

# BLUNSDON

## VILLAGE MAGAZINE

July 2020



Photo Taken by Debra Richardson

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The theme this year is the letter **B**

Maps will be available to buy from the shop. Refreshments available. Small prize for the first correct answer sheet pulled out of the box. Photography competition (on the weekend itself). Virtual Gardens display.

Thankyou! Alison, Tel: 705775

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We've all spent so much time in our gardens during lockdown, they're looking magnificent! Would you like your garden to feature in the Virtual Open Gardens display? If so, please take a photo of it and send it to [blunsdonvirtualopengardens@gmail.com](mailto:blunsdonvirtualopengardens@gmail.com)

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**Can you host a scarecrow outside your house?**

**Application form to be part of the trail:** Please fill this in and return to the shop by **31<sup>st</sup> July**. You can also email it to [alisonportermusicteacher@gmail.com](mailto:alisonportermusicteacher@gmail.com)

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Best phone number to contact you on: .....

Scarecrow beginning with B: .....

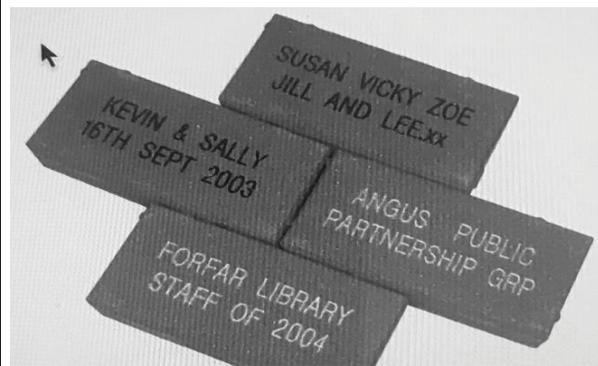


## Fundraising for your new Blunston Community Shop

We invite you to have a unique opportunity to be part of our new Community Shop and history!

We are offering the chance to have your family name etched on block paving outside our new Community Shop.

Each block with lettering is only £30 and you can purchase multiple bricks if you wish.



You can have your Family Name, Wedding Anniversary, Individual Names, or anything up to 16 characters on 2 lines.

Smith  
Family

Mr & Mrs Smith  
1st June 2020

Happy 30th  
Mary Smith

There is also a sample block in the Blunston Village Shop for you to see.

It is a lovely way to be part of our village history and help fundraise for your new shop.

If you are interested, please visit the Blunston Community Shop Website to place your order and then make payment via the shop.

Please don't leave it too late to place your order and miss out on this opportunity!

## *TALES of VENICE, the Guide Dog puppy*

Hi, lockdown has eased a little but I think we are all still finding it difficult, I know I am but it is what will keep us safe.

So, you will often see my puppy walkers crossing the road with me by turning at right angles. My question is "What is a right angle?" I just follow them but they say it is not what people naturally do and suggest next time anyone goes for a walk try only using right angles to change direction. We take our cues and direction from our human partners; it's up to the puppy walker or person to determine the routes we take and if it is safe to cross a street.

June has been a little good and a little uncomfortable. I was 1 year old at the start of the month and went out for a socially distanced walk with my puppy walkers and their family. It was a long walk and I was really tired at the end of it so when I came home all I wanted to do was sleep.



*Venice and her birthday cake.*

I did not receive my birthday present or birthday cake until I woke up later in the afternoon.

My birthday cake was special as my dry food was soaked for a while and then put in a mould in the freezer. It was taken out and allowed to defrost for a little while and then decorated with dried sprats.

You might not like the sound of that but I thought it was delicious!

The next day I met up with my brother Forest and we amused everyone as we played together. We could not go for a walk for 20 minutes until we had run around and tired each other out a little. We loved it.

I then had to visit the Vets to have an operation to stop me having puppies. Guide Dogs UK select very good dogs to breed from so they do not need me to have puppies. I am going to have a different job, guiding someone around. Not all dogs are good at guiding people and so we might have a career change and be trained for other jobs such as Buddy or Companion dogs (bringing a new friend into the lives of children or adults with sight loss and helping to develop their self-confidence). Alternatively, we might be trained by the Police or Armed Forces. Everyone wants us because we have been training to be well behaved, socialised dogs since we were just a few weeks old.

This month's question: Can you guess how many Guide dogs are trained each year?

### **Coronavirus and Support in the Parish**

As the lockdown eases so it seems the tensions on the faces of people are easing too. Up until now the weather has been kind to us walkers and cyclists and the Parish has been alive with people exercising and at the same time discovering our local delights. The Village is looking beautiful as the local gardens are getting that extra attention however it is a constant battle getting the Borough Council to deal with verdant hedgerows and footpaths. The Parish Council is still in touch with those that feel as yet concerned to venture out but please let us know of anyone who is being missed and needs our help.

### **Support for residents**

Swindon Borough Council is still operating the 12 Steps of support for those who may need it and here is a quick reminder of the services that they coordinate across the town:

1. **Compassionate Swindon: volunteer support for those who most need it.** Contact [volunteer@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:volunteer@swindon.gov.uk)
2. **Council Tax relief to vulnerable people and households to help those affected most by coronavirus**
3. **Emergency household supplies for residents most affected by coronavirus**
4. **Supporting council housing tenants**
5. **More parking options for key workers, volunteers and residents making essential journeys**
6. **Offering free childcare to key workers during the Easter holidays and May half-term**
7. **Helping residents to access library services online**
8. **Extending bus pass use for older and disabled people**
9. **Priority re-booking and waiving fees for marriages postponed due to coronavirus**

### **Support for businesses**

10. **Getting vital financial support to local businesses**
11. **Supporting not-for-profit and commercial tenants in council properties**
12. **Helping Swindon's taxi drivers**

### **Planning Applications**

S/HOU/20/0587: Relocation of previously approved annexe at 1 The Copse – the PC considered this and agreed to object again as a previous similar application had been refused by SBC.

S/ADV/20/0214: An application to put illuminated signs on the new Gym that was the Co-op next to Dobbies. The PC was concerned about the effect of a 'totum' display on the road which was also objected to by SBC Highways

S/HOU/20/0542: Following a recent delegated (decision without consulting the PC) to allow a garage to be used as an independent dwelling at 13 Turnpike, there is an application for a dwelling that has been named 13A Turnpike – for the erection of a two storey side extension and dormer window to rear. The PC considered this application and felt that the Conservation Officer’s report reflected exactly the objections that the PC expressed and we therefore reflected his objection.

S/RES/20/0515: Reserved matters application for the erection of 43 dwellings and open space on land at Broadbush (Green Square Development) The PC had concerns about the Sustainable Drainage plans for this application and that the Children’s Play Area was too far from properties and should be better overlooked to be safe. We also wanted the footpath links to adjoining developments and the existing footpath network improved.

S/HOU/20/0519: Application to build a dwelling on land between ‘Brooklyn’ and ‘Brooklyn Lodge’ on Broadbush. The PC considered this and agreed to object to the application because we felt that among other technical considerations, that access and egress onto Broadbush from what is a very intensive plot were not safe.

S/HOU/20/0531: Application to extend and reconfigure the property at 2 Holdcroft Close. The PC agreed that the revision of previous addition and extensions was a good replacement of what was described as a ‘hotch-potch’, and supported the application.

Applications yet to consider:

S/OUT/20/0548 and S/OUT/20/0549: Applications to build respectively 2 and 14 self-build dwellings on land east and west of Woodbine Cottage in Kingsdown Lane.

### **Recent Planning Decisions**

S/TPO/20/0304: Tree Preservation orders (TPOs) and requests for works to various trees have been sought for the Hill Cottage (former Golf Course) site.

S/HOU/20/0403: Granted. Extensions to 4 Manor Close.

S/HOU/20/0389: Granted. Conservatory at 36 Ceres Road.

### **Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Plan (BENP).**

The progress to Referendum is moving slowly. The plan is being revised in line with the Examiner’s modifications and recommendations.

### **Broadband Lower Village**

Working with Swindon BC Cllr Vinay Manro who is experienced in working with Open Reach we are constructing a strong case to get fibre into the Lower Village to support businesses and residents.

**Blunsdon Village Magazine – Great to see it alive and kicking for at least another year!**

## **Parish Objectives**

There are a few issues that continuously arise in our meetings that the PC is finding it hard to resolve. We have agreed to invite our Swindon Borough Ward Councillor Maureen Penny to visit and take note of those that are not being resolved by Swindon Borough Council despite many requests from the PC. These are, in no real order of priority:

- The poor quality of slot-cutting along the B4019 towards Highworth (these are supposed to take away the surface water from the road into the side ditches).
- The speed limit on Blunsdon Hill which encourages speeding along into Ermin Street. We would like it reduced to 30 mph, especially now that a development of 90 houses is to be built accessing the road.
- The drainage ditch at the entrance to the new Hills site has been blocked by the access through the hedge
- Damage to the surface of Ermin Street around the pinch point and layby
- To create a cycle/footpath from the bottom of Blunsdon Hill to the new Great Western Academy, William Morris Primary School and the new Brimble Hill Primary Special School
- The poor quality of footpath care both countryside and alongside roads in the Parish
- To improve the indication of the 20 mph zones in the Village

## **Longer Term Objectives**

The PC have some longer term objectives that we would like to achieve and again this is a list of those we plan to work towards over time:

- There is a dangerous section of the public footpath on the B4019 from opposite the Milestone (east of Oxleaze Farm) to the Anti -Aircraft Battery opposite Stubbs Hill Farm, which needs to be taken off that really busy road
- There are many Heritage Assets and viewpoints in and around the Parish that need celebrating and some explanation, which we would like to provide for the public
- We have been offered a piece of land at the entrance to Broadbush to develop a 'Village Gateway' of some kind for which we need to secure funding
- There is some developer money which was agreed to 'landscape' the old A419 – Blunsdon Hill and Ermin Street – and we are working with the Borough to secure this and develop plan to do this.

## **Parish Council Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July via Zoom at 19:30.

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



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



## **From the Vicar's desk.....**

Made in the image of God

Covid19 seems to have had the ability to bring into the light all manner of issues that all too often are kept from view and not resolved, thus storing up problems for the future. I would judge the future of social care and homelessness being just two examples of this and as I write the news is full of the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and the issue of racial injustice.

It is now widely accepted that racial injustice has been the case in many areas of society and the Church would not deny that it needs to be included in the list of those institutions where this has been true. This is despite the fact that history also contains examples of where the Church has been at the forefront of seeking to address particular aspects of this injustice, for example the 2000 campaign for 'drop the debt' internationally and the provision of food banks across this country.

This is surely a tragedy considering the truth of the Christian gospel is that in Jesus Christ we are all made in the image of God, we are all equal in his eyes and all loved as children of God. St Paul puts it this way in his letter to the Galatian Church chapter 3; *"You are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus.....There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

So, for me the person and work of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary remains the answer to our issues and problems as human beings seeking to come to terms with the kind of equality the Christian gospel has at its heart.

As I pray for our society, I pray for the Church that we, as fallible members, may work for the justice that characterises God's Kingdom on earth.

## **St. Leonard's Church Services**

**N.B. All services are suspended until further notice.**



St Leonard's Church  
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Connecting with God, each other  
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## News from the Pews.....

Another month, and still not sure about the future.

At St Leonard's we are becoming used to our regular Sunday service online.

Soon to be joined by Evening Prayer on a Wednesday!

For me it's the pressure of what to wear, where to stand, and more appropriately what to say. This in the knowledge of being on the "telly" so to speak.

Though not to put people / volunteers off from taking part - but more a personal view.

Taking part within the confines of the church building doesn't faze me at all, but to know more view the service online is a bit scary. But very welcome; and a sign that it's all worthwhile. I digress.

Our youngsters have plenty of provision to join in and are able to send their efforts in for all to see. These are very well planned and kids forewarned as to what is required for the activity: I even gather this causes a bit of "dressing up" for the end photo. So, it's not just me acting the Diva!!

As lockdown eases, we are preparing the church for private prayer and risk assessing the area! The wheels are still turning even if you can't see the motion. Regular meetings and prayers are still being held, the Bishop in attendance at our most recent service. Imagine in another world the drama that would have caused (an imminent wardrobe meltdown, me thinks), but she engaged us from the confines of her own 'office'. The absolute wonders of technology.

During the furlough period of works being frozen, the church yard was left to grow wild. There have been several comments on how nice it looked.

Next year we are proposing a 'no mow May'. This will help with all the bug and insect habitats

Remember the sunflowers.

Well mine is getting there! Another one I had planted; I think became dinner for an animal - hope it went down well. We would like any pictures sent to the St Michaels website, no prizes that I know of, just the satisfaction of a job well done

Jane Ockwell  
Church warden

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## Notes from the Editor

If you have an article for the Magazine, some news that you would like to share or ideas on how to keep busy especially for those residents who are self-isolating then please send to [blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk)

Front cover: photo taken on Hunts Hill

### The August Magazine will be delivered from: 31<sup>st</sup> July

Please note deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline for inclusion
August	22 <sup>nd</sup> July
September	19 <sup>th</sup> August
October	23 <sup>rd</sup> September

## NOTICE BOARD

Thank you to an anonymous supporter for donating £200 to help fund the Magazine.

A huge community '*thank you*' to the Clifford family and the Blunsdon House Hotel for providing fresh fruit and vegetable boxes weekly, free of charge, to some of our vulnerable Blunsdon residents.

The boxes were partly funded by a small mark-up on the fruit and veg boxes Blunsdon House Hotel were selling to the public during the supermarket difficulties. The rest have been donated by the Clifford family themselves. This initiative started in April, and when it finishes at the end of June **117** boxes will have been delivered.

Their support and generosity have made a huge difference to members of our community at a very uncertain time for all.

**THANK YOU!**

## **Blunsdon's Caring Corner**

Hello all,

I am a resident of Blunsdon and with everything that has been going on recently with the Black Lives Matter movement, I wondered what I could do to make a small difference in our community.

I believe that books are a great way of showing children diversity from a young age. They enable children to explore the different cultures and people that make up our society. With that in mind, I have set up a fundraiser in order to buy some books with more diverse characters that I am hoping to donate to an early years setting (nursery or preschool) in Blunsdon.

We have already surpassed the target of £180 to buy 20 books and I want to go even further if I can.

The fundraising link is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/get-diverse-books-in-nurseries>

Or you can donate money directly to me if you would rather not do it online.

Thank you in advance for your support. I hope you can all join me in trying to make a change, however small, I would be very grateful!

Let's raise the next generation of accepting and culturally sensitive individuals!

Rachel Serwaczak-Wills (14 Jupiter close, Blunsdon)

## **Blunsdon Hedgehogs**



This is a photo of one of our local hedgehogs visiting my feeding station.

Hedgehogs remain critically endangered nationwide, fortunately in Blunsdon we still have a healthy population.

They can roam up to a mile a night so creating a gap underneath the garden fence will be a great help to them, and most important of all, a water feeder.

This will assist not just hedgehogs but all wildlife.

Paula Austin



We are currently running a school on site and providing home learning, at St Leonard's.

We have been open throughout the closure to children of key workers and in June, opened to our Reception class.

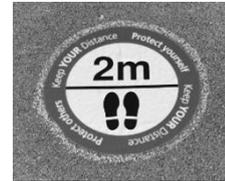
The school looks very different at the moment, in order to keep our community safe, and the children are coping brilliantly with all the changes. Our children at home are doing a great job too. They have had a daily reading, writing, maths and curriculum task to complete and our parents have been doing a fantastic job with supporting their children in this.

We have been holding regular Zooms with our children which



has provided a great opportunity to catch up with them and hear all about the fantastic things they are doing, along with seeing their work via the emails that they have been sending us.

We hope to be able to open to our Year 1 and Year 6 class before the end of term and we look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school, when it is safe to do so.



## BLUNSDON VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB

At last, some meaningful rainfall - perhaps my "everlasting" spinach will get a move on so that it can live up to its name. There are lots of beans (which my offspring insist they were force fed when young!) on the

way. As it wasn't possible to go and purchase plants for quite a while during self-isolating, we have now filled the village hall and shop tubs with some from our greenhouse that were originally intended for the Club's Plant Sale last month. Let's hope they also appreciate the rain!

I have noticed a few plants growing (besides all the weeds) in my garden which I don't recognise and wonder if they were leftovers from last year's plant sale. Every year I promise myself that I will put labels on new plants as they go in but, in the rush, to get it done, forget altogether. Am I alone or does this strike a chord?

In the meantime, as ever, stay safe and good gardening!

Brenda Boyd Tel: 01793 725928

# Blunston Village Quiz 2020

We've waited as long as possible to make a decision about whether to proceed with the Village Quiz this year. And as it's far from certain that gatherings of 100+ will be allowed (or be desirable) in November, we're faced with the choice to cancel, or go ahead with an "online" format.

We are going ahead with the quiz, on November 7th, using Zoom to allow remote access. Whilst it won't be the same as our usual method, we trust that you'll embrace it this year, and support our Village Quiz. This annual event is an important fundraiser for St. Leonard's Church.

Over the last few months, many people have used Zoom Video Conferencing to stay in contact with their loved ones. Zoom is simple, and free, and can be used on most laptops, tablets and smartphones. If you're not familiar with Zoom, we'll provide a "training session" beforehand.

Further details will be provided in next month's Village Magazine; please reserve the evening of **November 7th 2020**.

## *BLUNSDON NOTES* Holdcroft and Cedarcroft Houses by Richard Radway

After the summer fete at Blunsdon House, there always followed the Methodist fete at Holdcroft House in the 1950s, courtesy of Dr and Mrs Prentice. This was another good afternoon out for villagers. It took place on the lawn and in front of the house on their grass tennis court. Holdcroft House faces you at the end of the lime tree avenue from Broadbush.

The large eastern portion is Cedarcroft House, a separate dwelling. This was the original Old Croft House, associated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the Plummers and then the Crowdy's of Highworth. Originally, it had its grand entrance in Sams Lane and I remember as a lad a few of the ancient elms still forming an avenue from the old gateway towards the house where Churchill Avenue now stands. When felled when development occurred, they proved to be well over 200 years old.

Mr H C Sutton of Newbury bought the old property early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and set about enlarging the estate. The house was given a grand new Edwardian addition and no expense was spared in its construction. Henry Sutton had come from Benham Park, a very grand Georgian stately home, had married Miss Agar from Stanton House and was determined to make his mark in Blunsdon. He began buying up any available cottages and parcels of land around his new home and planted trees to create an appropriate parkland setting. The new Holdcroft House had an impressive staircase and beautiful wooden floors and was filled with family pictures and furniture, as well as all the latest modern plumbing. He enlarged the kitchen gardens and built new cottages for the estate workers. These were accessed from the pillared back drive off the High St, opposite the Methodist Chapel.

The Suttons left Holdcroft House in 1918 when he suddenly inherited Benham Park on the death of his nephew, Sir Richard Sutton, during the last days of the First World War. It had various owners after that, Colonel and Mrs Parsons came next and stayed until the Second World War when it was sold to Mr and Mrs Johnson Smith and Mr and Mrs Howard who divided the house as it remains to this day as Holdcroft House and Cedarcroft House.

The Howards owned the factory John Howards and Co and that was engaged in making the panels for Bailey Bridges for the war effort as well as other projects, like new air fields. Both couples took an active interest in village affairs, John Howard being a Major in the Home Guard, Mr Johnson Smith helped run the local A.T.C and Mrs Howard started Blunsdon's first youth club. John Howard later received a knighthood for his firm's war efforts.

In the early 1950s the houses were purchased by Dr and Mrs Prentice in Holdcroft House and Prof and Mrs Woodall in Cedarcroft House. Both new owners lived in Blunsdon many years longer than the Suttons ever did and enjoyed their lime tree avenue, now grown to a majestic size. This avenue is protected now by a corridor of lawn on the left whilst the school and village playing fields protect the aspect from the right. Today the parkland of the old Sutton estate has all but disappeared making way for new housing developments that have brought new life into Blunsdon in the last sixty years or so.

**Brain Teaser of the Month** Thanks to anonymous Village quizmasters for sending in this quiz for the young of any age!

**STORE CUPBOARD ESSENTIALS (NOT ALL FOODS)**

1. A Pig
2. (expression).....of the earth
3. Smells good in garden
4. "Half a pound of tuppenny....."
5. Stream of water under sea
6. Sultan's wife
7. Beam of sunlight plus badness
8. C17th gentleman 'fop' of fashion
9. Polite expletive of "sh\*\*!"
10. 6 weeks before Easter plus not well
11. Name for Father, plus light in the night sky
12. Sweet dark substance from South of USA
13. Game squashed in cupboard
14. Green coloured fog long ago
15. Red sore on toe plus emollient
16. 2 masted sailing boat plus direction
17. Old French word for twice baked (some dip in tea)
18. Name for mother plus itchy bugs
19. Comes in a comb
20. Traffic makes this
21. Cricket has these
22. Name for horse-chestnut tree flowers
23. Some say opera, on T.V.
24. Type of heather plus" ..... meeny, miney, moh".
25. Peps one up
26. Desiccated, plus your watch tells this
27. Desiccated, plus for remembrance
28. Desiccated, plus shivery cold
29. Word for farm animals plus dice shape
30. Between letters "S" and "U"
31. Chesty exhalation plus 5<sup>th</sup> alphabet letter
32. Collecting troops together in the past tense
33. To gamble or prance plus an "s"
34. Cook in it, plus number after 7, plus letter before "p" (lots of)
35. Popeye the Sailor's wife

**Answers on page 17**

## **THOSE BLUNSDON FIELDS by Robert Stredder**

### A Point of View

They all have names...that are medieval...  
Going..going..gone..  
Slowly jutting into the middle of the village  
    evaporating tree shadows disappearing overnight  
    near the bus stops reservoir the hotel  
    in a demonic flash  
The precept argument I've heard it all before  
    more homes to be built for the locals?  
    "who will buy?" (Oliver) the silent village fades..  
Trees are culled like whales less oxygen  
    no ponies grazing now herbs going  
    next....jack in the hedge scarlet pimpernel  
    grasses in the wind buttercups daisies  
    going yarrow cow parsley vetch  
World views from the castle...shortened birdsong  
Orchards and little streams surrounded  
    Cattle move down the valley  
    Notices go up "LAND FOR SALE"  
    People stop and stare barbed wire steel fences  
    The end of hidey holes...rabbits owls badgers  
    have nowhere to go like  
    Watership Down under the full moon  
The Green Fields of Blunsdon are a distant memory  
    shady banks to run to – all now in the  
    mists of time ..going..going..gone!

## **Children's Rhyme by Robert Stredder**

Fields for food take heed  
    we all need  
    vegetables corn and seed  
    waving barley oats and wheat  
    for you and I to eat  
Woods hedges wild life flowers  
wasps bees pollinate feed for hours  
Fruit flowers..as well as the trees..



## BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB

The club would like to thank all supporters, players and management for their enthusiasm last season. A season which promised so much for Blunsdon. Just four points behind the leaders with a game in hand, as well as an Adver Cup semi-final appearance due. Alas, like many things, it was not to be.

Although Premier League football has returned, albeit in empty stadiums, there is so far, no sign of any return for the local game at Sutton Park. Blunny supporters can only look forward and wait for free, live, in your face (well from two metres away) entertainment and thanks to Mr Jones, we have a bountiful supply of luxury grade toilet paper in the loos.



Preparations are underway for the new local season to begin with human table football, seen previously at village fetes, but now being trialled at Burytown's Bio-Secure Hill Fort, with players being strapped to giant metal poles two metres apart.



## BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB

It's July and still no cricket has been played. However, England are due to return to action against the West Indies very soon, so Blunsdon remain hopeful that a shortened season can begin. If permitted by the powers that be, Blunsdon could launch their assault on Division Six of the Wiltshire County League.

Social distancing for Blunsdon cricketers should not be a problem. When fielding, Blunsdon's players could often be seen scattered all around the field of play and beyond. As for batting, this was a short-lived affair, with little running between the wicket and more a case of six and out.

If village cricket is allowed to return, then hopefully the village pubs will be as well, as the biggest part of Blunsdon's game was the after-match analysis over an ale or two.



## A Recipe from CookFoodFan

This recipe is for a quick and easy boiled fruitcake, a favourite in our house and well it's just ..... delicious.

### BOILED FRUIT CAKE

150g mixed dried fruit  
75g soft brown sugar  
200g water  
1tsp bicarbonate of soda

75g margarine  
1 tsp mixed spice  
200g plain flour  
½ tsp salt

- Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Grease a 15cm (deep) cake tin and line the bottom with greaseproof paper.
- Put the fruit, margarine, sugar, spice and water in a small saucepan. Bring to the boil and boil for 3 minutes. Allow to cool.
- Sieve the flour, bicarbonate of soda and salt and pour into the boiled mixture. Beat well and turn into the prepared tin.
- Bake for 1 hour or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

Leave for 5 minutes before turning out to cool.

ENJOY!

### Answers to Brain Teaser

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1.Pepper 2.Salt 3.Flour 4.Rice 5.Currant 6.Sultana 7.Raisin 8.Macaroni 9.Sugar  
10.Lentils 11.Pasta 12.Demerara 13.Sardines 14.Pea-soup 15.Corn oil  
16.Ketchup 17.Biscuit 18.Marmite 19.Honey 20.Jam 21.Matches 22.Candles  
23.Soap 24.Linguini 25.Ginger 26.Dried thyme 27.Dried Rosemary 28.Dried chili  
29.Stock cubes 30.Tea 31.Coffee 32.Mustard 33.Capers 34.Potatoes 35. Olive oil

---



Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to try and get their hands on your money and personal information. To date, Action Fraud has received over 2300 reports from victims of Covid-19 scams, with losses over £7 million.

There are simple steps you can take that will protect you, here's what need to do:

**1 - Watch out for scam messages** -Your bank, or other official organisations, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you receive a suspicious email forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service : [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

**2 - Shopping online** - If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, do research first by checking to see if others have used the site and what their experience was. If you go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, other payment providers may not provide the same protection.

**3 - Unsolicited calls and browser pop-ups offering tech support** - Never install any software or grant remote access to your computer as a result of a cold call. Legitimate organisations would never contact you out of the blue to ask for financial details such as your PIN or full banking password.

**NHS Test and Trace scams:** The NHS Test and Trace service plays an important role in the fight against coronavirus and it's vital the public have confidence and trust in the service.

**What you need to know:** Contact tracers will **only call you from the number 0300 013 5000**. Anyone who does not wish to talk over the phone can request an email or text instead, inviting them to log into the web-based service.

All text or emails sent by NHS Test and Trace will ask people to sign into the contact tracing website and will provide you with a unique reference number. We advise people to **type the web address <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk> directly into their browser**, followed by the unique reference number given to you, rather than clicking on any link provided in the message.

**The NHS Test and Trace service will never:**

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (e.g.09 or 087 numbers)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product or any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account
- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for passwords or PINs or ask you to set up passwords or PINs over the phone
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to government or NHS

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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