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VILLAGE MAGAZINE

April 2022



Photo by Debra Richardson

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Swindon Circles Befriending Project

We are currently trying to recruit volunteers in the Blunsdon, North Swindon area to help support some of our more isolated and lonely residents through the Swindon Circles volunteer befriending project.

If you have ever thought about making a positive difference in Swindon, volunteering is a great first step. We have some wonderful volunteer opportunities that will give you the chance to help others, help yourself and help your community.

Swindon Circles befriending is a volunteer scheme aimed at reducing loneliness for residents that have poor mobility and few social contacts. Our volunteers visit their Circles friend on a regular basis for a cuppa and a chat about anything from the weather to the grand kids. Friendships grow and connections blossom. Our picture shows Bert who has just celebrated his 100th birthday with his Swindon Circles volunteer Kay. He has stored portions of his Birthday cake in the freezer and says he will eat a slice a day.

Local Heroes are volunteers who help residents who have no support or means of assistance with one off tasks. This could mean driving someone to a hospital appointment, helping set up internet shopping, cutting back an overhanging hedge or walking a much-loved dog while their owner recovers from an operation.

Volunteer tasks are wide ranging and there is something to suit everyone. It is also a very flexible way to volunteer if you have limited availability, as tasks can fit around the time you have to give. In our picture is Anne who recently celebrated her 89th birthday, with Sharon, her Swindon Circles friend. Sharon is also a volunteer shopper with Local Heroes.

Volunteering offers new experiences and gives huge satisfaction. We offer our volunteers ongoing support with monthly drop-ins and regular talks and training. For one-to-one volunteering, we ask for two references and a DBS, which we pay for.

If you would like find out more, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Livewell Swindon on 01793 465513 or email volunteer@swindon.gov.uk





Community Shop

—BLUNSDON—

Current Opening Hours

Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm

Saturday: 8am – 3pm

Sunday: 8am – 12pm

March started with Maggie Fisher returning to working in the Shop as the Interim Manager responsible for the day-to-day management of the current Shop. We also held our first monthly Volunteers' Forum with 22 volunteers attending. The aim of the Forum is to create a platform where long-standing volunteers and new volunteers can socialise as well as being kept abreast of Shop plans and have their ideas and suggestions heard. The meeting kicked-off with Maggie Banda, the volunteer Project Manager sharing with us the plans for the new Shop and Café, before another volunteer, Cathy Ratke, led a discussion about how we manage the transfer of the existing Shop in its entirety to the new location. With just a few weeks now to go before we open the new Shop, it was great to hear ideas as to how we could transfer the Shop's operation as seamlessly as possible and minimise the impact to our customers.

The next Volunteers' meeting will be on Friday 1st April, starting at 10am at the Heart in Hand pub. Anyone who is interested in joining the BCS volunteering community is welcome to attend and learn how they too could support the Shop and the forthcoming move. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone with a van, who could volunteer their time to help with moving stock, fridges, freezers and shelving to the new location.

It is also great to be able to report that during March, one recently joined volunteer has enjoyed her first solo shift and another 4 prospective volunteers have come forward to support the Shop moving forward. In the new location, there will be opportunities to work both in the Shop and the Café and with a bigger pool of volunteers, we plan to lengthen the hours we are open.

So, if you would like to explore how you too could support the Blunsdon Community Shop, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Hazel Wakefield via email, volunteer@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk or pop into the Shop, leave your contact details and Hazel will be in touch.

Business Sponsors: Thank you to the following local businesses supporting the community:

The Heart In Hand

SR Motor Group

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Newland Homes

Wescon

Pendle Property Design

Easter Opening Hours

Thursday 14th April 08:00 - 17:00

Friday 15th April 08:00 - 12:00

Saturday 16th April 08:00 - 12:00

Sunday 17th April 08:00 - 12:00

Monday 18th April 08:00 - 12:00

Tuesday 19th April 08:00 - 17:00

Parish Council News – April 2022

Warmer weather on the way – we hope. Its lovely to see the flush of spring in the hedgerows and the spring flowers pushing through. Easter will be on us before we know it. Although the Government has removed all restrictions, I am aware that cases, although anecdotally mild, are again on the increase. So please take care and where you can, protect yourself and others with a mask and frequent handwashing. We still have some vulnerable people out there. Thank you.

Congratulations from the Parish Council to Blunston FC for coming top of the Swindon & District Premier League, well done to players, coaching staff and all fans, fingers crossed for the Cup Final on 2nd April.

Planning Applications

S/AGRI/22/0182 Prior approval notification for the erection of an agricultural storage barn. Land At Little Rose Lane Blunston Swindon. **PC had no objection**

S/AGRI/22/0183 Prior approval notification for the construction of a new access and area of hardstanding for agricultural activities. Land At Little Rose Lane Blunston Swindon. **PC had no objection**

S/HOU/21/1604 Erection of a detached double garage, reinstatement of access, construction of new driveway and associated works. Grove House Front Lane Blunston Swindon. **PC were concerned at the safety of the visibility splay to see approaching vehicles, and the damage that might occur to the stream on access and egress.**

Planning Decisions

S/HOU/21/1128 Erection of a two storey side extension and rear balcony. 2 The Copse Blunston Swindon SN26 7BW **Application Granted**

S/HRN/21/1938 Land at Broad Bush Blunston Swindon Hedgerow removal to facilitate new pipeline. **Application Granted**

Blunston Tennis Courts and Grassed Areas

Below are two visualisations of potentially what the Linley Road site will look like, when completed - if the plans are accepted.



Speedwatch Results This month's Community Speedwatch results are below from our dedicated team from Blunsdon. Thank you for their important work in keeping the roads around the Parish safer.

Date	Location	Counted in 1 hour	Exceeding limit		Maximum Speed mph	Speed Limit
17/02/2022	Turnpike Rd	127	14	11%	43	30
21/02/2022	Ermin St	200	9	5%	49	30
23/02/2022	Broadbush	353	11	3%	41	30
25/02/2022	Ermin St	156	13	8%	44	30
04/03/2022	Lady Lane	463	37	8%	47	30
07/03/2022	Lady Lane	371	15	4%	41	30
09/03/2022	Ermin St	219	9	4%	42	30

If you would like to help with Speedwatch, the team are very friendly and would welcome you if you would like to join them during one of their sessions to see how it works. Please let us know on contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk or telephone Tracey on 705617. Thanks.

June's Jubilee Celebrations We are pleased to announce that we would like to support Jubilee Celebrations across the Parish. If you are planning a street party in your road, the Parish Council would like to offer some funding to assist you. Please let us know by e mail to contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk what your plan is – which day, which street, how many people and your safety precautions. We need to know before April 30th. We haven't had a 'rush' of applications so far, but please don't leave it until the last minute.

New Allotments on Minerva Heights soon to become available As you can see in the photo below, we have a range of allotments soon to become available to residents. We will be letting those allotments on the eastern side (closest to the comms tower) initially. Included in these is an inclusive allotment with raised beds (far left). Access is from the carpark to the left of the picture, via Old Lady Lane. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please contact Tracey at contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk

We are waiting for the developer to complete a ROSPA safety audit of the Minerva Heights Play Area, and as soon as it is done, we will open the Play Area too.



(Thank you to Ryan Ainscow for the amazing pictures.)

Ian Jankinson – ianjankinson@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk – 07702 684281



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community

News from the Pews..... Jane Ockwell, Church Warden

As a country we have been stunned by the conflict in Ukraine. At the beginning of March, Emily, our curate, followed on our support from the previous weeks' breakfast church by continuing to pray for all those families that have fled the country; and of course those that remain. Candles were lit as we prayed.

Paul has an associate that is / or has taken supplies that we have collected, to be transported to Poland to help with the efforts already begun.

The first Lent lunch since Covid, took place on 10th March and was as good as expected! We had at least 23 diners with the head teacher and five pupils joining us as well. Along with 2 take outs - there was a lot of soup consumed.

The sum of £140 was raised, which along with a previous collection of £169 meant that we could send £309 to Christian Aid Ukraine. Thanks for the continuing support from the lovely people in Blunsdon. Do come along Thursdays 12-2pm.

Did you hear the bells on 8th March? The Gloucester old fogies (that they call themselves) rang a quarter peal, of Superlative Surprise Major. This is method ringing of 1250 changes that usually takes about 45 minutes to an hour. A peal would take about 3 hours which is pretty tough going. Hard on the hands! and you can come away with blisters. This means quite a high level of concentration too.

Our services remain consistent as before Geoff retired. With Covid breakouts still around we understand the reticence of people not to attend in person. There is still an online service from St Michaels in Highworth.

We look forward to being fully open and continue to carry on with the Lent lunches, Book sale and other aspects of Church life.

St Leonard's Church, Blunsdon will be holding our Annual General Church Meeting

On Sunday 10th April at 11.30am

This will be in church after our service.

Book Sale, Coffee, Cake and Chat

Saturday 16th April 10 am - 12 noon

St Leonard's Church





St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community

From the Vicar's Desk..... Rev Emily Swinerd



In this last Month my family have taken in a little dog to foster just for a while before she re-joins her family in Australia. Pebbles' approach to life is refreshing, if she is fed and safe, she is happy. (See photo) She has caused me to reflect on how these essential things are so often taken for granted by most of us and it takes something like seeing the huge movement of people who aren't safe and may not get fed to take stock. The outpouring of support, warm clothing, and money from the general public to go towards looking after the refugees from Ukraine encouraged me and along with Pebbles led me to pray for all the people around the world who don't

have food and safety, but it's hard to imagine the billions of people in dire need.

Did you know that it is harder for us to feel empathy for a large number of people and much easier for us to care for just one or two? It is because our hearts and our minds cannot process the enormity of that amount of trauma. As always, I think of Jesus and his approach to people. While he was on earth, he dealt in individuals, specific people that needed healing, love or attention. While limited by physics he couldn't meet, love and help everyone. Much the same as us. This month we celebrate Easter - Jesus' death and the miracle of his resurrection. Because he died and rose again Jesus is now able to help absolutely everyone who wants to be helped, he can now bring new life to all who ask for it. So even though we cannot comprehend the pain of such a huge amount of people that is ok. We can follow the example of Jesus and do what we can for the people we can.

Jesus is no longer bound by physics he isn't limited by time and space he knows each and every person. Jesus said "God pays attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head!" While we do what we can for who we can we can trust that God knows and cares for all those we can't help and we can pray for food and safety for those in need.

Last chance for a bread and soup lunch.....

Come along to St Leonard's Church on Thursday March 31st or Thursday April 7th, between 12 and 2 pm. Doesn't sound so appealing? This soup will be home made, served with fresh bread and butter in a friendly atmosphere and for a good cause! This is not just for regular church members but for anyone looking for a quick and yummy lunch! We ask for a donation towards Christian Aid.



Blunsdon W I had their recent meeting on Tuesday 15th March. It was a very interesting presentation by Rev. Doctor Nicholas Henderson - "Fortitude and Fancy" - about Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's first two wives. It also encompassed the great religious, architectural and social changes of this period. He also mentioned Henry VIII's mother, Elizabeth of York, (who is the 'face' of the Queen on a deck of cards).

Hopefully, Rev. Doctor Henderson will come back to Blunsdon W I next year, and talk about Henry VIII's later wives. (Incidentally, we learnt that the popular belief Henry VIII composed "Greensleeves" is incorrect!)

Afterwards, we had plenty of time for delicious refreshments and socialising.

Our next meeting is at 7.30 on Tuesday 19th April in Blunsdon Small Village Hall and will take the form of a Social/Craft evening.

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



Hello Seniors of Blunsdon, my name is Julie Dowie the Scheme Manger for MHA Communities Swindon. We will be at the Village Hall on Monday 11th April at 2pm till 4pm for an introduction to the Scheme and what we could offer in Blunsdon. We currently provide Befriending, Monthly activity packs including our seasonal newsletter, a Friendship Group which also provides a yummy soup lunch and bingo, soon to start a weekly pub lunch and recently started a chair based exercise developed by the British Gymnastics tailored for those living with dementia and/or have limited mobility.

The afternoon will consist of meeting the staff and hearing about what we are able to offer and for us to listen to you of what you feel you would like to see in Blunsdon. You may also be interested in volunteering which is a wonderful opportunity with training provided and support. So, if you are interested in meeting us then please join us on Monday 11th April between 2 and 4. Looking forward to meeting you.

Should you wish to speak with me then please call me on 0745 4075 826, my office is based at Fitzwarren House on Kingsdown Road.



The Garden Club meet on the second Thursday evening most months (see above) at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. If you are interested, ring Brenda on 01793 725928 for further information.

14 April - Richard Radway - Informal Meeting on the History of Blunsdon Village

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Notes from the Editor

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

Blunsdon Village Magazine is available to read online at Blunsdon Parish Council website: blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk

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

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

Front cover photo: A quiet corner - Sams Lane

Your May Magazine will be delivered from: 6th May

Deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline
May 2022	27th April
June 2022	18th May

Parish Council Meetings - The next Parish Council meetings will be at the Village Hall and on Zoom on the 11th and 25th April 2022 at 19:30. Access details are on the Parish Council Website in the Blog section and on our Facebook page.

*****Highway Code Changes*****

Horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles - by special request from Gill The Postie.

The most significant changes are that drivers are now advised to pass horses at no more than 10mph, and at two metres' distance. Equestrians are also classed equal to cyclists in the new hierarchy of road users, which is designed to protect the most vulnerable. There has been "misinformation and urban myths" spread about this hierarchy, with some thinking cyclists were ranked higher than riders, but this is not the case.

Always pass wide and slowly. When you see a horse on a road, you should slow down to a maximum of 10 mph. Be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine. When safe to do so, pass wide and slow, allowing at least 2 metres of space.

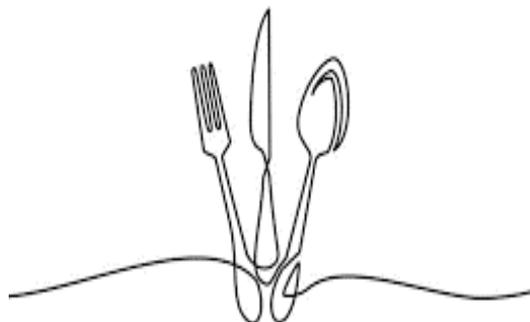
BLUNSDON SURGERY Tel 01793 721254

Blunsdon Surgery is now open for patients to come in by invitation only. If you have an appointment please ring on the bell at the front door. If you are collecting a prescription, please ring the bell on the door down the side passageway.

For any other enquiries, results or appointments, please call the surgery.

EMERGENCIES - Tel. 01793 762218 (Outside surgery hours)

. FOOD FOR THOUGHT.
Outside Catering



Mobile fish & chip van will be in Blunsdon 5pm until 8 pm on the following dates

Thursday 14th April, Thursday 12th May, Thursday 9th June

*******Please note we will be at a new site, Linley Road car park (by the school)*******

**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**



Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association

Summer is on its way and so are various National Trust ventures. Already I am told that the day at Chavenage House in September is fully booked!

Opportunities to visit Bath in April, Grims Dyke in May, Sonning in June and Tredegar House in July may be available but they're selling like the proverbial hot cakes. Our annual holiday to Hampshire and planned 2 years ago is definitely in the frame and we welcome enquiries.

Can't remember the dates? OK, our generous secretary will be pleased to help and if you haven't got a note of his name then he is Derrick Beer on Highworth (01793 762 070). All we ask is that you leave that horrible Covid at home and you are welcome.



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

I thought I would put healthier recipes (i.e. no sugar) in this month, easy to make and of course tasty. It's for those evenings when you want a 'forky' dinner, as my husband calls it. So, choose from Indian or Moroccan flavours, both made with lamb mince.

Lamb Keema (serves 4).

500g lamb mince
1 onion, finely sliced
1 garlic clove, finely chopped
½tsp turmeric
2tsp garam masala
200ml lamb or chicken stock
400g tin chopped tomatoes
200g frozen peas
1 tbsp flaked almonds

1. Heat a large frying pan over a high heat and fry the mince for 5mins until golden, stirring frequently to break up the mince. With a slotted spoon transfer the lamb to a dish, leaving as much fat as possible.
2. Discard all but 1tbsp of fat and fry the onion for 10mins until soft. Add the garlic, turmeric and garam masala. Fry for 2mins, then add the lamb mince back in together with the stock and tomatoes.
3. Simmer for 10min until mixture has thickened. Add the peas and cook for 2min more.
4. Season well, scatter over the flaked almonds and serve with rice or naan bread.

Moroccan Lamb (serves 4).

500g lamb mince
1 red onion, chopped
1tbsp ground cumin
1tsp ground cinnamon
2tsp turmeric
200ml water
1 red pepper, deseeded and cut into small pieces
1 yellow pepper, deseeded and cut into small pieces
400g tin chickpeas, drained

1. Put the lamb mince and onion in a saucepan/sauté pan and cook, stirring frequently to break up the mince and until the mince browns. Drain off any excess fat.
2. Stir in the spices and cook for 2mins, add the water, peppers and chickpeas. Simmer for 15mins.
3. Serve immediately with couscous, flatbreads and chopped coriander (optional).
4. Enjoy!

THE CHATTERBOX A NATURAL HIGH

The news we are witnessing both at home and abroad seems relentlessly dark and disturbing right now and finding comfort and distraction by whatever means is important for our own wellbeing. To counteract this, sometimes simply taking refuge in nature can be a huge help. When Julie Andrews sang, “My Favourite Things” in *The Sound of Music*, she was on the right track. Seeking out people, places and objects that bring us happiness are real antidotes to the difficulties we witness, even if only briefly.

This is not to trivialise human suffering or hardship in any way, but experiencing joy, beauty and wildlife in a natural setting can provide a release valve on days that seem unremittingly sad. We all have a favourite type of place where we feel most happy – whether it’s by the seaside, on hills and mountains in a forest, or even your own garden, but it’s usually in the fresh air

Although there are housing projects going on in Blunsdon right now, we are still fortunate to have open spaces, green fields and wonderful views around us. Burytown Lane is one of my favourite places to walk where I can experience all of those things, and more. Dusk is a great time to walk there when the blackbirds serenade us with the very best songs of the day. Several trees are just coming into blossom with white, frothy and delicate flowers which contrast beautifully with blue skies. Animals in the fields look inquisitively as we pass, eyeing us with idle curiosity as they chew the cud. A little cat sometimes comes to say hello, allows us to stroke his back a couple of times before sauntering off and leaving us alone again.

Sometimes we go into the cemetery. A strange place to spend time, perhaps, in some peoples’ opinion but this is home to Blunsdon’s past brothers and sisters and the riot of colour from flowers on many graves is stunning. Many seem to tend the graves daily, giving care to their departed and also to comfort themselves by making these resting places so beautiful. The benches around the cemetery allow for some reflective time and I’ve often spotted robins (is a loved one close by?), squirrels and the occasional fox there. The daytime peace is temporarily halted due to the housing project but it will return to tranquility again, I’m sure.

Spring is a time of renewal and hope. It’s bright; full of energy and growth. Birds are busy building nests, creatures seek a mate, spring flowers are a blaze of eye-popping colour and are desperate to be noticed. Most walkers will return a warm smile or greeting and wagging tails are always ready to make a new acquaintance. Our village has much to offer in ways of helping to lift spirits and diverting our attention to the lovely things around us. The difficulties are still there, but we can take pleasure in the small constant and reassuring things like the changing seasons, bulbs and shrubs beginning to show growth again. The twitter of tiny, baby birds and even the phases of the moon and stars that light our dark skies. These are a few of my favourite things.

Wishing you all a good month.

The Chatterbox

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*****News from Hayfield Wood - Family Find Their Perfect Home*****

A family has relocated from Oxfordshire to Hayfield Wood in Blunsdon to move into a new home that perfectly fits their lifestyle. Sarah Lloyd, Alan Downie and their son Harry, were previously living in a three-bedroom home in the Oxfordshire village of Southmoor before making the move.

Sarah Lloyd said: “We were looking for a home that met all of our needs in terms of space and layout. The Harcourt (our new home) is so well designed, and all the living spaces are very generous. The hallway is stunning, and then the open plan kitchen and family area is where I can see us spending most of our time. The move to this picturesque part of Wiltshire will enable us to explore the countryside and get involved with what’s going on in the local community. We are really looking forward to seeing the Blunsdon community shop and café open right here at Hayfield Wood in the coming months.”

A new woodland currently being planted by Hayfield will feature 4,755 native trees and shrubs, and the 16-acre scheme will also include a new community shop, café and wildflower meadow. Welcome to Blunsdon Sarah, Alan and Harry.



BLUNSDON NOTES by Richard Radway

We have some very talented photographers in our village including Debra Richardson who always provides delightful pictures taken here today.

Around 1900 small though it was Blunsdon could boast a very talented local photographer Mr Snook who lived with his sister on Hunts Hill in what is now called Hunts Hill House. He had been a draper and took up photography as a hobby in his retirement. He was noted for wearing his "Norfolk" jacket and knickerbockers in the same material.

Most of the older photographs of the village from my collection can be attributed to him because he had them printed as postcards which were sold in the village at that time. Most village people sent them on a regular basis to impart snippets of news to relatives especially if they were away in service.

Mr Snook's "dark room" was a large shed built on to the house in the garden, on the down side of the hillside. I well remember it between two wooden wicket gates where the



entrance to the two new houses now stands on the left going down Hunts Hill just below the high stone wall. (See photo).

Molly Levinge could well remember him with his camera on its tripod, a black cloth over his head with the sound of loud clicks as he changed the plates with their wooden frames.

Mr Snook was very precise and most particular but was also in demand to take family groups. He was one of the old sort and rode a tricycle and finding it difficult to steer when he had to

push uphill, he achieved this by fixing a rod to one handlebar reaching to the saddle so that he could push from behind and steer too. Eventually he and his sister left Blunsdon to live in Faringdon and the village lost one of its popular characters.

You can see some of Mr Snook's Blunsdon postcards that I collected and are now in the Swindon collection at Swindon Reference Library by going online at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/swindonlocal>



Thamesdown and District Probus Club is a support network to help gentlemen when they retire, providing an opportunity for members to attend regular meetings with people who appreciate similar interests and enjoy the camaraderie that belonging to an organisation brings.

Upcoming topics include: -

13th April Agincourt

27th April The Siege of Malta

For further info please contact Mr. D Raymond, Club Secretary 01793725408

WORRIED ABOUT BURGLARY? THINK WIDE(N)

- 👁️ WINDOWS LOCKED
- 👁️ INTERIOR LIGHTS ON A TIMER
- 👁️ DOORS DOUBLE OR DEADLOCKED
- 👁️ EXTERIOR LIGHTS ON A SENSOR
- 👁️ (NEIGHBOURS) KEEP AN EYE OUT



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Our research shows two thirds (67%) of people are worried about their home being broken into, yet there are simple, proven measures we can all take to reduce our chances of becoming a victim of burglary by up to 50%.

To help you be and feel safer at home, our [Think WIDE\(N\)](#) burglary prevention campaign highlights the simple, evidence-based WIDE measures which can be taken in any home on a variety of budgets.

At Neighbourhood Watch, we also believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is key to reducing burglary, so we've extended the WIDE acronym to WIDE(N):

- **W: WINDOWS:** Keep your windows locked
- **I: INTERIOR:** Put inside lights on a timer/smart bulb
- **D: DOORS:** Double or deadlock your doors
- **E: EXTERIOR:** Put outside lights on a sensor
- **(N): NEIGHBOURS:** Keep an eye out for your neighbours

To learn more about WIDE(N) and burglary prevention measures,
visit ourwatch.org.uk/thinkwiden.



PCC Philip Wilkinson Parish Council update: New Police and Crime Plan launched.

Since starting in this role, my mission has always been to make Wiltshire a safer place to live, work and visit. Now is the time for Wiltshire Police, and my office, to go back-to-basics and deliver exactly what our residents want: a quality, frontline, policing service which tackles the crimes which matter most to them.

Making Wiltshire Safer sets out the direction for policing focus and priorities until 2025 as well as showing you the funding I receive and how it will be spent during my first term in office.

Priority 1: A police service that meets the needs of its communities

I am prioritising:

- **Increasing public confidence, trust and our policing engagement with communities**
- **Provide a quality of police service to all our communities**
- **Giving the Police the right tools for the job**

Priority 2: Reduce violence and serious harm

I am prioritising:

- **Violence reduction and domestic abuse**
- **Violence Against Women and Girls**
- **Child abuse and Child Exploitation**
- **County Lines and Serious Organised Crime and exploitation**

Priority 3: Tackle crimes that matter most to local communities

I am prioritising:

- **Anti-social Behaviour**
- **Road safety**
- **Rural crime and heritage crime**
- **Fraud, cyber crime and hate crime**

Priority 4: Improve the experience of victims and deliver justice

I am prioritising:

- **Victim care and support**
- **Mental Health**
- **The criminal justice system**
- **Restorative Wiltshire**
- **Reduce re-offending**

From the start, I was determined my police and crime plan – and the strategic policing blueprint for Wiltshire Police – would be informed by Wiltshire and Swindon’s residents, to deliver a service that you told me is important and that you deserve.

This is what has happened.

I consulted widely with the people of Wiltshire and Swindon via Use Your Voice and opportunities for you to download copies of the draft plan and participate in public discussions on social media.

I listened to our key stakeholders and partners using Focus Group sessions, and heard what the Chief Constable and colleagues within the Force telling me what needed to be included, during several internal meetings, before publishing my Police and Crime Plan – approved by Wiltshire and Swindon’s Police and Crime Panel.

Our new police and crime plan is as closely aligned with your concerns and aspirations as possible and this has been balanced with advice from the Chief Constable as well as national policing strategies.

My finalised police and crime plan was supported at the latest meeting of Wiltshire and Swindon’s Police and Crime panel as the cross-party councillors unanimously ratified the document.

I’m pleased thousands of you took this opportunity with many councillors, MPs, charities and third sector organisations engaging on our community’s behalf. I listened to our key stakeholders and partners using Focus Group sessions, heard the operational policing advice from the Chief Constable, as well as considering national policing priorities and threat, harm and risk assessments.

Our new police and crime plan is as closely aligned with your concerns and aspirations as possible - and this has been balanced with advice from the Chief Constable, as well as from those national priorities.

It is now time for us to work together to ensure our delivery is impactful and makes the difference we all want to see – a safer Wiltshire for all.

Making Wiltshire Safer can be downloaded from the PCC's website: [Police and Crime Plan 2022 – 2025 \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk)



If you have any concerns you can contact my office on pcc@wiltshire.police.uk or wish to report a crime please contact 101 or 999 in an emergency.

PCC - Philip Wilkinson



CHAMPIONES, CHAMPIONES, OLÉ OLÉ OLÉ

Congratulations to the management & players of Blunsdon FC as much deserved winners of the Swindon & District Premier League. But can we make it a double???

Wiltshire FA Junior Cup Final

Tisbury United v Blunsdon FC

Saturday 2nd April, Kick off 2 p.m.

Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Royal Wootton Bassett

Only one recent result for the Development Side, which was unfortunately a 1 – 3 home defeat against K & O Plastering. The Devs finish a very creditable 5th place in Division Two. This game saw dare-devil scooter rider Kane Wheatley returning from injury and First Team Boss Iain Rosewell rolling back the years with an oxygen assisted full ninety minutes marshalling the defence.

Come and join Rosewell's Amber & Black Army at the Cup Final and cheer the lads onto victory.



Swindon and Cricklade Railway

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The S&CR is entirely built, run and managed by volunteers. It was one of the first heritage railways to undertake the complete reconstruction of a standard-gauge railway with no legacy of track or buildings.

Blunsdon is the main 'visitor centre', with car parking, Whistle Stop Cafe, picnic area, shop while Hayes Knoll gives visitors the opportunity to see various restoration projects progressing in the engine shed.

Running Days in 2022

Our public running days are Saturday and Sunday throughout the year PLUS bank holidays. We also have an exciting list of events lined up for later in the year.

See the website for more information. <https://swindon-cricklade-railway.org/>

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