

# BLUNSDON

## VILLAGE MAGAZINE

May 2022



Photo by Debra Richardson

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# Explorer Scout CAR WASH!



At

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On

Saturday 14th May  
Sunday 22nd May  
Saturday 28th May  
From 10am til Noon

**Car Wash £5.00**  
**+£5.00**

for inside vacuum and window clean

**Coffee and Cake available while you wait.**

This is a fund raising event with all the money raised helping the young people of Athena Explorer Scout Unit to take part in events and camps both in the UK and Europe during 2022 and 2023. Athena ESU are aged 14 to 18 years old and are the senior section of 1st Blunsdon Scout Group.



For more information please email;

Tom Dent - Explorer Scout Leader - [tomdent12@gmail.com](mailto:tomdent12@gmail.com)

Steve Iles - Group Scout Leader - [iles.swindon@gmail.com](mailto:iles.swindon@gmail.com)



**It's just like London Buses!** You wait for ages for a good news story and then several come along at once, this includes a job advert at the end of this article

### **Good News 1.**

You have done it!!! Actually, you smashed it. We asked you to help us raise £10,000 towards the new Community Shop and Café by purchasing shares and we are delighted to report that you have in fact raised over £12,000. We really can't thank you enough. Your contribution along with a number of generous grants and gifts means that we will be able to deliver the shop and cafe you wanted.

Thank you Thank You Thank You.

We look forward to working with all our shareholders and members over time to create and develop what we hope will be the beating heart of the village.

### **Good News 2.**

If that wasn't enough, another way we sought to raise funds was by selling engraved blocks to go in our paviour garden at the rear of the shop. Again, you have exceeded all expectations and after a slow start and then a steady trickle over the last few weeks it has exploded. Names, messages and special dates for many people will now be in pride of place alongside our time capsule which will be buried by our local school. At the last count you had purchased over 220 blocks so once again thank you. We sincerely hope you will enjoy your coffee and cake while admiring your block(s).

### **Good News 3**

Thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council, we are pleased to report that we will also have a lovely covered area at the rear of the shop and cafe so any al fresco eating or drinking will be dry. Parents will be able to sit and watch their children play while they enjoy refreshments and a chin wag and we may be able to hold members and volunteer events outside too.

### **Loyalty Card Scheme**



Shortly before we open the new place, we will make available from the current shop our cafe loyalty card. We know Starbucks thought of it first, but we are aiming to offer better coffee so grab a card when you can. If you ask nicely, we may even give you your first stamp free.

### **It's all happening.**

Basically, there are lots going on as you can imagine but as a quick resume, fridges and freezers, tables and chairs, bread oven and all fixtures and fittings are on order. We are still undecided about a coffee supplier but should have that resolved very shortly indeed.

### **Members Charity Choices**

If you are a member/shareholder, you may recall we asked you to vote for some charities that you would like us to support via our donation box on the counter. The first of 6 charities that received the most votes is Swindon Samaritans and their box is now nearly full so we will soon be moving on to the next charity. We will keep you posted but you should see some information about the relevant charity on our community noticeboard.

### **Blunsdon Buns**

As you know we floated the idea of having a Blunsdon Bun, Cake or Muffin (well Chelsea and Eccles have theirs) a while ago. Well now we are ready to receive your recipes. Once we have these, we will

ask 5 or 6 entrants to actually make their idea so that it can be judged at a tasting session. The winning entrant will become our unique Café offering that you can only purchase in Blunsdon. Send your recipes to [blunsdonbuns@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk](mailto:blunsdonbuns@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk) or drop in to the shop to go in the pink “shares” tin.

### **CLEANER REQUIRED**

For the New Blunsdon Shop/Cafe

Minimum 3 x 1-hour visits per week

Deep clean of Toilets and floors

Please email Blunsdon Community Shop if you are interested (By 31 May 2022) [manager@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk](mailto:manager@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk)

### **Business Sponsors:**

Thank you to the following local businesses supporting the community:

The Heart in Hand; SR Motor Group; Multidata; Newland Homes; Wescon; Pendle Property Design

### **Current Opening Hours**

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

### **Bank Holiday Opening Hours**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** 08:00 - 12:00  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** 08:00 - 12:00  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** 08:00 - 12:00

#### **\*\*\*\*\*A Farewell message from Gill\*\*\*\*\***

Royal Mail periodically conduct a “Revision” to take into account the changes in mail and parcel volumes and to accommodate the extra homes being built. When they do this, they also carry out a “Resign” allowing posties to change routes based on seniority.

Sadly, this means that once this process is complete, I will no longer be covering the Blunsdon area.

I am sure you have noticed that I haven’t been a “normal” postie, but once lockdown kicked in, I decided that “ears” weren’t just for Christmas and substantially increased my range of head decorations. At a time when so much changed I just wanted to put a smile on a few faces, and it worked.

I just want to thank everybody for being the most wonderful customers and embracing and encouraging my quirkiness. Together we have also raised hundreds for charity through your kind donations when I took things a step further and did my walk wearing full fancy dress. Many of you are now valued friends and I will sincerely miss being your post lady.

Gill

**\*\*Thank you Gill for all your efforts; you will be missed and we wish you well in your new area.**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**  
**St Leonard's Church**



**Jubilee Tea Party**  
**2-5pm**

Come and go as you please

**Flower Festival**

**School Art Display**

**Photo Roll**

**Ringine**



### Parish Council News – May 2022

**‘Ne’er cast a clout ‘til May is out..’** probably first written in the early 15<sup>th</sup> Century, but almost certainly shared verbally centuries before, is a very strange saying. **‘clout’** in this instance means a piece of clothing, and they used to sew themselves into their clothing in the autumn until the spring, when **‘a young man’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.’** It is also thought that the saying was exported, and a French proverb - **‘En avril, ne te découvre pas d’un fil; en mai, fais ce qui te plaît’**, translated as **‘In April, do not shed a single thread; in May, do as you please’**, which has much the same meaning - all derive as **‘Keep your winter woollies on yet’**.

### Best Kept Village Competition

Yes, it’s here again and the judges will be returning to Blunsdon between the 14<sup>th</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> overall – let’s see if we can raise it a notch this year.

### June’s Jubilee Celebrations

IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!! We are pleased to announce that we would like to support Jubilee Celebrations across the Parish. If you are planning a street party in your road, the



Parish Council would like to offer some funding to assist you. Please let us know what your plan is – which day, which street, how many people and your safety precautions. Please e mail [contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk) We haven’t had a ‘rush’ of applications so far, but please don’t leave it until the last minute.

### 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 2nd 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**

Ref. No: S/22/0377 - Creation of a multi-use games area (MUGA) with enhanced fencing and lighting, erection of office/ toilet/ storage unit with accessibility ramps, cycle shelter, cricket practice facility, paving improvements, additional car parking spaces, green playing space and soccer skills area and tree planting. Tennis Courts Linley Road Blunsdon Swindon – PC Supported

Ref. No: S/TWC/22/0637 - Works to trees within a Conservation Area. Longways Front Lane Blunsdon Swindon

Ref. No: S/HOU/22/0579 - Erection of a two-storey front extension infill & replacement of flat roof on garage with pitched roof. 22 Berton Close Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BE – PC concerned about availability of off-road parking

Ref. No: S/HOU/22/0582 - Replacement of existing flat roof with pitched roof. 20 Berton Close Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BE – PC supported

Ref. No: S/22/0457 - Erection of 5no. self-build dwellings (use class C3) and associated works. Longfield Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL – PC objected as not enough information supplied to make a decision

### **Planning Decisions**

Ref. No: S/AGRI/22/0182 - Prior approval notification for the erection of an agricultural storage barn. Land At Little Rose Lane Blunsdon Swindon. Application Granted

Ref. No: S/AGRI/22/0183 - Prior approval notification for the construction of a new access and area of hardstanding for agricultural activities. Land At Little Rose Lane Blunsdon Swindon. Application Granted

Ref. No: S/HOU/21/1971 - Erection of a two-storey front extension infill & replacement of flat roof on garage with pitched roof. 22 Berton Close Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BE. Application Granted.

S/HOU/22/0201 - Portquin Cottage Broad Bush Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7DH. Erection of a car port with 2no parking spaces, with studio attached. Permission Refused

Ref. No: S/21/1865 - Change of use of building to 1no. dwelling, creation of vehicular access and parking spaces, and associated works. Blunsdon Methodist Church High Street Blunsdon Swindon. Application Granted.

Ref. No: S/21/1529 - Erection of 2no. dwellings and associated works. Land At Burytown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7DQ. Application Granted.

S/22/0030 - Land Off B4019 Blunsdon Swindon. Construction of a temporary access off the B4019 until March 2024, to enable construction access for Thames Water's trunk main improvements between Blunsdon Reservoir and Faringdon Pumping Station. Application Withdrawn

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

### **New Allotments on Minerva Heights**

The new allotments are being taken up very quickly. There is an inclusive allotment with raised beds (far left) for those of you who are not able to fully enjoy the full necessities that an allotment brings. Access is from the carpark via Old Lady Lane. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please contact Tracey at [contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk)  
The new Play Area at Minerva Heights is now safe for us to open and is now available to use.

## Speedwatch Results

Thank you to our dedicated Blunsdon team for their important work in keeping the roads around the Parish safer.

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

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](mailto:contact@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk) or telephone Tracey on 705617. Thank you.

## Annual Parish Assembly - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 19:00 Blunsdon Village Hall

This is the annual meeting where you the residents and Precept payers get to let the PC know how you think we have looked after your Parish. To ask the PC about how it has spent your money and how it intends to spend your money in future. There will be a report about the years activities, income and expenditure and various reports from the Parish Councillors, Borough Councillors, and the Police. Everyone is welcome to attend and ask questions.

**Parish Council Meetings** - The next Parish Council meetings will be at the Village Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 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](mailto:ianjankinson@blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk) – 07702 684281

### 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.

For any other enquiries, results or appointments, please call the surgery.  
EMERGENCIES - Tel. 01793 762218 (Outside surgery hours)



St Leonard's Church  
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other  
and our community

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

With Easter celebrations just behind us and Jubilee celebrations just ahead - we are part way through the year already.

Lent Lunches raised a fabulous £1,000:00 and a good time was had by all who attended, or made the soup, washed and generally tidied up.

Palm Sunday was sadly lacking of a real donkey but a wooden one was sufficient to relive the story for our younger worshippers, and who doesn't want to leave with a Palm cross as a gift and a replica donkey made with cardboard and pegs (yes really, the fun we have)

Our Easter service reflected our mood of Hope springing eternal. Alison Williams officiated and all were made to feel welcome (or was that the chocolate eggs)

Our services are geared for all ages - why don't you give us a try.

A peal was rung recently, avid listeners may have spotted this! Taking nearly 3 hours to complete.

Book sale on 3rd Saturday of each month, appears to be drawing in different people and we welcome that. There are books for all! Don't be shy, and the coffee is good.

We are planning a 'tea party' for the Queen's Jubilee, on Saturday 4th June - if anyone has any memorabilia that we can borrow to display in the church, please contact me. This includes old photos that can be put onto the big screen and watched whilst dining.

The school children have been commissioned to do some artwork around the subject; the exciting thing there is that we never know what it's going to be like, BUT we do know that it'll be GOOD! Can't wait.

Our flower ladies (bunches of talent there) are going to deck the church with some stunning arrangements for your delectation! Yes, I'm a child of the time. The Good Old Days with Leonard Sachs.

If you fancy having a go, and I'm going to, please get in touch.

There will be a service on the 5th June that will bring the celebrations to a close. This is probably a once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of an event like this. One to bring the grandchildren to - not to just tell them about.

Regards

Jane

### Book Sale, Coffee, Cake and Chat

21<sup>st</sup> May 10 am - 12 noon

St Leonard's Church



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St Leonard's Church  
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other  
and our community

### **From the Vicar's Desk..... Rev Emily Swinerd**

Dear Friends, how are you doing? Are you finding time to notice the good in the world or are you overwhelmed by the bad and the hopeless? You might immediately know the answer to that question but some of us may be too busy or too distracted to have paid attention to how we feel. If you don't know take a moment, close your eyes and breathe deeply. Ask yourself. How am I doing?

The first Christians went through a huge rollercoaster of emotion in the week after Jesus died. Obviously, sadness at the death of their friend, but also fear and confusion. Followed by upon him rising again, shock, joy, relief and probably a bit of disbelief and confusion thrown in too. And then he told them he wouldn't be staying long and again they were back to fear, worry and a bit of excitement maybe for the task before them.

Christians celebrate Easter for a really long time. For a full 50 days until we celebrate Pentecost (the gift of the Holy spirit) we stay at Easter. We want to remember as long as possible the joy and the relief and the wonderfully amazingly good end to that sad story. When we are feeling overwhelmed by how big the problems of the world are, frustrated beyond belief at policy makers, waking up worried in the middle of the night about money. We can remember that there is good in the world and there is good for us to grasp and hold on to.

The resurrection of Jesus shows us that there can be hope when all looks hopeless and joy when all seems lost. The reason we have such a beautiful end (or beginning) to the story of Jesus is because he spent time with people before and after his death. He lived in the community, he knew his friends and they knew him. We need people and people need us. Next time you see a friend or family member ask them how they are and really listen. You might be able to help them to see that there is still good in the world even when all seems lost. If you are the one feeling hopeless, tell someone and tell God, ask God to show you the good all-around and the good available to you through Jesus.

### **St Leonard's Blunsdon**

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

Forthcoming services in church for May:

Sunday 1st 10.00am Holy Communion,

Sunday 8th 10.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 15th 10.00am Holy Communion,

Sunday 22nd 9.00am Breakfast Church

Sunday 29th 10.00am Morning Worship



## Blunsdon W I

Blunsdon W I had their recent meeting on Tuesday 19th April in the Small Village Hall. It took the form of our Annual General Meeting where we discussed the activities of the past 12 months, and voted in the Committee for the forth-coming year. It was very well attended with several new members. Afterwards we had a delicious "American" supper with food and wine/soft drinks. It was a very sociable evening.

The Blunsdon W.I. Book Club is also very well attended. Recent books under discussion have been *Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare which is highly recommended, and *When I Come Home Again* by Carole Scott.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th May in Blunsdon Small Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. The speaker will be Linda Warren talking about the "Mystery of Agatha Christie". (There will also be a discussion about this year's W.I. Resolutions).

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



Hello Seniors of Blunsdon, my name is Julie Dowie the Scheme Manger for MHA Communities Swindon. Apologies, but due to covid myself and my colleague were unable to attend the introduction scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> April and have rearranged our visit and presentation to **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May.**

This will be an introduction to the Scheme and what we could offer in Blunsdon. We currently provide Befriending, Monthly activity packs including our newsletter, a Friendship Group which provides a yummy soup lunch and bingo and recently started a chair-based exercise developed by the British Gymnastics tailored for those living with dementia and/or have limited mobility.

If you are interested in meeting us then please join us on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May between 2 and 4pm. Looking forward to meeting you. Should you wish to speak with me then please call me on 0745 4075 826, my office is based at Fitzwarren House on Kingsdown Road.



## **BLUNSDON VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB**

Our April club meeting, when Richard Radway kindly agreed to share his knowledge of Blunsdon, and its old inhabitants over the previous century from the stories he heard as a child, was very well attended and our grateful thanks go to him for a very interesting and absorbing evening.

There will not be a club meeting in May because . . . wait for it, the annual

### **PLANT SALE will be back on the morning of Saturday 21st May**



from 9.00 am to around 12.30 in the Village Hall when we look forward to welcoming gardeners of all ages and horticultural experience (or none!) to join us, not only to pick up some bargain plants but to meet up with friends and meet some new ones, enjoy some refreshments (bacon butties have been mentioned!) and generally enjoy themselves.

Our first plant sale was in 2008 when the club was re-invented and continued until 2019. Lockdown in 2020 meant we had to cancel our plans for that year and also 2021. We are, however, happy to be able to start up again and do hope for your support.

Looking forward to seeing you on the day!

#### **Heart In Hand - Jubilee Celebration Day**

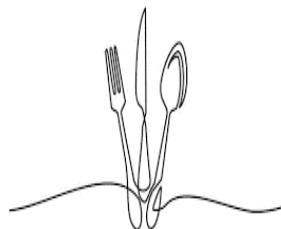
On Saturday 4th June we are having a Jubilee Celebration Day starting at 2pm. There will be face painting, a couple of stalls and a BBQ. We have two bands booked. The first is called Busy Fools and they are an acoustic duo performing from 4pm till 6pm.

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

. FOOD FOR THOUGHT.  
Outside Catering



**Mobile fish & chip van will be in Blunsdon 5pm until 8 pm on the following dates: -**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**\*\*Please note we will be at a new site, Linley Road car park (by the school)\*\***

**If you would like a copy of our menu, please email [grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com](mailto:grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com) or WhatsApp 07515288414**

**Pre orders welcome by WhatsApp or text 07515 288414**

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### ***Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association***

UTRNTA? *Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association* is the answer. It's a posh and rather exotic title for a group of people who believe that the National Trust is an organisation worthy of our support and promotion at local level. If you are a member of National Trust, you can join us to take part in our varied activities.

The history of this island is littered with examples of the skills of our forebears and the willingness of those with the capital to employ those talents. Right back to the first Roman soldiers landing on our South coast beaches (I bet they kicked the sandcastles down!) history has left its mark and this group aim to see much of it.

We would like you to join us please and, with this in mind, we organise coach trips and holidays to suit.

We also organise events where we meet to listen to speakers on a wide variety of topics. In fact, you've just missed one as on 21<sup>st</sup> April a lady named Liza Dibble spent an entertaining hour or so in Highworth Community Centre telling us about Coleshill House and Park.

A programme of our 2022 coach trips and meetings can be obtained from our secretary Derrick Beer on 01793 762070 and you will be most welcome to join us.

## Notes from the Editor

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](http://blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk)

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

**Front cover photo:** Manor Close looking towards Church

**Your June Magazine will be delivered from: 27<sup>th</sup> May**

Deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline
<b>June 2022</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>July 2022</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> June</b>

### \*\*\*\*Church parking\*\*\*\*

I have had a polite request to ask people parking at the church to park without impeding access to Burytown Lane. If cars block the Lane, it means residents can't get out OR emergency services and deliveries can't get access up the lane. Thank You

## Thank You Blunsdon

- Bob and I would like to thank our friends and neighbours for their thoughts and kindness shown to us during our recent Covid illness.  
Your cards, chocs, flowers and pastries not to mention phone calls and good wishes have made us realise what good people we have on Sutton Park.  
Our sincere thanks to you all.  
Madeline & Bob Webb.
- Thank you to our Magazine Delivery Boys and Girls who have done so well in maintaining deliveries despite the uncertainty of delivery dates from our printers. Everyone has rallied round to make sure your Magazine is delivered to you as promptly as possible.  
The names of the delivery team are: - **Michael, George, Jess, Travis, Aron, Rhys and Jessica.**  
We are hopeful that our printers will be back on track for the June Magazine and we also wish them well in fully resuming their business.
- Thank you to the **Thomas Freke and Lady Norton Charity** for the kind and generous donation to help with the running costs of this Magazine throughout 2022.



## *A Recipe from CookFoodFan*



On 6<sup>th</sup> February this year Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. To celebrate in June there will be a four day UK bank holiday weekend.

So, I have been searching for a recipe to suit the occasion. I found a Queen Elizabeth dessert cake made for the Queen of Canada, Elizabeth II, which may have been made in 1953 for her coronation. An 'interesting cake', look it up if you want the recipe.

But the dish we probably most associate with the Queen is Poulet Reine Elizabeth or, to you and me, Coronation Chicken. It's a versatile dish, I often use remainder leftover chicken from a roast to which I add curry paste and mayonnaise to serve with a jacket potato and salad or to put in a sandwich. The 'proper' version is all made from scratch but this is a straightforward and very easy version of it.

### **Coronation Chicken**

6 tbsp mayonnaise  
2-3 tsp curry powder, to taste  
½ tsp cinnamon  
2 tbsp mango chutney  
1-3 tbsp sultanas or chopped dried apricots, to taste  
500g shredded chicken

1. Mix the mayo, curry powder, cinnamon, chutney and fruit together and season with black pepper.
2. Add the shredded chicken and stir to coat in all the sauce. Stir in a little water if too stiff, season and serve.

You can use part mayo/part yoghurt for a lighter version and sprinkle with flaked almonds.

Now we just need the sun to shine so we can enjoy our Coronation Chicken sandwiches with scones and clotted cream, followed by cakes.

What could be more British to toast our Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Enjoy the celebrations.

## **THE CHATTERBOX    Party On!**

In the past few weeks there have been quite a few family birthdays to celebrate. The usual format is a family meal and maybe a trip to see a stately home or to the seaside to make a memory and mark the occasion. Traditional parties with games became a thing of the past for us when the children grew up and what parties we have now are more low-key with a lot less sugar and noise, no party bag, although there is always a birthday cake with candles.

After coming home from one of these birthday meals, I thought back to the birthday parties I went to as a child. They were usually for friends who lived in the same street or somebody in my class at school. I can't recall what I wore or what the birthday cakes looked like, but I do remember the games that we played which were always the best part. They were probably the same games that were being played in countless homes around the country as many friends from different areas all seem to know the exact words that I sang in them. I suspect the memories of these games are now fading though as children seem to have activity parties like ten-pin bowling, going to a theme park or ice-skating. They don't know what they're missing!

Can any of you remember standing in a circle singing, 'The Farmer's in His Den'? It had umpteen verses and ended up with one child in the middle of the circle as we sang, 'We all pat the bone.' I never really understood why we all had to pat a bone but at that age you don't really ask questions.

The game that made the biggest impression on me involved a pudding bowl full of pressed-down flour upturned on a board with a sixpence stuck in the top. Each child would take their turn and slice a bit of flour off the mound until it collapsed. The child who had cut that unfortunate final bit then had to retrieve the sixpence by only using their mouth. Most of the children found it hilarious, but probably not the one with a face covered in flour!

Other games I can remember were Lord Nelson's Eye and Blind Man's Bluff. One of them involved jelly and there'd be a lot of shrieking and laughing! Some of the games had songs that went with them and I can still recall the song but not what the actual game was. 'I sent a letter to my love but on the way, I dropped it' is one such song. If you know what the game was about perhaps you can let me know because I haven't the foggiest.

Some traditional party games like Musical Chairs and Pass the Parcel have stood the test of time but I wonder if there are any young children today playing these vintage games like Murder in the Dark or Sheep, Sheep Come Home at a friend's birthday party? Or are they all trying to find their way out of an Escape Room? I know which party I'd prefer.

If you have a birthday coming up, I hope there's cake!

The Chatterbox

## *BLUNSDON NOTES by Richard Radway*

When I was in the Village Hall the other evening it brought back fond memories of the days, when, as a student, I went to help out in the building when it was the village school. I was waiting to go to Teacher Training College at the time in the early 60's and the old school had changed very little from its enlargement at the beginning of the twentieth century. It was still heated by a massive cast iron coal fired "Turtle" boiler stove which the staff used to boil their kettles on to make tea and the children still sat in rows in their old wooden desks. They had milk monitors then and pencil monitors too!

Mrs Gleed was headmistress then and although quite stern she was very kind to all her charges. Her husband Geoff owned the Holdcroft Cabinet Works housed in what had once been the stables of Holdcroft House and also all the land below as far as the High Street where the old gateposts for the back entrance to the big house still stood. His firm used to renovate lots of school furniture from around the country at the time and he played a big part in village life too as a very active member of Church and Parish Councils. They lived in school house, now Prestbury Cottage before they retired and developed their piece of land, which became Pontings Close with their detached bungalow overlooking the High Street.

The other staff members I remember there were Mrs Mountney, my father's cousin and Mrs Gordon, another great village presence, who had been a pupil teacher from 1924 when her father, Mr Skyrme had been the first headmaster at the school, staying on until she retired in 1964. Rita Gordon knew everyone in the village then and all their histories too!

The other character at the school was the caretaker, old Mrs Vincent who always seemed to be in her wrap—over apron, black shoes and brimmed felt hat. She lived in one of the cottages on the way down Blunsdon Hill (that backed onto the copse).

Our original village school had been built on church land in around 1843 and was for the poor children of the parish. Later it became a National School and was slightly enlarged over the years from the original small stone building with its flag stoned floor. In 1859, it had 40 to 50 scholars. Elsewhere in the village then, 20 children were taught in three dame schools. The thatched cottage on Ermin Street was one of them, Hunts Hill Cottage was another but the whereabouts of the third is still unknown. When Rev Robeson was rector of the parishes a large building plan was undertaken from about 1900. The completed building as we know it today was finally opened in 1902 by the Venerable Archdeacon Robeson of Bristol Cathedral, the rector's father.

No doubt to the joy of the village children there had been a 17-week holiday during the rebuilding process. Some years ago, I had the chance to look through the old logbooks of the school and they made fascinating reading with absences noted in particular for things like hay making, potato picking and gleaning at harvest time. There were also absences for something called mud pox, which sounded rather alarming!

Lessons in Victorian times were mainly the 3 "R's" but drill was introduced in 1885 and knitting in 1890 for the top infants. Many notes in the logbooks were not without humour because an entry in 1893, June 14<sup>th</sup> stated "a number of children absent owing to the celebration in Bacchanalian style of a 'high day' in the Wesleyan Chapel".

We are very lucky to have such a useful historic building for so many of our village activities in 2022 and let's hope we can continue to look after it for future generations.



## **Blunsdon Football Club**

### **Defeat snatched from the JAWS of victory**

A big crowd (yes, really big) witnessed an agonising penalty shootout loss for Blunsdon against The Sharks of Tisbury United in the Wiltshire FA Junior Cup Final.

After a game of few chances which Blunsdon just shaded, it ended goalless and went straight to the dreaded spot kick challenge which Blunny lost 4 – 5. Three weeks later, a rather flat performance at home to Hatherop, saw Blunsdon crash out during the semi-final of the Swindon League Cup.

**However, the double still remains a possibility, with Blunsdon reaching the final of the Cricklade Challenge Cup where they will meet Stroud United at Cricklade Leisure Centre on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30 p.m. kick off.**

**Come and join Rosewell's Amber & Black Army at the Cup Final and hopefully, this time, cheer the lads onto victory.**

### **Recent results**

#### **First team**

Sportz Central	won	3 – 0	Swindon League Cup
Priory Vale	won	4 – 0	Swindon League Cup Quarter Final
Stanford in the Vale	won	6 – 0	Cricklade Challenge Cup Semi Final
Hatherop	lost	1 – 3	Swindon League Cup Semi Final

#### **Development Team**

Spectrum	lost	0 – 2	Swindon Plate
Moredon	won	1 – 0	Swindon Plate
Shield & Dagger	lost	0 – 3	Swindon Plate Quarter Final



## ***BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB***

A lack of April showers this year means that the pitches will be pacy and bouncy, unlike some of our ageing village cricket team members. It would be great to see some new blood joining in with England's number one summer sport. Just contact club captain Guy Varian 07753 446614 for details.

Saturday fixtures in May in the Wiltshire County League Six begin with a "friendly" local derby: All 1 p.m. start.

7 <sup>th</sup>	Nalgo Sports (away)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Chippenham (home, Sutton Park)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Biddestone (away)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Allington (home)
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bishops Cannings (home)

## **Swindon's bid to become the home of Great British Railways**

Swindon is competing to become the home for the HQ of Great British Railways - the new organisation responsible for running Britain's railways.

The town has submitted a bid to the national competition being run by the Government, which is being fiercely contested between 42 towns and cities. A shortlist of locations will be announced in May along with details of a public vote that will contribute to the Government's final decision.

Swindon will need as much support as possible to stand out from the competition, so look out for and help share further updates about the bid on social media, using #DestinationGBR.

If you or your organisation would like to help support Swindon's bid, please visit [swindon.gov.uk/desintationgbr](http://swindon.gov.uk/desintationgbr) for more information or contact Swindon Borough Council at [communications@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:communications@swindon.gov.uk)

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## **Solar Together - Launch of new solar panel group buying scheme**

With the steep rise in energy prices, many people are starting to explore the merits of harnessing renewable energy, including solar panels.

A new scheme called 'Solar Together Wiltshire' will open for registrations on 9 May to help residents across Swindon and Wiltshire access high-quality solar panel installations at a competitive price.

The scheme is being run by a company called iChoosr, working in partnership with Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council.

To participate in the scheme, people have to be the owner of the roof on which they want to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) system or have the explicit approval of the owner.

The scheme also offers the option of having battery storage installed (or retrofitted if there are existing solar panels) allowing people to save the unused energy generated by panels to use whenever they want. The scheme also offers the option to have electric vehicle charge points installed.

Solar PV systems generate electricity during the day, as soon as there is daylight. The more light there is, the more electricity is generated. This means a solar PV system produces more electricity on sunny days, but will also work on cloudy ones. It is free to register for Solar Together Wiltshire and there is no obligation to go ahead with an installation.

People are invited to register online between 9 May and 14 June at [www.solartogether.co.uk/swindon](http://www.solartogether.co.uk/swindon).

The more people register, the better the deal should be for each household.

On 14 June a list of pre-vetted solar installers will bid for the work in a reverse 'auction', a type of auction in which the traditional roles of buyer and seller are reversed. The most competitive offer, from these pre-vetted installers, wins the auction.

From 4 July, people will be emailed personal recommendations for their home, based on details provided during the consultation. It will then be entirely up to the individual as to whether they wish to accept this recommendation. There will be no obligation to continue, and people will be given six weeks to decide - and invited to an online information session. For more information about climate change initiatives in Swindon, visit:

[www.swindon.gov.uk/bethechange](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/bethechange)

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