

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

April 2020



Photo taken by Debra Richardson

if going to the gym is boring...
you're going to the wrong gym.

blunson fitness+
UNLIMITED CLASSES FROM £44 A MONTH
blunsonfitness.co.uk blunsonfitness

new state-of-the-art equipment now in!

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
7 Milton Road, Swindon, SN1 5JE

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

(01793) 326 465
07866 940 732
sbtreesurgery.co.uk

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

✓ Insured ✓ Qualified

SEASONED FIREWOOD

Suspension of the Village Magazine

DUE TO THE ONGOING SITUATION REGARDING THE COVID-19 VIRUS, WE WILL BE SUSPENDING THE PUBLICATION OF THE MAGAZINE.

We understand that you will be disappointed by this decision, but above all, the health and safety of our delivery people and the Blunsdon village parishioners are of paramount importance.

THE VILLAGE MAGAZINE WILL BE ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

<http://www.blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk/news.php#news>

THE MAGAZINE COMMITTEE REGRET ANY INCONVENIENCE



St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Ofsted visited our school before the February half term and we are really pleased that they have recognised the positive changes that the school is making on its journey of improvement. It recognised that our pupils enjoy coming to school and engage very well with their learning. They are pleasant, polite, welcoming and proud of their school. We are really proud of them.

During Lent we are exploring the value of forgiveness. We have also been taking part in the # Live lent challenge and the 40 acts of generosity challenge and we have been enjoying joining the village for the Lent Lunches every Thursday.

We dressed up as our favourite book characters on World Book day.

On 13th March we all donned our sports gear in aid of Sport relief and the school council organized a healthy snack tuck shop in order to raise money for these causes.

We are looking forward to our Easter Service at the church and our Easter Trail, which will all take place in the last week of this term.

HELPING OUR LOCAL HEDGEHOGS

Our hedgehogs are in serious decline nationally their numbers of plummeting, experts



predict that hedgehogs could be totally extinct within 5 years.

We fortunately still have a strong population in the Blunsdon area and it is vital we do all we can to maintain their numbers.

There are small simple steps we can take to help them in their fight for survival. Hedgehogs can travel up to 2 miles a night foraging for food in our back gardens so creating small gaps underneath fences will help them roam.

Also putting out a water feeder so they have access to water during hot dry spells is vital not just for hedgehogs but all our wildlife. Last summer hedgehogs would come to drink at my water stations on a nightly basis.

Our local hedgehogs are now all starting to come out of hibernation all in urgent need of food and water and will appreciate any help we can give them.

Thank you
Pauline Austin

TALES of VENICE, the Guide Dog puppy



Hello again,
This is me trying to write the article but found my paws are too big so tried typing with my nose without much success, so leaving it to my puppy walkers.

Did you guess it costs around £57,000 to train and provide a Guide Dog?

All puppy walkers are volunteers but Guide Dogs pay for all my food from birth until I stop working. I have tablets each month to help stop fleas and ticks and I have to visit the vet for other vaccinations or when I am unwell.

I like visiting the vets because I get treats and I do not feel the injections. I was not

keen however on the Kennel Cough treatment as that was a spray up my nose!
I got extra treats for that one.

Some people say that guide dogs look sad, this is not true, we are just concentrating hard.

I go out for at least 2 walks a day, but not just for exercise, I am training, trying not to sniff the ground or get distracted with other interesting things like leaves and birds. My puppy walkers reward me when I ignore these things by giving me treats. In fact, all of my training is done through food treats (I would like more food but Guide Dogs check me monthly to see how I am growing and then tell my puppy walkers how much food a day I can have, including training treats). This way I will always be a good weight and fit and healthy.

I experienced snow for the first time in my life recently and I thought it was great. I tried eating it and eventually just rolled around in it. I would love it to come back again but my puppy walkers are not as keen.

Have you noticed that when I am walking I am always on the left side of my puppy walkers? This is quite deliberate as only 10% of the population in the UK are left handed and when I and my companion arrive home they will need their right hand free to unlock their door.

Quiz of the month: What toys am I not allowed to play with?

Woof woof for now

BLUNSDON VILLAGE SHOP NEWS

With the Coronavirus currently taking priority on how we all behave and where we can go, we just wanted to reassure you that our village shop will remain open.

We have all seen the devastated shelves on many supermarket shelves and we are working hard to ensure that we can supply as many essentials as possible. With this in mind we are restricting the amount of certain products we will sell and ask that you respect this.

Within our community we will have a variety of vulnerable villagers and vulnerability is not restricted to age. We have physical disabilities, cancer sufferers, lung disease and many other physical conditions that make this virus much more dangerous. Can you please bear this in mind when shopping at the shop, we need to ensure we can supply these people first so they are not put at unnecessary risk.

How do we supply without risk? We deliver. Free of charge. With no minimum value and we do not need to be in direct contact to do this. Just call 01793 700915 but please be patient as we only have one phone line. However, we currently cannot take payment over the phone but will look at solutions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – most of our team are in the dodgy age bracket (21 – 25) and are doing the right thing by minimising contact. We are going to need help to serve in the shop and take phone calls. We would appreciate your help. Can you please pop in and leave your details or call 01793 700915. We also need delivery volunteers, we need YOU! Thank you to those who have already offered.

Cleaning the shop

Hourly disinfecting of handles, counter top and other populated areas.

Hand sanitiser on the counter top – non alcohol, cleaner only.

The team will have access to the village hall to wash their hands regularly.

Supply – we are continuing to work with our current suppliers and look at other supply chains to extend our product range. Quality and cost effectiveness will be our priority.

FINALLY – if you know of someone who is on their own and vulnerable then please reach out to them and offer a hand. This is the time for kindness, tolerance and understanding. We need to help each other to help ourselves. Stay safe and remember, every Friday is still LARDY CAKE FRIDAY!

THANK YOU ALL, STAY SAFE, WASH YOUR HANDS AND LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!

BLUNSDON VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB



Phil the Birdman came to our March meeting and displayed two of his Birds of Prey which were very well behaved. Both females, the smaller of the two was a Harris Hawk and the other a European Eagle Owl. It was fascinating to see how comfortable the birds and their handler appeared together and we learnt where a few of our old familiar sayings originated. e.g. "hoodwinked" and "end of his tether". Phil only took up his present occupation as a Pest Controller following a change in career but has been interested in keeping birds since he was quite young. You may be lucky enough to see him "flying" his birds in Swindon on occasion.

PLEASE NOTE: In line with recent government guidelines following the spread of the Corona Virus, there will be no further regular club meetings for the next few months until we are advised to the contrary. Please rest assured that normal service will be resumed as soon as possible!

Stay safe and let us hope that the present emergency measures will prove successful.

Brenda Boyd (on behalf of the Committee and Members) Tel: 01793 725928



Blunsdon WI

Monthly Meetings At the present time **the monthly meetings have been suspended** due to Government advice with reference to the Coronavirus. However, as soon as we are 'up and running' again all the relevant information regarding WI activities, meetings and news will be available again.

Book club In the last month, we met up at a member's house to discuss the book Garden of Lost and Found by Harriet Evans. We highly recommend the book to anyone who enjoys reading family sagas.

We are a diverse group of ladies and we welcome new members to add to this wonderful melting pot of life experience. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Hall at 7:30 pm, so why not come along and join us? As you can see it's not all jam and Jerusalem, just some time out.

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Changing Responsibilities

Since September 2011 it has been my responsibility and pleasure to record these notes for the Village Magazine in an attempt to keep parishioners informed of what is happening in our Parish.

I regret that this will be my last article for a while as I will be convalescent for some months following an operation. During my absence your correspondent will be Councillor Ian Jankinson who will keep you well informed as to the happenings in our village and parish. For the same reason I have resigned my position as Vice-Chair of the Council, which role will be filled by Cllr Ian Selwood for the two months until all positions are re-assigned at the beginning of May.

Coronavirus

In line with the current published guidelines the Parish Council has decided to take some decisions that will support the efforts to slow down the spread of the disease and protect the more vulnerable in the Parish.

- We have suspended Parish Council meetings including the Annual Parish Assembly until further notice. As there is no guidance yet about the legality of video-conference meetings, we will take decisions on finance and planning using a safe voting in person system.
- We have decided that from Monday 23rd March there will be no meetings/gatherings at the Village Hall, Methodist Hall or Pavilion, including gatherings on the Recreation Ground, except for the Pre School provision where we support the guidelines issued for education settings.
- We will offer the 01793 705617 Parish telephone number as a 'Helpline' number for those in isolation who have no help or support elsewhere. Although we cannot guarantee help we will do our best.

Planning.

As reported last month, Highways England has requested that the Borough delay any decisions on the several large outstanding planning applications for our Parish whilst they re-assess and re-model the Cold Harbour junction and the access on and off the A419. They acknowledge that at peak times the slip roads are high-risk areas due to queuing traffic. We await further information.

Multi-use-Games-Area. (MUGA).

We have explored the possibility of taking over some aspects of this project from the Borough in an effort to move it forward. We prepared proposals that were put to the Borough at a meeting on 11th March and it was agreed that we would take over the responsibility to appoint experts to do pre-planning surveys and tests.

Village Fete 2020.

Owing to restrictions imposed because of the Coronavirus outbreak and to ensure the safety of residents, volunteers, performers, stallholders and anyone else involved in the VE75 Celebrations over the weekend of 8th, 9th and 10th May, the Fete Committee has decided to postpone the Fete and associated activities, until later in the year. They will be contacting everyone involved over the next few days to let them know the future plans and will keep us all informed in the Village Magazine

Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Plan (BENP).

The Examiner's report is expected this week where she will have made recommendations for modifications. We will let you know as soon as possible what these might be.

Recreation Ground Parking.

We have had preliminary discussions with the Borough (Our landlords on the recreation ground) about increasing the area for parking. The Borough is amenable to suggestions and discussions will continue.

Best Kept Village Competition 2020.

We are again entering the village in the "Best Kept Village in Wiltshire" competition run each year by The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) with judging taking place between mid-May and mid -June. Whilst the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of Churchyard, Cemetery, and other public areas, success in previous years has been as much through the efforts of residents in maintaining their properties and gardens to a high standard, and we urge you to do the same this year. I guess many of you will have lot more time to do this now, weather permitting!

Cllr. Stuart Boyd 19th March 2020



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community



News from the Pews.....

What a difference a month makes ! Our first Breakfast Church went really well, attended by several families. The food was great and plenty of it. Young and old alike sharing the first meal of the day. This was seamlessly followed by a short time of worship. It felt like no one wanted to go home.

We have enjoyed 2 wonderful Lent lunches; the school have sent along 16 (in total) children to share the culinary delights of some of our congregation. It was great that the first Lunch coincided with world book day and the children were dressed as their favourite book characters- well done! They were a credit to the staff (and obviously parents) that escorted them along, but as this goes to press - with heavy heart - a decision to cancel the forthcoming ones has been made. The monthly Booksale has been put on hold too.

We remember that as a family we must look out for our fellow members. Thanks go to the fabulous people that have started to coordinate help for the local 'vulnerable' persons.

We were able to Christen a young baby at the most recent service, adhering to Diocesan guidelines. A joyous occasion, with young families celebrating the beginning of the child's journey into faith. This is what we do best!

Our hope for the near future is that we all remain safe and well: even if services have to be cancelled, we are only a phone call or email away.

Happy Easter to you all!

Jane Ockwell

St. Leonard's Church Services

N.B. All services are suspended until further notice.

Cross Street CARS

(01793)

23 23 23

Rail Station, Station Road, Swindon
Wiltshire. SN1 1FE

- Drivers are fully DBS checked by Swindon Borough Council
- Computerised booking & satellite tracking system for your safety
- Experienced drivers
- New drivers always welcome
- Polite and friendly telephonists
- Booking office, with seated waiting area, based above Swindon Rail Station.
- Corporate accounts welcome

Your safety
is our
priority

Find us on
Facebook
Search "Cross Street Cars"

Also part of the Cross Street Group
We have Cross Street car Sales for quality used cars
and Cross Street Garage for all your vehicle
maintenance requirements

Curtain & Blind Designs by Veronica

Hand made and bespoke

CURTAINS

BLINDS

CUSHIONS

Professional - Personal and friendly advice
for all your soft furnishings
and decor requirements - curtain alterations etc

Free - No obligation quotations

Your own fabrics or supplied

Please call

VERONICA

on

01793 704450

OR

0771 8080870

email - veronicataunt@hotmail.co.uk

www.curtainsbyveronica.vpweb.co.uk

Established over 25 years



Find me on



@youbeautyTW

A NEW beauty salon is now open
in the heart of Blunsdon

Having spent 6 years in Highworth
Tracey Williams is now bringing

You Beauty to Blunsdon

For more information contact

Tracey on

01793 230411

tracey@youbeauty.org.uk

or visit my website on

www.youbeauty.org.uk

BM | BLUNSDON MORTGAGES

Dave Donovan DipPFS
Mortgage & Equity Release Adviser

M: 07748 140185 E: blunsdon.mortgages@blueprintsw.co.uk

26 Malthouse Close, Blunsdon, Swindon, SN26 7BG

Graham Witts

Motor Repairs

Full recovery (cars & small vans)

Relocation of classic cars

M.O.T.'s & servicing arranged (free collection & delivery)

All work guaranteed

Reasonable rates

Telephone: 01793 723544

Mobile: 07790 098859



making the most of Swindon's waste
REGISTERED WASTE CARRIER

**Cheaper Than a Skip &
Twice the Capacity!**

• Commercial, Home, Garden,
Garage, Site Clearance

Clearance & Recycling
of Commercial &
Domestic Waste

• Load Assist & 24 Hour Service

TR recycling (SWINDON)

t/f: 01793 706447 m: 07737 371393

e: trrecycling@swindon.myzen.co.uk

w: www.trrecycling.co.uk

SR MOTOR GROUP

OVER 200 VEHICLES IN GROUP STOCK

www.srmotorgroup.co.uk



Vehicle
Inspections

Giving you peace of mind
when buying a used car



Site 2

5 Ermin Street, Blunsdon, Swindon, SN26 8DJ

Tel: 01793 727800

Site 1

The Rear Of 107-109 Stratton Road, Swindon, SN1 2NY

Tel: 01793 539840



Pooch'n'Pals

Pet Care Services

- Doggy Day Care
- Dog Walking
- Dog Home Boarding
- Home Visits
- Small Animal Care
- Cat Care

CONTACT RYAN OR KELLY ON :

Tel : 07368274546

Email : admin@poochnpals.co.uk

Web : www.poochnpals.co.uk



Suppliers of waste management services



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

01793 714950

www.hills-waste.co.uk

Cross Street GARAGE



Swindon.

Transfer Bridge Industrial Estate, County Road, Swindon, SN1 2EL

01793 524333

Cross Street, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 3JT

01793 524030



Spread the cost of your service or repair bill.

NO INTEREST

Pay just 25% deposit. Then pay the balance Over three further monthly payments. Terms & Conditions Apply

Also part of the Cross Street Group we have: Cross Street Used Cars for quality used cars:

01793 524333

Cross Street Cars, our highly professional private hire service:

01793 232323

NOW RECRUITING PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS FULL TRAINING PROVIDED - CALL DAVE MASTERS ON 01793 232323

ADF = Accounts



- Bookkeeping
- Personal & company tax returns
- Business & company accounts
- Payroll
- Start up advice
- No financial jargon, just sound, understandable advice.



Based in Blunsdon, with flexible evening and weekend appointments. Call or email us 01793 744557 info@adfaccounts.co.uk



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

COTSWOLD VIEW RESTORATION

Furniture Restoration and Clock Specialists

For all aspects of furniture repair and restoration carried out by fully-qualified craftspeople
Antique clocks serviced, repaired and restored

Call Rachel Cooze on 01793 721686 or 07850 965361

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

ESQUIRE OF HIGHWORTH



For the very best of Modern and Traditional Gentlemen's Hairdressing

37 HIGH STREET HIGHWORTH
TEL: (01793) 763683



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community



From the Vicar's desk.....

What to pray

I have often read of the events of May 1940 when British troops were encircled round Dunkirk and as Winston Churchill put it, 'The British army is encircled and our troops are proceeding to its annihilation'. At the request of the King Sunday May 28th had been observed as a national day of prayer. Over the next few days Hitler stopped his advance, a storm grounded the German Air Force and calm settled over the English Channel which lasted long enough for 335,000 men to be evacuated from Dunkirk.

So were the events at the end of May 1940 a God incident or a coincident. I do believe in a God of miracles, who can reverse the natural order of things, who can use the forces of his own creation and who can act against evil. I also believe in a God who uses the wisdom and stewardship of each one of us for the forces of good and the direct intervention against natural and unnatural events as they occur around the world.

Over the last days I have been praying for the coronavirus to be halted in its spread and for the predictions of the numbers infected to be over-estimated. I have also been praying for the skill and judgement of our scientists, medics and politicians, who seem to be in a very vulnerable position, as many announce the strategy to be incorrect.

Last Easter I wrote the following in the magazine, '*As we approach Easter and the account of the resurrection are we prepared to believe in miracles, then and now? If Jesus means anything today then the miracle of rising from death has to be true and so means that miracles still apply today*'.

Of course the difficulty of why miracles then are not a regular occurrence needs to be faced by those of us with faith, but for me this does not invalidate all of our prayers now.

Rev Geoff Sowden

Notes from the Editor

Last month's Magazine was packed full of events and meetings for the months ahead and now this edition is full of cancellations and postponements due to the current pandemic, how things can change in a month.

Never to be defeated, this Magazine aims to keep you informed and entertained with special articles this month including tips to keep active, a puzzle page and an easy recipe to keep the younger (and older) ones busy in the kitchen.

If you can spare a couple of hours every month and like walking – see page 1, we have the perfect role JUST FOR YOU!

If you have an article for the Magazine, some news that you would like to share or ideas on how to keep busy especially for those residents who are in self isolation then please send to blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com

The magazine is run by local volunteers from the village. All your ideas, comments and contributions will always be welcome.

EDITOR: Please email all items for the magazine to blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com
Arlene tel. 01793 727306

ADVERTS: To place an advert in the magazine, please contact Penny on 01793 722073

The front cover photo with the hanging baskets was taken in Churchill Avenue

The May Magazine will be delivered from: 1st May

Please note deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline for inclusion
May	22nd April
June	20 th May

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
Treasurer: Mrs Lucy Sturgess

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Clergy: Rev Sally Robertson
Phone: 07588 594410 Email revd.sally.robertson@nschurch.org.uk
Website www.nschurch.org.uk Churchwardens: currently vacant

To assist our GPs and health team at Blunsdon Surgery please remember the following advice:-

*****Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms*****

Stay at home if you have either:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

If you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111.

BLUNSDON SURGERY 36 Berton Close, Blunsdon, SN26 7BE

Tel 01793 721254

	Doctor	Doctor times	Reception
Monday	Dr S Stacey	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-7.15pm
Thursday	Dr L Lodwick	9.00am-10.40am	8.45am-12.15pm
Friday	Dr C Devine	9.00am-10.40am	8.45am-12.15pm

EMERGENCIES - Tel. 01793 762218 (Outside surgery hours)

BLUNSDON NOTES

"The Steps"

The bungalows on the bank 9 to 19 High Street have far reaching views over the countryside to Cricklade and beyond and it's a job to visualise the lovely old brick and stone cottage that once stood there.

"The Steps" was built in the 18th Century at right angles to the road, above the present post box and bus stop. It was approached up stone steps to the right of the corn stores and cart shed which fronted the road.

At the beginning of the 20th Century this was the home of Daniel Hall, corn chandler and his three daughters, Alice, Catherine (Kitty) and Eliza.

Eliza married a minister and left home, whilst tall, thin Alice stayed at home and ran the Band of Hope meetings at the Village School and little "Kitty" who had a club foot also stayed at home and spent her time fundraising for St Leonard's Church.

I well remember Kitty in her quaint cottage, always sitting in front of the old range in her Windsor armchair surrounded by furnishings of a bygone age, inherited from generations of her family who had lived there for the past 200 years.

In the scullery where she lived, there were copper pans still in use, candle snuffers, an oil lamp and sets of painted jugs. One single paned window in her scullery looked down the High Street and she could see through this to her beloved St Leonard's Church whilst sitting in her chair. A panelled cupboard in this room also hid the windy narrow back stairs to one bedroom above.

Next to the scullery you went into a small dining room, then there was a small hallway with its folding front door with another narrow staircase leading up to two further bedrooms above. The furthest room beyond the small hallway was the parlour.

The dining room and parlour were dark and full of old pieces of family furniture and Knick knacks. Amongst the old tea sets and oil lamps there was even a stuffed parrot under a large glass dome that had once been their grandfather's pet. "The Steps" was like a time capsule from the days of Queen Victoria.

The long garden was full of old fir trees, random clumps of flowers, roses and trailing winter jasmine as well as fruit trees and a few vegetables. At the end there was a gothic style arched wooden door leading onto the High Street. The garden walls were covered in ivy.

All three of the Hall sisters were buried in a family grave close to the path in Blunsdon cemetery.

Richard Radway

A Recipe from CookFoodFan

So everyone loves a comforting pasta bake topped with oozy, melting cheese and this recipe is for a basic store cupboard one which is easy even for children to do.

Tomato Pasta Bake (Serves 6)

You need

1 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, diced
1 carrot, peeled and diced small (optional)
1 celery stalk, sliced (optional)
2 garlic cloves, finely sliced
1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
1 tsp sugar
1tsp dried oregano
2 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
500g pasta
200g grated cheese

Here's what to do

1. In a large pan heat the oil and fry the onion (and carrot/celery if using) for 5 minutes until softened. Add the garlic and cook for 2 minutes.
2. Turn the heat up, add the vinegar, tinned tomatoes, sugar, oregano, 300ml water and bring to the boil. Reduce and simmer for 20 mins until thickened, remove from the heat.
3. Put the oven on to gas mark 6, 200° C, fan 180° C. Cook the pasta following the pack instructions.
4. You can use a hand blender to make sauce smooth or leave as is.
5. Stir the drained pasta into the sauce, transfer everything to a large baking dish, sprinkle over the grated cheese and bake in the oven for 15mins until golden.
6. *Enjoy!*

That's basic, let's discuss what we could add. Choose from the following:

Tinned tuna and sweetcorn – drain and add into sauce with the pasta.

Vegetables – add any roasted/cooked vegetables (sweet potato, butternut squash, spinach, broccoli, frozen peas or leftover grated cauliflower stalk) to the cooked sauce.

Bacon – cut up 4/5 slices and cook with the onion.

Chicken – add cooked chicken to the sauce with the pasta.

Chorizo– cut up and cook with the onion.

Sausages – cut 6 sausages into 6 pieces, fry and add to cooked sauce and pasta.

STAYING FIT THROUGH THE CORONA CRISIS

I'm sure I'm not the only person lamenting the fact that I can no longer go to my exercise classes or the gym. I have tried to run up and down the stairs multiple times, jump up and down a bit and try to remember what on earth we did in Pilates. I personally find it hard to motivate myself. It seems infinitely easier to have another cup of coffee and piece of cake!

So, I've been seeking out helpful web sites and recommendations from friends. Can't say I've actually tried all of them but initial experience has been quite encouraging.

Maybe we have a helpful Personal Trainer or Physiotherapist in the village who could offer a bit of free advice via the magazine? It would be good to have some ideas for those of us who are not in the first flush of youth. We don't want to all end up in the surgery as a result of injuring ourselves. That would rather defeat the purpose.

If you know of other useful links, contacts or ideas perhaps the magazine would be happy to share them.

Let's hope we all manage to stay fit, well and sane in the weeks and months ahead.

Links:

- <https://www.nhs.uk.....Exercise>
- 'Get Fit at any age.....' www.mirror.co.uk >health
- yogawithadriene.com

Also, I'm advised that there's a lot on YouTube from chair-based routines to dance.

Penny Summers

BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB



Recent Results

Supermarine won 7 – 0

Sportz Central won 4 - 2

Current league position: 4th in Swindon and District Premier League

The recent run of weekend storms eased to allow Blunsdon to play and win two league games to keep us in touch with the leaders. However, with only a month or so of the season left we still have half the league fixtures to complete and matches will continue well into the middle of May, with Iain Rosewell's men hoping to have secured an Adver Cup Final appearance as well.

As I write this dribble, all our football games have been suspended so no more footie fix for a while. Watch out for details in future Magazines.

BLUNSDON FC Juniors

As we head into a sports drought, I thought I would cheer everyone up with some good news.

Bumblebees. We held the first session of the Blunsdon Bumblebees on Saturday 14th March and welcomed 12 children to Sutton Park. With children aged between 3 and 7 it was a lovely fun session where some skills were learnt and a lot of fun had in a mini match. With smiles all round I think it is safe to say that when football resumes, we will have a wonderful new children's activity for the village.



New U7 and U8 teams. One of the purposes of the Bumblebees session is to ensure that Blunsdon FC has a bright future and local children have a football club that they can represent with their friends. We have children attending who will form the basis of an U7 and U8 team in September, they would love more to join so if you are in Year 1 or 2 and want to join in please contact blunsdonfc-secretary@outlook.com

New website. I am pleased to announce we now have a fabulous new website to keep you all up to date with Blunsdon FC News. Please visit us at www.blunsdon-fc.co.uk

U17/18 Division 2 Champions. It is with huge pride that I can say our U17 team become U17/18 Division 2 champions with 3 games left to play. As one of the few purely U17 team in a U17/18 league the boys have had a fabulous season and hopefully will be able to pick up their trophy in July.

Local support. We couldn't run our club without financial support and I am very pleased to say a big thank you to **The Blunsdon House Hotel** who very kindly sponsored our Bumblebee set up and running costs for this important first year. In addition to this

Blunsdon Fitness+ generously sponsored the running costs for our new website. Local support for a local club is invaluable especially in these difficult times.



Blunsdon Village Fete

Hello everyone,

We are very sorry to inform you, but due to the current restrictions in place with regard to the Coronavirus outbreak and the Government's advice and guidance surrounding large gatherings and the need to minimise social contact, we have decided to postpone the Blunsdon Village Fete in May until later in the year.

This is to ensure the safety of residents, volunteers, performers, stallholders and everyone else involved in the VE75 Celebrations and associated activities, including the Scarecrow Trail over the weekend of 8th, 9th and 10th May.

We will be in contact with everyone in due course over the next few days to let them know of our future plans. We will also communicate, as soon as we can when we have a future date later in the year for the Fete to go ahead as planned.

Thank you to everyone for the support that you have given us in the planning of the Fete, and in the meantime, with very best wishes to you all, we will see you later in the year.

The Village Fete Planning Committee



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

If you're staying at home because of Coronavirus and want something to do, why not run through these fire safety checks



Test you smoke alarm to make sure it's working correctly



Plan and practice your escape plan



Make a bedtime checklist

Bedtime Checklist

- Close downstairs doors at night to stop fire from spreading
- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances**, unless they are designed to be left on - like the freezer
- Check your **cooker** is turned off
- Check your **washing machine** or **tumble dryer** is off
- Turn **heaters** off and put up **fireguards**
- Put **candles** and **cigarettes** out properly
- Keep door and window keys accessible
- Make sure all **exits** are kept **clear**

PUZZLE PAGE - Sudoku – The objective is to fill the 9×9 grids below with numbers so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub grids that compose the grid contain all of the digits from 1 to 9

Easy

					5	3	2	
					3	8	7	5
			8	7	1		6	
4			1		2	9		7
	6		9		8		5	
3		9	7		4			8
	1		5	8	6			
5	4	7	3					
	8	2	4					

© 2014 KrazyDad.com

Medium

			1		4			
7								
		9			3	1	2	
8				9	1			3
	2	5				7	1	
4			2	7				8
	3	6	8			9		
								2
			5		6			

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

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





**Pinewood
Fencing**

Fencing and Gate Specialists

Telephone : 01793 523719
Mobile : 07763 399 515 or
e-mail : ian@pinewoodfencing.com
45 Riverdale Close, Swindon, Wilts, SN1 4EE
visit us at www.pinewoodfencing.com



Inside Out Services
Local family business

Our service offers top quality help in your home and garden.
House cleaning, Interior painting, DIY jobs, grass cutting, weeding, digging, pruning and general tidying. Also general repairs, including shed, fence and external painting. No job too small.

Fully insured - Excellence references

Contact Richard; 01793 725091 or 07443951066
E-mail: richard@insideoutservices.me.uk
www.insideoutservices.me.uk

**thinking of
moving?**

contact us today for a
free market appraisal



**richard
james**

01793 765 292
incentivised.com
highworth@incentivised.com
f t i



Hillier
Funeral Service



An Independent, 4th Generation Family Run Funeral Service

Available 24hrs, 365 days a year

Head office: 170 Victoria Road (01793) 522797
Chapel of Rest: Broadway, Whitworth Road (01793) 522145
www.hillierfuneralservice.co.uk

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

**Nurture Garden
Design & Maintenance**

Create Your Outdoor Space
With a Plant Specialist

CONSULTANCY - DESIGN - MAINTENANCE

07921 058199
grace.natalia@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/NurtureGarden

Celebrating our 15 years of service to the village
Be Proud, support your shop or lose it!

Blunston Village Shop

Opening hours:
Monday-Friday 07:00-17:00
Saturday 08:00-16:00
Sunday 08:00-12:00
Opening will vary on Bank Holidays

www.blunstonvillageshop.co.uk
And on Facebook too
Telephone 01793 700915

**DOWNSVIEW
MOTORS**

Downsview Motors Supply Quality cars at Affordable Prices

Village resident David Johnson has 30 years experience in the car trade. He loves cars but people are his prime concern. David provides a friendly & professional service that ensures that you are entirely happy with your purchase. All vehicles have 6-month warranty.

Honest, friendly, and great value By Duncan E
"It was an absolute pleasure to buy from David. A great car at a great price. I will definitely take a close look at Downsview's stock list the next time I or a member of my family needs a new car."
Call David on 721372 or 07966 494422
David@downsviewmotors.co.uk Current cars for sale - www.downsviewmotors.co.uk

Compucare UK

Est 2002
For all your computing needs

- Hardware & Software Installs & Upgrades
- Repairs • Maintenance • PC Security
- Home or Business Networking
- Wireless Setup
- On Site Service, Home or Business

For a dedicated local service with a Microsoft Certified Professional, with over 25 years experience, call 01793 320 439 or 07799 337 918
E: info@compucareuk.com
www.compucareuk.com

CCO CompTIA Security+™ Certified
Microsoft CERTIFIED Professional

**Blunston
Abbey Park**

Bungalow park homes
exclusively for the over 50s
Blunston St Andrew, SN25 2DU

Call on 01793 722100
www.parkhomelife.com

parkhomelife

AGB Bathrooms & Kitchens

27 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

For a free estimate call Sean on
Tel: 01793 703550
Mob: 07749 862361

Built upon Quality & Service

City & Guilds Qualified

- **Bespoke Wedding Stationery**
- **Business Cards and Stationery**
- **Invitations**
- **Orders of Service**
- **Flyers and Leaflets**
- **Posters and Banners**
- **Promotional Products**
- **Design Services**
- **...and more!**

Blunston Village Magazine readers receive

15% OFF
their next order.
Quote BVM15

Call Minuteman for ALL
your business or personal printing needs
or visit our shop on Newport Street
in Old Town

info@minutemanswindon.com

Minuteman Press Swindon
WE DESIGN, PRINT & PROMOTE...YOU!

01793 976009
www.minutemanswindon.com

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed or implied in any contribution or advertisement are not necessarily those of the editor or magazine committee. No responsibility can be accepted for any error of fact in the magazine.