bring out all the autumnal flavours of vanilla, caramel and spices. My recommendation is to take a trip to Arkells Brewery Shop for the Montes Classic Chardonnay- rich in body and a well-balanced acidity- it could be a summary of Elizabeth and the murder club! And whilst you are there, from the same producer pick up a bottle (or two) of the Classic Malbec Oak Aged Valle de Colchagua. It's a deeply oaked red, with notes of vanilla and warm toast that will invoke feelings of comfort and baking, perfect for the adventures of Dream Harbour- where everybody shops local, so give it a try! Enjoy your snuggled reading for as long as you like but please drink responsibly.

2024 Blunsdon Advent Windows



The last Blunsdon Advent Window Trail was in 2022 and there have been some informal requests for us to repeat it this year. Despite the rain and sometimes miserable weather, the event is a fun way to countdown to the festive period. We sometimes have more than one new window each night, and as far as I am personally concerned the more the merrier. It is lovely to see families out for a walk each evening to spot the latest Advent Windows turn on.

We need at least 24 households to volunteer to decorate and light up a window display which can be seen from the street. For each of the 24 days leading up to Christmas one or more households will turn on their display, just like opening an Advent calendar. Although the window display only has to be turned on for an allocated day, many households, once turned on, continue to switch on their display every night until Christmas. We ask that the switch on starts from 5pm, if possible, so that children can see them before they go to bed. Turn off (should you wish is around 9pm). The variety of ideas and displays in the past have been amazing as we obviously have some very creative folk in Blunsdon.

If I am to organise this event for this December, then I would welcome some help.

Please contact me at **drjudy_robbins_62@hotmail.com** or leave a text on **07962318087** if you would like to help organise the trail and/or if you would like to enter a window. I would need a **name, address and email address**. If you have a preferred “switch on” date or some dates that you cannot do - please also indicate this in your message so I can accommodate. An early indication of interest would be appreciated to give ample time to devise the route and produce the maps etc.

If you don't feel able to make a display you can still take part by buying a map and walking the trail. It is a lovely way to see the area, celebrate the festive season and our good fortune to live in the village of Blunsdon.

Judy Robbins



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BLUNSDON VILLAGE QUIZ 2024

Friday 8TH November @ 7:30pm

Blunsdon Village Hall

Doors open at 7:00pm

Form a team of up to 6, £5 per person

Make sure to enter early to secure your place

Bring your own drinks and snacks

Raffle on the night – bring cash

All proceeds to St Leonard's Church

Drop your application to 5 Pontings Close, SN26 7AH

Enclose £5 per team member, either cash or cheques payable to St Leonard's Church PCC

TEAM NAME..... No. in Team.....

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Visit our website at <https://probusclub.net/thamesdown/> or just 'google' Thamesdown Probud Club to see the dates and the titles of up-coming talks.

The annual membership fee is £55. Wives or partners of paid-up members of the Club are welcome to attend our meetings on payment of the door fee (£5 per meeting) which includes coffee, tea and biscuits. Expressions of interest in membership are most welcome; potential members may attend up to 2 meetings free of charge other than the £5 door fee.

On 3 occasions in the year, members gather after the meeting for a pay-as-you-go lunch in the Carrie's Bar of the hotel. On 3 further occasions, members' wives or partners are invited to join us for a Ladies' Lunch, again pay-as-you-go.
Interested?

You're welcome to just turn up at one of our meetings or you could contact our Secretary John Hudson through his e-mail johnhudson81@aol.com or his phone number 01793 762636.

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