

# BLUNSDON

## VILLAGE MAGAZINE



April 2017

## BLUNSDON VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB



The guest speaker on 9<sup>th</sup> March was Dominic Hamilton, Director of Painswick Rococo Garden, talking about the restoration work there. It was interesting to learn that the garden work currently being carried out appears to have been as a result of an early 18<sup>th</sup> century painting, discovered in the 1980s by the owner of Painswick House, which illustrates the layout of the garden at that time. There was apparently some question as to whether this was merely a representation of work to be carried out at that time or the actual garden but on investigation, the remains of original buildings depicted in the painting were discovered where indicated, leading to the owner's dedication to restore it as much as possible to its former glory. This work is continuing with the help of volunteers.

The club's annual outing this year on the 13<sup>th</sup> July will be to Mapledurham House, via a Thames boat trip from Reading, and is already well subscribed.

Another reminder to members to make a note that, unlike our normal practice, the April meeting has been brought forward to 6<sup>th</sup> April (the first Thursday in the month) after it was realised that Good Friday falls on 14<sup>th</sup> April this year. Thank you. Also it is hoped that any contributions to the May 20<sup>th</sup> plant sale are well under cultivation!

As always, new garden club members are always welcome to the monthly meetings which commence at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall; annual membership is £10.00 per person, or £2.00 at the door for non-members.

*Brenda Boyd*

*Tel: 01793 725928*

## **Blunsdon Methodist Church**

The services for the next few weeks are as follows:

2 <sup>nd</sup> April	3pm	Revd Rachael Wilson
9 <sup>th</sup> April		No service
16 <sup>th</sup> April	3pm	Revd Rachael Wilson
23 <sup>rd</sup> April		No service
30 <sup>th</sup> April		No service

Do come along to our next Coffee, Cookies and Company afternoon on 20<sup>th</sup> April – more details elsewhere in this Magazine.

*Joy Jones.*

# St. Leonard's Church Blunsdon

## Services for April 2017

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**  
**Lent 5**

10 am Parish Communion

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Palm Sunday**

8 am Holy Communion Rev. Geoff Sowden  
10 am Family Worship Rev. Geoff Sowden & Mrs. Jane Ockwell  
followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Maundy Thursday**

7 pm Holy Communion at **Highworth**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Good Friday**

2 pm Good Friday Meditation  
Rev. Alison Williams

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Easter Day**

10 am Family Communion with Community Choir  
Rev. Geoff Sowden

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**  
**Easter 2**  
**St. George's Day**

10 am Family Worship Mrs. Kathryn Dack  
6 pm Evensong Mr. Paul Morris

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

10 am Holy Communion Rev. Geoff Sowden

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Easter 3**

10 am Morning Prayer  
Mrs. Kathryn Dack & Mr. Paul Morris

**He is risen! Alleluia!**

### **SUNDAY FUNDAY**



A club for all primary school age children on the first Sunday of each month in the Methodist Hall, 10.30am to 12noon. Lots of crafts and games.

Our next Funday will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> April when we will be doing various Easter based activities.

## Blunsdon Village Shop

### Egg Cress Heads

This is a lovely project to do with children over the holidays!

Nature is about to bloom and you can get in the mood too by making a little egg cress garden. You just need some eggs (on sale at the Village Shop) a little bit of compost and some cress seeds (or any seeds really!)



Add a bit of compost to each empty egg shell and place the cress seeds inside.

Dampen with water and place in a sunny place. Keep the compost slightly moist. Putting them on pebbles/stones will help too.

Within about two weeks, you should have a little garden.

### **STOP PRESS --- SHOP STUFF --- STOP PRESS**

There are a few opportunities for local people – of all ages - to broaden their experience and skills through working in the Shop. We can offer work experience in customer facing opportunities and training in the operation of not very electronic devices. We could even offer essential tea or coffee making facilities. Successful completion of a lengthy training period can lead to a reference. We make no charge for this opportunity. We have to advise you that this practice is rather addictive and can lead to serious fun. Please ask in the shop or telephone 700915 to register your interest.

Finally... MAN/WOMAN FRIDAY needed! Heavy stuff arrives very early on Friday mornings. We need a hand moving it into the Shop. Please can you help? If you are collecting your paper then, please could you regularly help? Please call 700915

# BLUNSDON FC



## Recent Results

Oaksey (Cirencester Cup)	away	lost	1 – 2
Ashton Keynes (Cirencester Cup)	home	won	9 – 1
Stratton United (Cirencester Cup)	away	won	4 - 1
Stratton United	home	drew	2 - 2

## Current League Position: Second

After suffering a rare defeat away at Oaksey, Blunsdon hit back by hammering Ashton Keynes and easing past Stratton United to qualify for the cup semi-final.

The league and cup double remains possible as the season enters its final month.

Little did we know it at the time, but with title rivals Sherston losing at lowly Sherborne, Blunsdon were one minute away from winning the league in their home encounter against Stratton United. But the visitors deservedly equalised with the last kick of the game to share the points.

Special mention goes to Tom Glass and Nick Seymour for their standout performances over the past month, as well as goal poacher Tom Collins.

Hopefully, Blunsdon will be crowned Champions by the time you read this dribble and as we don't currently have a trophy cabinet, I am appealing to any Chippies out there who could knock one up for the club. We have had some great Chips play for Blunsdon over the years, mostly as goalkeepers; Ian "Chip" Smith, Mick "Chippy" Taylor, Barry "Chip" Phillips, Keith "chipped from the half way line" Butler and Darren "Fish" Fisher to name the only ones I can remember.

The final home match of the season at Sutton Park is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2.30pm against Ashton Keynes. This will also be our final home game on real grass. So come along and get your free half time hot drink, plus a souvenir sod of hallowed turf after the game, before it is replaced in the summer with an artificial 4G pitch in time for the new season.

The cup semi-final against Minety is scheduled for Wednesday 12 April, 7.00pm at Fairford Town FC. It would be great to see a noisy turn out of the Amber and Black army there.

## Blunsdon Methodist Church

### Coffee, Cookies and Company

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2pm – 3.30pm

You are all invited to come along for coffee (or tea!) - an opportunity to get together with old friends, make new ones, or just to have a change of scene.

Why not bring a friend and come and join us?

You are all very welcome.





## Blunston WI

*Celebrating over 50 Years of Blunston WI!*

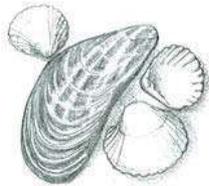
At our March meeting, we learnt from Mr Daniel Rose of some of the interesting developments relating to the work of the Mechanics Institution Trust. We were privileged to see the plans for ourselves – only the third group to have done so.

While there may have been some who were sceptical at first, about the idea of the Mechanics Institute being restored, by the end of Mr Rose's talk, I think most of us came away believing that there is a very strong chance that it could happen!

Our next meeting takes place at the Methodist Hall on 18 April at 7.30 when the subject will be The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard. Our speaker will be Shaun McCormack. Do join us if you can – visitors are always welcome.



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



Please note: The Editor is on holiday in early April. (Just in case you send an article for the magazine and don't receive a reply within a couple of days.)

## ART EXHIBITION AT WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM

Carole Ingram, artist and former resident of Blunston, will be having an exhibition of her watercolours in the Great Oak Hall at Westonbirt Arboretum from Friday 28th April to Tuesday 2nd May between 10.00am and 4.00pm daily. Entrance to the exhibition is free (although charges to enter the Arboretum will apply). Many of the paintings will be for sale and examples of her work can be seen online at [www.caroleaingram.wixsite.com/Artist](http://www.caroleaingram.wixsite.com/Artist)

### ***Quote of the month ...***

You cannot find peace by avoiding life.

Virginia Woolf

*Date:*  
**Saturday  
15th April**

**St Leonard's Church,  
Blunsdon**

**Easter  
Book  
Sale**

- . *Coffee*
- . *Cake*
- . *Biscuits*
- . *Children's  
Activities*
- . *Raffle*
- . *Gifts*

*Time:*  
**10:00 until  
12:00**

- . *Proceeds shared  
between Church and  
Cystic Fibrosis*

## Palm Sunday Procession



Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. This marks the beginning of the end. Whilst we are still thinking ahead to Easter and how much chocolate we will get, we learn the more serious aspect of the events that bring us to that day.

Come and join us at 9-45 on 9th April for our walk from the village hall to St Leonards church. Dressing up is great fun, so if you want to get the feel of 2000 years ago, please do.

Our APCM follows the service, all are welcome to join us.

## ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

Vicar Highworth PiC Blunsdon. Rev Geoff Sowden 765554

Licensed Lay Minister Mrs Kathryn Dack 700727  
Licensed Lay Minister Mr Paul Morris 734598  
Churchwardens: Mrs Jane Ockwell 724374  
Mr Michael Gibbin  
Treasurer: Mrs Lucy Sturgess

### Services:

Holy Communion: 8am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
Family Communion: 10am 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
All-age Worship: 10am 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
Morning Prayer (Common Worship) 10am 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
Evensong: 6 pm 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
This is the normal pattern, but please see elsewhere in this magazine for variations.

## METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd Rachael Wilson  
35 North Meadow Road, Cricklade, SN6 6LT  
Tel: 01793 750095 Email: [rachael.wilson745@gmail.com](mailto:rachael.wilson745@gmail.com)  
Steward: Mrs J Jones  
108 High Street  
Sunday School: 10.30am  
Evening Service: 3pm (not 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)  
Family Service: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10.30am  
Sisterhood: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2.30pm

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Clergy: Rev Phil Ashby  
Church Office Tel 702715  
Email [vicar@nschurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@nschurch.org.uk)  
Website [www.nschurch.org.uk](http://www.nschurch.org.uk)  
Churchwardens: David Morrison  
Karen Vermeersch  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 10am Children's Service  
6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10am Parade Service  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10am Holy Communion (with provision for children)  
6.30pm Evensong  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10am Holy Communion (with provision for children)  
**Service at St Francis School, Taw Hill**  
Last Sunday of the month 4pm All Age Worship (with age related teaching groups plus adults)

### BLUNSDON SURGERY

36 Berton Close, Blunsdon, SN26 7BE

#### Reception

Monday Dr S MacDonald 3.10pm-4.40pm 3.00pm-6.15pm  
Tuesday Dr J Bestwick 9.00am-10.40am 8.45am-12.15pm  
Wednesday Dr S Stacey 4.00pm-7.10pm 3.00pm-6.30pm  
Thursday Dr A Webb 9.00am-10.40am 8.45am-12.15pm  
Friday Dr S Bruen/ 9.00am-10.40am 8.45am-12.15pm  
BLUNSDON SURGERY- Tel. 01793 721254  
EMERGENCIES - Tel. 01793 762218

## VILLAGE DIARY

In addition to the magazine, Tracey Judd holds a village diary. When you are thinking of a date for your event please contact her on 705617 (office hours) to ensure that planned events do not clash.

### APRIL 2017

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> 11.30-12.30 Councillors' Surgery in Village Hall  
Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm Parish Council meet in Village Hall  
Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Garden Club meets in Village Hall  
Sat 15<sup>th</sup> 10am-12 St Leonards Booksale  
Tues 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm WI meets in Methodist Hall  
Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> 2pm-2.30 Coffee Cookies and Company in the Methodist Hall

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### TO EDITOR:

Alison Elliott, 22 High Street, Blunsdon SN26 7AF  
Tel. 01793 726088  
E-mail: [alisonm.elliott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alisonm.elliott@yahoo.co.uk)

To place an advert in the magazine, please contact Angela Lloyd. Tel. 01793 726329

## CARING CORNER

My sincere thanks for the many gifts and cards which I received on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am so grateful to you all for your friendship and the many kindnesses you have shown me over the years.

Natalie.

## Bill Ford – Celebrating 90 years

Bill was born on 14 February 1927 in Thorverton, near Exeter. He attended Thorverton Church School and, as a young boy, Bill was interested in churches and church clocks so he would go to Thorverton Church on bell ringing practice nights with his father, who was a bell ringer. However, this was in the days when bell ringing was considered to be for adult men only. Definitely no children or women! There was much chat in the belfry about impending war, and when war came, the bell ringing stopped.

After the war, when Bill was in his late teens, he would help his uncle to wind the church clock. On one such occasion it was bell ringing practice night so he was able to join in the practice as he was now considered 'old enough' to be part of the bell ringing band. And so his early bell ringing career began.

After leaving Tiverton Grammar School Bill took up an apprenticeship at Bristol Aeroplane Company in the engines division where he remained for the next 10 years. During this period he never lost touch with his Thorverton roots.

Bill eventually returned home to Thorverton and joined Stenners, part of the Heathcote Group of companies. On his return to his home of Thorverton, Bill met and married Ena in 1954.

In order to progress his career, Bill moved to Swindon to take up a position at Plessey Semi-Conductors, renting a house in Moredon with his wife and young daughter. In 1962 Bill had a house built in Sams Lane, Blunsdon where he remained until his retirement in 1987.

Throughout Bill's life a big part has been dedicated to the art of campanology. Bill's move to Swindon enabled him to further his interest in bell ringing. He regularly attended meetings at Stratton St Margaret, Rodbourne Cheney, Christchurch, Highworth and the surrounding villages of Hannington, Bishopstone, Castle Eaton and of course, Blunsdon.

Bill became Tower Captain and Church Warden at Blunsdon in 1965. He taught many Blunsdon school children to ring – Donald and Howard Naylor, Richard Morris, Sian Williams, Sandra Jones, Louise Humm and many more. Some of the older ringers at that time were Jack Vincent, Walter Truman and Harold Ball. On many occasions the ringing practice was delayed because Harold was late. He had to rescue an escaped cow from Ermin Street before he could set off for bell ringing practice.

Bill was treasurer of the Blunsdon magazine for a number of years. As part of this role Bill enjoyed making a visit to Tadpole Farm to collect any fees due. He would be shown into the gun room where there was a fascinating display of shooting paraphernalia.

Bill retired in 1987 and moved back to Thorverton, and soon took up the responsibility of tower captain there, encouraging the local ringers to expand their knowledge of method ringing. Bill was instrumental in raising funds to have two additional bells installed in Thorverton Church taking the number of bells from eight to ten. The two bells are dedicated to Bill's parents.

Bill spent a happy retirement in the village where he was born until 2015 when he moved back to Blunsdon following an accident in which he broke his arm. Ironically, he was returning from an evening out bellringing at a local tower when he lost his footing and fell. Bill continues to attend St Leonards for bell ringing practice and makes an annual journey to Oxford to meet with bell ringing enthusiasts he has known for a long time.

The bells are rung to celebrate all sorts of occasions country wide and records are kept of quarter peals and peals. This is the terminology for the number of 'changes' completed. Each 'change' is a different combination of notes which makes up the 'method' or tune. Bill undertook the huge challenge of recording all the peals rung at Exeter Cathedral during the 1900's in a book of calligraphy. This beautiful book of calligraphy is now on display in the Cathedral.

To celebrate Bill's birthday it was, therefore, appropriate that the bells were ringing on 14 February 2017 in Blunsdon and Thorverton.

Please come along to St Leonards on the first and third Monday of each month at 7.30pm to see how the bells are rung and, if you fancy it, have a go.

# Hot Cross Buns

*A sticky hot cross bun is the ultimate Easter treat but can be enjoyed all year round. Eat them plain, toasted or spread with jam.*

**Makes 24**

**Preparation time:** 20 minutes + 2 hours + rising + cooling

**Baking time:** 15 minutes

**900 g (2 lb) strong white bread flour**

**1 teaspoon salt**

**1–2 teaspoons mixed spice**

**4 teaspoons fast action dried yeast**

**110 g (4 oz) caster sugar, plus 2 level tablespoons for the glaze**

**110 g (4 oz) butter, diced**

**110 g (4 oz) sultanas**

**about 425 ml (15 fl oz) half and half warm milk and water**

**110 g (4 oz) plain flour**



## Method

- Place the bread flour, salt, mixed spice, yeast and sugar in a large bowl and mix together.
- Rub in the butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs and then add the sultanas.
- Add the milk and water and mix to form a soft dough.
- Knead on a lightly floured surface for about 10 minutes until the dough is smooth and elastic.
- Place in a clean, lightly oiled bowl, cover with oiled cling film or a clean tea towel and set aside in a warm place to rise for about 1½ hours or until doubled in size. Knead again for 2–3 minutes.
- Divide the dough into 24 pieces, knead each piece until smooth and shape into buns.
- Place on lightly greased baking trays, allowing room for the buns to rise.
- Cover with oiled cling film and leave in a warm place until doubled in size – about 30 minutes.
- Preheat the oven to 220°C/425°F/Gas Mark 7.
- Mix the plain flour to a smooth paste with 8 tablespoons of water and spoon into a piping bag fitted with an 8 mm (3/8 inch) plain nozzle.
- Pipe crosses over the tops of the buns.
- Bake for 15 minutes or until brown and cooked.
- While the buns are cooking, dissolve the 2 level tablespoons of sugar in 2 tablespoons of water.
- Bring to the boil and brush over the buns while still hot.
- Cool on a wire rack.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FOR MARCH

### Planning News

If you have access to the internet then all planning applications can be looked at on-line by entering the application number in <http://pa.swindon.gov.uk/publicaccess/>

S/17/0244 is an amendment to a previously approved application for a new 30 bedroom block at the Premier Inn behind the Cold Harbour. We have supported this application but suggested alterations to the access off Broadbush. S/17/0211 is an application to build two low rise office buildings on the strip of land between Robin's Farm restaurant and the approach road from Thamesdown Drive to the bridge over the by-pass. We have opposed this application as we question the need for office accommodation in this location.

/15/1950 – We have been advised of an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the erection of four detached dwellings on a plot adjacent to 1 Kingsdown Lane. We will be supporting the Borough in their opposition to this application.

### Your New Parish and Parish Council.

We can now confirm that, although we will have an establishment of 11 Parish Councillors, the number for a quorum will be only 4. To meet this figure at each monthly meeting we will need more Councillors and so we repeat the invitation in last month's magazine for interested residents to contact the Clerk or a current Councillor to discuss becoming members of the Council.

### Annual Parish Assembly.

The first Annual Assembly of our new Blunsdon Parish will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> May in the village hall. I urge you to attend this meeting as one of the speakers will be from the Borough Planning Department who will speak about the effort that is being made to protect Blunsdon from yet more development. This will also be your opportunity to raise any questions that you may have about the new parish arrangements and the responsibilities that the Parish will have for services previously provided by the Borough. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

### Community Governance Review.

As reported in the note on the Parish Precept in last month's magazine we have requested financial assistance from the Borough to cover the costs that we will incur in implementing the changes that they have imposed, but to date there has been no reply.

We have approached the shadow council for St Andrew's Parish, the other half of our old parish, and suggested discussing the sharing of staff, assets and accommodation in order to reduce costs for both councils.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April the residents living to the west of the by-pass will live in St Andrew's Parish, not in Blunsdon Parish, and will be represented by that new Parish Council: Those of us remaining in Blunsdon Parish thank them for their support in the past and wish them success with the new arrangements.

### Bench at the bottom of Sam's Lane.

Some of you will have seen that the bench that was under the Queen's Jubilee Tree at the bottom of Sam's Lane has been moved out from under the tree. This is because, when under the tree, it became encrusted with pigeon droppings and was not useable as a seat.

### Removal of Tree in Sam's Lane.

Without any prior advice to us, the Borough removed the pollarded tree that grew in the pavement in Sam's Lane. Unfortunately they left a stump about 12" high in the middle of the un-lit pavement. We have asked that the stump be ground down and the area levelled but have been told that the Borough first have to investigate the possibility that there may be cables and/or pipes under the area..