

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

July 2021



Photo by Debra Richardson



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SEASONED FIREWOOD



Blunston Community Shop

We are busy preparing for our “Bacon Butty Event” on 3rd July, not only as a long awaited social event for our community, but as an opportunity to share information about your new Community Shop coming next Spring.

We are planning to share with you suggested internal layouts and exciting new products (don’t worry we’ll always stock your current favourites). We will also be launching our online questionnaire giving you the opportunity to say what products you would like to see in the shop.

We are progressing plans for our new café too. We’re in discussion with local coffee companies to supply the coffee/machines and planning our layout to maximise the use of our lovely new building.

Have you seen the new products we’re offering in the current shop? We have started to provide vegan/gluten free products and chilled coffees from known brands. Check out our “posh” lemonades and cordials and ice-cream from Marshfield Farm. We also have a new selection of olives, hams and cheeses. Don’t forget we also have a good supply of Fever Tree Tonics too!

As with previous updates with the increased range of products and services, the new shop will need more volunteers. If you can provide any time, please pop into the shop on any weekday morning and talk to Ali, or talk to us on 3rd July.

We are also looking for Corporate Sponsors who may want to support our fundraising activities for the equipment we will need for the new shop. If you can help us with that then please get in touch via our Twitter Account.

Don’t forget to follow us on Facebook (Blunston Community Shop), Instagram (blunstoncommunityshop) and Twitter (@BlunstonCommun1), and you can always buy shares and personalised paving blocks via our shop website, www.blunstoncommunityshop.uk

Juniper Berries:

This may sound like a strange request but does anyone in the village have a juniper berry bush that regularly produces a good crop of berries? If so please email chairman@blunstoncommunityshop.uk all will be revealed in good time.

Fundraising via Shares:

Fundraising for the new shop via the sales of new shares is going reasonably well and we are in touching distance of the 50% mark on the thermometer outside the shop. To spur on the villagers who haven’t bought shares yet we will soon be doing a leaflet drop as a reminder that we still need your help. If you have already bought shares thank you, the leaflet can be recycled by passing to a friend or neighbour. The more people we have putting the “U” in community, the better.

See you on the 3rd July!



Bacon or Vegan butties @ the shop

(ON BLUNSDON HIGH STREET)

Saturday 3rd July
10am-1pm

**You can also meet the team, look at the plans
for the new shop, have your say, and get
involved!**

TALES of VENICE, no longer a Guide Dog.

Hello Blunsdon, yes, I am home where I belong.

I had a great 3 months in Leamington learning new things. They were very impressed with my intelligence as I picked up new instructions really quickly. I was also very good at getting the various trainers to fuss me each time they walked past my kennel. My trainer had never seen anything like it, the trainers are used to cute dogs but I was the best at getting extra attention. The only thing I could not do was stop being distracted by other dogs. I would be doing really well guiding my trainer then I would see a dog or a person out of the corner of my eye and want to go and say hello to them. This would not work if I was guiding a person with sight loss and although they tried many different methods I could not stop. One of the dogs I used to go to puppy school with has also been withdrawn, they barked too much!



My Puppy Raisers were called on a Wednesday to ask if they would like to adopt me (of course) and I was collected on the Friday. I was so excited to see my owners and quickly jumped into their car. I was a little subdued for a week but then started to accept this is my forever home. Guide dogs will continue to keep an eye on me to make sure my owners are looking after me. I put on a little weight whilst I was in training and Guide dogs have told my owners I need to lose some weight. I have already lost half a kilo by going on nice long walks and having just a little less food.

The picture shows me out for a walk on Ermin Street.

I hope to see you all again as I walk around the village. I have met quite a few old friends but people do not recognise me without my blue vest on (their dogs do) so to help you all, I now have a red collar and identity tag. I hope to meet more of you over the following weeks and months.

Keep safe.
Woof, woof.



<http://www.blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk>

Parish Council News – July 2021

Well, it looks like another 4 weeks in the back garden or out and about with the current restrictions still in place. There's always the football and the tennis to help us along but I think we are all looking forward to the 19th July. Let us hope the massive target for vaccinations is achieved and this Delta variant begins to wane. If you need to check what restrictions are still in place please check the website - **The Road Map Out of Lockdown**, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#england-remains-in-step-3>

Parish Council Meetings

As the legislation has not been changed and the Parish Council is forced to meet in person to make decisions, we have set up a 'hybrid' style meeting whereby those who are willing, meet in the Village Hall and form a quorum to follow legislation. Those Parish Councillors or residents who are vulnerable and who are uncomfortable meeting face-to-face, albeit in the safest environment we can create, can join the meeting on Zoom to enable them to be involved in discussions and decisions. If you would like to join the meeting in either format, please just let Tracey know at contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk

Planning Applications

S/PHOU/21/0878 - Prior Approval Notification for the erection of a single storey rear extension measuring 5.0m (from original rear wall), 3.9m (maximum height) and 3.7m (height to eaves).76 Sams Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7AZ

S/21/0790 - Change of use of part of agricultural farmyard to use class B8 for lorry storage purposes. Forked Elm Broad Bush Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7ES

Planning Decisions – all granted.

S/21/0280 - Erection of a machinery and equipment store. Forked Elm Broad Bush Blunsdon

S/HOU/21/0352 - Erection of a single storey rear extension with balcony. The Old Post Office 87 Ermin Street Blunsdon

S/HOU/20/1629 - Erection of a first floor side extension and rear balcony. 2 The Copse Blunsdon Swindon

S/RES/20/0515 - Reserved Matters application following outline planning permission

S/OUT/19/0294 for the erection of up to 43no. dwellings and associated works. Land Off B4019, Broad Blunsdon Swindon

S/HOU/21/0173 - Erection of a first floor side and single storey rear extension. 3 Jupiter Close Swindon

Blunsdon Neighbourhood Plan

The very final stage of the process is the ratification of the NP at the next full Swindon Borough Council meeting. You can see the plan at www.blunsdon.info.

Blunsdon Best Kept Village Entry -the judging is happening now so let us keep our fingers crossed.

Trees for Climate – The Borough Council has been given funding by Rishi Sunak, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to plant 34 hectares of trees across the Borough. The Parish Council has been asked to nominate parcels of land that might be suitable for planting. We have already thought of some areas that we could suggest but would like ideas from you, the residents of where you might think appropriate too. Please email contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk with your thoughts. We have until September to present our ideas.

Blunsdon Speedwatch

Date	Location	Vehicles Conted	Exceeding limit	Maximum Speed mph	Speed Limit
01/06/2021	Ermin St	191	16	50	30
02/06/2021	Ermin St	168	12	39	30
03/06/2021	Broadbush	308	8	47	30
04/06/2021	Broadbush	335	6	40	30
08/06/2021	Turnpike	132	21	50	20
09/06/2021	Broadbush	413	22	50	30
11/06/2021	Broadbush	378	22	45	30
15/06/2021	Lady Lane	239	19	53	30

Parish Council Meetings –

The next two Parish Council meetings will be on the 5th and 19th July 2021 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

New Cycle and Walking Guides for Swindon (including Blunsdon)

Swindon Travel Choices have added to their [suite of maps](#) to help you get out and explore the Borough on foot or two wheels. There are two new maps for the Tadpole area of North Swindon and the South Swindon area. The rounds are circular traffic-free routes of 5-7 miles that can be cycled, jogged or walked.

Also launched are two new guides, which incorporate maps with information to help you discover Swindon's heritage and history. There is a guide to the Kingsdown Lane area, which connects Blunsdon to South Marston Industrial Estate and also the Old Town Railway Path.

Swindon Travel Choices, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH

Info@swindontravelchoices.co.uk



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community



News from the Pews.....

One can hardly believe that we are half way through the year already. And, as I write, enjoying some much awaited sunshine!

The church building is the place to be when it's so hot - cool and refreshing like a mountain lake (I'm exaggerating a little!)

The Archdeacon visited us recently and preached on God's forgiveness as something that we must bear in mind, and remember that he is not in judgment over us. His story, was the one where a man is lowered through the roof to get close to Jesus. (I'm sure a lot of you can recall that from your Sunday school days) His physical hurt is healed and he is forgiven. What really caught my attention was that the Archdeacon suggested that the next day, and with his carpenters' talents, that Jesus may have offered to help repair the roof.

Saviour of the world has a fallback career! Or just a humble person lending a hand.

We have seen such good deeds happening in the village, don't let us get too big for our boots.

We are truly hopeful that the planned weddings will go ahead. And the couples can begin their future together.

Our sadness is with the families who've lost a loved one and are unable to hold a service for them or in their memory. We pray regularly for those we know.

In line with the news from the government that we are in this 'penultimate' stage of lockdown for another month, we may have to rethink our services going forward. We were to begin our 'breakfast church' later in the month; the initial one was a great success. We want to build on it as a fairly relaxed way of worship. It won't suit all but give it a go if you see it advertised.

As per usual we carry on with the minutiae of church and pastoral service, zoom tidying (is that just me?) and other PCC matters - whilst we wait in expectation for the return of our new normal lives! So near yet so far.

Jane Ockwell

POSTPONED

Thanksgiving Service "Brilliant Blunsdon" Sunday July 18th

Due to the Government's announcement that Covid restrictions are to continue for another month, this service has been rescheduled for Sunday September 26th [3pm].

Keep watching the Village magazine for further details.



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



From the Vicar's Desk.... by Emily Swinerd

As I write this letter the sun is shining the weather is sweet yeah, and I am currently looking forward to trips away planned for later in the summer. Trips to see family, friends, and extra time to just stop and enjoy the world around us. We know don't we that looking after ourselves physically is important and if we don't rest, we can feel exhausted and run down. It is also important to look after ourselves spiritually. If we don't take time out to stop, to pray and to notice God with us we can be lost in the ever-on-going world that will always want to have our attention.

I propose that taking a daily 'holiday' of sorts will help our spiritual as well as our physical wellbeing just 10 minutes a day put aside to speak with God. The benefits of prayer and meditation are well documented, it can lower our blood pressure and reduce stress as well as giving us a new bigger perspective on our problems and even the miraculous. I have been using an app called Lectio365 and it gives a guided prayer and meditation each morning and night usually about 10 minutes in length. The time to stop to close my eyes to rest and to notice God's presence is just as refreshing as that holiday I am looking forward to where I am hoping to swim in the sea, sleep as long as the children allow and eat wonderful food with my favourite people.

As we get ever busier again, some of us maybe struggling with the pace after a slower year. Remind yourself that you don't have to keep up. You can stop, be still and know that you are loved.

Below is my favourite interpretation of Psalm 23 translated by Eugene Peterson someone who really knew how to take time out and rest with God.

God, my shepherd!
I don't need a thing.
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.
True to your word,
you let me catch my breath
and send me in the right direction.
Even when the way goes through Death valley,
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.
Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.
Your beauty and love chase after me
everyday of my life.
I'm back home in the house of God
for the rest of my life.



Our summer term at school is a really busy one.

Year 6, have already had the opportunity to take part in Bikeability and they are off on their residential this month. We are looking forward to our time in Devon.

As well as being busy in our current classes we will also be looking forward to the next step of our school journey as we transition from one class or one school to the next!

As this will be the last article written before the end of term, we would like to wish our Year 6's all the best at secondary school, in September. We will miss them.

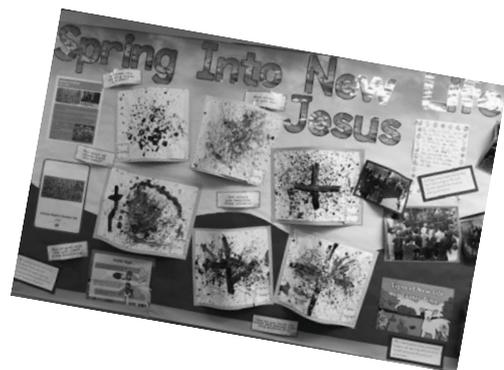
We also have some changes in staffing at the beginning of the next academic year.

After 34 years of teaching, with the last 7 of these at St Leonard's, Mrs Branscombe has made the decision to leave the teaching profession. She has been a dedicated teacher and we hope that she finds her next journey, as rewarding as her time spent in education. Miss Jeffrey will be taking up a teaching post in another Swindon school.

Mrs Donaldson will be retiring at the end of this academic year. She has worked tirelessly for St Leonard's, in her position as Business Manager. Mr Bentley, our caretaker, will be moving to a different position with the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust. We would like to thank them all for the commitment and the time that they have given to the children, parents and staff at St Leonard's.

We welcome Miss Walshe and Mr Kilkenny to the team.

It is difficult for people to visit our school at the moment, so we wanted to share with you, some of the displays that are currently brightening up our school.



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Notes from the Editor

If you would like to submit an article for the Magazine or you have some news 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: Manor House, opposite St Leonard's Church

Your August Magazine will be delivered from: 30th July

Deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline
August	21st July
September	18th August

BLUNSDON SURGERY Tel 01793 721254

Blunsdon 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.

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Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association



'Once more onto the beach dear friends'

No, no beaches, no warm seas and no exotic foods. So far, not even the alternative of grand old houses to explore and splendid estates to claim our wonderment.

The National Trust, like so many more organisations, is poised to respond to our leaders commands later this month and all the delights of those delicious days out to look on our history and marvel at our ancestors ingenuity and art are on hold until 2022 regrettably.

Watch these columns as we'll be back as soon as possible.

The Bowen Technique:- A dynamic system of muscle and connective tissue therapy developed by the late Tom Bowen.

Life after covid-19 and lockdown has prompted much reflection on my personal goals I'd like to set to after lockdown restrictions, and I know wish to complete my training in becoming an instructor in the Bowen Technique to be able to pass on this amazing 'gift' to others.

The Bowen Technique:

It is a holistic, healing, NON-manipulative form of therapy that works on muscle, tendons, nerves, fascia all through the use of the central nervous system. The session can last from 15 mins – 45 mins depending upon the procedures used, and the idea with Bowen is that 'less is more', so after listening to a client's concerns and previous illnesses or injuries, I would design a treatment plan for 4 weekly sessions to begin with. It is a truly relaxing treatment on its own, re-setting the body to be in 'rest and repair' mode as opposed to our stress (fight or flight) mode. It is a treatment that can be carried out through light clothing or on the skin, This website explains in further depth the sessions and also research, that has been carried out, (particularly on frozen shoulder): <https://www.bowen-technique.co.uk/frozen-shoulder/> The technique has an excellent track record in assisting symptoms from back pain, digestive problems, Hip, knee, pelvic problems, carpal tunnel, tennis and golfer's elbow as well as other sports and traumatic injuries.

Please contact me for further details if you are indeed interested in 'Feeling Better With Bowen', as well as assisting me in my training journey. The cost will be £25.00 (instead of £45.00), due to instructor training.

Contact details are <http://www.bowentreatments.co.uk> or Claire on 07979225386



BLUNSDON WI

Unfortunately, like other organisations, Blunsdon W.I. have been unable to meet up as a group. Hopefully, by the autumn things may be back to normal, and we can resume meetings. We will be having a variety of speakers on a wide choice of subjects, to appeal to everyone.

Blunsdon W I are a diverse group of friendly ladies. Perhaps some ladies who have recently moved to Blunsdon would like to join us?

Keep an eye open for details of when we can reopen.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

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

EYE SPY in BLUNSDON



Did you correctly guess that last month's Eye Spy was the Eye Spy is of the railings at the front of the Cemetery on Burytown Lane?

Have a go at this month's photo below – 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 with another photo.

Brainteaser of the month

See below a list of everyday objects – but do you know the hidden secrets behind each of the objects? Answers on page 16.

1. Why does a pair of jeans often include extra studs or rivets as part of their design?
2. Why is brass traditionally used for door handles?
3. Why do we have margins on lined paper?
4. Why are car headrests detachable?
5. Ever wondered why coat hangers traditionally tend to be made of wood?
6. If you've ever had a small juice box, (the ones you poke a straw through to drink), you might have noticed there are two flaps stuck to the side – why?
7. We've all heard of 'Play-Doh' that children use for modelling, but what was its original purpose?
8. Why were high heel shoes invented?
9. The inventor of chewing gum, Thomas Adams, was actually trying to produce what?
10. What was the original use of bubble wrap?



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

Potatoes are so versatile: roast, baked, chips, sautéed, wedges. I love new potatoes, boiled with a sprig of mint and served with a knob of butter.

During lockdown I tried two different ways to serve potatoes which match such a lot of things e.g. meat, fish, quiche, frittata, cold meats. They have become 'go to' recipes.

Italian Roasted Potatoes

These potatoes are buttery, cheesy oven-roasted with Italian seasoning, garlic, paprika and parmesan cheese. Absolutely delicious.

- 400g baby potatoes
- 1tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- ¼ tsp salt
- 2 pinches of paprika
- 30g grated parmesan
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter, cut into cubes

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Cut the potatoes into halves.

Put into a roasting tin and add the olive oil, turn them over to coat them. Roast in the oven until they are starting to colour.

Add the garlic, Italian seasoning, salt and paprika, stir to combine well. Sprinkle the cheese over the top. Put back into the oven for about 15/20 mins.

Add the butter cubes on top of the potatoes and serve immediately.

(TIP: I make my own Italian seasoning as it is useful to put on, for example, chicken or fish. Put into a small jar: 1 1/2 tsp dried oregano, 1 tsp dried marjoram, 1 tsp dried thyme, ½ tsp dried basil, ½ tsp dried rosemary, ½ tsp dried sage)

Greek Potatoes

Soft and creamy on the inside and lightly crispy and caramelised on the outside. Mmmm.

500g baby potatoes in halves or large potatoes in chunky wedges

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves minced
- 100ml chicken or vegetable stock
- 1x lemon - juice
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- Salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Grease a roasting tin with olive oil.

Put the potatoes in the tin in an even layer.

Combine the garlic, stock, olive oil, lemon juice, oregano, salt and pepper. Stir well and pour over the potatoes.

Bake uncovered for 30 - 45 mins, then stir well, turning all the potatoes over and spooning over the liquid. Bake for another 30-45mins until they are well browned. Serve and enjoy.

(TIP: don't forget to scrape the pan to get the super crispy caramelised bits!)

BLUNSDON NOTES by Richard Radway Squire and Moses Akerman

Alfred Williams' tales of Blunston's characters of the 19th century make interesting reading. He writes of Squire Akerman, the son of Moses Akerman the farmer of Malthouse Farm. (Photo



left shows Malthouse Farm on the left in 1900) His birth was marked by a mighty brew of ale at the farmhouse when a couple of hogsheads were put by for his coming of age. When this duly arrived the people on the farm were feasted and the ale was served and as it was consumed other ale was added and a wonderful time was had by all. Moses was a fine farmer and generous to his work people, everyone making merry at the annual harvest. He was plain and homely in his dress and rode a shaggy black pony, going to market in an old fashioned gig drawn by one of his plough horses. In the end Moses left the farm

his family had rented for 100 years because the landlord wouldn't build him a new cowshed, though afterwards Moses declared that if he had known what he was worth he could have bought the place and put a gold fence around it!

His son Squire Akerman who lived in what is now named "The Retreat" was as tall as a "Yankee herring" and not as wealthy as his father. He was both magistrate and constable and dealt out justice to locals breaking the law. He was responsible for putting people in the village stocks that were situated on the grassy triangle at the junction of Sam's Lane and the High Street, where the signpost now stands.

Squire Akerman was known for many artful devices to avoid paying his debts and was inordinately fond of his money. When he got old, he used to play with it for pleasure. Needless to say, he died with a good round sum of gold under his pillow which caused the villagers to remark that he had placed it there in readiness to pay his passage down to the lower regions! Gravestones to the Akermans still stand prominently at the top end of the churchyard.



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Doing it for Dan is a small local charity set up in memory of 11 year old Daniel Climance who sadly lost his life in a road traffic accident in Purton in 2015. Daniel loved all kinds of sport and in his memory his parents wanted to help other children to achieve their sporting dreams.



The charity raises money to provide children and local clubs with grants towards sports equipment, kit and club memberships. It also helps to bridge the gap financially for families of children competing in their sport at regional and national level.

The charity is solely run by 4 trustees and all money is raised through events and sponsorship. Since the charity was set up in 2016 it has raised over £100,000 which has been distributed to families of children in the local area and sports clubs.

The last 18 months have been challenging with little opportunity for events or fundraising. We are therefore extremely excited for the Big Doing it for Dan tea party and are very grateful to Darren, Claire, Emily and Harry for hosting at the Heart in Hand. For more details about the charity see www.doingitfordan.co.uk or our social media pages or Follow us on twitter.com/DoingItForDan facebook.com/WeAreDoingItForDan
Helen Hancock Chair of Trustees Doing it for Dan Registered Charity no [1168373](https://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/charity-details/1168373)

Live music from the fabulous Delores!

The Big DOING IT FOR DAN Afternoon Tea Party

In the glorious garden at the Heart In Hand
in Blunsdon...

2:00 – 4:30pm
Sat 14th August 2021

- Traditional Afternoon Tea!
- Prosecco + Pimms Bar!
- Raffle with fantastic prizes!
- Child and dog friendly!

Contact us at info@doingitfordan.co.uk



BLUNSDON WIN THE CUP



The lads from Blunny have done the village proud by winning the Swindon & District League Cup following an emphatic 4 - 0 victory over Globe FC.

Highlights can be seen on Your Sport Swindon

<https://yoursportswindon.co.uk/video-blunston-4-globe-0/>

Whilst the players jet off for a well- earned break on the tropical Island de Barri in South Wales, the club would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Enjoy your summer and hopefully see you all for a full season in the Autumn with the exciting news of a new youth development side run by former Blunston youth player Adam Wilkins, also entering the Swindon & District League.

BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB



Recent Results:

Malmesbury, away – won by 49 runs, with a sweet 57 from **Dave Bott** and three wickets from **Arul Ramasamy**, who we welcome back to the club after a stint in the Wiltshire Premier League.



Swindon Nalgo, home – won by 1 wicket, thanks to three wickets from **Deano Tomlin**, 53 runs from **James “Jimmer” Mundy**, but not forgetting a nerveless 27 at the end from **Mitch “The Finisher” Dodson**. (See photo left “The Finisher” steaming in at the School End)

Allington, away – lost by 3 wickets, despite a career defining, always to be talked about 104 from **Julian Steele-Davis**.

Shrivenham, home – won by 2 wickets, with three wickets from **Danny Rhodes** and 93 runs from **Arul Ramasamy**.

July fixtures: All Saturday from 1 p.m.

3 rd	Home to Chippenham
10 th	Away to Avebury, where the stumps are made of stones
17 th	Home to Malmesbury
24 th	Away to Bathford, at the beautiful Sunshine Mountain ground
31 st	Away to Swindon Nalgo, our nearest and dearest rivals

Brainteaser answers

1. *These were added to prevent them wearing out & then ripping open. In 1829, Levi Strauss came up with the idea after hearing complaints from miners.*
2. *It's very resistant to the build-up of bacteria.*
3. *To protect the written part from being chewed by rodents!*
4. *So, in an emergency, you can break the windows to escape using the metal bars*
5. *Cedar wood helps keep moths & bugs away.*
6. *Intended for younger children, these flaps when pulled out make it easier to hold.*
7. *In the days before vinyl, it was used to clean soot marks off wallpaper.*
8. *In the 16th century they were first made for Persian cavalry soldiers to give them greater stability when firing their bows. Later, as a sign of high status, both men & women wore them!*
9. *A replacement for rubber!*
10. *Wallpaper*

Over 5M Suspicious Emails Reported - Phishing remains the most successful attack vector for cyber criminals targeting individuals and businesses.

Cyber criminals love phishing. Unfortunately, this is not a harmless riverbank pursuit. When criminals go phishing, you are the fish and the bait is usually contained in a scam email or text message. The criminal's goal is to convince you to click on the links within their scam email or text message, or to give away sensitive information (such as bank details). These messages may look like the real thing but are malicious. Once clicked, you may be sent to a dodgy website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords.

What are the most common phishing scams?

The most commonly spoofed organisation reported in phishing emails was TV Licensing, with victims of these emails reporting losses totalling **£5.3m**. The majority of losses occurred as a result of victims following malicious links in the emails and inputting their personal information into what they thought was the legitimate TV Licensing website. Shortly after, they would receive a call from criminals impersonating bank staff who was able to convince them that their bank accounts were compromised and persuaded them to transfer all of their money to a new 'safe' account. Some of the other most commonly impersonated organisations included HMRC and DVLA. We also received more than 40,000 suspicious email reports relating to COVID-19.

How you can protect yourself from phishing messages.

Fake emails and text messages can sometimes be difficult to spot and criminals are constantly getting better at finding ways to make them seem more authentic. Email address spoofing, for example, is just one of the tactics criminals will use to try and make their fake emails look real. Here are some tips you should follow to protect yourself.

1: Be cautious of messages asking for your personal information. Official organisations, such as your bank, should never ask you for personal or financial information via email or text message. If you receive a message and you want to check that it's legitimate, you can call the organisation directly using a known number, such as the one on a bank statement or utility bill.

2: Report suspicious emails. If you receive an email, you're not quite sure about, you should report it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) by forwarding the email to: report@phishing.gov.uk. Your reports will help government and law enforcement agencies to remove malicious emails and websites.

3: Report suspicious text messages. If you receive a suspicious text message, you can report it by forwarding the message to **7726**. It's free of charge and enables your mobile network provider to investigate the origin of the text and take action, if found to be malicious.

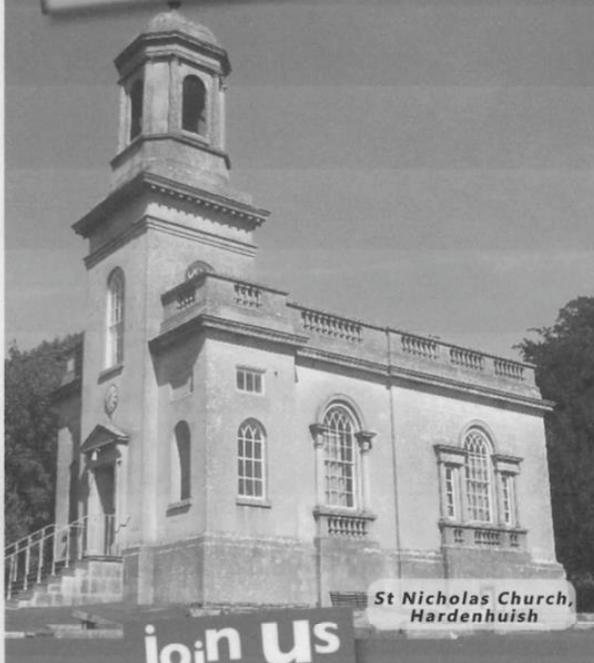
4: Report fraud. If you've lost money or provided personal information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately and report it to [Action Fraud](#).

For more information on how to protect yourself from fraud and cyber crime, please visit: actionfraud.police.uk/cybercrime

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