

# BLUNSDON

## VILLAGE MAGAZINE

April 2024

Photo by Debra Richardson





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—BLUNSDON—

Happy April! Finally, after what's felt like a long winter at times, Spring feels like it's in the air...

We'd like to start this month's update by thanking a couple of people:

- The first thank you is to the Highworth and District Lions for their £600 donation – we've used it to service our café equipment, to ensure we're always offering the highest quality service. We really appreciate your ongoing support.
- The second is to the Parish Council for installing a new dog waste bin in the car park, ensuring the one outside the shop can remain for litter only.

We've also recently celebrated our first anniversary since opening the new shop and café – can you believe a whole year has passed since our fantastic launch event and so much has happened during that time! On the day we shared some cupcakes with a few of our first customers through the door, as well as decorating with a number 1 balloon and bunting to mark the occasion. Check out our social media for the pictures.

From Monday 1 April, we'll be increasing some prices in the café to cover the costs of the minimum wage increases. Compared with another large coffee retailer's March 2024 pricing, we're still between 60p and 90p cheaper depending on the drink, plus by sticking with us, you're continuing to support a small business and feel part of our wonderful community. We're also running a promotion during April – if you spend a total of £10 or more in the shop (excluding café, cigarettes, alcohol and crafters products) you can get a hot drink on us. In terms of upcoming events, our next wine tasting, hosted by our supplier Oxford Wine, is taking place on Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. Tickets are £25 and shareholders get 5% discount on any wine purchased on the night. If you're not currently a shareholder, but are interested in becoming one, pop into the shop for a form. They're £10 each and you can buy as many as you'd like. As a shareholder, you'll be invited to our annual AGM and receive regular newsletters containing important updates about the shop/ how it's running/ any changes we're planning to make.

We're continuing our series of Tea and Talks this month with a senior representative from local charity, Age UK Wiltshire, on Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> April. If you've ever been concerned about the welfare of an older person in your family or a neighbour, they'll be explaining how to access support through their Information and Advice team, as well as sharing more about the services they and other organisations offer across the County, including a daily meal service, local social opportunities and transport options.

On Tues 14<sup>th</sup> May, we'll hear from local resident Bill King, who's talk is "A Walk on the Thames Path – Part 1 – Source towards Oxford" which will be a slideshow presentation. And in June (exact date TBC), Larry Banda will be doing a talk to coincide with the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Alongside this, there's our usual Knit and Natter in the café every Thursday afternoon 2-4pm, social walking on the second and fourth Thursday of the month and there's also a social chess club that started in March, please contact Barry Burnstead on 01793 680675 if you're interested.

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



## *Your Village Shop needs you*



**Additional volunteers needed to support our current team in both the café and shop. Full Training offered. No minimum commitment.**

**Contact Hazel for further details  
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### **BLUNSDON WI**

The speaker this month was Fiona Turnbull from Lacock whose fascinating and informative talk was on Photography: General composition and hints on taking more interesting photos. Beautiful pictures demonstrating techniques that we shall all now apply. Don't worry Debbie Richardson I'm not sure you've got any competition from us yet!!

It's our annual meeting on the 16th April with an American supper and we're looking forward to Bernice's famous truffles.

Our other activities this month included a trip to the rechristened 'no drops' at Welford Hall, a litter pick around Blunsdon (10 bags of rubbish collected) and a stint on the Lent Lunches. Coming up a visit to the National needlework archive in Newbury, a guided tour of Highworth, a visit to a very local vineyard and of course theatre visits.

The next book club book up for discussion is Mr Rosenblum Dreams in English by Natasha Solomons.

The National WI have launched a home hub making many talks and courses accessible from home via zoom. Most are free for all WI members. There is something there for most interests. <https://learninghub.thewi.org.uk>

Blunsdon WI is a busy active group that always welcomes new members. We meet the third Tuesday of the month in the Blunsdon Village small hall on the High Street starting at 7.30pm

For more information, please contact Anna on te:706392 or check out our website: [www.blunsdonwi.co.uk](http://www.blunsdonwi.co.uk)

### Parish Council News – April 2024

The year is slipping by so fast – April now with Easter holidays looming, but Spring is here. As you can see below the planning application for the modernisation of the Pavilion has been granted permission. We will now work with Blunston Football and Cricket Clubs to see where we can get funding to help with the costs.

The very popular Fish and Chip van that visits the Village each month on a Thursday in Linley Road will be moving to the car park behind the Village Shop. This is because work will be beginning soon on the refurbishment of the green spaces and the tennis courts.

Parish Councillors Jim Tayler and Martin Nash have been working hard to keep the Parish in good repair. They have re-aligned the fence around the Allotments at Minerva Heights and put up a protective fence next to the Village Shop.

With Rachel Smith finally retiring at the end of March, your new contact for bookings etc will be our new Responsible Finance Officer who is Debbie Braiden [debbieblunston@gmail.com](mailto:debbieblunston@gmail.com)

A very kind resident has erected a fence across the unsafe gap from the Hayfield parkland on to Sams Lane, where near misses have been reported as people have used this gap.

The Parish Council have agreed that an 'In Post' collection locker system can be erected at the front of the Village Shop for very convenient collection of packages and parcels.



### D-Day80



In 2024 the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on **6 June 1944** with a series of major commemorations and events across the UK and in France. Also known as **D-Day**, the historic operation saw the Allied Forces mount a large-scale invasion of Nazi-occupied France that ultimately tipped the course of the Second World War in the Allies' favour.

The D-Day landings of 6 June 1944 was the largest seaborne invasion in history. Along with the associated airborne operations, it marked the beginning of the liberation of France and western Europe.

We thought we might show a film in the Large Hall at the Village Hall, **from 5 pm**, with an intermission for the famous **Cream Teas in a Box** and then join the rest of the Nation by lighting a commemorative beacon at **9:15 pm on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.

**Planning Applications: S/HOU/24/0152** Erection of single storey side and rear extensions. 1 Ermin Street Blunston – **PC supported**  
**S/24/0149** Erection of 1 no. dwelling. Land At 15 Malthouse Close Blunston – **PC objected on several planning considerations**

**Planning Decisions: S/23/1354** Erection of single storey side and front extensions to existing sports Pavilion, siting of 2no steel storage containers, and external access path. Sports Pavilion Blunsdon Recreation Ground Sutton Park Blunsdon – **Application Granted**

### Speedwatch and Police Monitoring

Here are the most recent Speedwatch figures from our dedicated Speedwatch team and where their stats demonstrate there is a ‘hot spot’ we can see that the Police are following up and taking ‘instant’ action with offenders on the spot. So, watch out and think road safety please. If you want to help our team, please just let us know. Thank you – there is full training and support.

Date	Location	Vehicles	Speeding	%	Speed mph	Speed Limit	Start	Finish	
08/02/2023	Broadbush	185	2	1%	39	30	15:30	16:00	The Shrubbery
15/02/2024	Lady Lane	338	7	2%	52	30	15:25	16:25	Cycle Track
19/02/2024	Broadbush	238	6	3%	46	30	15:20	16:20	The Shrubbery
20/02/2024	High St	182	11	6%	29	20	15:30	16:30	Heart in Hand
24/02/2024	Tadpole Lane	183	7	4%	45	30	10:00	11:00	Telephone Box
26/02/2024	High St	77	10	13%	30	20	15:30	16:30	Heart in Hand
27/02/2024	Ermin St	244	17	7%	48	30	15:00	16:00	Minerva Heights
28/02/2024	Sams Lane	126	13	10%	32	20	08:00	09:00	Sams Lane/High St
07/03/2024	Broadbush	285	1	0%	39	30	14:00	15:00	The Shrubbery

From Wiltshire Police...

Speed enforcement session carried out 26<sup>th</sup> February at Minerva and 4 vehicles have been issued with notices of intended prosecution for excessive speeding.

The roads monitored are 30MPH and the fastest vehicle was captured at 44 MPH

Depending on previous convictions and history

3 Drivers will be offered a speed awareness course.

1 Drives will face £100 fine and get 3 Points.

Speed enforcement session carried out on 27<sup>th</sup> February at Minerva Heights Junction and **6 vehicles** have been issued with notices of intended prosecution for excessive speeding.

The roads monitored are 30 MPH and the fastest vehicle was captured at **40 MPH**

Depending on previous convictions and history

6 Drivers will be offered a speed awareness course.

Proceedings will now be undertaken to ensure the most appropriate outcome for the offenders takes place, which includes checking for MOT, Insurance & Point Totters.

Captured footage will be analysed for other offences like seat belts and mobile phone use.

Parish Council Meetings – The next two Parish Council meetings will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, at 19:30 in the Village Hall. If you want to come along, please let us know, details are on the Parish Council, notice boards, Website in the Blog section and on our Facebook page.

Ian Jankinson – [ianjankinson@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:ianjankinson@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk) – 07702 684281

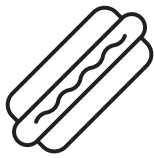


St Leonard's Church  
Blunsdon  
Connecting with God, each other  
and our community

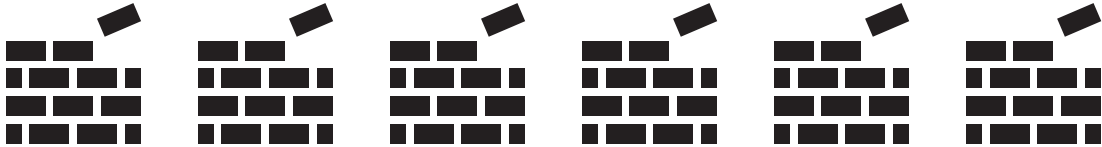
## REGULAR EVENTS AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

*Holy Communion* first and third Sundays of the month 10am

*Morning worship* second Sunday at 10am.



*Breakfast church* fourth Sunday with  
Breakfast Served at 9am and a short service  
to follow at 9.30am.

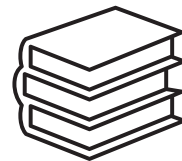


**LEGO CLUB ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
AT 9.30AM**



**Wednesdays, Blunsdon Baby and Toddler  
Group 10am**

**Book sale every third Saturday**



## FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



St Leonard's Church  
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other  
and our community

Easter is very early this year - celebrated right at the end of March, and as we begin the month of April we continue with celebrating in all sorts of ways. The first day of April is often seen as All Fools Day, and the 2nd is Autism Awareness Day. This is important to me, as I have several people in my family who are on the autistic spectrum.

Easter at its heart is about a new start, the time of the year where we celebrate Jesus rising from death, to bring new life to all who put their trust in him. Jesus described our new start as being 'born again' or 'born from above' a spiritual birth. This resonates with me as a dancer as I often say to my dancers 'take it from the top' meaning start again from the beginning.

A few days ago, I celebrated my first baptism in Highworth, welcoming the lovely Evelyn Adeline into the church family, as she begins her journey of faith celebrating a new start with her parents and friends.

All of us at some point in our lives look back and wonder if we would have done things differently. We wish that we could begin again. The new start promised by Jesus is not just a dream that you wish for, but has real substance, a real hope. For every Christian it is a reality.

Phil Goodey, Rector of Highworth and Broad Blunsdon.



National  
Trust

### ***Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association***

All of a sudden, our organisation has come alive. Members who disappeared when Covid started its plague have returned and our committee room is full. Perhaps Spring will give it a try?

Of course, we also start our programme of events, visits, etc and the first is a visit to HEELIS near the Designer Outlet on April 25<sup>th</sup> and then we go on to the White Hart at Stratton for our lunch.

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May we set off for a visit to Owlpen Manor near Uley which, in turn, is westwards beyond Stroud. My laptop tells me that it was there before William the Conqueror so it's worth visiting.

I must mention a talk by Sjoerd Vogt (yes, I have spelled it correctly) in February who persuaded us of a link between Faringdon Folly and Tolkien's tales. I almost believed him.

If you're interested and would like to go here- or on any of our outings please contact Stella Tidmarsh on 01793 782584.



**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](http://blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk)

EDITOR: Please email all items for the magazine to [blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com) Arlene tel. 01793 727306

ADVERTS: For advert enquiries please contact Penny on 01793 722073

**Front Cover:** Magnolia tree, Broadbush

**Your May Magazine will be delivered from: 26<sup>th</sup> April**

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
<b>May</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>

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## A Recipe from CookFoodFan

It was the Hash singing on the hob and slowly forming a crisp crust. The aroma of onions melting within, and the thought of a delicious brunch that reminded me that it was the weekend. The word “hash” comes from the French word “hacher” which means to chop. Basically, a hash is a combination of chopped meat/fish, potatoes, fried onions and herbs/spices and can be

made for any meal of the day.

The ingredients are usually fried until browned. A corned beef hash being the very popular comfort food in America.

Firstly, here’s a recipe for a fish based one.

### Smoked Salmon Hash (serves 4)

750g new potatoes, boiled until tender

1x bunch spring onions, thinly sliced

Small bunch dill, finely chopped (optional)

3tbsp capers (optional)

Zest of a lemon (optional)

2 tbsp oil

150g smoked salmon, chopped, or smoked salmon trimmings

4 eggs

Drizzle: 6tbsp soured cream (I used Greek yoghurt) and 1 tbsp Dijon mustard (I used wholegrain)

- Lightly crush the cooked potatoes with the onions, dill, capers and lemon zest. Season generously with black pepper.
- Fry the potato mix in the oil over a medium-high heat, stirring every few mins for 6-8min until a golden crust forms. Add the salmon, stir and cook for 5mins.
- Meanwhile mix the sour cream or Greek yoghurt with the mustard.
- Poach or fry the eggs.
- Divide the hash between 4 plates, top each with an egg and drizzle with the mustard dressing.

(I have put optional by some ingredients because I bought some reduced price smoked salmon to use that day and didn’t have those ingredients. It still tasted delicious.)

A hash is also a great dish to use up leftovers in the fridge. Try these combinations:

- Sweet potato and streaky bacon.
- Herby sausages, leeks, potatoes and eggs.
- Chorizo, onion, potato and eggs.
- Leftover roasted vegetables, onion, potato and herbs.
- Sweet potato, chickpeas and chorizo OR
- Halloumi, spring onions, potato and paprika.

(Don’t forget to cook potatoes before frying.)

Enjoy!



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## **The Chatterbox      Praise Be!**

Recently, I was one of a handful of entrants chosen for giving a particularly good contribution to a themed competition. There was no outright winner and no prize involved but mine was chosen as one of the six best entries. Winning anything is a rarity for me and I was absolutely thrilled to bits! That was until I looked closer and saw that my entry had been credited to somebody else. I wondered if I'd be making too much of a fuss if I asked for the mistake to be put right? In the grand scheme of things, with all the difficulties currently going on in the world, I know this small oversight pales into insignificance. Personal tragedies, global atrocities, heartbreaking news constantly bombards us. Something positive, however small, helps lighten what can very dark times.

In fairness to the person whose name appeared under my entry, they did speak up and say it wasn't their piece of work and the mistake was eventually rectified.

It did make me think, however, why this small thing mattered to me at all and quite a few things came to mind. I think most of us find receiving compliments quite an awkward experience. We're not really used to being given the attention or having our efforts recognised so pointedly. "Oh, it was nothing," is our usual response when we are praised, along with a casual shrug of the shoulders or dismissive flick of the hand. We tend to undermine ourselves and trivialise what we have achieved. Compliments seem to embarrass us and even the most heroic acts are played down with, "Anyone else would have done the same". Probably not, but we are modest and humble when the spotlight shines on us. What if we never receive praise or thanks for our efforts, though? Well, then we feel overlooked, taken for granted and that our efforts aren't good enough or worthy of praise. It's a bit of a tight rope.

Receiving an award, a compliment or a "thank you" should never be brushed aside in my humble opinion. If our children receive good marks or an award in a sport or a school test, we celebrate, encourage them and let them know how proud we are! Why should it be any different as an adult? In work situations, criticism is often given all too freely but thanks for a job well-done is often much slower to be bestowed. To get recognition sometimes requires us to go above and beyond expectations but one mistake, sadly, gets a much quicker reaction. Praise really does seem much harder to achieve. I'm not suggesting we wear neon flashing signs indicating our Best in Show prize or becoming so full of ourselves that we can't get our heads through the door, but I do feel we should allow ourselves to take that compliment, hear those words of praise, and receive that award without the need to add, "Really, it was nothing". It really WAS something; it was noticed, and you should feel mighty proud of yourself!

Moments where our actions, efforts and endeavors are noted and appreciated are precious. And if the right name isn't on the award, then ask nicely for it to be sorted. We all need a bit of praise and likewise, if you see a chance to give it, do so. It really could make somebody's day a whole lot brighter.

## Blunsdon Village Garden Club

The March meeting went well and once again Rebecca gave us a very entertaining and informative talk, this time about Wild Flowers in the garden.



Next month's meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> April when the speaker, Oliver O'Dell, will be explaining the principles of Aquaponics, the process of growing plants in water only and using the nutrients from fish waste. It uses no chemicals or fertilisers and 95% less water than mainstream horticulture. The site is based in Longcot nr Faringdon. The talk will be followed, in May, with an evening visit to the site.

It promises to be entertaining so why don't you come along to the village hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 pm and see for yourself. Entry cost is £3 per person. All are welcome.

Brenda Boyd 01793 725928

. FOOD FOR THOUGHT.  
Outside Catering



**Mobile fish & chip van will be at Blunsdon, Blunt Rise,  
Thursday 4th and Thursday 18th April, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**If you would like a copy of our menu, please**

**email [grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com](mailto:grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com) or**

**WhatsApp 07515288414 pre orders welcome**

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**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW LOCATION !!!**





## **BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB**

### **First XI – seventh (out of 16) Wiltshire Premier Division**

#### **Recent Results**

Salisbury Dev            won 2 – 0  
 Larkhall Athletic        lost 2 - 4

Mid table obscurity beckons for Blunsdon First XI, but with a busy April and matches against high flying Amesbury & Pewsey Vale, we could still have a big say in the league title race, as we did last year when scuppering the hopes of Devizes Town.

The end of season excitement is being dished up by the **Franklin Murray's** Ressies. We have the points and are currently top, but Ramsbury have many games in hand and could pip us to the title.

A heavy media presence will be at Sutton Park on Saturday 6 April for the visit of The Rams and the crunch clash, however, there will still be three other league matches to follow, where wins will also be vital.

Two of the leading goal scorers, **Lee Toomey** and **Chester Dolisznyi**, have both seen red in recent matches and miss games as a result. Discipline and calm nerves could be key to ensuring a first Blunsdon reserve team league title in living memory.

### **Reserves – 1st (out of 11) Swindon & District League One**

#### **Recent Results**

Moreton – won 4 - 0  
 Purton – drew 0 – 0  
 Lower Stratton – won 5 – 0

#### **April fixtures**

<b>Date</b>	<b>First XI - 3 pm</b>	<b>Reserves – 2.30 pm</b>
6th	Shrivenham (away)	<b>Ramsbury (home)</b>
13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Melksham Town (home)</b>	
16 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Kingsdown (away) 7 pm	<b>Drunken Masters (home)</b> <b>6.15 pm</b>
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Amesbury Town (home)</b>	Spectrum (away)
23rd Tuesday	<b>Wroughton (home) 6.15 pm</b>	<b>Stratton Juniors (home)</b>
27th	<b>Ludgershall Sports (home)</b>	
30 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Pewsey Vale (away) 6.15 pm	

**Come and support the Amber & Black at The Theatre of Trees, Sutton Park and beyond.**

## Reading with Wine



Hello and happy Spring to you all!

I hope you all enjoyed some fabulous weather-based books in March; it would be nice now if the weather could catch up and realise it is supposed to be Spring, a little bit more blue sky would be nice! I have read a good few books based in sunnier climates and it's made me crave some sunshine. Hopefully, we might see some brighter days when the clocks change, which leads me perfectly to this month's prompt; time. There are some great books out there that play with the parameters of time so you can be as creative as you want with this one- from frozen in time in Narnia with C.S. Lewis to as literal as A Brief History of Time from Stephen Hawking.

My first recommendation is '**The Time Traveler's Wife**' by Audrey Niffenegger. Henry has a rare genetic order, called Chrono Impairment which means that he travels through time without choice. He meets Clare and they fall into complicated life of love. The story is told using alternating first person so you are always aware which character you are with at which time. We move with them between time periods, notably with Clare from the age of 6 to her 80's; this changing perspective means you really know her as a character. The storyline is a blend between science fiction, historical awareness and romance so it really does cover a span of genres. It is a beautiful story where the phrase right person, wrong time takes on a whole new meaning. There is also a film adaption starring Eric Bana and Rachel McAdams, a TV series and recently a musical version at the Appollo Theatre...I'll always argue that books are better, but this one does really work in any medium. It's clever, asks questions and somehow manages to be both heartwarming and heartbreaking at the same time.

My second recommendation this month is '**What Might have Been**' from Holly Miller. It's a back-and-forth story with Sliding Doors vibes. We see two versions of Lucy's life based on one small decision to walk out of her job and not look back. Whilst there are similarities, there are a lot of differences which poses questions about life, our choices, and the timings of them; is the rest of our time governed by one or multiple decisions. I met the author and she said that she tried not to have a favourite outcome...I definitely did! I won't spoil it here because I don't want to give anything away but let me know on Instagram @reading\_with\_wine whether you are a Stay or Go fan!

As for the wine, I'm going to recommend the Piccini Memôro range- literally translated as memories and what else is time for, than to make memories. This range comes in Bianco, Rosato, and both a modern Rosso and a reserve Chianti. Their blends have been perfected over time by the Piccini family back in 1882 and only 7 hectares of land; today the fourth generation own four estates. They bring together the four distinct regions of Italy to represent the country as a whole. Morrisons currently have the Bianco, Rosato and Rosso on offer for 3 for £18; well worth it for a wine that tastes of luxury, and bottles that make a lovely gift too. Whether you prefer the crisp and fresh Bianco or a full berry glass of Rosato to the deep cherry and fig flavours of the Rosso, there really is an option for all....at any time!

As always, read as much as you like but please drink responsibly,



Coming soon to a village near you !

*Blunsdon Open Gardens is back*

*Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd June 2024*

Open Gardens  
Breakfast and afternoon teas  
Scarecrow Trail

Expressions of interest welcome to  
Judy **drjudy\_robbins\_62@hotmail.com** for the gardens,  
and Lucy **csturgess@btinternet.com** for the scarecrows.  
Please fill in the form below and send it to us,

*I'd love to open my garden!*

Name & Address:
Which days would you like to open your garden? 22 / 23/ Both?
Mobile Number: Do you WhatsApp? Email:
Access to your garden is via...
Are there any hazards?
Is there restricted access for prams, buggies or wheelchairs?

Don't forget to enter a Scarecrow too!

Please return completed form to 6 The Ridge, or take a photo and email / WhatsApp to:  
Judy Robbins, 07962 318087, drjudy\_robbins\_62@hotmail.com



## **BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB**

### **2024 Season Awaits**

What does Mr Average, The Finisher and The Welsh Wizard have in common?

That's right. They are Blunsdon Cricket Clubs equivalent to The Gladiators and these and other gladiatorial giants are making a return to the emerald pastures of Wiltshire in May.

They have serious designs on improving on last season's fourth place finish in Wiltshire Cricket League Division 6.

The winter indoor team, ably led by **Jules "never out" Steele-Davis**, cemented their place in Division Two, after first flirting with promotion and then dangling with relegation.

If you fancy playing for your village team, the club welcomes everyone who enjoys the sights of wafting willow, the smell of the shiny red leather nugget, or the sound of rain bouncing off their bucket hats.

Just contact Guy on 07753 446614, or come along to our opening match at Sutton Park, where play begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Supermarine Bowls Club Open day**

Supermarine Bowls Club 'The Friendly Bowls Club' can trace its origins back to 1947 under the name of Vickers Sports & Social Club. Our name changed to Supermarine in 1985 when the Club moved to its present home in South Marston. The Clubhouse and the Green is owned and maintained by members and we take a great deal of pride on our social ambiance and everyone is made to feel welcomed.

We are holding an Open day on **12<sup>th</sup> May 2024** where we will be offering free coaching sessions, practice sessions, target competition and the opportunity to watch existing members play in our inaugural Mr & Mrs Supermarine doubles trophy.

During the day tea and coffee, homemade cakes and bacon & sausage baps will be available. We will also have beer supplied by Cotswold Lakes Brewco.

More information is available on the website [www.supermarinebowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.supermarinebowlsclub.co.uk)

If you are unable to make the Open day, we welcome new members to join us on Friday evenings throughout the summer from 6pm. No need to book, just turn up, bowls are available but please wear flat shoes.



# CREATE and CONNECT

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

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

From drawing and painting to knitting and crafting, this is a chance for adults of any ability to create in a social setting. Bring along your projects.



CREATE • CONNECT



## Social Walking from Blunsdon Community Shop

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

Any queries, please message  
Alex on 07554 811779

New  
walkers  
always  
welcome

*\*\* Apologies for the misprint in the  
previous Village Magazine... 2nd and  
4th Thursdays, not 1st and 3rd! \*\**



## Down Memory Lane

The Magazine Committee recently spent a very enjoyable and interesting evening looking through back copies of the Magazine that were kindly donated by Mr Peter Street, son of the late Mrs Inelka Street, High St whose collection it was. The Magazines are from 1975 onwards and offer an excellent insight into Blunsdon life almost 50 years ago. Watch out for snippets appearing in future Magazines! Much has changed, but as we discovered there are some things that remain a constant. We discovered that 4 of our current advertisers have been faithfully supporting us since 1975 and probably much earlier. Thank you to them! They are as follows and their adverts from 1979 are below: -

<p>*Hilliers, Funeral Directors, Currently run by Rebecca Hillier, following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather 7 Lechlade Rd, Highworth, SN6 7HF</p>	<p>*Andy Compton previously his father M D Compton, Plumbing and Heating Engineers 1 Beech Lea, Blunsdon</p>	<p>*Blunsdon House Hotel and Leisure Centre the Clifford family started by Peter and Zan Clifford. Address: Blunsdon House Hotel</p>	<p>*AE Smith and Son Funeral directors 27 Newburgh Place, Highworth, SN6 7DN and 4 Covingham Square, Swindon, SN3 5AA</p>
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[www.swimstars.org.uk](http://www.swimstars.org.uk)

The background of the advertisement is a dark, high-contrast image of a hair salon sign. The sign reads 'HOUSE OF hair' in a bold, sans-serif font. The word 'HOUSE OF' is in a smaller font size above the word 'hair', which is significantly larger and more prominent. The background is dark, making the white text stand out.

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## Villages and rural areas not immune to threat of child exploitation

I was astonished to learn recently that those criminal gangs who groom and exploit children and young people to carry out criminal activities on their behalf are now using virtual rewards to take advantage of them.

This takes the form of credit in online video games, so no longer must parents only be on the lookout for new trainers, designer clothes and expensive technology if they're worried their child is being exploited, but also online enticements such as avatars and virtual currency.

Children and young people are especially vulnerable to being exploited by criminal gangs because of their age and the harm caused to themselves, their families and their communities can be devastating with violent incidents often escalating.

That's why my office has backed the 'Check Your Children' campaign developed by Owen's World, a charity set up by family and friends following the death of Owen Dunn who was fatally stabbed in Swindon in December 2022.

Owen was carrying a knife at the time of the stabbing, and now his family are asking parents and guardians to look out for any signs that their children may be involved in knife or gang crime.

We've developed a video to explain the signs of exploitation, the reality of serious violence in Wiltshire and where they can seek further guidance and advice if they're concerned.

We often think of drug and knife crime happening in our city and bigger towns, but our villages and more rural areas are not immune from the threat of county lines and serious violence, and sadly nor are the children and young people that live there.

So, my plea to parents, guardians, grandparents, and other caregivers, please 'Check your Children' don't shy away from asking the difficult questions of your children and seeking support from schools, police, Crimestoppers and the NSPCC if you need it.

To watch the video and find out more on how to keep your children safe visit <https://bit.ly/checkyourchildren>

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