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VILLAGE MAGAZINE

June 2022



Photo by Debra Richardson

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By Lauran Cornock

Please bring along on the day a cake for the competition and children to bring their decorated crown and royal fancy dress for the parade

Saturday 4th June
St Leonard's Church



Jubilee Tea Party
2-5pm

Come and go as you please

Flower Festival

School Art Display

Photo Roll

Ringine





The start to Term 5 was an explosive one! Our first day back started with a Science assembly.

It was a jam packed 30 minutes, full of colour changing experiments, messy experiments, explosions and experiments with static electricity. The children thoroughly enjoyed this.



Hayfield Wood Year 3 have visited one of the new housing sites in the village and buried a Time Capsule, which the school will be given the co-ordinates for. In the Time Capsule were poems that the children wrote, about what they wanted to be when they grow up, there were also pieces of art work created by the children.

We included information about events that are happening in the world around us regarding the support that people are providing for Ukraine and the fact that this year will mark the Queen's Platinum jubilee. We included some memories of how we learnt during the Covid pandemic, a face mask and a lateral flow test!

We also included photos and information regarding a day in the life at St Leonard's and information about the school's vision and values. A tree marks the spot!

Queen's Jubilee We plan to hold an afternoon tea party with the children on Thursday 26th May in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. On Friday 27th May, we are inviting parents and carers to bring a picnic lunch to school, to share with the children, on the school field. We will also be preparing jubilee artwork for the church.

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We are reaching the exciting part of our new shop/café as we finalise our transition plans with Hayfield Homes.

We couldn't have got this far without you, our supportive community and more generous donations from organisations such as Highworth Lions and Community First.

We are extremely pleased to have received a substantial funding boost from Hills Waste Solutions. These funds have been made available through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) which is administered for Hills Waste Solutions by Community First, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire. Their incredible donation has enabled us to purchase brand new fridges and freezers for our new community shop and café.

We have also been approached by The Highworth Lions Organisation to support us both financially and physically with their logistical support. Their amazing contribution has enabled us to purchase our café furniture and café crockery/equipment.



We had a photoshoot with members of the Lions on Thursday 12th May and we will continue to forge a great partnership over the coming months/years.

Highworth and District Lions Club was formed in 1974, since then they have helped both international causes as well as local causes in our communities.

They have 15 members who volunteer their time, but are always looking for new

members to volunteer as little or as much time as they can. Over the years they have supported many local causes, these recently include a baby alarm for a premature baby so she could come home from hospital and be safely monitored. They also regularly take out elderly residents of local care homes to the supermarket as well as day trips out to local places of interest in our minibus. They use their minibus to take people to and from the Forget Me Not Café in Highworth, as well as help towards the funding of this dementia café.

The Highworth Lions President Norman Little says, "We are proud to be able to donate money towards the new Blunsdon Community Shop, we wish them all the very best for the future." If anyone would like more information or to join, then please email them on highworth@lions105sc.org

Whilst we are waiting to move to our new location, we have been busy with recruitment for our new Operations Manager and we have appointed Maggie Fisher as our new Deputy Manager. Maggie as many of you know has been involved with the shop for many years so we are delighted that she is joining us on our journey as we expand and move to our lovely new premises.

We have a new total of 30 volunteers ready to support our community shop/café. We have been running monthly Forums to socialise and involve our staff and volunteers in the set up and planning

of our new community shop/café. We are still very happy to have more volunteers as we expect our new community café to be very popular. Please get in touch via our Shop Website if you can volunteer any time to support our new community shop/café – we'll train you to make a good barista coffee!

Our Fixtures and fittings have been built by TT Solutions and are ready for installation. As previously said, we are grateful to the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) and Community First who have enabled Crapper and Sons Ltd to contribute generously to the cost of our new fixtures and fittings alongside our own community fund raising via shares and block paving sales.

St Leonard's School have been busy creating their own impact close to the new community shop/café. Year 3 visited the site and buried a Time Capsule which included items such as poems, information about the Queen's Jubilee, what the village are doing to support the Ukraine and even included a face mask and lateral flow test. See page 13

Please keep an eye on our Instagram and Facebook pages to see the progress we are making with our transition over the coming month. We will be sharing details of our new suppliers too. We have also been engaging with a wide range of local artisan craft suppliers to enable them to sell their crafts to the wider public. We have been blown away by their enthusiasm to sell in our new community shop.

We really are very excited about our new community shop and café and we look forward to sharing more news about our transition and launch very soon.

Thank you again for all your support with fund raising to help realise our vision of a lovely new shop/cafe and hub for our ever growing Community.

Current Opening Hours

Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm
Saturday: 8am – 3pm
Sunday: 8am – 12pm

Bank Holiday Opening Hours

Thursday 2nd June 08:00 - 12:00
Friday 3rd June 08:00 - 12:00

*******Heart In Hand – Jubilee Celebration Day*******

On Saturday 4th June we are having a Jubilee Celebration Day starting at 2pm. There will be face painting, a couple of stalls and a BBQ. We have two bands booked. The first is called Busy Fools and they are an acoustic duo performing from 4pm till 6pm.

The second band is called White Ridge and they are a classic soft rock band performing from 8pm till 10pm. This is not a ticket event and all of the village and community are welcome. The car park will be closed so people will need to walk or get a taxi.

Claire and Darren

Heart in Hand

Dear Resident

Blunsdon House Hotel - Firework Notification

Occasionally we are asked to do firework displays, usually for wedding parties. We appreciate this may cause distress to some pets so if you would like prenotification please email: news@blunsdonhouse.co.uk and we will email you the timings in advance.

We would like to give you advance notification that fireworks will be let off on Saturday 2nd July.

Kind Regards,

Blunsdon House Hotel



Parish Council News – June 2022

Well June is here, and Jubilee celebrations may already be underway as you read this. I hope you enjoy them and eat lots of cake and coronation chicken.

Jubilee Beacon

The Village will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee by lighting a Jubilee Beacon, and you are all invited to come and join in. It will be set alight, along with thousands of others across the Country, on **Thursday 4th June 2022 at precisely 9:45 p.m.** Julie Warburton, the Head at St Leonard's Primary School has agreed to run a competition for the children, to write the 'best' announcement to be made at the lighting ceremony. The author will then get the privilege to light the Beacon at the Ceremony. The Beacon will be erected in the garden at **The Old Rectory in Burytown Lane**, and we are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Medlock for allowing us to do this. Their magnificent view across the Thames Valley will allow us to see any other beacon glowing in the night sky. After the lighting there will be some fireworks and maybe even some mulled wine and snacks to take away the evening chill.

Planning Applications

S/HOU/22/0535 - Erection of a rear extension to detached garage to form home office with glass link to house. At: Coral Stone Cottage, 4 Broad Bush. **PC agreed to support as not aware of any Planning reason to object.**

S/22/0603 - Erection of water pumping station and electrical annex buildings. At: Covered Reservoir, Ermin Street

PC agreed to support as not aware of any Planning reason to object.

S/22/0457 - Erection of 5no. self-build dwellings (use class C3) and associated works. At: Longfield, Kingsdown Lane Revised Consultation, **PC agreed to object. PC supports TDM comments. PC previous objections still stand.**

S/ADV/22/0643 - Display of various non-illuminated signboards and flagpoles. At: Land Off B4019, **PC agreed no Planning reason to object.**

Planning Decisions

S/HOU/22/0391 | Conversion of garage into habitable space and construction of a dropped kerb. | 19 Berton Close Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BE. **Application Granted.**

S/HOU/22/0349 | Erection of a front porch extension and new single storey side extension to provide a store. | Harang 10 Hatchers Crescent Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7AQ. **Application Granted**

Best Kept Village Competition

Just a reminder that the judges will be returning to Blunsdon between the **14th May and 12th June**. If you see anything that you think is detrimental – please let us know and we will attempt to fix it. We won the first stage last year and eventually finished 3rd overall – let's see if we can raise it a notch this year.

Speedwatch Results

Date	Location	Vehicles Counted	Exceeding limit	%	Maximum Speed mph	Speed Limit
18/03/2022	Ermin St	214	14	7%	46	30
21/03/2022	Lady Lane	417	26	6%	43	30
23/03/2022	Lady Lane	530	31	6%	43	30
28/03/2022	Lady Lane	451	20	4%	49	30
30/03/2022	Turnpike	123	5	4%	42	30
05/04/2022	Ermin St	208	12	6%	46	30
08/04/2022	Lady Lane	426	42	10%	50	30

Here are this month'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 the Parish gets bigger and the traffic increases, we really need more volunteers; it will take no more than an hour or two per week and can be fitted in around work, school etc. They are a friendly, cheerful bunch of volunteers. If you would like to help with Speedwatch, the team would welcome you if you would like to join them during one of their sessions just to see how it works, please let us know on contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk or telephone Tracey on 705617. Thank you.

Annual Election of Officers to the Parish Council and Annual Parish Assembly (APA)

At our meeting in May every year the Chair and Vice Chair are Nominated, Seconded, and elected by the Parish Council. The following Parish Councillors were elected to those key posts: - Ian Jankinson to Chairman, and Ian Selwood to Vice Chairman. Those responsible for various Committees were also elected, as outlined in the minutes. We still have two vacancies for PCllrs so if you are interested, please either come along to one of our meetings to see what it's like, or contact Tracey to discuss the commitment necessary, at contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk or telephone Tracey on 705617.

At the **APA**, we presented the PC reports from the Chair, the Areas of Responsibility, and the Finance Officer (published now on the PC website www.blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk) to the public as did PCSO Emma Harriman about Crime Statistics across the parish. The good news is that the PC managed its budget to keep the Precept at the same rate as it was last year in light of the rise in overall cost of living. There were questions and discussions about those details. In question time, we had discussions about outstanding Planning Developments, speeding through and around the Village, the new Village Community Building and the need for protection from rogue travellers and trespassers. We thanked Speedwatch for the tremendous work on road safety that they do and Trevor Morton Holmes for his staunch contribution in getting the Neighbourhood Plan made and now strongly in action during the Planning process.

Parish Council Meetings - The next Parish Council meetings will be at the Village Hall on the 6th and 20th June 2022 at 19:30. We no longer hold a hybrid meeting with Zoom. If you want to come along please let us know, details are on the Parish Council Website in the Blog section and on our Facebook page.

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



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community

News from the Pews..... Jane Ockwell, Church Warden

The children from St Leonard's Academy, year 1, visited the church to learn about various parts of the fabric of the church, for example, the stained glass windows. At the end of the session, I invited them to 'have a go' at ringing; the excitement was palpable! In groups of 6 they were able to chime a bell and learn that in every peal of bells the first bell is the treble and last bell the tenor. The fluffy bit in the middle of the rope is called the sally - just a bit of pointless knowledge for you. They were good ambassadors for the school, and will hopefully learn more about their visit in the classroom.

As we approach the Queen's Jubilee we remember the longevity of our monarch, the ups and downs both personal and public - especially the ones in the lime light. There have been countless services of celebrations and remembrance in churches throughout her reign to mark various events. Please join in with village events to make it memorable and visit the church to see the flowers and enjoy afternoon tea. See page 2.

We will ring on Friday 3rd June as part of a nationwide call to ring in celebration. We'd love to see children dressed up in their royal regalia. A special service will be held on 5th June to mark the end of the bank holiday festivities.

There will be a confirmation service at St Barnabas church (Gorse Hill , Swindon) on 12th June, not too late if anyone is interested - we have a candidate from St Leonard's attending. We have weddings on 18th and 25th June and the bells will ring out on both occasions.

A small group of people from the local benefice are drawing up a profile of the parishes to place an advert for a new incumbent. We are hopeful that we will be fortunate in filling the position by Christmas. Please pray for the right person to apply. For your part -what would you like or expect of a new Vicar? We are very unlikely to have a resident Vicar anytime soon, although we live in hope.

Booksale's are a constant part of church life, along with coffee and chat. Do come along - it's an opportunity to meet new friends if you are new to the village. We don't bite!

St Leonard's Church Blunsdon

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

Forthcoming services in church for June:

Sunday 5th June 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th June 10.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 19th 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th 9.00am Breakfast Church

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St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community

From the Vicar's Desk... Platinum Jubilee, Paul Morris Licenced Lay Minister

This June we celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the 70th anniversary of The Queen's Accession which was on 6 February 1952. This follows the Silver Jubilee in 1977, the Golden Jubilee in 2002, the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, and the Sapphire Jubilee in 2017 which marked 65 years since The Queen acceded to the throne, becoming the first British Monarch to mark their Sapphire Jubilee. And, on 9th September 2015, The Queen became Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch. What a remarkable life of service, and, of course, of faith as Queen Elizabeth II is Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England, a title she inherited from her ancestor Henry VIII, and faith has been her rock.

Elizabeth was anointed Queen by the Archbishop of Canterbury and vowed to "preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine worship, discipline, and government thereof," a task attributed to British sovereigns for centuries.

The Queen takes her spiritual responsibilities to the Church of England seriously. In 1970, she became the first British monarch to address the General Synod, the legislative body of the Church of England, in person. Several times during her long reign, the Queen has asked her subjects to pray for her and revealed that her faith is a pillar of her life, just as it was for her famously devout great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria.

The Queen started her reign with a request for prayer: "In my first Christmas broadcast in 1952, I asked the people of the Commonwealth and Empire to pray for me as I prepared to dedicate myself to their service at my Coronation. I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness."

In 1952, The Queen requested: "Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life'.

In 1992, in her Guildhall speech in the City of London when she referred to that 'Annus Horribilis' year, she went on to express gratitude for the support of the prayers of others: "You my Lord Mayor, and all those whose prayers – fervent, I hope, but not too frequent – have sustained me through all these years, are friends indeed. Prince Philip and I give you all, wherever you may be, our most humble thanks"

So, as we celebrate this wonderful occasion, we give our thanks for the blessing that our Queen has been, our thanks for the dedicated service for 70 years, and reflect on our own faith and service as we pray for the Queen and for ourselves.

Let us pray for wisdom and strength for Her Majesty, giving thanks for her life of witness and service and use the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26 this Platinum Jubilee year for The Queen and for ourselves:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Our speaker this month was Lynda Warren who told us all about Agatha Christie's life and career, including how she became interested in poisons when she was working in a pharmacy, and about her well-known poetry, books and characters. Her work is still reproduced on the radio, television, in films and live theatre, the most famous probably being 'The Mousetrap' which has been running since 1952.

This year's Resolution, which will be voted on by all WIs at the national annual meeting in June, is entitled 'Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD Under-identified, Under-diagnosed, Misdiagnosed, Under-supported' and reads "Women and girls presenting with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are going undiagnosed. The NFWI calls on the government and funding bodies to fund research into the female presentation of ASD and ADHD and for action to be taken to improve the diagnosis process for women and girls to ensure that they are equipped to better manage these conditions and do not suffer in silence. The NFWI further calls on WI members to raise awareness within their WIs of the issues facing women and girls with ASD and ADHD." One of our members who is a former teacher gave us some very detailed information about these conditions and described how the criteria for diagnosing autism are still based on studies done on boys many years ago so girls get missed, especially as they are much better at masking it than boys. Moreover, many girls have ADD but they are not easily diagnosed. We voted unanimously to support the Resolution.

As part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, we will be holding a tea party in the garden of one of our members so like everyone, we're hoping for good weather. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st June at 7.30pm in the small village hall when we will be having a talk about 'Personality as seen in Handwriting'.

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

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Notes from the Editor



Blunsdon does the Jubilee!

The Magazine Committee pays tribute to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee.

The Blunsdon community is coming together on this very special occasion, with activities for everyone as detailed in this month's Magazine. Thank you to the people who are helping to organise these events for all of us to enjoy.

For those of you who are offering a Loyal Toast, it is always said before the last course of the meal or prior to tea and coffee service and the words are: "Ladies and Gentlemen, please stand for the Loyal Toast" (wait for all to stand). "The Queen."

The magazine is run by volunteers from the village. All your ideas, comments and contributions will always be welcome.

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

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

Front cover photo: Blunsdon Celebrates Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Your July Magazine will be delivered from: 24th June

Deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline
July 2022	15th June
August 2022	20th July

Thank You

- Thank you to Hills Group for the donation to help cover the Magazine delivery costs
- Thank you to PC Doctor Dan who I found from the advert in the Village Magazine. I recently approached him with computer problems, all restored after very competent phone advice, refused payment being only too happy to help by phone! The least I can do is highly recommend such service & competence, many thanks.....Stuart



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

I love Summer, the days are longer, warmer and brighter. We meet more people; our gardens are colourful. But most of all I enjoy the outdoors, going to different places and having picnics. It goes back to my childhood when my Mum would pack a picnic and we would go off out. The picnic wasn't fancy and the outing didn't cost much but our family loved it. Yes, this recipe is a very, very old family favourite! So the 'old' recipe this month is a 'pack up and take' cake that is perfect to eat wherever you go this summer.

Date and Walnut Loaf

225g chopped dates
125g caster sugar
A pinch of salt
1 level tsp bicarbonate of soda
50g margarine
175ml/6fl oz boiling water
1 beaten egg
50g chopped walnuts
225g self-raising flour
1 tsp vanilla essence

1. Put oven on 160°C/gas 3. Grease a 2lb loaf tin and line the bottom with greaseproof paper.
2. Place dates, sugar, salt, soda and margarine (cut into small pieces) in a mixing bowl.
3. Pour the 175ml boiling water over and mix well to melt the margarine. Cool a little.
4. Add beaten egg, walnuts, vanilla essence and sieved flour. Mix to a smooth batter-like consistency.
5. Pour mixture into the tin. Bake in centre of the oven for 1 ¼ hours until firm.
6. Leave in the tin to cool for 10-15mins, then turn out onto a wire rack.

Eat cold, sliced and buttered.

This cake keeps well, I usually double the recipe and make two, one to eat and for the freezer.

Enjoy.

St Leonard's CE Primary Academy Helps Hayfield Plant New Woodland

Year Three Children from St Leonard's CE Primary Academy have helped with the planting of a new woodland at Hayfield Wood.

4,755 native trees and shrubs are currently being planted at the 16-acre scheme, which will also include a new community shop, café, wildflower meadow, and 70 eco-focused new homes.

St Leonard's – which is a few minutes' walk from the Hayfield Wood development on Sams Lane has also depicted what life is like in Broad Blunsdon, by filling a large time capsule with children's work and a collection of school information relating to the present day. 30 children from the Church of England School had a site safety talk and brick laying demonstration before burying the time capsule within the new woodland area. The siting where the time capsule is buried will be marked by a commemorative plaque.



Photo L-R: Hetty Overend (age 7) with Liam Gilbert, Area Production Director for Hayfield, with Alfie Regan (age 8)

Children at the Primary Academy created work in Art and English classes to put into the time capsule. In addition, the large purpose-made metal capsule has also been filled with; photos to provide a snapshot of life at St Leonard's; the school's vision and values; and information about what is

happening in the world around us at this time. The time capsule was placed over one metre underground, and the Year Three children helped to relay the topsoil. Mrs Julie Warburton said: "Projects like this are a fantastic way for our whole school community to unite and think about what aspects of life in the present day would be of interest to future generations. It was also a great experience to come to the Hayfield Wood site to bury the time capsule and get involved with the planting of the new woodland, which is right next to St Leonard's Church. Seeing a busy development site in action and quizzing the Site Manager and his team has even inspired some of the children to think about a career in construction."



BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB

A resounding win for local rivals Nalگو Sports by 126 runs, with Blunsdon's lively new bowler **Harish Kumar** taking 3 wickets.

A battling defeat against Chippenham, with all rounder **Harish Kumar** making the Foxes tail wag with 64 runs and three scalps for the twirling **Harry Roke**.

June Saturday Fixtures: Play begins at 1p.m.

4th Bishops Cannings (home, Sutton Park)

11th Calne (away)

18th Malmesbury (home)

25th Shrivenham (away)

July 2nd Swindon (home)

THE CHATTERBOX The Day a Princess Became Queen

On Tuesday 2nd June 1953, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place at Westminster Abbey. The service began at 11.15am and lasted for almost three hours. The event was broadcast live by the BBC and was watched by 27 million in the UK, as well as being listened to on radios.

In 1951, just over three quarters of a million people in the UK had television licenses but by 1954, this had risen to 3.2 million. The reason for this massive increase was due to households either purchasing or renting their first television to watch the coronation. Those that didn't own a TV were able to watch in cinemas, pubs or other places where people could gather to watch. For many, it was the first time they had watched television.

My mother was twelve years old when Princess Elizabeth became Queen and she lived in a household that had no TV. Living in an industrial town, the main employer, The British Steel Corporation, held a day of entertainment and events. Marquees were erected to enable hundreds of local people to watch the coronation on eleven small televisions. My mother watched the coronation there and was transfixed by the pomp and pageantry and glittering jewels. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Westminster Abbey in the gold State Coach pulled by eight grey horses and left wearing the Imperial State Crown and Purple Robe of Estate. Despite televisions having only a black and white picture, my mother thought Elizabeth II looked dazzlingly beautiful. It must have been a tremendous sight and so much removed from the daily lives of ordinary folk.

My mother had a new "coronation" dress for the occasion decorated with carriages and the school children were each given a Common Prayer Book to mark the occasion. The Steel Company also gave children a metal autograph book with the new Queen and her husband pictured on the front. These items are still treasured.

Later that day, parties were held in many of the town's streets with tables outside piled high with sandwiches, trifles and cakes and houses were decorated with bunting and flags. At my mother's street party, they all wore fancy dress costumes and she dressed up as Queen Elizabeth I.

These are the recollections of a young girl on an historically momentous day and the occasion created a uniquely personal and memorable day for her. The celebrations, parties and experience of watching such a sumptuous and sombre spectacle with glittering crowns and orbs, robes and gleaming carriages was such a sight to behold and gave her memories that she's never forgotten. Next month, my mother is looking forward to celebrating at another street party 70 years later! I hope you all enjoy your Jubilee celebrations.

Here's to our wonderful Queen!



BLUNSDON NOTES by Richard Radway

Thinking of all the many events taking place for our Queen's historic Platinum Jubilee, I started thinking about how it all began. I can well remember the day in 1952 when the Queen's father George VI died. I was at my junior school and we were all gathered very solemnly into the assembly hall where we were told of his passing. We were then given the day off and I remember on that cold, wet day feeling very sad as I made my way home that morning.

For our new Queen's Coronation, a year later, the country was desperate to celebrate with joyful parties and lots of bunting after all the dreary years following the war when we were all still largely on basic food and very few luxury items. It was very much a "make, do and mend" philosophy in most ordinary households. I remember my grandmother who had known some hard times saying "she could make a stew out of a dishcloth!"

For the great day in June 1953, I joined some of my cousins who lived locally having been invited to their grandmother's house nearby to watch the whole ceremony on her new television set. A grand walnut cabinet, with two doors that opened to reveal a 9 inch screen! I believe it had cost about £250 and in 1953 that was a vast sum of money to most people. This wonderful cabinet was placed pride of place in the front room, curtains drawn and we all clustered round to watch, aunts, cousins, neighbours and a few selected friends. The atmosphere was electric.

I remember there was a running buffet, provided by many in this audience in the back kitchen. A relative feast including bloater paste sandwiches and mashed banana too, melting moments with their glace cherries in the middle, desiccated coconut cones in pink and white with plenty of tea for the adults and for the children, tizer, corona pop (I liked the dandelion and burdock) and homemade ginger beer.

We all watched this tiny screen intently even though the picture, in a shade of sepia, wasn't too clear but we thought the whole event was quite magical. All the pageantry and the ritual with the golden coach and the crowning was stunning to us then and seeing King Edward's Crown and all the Lords in their ermine trimmed robes raising their coronets. This was the true highlight of the day.

I well remember too seeing all the crowds in London lining the processional route on a rather damp, dull day cheering on Queen Salote of Tonga who, although it was drizzling hard by then insisted on staying in her open carriage so that she could wave enthusiastically back to all the loyal crowds who had turned up in their tens of thousands on the day. She epitomised the fact that everyone was determined to enjoy themselves despite the weather.

Hopefully the same feelings will be manifest in our village this year for all the happy events planned by everyone. I believe we're keeping the tradition of a village beacon alive like the famous one they had here in 1935 for George V's Silver Jubilee, which was made up from over 2 tons of old railway sleepers as well as mounds of brushwood provided by the local farmers. That must have been seen for miles around as it was placed on the old hill fort, Castle Hill at the end of Burytown Lane. Let's hope all the festivities people have organised this time to celebrate the longest reigning monarch in our island's history will provide many lovely memories for us all to cherish too.



Congratulations to Blunston FC – Winners of the Cricklade Challenge Cup



Cup Final Result - Blunston 4 Stroud United 0

Goals from Nick Craft, Rob Curtis and a brace from Eliot Wheatley.

Midfielder Rob Curtis was also awarded Man of the Match, which capped off a superb debut season for the calmest player on the pitch. Rob is unflustered on the ball and is so cool both in his style of play and in his dress sense.

Rob is the most serene midfield playmaker at Blunny since Sams Lane's very own Wyndham Smith back in the 1980's. Back then many players were sporting perms, but Wyndham stood firm, favouring the look of the classic Burt Reynolds hairstyle you would see on the walls of barbers across Swindon.

Management & players will take a well earned summer break from football, but will be looking to maintain their fitness levels ready for the challenge of the Wiltshire League next season.

Thanks for all your support and see you in the Autumn.

Our time as a Foster Family

We have been residents of Blunsdon for 20 years and started fostering children 10 years ago. In that time we have fostered over 50 children and some of them will be young adults now! All of our children have loved the village and walks with our dog. It's been great therapy for them.

Our main role as a foster family is to give the children a safe, welcoming home for however long its needed, some children have stayed for just one night and others for a bit longer. It all depends on the child's situation and every case is different.

It has been so rewarding to see children thrive during their time with us, to give them experiences and memories they might not have had the chance of before. We have been there for first steps, wobbly teeth, teenage years and much more.

The best bit for us, as a family, is being able to make a difference to a child and achieve a positive outcome for their future, whatever that might be.

We quickly understood that there were many different reasons for a child needing a foster home and it's not always what you first think of, and now more than ever, children need a safe home. Sadly, there is a huge shortage of foster carers in the UK and there are many children needing a foster home in our local area and neighbouring counties.

As a foster family we receive a lot of support, a generous allowance, training, fun events and coffee mornings where we have made many good friends over the years (and eaten a lot of cake!)

We are more than happy to share our experiences with anyone thinking of becoming a foster carer. There's no age limit, if you can pass a medical then you can foster. You can be single, from any background, religion or sexual preference. It really doesn't matter to helping a child. You just need a spare room, some patience and love a challenge, this might be your next adventure? If not, maybe you know someone. Pass this on.

We currently work with a wonderful fostering agency, who put children first but also carers are very well looked after too!

Feel free to email me if you'd like to know more. tammiescrafts@hotmail.co.uk

Or contact www.fosteringuk.org.uk

We also have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FosteringUK/>

Tammie Jackson

Book Sale, Coffee, Cake and Chat

18th June 10 am - 12 noon

St Leonard's Church





We are recruiting

After a successful first season we are now looking for more young players to join us for next season (2022/2023). Blunston FC (adults) and Blunston Youth FC are working closely with each other on the Development team to make the step to adult football for players a lot smoother.

The aim of the Development team is to help young players stepping up from the youth system at U16-U18 to adult football and to maximise their potential in football. We want to produce better players and for the experiences in the Development team to be positive in helping to develop the person as well as the player. We want our players to be technically and tactically astute independent decision-makers on and off the pitch. If you want to find out more about this exciting venture with a view to joining us, please contact: blunstonfc-secretary@outlook.com or ring Sharon on 07703014814

Training starts 5th July,
Sutton Park Blunston
@18:30

[www.blunston-fc.co.uk/teams/Blunston-FC-Development-\(Adults\)](http://www.blunston-fc.co.uk/teams/Blunston-FC-Development-(Adults))

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