

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

December 2020



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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Coronavirus and Support in the Parish

It is good to see support is still strong for the Blunston Community, and news of impending vaccines is a great lift to our spirits and gives us hope while we continue the necessary pressure that we must all focus on to stay safe.

There are a series of help messages that you will see on our Facebook page and elsewhere. However, there are still those that are hard to reach and support in the Parish. Can I please ask everyone to keep a watchful eye out for those that might not read this or Broadcast Blunston or the Parish Facebook pages – or might not get to the Shop. If you think there is someone who might need help please ring Tracey on 705617 and let us know. Thank you.

Methodist Church and Hall

There is a **Consultation paper** in the Magazine this month which outlines the **potential cost to the Community** should you decide that the Methodist Church and Hall should remain a Community Asset. This Consultation will also be available on our Facebook Page, Broadcast Blunston and Website where you may vote on line via the Survey Monkey Questionnaire. **Please read it and cast your vote either way, as it is important that as many of you vote as possible.** The North Swindon Scouts are still pursuing their investigations but are still keen to try and use the building. Thank you to those who have contacted us with offers of help with the project and Tracey, our Parish Clerk, will keep in touch.

Planning Applications

Thank you to all of you who reported the excavation work that happened in the field opposite Beech Lea. It is good to have parishioners that keep us informed of unusual activity in the Parish. There were two applications for planning permission in that field. The application for the Church is still pending decision by Swindon Borough Council and the other for close-care units was withdrawn, so no permission granted for any works.

S/HOU/20/1322 - Erection of 2 no. dwellings, garage and associated works. At: Grove House, Back Lane Blunston Swindon SN26 7BJ – **PC had some concerns about access, Conservation and loss of trees**

S/HOU/20/1409 - Erection of a single storey side/rear extension, conversion of garage into living accommodation and erection of garage. At: 19 Sutton Park, Blunston Swindon SN26 7BB. – **PC recorded concerns that the development had already begun without permission and some of the reasons for refusal of Prior Approval were still valid.**

S/20/1417 - Retention of existing polytunnel. At: The Red House, Upper Burytown Farm Burytown Lane Blunsdon Swindon. **PC had no concerns as long as prior permission had been given.**

Recent Planning Decisions

S/LDP/20/1089 – Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for the erection of pitched roof to existing garage at 54 Berton Close Blunsdon SN26 7BE – **Certificate refused.**

S/HOU/20/1115 - Erection of 2 storey front extension at Wharfe Dene, Hillside Way. – **Granted with conditions**

S/PHOU/20/1212 – Prior Approval Notification for the erection of a single storey rear extension measuring 6.40m (from original rear wall) 3m (maximum height) At: 19 Sutton Park Blunsdon SN26 7BB– **Prior Approval Refused**

S/RES/19/1773 - Erection of 90no. dwellings, including recreation space, landscaping, road and drainage infrastructure - Reserved Matters from previous outline permission

S/OUT/17/1032. **Granted with conditions**

Speedwatch

The volunteers of Speedwatch are unable to carry out their speed safety checks throughout the village roads during the current Lockdown.

They hope to resume in December and are still looking for more volunteers to join the team. There is full training by Wiltshire Constabulary.

Latest Speedwatch results:

Date	Location	Vehicles Counted	Exceeding limit	Maximum Speed mph
27/10/2020	Broadbush	296	20	50
28/10/2020	Broadbush	303	12	45
29/10/2020	Ermin St	123	17	45
30/10/2020	Lady Lane	160	18	45
02/11/2020	Ermin St	164	6	45
03/11/2020	Broadbush	370	32	47

As the traffic rebuilds after the effect that the lockdown has had, we have begun to collect data on traffic and speed to examine how both can be mitigated.

This with the data from Speedwatch will give us evidence to prove the need for calming measures to make the Parish safer.

Parish Council Finances

At our Nov 16th Meeting the PC agreed to postpone several of the planned projects for this year and not carry them forward to next year to enable the PC to maintain the 2021/22 Precept (Local Council Tax) from April 2021, at or below this year's level. We have statutory expenditure, necessary expenditure and desirable expenditure and we will maintain a balance of these to keep costs as low as possible.

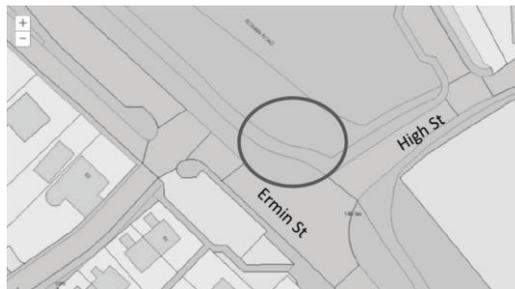
Remembrance Service

There was a small group of people at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and we laid a wreath from the Parish Council and observed the national 2 minutes silence.

Grounds Maintenance

The fantastic growing season this year has substantially increased the cost of our Grounds Maintenance dealing with hedges and trees that have grown enormously so we have some planned works still to complete. PCllr Ian Selwood and our Parish Clerk Tracey have completed their 'walk' of the Parish to look at the quality of the work carried out by our GM contractor. The performance was judged to be good and there were some areas highlighted for work that were not on our original plan and some that had been missed.

We did agree to carry on developing the entrance to High Street (see map) with a feature similar to the entrance garden at Broadbush and this will happen during the spring of next year. We would be happy to see any designs you might have. Bearing in mind they must not obstruct the sight line at the junction or cause a distraction to traffic.



Parish Council Meeting

The next virtual meeting will be held on Zoom on Monday 7th December 2020 at 19:30.

******The PC would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year******

Stay safe, stay well

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

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If you're unable to call, please email customerservices@swindon.gov.uk.

Please read the [privacy notice](#) before you call, as we will ask you for personal information.

Check in and chat:

The NHS Volunteer Responders programme 'check in and chat', which gives people who need help the chance to talk to a friendly voice on the telephone.

This can help if you're lonely, have had little or no contact with others, or are experiencing issues with confidence and self-esteem because of self-isolation.

You can find out how to register at the [NHS Volunteer Responders website](#).

If you don't want to do this, or have no access to the website, call Customer Services (details above) and we'll arrange a call back.

Visit <https://www.swindon.gov.uk/coronavirus> for the latest advice and support.



Greetings from all of us here at the community shop, we hope you are all well and keeping safe during these continuing uncertain times.

Shop Updates

As we have recently mentioned in previous updates, we will be keeping you all up to date with the latest shop opening hours. That being said, due to a change in shopping patterns it has become apparent the shop is not utilized during the hours of 3pm - 4pm, in response to this we will be changing our opening hours. As of Monday 30th November 2020, the shop hours will be as follows:

Monday – Friday: 9am – 3pm
Saturday: 8am – 3pm
Sunday: 8am – 12pm

For those of you who have not recently been in store you will be pleased to hear we are now selling the 2021 Village Calendars, each filled with beautiful pictures taken in and around the village.

We are continuing with the exciting option to purchase a commemorative paving block and or Community shares for the new shop which is currently under construction. If you would like to purchase either of these you will find application forms on the shop front desk or online.

<https://blunsdoncommunityshop.uk>

Your Community Shop is looking for a Treasurer

Would you like to do something useful and help your community at the same time? Do you have a bit of a flair for numbers and a working knowledge of Excel? Then this could be for you!

The role includes: Managing Income and Expenditure, Recording of Daily Takings, Managing Bank Accounts, Liaising with Shop Manager on expenditure and external accountant.

Ensuring efficient payment to suppliers and staff, Monthly reporting to the Management Committee on all financial matters

Keeping up to date financial records for quarterly VAT & Year End Accounts, to be produced by external Accountant.

Our outgoing treasurer will be happy to chat through the role in more detail and is available for hand holding during the transition. Please email her and she will contact you.

treasurer@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk

Festive updates

This month marks the run up to Christmas. In store we currently have a few festive goodies on sale with many more on their way in the next few weeks.

We currently have a large mix of festive greeting cards, along with boozy marmalade and a small variety of pickles from our usual local suppliers. Not forgetting the local honey currently in stock!

Coming within the next few weeks we will have a festive selection of cakes, treats, gift hampers and an array of locally sourced produce including jams, pickles and preserves.

Christmas and New Year opening hours

In order to keep you all up to date, here is an advanced look at our festive opening hours.

During the Christmas and New Year period the hours are as follows:

Monday 21 st December	9am - 3pm
Tuesday 22 nd	9am - 3pm
Wednesday 23 rd	9am - 3pm
Thursday 24 th	9am – 12.30pm
Friday 25 th	CLOSED
Saturday 26 th	CLOSED
Sunday 27 th	8am - 12pm
Monday 28 th	9am - 1pm
Tuesday 29 th	9am - 1pm
Wednesday 30 th	9am - 1pm
Thursday 31 st	9am - 1pm
Friday 1 st January	CLOSED
Saturday 2 nd	8am - 3pm
Sunday 3 rd	8am - 12pm

Festive hours will also be published for all to see in the shop in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Shop hours from Monday 4th January 2021 will commence as normal and as usual we will keep people posted if a change in opening hours occurs.

During the past few months, we have been lucky enough to see and meet lots of new people within the village, we have also been very fortunate to have a loyal group of regular shoppers who have continued to support us through these difficult times.

As the pandemic has continued, we have had the shared misfortune of not being able to see a large number of our regular customers & friends who are still shielding. To those, and all still shielding, we wish you a very Merry Christmas to you and your families, we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

It's been a tough year for many residents in Blunsdon, but through kindness and consideration towards each other we have nearly made it through 2020. Hopefully in 2021 our community will finally be able to come back together and our village will become whole again.

Take care & be safe

All the best from the Blunsdon Community shop team.



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community



News from the Pews.....

The build up to Christmas begins. Only....days to go! Trees and decorations are already on sale and being put up in homes across the country. The purpose is to take our minds off of Covid-19 and have something to look forward to.

We would usually have a full calendar of activities too.

This year we have had few services in church, making the most of technology and watching online. Zoom meetings taking the place of actual face to face contact (making your own coffee at these) how different it's all been and how much more thought you need to put into simple tasks.

The Star trail has been hosted in the church for a number of years. The children from the school learn afresh the story of Jesus' birth. This year there will be videos played in the classroom so they don't miss out.

Advent Sunday falls on 29th November, the first candle on our advent wreath would be lit. Advent 1 The Patriarchs, 2. The Prophets, 3 John the Baptist, 4 The Virgin Mary. The last to be lit in the middle on Christmas Day - The Christ.

We are still planning to do things which may or may not come to fruition: it's all about having a plan B! The Christingle service (details below) is an example of this Plan B.

These are challenging times and we hope that the community in our parish are not suffering or in need.

Yes, we can't wait to meet together and yes to have a vaccine that works and keeps us all safe. Those are the things that will make Christmas better for me, and maybe they are on your list too.

We at St Leonard's wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Jane Ockwell

Providing lock down is not extended, we will be holding a Christingle service this year on 6th December at 4pm. If you or your family would like to come, please let Helen know (722725/griff9999@btinternet.com) as numbers will be limited.

Christingle Oranges in kit form (i.e. all the pieces in a bag) will be available for a donation of £3 before/at the service/ up until Christmas.

Again, please contact Helen if you would like one.

There will be no collection candles this year as it doesn't seem a Covid safe thing to do.

We would still like to raise as much money as we can for The Children's Society though hence asking for a donation of £3.



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon
Connecting with God, each other
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From the Vicar's desk.....

Hope

I write this article on the day the Pfizer vaccine has just been announced as 90% safe and the stock market has gone crazy, British Airways stock rose by 30%.

On the 'hope index' where do we stand for next year: a reduction of the virus, agreement on climate control, recovery of the economy, no lasting effects of this last year for education?

What is the basis of our hope?

Everyone is gathered for the school nativity play. One boy desperate to play Joseph, has actually been cast as the inn keeper, so when Joseph and Mary arrive at the inn, our hero chosen as the inn keeper but who really wanted to be Joseph answers the door and says; 'she can come in, but not you, I wanted to play Joseph'.

Jesus is about to enter our world as a baby and offering only himself. What hope does that bring? Reviewing our current issues, don't we need a scientist to control the virus and bring us to net zero carbon emissions, or a banker to raise the economy for the future, or a teacher to prepare our children for the future?

Hope is of course located in science, money and education; but what has struck me over the last months is the temporary nature of everything I tended to place my hope in, what I really wanted was for my heart to be full of hope.

Jesus came offering himself, his human life bringing the hope of forgiveness from the past and his eternal life hope for the future.

It seems odd that we still celebrate the birthday of someone born 2,000 years ago.

Perhaps it's because all those years have been full of people who knew the baby to still be alive, bringing the kind of hope that is located in hearts and minds and not just our material world.

Rev Geoff Sowden



Notes from the Editor



The Village Magazine committee wish all our readers a ***Merry Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.***

If you have an article for the Magazine or some news that you would like to share 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

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

Front cover photo: Tree decorated with poppies by children and staff from St Leonard's for Remembrance Day.

Please note the next Magazine will be the February edition and will be delivered from: 29th Jan 2021

Deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline
February	20th January
March	17th Feb

Thank You

St Leonard's Church PCC would like to sincerely thank Alex and his team for their work in ensuring this year's annual village quiz went ahead. A great technological feat! Over £500 raised. Fantastic work!

Helen

BLUNSDON SURGERY Tel 01793 721254

Blunsdon Surgery is now open for patients to come in. We are operating a traffic light system. Please remember you will need to wear a mask to enter the building and only enter when the light is green. EMERGENCIES - Tel. 01793 762218 (Outside surgery hours)

Do you run a local business?

Why not advertise in this Village Magazine and promote your business to local people?

The Magazine is delivered to every Blunsdon home, around 1000 households, 11 months of the year.

If you would like to enquire about placing an advert please contact Penny on 01793 722073



There will be no Scout Christmas Post this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Thank you so much for your support over the years and we hope to be back next Christmas!

Steve Iles, Group Scout Leader,
07885 188079, iles.swindon@gmail.com



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Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

A representative from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) has been in touch with the Parish Council to explain how they can help communities become more resilient in the event of a prolonged power cut. They talked through their Priority Services Register that residents who may need extra support during a power cut can sign up to.

Those eligible to join the Priority services are:

- Those dependent on electricity for medical home care e.g. Kidney dialysis machine/ventilator
- Those who have a chronic illness or short-term medical condition e.g. recovering from a major operation
- Those who are disabled
- Those who have special communication needs e.g. blind, partially sighted, deaf or hard of hearing
- Those who have children under five years old
- Those who are over 60 years old

To register with the priority service: -

You can call FREE on 0800 294 3259 from a landline or mobile

Or 0800 316 5457 from a textphone.

Or use the website <https://www.ssen.co.uk/Home/>

If you would like a Priority Services leaflet, they are available at Blunsdon Village Shop

To report all power cuts and emergencies call 105

TALES of VENICE, the Guide Dog puppy

Oh no, another lock down which will hopefully be over by the time you read this. I do not mind lock downs because I am not left alone, my puppy walkers are not allowed to go shopping together so there is always someone at home.

Did you guess how many Guide dogs a visually impaired person can have during their lifetime?

There is no upper or minimum age for guide dog ownership, so those living with sight loss can have as many as eight guide dogs in their lifetime. Sometimes guide dogs have to retire early as we can suffer the same conditions you have like arthritis, problems with any of our organs, cancer and even sight loss.

I recently had a free run with a retired guide dog who is going blind and we sometimes bashed into each other as he could not always see me coming. Do not be sad as he is living with wonderful people who are making things easier for him to have a good life.

Since my last article I have been a little poorly and had unexpected visits to the Vet. I was struggling to keep my food down and the vet felt my tummy but could not find anything wrong and so I had to go back the next day for an x-ray to see if I had swallowed anything I should not have done. I was not allowed to eat or drink anything when I woke up (I did not like that) as like other dogs I would not have stayed still, so had to have an anaesthetic.

Thankfully I had not swallowed anything I should not have done and after some medication I started to keep my food down.

I had a little problem when my puppy walker came to collect me as I was still a little tired. A delivery lorry parked behind our car and I was confused and instead of getting in my cage in the car I kept trying to get into the back of the lorry. Eventually my puppy walker managed to lift me in (told me I was very heavy) and brought me home.



I was still confused when I arrived home and when I was helped out of the car, I stayed on the drive instead of going inside in the warm. It took a little time to get me inside and then I insisted on standing near my bed rather than lying down. The photo shows how confused and unsteady I was on my feet. I am all well now and like everyone else am looking forward to Christmas.

This Christmas will be special if we can get together as families but please can you be careful with your treats; chocolate, grapes and anything with sultanas e.g. mince pies, as these can be poisonous for dogs. I am sure you do not want to spend time over

the festive season with an emergency visit to the Vets – VERY time consuming and could be expensive.

Have a happy and safe Christmas.

Question of the month: How do they match a Guide dog with their owner?

Consultation on the Future of the Methodist Church and Hall

As you may know the Methodist Circuit have decided to sell the redundant Methodist Church and Hall on the corner of High Street opposite the turning to Pontings Close. Up until recently the Parish Council has been using the Hall to provide space for activity providers to use in the village.

The Parish Council has registered the whole building as an Asset of Community Value which means in simple terms that if the owners want to dispose of this asset, then the Parish Council can reserve the right to bid for the asset should the Community wish it to do so. This does not guarantee that we will automatically win the bid but makes us a 'player' while we work out in more detail the finances to achieve the amount bid.

We had until October 8th to register our interest to bid before the property can be offered on the open market, which we did. This invoked a moratorium on the sale of the premises and provided a period of time, until the 27th February 2021, for consultation with the community. In our wider consultation the North Swindon Scouts have also registered an interest in the building, and would like to collaborate with the Parish Council on a way to maintain the building in community use, subject to their ability to establish some parking area and the structural quality of the building.

If the Scouts decide not to progress and should the Community decide that they would like the PC to bid, it will mean that the PC will have to borrow money to pay for the purchase.

There are Loan Boards that Parish Councils can use with preferred interest rates. An example of the potential cost of a loan for £250,000 over 10 years would be £277,495 and for 20 years would be £315,659 and this would mean an additional sum added to the Band D Precept (Local Council tax) of just over £2 per month over the 10 year loan and £1.17 over 20 year loan. The Precept may reduce over time as the Parish population grows, however as it grows, so will our Parish responsibilities. We anticipate that the revenue from Parish facilities should cover the running costs and normal maintenance of the building. Should the North Swindon Scouts wish to progress their bid, the Parish has agreed that it will not put in a rival bid.

If the Community decides that we should bid for the building, we would progress a more detailed cost/benefit analysis which may result in a further consultation with the Parishioners. Even if we decide to go ahead it is still no guarantee that we will get the building as the Methodist Circuit is obliged to get the best price for the property.

Please complete the survey on the next page: -



Consultation on the Future of the Methodist Church and Hall

There are two questions for you to consider, please answer both:

‘Would you like the Parish Council to bid for the Methodist Church and Hall?’

Yes

No

‘Would you like the Parish Council to endorse a bid from the North Swindon Scouts?’

Yes

No

Please remove this page from the Village Magazine as your ‘voting slip’ and record your vote in one of the following ways, one vote per household please:

- **Tear out this page and place it in the CONSULTATION box in the Village Shop.**
- Use your telephone to photograph this page and e mail it to contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk
- This consultation document will also be placed on the Parish Council and Broadcast Blunsdon Facebook pages with an on-line voting option
- It will also be on the Blunsdon Parish Council website: www.blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk with an on-line voting option
- There will also be voting papers available in the Village Shop
- **YOU HAVE UNTIL 31ST DECEMBER TO VOTE**

PLEASE NOTE: If less than 30% of the households choose to vote in this consultation, then the Parish Council will not proceed with an independent bid.

To qualify to vote you must live within the Parish of Blunsdon, therefore we want you to add your Postcode below.

Postcode:



We are in the midst of a busy term here at St Leonard's. Amongst many things, we have marked Remembrance Day and soon we will be exploring the meaning of Advent and celebrating the importance of Christmas.

Our value this term is Trust. We will look at what it means to have trust in others and look at role models in our school, community and the wider world, who demonstrate different kinds of trust.

We will also be exploring what it means to be a courageous advocate. We will look at examples of people who have spoken out about an injustice and look at the legacy that they have left or will leave.

On our return to school last term, the children worked on many projects together.

We used the book 'Only One You' to celebrate the fact that each of us are unique and because of this, each of us positively contribute to our school community.



Each child painted a wooden fish to represent their uniqueness and they will all be displayed in the school hall to represent how we can come together

as a school community to make the world a better place.

We are also looking at each of our values and why they are important to us. Here are some examples of the art-work the children have created for our spirituality garden.



Mrs Julie Warburton Headteacher St Leonards CE Primary Academy

BLUNSDON NOTES

Memories of a Blunsdon Christmas

One of the traditions in Blunsdon at Christmas was the Carol Wagon.

I first remember it from the days when Rector Knight was in the Rectory. He and his wife lived rather frugally in what would now be called reduced circumstances. They only had his stipend to live on, unlike the Robesons before them who had considerable family monies. The Rectory then was draughty and cold with open fires and no central heating but Rector Knight and his wife were always cheery. He often had a dewdrop on the end of his nose too!

In the days of the next Rector, the Rev Jones, the Carol Wagon was provided by Stephen Russell of Lower Buryton Farm and this was quite something to behold. He provided the tractor and the farm wagon and it was always skilfully decorated with evergreens, yew, holly and laurel by him and Celia, his sister. The wagon was then covered in straw bales and had Tilley lamps on each corner on top of long posts, it was quite a spectacle and really came into its own.

Once decorated, Steve Russell and his helpers, with great efforts, lifted the old piano from the village hall onto the wagon to complete the show. My Aunt Hilda Bradford played the carols, her music illuminated by choir members shining their torches. It was a good job she knew most of them off by heart after all her years as church organist.

The wagon then set off, with everyone suitably muffled up, round the village, stopping at strategic points like Blunsdon House, the Cold Harbour and the Heart in Hand for refreshments. It was a chance for them to get their second wind back for the next stretch of the procession. Everybody had a rousing good time and the whole village seemed to join in.

Midnight Mass at St Leonard's Church was also a special Christmas occasion. The church was always packed and extra seating had to be provided to get everyone in. The church was always superbly decorated with Stephen Russell again decorating the tops of all the pillars with fantastic arrangements, all held up with wet lumps of clay. There were also hundreds of candles lit to complete the picture.

When communion took place, it was almost traditional to hear the door open at the back of the church and a well-known village character would arrive, straight from the Heart in Hand. He would make his way up to the altar rail, take communion, then promptly make his exit, greeting the congregation as he made his way down the aisle with a gruff "Merry Christmas" before leaving as he had come in, with a loud creak of the old church door.

It was Christmas in Blunsdon once more....

Richard Radway

Blunston W I will not be able to hold a Christmas get-together this year, but members are keeping in contact with one another, and also meet up on a one-to-one basis for walks/exercise.

We usually have a Christmas meal in Blunston which is very enjoyable and sociable, and also donate gifts to a local charity.

Blunston WI are a diverse group of ladies and we would welcome new members (when we are able to resume meetings) which will be on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

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



Blunston Village Garden Club

To Members, Friends and Villagers

I hope you are all well and wearing your masks with pride when venturing out. As I am writing this in the middle of the second Lockdown period, you can tell what is on my mind. (Brexit has taken second place for now!)

Hopefully there is now light at the end of the (long) tunnel when we will be able to see family and friends again - no harm hoping anyway. Get those seed packets sorted and look forward to springtime!

In the meantime, it falls to me, on behalf of the Committee, to wish you all a Peaceful but Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Hopeful New Year, no matter what it may bring in the short term.

Brenda Boyd Tel: 01793 725928





BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB

How well do you know your team - former Blunsdon player nicknames (answers on page 21)

1. Famous Australian TV Kangaroo
2. Bonnie Prince
3. Stomach area, sportingly shaped with beer
4. Edson Arantes do Nascimento
5. Long, limp, straight hair
6. A piece of old cloth or low quality newspaper
7. Used to introduce a phrase or clause contrasting with what has already been mentioned
8. Marco? The Italian Espana 82 World Cup Final goal scorer
9. Ernie's Sesame Street sidekick
10. A switch to turn down the lights
11. Welsh roofing materials
12. Danish for down

C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	B	A	L	L
D	O	D	G	E	R	B	E	L	L	S	A	R
I	J	J	O	H	N	C	O	L	L	I	N	S
M	R	A	S	K	I	P	P	Y	N	O	T	J
M	S	K	L	K	I	P	P	Y	E	A	E	E
E	C	H	A	R	L	I	E	O	V	O	R	R
R	A	G	T	T	A	R	L	A	N	K	N	R
A	A	B	E	L	L	Y	E	J	Q	F	S	Y
M	B	U	S	B	F	C	L	L	I	T	E	G
B	E	T	R	O	S	E	W	E	L	L	V	U
E	R	S	U	T	T	O	N	P	A	R	K	K
R	T	A	R	D	E	L	L	I	L	N	E	D
B	L	A	C	K	B	L	U	N	N	Y	C	H

Fixtures; all Sat 2.00 pm kick off, home games played at The Theatre of Trees, Sutton Park.

5 December	Priory Vale	Hoopers Field, Wanborough
12 December, 1:30pm	The Globe	Southbrook Rec Wilts FA Cup
19 December	Redhouse	Purton Redhouse
9 January	Nalgo Sports	Home
16 January	Sportz Central	St Josephs College
23 January	Highworth Town	Home

The club wish all supporters and villagers a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year

A Recipe from CookFoodFan



Magazines and websites are full of Christmas recipes, all looking delicious. So, what recipe to put in for this December/January edition? After much deliberation I decided on a Mincemeat Jalousie, a delicious, easy to make dessert. You can make it for Christmas or after to use up any leftover mincemeat. I have added variations, so make it to suit your family tastes.

Mincemeat Jalousie

Ingredients

1 x pack of 'Ready to Roll' puff pastry, chilled
400g of mincemeat
1 x apple or pear chopped up small
½ tsp mixed spice or cinnamon

Other ingredients that you can choose from to add:

Walnuts **or** hazelnuts **or** pecans, chopped
Zest and juice of a lemon **or** orange **or** 1tbp rum **or** brandy
Fresh **or** dried cranberries

Method

1. Roll out the pastry into a large rectangle, 3mm thick. (About the thickness of a £1 coin.)
2. Cut the rectangle in half.
3. Mix all the other ingredients together.
4. Put one rectangle of pastry on a baking tray lined with baking paper, then spread over the mincemeat mixture, leaving a 2.5cm border all around the edge. This will be the base.
5. Brush the edges of the pastry base with some milk and then lay the second rectangle of pastry on top so the edges line up. Press together well, seal the edges with the prongs of a fork. Cover and chill for 20 mins.
6. Put the oven on to 200°C/ Gas 6.

At this stage you could cover in cling film then store in the fridge until needed. Alternatively, wrap in baking paper, then cling film, and freeze. Defrost at room temperature before the next step.

7. Cut some slits in the top.
8. Brush the top with milk or beaten egg, sprinkle with some granulated sugar.
9. Bake for 35/40mins (cover loosely with foil if it starts to brown too quickly).
10. Transfer to a serving plate, dust with icing sugar and slice to serve.

Enjoy.

Christmas Wordsearch

Find words that are forward, up and down. No diagonal or backwards words.



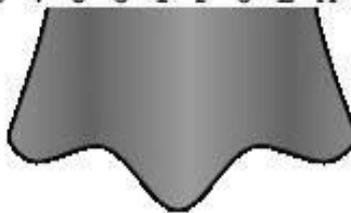
1. LIGHTS
2. SNOWMAN
3. BELLS
4. JOYFUL
5. FRUITCAKE
6. JESUS
7. MANGER
8. PRESENTS
9. GIVING
10. FAMILY

11. FRIENDSHIP
12. BETHLEHEM
13. CHURCH
14. SINGING
15. JINGLEBELLS
16. THANKFUL
17. NATIVITY
18. SANTA
19. RUDOLPH
20. CHIMNEY

A word search grid shaped like a Christmas tree. The grid consists of 20 rows of letters. The letters are arranged as follows:

```

      J G H C
      M M G E
      G G G Z T S
      J D I A J Q
      K S Z V P E U K
      E M U I A B W E
      C H I M N E Y N W S
      G A F T G Q I D S S
      B E T H L E H E M X I J
      W F A M I L Y G R M N Q
      G Z H K E M R I I X R G N Q
      M A N G E R B Z T N C I T M
      C V U I H E J V J V J P N X X N
      U G G D E C F V I W T L G M G F
      U H O Z D H C M K N I H L S F G R F
      Q W P G T T V M A G M A Y N Q C U I
      H N Q R G H L L I F L G N K O D H I H N
      V A J E U R Q M L R E N K P W Y U T I R
      B P T J S J T H M O I B I F V M S R C H K G
      M C I G E H R M U V E E Z U F A Z C A Y O P
      T K M V A N E Y A Z Y N L D L Y N V H K Z I D I
      I R F I A T T C E L E D L U F F I A E E J S Q E
      W T U H T P S A A V I X S S A N T A K J Q H Z E Y B
      E Z D I Y D Q A B Z G Q H S Z Q I W H E F H A K L Z
      Q T T O N S W Y J E D H F I K Q B Y S U S U F E J C G K
      R W X L R U P C O L G T G P G S S Y I D U J T Y Y Z Y M
      P D G S P R S L O E L E S C Z W M F T D F S K W K Y M D F K
      I W J U H O P V I C S V J O Y F U L A G R G S G Q Q L L R M
  
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Blunsdon Village Quiz 2020



A huge **thank you** to everyone who took part in this year's Village Quiz.

Sadly, we weren't all squashed in the Village Hall, but Zoom came to our rescue.

15 teams took part, and the glorious winners were "**Six Pack**", shown above displaying their trophy. Due to lockdown requirements, the team was split over 3 locations, as were many of the teams this year.

The Wooden Spoon went to "**3's a Crowd**", who were actually down to 2 quizzers on the night! So maybe their score should have been trebled... Hopefully the box of chocolates eased the disappointment!

Next year's quiz will be organised by "**Kingfishers**", their name was drawn at random from a list of the teams with the 5 highest scores.

Congratulations... I think...

The quiz is arranged each year to raise funds for St. Leonards Church, and this year we are very happy to have raised **£518**.

Thank you to everyone who took part, or simply bought raffle tickets.

Blunsdon FC nicknames answers

1. Skippy 2. Charlie 3. Belly 4. Pele 5. Lank 6. Rag 7. But 8. Tardelli 9. Bert
10. Dimmer 11. Slates 12. Ned

Time to get moving – what the current drop in Stamp Duty Land Tax means for you

If you purchase a residential property between now and 31 March 2021, you only start to pay Stamp Duty Land Tax “SDLT” on the amount that you pay for the property above £500,000. These rates apply whether you are buying your first home or have owned property before, but it does have to be your only property at that time. Companies and

individuals can benefit from the reduction, so long as they are buying residential property. SDLT applies to both freehold and leasehold properties – whether you’re buying outright or with a mortgage.

New rates until 31 March 2021

Property value	SDLT rate
Up to £500,000	Zero
The next £425,000 (the part from £500,001 to £925,000)	5%
The next £575,000 (the part from £925,001 to £1.5 million)	10%
The remaining amount (the part above £1.5 million)	12%

Example

If you buy a house for £575,000, the SDLT you owe is calculated as follows:

- 0% on the first £500,000 = £0
- 5% on the final £75,000 = £3,750

Total SDLT = £3,750

This is a saving of £15,000 based on the SDLT rates that were in place before 8 July 2020. You can use the Government’s [SDLT calculator](#) to work out how much tax you’ll need to pay.

Higher rates for additional properties:- If you’re buying a second home, you’ll still pay SDLT on any property costing more than £40,000 – paying an extra 3%. Simply add 3% to each of the rates shown in the above chart to calculate how much you will pay.

How to pay SDLT: - Usually your solicitor will deal with the SDLT return and any payment due, although you can do it yourself. As the buyer, you are ultimately responsible for making sure it’s all submitted on time. If the price of your new home is under £500,000 you must still submit a return (unless exempt) even though you won’t need to pay any SDLT.

For any questions about SDLT, a conveyancing quote or any questions relating to residential property, please get in touch with: - Forrester Sylvester Mackett’s Old Town Swindon office. Residential property expert, David Peters davidpeters@fmsolicitors.co.uk or 01793 522688, or visit www.fmsolicitors.co.uk

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Due to the ongoing vagaries of life as we know it, the shop hours keep changing, so we have removed them from here. Please see either the article in this month's magazine or check the Facebook page.

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