

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

February 2022

Photo by Debra Richardson

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Happy New Year to all our customers! And a big thank-you for your continued support to the shop during 2021.

New Job Advert!

We are advertising for an Operations Manager for the new Shop/Cafe and that anyone interested should look at our website for details. <https://blunsdoncommunityshop.uk/>

Community Business Shares

We are delighted to welcome on board our first three Community Business Shareholders. These companies are supporting us by purchasing special business shares that come with a paving block to advertise on. Our thanks go to:

The Heart In Hand

SR Motors

Multidata

If you run a business in the community and would like to support the shop and have an advertising block at the same time, please email chairman@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk

The New Shop

With the new shop in its new location planned to be handed over in late Spring, it is full steam ahead behind the scenes to create an appealing environment to the shop, as well as the chance to relax and socialise in the new café. With new product lines and extended opening hours both planned, there is much to do before we open in the Hayfield development off Sam's Lane.

Could you help us achieve this?

Whilst it is wonderful to report that 3 new volunteers have recently been recruited and will have started their training, by the time this magazine is distributed, one of the challenges the Blunsdon Community Shop Management Committee faces is to encourage more local people of all ages to get involved. One of the new volunteers is a 16-year-old student working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, so all ages of people are welcome to come forward and offer their help.

So, if you have some free time and looking for a community-based activity, how about exploring how you could help and support the development of the new Shop and Café, to become a vibrant community resource?

There is already a group of fun-loving and enthusiastic team of established volunteers, who look forward to welcoming new members into the fold and share their knowledge on how to operate the till, keep shelves looking tidy and provide excellent customer service. Full training will be given, with a choice of regular weekly slots or an-hoc volunteering to support holiday periods and other absences. Additionally, once the new Shop and Café location is up and running, it is planned to have regular social events for volunteers and customers alike.

If you are interested to explore how you could support the Blunsdon Community Shop, in the first instance, please make contact with Hazel Wakefield, on 07974 150250 or via email, volunteer@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk. Moving forward too, we are still looking for a marketing professional to help with our social media presence.

Other items of Interest!

Recycling

Just a reminder that you can recycle clothing for a good cause at the shop by popping items in a bag and dropping the bag into the Air Ambulance box in the car park. You can also recycle domestic batteries; just drop those into the shop anytime. If you use Nespresso, Dolce Gusto, Tassimo, Starbucks, L'Or or Cru Café pods you can bring your POBACK package to the shop too (obtain these free from your supplier when you order). At the new shop and café, we may have some other opportunities but so let us know if you have any ideas too.

Charity

We have recently reviewed our charity giving and charity box options and by the time you read this our members/shareholders will hopefully have told us via a vote/survey the charities they would like us to support over the next 12 months and beyond. Our little bungalow has seen better days so you will see a new house taking its place alongside a similar but different coloured house for our "charity of the quarter". Going forwards we hope to be able to top up whatever is donated and on the notice board there will be some information about the charity we are currently supporting.

The Great Blunsdon Bake Off

Seems like the Queen may have beaten us to it, but we are planning the GBBO in order to end up with a recipe for a Blunsdon Bun/Cake/Muffin/Savoury for the new café. Chelsea, Eccles and the Welsh have theirs so why can't we have our very own Blunsdon Baked item? Members and Shareholders, you should get more details by email soon.

Membership League Tables

While our own Blunsdon United flies high in the league tables, in the shop membership/share stakes we thought you may be interested to see the street-by-street breakdown for the leaders.

High Street 30

St Andrews Ridge 15

Ermin Street, Lower Village 12

Sams Lane 10

Fortuna, Church Way, Hatchers, Manor Close, Pontings, Berton, The Ridge 7

Malthouse, Churchill Avenue, Broadbush, Minerva 6

All the rest 1,2,3,4, or 5



Blunsdon W I met up for our Christmas meal on Tues 14th December at the "Heart in Hand". We had a most enjoyable evening in the marquee which was warm and cosy. The food was excellent too! Our January meeting was unfortunately cancelled due to the ongoing Covid situation with a very high infection rate at the time.

The January speaker will now attend the February meeting which is on the 15th February at 7.30 in the Small Village Hall. The speaker is Jon Ratcliffe and the subject is "**Cellars, Tunnels and Towers in Swindon**", which will be particularly interesting for local history buffs!

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

Parish Council News – February 2022

The new year does seem happier than 2021 and we are gently slipping out of restrictions and into living with Covid 19. We were able to spend a tentative Christmas holiday with relations and had guarded celebrations for the new year. Maybe we can begin to plan holidays again. Despite the restrictions the Parish Council has had a busy couple of months. We have worked through the budget for next year and it looks like your Precept (the amount you pay for the Parish Council to operate) will remain about the same as last year.

Planning Applications

S/OUT/17/1821 - Outline planning application for a mixed use development comprising up to 1,552 dwellings, a local centre (Use Classes A1-5, D1, C2 and C3), a primary school (Use Class D1), public open space, landscaping, new vehicular accesses including a bridge across the A419 and associated works. (Means of access not reserved). Kingsdown (Land to East of A419) Swindon Wilts. **PC agreed to object on several issues but mainly Traffic and**

Transport

S/HOU/21/1823 | Erection of a two-storey front extension and 4no. pitched dormers to side. | 13A Turnpike Road Blunston Swindon SN26 7EA. **PC agreed to object**

S/RES/21/1904/1905/1906/1907/1909 - Reserved Matters application (Plots1-5) following outline permission S/OUT/18/2007 for the demolition of the existing warehouse and outbuildings and erection of 5 no. dwellings and associated works - access and layout not reserved. Lindseys Yard Turnpike Road Blunston Swindon SN26 7AE. **PC agreed to object on issues of design and the disposal of surface and foul water**

S/21/1865 - Change of use of building to 1no. dwelling, creation of vehicular access and parking spaces, and associated works. Blunston Methodist Church High Street Blunston Swindon. **PC agreed to support**

S/HOU/21/1971 - Erection of a two storey front extension infill & replacement of flat roof on garage with pitched roof. 22 Berton Close Blunston Swindon SN26 7BE. **To be reviewed on 24th January 2022**

S/22/0030 - Construction of a temporary access off the B4019 until March 2024, to enable construction access for Thames Water's trunk main improvements between Blunston Reservoir and Faringdon Pumping Station. Land Off B4019 Blunston Swindon. **PC has no option to comment**

Planning Decisions

S/HOU/21/1211 - Erection of a detached ancillary outbuilding. Rose View Widhill Lane Blunston Swindon SN26 8BX. Application Granted

Blunston Tennis Courts and Grassed Areas

As we have stated in the past, we intend to re-configure and re-purpose the recreation areas around the derelict tennis courts in Linley Road. We have commissioned architects to draw up plans for the site (which are available to view on the PC website

{www.blunstonparishcouncil.co.uk) We held an open day on 8th January in the Village Hall where we displayed the plans and asked for your thoughts and ideas about the

refurbishment. Many of you attended the consultation and the overall response was very positive. We have amended the plans accordingly and we will apply to Swindon Borough Council Planning department during February for permission to rebuild. The new site incorporates a two-pitch MUGA with access for the school to use during the day and for community hire in the evenings. There is also a cricket practice net for all year-round practice, and we have maintained the grass area at the rear for community use. We have created a large parking area to support the school during the day and for community use of the area in the evenings.

St Leonard's Church

The Parish Council is collaborating with The Parochial Church Council in their bid to make the Church a more usable community space. The plans are to improve the environment in the Church by providing better heating, a new kitchen area and improved toilet facilities. This will give the Village and Parish a fantastic neighbourhood space for use by the community outside the regular hours of worship.

Speedwatch Results

Here are this November, December, and January's Community Speedwatch Results from our dedicated team from Blunsdon. Thank you to them for their important work in keeping the roads around the Parish safer. As you can see Turnpike Road is still very much the worst area, in our Parish, for the most speeding vehicles.

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

Thank you.

Date	Location	Vehicles Counted	Exceeding limit	%	Maximum Speed mph	Speed Limit
12/11/2021	Turnpike	89	18	20%	49	30
16/11/2021	Lady Lane	185	17	9%	54	30
18/11/2021	Ermin St	193	14	7%	47	30
19/11/2021	High St Shop	143	2	1%	25	20
22/11/2021	Ermin St	125	6	5%	45	30
24/11/2021	Broadbush	251	12	5%	42	30
25/11/2021	Lady Lane	340	33	10%	48	30
03/12/2021	Lady Lane	269	9	3%	45	30
07/12/2021	Ermin St	157	4	3%	39	30
14/12/2021	Turnpike	48	7	15%	46	30
16/12/2021	Turnpike	72	6	8%	47	30
17/12/2021	Ermin St	176	10	6%	53	30
10/01/2022	Ermin St	193	9	5%	43	30
12/01/2022	High St. Shop	178	8	4%	35	20
14/01/2022	Lady Lane	377	28	7%	49	30
18/01/2022	Turnpike	102	10	10%	47	30

Blunsdon Village Hall

The PC would like to apologise to all users who were affected by the breakdown of the boiler in the Hall. It has now been completely replaced and seems to be working well again.

Community Allotments

The PC have leased the piece of neglected land on the corner of High Street and Pontings Close. The proposal is to turn this area into a community allotment, in partnership with Incredible Edible, and a seating area. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas about how we could make this happen.

Parish Council Meetings - The next Parish Council meetings will be at the Village Hall and on Zoom on the 7th and 21st February 2022 at 19:30. Access details are on the Parish Council Website in the Blog section and on our Facebook page. –

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

The Cheeky Squirrel



I captured this the other day in my garden of one of the squirrels coming to get his/her breakfast. Everyone I have shown to have said how did you manage to get the squirrel to do that. I reply nothing, he/she just did it. The feeding box is right next to my desk in my office, so I suppose they are just used to me being there.

Emma from Beech Lea



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community



**News from the Pews..... Jane Ockwell, Church Warden
..... and a Happy New Year to you all**

There was the build up to Christmas of the will it or won't it kind! Keep calm and carry on, prepare for any eventuality.

The Christingle service was well attended at the beginning of December with oranges and sweets the order of the day. The children from the school the recipients of Christingle oranges - thanks to Helen, Kathryn and Jamie.

Seasonal bags were collected from the church in early December, coinciding with the last wedding of the year.

The Booksale, our last of the year, saw the scouts using the church to sort their local deliveries; a chance to have a coffee and catch up before the possibility of a firmer lockdown; the Christmas tree was decorated and adorned with lights (it did try to topple the church warden at some point!) what's a few pine needles in your hair among friends?

The floral arrangements gave the windows a magical feel, adding that extra bit of sparkle.

The Carol service sounded out the Christmas story with readings and carols. Candle light is very becoming!! Lovely singing and playing (thanks Ali)

Then came the rush to the Big Day. A reality for over 2000 years whether one believes or not. All that hype of it being cancelled - bah humbug!

The crib was set up outside of the church marking the last window of the Advent trail (many thanks to those who took part around the village)

Inside the tree was lit, costumes spread out in welcome for the youngsters so they could join in the service; the stage was set; we had a zip wire (please don't ask), a star (thought he was a comet !!) an angel - the model of obedience and a good upbringing! And a very (yes VERY) reluctant Mary (that's 2 year old granddaughters for you) - we had fun!

The midnight service was rung in by our local ringers - only to return a few hours later to herald the Christmas Day celebrations.

So, with the trappings of the season packed away, the 'sky' has dried hanging over my banister and the camel stuffed in a cupboard (no not a real one!) Jesus back in his box along with the other figures, all is back to normal. Except is it??

We are now preparing to give the Vicar a suitable send off as he reaches his retirement. That's a story for next time



Book Sale, Coffee, Cake and Chat

Saturday 19th Feb 10 am - 12 noon

St Leonard's Church



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community



From the Vicar's Desk....

Retirement of the Vicar.

I was asked to become Priest in Charge of Blunsdon a few years after arriving to be Vicar of Highworth and Hannington. I started really well at my first service by thanking everyone for my welcome to St Andrew's, whoops!

It had not been long before when of course St Leonard's and St Andrew's were part of the same Parish with the Vicar, John Ware, living in the village. Then you all had to get used to firstly a half time Vicar, then someone from Highworth dedicated to St Leonard's and finally to share me with two other Parishes.

Over the years it has been a privilege to watch the congregation grow in acceptance with grace the situation of an absent Vicar from the Parish and even more to accept increasing responsibility for service ministry and leadership of the Church. So much happens without any involvement from the Vicar by the St Leonard's team.

What have I enjoyed over my time in Blunsdon? The strong sense of ownership and heritage by the community of Blunsdon for their Church; Church Council meetings - always fun and not just because we are offered a glass of wine; School services in Church with great singing and willingness to participate. I also will remember unusual events in the High Street like the procession with a donkey on Palm Sunday and the tea party with a very long table celebrating the Queen's jubilee.

Every blessing to you all as the journey of Blunsdon continues. An ever-increasing size of the village, a plan for the re-ordering of the Church and a commitment from the congregation to ensure St Leonard's continues to be at the heart of the community, to serve and worship in the name of Jesus Christ.

Rev Geoff Sowden

Services at St Leonard's in February

The church is open for private prayer on Tuesday and Thursday between 9am and 3pm

Forthcoming services in church:

Sunday 6th 10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 13th 10.00am Morning Worship
Sunday 20th 10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 27th 9.00am Breakfast Church

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH - IMPORTANT NEWS

Greetings to all of us who live in and care for our village of Blunsdon; St Leonard's is starting on a significant and challenging project to make the church an increasingly welcoming and useful facility for our community.

If you have been inside our church in winter, you will be aware that our heating system is not the most effective. It is, after all, essentially a Victorian system, and frankly it struggles to provide sufficient heat to do much more than take the chill off the building – and not even that at times!

So – we are planning to do something to seriously improve this. Having looked at a number of options with professional guidance, we have decided that underfloor heating will be the most effective solution; if you've been in the recently refurbished St Michael's church in Highworth, you'll have experienced the benefit of this system! Having reached this decision, we are now looking to make further improvements to St Leonard's to make the most of the improved (warmer!) environment. This will involve installing a new kitchen area and storage facilities to make the building an attractive, practical and comfortable centre for community activities.

In times past, the church had a key part to play in the social as well as the spiritual life of the village, and while the life and times in which we now live have many different needs and ways of operating, the essential need for contact, community and social activity hasn't changed; the pandemic/lockdown has shown us, along with how blessed we can be with modern resources such as Zoom and online ordering, just how much we need and enjoy real human contact and activity. We believe the church can provide a great environment for all sorts of activities, provided it offers up-to-date facilities in a comfortable and welcoming environment. Nobody said church had to be uncomfortable!

We will provide regular updates on the project's progress in the months to come; these things take time, as we explore possible avenues of financial support - please feel free to suggest any for which you might have information!

Let's work together to maintain and develop this valuable and practical asset that we have at the heart of our village.

St Leonard's PCC

******Have you seen the new Highway Code changes?**

Unless you've recently passed your driving theory test, chances are it's been a fair while since you swatted up on the Highway Code. The 2022 updates affect driver priority, pedestrian and cyclist rights of way, mobile phone use behind the wheel and broader use of fines for poor or dangerous driving.

The biggest notable change—the law will require 'those who can do the greatest harm to others to have a higher level of responsibility to reduce the danger'.

1. Drivers no longer have priority at junctions
2. All traffic must stop for pedestrians waiting to cross
3. Cyclists can ride wherever they feel safest
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All things Christmas!



Thank you to the owner of this happy looking snowman who perched on the top of the post box on the High Street over the festive period. He certainly brought lots of smiles to passers-by.

Thank you.

Crafties pull a Christmas Cracker.



Wednesday the 1st of December saw the return of the annual Christmas Crafties event and what a return it was. 50 tickets were sold although a small number were unable to attend on the night due to illness.

Items made whilst chatting, listening to Christmas music, eating mince pies and drinking mulled

wine were: - Christmas wreaths, felted baubles, air dried clay place markers and tags, hessian hearts, decorated jars for tealights and ribbon wreaths.



A *HUGE* thank you to everyone who got involved with Scout Christmas Post this year. Christmas post 2021 was exceptional (and a one off!) having been asked to deliver to Abbey Meads, Oakhurst, Redhouse, Taw Hill etc in addition to our usual Blunsdon and surrounding villages. The wonderful team at the village shop sold over 2,000 stamps and our fantastic Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and parents delivered nearly 5,000 Christmas cards, which together earns our Group over £1,000 - all of which will be spent on providing Scouting in Blunsdon. Steve Iles, Group Scout Leader, Tel 07885 188079 Email iles.swindon@gmail.com



*******Christingle Service******* Thank you to everyone that contributed towards our Christingle Service this year. People gave generously of their time and money. We raised £368.82 for The Children's Society.
Helen



National Award Wins for Hayfield Wood in Broad Blunsdon

Hayfield Wood in Blunsdon has scooped a prize at the 41st annual WhatHouse? Awards, while developer Hayfield has been crowned Housebuilder of the Year.

A bronze award for Best Interior Design was presented to Hayfield Wood for its dramatic

and stunning monochrome five-bedroom Hanwell show home. Hayfield then went on to take the top prize in the coveted Best Medium Housebuilder category, and also won Housebuilder of the Year – the biggest accolade in the new homes industry.

The WhatHouse? Judges Report for the Best Interior Design Award said: “On a village development of 70 homes with a massive tree-planting programme and a wildflower meadow, Hayfield is building the family homes of the future, with sound-proofed studies, electric car charging, and underfloor heating.

Nearly 80% of Hayfield Wood’s 70 houses and bungalows have already been sold off-plan. Each home benefits from a room with sound-reducing insulation to create the perfect home office. All homes also feature ultra-fast broadband connectivity, an electric car charging point and underfloor heating. A new woodland being planted by Hayfield will feature 4,755 native trees and shrubs, and the 16-acre scheme will also include a new community shop, café and wildflower meadow.

Andy Morris, Managing Director of Hayfield said: “We are ecstatic and immensely proud to have been awarded Housebuilder of the Year at the 41st WhatHouse? Awards! This accolade is usually awarded to a housebuilder that has been established for a lot longer than our five years. This ‘best of the best’ award is fiercely contested, so we feel very honoured to have received such glowing praise from the panel of industry judges. We are also delighted with the brilliant recognition for Hayfield Wood.”

Hayfield Wood has been designed around an array of mature trees that are being retained and incorporated within the expansive development area. Meanwhile, the newly planted woodland will stretch to well over an acre, creating a natural landscape buffer with St Leonard’s Church.

Hayfield Wood is open daily from 10am – 5pm, located off Sams Lane. For enquiries, please call 0800 161 5425, or email HayfieldWood@Hayfieldhomes.co.uk. Further details are available at www.hayfieldhomes.co.uk.



Notes from the Editor

****New Year, same old Magazine?

Well, now it's your opportunity to have your say on what you like, what you don't like and what you would like to see more of in the Magazine. Your feedback to help shape future articles, your ideas and suggestions will be very welcome and there's no better time to air your views than at the start of a new year. You can have your say by emailing me below or giving me a ring, see details below.

EDITOR: Please email all items for the magazine to blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com
Arlene tel. 01793 7273

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: Deer visiting the Lower Village

Your March Magazine will be the next Village Magazine, delivered from: 25th Feb 2022

Deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline
March 2022	16th February
April 2022	16th March

Michael, Richard and Christina wish to thank everyone from Blunsdon who sent messages or supported us at the funeral of Jette. It was comforting for us all to appreciate how much Jette was loved.
Michael Edwards

Magazine (Good) news

If you are a regular reader, you will know that this Magazine is produced by volunteers with the help of villagers who contribute articles. The funding for printing and distribution comes from donations and adverts, so it's good news that we've had a kind donation from Hayfield Homes and we've just about filled up our advert space again for the coming year, the adverts being the Magazine's main source of income.

So, on behalf of the Magazine Committee and our readers we say a very BIG THANKYOU to Hayfield Homes and all our advertisers.

When you use one of the advertised services, don't forget to say you saw the advert in the Village Magazine!!

THE CHATTERBOX

Here's Hoping

For me, the New Year is a time for hope. It's like the anticipation of going on a holiday – will it live up to expectations, will it remain in your memory as one of the best holidays ever, or will it be nothing like the pictures in the brochure? It has potential and possibilities, and you have high hopes for it

Regardless of whether you are the type who makes New Year's resolutions or not, many of us see a new year as a time for a fresh start and for opportunities. Perhaps it's time to take up a new hobby, look for a new job or complete something that we never quite got around to finishing last year? Maybe we'll decide to make more of an effort to meet up with friends or make a conscious decision to rest and relax more. The new year seems like the right time to try and live a better life and we start the year on a hopeful note. At this point we're full of hope and to have hope is a positive feeling.

My own hopes and dreams for the year ahead are pretty simple in theory. I'd like to maintain a healthy body and mind and I'd like those who are special to me to keep safe and well. I'd also like opportunities to laugh loudly, to feel thankful when good things happen and have the strength to cope when unexpected things come along, as they always will. As I get older, I think I appreciate the things that money can't buy a great deal more than the things that it can. Having said that, if I won the Lottery, I certainly wouldn't be disappointed!

Hope is such a little word but without it life can be a dark place. It can cover a multitude of things from simply hoping there's enough milk in the fridge for a cup of tea when you get home after a challenging day, to hoping with all your heart that your hospital tests are negative this time. It's something we all need in our lives - it keeps us moving forward and gives us the courage to face difficult times. Feeling there is hope even when the world around us seems bleak gives us a rock to hold on to and something to keep us focused on. For as long as we possibly can, being hopeful is a good way to live a life.

I hope you have a great year ahead.

The Chatterbox

EYE SPY in BLUNSDON



Did you correctly guess that last month's Eye Spy? It's the door of the former Methodist Church, High Street.

Have a go at this month's photo on the left – where have you seen this in the village?

There are no prizes for getting the correct answer, it's just for fun.

The answer will be in next month's Magazine.



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

Well, that's another festive season over and now the media turns to 'low calorie' recipes, 'how to lose weight' programmes and 'fitness routines'.

But not in the Blunsdon magazine recipe!

When I am shopping, I like to buy a new ingredient or one that we haven't had for a while and then decide

on a recipe. This happened when I bought some smoked haddock and immediately thought Kedgerree but then remembered a recipe I hadn't tried yet. This is what I made with it.

Low calorie it is not, delicious and tasty it certainly is!

Smoked Haddock Gratin (serves 4 but easy to half for 2).

500g baby spinach

500g smoked haddock (roughly 2 fillets)

12 cherry tomatoes

Butter to grease dish

200ml double cream or crème fraiche

Juice of ½ lemon (I left this out because I didn't have any!!)

100g cheddar cheese, grated

2/3 spring onions, sliced

Small grating of nutmeg

Handful of dried breadcrumbs

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas 4.
2. Place the spinach in a large colander in the sink and carefully pour a kettleful of hot water over it to wilt it. Cool under the cold water tap then squeeze out as much liquid from the spinach as possible.
3. Butter a medium size dish. (Mine is 14cms x 22cms x 5cms)
4. Roughly chop the spinach and scatter over the base of the dish, then season lightly with salt and black pepper and lay your haddock on top (skinned side down). Tuck the tomatoes down among the haddock fillets.
5. In a bowl mix the cream or crème fraiche, lemon juice, cheddar cheese, spring onions and nutmeg. Season with black pepper and a pinch of salt.
6. Spoon the mixture all over the fish and spread out. Scatter the breadcrumbs over the top and bake for 30 mins until bubbling and golden.
7. Serve with some vegetables or a salad.

Enjoy!

BLUNSDON NOTES by Richard Radway

Back in 1976 when I compiled "About Blunsdon" with Molly Levinge, she was desperate to write down the history of the village while the older generations, born in Victorian and Edwardian times were still alive with their recollections of what life had been like for them. A life which hadn't really changed much in agricultural communities for generations before the advent of the 20th century which then altered most things irrevocably. She had asked me to help her with the job and I entered into the project with gusto because I was interested too.

Molly herself was one of those interesting people who was from a fascinating background and would have tales to tell me as well.

During the work on our joint venture, we usually worked in her kitchen at Little Coster Cottage at the bottom of Blunsdon Hill and between the sessions she would boil up chicken bone soup for us and talk about her family and of her own memories which made fascinating listening.

Her father, Rev Herbert Edward Robeson had been rector of Blunsdon from 1898 to 1929 and Evelyn (as Molly was christened), her sister Joan and brother Eden were brought up in the large Victorian Rectory in Buryton Lane. Both her mother and father's families came from prominent ecclesiastical families. Her father's father had been Archdeacon Robeson of Tewkesbury Abbey and there is a large stone recumbent figure of him in a side chapel there while her mother's father had been Archdeacon Tetley of Bristol Cathedral.

Over our mugs of hot soup made for the wintry nights we would sit in two comfortable old chairs in front of her Aga.

Molly would start telling me about her mother's forbears and they were very interesting people, originally from Devon and had been very enterprising traders, dealing with ships fittings and commodities. By the end of the 18th Century, they had prospered enough to have been given a Royal Charter as the official chandlers to the Royal Navy. Her ancestor then a certain John Winne, who had purchased a considerable estate outside Plymouth with a grand house called "Maisonette" attended the Duke of Clarence's Assemblies at Carlton House. The Duke was in charge of the Royal Navy at that time, he later became William IV.

I was shown letters from John Winne to his wife sent in the 1170s and 1780s to Plymouth about his exploits in London, his new clothes and silver buckles for his shoes. He even mentioned going to the trial of Warren Hastings. Molly also showed me letters from the Duke to John Winne and one written by Nelson to the Duke.

They were wonderful to read and felt you were actually holding a bit of history. Molly said that there was a time-honoured story in their family that the famous picture of a beautiful young girl by George Romney called "The Parson's Daughter", which now hangs in the National Gallery was one of John Winne's daughters. From another line of her family, she had a letter signed by Nelson after he had been given the Freedom of the City of Plymouth when he thanked them for the honour. Molly was concerned with recording the lives of Blunsdon residents but her own life was equally interesting with more to follow in the next Magazine!



BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB

Recent Results

First XI League Position: Top

Redhouse	won	3 – 1
Hatherop	won	7 – 0
Semington – Wilts F A Cup Round Three	won	2 – 1
Priory Vale	won	7 – 0
Highworth Town	won	5 – 3
Nationwide – Wilts F A Cup Quarter Final	won	2 - 1

In 2021, Blunsdon won 21 out of 21 games played and despite a spirited effort from Nationwide in the Wilts Cup, they have started 2022 in the same vein, thanks to early goals from Nick Craft and Lee Toomey.

Not since the glory days of Holloway, Hobbs & Hibbert has a Blunsdon side been so invincible. Can we go one better than three years ago and make the Wilts Cup Final?

We also have two title deciders against also undefeated Nine Elms to come, with the first game being played as we went to press, and the away return on 19th February.

Development Side Position: Division Two, 5th out of ten

Siddington	drew	4 – 4
Moredon	won	5 – 1
Swindon Centurions	won	13 – 1
Cricklade Town	won	2 – 0
Ramsbury	won	6 - 4

A stunning set of recent results have turned the development side season around and we are now pushing for a top half finish.

Winter Fixtures. Kick Off: Saturday 2 p.m.

Date	First XI	Development XI
29th January	Highworth Town, home	Shield & Dagger, Penhill Rec
5th February	Wilts FA Cup Semi Final or Swindon AFC, home	
12th	Ashton Keynes, home	
19th	Nine Elms, Meadowcroft Rec	
26th	Nalگو Sports, home	

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

For any other enquiries, results or appointments, please call the surgery.
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Go back to the 80s at Prospect Hospice's Starlight Walk

Prospect Hospice's Starlight Walk returns in 2022 and the theme is going back to the 80s! Dig out your fluorescent leg warmers and crimp your hair for an evening of fun, friendship and fancy dress.

The 10km or 15km sponsored walk takes place in Swindon on Saturday 11 June 2022 starting and finishing at Swindon Town Football Club. Men and women welcome.

There is an early bird fee of £12 if you book before 31 March 2022.

The Starlight Walk is the hospice's flagship fundraising event. All the money raised by entry fees and sponsorship goes directly towards supporting the care the hospice provides to people in our community who are living with a terminal or life-limiting illness and supporting their families.

To find out more or to book your place visit the website www.prospect-hospice.net/starlight or email fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net

Have you nominated someone for the Pride of Swindon Awards?

Since 2009, over 145 individuals and 44 teams have been acknowledged and honoured for their incredible work in the community – do you know someone who you think should be the next winner?

They could be:

A volunteer who has given their time selflessly for years

A child or adult who has displayed remarkable courage

A person who has helped reduce crime in your area

Somebody who has given unselfish service to one of the hundreds of sports clubs in the town

An exemplary young person who should be recognised as a role model

An extra-special neighbour

An employee who has gone the extra mile for those in the community – maybe an inspiring teacher or a caring nurse or doctor

To submit a nomination, all you need to do is go to the Swindon Borough Council [SBC website](#). Nominations close on **Monday, 14 February 2022**. For more information, visit the [Pride of Swindon webpage](#).



Are You Leaving The Door Open For Hackers?

Why are software updates important?

Software updates are an important part of staying secure online. But why? You'll often hear about the new features or performance improvements in a software update, but what isn't talked about as often are the bug fixes and security improvements. Out-of-date software and apps contain weaknesses. This makes them easier to hack. Companies fix the weaknesses by releasing updates. When you update your devices and software, this helps to keep hackers out.

Why would cyber criminals target me?

Your device contains a lot of personal data that is highly valuable if it fell into the hands of a fraudster. The likelihood is your device will contain your full name, date of birth, address, bank details, passwords, as well as many other forms of personal data such as private photos or videos.

Improve your online security by using automatic software updates

We understand it can sometimes be annoying to remember to update your devices every time a new update is released, that's why we encourage you to enable automatic updates wherever it's available. That means you don't have to manually install updates every time they're released.

We've provided some useful links below where you can find step by step instructions on how to enable automatic updates for your devices and apps.

- [Apple - Mac \(opens in a new tab\)](#)
- [Apple - iPhone and iPad \(opens in a new tab\)](#)
- [Microsoft Windows 10 \(opens your MS settings\)](#)
- **Windows 7 is no longer supported. [You should upgrade to Windows 10](#)**
- [Android smartphones and tablets \(opens in a new tab\)](#)
- [Android apps \(opens in a new tab\)](#)

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: www.cyberaware.gov.uk

Foster with Swindon and change a child's life

In the UK, a child in need of a safe home comes into care every 20 minutes, and in Swindon alone, there has consistently been between 305-310 children and young people in the care of the Council over the last 18 months.

Despite this, sadly, the number of foster carers available to support these children is reducing and more placements are desperately needed to provide the safe and loving home these vulnerable children deserve.

Foster carers change the lives of young people who are in need of a caring family at a critical point in their lives. Often, support and guidance at the right time will set a child on a positive path through their life and open them up to experiences they never would have otherwise had.

Eddie and Eileen are two foster carers in Swindon who have been fostering for over 10 years. They said: "We are passionate about fostering. We believe children or young people are vulnerable and deserve safe and secure environments so they can grow and develop.

"We like to see our young people strive and learn new skills. Sometimes they come from backgrounds where they are anxious or worried and by giving them the opportunity to rest and know they have somebody looking out for them and advocating for them, you can see the difference within months.

"Fostering is about being together, celebrating the successes and being there for children when times are tough."

Fostering a child isn't always easy, but the rewards of seeing a child grow, develop and smile is what makes it worth it for many of our carers.

Swindon Borough Council need foster carers from all walks of life, and offer different types of fostering, depending on your personal circumstances. You'll receive extensive training and be supported by a local team and other foster carers in Swindon.

If you think you could change the life of a child in Swindon, visit our website:

www.swindon.gov.uk/fostering to find out more, or get in touch with our team for a friendly, no-obligation chat: fosteringrecruitment@swindon.gov.uk.



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