

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

September 2024

Photo by Debra Richardson



Energise, restore and nurture
your body, mind and soul



We Love Locals

20% off

50 or 25 minute
treatments*

01793 720609

@ secrets@blunsdonhouse.co.uk

www.blunsdonhouse.co.uk

*Quote 'LOCAL' Terms and conditions apply.
Offer is valid Monday - Thursday

bf+ blunsdon
fitness+

if going to the gym is boring...

you're going to the wrong gym.

Blunsdon Fitness+ has a team of friendly, passionate and qualified staff whose mission is to make our members the centre of everything we do.

**20% Members discounts
on food & drink***

T. 01793 720640

blunsdonhouse.co.uk/blunsdonfitness

*Terms and conditions apply



From
**£59 PER
MONTH**

For
details



Grant Carpentry & Construction Ltd

We specialise in all construction.

- * loft conversions
- * garage conversions
- * new build houses and extensions
- * new construction and repairs/restorations
- * kitchen planning/install

We offer an end-to-end client experience that includes seamless communication, budgeting, staffing, on-site organisation, and solid, quality handywork every time

Please visit our webpage <https://grantcarpentry.com/>
or phone 07974 797849 / 07789 740405

One
stop shop
for all your
fireplace needs.

We specialise in installation of
woodburner stoves and flue liners.
Also offering Building work
including, hearth and
surround installations



The Woodburner Showroom

01793 435067

Pigeon House Lane, Stratton St Margaret
Swindon SN3 4QH

www.thewoodburnershowroom.co.uk

sales@thewoodburnershowroom.co.uk



Abacus Cleaning Services

A Professional
Carpet & Upholstery
Cleaning Company
you can count on!

ON SITE CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING.
CARPET AND FABRIC PROTECTION TREATMENTS.

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE CARPET AND
UPHOLSTERY CLEANING INDUSTRY.

LOCALLY BASED, PROVIDING PERSONAL AND
INDIVIDUAL SERVICE.

A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CARPET
CLEANERS ASSOCIATION
(MEMBER NO. 1399)

**Yours Carpets & Upholstery deserve the best
care possible**

To arrange a free, no obligation quotation
please ring:

SWINDON (01793) 421802

www.abacuscleaningservices.co.uk

Bond Builders Fencing & Patio Services

Fencing - Gates - Patios - Sheds

01793 824272 or 07725 979494

bondbuilders@yahoo.co.uk

facebook.com/BondBuilders



S Burnett Tree Surgery

✓ Insured ✓ Qualified

(01793) 264 851

07866 940 732

sbtreesurgery.co.uk

Tree Felling & Dismantling.
Pollarding & Removal.
Hedge Reduction & Trimming.
Stump Grinding. Site Clearance.

SEASONED FIREWOOD



Despite the holiday season, August was a busy month at the shop and café, and we completed a couple of big projects! Firstly, our solar panels are installed and already saving us money on our electrical costs. We couldn't have done this without the very generous grant from Crapper & Sons Ltd and the Blunsdon Parish Council. Our grant was made available through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) which is administered for Crapper & Sons Ltd by Community First, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire. Our solar panels were installed by RJC Renewables following a robust tender process. RJC Renewables delivered our panels in an impressive two days with minimum disruption to the shop and café. We're pleased to be able to offer a customer referral process with RJC Renewables. On the completion of any solar installation referred via the Blunsdon Community Shop, the shop will receive £100 Amazon vouchers, which we can use towards our sundry office purchases. If you're interested in getting a quote from RJC Renewables, please email chair@blunsdoncommunityshop.co.uk for a referral.

Thank you again to Community First Wiltshire and Crapper & Sons Ltd for your continued financial support for our shop and café.

You may have also seen on our social media (don't forget to give us a follow @blunsdoncommunityshop on Instagram and 'Blunsdon Community Shop' on Facebook) that the second phase of our personalised blocks have been laid – thank you so much to the Rapid Relied team who did the work. Hopefully some of you saw yours at our recent Summer Raffle prize draw and BBQ event! On that note, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone that supported our Summer Raffle and paid us a visit over the August bank holiday weekend. We raised over £2000 which we're using to purchase essential equipment. There's lots coming up too... we have our next Tea and Talk on Tuesday 3rd September at 2.30pm with Citizens Advice, where they'll give an overview of their organisation and explain the services they provide.

Our 2024 AGM will also be held on Tuesday 3rd September, for shareholders only. If you're not yet a shareholder, but are interested in becoming one, shares are £10 each and you can buy as many as you'd like – please pick up a form from the shop. As a shareholder, you'll not only be invited to our annual AGM, but you'll also receive regular newsletters containing important updates about the shop/ how it's running/ any changes we're planning to make. It's your last chance to grab your tickets for our next wine tasting event, which is taking place on Thursday 5th September. Tickets are £20 each and available to purchase in the shop. Each month we share our 'Wine of the Month' with shareholders benefiting from 5% off when you show your membership card – another perk of your support!

And finally, watch this space for upcoming seasonal treats landing in the shop and café – keep an eye on our social media where we'll keep you updated or just pop in and see us next time you're passing.

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



Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association

While you were lazing on foreign beaches National Trust was also on holiday. We went to Pembrokeshire and stayed at a hotel down the sort of narrow lanes Barnes coach drivers are taught to negotiate. This part of England beyond Wales had its share of places to entertain us. On another occasion 52 of us went to Dorney Manor

and ate at the Pineapple Pub on the way. It is rumoured that eating Pineapple Pub sandwiches is to be included in the 2028 Olympic Games!

On 6th August Coleshill was open to all and this really is worth a visit. If Germany had invaded the UK way back in the 1940's there were people at Coleshill who were training to make life for the invader as uncomfortable as possible regardless of the consequences. Move over James Bond.

On 14th August we had a picnic at Buscot House and on September 11th there is a trip to Waddeston Manor which is a 'must' for all those who wish to see how the other half live. Don't miss it.

On October 1st Margaret Andres will be at Highworth Community Centre to tell us about the 'Vault under the Church' and on 16th November we all gather at Cirencester Baptist Church to attend our AGM. We still need committee members please. For further information, please contact Penny Hockley on 07758 398397



**rwk
goodman**

Your personal life. Our specialist lawyers.

In life, change is inevitable. Whatever it is you're facing, our job is to deliver the best possible results for you.

Wills – Estate planning & inheritance tax – Loss of mental capacity – Need for long-term care – Property ownership structures – Lasting Powers of Attorney – Trusts – And more.

Free RWK Goodman information session coming to Blunsdon.



To register your interest, or to talk about how we can help you, call Paralegal (Graduate Solicitor Apprentice), Sophie Williams on **07826 054632** or email **sophie.williams@rwkgoodman.com** and quote **RWKGBLUNSDON**

For more info visit rwkgoodman.com



Parish Council News – September 2024

It's back to School time, all brushed and polished moving to a new nursery, pre-school, class, year, school, college or university. Good luck to all those children and young people moving on I hope you enjoy it as much as my dim memory says that I did.

Blunsdon Pre-School have agreed to take over the Community Allotment

Planning Applications

S/TPO/24/0808 | Works to trees within BOSTPO 198201 T1 21 Beech Lea Blunsdon

S/HOU/24/0797 Erection of a 2-storey side and single storey rear extension. 32 Malthouse Close

S/TWC/24/0969 Works to Tree Within Conservation Area. Holly Cottage 48 High Street

Planning Decisions (None during August)

Our apologies for the Planning department last month, they made a mistake with the following application:- S/TPO/24/0427 - Works to trees within BOS TPO 09-2010. Lyndale West Hill Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BQ. **Status: – it was refused, not granted.**

Community Shop and Café

Solar Panels are now fitted and working at the Community Shop and Café. We were amazed at the speed and efficiency with which it was done. Thank you to Community First and all the team at the shop for helping with acquiring the funding.

Parishes Working Together

Over the last few months Castle Eaton PC have been concerned about a Planning application for an extension to a local Anaerobic Digester Plant. Their concern is the increase in HGV traffic it will create into and out of the Village, and the developer, SBC Highways and National Highways are in discussions about what might be the suitable alternative route to the A419. However, they will not discuss this with the PC and a concern to Blunsdon is that they may take the route over farmland from Castle Eaton to the bottom of Blunsdon Hill, which would create even more chaos at the Turnpike Junction. Watch this space!

We have also joined forces with Haydon Wick, St Andrews and Highworth to consider the implications of the proposed restructure of the Turnpike/Lady Lane junctions with Thamesdown Drive. This is to present a report suggesting alternatives to the Highways plan for Kingsdown Development, including dualling of the link from Thamesdown Drive to the Bridge and bringing forward the construction of the bridge into Groundwell.

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. It is the **SBC Ward Councillors' Surgery** this weekend coming (**Saturday 7th September**) so please go along to the Village Café and ask them what they are going to do about this.

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	Speeding	%	Maximum	Speed Limit	Start	Finish	
22/07/2024	High St	104	15	14%	31	20	15:45	16:45	Heart in Hand
12/08/2024	Turnpike	58	5	9%	39	30	16:15	17:15	Layby Opp No 16
05/08/2024	High St	170	14	8%	35	20	16:30	17:30	Heart in Hand
02/08/2024	Ermin St	163	13	8%	45	30	08:00	09:00	Minerva Heights
26/07/2024	Broadbush	353	16	5%	48	30	16:00	17:00	The Shrubbery
09/08/2024	Lady Lane	471	16	3%	43	30	15:45	16:45	Cycle Path
18/07/2024	Broadbush	602	1	0%	44	30	16:00	17:00	The Shrubbery

As you can see High Street and Turnpike Road 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.

Hello Team Blunsdon!

I carried out a session on 19/08/2024 on Ermin St junction with Minerva Heights and **5 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 **40 MPH**. Depending on previous convictions and history **all 5 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. Our vehicles have recently been equipped with ANPR which monitors the area around enforcement and continuously searches for other offences e.g. cloned plates, stolen vehicles and provides intelligence to keep your area safe, denying criminals the use of the roads.

Scott Garcia 9990 Speed Enforcement Officer | Road Safety

Parish Council Meetings –

The next two Parish Council meetings will be on **Monday 9th** and **Monday 23rd September 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



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon
Connecting with God, each other
and our community

From the Rector's desk

Rev Goodey has requested the following article from Mims Schultze of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

A reflection on the recent violence

How did a Taylor Swift dance party tragedy in Southport degenerate into some members of ethnic minorities across the UK being too scared to leave their homes?

The news of rioting across the country has been hot in the headlines this last month. After the horrific stabbing of three young girls, thousands of men and women took to the streets. The targeting of hotels, homes, and businesses believed to be owned or occupied by asylum seekers and refugees is parasitic upon Southport's pain, opportunistically seeking to drive an anti-immigration agenda.

We've witnessed old and young threatening police, smashing windows, and setting streets alight, courtesy of this angry mob of destruction. All driven by fear and loathing of those who are perceived as 'other' – those the rioters believe do not belong. This resort to violence is so painfully wrong. What does it look like for us as Christians to support the bereaved and fight for justice?

Jesus, in his teachings in Mark 12:28–34, gives us a very clear commandment. In fact, it's one of the two greatest commandments, which is 'to love our neighbours as ourselves'. To love both the grieving families, friends of the young girls who died, and the marginalised who have consequentially got a target on their backs.

Immigration concerns and policy aside, the people we live alongside are our neighbours. Of course, we should engage in dialogue about the legality of and legislation around asylum seeking. But, when we are faced with the person in front of us, what should our first and ultimate response be? Jesus says it is to love – to unconditionally commit to work for their welfare.

We do not live anywhere near Southport or where these uprisings occurred. But our loving response doesn't have to directly impact the northwest coast. This isn't a wishy-washy posture or a virtue-signalling exercise; it's a radical ministry that feels awkward. It goes against our individualistic instincts and shapes the culture of our communities.

Love in action could be volunteering to sweep up debris, helping a couple translate the food store price labels (true story), or baking a cake for those in mourning. Perhaps even leaning in and listening to those who resonate with the rioting, for they are neighbours, too.

Whatever it is and wherever you are, Jesus said we should love our neighbours. How could you be loving yours?

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: Front Lane, Lower Village

Your October Magazine will be delivered from: 27th Sept

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
October	18th September
November	16th October

BLUNSDON SURGERY Tel 01793 721254

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

OPENING HOURS

Day	Doctor Times	Reception
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



CREATE and CONNECT

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

Blunsdon Community Shop and Cafe
Unit 1 Blunt Rise
Broad Blunsdon
SN26 7DA

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.



ART CAFE

CREATE • CONNECT



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

Using Up Sausages

One morning I looked in the freezer to find something for dinner and found some sausages from the butchers, oh that'll do with salad I thought. But really, I wanted something a bit tastier and remembered I had this recipe. As usual I had some of the ingredients but no avocado, red wine vinegar and only a few tomatoes. As is often the case I'd make do with some alternatives, I did it for 2 people and it is sooo delicious.

Sticky Sausage Salad (serves 4)

1tbsp olive oil
400g (6) sausages (I used Cumberland)
1 red onion, roughly chopped
1 heaped tbsp. wholegrain mustard
1 tbsp brown sugar
16 cherry tomatoes
2 little gem lettuces
1 large avocado
About ¼ cucumber
1 tbsp red vinegar (but I used balsamic)

1. Heat the oil in a sauté pan and cut the sausages into 4 dropping them straight into the pan.
2. Add the onion and fry for 2-3 minutes, stirring to brown everything.
3. Add the mustard and sugar mix it through then add the tomatoes and cook for a few minutes more. Stir a few times until the tomatoes are just beginning to split and the mixture is coated in the sweet mustard glaze.
4. Meanwhile separate the lettuce into leaves, peel and slice the avocado and slice the cucumber. Pile onto a plate or arrange around the edge.
5. Spoon the sausage mixture onto the plate.
6. Add the vinegar and 1 tbsp water into the sauté pan, stir and scrap off all the sticky bits in the pan (these are the tasty bits) and spoon over the salad.
7. This recipe is delicious serve with some crusty bread.

Tips: Little cocktail sausages cooked with mustard, honey and soy sauce are great as party food.

Wholegrain mustard and honey are also a great glaze for cooked carrots before serving.

Enjoy

Book sales at St Leonard's – 3rd Saturday of each month



Coming up We are excited to have a great run of forthcoming events connected to the monthly book sale.

Saturday 21st September we are hosting a MacMillan coffee morning. Please come along and have a cuppa, with your friends, whilst raising funds for this worthwhile cause.

In October we are going bonkers with a 'Books & Bygones' event. This will be 10am until 4pm: please note longer time. This will include a nostalgic display of everyday domestic items. In fact, if you have anything that you think might fit the theme, do consider getting in touch.

In November, we present our annual craft event. Please also get in touch if you have a hobby or craft that is saleable. The more the merrier.

In December we will have our 'mince pie special'. This feels a long way off but I'm certain that it'll be upon us before we know it.

Obviously, books are key to each of these days, and we all know that it's good to relax with our feet up and enter another world for a short time. We're also aware that there are children without access to good books. We have a great selection of varied titles, so don't be shy. Look out for relevant posters with times and contacts. For further info please contact: Jane Ockwell jane_ockwell@hotmail.com or Barbara Carlson bcarlson@btinternet.com



Blunsdon Village Garden Club

There are no specific items for this month, with the exception of a reminder that the September meeting will be held on Thursday 12th September at 7.30 pm in the smaller Village Hall when our guest speaker will be Ross Sheppard, a Ranger working at Stanton Park giving us a glimpse of what management of the park entails. It will also be good to catch up with you all as we have had a longer than usual summer break.

NOTE: The garden club has been approached by a Blunsdon resident who has a greenhouse which is no longer required. It measures 1.6 x 1.3m, (approx. 5 ft x 4 ft) with height to roof apex of 2.2m and is free to whoever would like it. If you are interested, the writer will be happy to give further details.

As always, all are welcome.

Brenda Boyd 01793 725928

Cross Street CARS

Rail Station:
01793 232323

Cross Street TRAVEL

Rail Station:
01793 818394

Cross Street USED CARS

Transfer Bridge:
01793 524333



Transfer Bridge:
01793 524333

Cross Street GARAGE

Transfer Bridge:
01793 524333

Cross Street GARAGE

Old Town:
01793 524030

Cross Street GROUP



Suppliers of waste management services



- Skip hire
- Total waste management
- Food waste collection service
- Hazardous waste disposal

01793 714950

www.hills-waste.co.uk

Trevor Wyse
Established 35 Years

High Class Painter & Decorator

Wallpaper Specialist - Coving
Painting - Tiling



Mob: 07976 885203

Our clients benefit from the high standards that our attention to detail and quality workmanship provides.

We can assist with an initial consultation and offer our knowledge of themes, colours and styles that can help transform a room or a complete house

Careful attention to our client's requirements has helped us to boast a broad selection of customers that we are proud to work with on a regular basis



making the most of Swindon's waste
REGISTERED WASTE CARRIER

Clearance & Recycling
of Commercial &
Domestic Waste

Cheaper Than a Skip & Twice the Capacity!

- Commercial, Home, Garden,
Garage, Site Clearance
- Load Assist & 24 Hour Service

TRrecycling (SWINDON)

t/f: 01793 706447 m: 07737 371393
e: trrecycling@swindon.myzen.co.uk
w: www.trrecycling.co.uk



Lorraine Green Artist

Beautiful watercolour paintings of British farm animals and wildlife.

Original art, prints, greetings cards and gifts inspired by the countryside.

www.lorrainegreenartist.com



Living with pain or injury?

We can help.

We have extensive experience treating...

- Sciatica
- Shoulder pain
- Sports injuries
- Back and neck pain
- Rehabilitation after surgery
- Ergonomic/work injuries

Located in
Blunsdon House Hotel

www.parnellharper.com


PARNELLHARPER
INJURY CLINIC

HIGHWORTH
HOUSE CLEARANCE
REMOVE GARDEN WASTE
SMALL OR LARGE JOBS
CHEAPER THAN A SKIP
CONTACT BAZ
07919 386421
01793 297885
bazzaq60@gmail.com

**DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

Landscaping
Paving
Groundworks
Driveways
Demolition
Bathrooms
Kitchens
Plumbing
Ramps
Fencing



Digger & Driver Hire

DISABLED ACCESS & CONVERSION SPECIALIST

07980 740835

15 Ermin Street, Blunsdon
Swindon, SN26 8AA

Experienced Tradesmen With Good Reputation

CHATWIN
PLUMBING & HEATING

Blunsdon based Gas Safe
Registered Engineer

Boiler Breakdowns
Boiler Services
Boiler Installations
Bathroom Renovations

.....

Local, friendly & reliable
Domestic Plumbing Service

Call us on 07825912979

Hills

**Suppliers of concrete
and aggregates**



- Ready-mixed concrete and floor screed loads from 0.5m³
- Sand, stone, limestone, gravel
- Decorative aggregates

01793 714999

www.hills-quarry.co.uk

GM 4 ELECTRICAL
DOMESTIC ELECTRICIAN
POWER POINTS
EXTERNAL SOCKETS
GARDEN ROOMS
SECURITY LIGHTING
NO JOB TOO SMALL !

07900 243116
www.gm4electrical.com
info@gm4electrical.com

Hearing loss certainly leads to isolation, but it also leads to **loss of self-esteem** and **depression**.

Ear Wax Removal, Hearing Assessment
Discrete Digital Hearing Aids

Dr David J Reed BA MSc MBA AuD RHAD



Call: 01793 692815 * Text: 07585 525993
reeds@reedsear.co.uk * www.reedsear.co.uk
Amnigilda, 4 Raglan Close, Lawn, Swindon. SN3 1JR

REEDS HEARING CARE LTD

CHELWORTH NURSERIES

Unit 6 Blakehill Business Park - Chelworth - Cricklade SN6 6HD

Open 6 DAYS 10am - 5pm, Sunday 10 - 4pm (closed Mondays)

Herbaceous plants, Climbers & Shrubs,
Fothergill Seed stockists, Peat, Compost and Grow Bags,
Bark Chipping's, Calor Gas stockists.

Tel: 07946347233

From Cricklade follow the B4040 at the Crossroads' follow the sign for Chelworth Industrial Estate to the left, take the 1st turning right for the Nursery into Blakehill Business Park

The Chatterbox Your Garden, My Garden

Some Blunsdon inhabitants have such beautiful gardens. Throughout the summer they have been bursting with colour, lawns were thick, green and lush, the trees shaped to perfection and, clearly, the owners spent a lot of time, effort and hard work to get these results.

My favourite type of garden is one that is verging on anarchic. It doesn't need to have straight edges or plants arranged in set colour palettes for me. It can be riotous in colour, full of old or modern plants, have mismatched pots and dark, overgrown corners where wildlife can find a quiet refuge. Maybe it could have an old chair or two and a table for quiet read and a cup of tea, or a G&T when the day is nearly done. Gardens are both a peaceful retreat and a hive of activity in order to get them to that point.

Many of the plants in my own garden have a story to tell. Some have been gifted from friends and family, one has been grown from a cutting of a plant growing at the side of the road near Burford. A huge clump of bluebells and their damp earth, wrapped in newspaper, were once given to me by a work colleague. A neighbour passed on some snowdrops and another provided some dahlias which had spread a little too much in their own garden. We have a rose that was an anniversary present and a hydrangea that was given to me after my last one didn't make it through the winter. Some plants, such as a holly bush, have sprung up where seeds have either been carried on the breeze or maybe dropped by birds. I love the idea of this haphazard garden, filled with living gifts from kind-hearted people or from nature itself, growing and giving pleasure each year.

In homes and gardening magazines and internet articles, I've noticed that current styles of gardens are less colourful and far more structured – like an extension of the house, or a room without a roof. Lighting systems, grey furniture, tall, green plants, sometimes artificial grass and maybe a bar seem to be 'de rigueur'. All of these are absolutely fine and can look so incredibly stylish but once they're set up, there's no joy in seeing a little plant shooting up in the spring or the pleasure of watching a hedgehog in the evening snuffling around for slugs. But it's horses for courses, of course, and we are all individual in our tastes.

Gardens mean different things to each of us. For some, they are a burden, often difficult to manage, particularly when old age comes a-calling. Or perhaps they hold little interest and the owners would prefer the space for outside entertaining. For families, they can be a child's paradise with swings, football nets and paddling pools. For the pet owners, a place for the dog to run around and spend a penny in the night. For others they are their pride and joy and a labour of love. Throughout the lifetime of a home, the garden may be all of these things at one time or another. They can be ever-evolving.

Even though the summer is now in its final throes, autumn is a beautiful time for plants and trees. Jewel colours start appearing on leaves, berries and fruits ripen and we have that final splash of reds, golds and russets before nature takes a break for the winter months.

Have a good month, Blunsdon friends.

. FOOD FOR THOUGHT.
Outside Catering



Mobile fish & chip van will be at Blunt Rise, Blunsdon
Thursday 5th Sept, Thursday 19th September ,
Thursday 3rd Oct and Thursday 17th October.

If you would like a copy of our menu, please email
grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com or WhatsApp
07515288414

Pre orders welcome by WhatsApp or text 07515
288414

Lechlade Occasional Choir

Monday 7th October 2024

In St Leonard's Church At 7pm

Retiring collection for local charities

Refreshments served

For more information: griff9999@btinternet.com



First XI – 17th out of 18, Wiltshire Premier Division

Recent Results

Royal Wootton Bassett – lost 0 – 4 Pewsey Vale – lost 0 – 8

Letcombe – lost 0 – 7 Bemerton Heath Harlequins – Won 1 - 0

The new season for the First Team has begun with some chastening defeats, following some close season player movements, but thankfully a

Nick Craft goal has seen us get our first points on the board. Hopefully, this win will see a continued upturn in fortunes in this very competitive league.

Following their League One championship season, the Ressies have been promoted to the eleven team Swindon and District Premier League, where we will be looking to carry on our free scoring form, starting at the Beversbrook Sports Ground, Calne against Bassett Bulldogs.

September fixtures – Saturday, unless stated

Date	First XI - 3 pm	Reserves – 2.30 pm
31 st August	Shrewton United (home)	
4 th Wednesday	Melksham Town (away) 7.45 pm	
7 th	Malmesbury Victoria (home)	Bassett Bulldogs (away)
14 th	Wroughton (away)	Ramsbury (home)
21 st	Shrivenham (home)	Marlborough Town (away)
28 th	Salisbury (home)	Nalgo Masters (away)



BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB

Recent Results – 3rd (out of ten) Wiltshire League Division 6

Lacock – lost by 4 wickets, with a debut for young **James Tweed**, who hails from the Lower Village, the breeding ground of cricketing talent.

Marlborough – won by 75 runs, with 48 not out from **Phil “Welsh Wizard”**

Jones and a debut for young **Charlie Ford**.

Swindon Titans – won by 3 wickets, against the league leaders, with 3 wickets for **Harry “Mystery” Roke** and a debut for young **Jayden Rowland**.

Swindon 4ths – won by 38 runs, thanks to 91 runs from **Dave “Skip Botty” Bott**, 4 wickets for **Harry “Mystery” Roke**, also 3 wickets for **Harish “The Windmill” Kumar**.

Bathford – lost by 104 runs, despite 4 wickets for **Arul “Mr Average” Ramasamy**.

Shrivenham – won by 46 runs, with some killer fast bowling bringing 4 wickets for **Arul “Mr Average” Ramasamy** and 3 wickets for **Harish “The Windmill” Kumar**.

Chippenham – won by 70 runs, with a match winning 79 runs from **Mitch “The Maiden Wrecker” Dodson** and 3 wickets a piece for **Harry “Mystery” Roke** and **“Deano” Tomlin**.

Goatacre – won by 60 runs, with a majestic career defining 110 runs and 4 wickets from MVP **Harry “Mystery” Roke** and also 4 wickets to fellow spin twin, **Phil “Welsh Wizard” Jones**. The Foxes play their final fixture at Marlborough on 31st August, with promotion potentially being on the line thanks to a fine run of form, some great team and individual performances and a welcome influx of young local cricketing talent.

Down Memory Lane

(from BLUNSDON "PARISH" MAGAZINE October 1979 – Blunsdon Cricket Club Special)

Like any village cricket club, Blunsdon Foxes have had its ups and downs during its 100 years plus existence. 49 years ago, Mr Blunsdon Cricket, Arthur Tupman, wrote in the magazine that the club had almost folded at the start of the season due to lack of interest from the village in playing England's number one summer sport. However, an influx of village children, coached by Ron Vincent and Bill Chandler, had renewed the club's fortunes to the extent that Arthur excitedly announced a list of proposals for the new season as follows:

1. *We continue to play regular Sunday friendly fixtures*

This did carry on for about 30 years and the club still occasionally fulfil a pre/end of season Sunday friendly, most recently at Cricklade last season.

2. *If demand is there, we consider Saturday fixtures*

This happened by the late eighties, with entry into the Wiltshire Cricket League, where the club still compete. In the late nineties, there was also enough players for a second eleven to enter the Saturday league, made up of promising local young players and club stalwart Mick Walker. Unfortunately, after a handful of seasons, a combination of the lure of big town cricket clubs and other interests meant that the village was unable to sustain this second team.

3. *We re-enter the Swindon and District Cricket League*

This midweek league stills exists today and Blunsdon did enter two successful teams in the Eighties, which gave more opportunities to play an exciting shorter format of the game, similar to T20 blast and The Hundred. These sides disbanded when the club focused on Saturday League Cricket and rose from Division Eight to Division Two.

4. *We re-commence our youth scheme and enter a side in the Cirencester Under 16 League*

This happened immediately, with Arthur, Ron and Bill providing village boys and girls the opportunity to play cricket, by providing equipment and coaching and we formed not only an Under 16 side, but also an Under 14 side, always beating local rivals Highworth, which became a club tradition, until Highworth Cricket Club became no more a few seasons ago. Sadly, the village has not had a cricket youth scheme for a whole generation, but have been delighted to welcome three local young players to the fold this season.

5. *We enter the Haigh National Village Cricket Competition.*

A lack of facilities, the infamous Blunsdon Ridge and costs probably prevented The Foxes from entering a competition, where the final is played at Lords and has been won by another Wiltshire village, Goatacre.



Reading with Wine

Hello,

I hope you've all been having a lovely summer; we've been lucky enough to get away a couple of times. We've explored some wonderful new places and revisited old favourites... this led to me exploring through books new places and wines from around the world; so that's the theme of this month's challenge- something that features another country.

One of our Summer Escapes this year took us to Barcelona...so it makes perfect sense for me to recommend, Heidi Swain's **The Summer Escape**. Ally and her Dad run a guesthouse on the perfect coast of Kittiwake Cove. Ally secretly craves a whole different lifestyle and treats herself every year to a trip where she becomes the person she wants to be...only this year she brings home more than a souvenir, or maybe a souvenir of the best kind?! This is a lovely read featuring Barcelona and you will wish that you were there walking the streets and sampling the tapas and Sangria (bonus wine from around the world choice there too!!) I also loved watching Ally grow her relationship with her Dad so if you are looking for a nice, cosy read to end the summer on, this is the one for you.

However, if you fancy something with a bit more grit go for **The Holiday** by T.M Logan. Four best friends and their husbands travel to Provence to celebrate their 40th birthdays...a chateau, French bread and cheese plus plenty of Côte de Provence wine (again bonus wine from around the world) sounds idyllic...until you come across a suspected affair and the lengths that one friend will go to in order to cover their own backs...could that be as far as a murder? This is a great thriller that I just couldn't put down until I knew exactly what had happened!

If you are looking for something with a historical base, pick up *Under the Taramind Tree* by Nigar Alan. In 1964, Rozeena and her family flee Pakistan because of the new partition rules. The story veers between her memories of starting life again in a new country and her present in 2019 and how her life has been affected by that move in more ways than she realises. This is a genuinely interesting read that covers history, politics, family dynamics and generation diversity. It is one that will make you think, long after you have finished it. Books are a great way for us to learn about all kinds of topics and cultures, especially when they are written well and this is a perfect example of that.

Wines from around the world, is a super easy theme to fulfil as you have so many options. For example, the Taste the World with the Wine Atlas from Asda. They have six wines that will take you to places that you possibly haven't thought about in terms of their wine before. From an interesting take for Chardonnay lovers, in the Sicilian Carricante; grown on the slopes of Mount Etna it hits the mineral notes like no other. If like me, you are still fully in Rosé season, try the Spanish Monastrell; it's got flavours of raspberries and Mediterranean herbs and is absolutely perfect for any end of summer BBQ's that might pop up. Or try something completely new in the form of my favourite in the range, the Feteasca Regala, from Romania and meaning Royal Maiden (easy to find a book to pair too!) It is a tropical wine, but the spicy notes take it to a whole new level and is well worth a try, especially at only £6 a bottle.

Lots to explore across both books and wine this month, please let me know what you think about these and any other gems that you have found at @reading_with_wine on Instagram. As always, read far and wide but please drink responsibly.

Reading with Wine



“ My family and I will always be **grateful** for Caremark ”

We deliver excellent
home care

with compassion and a cheery smile!

When our Care Assistants come to visit, they bring with them **knowledge**, expert training and a **personality** that delivers **compassion**, smiles and **laughter** too!

We offer free expert
advice, contact us today

01793 626200
swindon@caremark.co.uk





StreetSafe Wiltshire

Wiltshire Police is urging anyone who has concerns about the safety of public places in their area to report it via a dedicated service. StreetSafe allows people to report any issues like poorly lit streets, abandoned buildings, or vandalism, as well as instances where they feel unsafe due to someone following or verbally abusing them.

This is completely anonymous and takes no more than a couple of minutes.

By completing the report police can target the main areas of concern and work with partners to make the county a safer place to live.

Click on the link to report: [StreetSafe | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk/streetsafe).

StreetSafe is also one of the many initiatives being used to help the police prioritise our ongoing work to reduce Violence Against Women and Girls, reduce incidents of violence and intimidation and make people feel safe on our streets.

PC Lisa Draper, Neighbourhood Harm Reduction Unit, said: "We want everyone living and working in our county to feel safe. However, the police cannot do it alone – we need the public's help in identifying where the areas of concern are so we, along with our partners, can do something about it.

"A dark alleyway due to a broken street light, a dilapidated building or overgrown shrubbery causing a blind spot on a pavement – these are all examples of things which can make people feel unsafe in their community. And these are all examples of things we want reporting."

Safer Streets funding has already been used to improve CCTV and lighting in parts of Swindon, Chippenham and Salisbury and it's also been used to provide night-time economy wardens in Salisbury and Trowbridge on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson said: "Since 2022, my office has successfully bid directly, or support bids for over £3.4M of Safer Streets funding to be invested in Wiltshire and Swindon.

"This has been used to tackle neighbourhood crime, such as burglary, robbery, theft and vehicle theft, as well as reducing violence against women and girls.

"In addition to this, my office also successfully bid for £1M of anti-social behaviour (ASB) hotspot funding to increase patrols in the areas worst hit by ASB.

"There may be areas where statistics will tell us they are safe, but there's a world of difference between *being* safe and *feeling* safe. "The data we obtain from StreetSafe will help us to target those areas where communities may feel vulnerable, by allowing them to tell us about the issues making them feel threatened."



HIGHWORTH WARNEFORD SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS 2024



A small friendly school with High Ambitions

- New Principal with extensive experience of working in high performing schools
- Now part of the successful **Park Academies Trust**
- Good quality exam results in line with national averages
- Broad and challenging curriculum, while fulfilling individual learning needs
- Opportunities to continue study at **The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form**

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 19th September 2024 5pm until 7.30pm

Take a tour of the school and meet students and staff
Listen to a presentation from the new Principal at 6pm or 7pm.

OPEN MORNINGS

Tuesday 15th October, Wednesday 16th October and Thursday 17th October

Please contact Mrs Lewis to book an appointment: 01793 762426 /
lewisl@warnefordschool.org.uk

Highworth Warneford School, Shrivenham Road, Highworth. SN6 7BZ
www.warnefordschool.org

Excellence

Aspiration

Challenge

Character

Community



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.....

EMAIL ADDRESS.....

PHONE NUMBER.....

ADDRESS.....

MONEY ENCLOSED.....

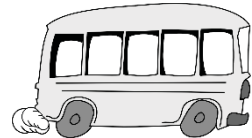
SWINDON DIAL A RIDE

Could you offer the 'Gift of a Lift'?

If you enjoy driving and like to help people why not become a volunteer driver for Swindon Dial A Ride. You decide how much or how little time you want to give. You can either drive our minibuses with full training or use your own car.



If you are interested in volunteering or you need more information please call us on 01793 616050 between 10.00 and 17.00 Monday to Friday.



*Swindon Dial A Ride, Newcombe Drive, Hawksworth
Trading Estate, Newcombe Drive, Swindon, SN2 1DZ
www.dialarideswindon.org.uk*



Social Walking from Blunsdon Community Shop



**Every 2nd and 4th Thursday
of the month at 10:00am**

We start and finish at the shop.

**New
walkers
always
welcome**

**Any queries, please message
Alex on 07554 811779**



ANDY COMPTON
Plumbing & Heating Services



Installation of heating systems,
bathroom suites, showers etc

Boiler servicing and repairs undertaken

T: 01793 721290
M: 07785 984033
acomptonplumbing.co.uk

WORCESTER
Bosch Group
Accredited Installer

safe
120235

Cricklade School of Motoring
KEITH WALKER

Established 1977 (over 2000 passes) Dept. of Transport Approved
Holder of MSA Diploma in Defence Driving
M.I.A.M M.ROSPA (class 1 Gold) Member of DIA
Holder of Diploma in Driving Instruction
Holder of ROSPA Diploma in Advanced Instruction (Class 1 Gold)
Member of Motor Schools Association of Great Britain
Theory Course and Pass Plus Registered
Learner Advanced Motorway and Refresher courses
CRB Checked and Registered
Driving Lessons are provided in Cricklade, Wootton Bassett,
Cirencester, Purton and Swindon areas.
Call today on 01793 709883 / 07748 557171
www.crickladeschoolofmotoring.co.uk

Thinking of Selling your
home?

For a **free** market appraisal
contact **Hanley's**

25 High Street, Highworth Tel: 01793 762005
www.hanleys.co.uk

Forrester Sylvester Mackett
SOLICITORS

- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Court of Protection
- Family
- Dispute Resolution
- Residential Property
- Mediation
- Commercial Property
- Clinical Negligence

6 Little London Court, Albert Street, Old Town, Swindon SN1 3HY
T: 01793 522688 E: enquiries@fmsolicitors.co.uk
www.fmsolicitors.co.uk

The Help Group

EXEMPLARY CARE
AND HOME STAFFING
SERVICES

Your help at HOME

CALL OUR FRIENDLY TEAM
01285 339050
WWW.THEHELPGROUP.CO.UK

OFFERING QUALITY ASSISTANCE IN YOUR HOME WITH A SELECTION OF SERVICES INCLUDING:

- LIVE-IN CARE
- HOURLY CARE
- HOME HELP & COMPANIONSHIP
- CLEANING SERVICES
- MOTHER'S HELP
- HOME CHEF & MEAL PREPARATION

YOUR FUNERAL WISHES
Our local experts

Unattended Funerals from £995

Attended Funerals from £2,320

A. E. Smith & Son
Queens Drive, Swindon SN3 1AW
01793 522023

G. & L. Evans
27 Newburgh Place, Highworth SN6 7DN 01793 765138
4 Covingham Square, Swindon SN3 5AA 01793 526999

We're here for you anytime.
Whatever your wishes or budget,
we can provide a funeral to suit you.

DIGNITY | dignityfunerals.co.uk/local
*Pricing is correct at time of going to print and is subject to change.

Headlines
Hairdressing

We are now able to offer more
hairdressing appointments, alternatively
just 'pop-in' as we may be able to
accommodate you

01793 762 929
35 High St., Highworth, SN6 7HL

ANDREWS
QUALITY MEATS

HIGHWORTH 01793 762085
MARLBOROUGH 01672 519915

NOW AVAILABLE
AT BLUNSDON
VILLAGE
SHOP

www.andrewsqualitymeatsltd.co.uk

Hillier
Funeral Service

Family Run and Independent
Bereavement Support Service
24 hour Service Everyday

Compassionate, Professional Service
Competitive Prices with Free No Obligation Quote

Your local family funeral director since 1923

7 Lechlade Road, Highworth SN6 7HF



Blunsdon Community Shop and Cafe
Opening hours
Monday - Saturday: 8am to 5pm
Sunday: 8am to 4pm
Cafe shuts an hour before close

01793 700915

Instagram: @blunsdoncommunityshop
Facebook: Blunsdon Community Shop
www.blunsdoncommunityshop.co.uk

Celebrating over 20 years of service to the village



**SWINDON
MEMORIALS**

Extensive range of memorial packages available:
Lawn, Traditional, Childrens and Cremation.

Please contact us for details

Tel: **01793 766 138** | Mob: **07532 032 054**
Email: **info@swindonmemorials.co.uk**

Swindon Memorials: Unit 19, Blackworth Industrial Estate,
Highworth, Swindon, SN6 7NA
Website: **www.swindonmemorials.co.uk**

PC Doctor Dan (Cricklade)

Tel: 01793 759192 Mob: 07890 377517

Home and Business Computing Services

20 years IT experience @Intel Corporation

www.pcdactor-dan.co.uk

WP Gardens & Landscapes

- Patios, fencing, driveways, maintenance –
Contact us for a quote.

wpgardens.co.uk 07783 643319

info@wpgardens.co.uk

"Warrick did a fabulous job for us. His team
are cheerful, hardworking and skillful."

YOGA CLASSES

Every Wednesday evening at Blunsdon Village Hall.
Challenging, friendly and suitable for everyone.
You will leave class ready for anything!

Contact Julia to book:
07768 806 319
falconjulia01@gmail.com

printmx
the **easy way**
to **buy print**

Simply visit **www.printmx.co.uk**
and see for yourself...



printmx
www.printmx.co.uk
Find us on:



Well Hung Framing by Kate Herbert

I'm here for all your bespoke picture framing, from medals to
memorabilia, posters to prints. Please call or email to arrange a
visit to my studio in Watchfield to discuss your requirements.

07710 348 263 bykateherbert@gmail.com
www.wellhungframing.co

DOMESTIC ELECTRICS
& PROPERTY SERVICES



Your local friendly electrician.
Fully qualified and insured.
All work guaranteed.



07805 045254 info@de-ps.co.uk

AGB Bathrooms & Kitchens
35 years Experience
From Design to Installation

- * Bathroom & Kitchen renovations
- * All types of Wall & Floor tiling
- * All types of Plumbing work
- * Boiler Servicing & Repairs
- * Central Heating Installations
- * Carpentry & Joiner Work
- * Plastering & Artexing
- * All work guaranteed

City & Guilds
Qualified

For a free estimate call Sean on

Mob: 07749 862361

Built upon Quality & Service