

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

February 2021

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021

Coronavirus and Support in the Parish

Happy New Year to you all It is good to see support is still strong for the Blunsdon Community, despite another Lockdown. The 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. Please see our Facebook post from Community First about them needing volunteers to drive the elderly to their vaccination points.

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 Blunsdon 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

The Consultation is now completed and I would like to thank all of you who responded. There was massive support shown for the Community to save the lovely building and keep it in Community use. Because of the investment required from the Parish Council and ultimately you, the residents, through your annual Precept, we had set a strong target for response to the consultation at 30% of households. In the final analysis of responses below, you can see that we only had an overall response of 13.2% of households, both through paper votes and on-line votes. Therefore, we are unable to pursue the purchase of the Methodist Church and Hall, and can only endorse the potential bid from the North Swindon Scouts should they want to pursue it.

Responses:

We had 41 paper responses, via post and the shop: -

o 71% in support of bidding for the Church

o 79% in support of endorsing the North Swindon Scouts bid

There were 96 on line responses, broadly reflecting the paper responses. There were 5 other responses

This meant that we received 142 responses from a base of 1,066 households in the Parish, representing 13.2%.

Planning Applications

S/20/1516 Change of use from a C3 Residential Dwelling to a C2 Children's Residential Home.

Ringstones 1 Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL

S/PHOU/20/1523 | Prior Approval Notification for the erection of a single storey rear extension measuring 7.6m (from original rear wall), 3.7m (maximum height) and 2.7m (height to eaves). 10

Jupiter Close Swindon SN26 8AH

S/HOU/20/1597 Erection of a single storey rear extension with balcony. The Old Post Office 87 Ermin Street Blunsdon Swindon SN26 8AA

S/HOU/20/1551 | Erection of pitched roof to existing garage. | 54 Berton Close Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BE

Recent Planning Decisions

S/PHOU/20/1523 Prior Approval Notification for the erection of a single storey rear extension measuring 7.6m (from original rear wall), 3.7m (maximum height) and 2.7m (height to eaves). 10 Jupiter Close Swindon Swindon SN26 8AH – Application Granted

S/HOU/20/1327 Removal of first floor hanging tiles and replacement with "Hardie Plank" weatherboarding. Gambles End Back Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BJ – Application Granted

S/HOU/20/0943 Erection of a single storey side extension. Woodbine Cottage Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL. Application Granted

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. Land At Hill Cottage Ermin Street/ Blunsdon Hill Broad Blunsdon Swindon – Application Granted

Parish Council Finances

At our 4th January Meeting the PC voted for the Annual Budget for 2021/22 with approximately a **3% decrease to £77.52** per year for a Band D household. We decided that in these difficult times we would postpone several of the planned projects for this year and if relevant, carry them forward to next year. We have statutory expenditure, necessary expenditure and desirable expenditure and we will maintain a balance of these to keep costs as low as possible.

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 soon. You can help too - see page 12.

Latest Speedwatch results:

Date	Location	Vehicles Counted	Exceeding limit	Maximum Speed mph
08/12/2020	Broadbush	300	5	43
10/12/2020	Ermin St	82	8	43
11/12/2020	Ermin St	263	26	48
14/12/2020	Broadbush	289	21	42
15/12/2020	Lady Lane	271	36	47
16/12/2020	Ermin St	278	7	46
17/12/2020	Lady Lane	250	17	43
17/12/2020	Ermin St	197	13	47
18/12/2020	Broadbush	383	11	48
22/12/2020	Broadbush	355	5	41

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.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – HIGH STREET, BLUNSDON.

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL - SECTION 14 - THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 -

This Order is being introduced to allow electric works and will prohibit vehicles from proceeding on High Street, Blunsdon, between **Fortuna Road and The Ridge**.

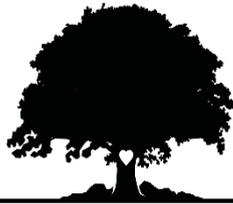
Vehicles will be diverted via the Ermin Street, B4019, Sams Lane and High Street. The Order will come into force on the 29 March 2021 for 6 months but it is anticipated the works will be between the **29 March 2021 to the 3 April 2021**. Strategic Transport and Infrastructure - 12 January 2021

Parish Council Meeting

The next virtual meeting will be held on Zoom on Monday 1st February at 19:30.

Stay safe, stay well.

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



Community Shop
—BLUNSDON—

Happy New Year!
And there is a job advert at the end of this article!

Breaking News

Following the start of this latest lockdown, supermarkets and other food retailers have reinforced the use of facemasks in their stores, and are much stricter in the legal application of the rules. To that end we at your store feel we have to do the same.

You will have noticed we are currently only allowing one customer in store, and we urge all customers to wear masks, not only in store but in the queue outside, ensuring that a clear space is left at the foot of the ramp to allow exiting customers' safe egress.

Please feel free to use the hand sanitizer supplied for your benefit.

Note a mask must cover both the mouth and nose at all times whilst in the queue or shop.

Remember, wearing a mask is showing your respect to the health and safety of your fellow villagers and the NHS!

.....
.....
Your Community Shop would like to make contact with the following people to discuss the shares they hold and their free replacement.

Please can you email: - ***chairman@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk*** if you are one of these people or possibly know how we can make contact with them if they have moved or left the village.

Thank you

Mr and Mrs Shiner
Walter and Elsie Harris
Mr and Mrs Carey
Mr AJ Elliott
Mrs S Elliot
Miss A.M Elliot
Len and Eve Benwell
Mr M Baddeley, Mrs A Baddeley
P.A.B Cox
Mrs M Barkham
Mrs G Edwards
R.F.Jackson
Mrs and Mrs D. Jones
Mr and Mrs Poulton
Mr and Mrs Thompson

A McSparrow
Arend Von Freeden
Neil Williamson

Community Support towards your new shop

Share sales are going quite well and you can see progress on our thermometer outside the shop. It is great to have new members who can get involved with various aspects of the shop and there may even be “member benefits and events” coming along once we come out of lockdown. We need more though, so please, if you are passing by the shop, why not pop in and pick up a form. They only cost £10 (you can have more if you want) and as one famous supermarket says “every little helps”.

Engraved blocks are still available, so it’s not too late to order one for your family, a friend or your business or local group. We have a few groups already participating but it would be nice to see Gardening Clubs, Scouts or other youth groups, Local school, football club and any other community groups represented, indeed anything that shouts “We are Blunsdon Community”.

If you would like to purchase either of these you will find application forms on the shop front desk or online at:

<https://blunsdoncommunityshop.uk>

And last but not least:

Blunsdon Community Shop is looking for a temporary weekend worker (must be over 18) to work 12 hours over Saturdays and Sundays.

The job involves 7am starts on both days: you will be organising the papers that are collected and checking out of date stock before opening the shop, talking to customers, operating the till, overseeing any youth weekend volunteers, some cleaning and putting out stock, shutting the shop, and cashing up.

We are ideally looking for someone with:

- prior experience (this is desirable but not necessary as full training will be given)
- a friendly outlook
- great communication skills
- the flexibility to work additional hours during the week when needed

A full job description will be given on request. If you are interested, please contact secretary@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk with your letter of interest and/or a CV.

Current Opening Hours

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

Give COVID the Boot

Well, our version of it! Just to keep you busy during isolation or long wintry nights!

Let's start Project 2021 to knit little boots for the Christmas tree. The pattern I have is perfect for a fun size chocolate bar. It's knitted on four needles but quite easily done.

Uses up all the odd bits of wool that you're left with. Hopefully we'll end up with enough for the children at St Leonards Academy (200 give or take).

The challenge is set: contact jane_ockwell@hotmail.com

Recycle Blunsdon

And there's more! How about getting your creative juices flowing and being part of a "recycled art exhibition"? Don't throw it away - craft it into something funky!

At a date (yet to be set) in July, we intend to host at St Leonard's, an art event made of stuff you'd usually discard.

Pictures, 3D structure, knitting, sewing etc etc

This can obviously only happen if COVID-19 has been minimised, and any threat! on the retreat. We can keep you updated, but one can begin at any time and if it appears to be happening - you'll be ready.

Sorry if this sounds a bit weak but it may give you / us a focus for the future.

Prizes, categories, and age groups will be another consideration.

Have we whetted your appetite?

Contact jane_ockwell@hotmail.com

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News from the Pews.....

Is it too late to wish you a Happy New Year? Or just in time for the Chinese New Year, and that's the year of the Ox. Wherever we are on that, let's hope that it's better in lots of ways than 2020.

St Leonard's played host to a Christingle service in early December and our more traditional Christmas Day celebration- they were what we made of it. There were various events going on in the village - for example the Advent window trail - this gave us the focus and excitement that is usually associated with this time of year. A special thank you to all who took part.

Unfortunately, just after Christmas, the lockdown hit again. Services were put on hold. Streamed services are still the norm at the moment, but we are keen to keep the church open for private prayer which we know is vital to some.

We are planning a couple of events (see elsewhere in magazine) and a project for next Christmas. It's all we can do at present, but be assured we'll be ready when the time comes.

We miss our monthly book sale - with coffee, that naughty but nice cake and catching up with friends. We will resume as soon as is possible.

What we are hoping to continue with are the Messy Church take home bags which have crafts for children. We're renaming them Seasonal Church bags, hopefully they'll be as good as previously. This is because they were first collated with our collaboration with the Methodist church in Highworth. As you may well know their youth worker has moved on and without his presence in the village or school we find ourselves on our own. We will see how it goes

Now as the vaccines roll out and various of our congregation and people in general are having their first doses' and local numbers are falling, we dare to hope; and breathe a sigh of relief. We know that these are early days and we must still be careful, BUT we can look forward, we can maybe recollect what is important to us, and adjust what our priorities are.

So many best wishes to you all.

Jane Ockwell

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Notes from the Editor

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: Front Lane

Your March Magazine will be delivered from: 26th Feb 2021

Deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline
March	17th Feb
April	17th March

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? Blunsdon is a growing community and the Magazine is delivered through the door of every 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

TALES of VENICE, the Guide Dog puppy

Happy New Year to you all, hope you are safe and well. I love this new lock down as my puppy raisers (new name to reflect that puppy walkers do more than just walk us) one of them is with me all the time. We enjoyed Christmas day (picture shows me with my favourite present) with the family although the humans thought it was a bit cold with all the outside doors open, I thought it was great as I could go into the garden whenever I wanted. I have not always been a good girl when off the lead but



we have been working hard on this and so we went to Westonbirt Arboretum for a day (when we were allowed). My puppy raisers were very impressed with me as I always returned when they blew the whistle. What they did not realise was that I was only returning for the delicious treats they took with them! At present all our free runs end up with me being very muddy, I cannot help loving muddy puddles.

I cannot wait to go into training (puppy raisers feel quite differently) and I almost went without being able to say goodbye. A few days before Christmas we were told that I was going into training in Redbridge before the January magazine came out. My puppy raisers tried to tell as many people in the village as possible. We had

lots of goodbyes and good lucks then on Friday we were told that Redbridge was closed due to Covid 19. This was not an easy decision to make as there are so many people waiting for a Guide dog but we all have to keep safe and stop the spread. I will definitely not be going in February and there are older puppies that are due to go before me so I should be in the village for a few more months.

The matching of a Guide dog and their owner is very important as they have to work closely together for many years. From birth Guide dogs monitor my personality and each month my puppy raisers have to answer questions such as "How am I with children, am I settled in the home or outside, do I bark and run to people, do I steal food etc?" These answers, plus how I am in training, inform Guide dogs on the type of person I could be best suited to however at the end of the day it is really the dogs decision. The guide dog will be taken to the home of a new owner and allowed to explore the surroundings. If the dog feels settled, they will usually go to the person with sight loss and sit next to them which shows it will work. This will not be the only time the bonding will be explored to ensure it will last.

Keep safe.

Question of the month: How does a guide dog know when to cross the road?



The start to Term 3 wasn't quite what we were expecting!

We are working hard to ensure that every child at our school is receiving their Term 3 learning, whether working remotely at home or in one of our critical worker bubbles on site; Learning is taking place through Teams, Zoom meetings and Tapestry. This enables our staff to meet with and teach the children each day and then provide learning online.

We have provided laptops for those families who need the devices to enable them to access our learning platforms and we have been able to provide food parcels for our families, that need these.

The church also supported us during the Christmas period with Boxes of Hope for these families.

This term the value we will be exploring is generosity. God's generosity is best described as grace, love given freely without limit or conditions. We will explore the concept of giving without seeking reward, being generous in words and actions and the importance of being generous not only with material objects but also with time, spirits and talents.

We are also continuing to explore the development of a Growth Mindset with the children, explaining how we can cope with learning, even if it is difficult and why it is important that we face these challenges.

We will do everything we can to support our families and we really appreciate the support that our families are giving to us.

We continue to live and learn together with God's help.

The Governing Body currently have two community governor posts that are vacant and will be advertising in the near future. A finance background would be advantageous.

Please contact the school if you are interested and we can provide further details regarding the post.

Mrs Julie Warburton Headteacher
St Leonards CE Primary Academy

Brainteaser of the month

For all of you who enjoyed the last “foodie” quiz then here’s another one for you to try. No prizes, just for fun. Answers on page 14.

1. What is James Bond’s favourite tippie?
2. What is the most consumed manufactured drink in the world?
3. What type of pasta has a name meaning “little worms”?
4. What type of pastry are profiteroles made out of?
5. From which type of flower does a vanilla pod come?
6. Which nuts are used in marzipan?
7. Which bakery launched a sell-out vegan sausage roll in January 2019?
8. What type of food is Pumpernickel?
9. What is the bestselling flavour of soup in the UK?
10. Calamari is a dish made from which animal?
11. Which chef hosted the Kitchen Nightmares series?
12. Which bread ingredient causes it to rise?
13. Aduki, borlotti and cannellini are types of what?
14. What is the most expensive spice in the world by weight?
15. What spirit is mixed with ginger beer in a Moscow mule?
16. What year did the first McDonald’s store open?
17. What are the real names of the Hairy Bikers?
18. Which pungent plant has its own festival held on the Isle of Wight every year?
19. How many calories does a glass of water contain?
20. Who is replaced Sandi Toksvig as host of The Great British Bake Off for the 2020 series?
21. Grenadine is obtained from which fruit?
22. Gluten is found in which cereal grain?
23. Which fast-food franchise has the largest number of restaurants in the world?
24. What French city does bouillabaisse originate from?
25. What type of wheat is used to make pasta?

BLUNSDON NOTES Hostelries Past and Present

One of the highlights of the week during lockdown here in Blunsdon is looking forward to the take away meals cooked by the chef at our local High Street pub “The Heart in Hand”. This service is much appreciated by all who take advantage of it. Thinking about our village pubs I realised that Blunsdon has always had a selection of hostelries over the years.

Our “Heart in Hand” was once both public house and village stores before it was rebuilt in 1924. Some say the name is a corruption of “Hart and Hind” but this has never been proved. It still remains the inn at the heart of our village.

From 1732 the malthouse attached to Malthouse Farm in our High Street, now sadly gone, provided beer for many village folks in their cottages until the mid 19th century and also for dwellings like 34 High Street which was a local beer house for farm workers around 1850.

Another busy village inn was “The Crown”, that once stood on the site now occupied by 5 High Street. It was thatched and had its own block of stables for travellers and a club house too where many village events took place. Events like the Sick Club Walk and the meetings of the V.W.H Hounds. It remained an inn until the beginning of the 20th century when it was purchased by Mr H Sutton of Holdcroft and then became a private residence, the stables and club house becoming farmworkers cottages. I can just remember the old wooden inn sign swinging on its creaky mount with some of the crown design still visible. The sign was finally pulled down in the 1950’s but it’s still possible to see where the post once was because there’s a small concrete square in the pavement where the post once stood.

At the end of Broadbush where the road meets the old A419 we have “The Cold Harbour” said to be named after a sheltered position amidst an exposed place, usually on a Roman road. This pub has records dating back to 1773 and has had a variety of names during its long occupancy on this site, like The Harrow at Cold Harbour, The Axe and Compasses, the Calley Arms (1861) and the De Windt Arms (1900). It was known by the locals by the latter name until the 2nd World War. It was

probably a courtesy title for the local Lord of the Manor of St Andrews who had been Clayton de Windt who’d lived at Blunsdon Abbey 1860 -1863.



The Cold Harbour was rebuilt in 1894 after a disastrous fire destroyed the thatched roof and much of the centuries old building.

Next month...look out for more stories on other Village pubs.

Richard Radway

Do you worry about speeding in the village?

Then the Blunsdon village Speedwatch needs people like you to volunteer to help keep the village roads safe.

It only requires a couple of hours a week, and not every week. We are a small friendly group and the times are arranged to suit the volunteers.

Contact Tracey Judd, Blunsdon Parish Council Telephone: [01793 705617](tel:01793705617) or email contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk to find out more.

Swindon Borough Council would like to remind residents of the option to vote by post at elections.

With many of us spending more time at home than ever before, Swindon Borough Council would like to remind residents of the option to vote by post at elections.

Voting by post is an easy and convenient way of voting if you don't want to vote in person at a polling station.

The Council is currently working with the Government on plans for upcoming local elections, which will include measures to ensure polling stations are safe and covid-secure.

It is never too early to choose the best voting option for you though, and further information on how to register for a postal vote, including an application form, can be found by searching 'postal voting' on the gov.uk website.

Blunsdon Community Choir is here!

If you are missing singing with other people, then there is a new weekly online singing session beginning in February. Why not give it a go? It's open to all ages and all abilities, and the sessions will be online initially as we can't sing in person yet. We will be using Google Meet and will start on Monday February 8th, at 7:30pm-8:30pm. There will be a variety of repertoire, including some songs which seem particularly appropriate during the pandemic.

So, if you are interested, please email: blunsdoncommunitychoir@gmail.com and you will receive the invitation for the online meeting. (If you are tech-averse but would like to join in person in the future, that's fine, just let me know).

Let's get singing!

Alison Porter



BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB

December results

Priory Vale won 3 - 0
Redhouse lost 2 – 3

Following the one month lockdown of November, Blunston returned to action against promoted Priory Vale and after a sluggish start, we clicked into gear to win comfortably with goals from Josh Skeates, a screamer from Kane Wheatley and poachers finish from super-sub Steven Baird.

Next up was a great battle with fellow unbeaten Redhouse, where defensive errors put Blunston 3 – 1 down. The second half siege of the Redhouse goal should have salvaged at least a share of the spoils, but resolute defending left Blunston with a first defeat of the season, despite a brace from wing-back Ben Hillerby.

The current lockdown looks to have curtailed a second season, with the Amber and Black lying fifth just 3 points behind leaders, The Globe. Hopefully we'll be back in the spring.



The club are saddened to hear the news of the passing of a former Blunston left half and villager, **Gerald Vincent**. (see photo). Jugger graced teams of the 1950's including Blunston British Legion FC alongside the likes of Ron Thompson, Alec Hobbs & Tony Hatter.

The club would like to pass on its condolences to all family and friends of Gerald.

Brainteaser answers: -

1. Vodka Martini – shaken not stirred
2. Tea
3. Vermicelli
4. Choux
5. Orchid
6. Almonds
7. Greggs
8. Bread
9. Tomato
10. Squid
11. Gordon Ramsay
12. Yeast
13. Beans
14. Saffron
15. Vodka
16. 1940
17. Dave Myers and Si King
18. Garlic
19. Zero
20. Matt Lucas
21. Pomegranate
22. Wheat
23. Subway
24. Marseille
25. Durum

A Recipe from CookFoodFan



Winter days tend to be dull, cold and short and we crave tasty, filling food. A bowl of steaming homemade soup with a chunk of crusty bread and butter is perfect. Soup is low in calories and helps our '5 a day' intake of fruit and vegetables. Enjoy!

Using a stew pack of fresh vegetables makes a super quick and cheap soup. For about £1 you usually get 1 or 2 onions, 2 or 3 carrots, a parsnip and small swede. Enough for a **Vegetable Soup** which is simple to make: -

1. Slice the onion, put in a large saucepan and fry in a little oil until soft.
2. Peel and chop the vegetables (about 2cms chunks).
3. Add to the saucepan and sweat (cook gently) for 5 mins.
4. Add stock, a vegetable or chicken stock cube and about 800ml water.
5. Simmer gently until the vegetables are soft.
6. Puree in batches until smooth and serve, with the bread of course.

But one of my favourite soups is **Curried Parsnip**, this is my recipe: -

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, peeled and chopped
- 1 leek, washed and sliced
- 500g parsnips
- 1 medium potato, peeled and chopped
- 1 tbsp curry paste or 2 tsp curry powder
- 1.5 litres chicken stock

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan, add the onions, leek, parsnip, potato and curry paste.
2. Cook for 5 mins, stirring constantly, until the onion is soft.
3. Add the stock, bring to the boil.
4. Cover and simmer gently for 20-25 mins until the vegetables are tender.
5. Allow to cool a little, then puree in batches.
6. If you want to be 'cheffy' serve with a dollop of yoghurt and a sprinkle of nuts

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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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