

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

July 2024



Photo by Debra Richardson



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SEASONED FIREWOOD



Last month, from **Monday 3rd to Sunday 9th June, we celebrated Volunteers' Week 2024.**

Volunteers' Week highlights the amazing contributions volunteers make to communities across the UK. In honour of Volunteers' Week, here's a few words from our Volunteer Lead, **Hazel Wakefield**: "This Volunteers' Week we recognise the support from all the volunteers who give up their time for the Blunsdon Community Shop and Cafe throughout the year and thank them all for their contribution. Volunteering with the shop and cafe is very rewarding. It's a place where skill sets are transferable from the workspace, new friendships are forged and we have fun along the way!

With a focus and vision of 'Serving the Community', we have over 60 volunteers involved, the majority are customer-facing, others are involved behind the scenes, ensuring we are compliant with legal requirements, liaising with suppliers, creating social media posts, as well as a myriad of other tasks like media communications and creating management reports. There is also a management committee of 10 volunteers who are responsible for the financial health and longevity of our community asset. They meet monthly and collectively put in many extra hours developing the business. We offer opportunities for Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) volunteering placements, student work experience and regularly welcome Uplands School students for life skills' sessions".

Maggie Boshier has volunteered with us since March 2019 and is the grandmother of Gideon Hunt, our long-term young volunteer and soon to be DofE Gold volunteer as well as his sister, Imogen who has recently started doing her DofE Bronze volunteering with us.

Karen Donovan has been with us three years and was chosen by her peers as the volunteer to attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 21st May alongside our Chair, Maggie Banda. Karen works both in the cafe and shop and is an all-round model volunteer. We are sure most of you know **John and Linda Goodearl**, two members of our 21 Club, who have been supporting the shop since day one back in 2003!

Maggie Banda our Chair, at the KAV Presentation Event back in February stated that "Being awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service is massive recognition of what our organisation and in particular our volunteers both on the shop/café floor and in the Committee have contributed to our thriving community shop and café. All in all, we are an all-inclusive volunteering hub that believes everyone has something to offer and we aim to match skills with the roles available. With barista, first aid and food hygiene training on offer, we are always on the lookout for new volunteers who might have a few hours to spare on a regular or ad hoc basis. Please contact Hazel via

volunteering@blunsdoncommunityshop.co.uk or simply pop in and speak to us, we'd love to hear from you!

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theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

BLUNSDON WI

Twenty of us including a few spouses went on a thoroughly enjoyable and informative wine tasting trip to Poulton Hill Estate Vinyard – virtually on our doorstep. Would highly recommend a trip on one of their wine tasting tours to anybody who is interested.

The talk this month was by Kate Rowland of the Swindon Domestic Abuse Service that will be celebrating 50th anniversary later this year. A much needed service providing independent units for families to live independently and safely in Swindon.

The ultimate aim of the service is that one day it will no longer be required. In the meantime, they run a 24-hour helpline for anybody that may need it 01793 610610

There are no more meetings until September but in the meantime, there are several trips organised to Newbury, Buscot, Cliveden, Blenheim and Highworth.

For more information, please contact Anna on **Tel:706392** or check out our website **www.blunsdonwi.co.uk**



Parish Council News – July 2024

Has summer finally arrived? We're keeping our fingers crossed.

Parish Councillors are volunteers and all give up their time to help manage and organise what needs doing in the Parish. However, I must highlight the work regularly being done by especially two of our Parish Councillors, Jim Tayler and Martin Nash. Between them they have saved the Parish Council money by getting on and doing things that otherwise would not get done or would cost us more as we would have to pay someone to do these jobs. They are of massive value to the PC and the Village and we thank them for it.



Thank you to Paul and Jane Medlock for inviting us into their beautiful garden for the Lighting of the Beacon of Light and the Fireworks. Also thank you to St Leonard's Church for providing us with warming drinks and nibbles afterwards. The garden, the sunset and the community filling the Church made the event very enjoyable. Thank you for coming if you did attend.

Growing Concerns

Firstly, a massive thank you to Mr Wilkinson in the High Street, who has attacked the growth across the footpath at the top of High Street. We agreed at our June meeting to clear it down from Ermin Street to the turn for The Ridge because Swindon Borough Highways have not responded to many requests to get it done, so we are paying our contractor to do it. (the rest). He has also made safe the tree with dead branches in the Recreation Ground. We had a meeting last month with SBC about their statutory duties and levels of responsibility, especially for Highways, to try and resolve many issues that we have had to deal with where it was SBC responsibility. We await an improvement in service.

This is the month for thank yous and we wish to acknowledge the help and support given to the Parish Council by Blunsdon Resident William Whiteside, who has generously donated his time and resources to helping us keep the Parish looking as beautiful as it does.

Blunsdon Community Building Upgrade

In partnership with Blunsdon Community Shop we have agreed to add photo voltaic panels (solar) to the roof of the building. The Shop Committee have sourced a grant for the work and were successful in getting it thanks to Larry Banda for his hard work. So, work will begin during July to get the system in place. This will hopefully reduce the running costs of the building and thus the costs to the Community Shop.

Community Allotment

We are looking forward to the opening of the Community Allotment on High Street. The Blunsdon Pre School will be using the available raised beds in their Early Years development. A local resident has requested a memorial bench on the seating area which will be installed soon too. We can all sit and enjoy the wonderful view from the site in future. This has proved a lovely reclamation of a very overgrown and neglected piece of land, funded by the developer contributions from the new developments around the Village.

Planning Applications

S/HOU/24/0612 | Erection of first floor front extension, porch and conversion of garage into habitable space. | 23 Beech Lea Blunsdon SN26 7DE. The PC supported this application.

Planning Decisions

S/HOU/24/0394 Change of bedroom and garage to games room and gymnasium.

(retrospective) Eldswyn Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon SN25 5DL Status: **Application Granted**

S/23/0933 Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission S/22/1134/RACH - Erection of 1no. dwelling Land Adjacent To Eden Field Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon. **Application Finally Disposed Of**

S/23/0883 Erection of 16 No. dwellings (Use Class C3) and associated landscaping and infrastructure works comprising a partial replan of the residential development approved under S/21/1338/TB and S/OUT/17/1032/RA. Land At Hill Cottage Blunsdon Hill Blunsdon Status: **Application Granted**

S/HOU/24/0431 Erection of a two storey side extension. 31 Minerva Heights. Status: **Application Granted**

S/HOU/24/0418 Erection of single storey side extension. 15 Turnpike Road Blunsdon. Status: **Application Granted**

S/HOU/24/0133 Erection of a single storey rear extension. Grove House Front Lane Blunsdon. Status: **Application Granted**

S/23/1341 Erection of 3 no. dwellings. Land Adjacent To Happy Acre Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon. Status: **Application Refused**

S/COND/23/1005 Discharge of conditions 3 (External Facing Materials), 4 (Scheme of Landscaping) and 5 (Slab Levels) from previous permission S/HOU/20/0587 for the Re-location of previously approved annexe and changes to exterior cladding of main dwelling - amendment to previous permission S/HOU/18/0268. 1 The Copse Blunsdon. Status:

Application Granted

S/COND/22/1214 Discharge of conditions 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 19 and 20 from Outline Planning Permission S/OUT/19/0294 - Outline planning application for up to 43no. dwellings and associated works - Access not reserved. Land Off B4019, Broad Blunsdon. Status:

Application Refused

S/20/0906 Construction of 7no. car parking spaces. Blunsdon Recreation Ground Sutton Park Blunsdon. Status: **Application Finally Disposed Of**

Speedwatch Update

Wilts Police carried out a session on 18/06/2024 during the school run on Ermin Street at the junction with Minerva Heights and 4 vehicles were issued with notices of intended prosecution for excessive speeding.

The roads monitored are 30 MPH and the fastest vehicle was captured at 41 MPH Depending on previous convictions and history, all 4 drivers will be offered a speed awareness course.

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 1st** and **Monday 15th July 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

Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association



I am happy to report that Upper Thames & Ridgeway National Trust Association (or UTRNTA for our regular readers) is in good health. All our committee posts are filled and even the treasurer has been seen to smile. By the time you read this we will have had our annual holiday for 5 days in a hotel in Haverford West, Pembrokeshire. Not quite the

Costa del Sol but an interesting area to visit.

In the meantime, we were treated to a look at HEELIS which (we hope you know) is the head office of the NT and sited here in Swindon near the Steam Museum and the Designer Outlet shops. Working in an office is much different to my memory of my days of toil. Some of us had a look at Owlpen Manor in Gloucestershire; exhausting! and if you like them, we had a talk about Bats by a wild-life photographer at Lechlade Village Hall. After we have scraped the sun tan lotion off then the delights of Broughton Castle and Dorney Court and an open day at Coleshill await us. For further information, please contact Penny Hockley on 07758 398397



Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a ticket fraud awareness campaign, warning people to be alert to fraudsters trying to catch out people planning for popular and sold-out events. Last year more than 8,700 people reported they had been a victim ticket fraud, with a total of million lost. This works out to an average loss of £772 per victim.

How to protect yourself from ticket fraud:

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, the promoter, an official agent or a well-known and reputable ticket exchange site.
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.
- The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords. Use three random words to create a strong and memorable password, and [enable 2-step verification \(2SV\)](#).
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.
- Is the vendor a member of Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR)? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit star.org.uk/buy_safe.

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



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Holidays, Holy Days and Ember days.

When you are young, holidays, were always times you looked forward to. As parents, we also enjoyed spending time getting away from the hustle and bustle routines of daily living. For many years in the 1970's I used to go with my parents to the Sidmouth Folk Festival. To young people today, 50 years ago may seem to belong to ancient crinoline-wearing days. As remote to them as in the 1800s the Grand Tour was to all but the privileged sons of gentry who would swan off for to Europe for 'improving' cultural tours lasting up to three years.

Holidays – the word comes from medieval Holy Days where people were given time off work to attend church on important Holy Days such as Christmas, Easter, Whitsun and Ascension Breaks from work rarely existed for the common man and his family so these were very precious.

It wasn't until 1841 that a one-day excursion to a temperance meeting (from Leicester to Loughborough on a chartered train) was organised and sold at a shilling a head. This earned former Baptist preacher Thomas Cook the sobriquet of the inventor of the package tour.

Ember days are also days off but they were times reserved for fasting and prayer in many parts of the Christian Church. Ember day traditionally comprise the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following St Lucy's Day (13 December), the first Sunday in Lent, Pentecost (Whitsun), and Holy Cross Day (14 September), though other days might be observed locally.

From the first days of creation God ordained times of rest and relaxation. So let us not take our holiday's (Holy Days) for granted. Use them for spiritual refreshment as well as physical and mental renewal.

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: View from Churchway

Your August Magazine will be delivered from: 26th July

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
August	17th July
September	21st August

Thank You I'd just like to say an enormous thank you to all the scarecrow makers that have participated in the bumper trail. At the time of writing, we are on the eve of the OG weekend and I already know the hard work that has gone into it by many people making their wonderful scarecrows for all to enjoy. Over the last few weeks, they have either frightened us unexpectedly sat in the corner or become our companions that we will miss.

I do hope you have enjoyed the trail and thank you, Lucy S

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Frid	8.30am - 10.40am	8.45am - 12.15pm



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

Pudding Time

I have to confess that I don't make as many puddings as I used to, which is a shame because they always round off a delicious meal. Healthwise there's the sugar element, but they are a treat and the other day I made an old favourite Lemon Layer Pudding. It is one of those puddings that separate into two layers when cooked. The chemistry of cooking to create a saucy layer is also used in the recipe for a Chocolate Puddle Pudding.

Lemon Layer Pudding (serves 4)

Grated rind and juice of 1 lemon	2 eggs, separated
50g butter	50g self-raising flour
100g sugar	300ml (½pt) milk

1. Boil the kettle.
2. Add the lemon rind to the butter and sugar and beat together until the mixture is pale and fluffy.
3. Add the egg yolks and flour and beat well.
4. Stir in the milk and 2-3 tbsp lemon juice.
5. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold into the mixture.
6. Pour into a buttered ovenproof dish.
7. Stand in a shallow tin of hot water (to come halfway up the dish) and cook in the oven at 200°C/gas 6 for about 45mins, until the top is spongy to the touch. This pudding will separate into a custard layer with a sponge topping.

Chocolate Puddle Pudding (serves 4)

<u>For the sauce:</u>	2 tsbp cocoa	
	50g soft brown sugar	
	200ml hot water	
<u>For the sponge:</u>	80g soft butter	80g soft brown sugar
	65g self-raising flour	3 tsbp cocoa
	½ tsp baking powder	3 eggs

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas 4.
2. Make the sauce by putting the cocoa powder and sugar in a small bowl and using a wooden spoon add a little hot water to mix to a paste.
3. Gradually mix in the rest of the hot water.
4. Grease a 1 litre oven-proof dish and place on a baking tray.
5. Put all the sponge ingredients into a mixing bowl and beat together until smooth.
6. Scrape the sponge mixture into the dish, and pour the sauce over the top.
7. Place the dish (still on the baking tray) into the oven and bake for 15-20 mins until the pudding is well risen.

Delicious served with ice-cream. **Enjoy!**

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The Chatterbox X Marks the Spot

I had an appointment with my hairdresser recently – it was just after the date for the General Election was announced. “Will you be voting?” she asked me. I said I would and we had a fairly light conversation about the choices we have on offer, the policies and campaign styles. I don’t know if we have the same political leanings as we didn’t get that far before she said quietly, “I shouldn’t be talking to you about politics.” Apparently, there are certain subjects that are largely off-topic, even at the hairdressers; namely religion and politics. We did discuss the two forbidden topics and at the end of my appointment, we were still talking, hadn’t argued or been disrespectful to each other. All was well.

It may seem odd to continue to talk about a subject that can be so inflammatory, with the potential to offend, but I’m not going to tell you my political stance. I just want to talk about voting in general. It won’t take long, I promise, as I’m sure you’re already at least a bit fed up.

I really enjoy a good debate. I like hearing different opinions being expressed and I appreciate a coherent, well-balanced exchange of ideas. Sometimes a person will give a viewpoint that I’ve not considered before and I feel enlightened because of it. I often sit on the fence until I’ve heard all the information and then decide what direction to take. A discussion where facts are presented honestly, calmly and with sound reasoning is what I like best. Yes, people can be passionate about their cause but resorting to shouting, derogatory statements or talking over each other is beneficial to nobody, most importantly, the voter, who needs to see how this person is projecting themselves and if they appear fit for leadership in a world that sometimes seems only a few degrees off a melt-down. We need to be confident that they have the right temperament to speak on our country’s behalf on a world stage and won’t be veering off-course with their own agendas and ambitions.

As well as seeing what candidates have to offer us as voters, I also appreciate that by putting themselves on a public platform, they can make themselves targets. This really does concern me greatly, especially after the horrific murders of Jo Cox and David Amess, simply for doing their jobs. Regardless of apparent comedic personalities and maybe slapstick tactics, in efforts to appeal to the masses, these candidates are vulnerable to antisocial behaviour. When they conduct themselves with restraint and respectability, surely, they have the right to be treated similarly? We may not agree with their politics but that doesn’t mean we have any right to make them feel unsafe and threatened. I really don’t like seeing anyone pelted with missiles or milkshakes.

We should all lead by example whatever our role in society. Respect is something that should be prevalent at all levels of the voting process – between each political party, between the leaders of each party and, so importantly, the British public expect a leader to be respectful of them. We’re casting an important vote and we need to feel a leader is worthy of it.

I look forward to seeing you at the Polling Station on July 4th, 2024. Don’t forget your ID!

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Blunsdon Village Garden Club

Is it summer yet? In anticipation of more "normal" weather next month, there is no club meeting in the Village Hall on 11th July as we are hoping to organise a day trip to Bourton House Garden, Moreton-in-Marsh. Members will be updated about this as soon as possible.



Our trip in June to the Butterfly Farm, Cheltenham, was very informative and interesting, especially in the way that very diverse groups of people, a lot of whom have special needs, can pull together and make a difference to their lives given the chance and spaces to do so. Heartwarming in fact!

There will not be a meeting in August, and the next club evening is in the village hall on September 12th at 7.30 pm to hear a talk on the management of the parks by Ross Sheppard (Stanton Park Ranger). As ever, prospective new members are welcome to come and join us, even if just for the evening!

Brenda Boyd 01793 725928



BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB

Recent Results – 4th (out of ten) Wiltshire League Division 6

Bathford – won by 48 runs, with **Shaun “Dodderly” Dodson** tractoring a majestic 58 runs and 3 wickets from debutant **Ritesh Jaiswal**.

Shrivenham – lost by 52 runs, despite **Harish “The Windmill” Kumar** snaring three wickets and 90 runs from **Dave “Captain Botty” Bott**

Chippenham 4ths – won by 7 wickets, when finally, and deservedly, **Dave “Captain Botty” Bott** achieved the magic century with 132 not out. The Run Machine has an average of 207.

Goatacre 3^{rds} – lost by 97 runs, with **Danny “Country” Rhodes** capturing three billy goats from the School End and a fine effort from **Extras** second top scoring with 10.

Upcoming fixtures – Saturday. Play begins at 1 p.m. Home games at Sutton Park

29th June – home to Marlborough 3rds

6th July – away to Nationwide House, at the Muffin Me Arena

13th July – home to Swindon Titans

20th July – away to Swindon 4ths at Lydiard Millicent

27th July – home to Bathford

If you fancy playing for your village team, the club welcomes everyone.

Just contact Guy on 07753 446614, or come along and say hello at one of our games.



CREATE and CONNECT

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
10:00-11:30 AM

**Blunsdon Community Shop and Cafe
Unit 1 Blunt Rise
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From drawing and painting to knitting and crafting, this is a chance for adults of any ability to create in a social setting. Bring along your projects.

CREATE • CONNECT

Blunsdon U9 Amber FC



On Sat 15th June at Malmesbury Football Tournament the Under 9's Knockout tournament was held.

In a nail biting Semi Final after a 0-0 score at full time it went to penalties with the Blunsdon team winning 3-2 on penalties with Finn scoring the winning penalty.

In the final, Blunsdon U9 Amber FC had a convincing 3-0 win

against Wim11 Storm FC, the Blunsdon scorers were Zak, Oscar and Freddie E. Team members in the photo are: Kylo, Oscar, Freddie E, Freddie P, Zach, Finn, Alfie, Rory
Well done to the winners.

Down Memory Lane - from articles in 1979 and 1980 Blunsdon Village magazines ... (From April 1980)

There was also a very amusing first report of the newly formed Blunsdonaires, a Barber Shop sextet. The following is an extract from Colin Scott's report introducing readers to the group.....

"Stephen Nicholls, founder, chairman, Bass and purveyor of alcoholic beverages.

Gareth Cozens, Baritone can perform the musical miracle of picking up a sheet of music and singing in perfect pitch any note written thereon. He can also spot the duffer singing the wrong note and is therefore appointed Musical Director.

Peter Holmes, Tenor, wears tight trousers and excels himself on the high notes. He is also on Christian name terms with his Bank Manager and is therefore treasurer to the group.

Alan Glendenning and Mike Stephens, Leads sing the melody that the man in the street can recognise, and often does.

I'm the second best Bass singer in the group, and because I can do joined up writing, act as secretary.

*** The group recorded their music so there are probably copies available around the village still!



Reading with Wine

Hello and welcome to Summer...finally!

The weather didn't get the memo for the theme of weddings, but I hope you found some enjoyable reads and pleasant wine to match. However, the sun has finally come out to play...just in time for a summer of sport! This year is packed full of sport so there should be

something for everyone.

We have the Euros in football, which provides a full range of options from biographies to comedy. I particularly recommend Gareth Southgate's *Anything is Possible*; let's hope it means we can follow the lead of the Lionesses and bring it home. He writes about the highs and lows of football including that penalty but also about setting goals off the pitch too. If you have young fans in your house or to buy for, I highly recommend the Ultimate Heroes range of books. They cover a huge variety of footballers from legends like Pele and Messi to current golden boy, Bellingham and the Lionesses too, including my favourite Lucy Bronze. For anyone in football retirement, I suggest Peter Crouch, *Life After Football*; his hilarious nature translates well to his writing, and it won't fail to cheer you up.

Straight after the football, we have the Paris Olympics, and what variety that provides from the long marathon run to skate boarding, fencing to rowing and a whole host in between. I love the multi-events and as such am highly recommending Jessica Ennis-Hill and Katarina Johnson-Thomson books, both provide a real insight to behind the scenes and I'm always awed by the commitment these athletes show. Nial Wilson of Gymnastic fame shows this in his book, *My Story*. His openness about his mental health struggles makes for an emotional and yet, somehow uplifting read. These are the real role models we should be influenced by, he's also great to follow on Instagram (alongside my page of course!)

With Wimbledon about to start and cricket giving all the summer vibes, I've gone outdoors for my wine recommendations. I can't do a summer sport special without mentioning Pimms; it's a classic. Mix one part Pimms and two parts Lemonade then add Cucumber, Mint and Strawberries; make sure to chill before serving. If you want to elevate to impress, add a top of something sparkling; Love all round! If you want to make it official, Chapel Down Sparkling Wine is the official partner of English Cricket and one of my favourites too. Produced in Kent, it brings all the flavours of the English countryside and is perfect to raise a glass to sporting success.

I wish you a lovely summer, you don't have to love sport to enjoy these books but please let me know if you do...and of course both Pimms and English Sparkling Wine can work with sports but also stand perfectly well on picnics or in the garden for no reason at all... as always, please drink responsibly though.

Reading with Wine



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