

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

November 2021

Photo by Debra Richardson


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2021 Blunsdon Advent Windows



Last year in 2020 we repeated the Blunsdon Advent Window Trail as a countdown to Christmas in the midst of another pandemic lockdown. It brightened what was otherwise a time of fear and sadness and was hugely successful. We often had more than one new window each night as so many villagers wanted to participate. It was lovely to see families out for a walk each evening to spot the latest Advent Windows turn on.

Hopefully this December there won't be a lockdown and we can continue emerging from this crisis and I plan to repeat the event which I hope will brighten the passage into a happier 2022.

I need at least 24 households to volunteer to decorate a window and set a display which can be seen from the street. For each of the 24 days leading up to Christmas one or more households will turn on their display, just like opening an Advent calendar.

Although the window display only has to be turned on for an allocated day, many households, once turned on, continue to switch on their display every night until Christmas.

The variety of ideas and displays are amazing as we obviously have some very creative folk in Blunsdon.

Maps of the Advent Calendar Trail will be available from the village shop from Saturday 27th November.

A nominal charge of £2 charity donation in aid of Swindon Food Collective will be asked. This is a local charity that aims to mitigate the effects of food poverty in Swindon.

Please consider if you would be willing to take part with a display window and email me at drjudy_robbins_62@hotmail.com or leave a text on **07962318087**. I would need a ***name, address and email address***.

If you have a preferred "switch on" date or some dates that you cannot do - please also indicate this in your message so I can accommodate. An early indication of interest would be appreciated to give me ample time to devise the route and produce the maps etc.

If you don't feel able to make a display you can still take part by buying a map and walking the trail.

It is a lovely way to see the area, celebrate the festive season and our good fortune to live in the village of Blunsdon.

Judy Robbins



New Volunteer Coordinator

We are pleased to introduce a new member of our team: Hazel Wakefield, who has joined us to provide assistance in volunteer recruitment.

Her email address is:

volunteer@blunsdoncommunityshop.uk

Community Shop Cloudy Apple Juice

As we had such a huge volume of apples and therefore bottles last year (2020), we are reducing the current sell price to £2.50 as of 20th October.

18th AGM of the Community Shop

This was held via Zoom, on the 17th September. There were 13 participants in the audience along with 8 committee members or support team.

If you missed the AGM, or wish to relive the excitement, a recording of the ZOOM meeting is available on YouTube or on our website.

Please get in touch via the Blunsdon Shop Website if you have any questions or queries.

Our website is always being updated to include progress on Shop/cafe development, so please check that out via <https://blunsdoncommunityshop.uk/>

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (Blunsdon Community Shop), Instagram (blunsdoncommunityshop) and Twitter (@BlunsdonCommun1)

Current Opening Hours

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



***** REMINDER – British Summer Time ends - Clocks go back by one hour on 31st October.**



Parish Council News – November 2021

As I sit here writing this it doesn't seem like autumn or approaching winter. The trees don't seem golden enough and my winter coat is still in the wardrobe. Thank goodness the Flu jabs and Covid boosters are well on the way as I was shocked to see the latest results on the news. Covid infections are rising, hospitalisations are rising and sadly deaths too. I have been particularly careful over the last 18 months but unfortunately succumbed recently and am currently isolating. So, whatever the guidelines are – think about what you think you **should do** not what you think you **can do** and stay safe. I can tell you, Covid isn't nice! **Thank you!** A big thank you to Tammy Jackson (and Dog) who spotted the Village Hall doors open on a Sunday night and reported it and then 'stood guard' until the building was secured. Well done and thank you Tammy.

Planning Applications

S/HOU/21/1559 - Erection of a single storey rear extension and annex. 1 Hatchers Crescent Blunsdon - **PC agreed to object to a loss of amenity and parking**

S/RES/21/1535 - Reserved Matters Application following outline application

S/OUT/18/0942 for the outline application for the erection of 5no. dwellings following demolition of existing equestrian buildings and dwelling. Longfield Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon SN25 5DL. – **PC agreed to object to several issues with this development.**

S/21/1444 - Erection of 3no. dwellings - technical detail consent following PIP permission S/PIP/19/1356. Land Adjacent to Eldswyn Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon SN25 5DL. – **PC agreed to object to several issues with this development.**

S/21/1529 - Erection of 2no. dwellings and associated works. Land At Burytown Lane Blunsdon SN26 7DQ. **PC agreed to object as the revised buildings are not in line with the conditions agreed in the Appeal decision.**

S/HOU/21/1625 - Erection of first floor extension over the existing footprint of the bungalow, single storey rear extension and balcony to side elevation. Lyndale West Hill Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BQ

Planning Decisions

S/21/0843- Erection of 1no. new dwelling. Brooklyn Lodge Broad Bush SN26 7DH – **Refused**

S/HOU/21/1383 - Erection of a two-storey detached garage/ workshop/ home office to rear. Combe Rise Broad Bush Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7DH – **Refused**

S/HOU/21/1325 - Demolition of the existing garage. Erection of a new garage with pitched roof to include front and rear dormers. Loft conversion to include raising the height of the roof, reconstructed, and enlarged dormer to the front and new dormer to the rear. Erection of single storey front (porch) and rear extensions. Ambleside West Hill SN26 7BQ – **Granted**

S/HOU/21/1292 - Retention of outbuilding and its continued use as an ancillary self-contained annexe. 1 Castle Hill Cottages Burytown Lane Blunsdon SN26 7DQ. - **Granted**

S/HOU/21/1300 - Replace dormer flat roof with pitch roof profile and vertical hanging slate with "Hardieboard" weather boarding. Marrons Back Lane Blunsdon SN26 7BJ. - **Granted**

S/21/0932 - Erection of a livestock building for the housing of sheep. | Upper Burytown Farm Burytown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7DQ – **Granted**.

Speedwatch Results

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. I have sorted the results by the highest percentage of speeders, and it shows that we need to ask the Police and the Borough Council to help us to reduce the danger in these areas.

Date	Location	Nos. Counted	Exceed limit	%	Max Speed mph	Speed Limit
17/09/2021	Turnpike	87	19	22%	47	30
11/10/2021	Turnpike	90	11	12%	43	30
17/08/2021	Turnpike	107	13	12%	48	30
21/09/2021	Lady Lane	349	39	11%	50	30
31/08/2021	Ermin St	243	18	7%	47	30
07/09/2021	Broadbush	435	30	7%	45	30
30/09/2021	Ermin St	170	11	6%	44	30
04/10/2021	Broadbush	388	25	6%	46	30
26/08/2021	Broadbush	281	15	5%	43	30
18/08/2021	Ermin St	213	10	5%	40	30
06/10/2021	Ermin St	378	15	4%	50	30
23/08/2021	Broadbush	411	16	4%	54	30
15/09/2021	Ermin St	378	14	4%	45	30
07/10/2021	Ermin St	474	16	3%	47	30
13/09/2021	Ermin St	453	15	3%	44	30
24/08/2021	Broadbush	488	16	3%	42	30
01/10/2021	Ermin St	326	10	3%	42	30
08/10/2021	Broadbush	430	13	3%	55	30
29/09/2021	Broadbush	543	11	2%	43	30
22/09/2021	Broadbush	287	3	1%	39	30
02/09/2021	Broadbush	585	6	1%	44	30
05/10/2021	Broadbush (traffic lights)	352	1	0%	38	30

Borough Councillor 'Surgeries'

Your local Ward Councillor (SBCllrs: Bishop/Manro or Weisinger) will be available to talk to on the first Saturday of the month at the Village Hall at 11:30 am. First one 6th November.

Parish Council Meetings - The next two Parish Council meetings will be at the Village Hall and on Zoom on the 1st and 15th November 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



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community



News from the Pews..... Jane Ockwell

Just back from the 'Thanksgiving' service - well that's when I started this piece. I wanted to reflect on the event whilst it was still clear in my mind (well you know what it's like??). The village was bathed in sunshine which mirrored the way people felt. This long-awaited ode of gratitude was such an important way of thanking some local heroes, whilst remembering the tumultuous year that we've all been part of. The will it or won't it - the new way of preparing for something that may or may not happen.

The Vicar likened the gathering to moments in the church's past history - after war, plague and the like; when people would have come together in thanksgiving. Well, it did occur, you had to be there! Followed by tea and cake in the village hall. Mrs Doyle would have loved it! Go on, go on, go on!

We have celebrated Harvest in the time-honoured way of bringing tins of food for the homeless and less well off, and the school have just had their assembly in church (first time this term!) for the same purpose. How uplifting to be part of their learning around climate change.

The recent Book Sale was small but perfectly attended (um, not many there!) this preceded the memorial service of Christine Donohoe which on the other end of the spectrum was very well attended showing the respect for a very likeable person who'd lived in the village for years until retirement.

Mondays will hear the community choir raising the roof and every other Tuesday will hear the sounds of the bells - all welcome at both evenings.

Did anyone catch the knitted chains mentioned in last month's magazine on Points West (18th October) during the service at Bristol Cathedral. I think I saw mine, but can't be certain!!

We look forward to another wedding as we begin the run up to Christmas, while we've been almost stuck at home the weeks have been flying by. Time waits for no man, as they say.

The Breakfast church is on the horizon and I gather sausages are on the menu. Give it a try.

November Book Sale will be pulling out all the stops to provide a bit of craft and handmades for Christmas.

And one last thing - Tony Peake late of the village and a prolific bell ringer (to me as a youngster that meant pretty scary) has died. I will endeavour to get a potted history of his life for the next edition.



Books, Biscuits, Coffee & Company!

Saturday 20th Nov 10 am - 12 noon

St Leonard's Church



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon

Connecting with God, each other
and our community



From the Vicar's Desk.... Rev Geoff Snowden

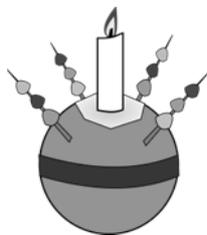
Uncertainty and permanence

As I write I am coughing and have a cold, oh dear I had better take a Covid test, I am aware of the infection rates going up but I have so much to do this week. This last weekend's news has been full of the death of the MP Sir David Amess and we have just had the school harvest service which was all about the climate crisis. It all amounts to so much uncertainty.

Uncertainty seems to be the story of these last months in the light of the ongoing Covid pandemic. Can I go on holiday, what about school, what about the future? Does this allow us to reach a conclusion about the temporary nature of life? At a recent funeral in St Leonard's, we read the Bible passage from the book of Ecclesiastes that points to the permanence that is present behind the day-by-day uncertainty of life's natural rhythms and seasons - the sovereignty and eternity of God.

What we celebrated that day was the permanence of God and our relationship with him, both now and into eternity. This permanence was evident at the community thanksgiving service in the Church on 26 September, as we reflected on the generations who had come similarly to St Leonard's through all the uncertainty of past wars and plagues.

A permanence that allows me to look to the future with a hope and expectation of seeing God's faithfulness both in the everyday mundane things and in the wider scope of our struggling world.



Christingle 2021

Every year, St Leonard's Church holds a Christingle Service to raise money for The Children's Society.

This year our service will be on Sunday 5th December at 4pm.

If you would like a collection candle or to make a donation, please look at the back of the church or email griff9999@btinternet.com



Blunsdon W I met up in late September for a social evening and supper in the small Village Hall. It proved to be very successful with several potential new WI members, plus a couple of past members interested in re-joining. Everyone enjoyed meeting up again after such a long period of time!

The October meeting is Herbal Remedies from the kitchen with Lynne Blythe and, at time of writing, has yet to take place, should prove interesting. Hopefully some of the new people who came to the social evening in September will attend.

The November meeting which is on the 16th November at 7.30 in the small Village Hall is "Life in the Royal Chelsea Hospital" speaker John Pemberton. As usual, after the Speaker there will be refreshments and a chance to socialise. New members will always be made welcome.

There is also a W I Book Club which has been thriving for 13 years and continued to meet during various lockdowns (via Zoom).

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



Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association

Our organisation is slowly returning to life and we have held a meeting at Lechlade Village Hall with a speaker. Our AGM is scheduled for 20th November at Cirencester Baptist Church and that will also include a speaker. This time he will be Francis Burroughs talking about 'The Wonderful World of Glass'...and it is if you think about it.

Meantime we are talking to various people about our plans for 2022 and we'll confirm them as soon as the legacy of covid permits.

Once again, I am appealing for new blood for our committee so if you have an hour or so to spare about once a month, we'll be delighted to see you. The rewards are limited but there is the satisfaction of serving a worthy organisation. Just talk to our Hon Sec Derrick Beer on 762070 or 07925 885568

A life in the day of aBlunsdon Postie

For this month's article I was lucky enough to do a Q and A session with our very own and very busy Gill Nobbs, Blunsdon's well known post lady, instantly recognisable with her wide variety of headwear, see photos below.



How long have you been a postie? Just over 7 and a half years. I started in Royal Wootton Bassett and transferred to Dorcan after 10 months. I was a pool reserve initially, which meant I could be asked to cover any walk and our office has just under 200. Having probably covered about 90% I am one of the most experienced people in our office.

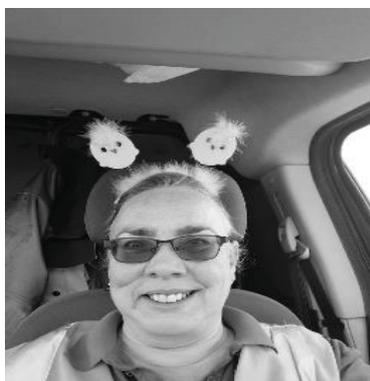
I had my own walk in Haydon Wick for a while, but I was part time and when I got made up to full time I went back to being a reserve. However, this time I was a leave reserve covering the days off for 5 walks in the Thamesdown Drive area.



How long have you been a Blunsdon postie? Since February 2020. The previous postie was looking for something with a few less stairs and hills.

Do you have to start work very early? My alarm is set for 5 am and I'm in work for 6:30am. I often do early overtime meaning I start at 5am to get the manual sorting done before the rest of the posties come in.

How many miles do you walk each day/ each week? Roughly 12 to 13 miles a day and although I have half the number of houses compared to when I covered Thamesdown Drive I clock up many more steps.



What gave you the idea of wearing the "ears"? I have always worn novelty headgear at Christmas having gained inspiration from one of the Royal Wootton Bassett posties. When the pandemic hit, I thought of getting a few more to simply try and put a smile on people's faces. I now have around 35 to 40; lots of animals, some flowers and even carrots at Easter. I have even had a couple bought for me by customers.

Have you had any comments about the "ears"? Overwhelmingly. Both adults and children, though I get the most comments if I am **NOT** wearing them. I have even had notes left on doors saying how much people have liked my ears.

What is it you like best about the job? For many years I have virtually been my own boss in field sales roles and running my own business for a while. I like the freedom, being outdoors and meeting people.



What is it you don't like quite as much about the job? Getting soaking wet to the point that your trainers squelch and you are trying to shove pieces of papier mâché through people's letter boxes.

When you are not a postie, what do you like to do? I am a mother of 4 and grandmother of 7, so family are a big part of my life. Spending time with them and my husband of 32 years is massively important to me. My elderly father also lives nearby.



I have ridden since childhood and owned my own horse in the past. More recently I have been sharing a lovely pony based in Liddington, but sadly she was put to sleep a couple of months ago. Through my love of horses, I have participated in several Challenge Rides across the world raising money and awareness for horse charities.

Also, as a result of my equine background, I somehow ended up as Equestrian Secretary for The Wanborough Show Society and organise a multi discipline show every May. It's not just horses, but all animals that I owe my sanity (or lack of) to. I help support many

local rescues by "procuring" (aka scrounging, wombling) any unwanted and free pet items I see on places like Facebook.



You said you raise money for charity, can you tell me a bit about what you do? In addition to the above, if there is a personal connection to a cause I often do additional fundraisers. In 2018 when a friend was diagnosed with breast cancer, I took part in the "Wear it Pink" Day, doing my postal round dressed in lurid pink accessories as well as dyeing my hair pink and raised £287. For the same reason I am doing this again on 22nd October, but going a little more eccentric in my outfit.

Last year I did the "Big Sleep Out at Home" in October for the homeless organisation in my old town of Reading, raising over £600.

This year I am going a step further and supporting Swindon's Threshold initiative and sleeping outdoors on 4th December.

Two years ago, a young local lad with cerebral palsy was picked to take part in The Rickshaw Challenge for BBC Children in Need. Whilst out training on his bike, someone stole it from him, leaving him with no way of getting fit for the challenge. I rallied people around and raised well over £300 for a new bike and there was money left over to go to Children in Need.

**Take a bow Gill, we take our hats off to you.
Thank you**

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: Sutton Park

**** The next Magazine will be the combined December and January edition so please submit any events for the next 2 months. ****

Your December/January Magazine will be delivered from: 29th October

Deadline for items for inclusion:

Magazine issue	Deadline
December/January	17th November

Update: Celebrating 'Brilliant Blunsdon'

Thanks to all who took part in this heart warming community event in September at which £204 was raised for Christian Aid.

Do pop into church to see the lovely art work by the children of St Leonards and the names displayed on the Thank You Tree.

The funeral of Gwen Chapman of Holdcroft Close will take place on 4th November at 12 noon at Swindon Crematorium.

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THE CHATTERBOX Dance Yourself Dizzy

'Strictly Come Dancing' is in full flow on TV on Saturday nights. A big "Hooray" from the fans and groans and eye rolls from the non-fans. If you're in the latter league, please don't fling this magazine across the room until you've heard me out. Give dance a chance.

Dancing is a wonderfully expressive art form – says the person who used to lock herself in a room with her Kate Bush album and prance around to 'Wuthering Heights'. It's creative, inspiring and always lifts my spirits. I bought my first pair of ballet shoes in my fifties and I couldn't have been more excited than if I was a five-year-old child attending my first lesson. As children we are encouraged to move to music and many take up dancing lessons, but sadly drop them once self-consciousness, peer pressure or other interests take precedence. There may be a bit of swaying and arm-waving in our youth at festivals and concerts but further in to adulthood, our only dancing usually consists of either a bit of awkward shuffling or complete, over-enthusiastic abandon on the dancefloor at wedding receptions.

Whichever category you fall in to, I'd recommend you always get up to dance when there's an opportunity and shake your tail-feather like there's no tomorrow.

Moving your body to music or 'dancing' is ancient. Evidence of it has been found in many countries around the world, from as far back as prehistoric times, such as the images of dancing couples drawn on rocks at Bhimbetka, India. Egyptian tomb paintings depicting dancing figures dating from 3300 BCE are recorded, as well as statuettes in dancing poses discovered in Ancient Greece. Dancing is global and has been used for centuries to bring people together in ceremonies, celebrations and rituals as well as for entertainment. Your local discotheque was a part of the historical journey of dance through time.

Dancing can bond people and keep traditions alive. Many countries are hugely proud of their particular dancing styles such as Cossack (or Hopak) dancing which was originally performed by males in the Ukraine and Russian military to re-enact battle scenes. From sultry belly-dancers in jewel-coloured costumes to young children dancing around dressed maypoles on village greens or street dancers with their sharp, sassy moves and thumping music, even watching others dance invokes a sense of happiness. Dancing is infectious.

Whether the dancing style you prefer is an elegant waltz or a saucy samba, or if it's contemporary and free-style, it gives you the opportunity to both express and lose yourself in the music. It can be liberating and empowering, it can also be fun, light-hearted and distract us from life's issues for a time. It makes you smile.

So regardless of the fake tans and sparkles of 'Strictly', a bit of hip action and striking a pose could be just what the doctor ordered. It doesn't matter what your style is, whether you think you're any good at it - it's about having fun, seizing the musical moment and doing what feels good. Have a conga in the conservatory, floss in the front room or even try a little tango at Tesco! I'd love you to embrace your inner Gene Kelly or Darcey Bussell and dance, dance, dance. Go and put some music on and start by tapping you toe.

You know you want to!

EYE SPY in BLUNSDON



Did you correctly guess that last month's Eye Spy? It's the water pump in the garden at Churchway.

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

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

The answer will be in next month's Magazine with another photo.



*The opportunities the **Royal Aeronautical Society** offers are second to none and we are very keen to get young people interested. By doing so we hope they will benefit from the many opportunities presented for education and employment.*

The Defence Academy and Swindon Branch of The Royal Aeronautical Society will restart its series of lectures on November 10th 2021 at 1930 hours.

The lectures are held in the Montgomery Theatre, The Defence Academy of the United Kingdom Shrivenham.

Are you interested in Aviation, Science and Technology?

Why not come and join us to hear world renowned speakers deliver lectures on a variety of subjects.

Our branch welcomes people from all walks of life. Persons between the ages of 15 and 18 are welcome BUT must be accompanied by an adult.

Persons in this age group and their escort may attend branch lectures free of charge. We are also in some circumstances able to provide links to work experience opportunities. In addition, for the right candidates we can assist in gaining an Aviation related scholarship (non military)

The branch is fully compliant with current Covid protection advice on social distancing and the wearing of masks.

Interested? *Contact the branch secretary Colin at colin.irvin@raes-volunteer.org or telephone 07740 136609 for further information.*

Please note to comply with MOD security all attendees must first register with the branch.



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

I love vegetables, especially roast vegetables. They are very easy to do, can be cooked in one tin, only use a small amount of oil and are the basis for an easy meal.

Here is a recipe for a spicy version with great tastes, which would go well with plain grilled meat or grilled halloumi.

Spicy Roasted Vegetables (Serves 4-5)

600g potatoes, cut into small chunks
1 tsp black mustard seeds
1 tsp cumin seeds
2 tbsp oil
1 tsp garam masala
½ tsp turmeric
1 medium red onion, halved and cut into wedges
1 yellow pepper, deseeded and cut into 4cms chunks
1 red pepper, deseeded and cut into 4cms chunks
1 orange pepper, deseeded and cut into 4cms chunks
2 medium courgettes, cut into 1 cm slices
Freshly ground black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 210°C / Gas mark 6. Boil the potatoes for 5 mins and drain.
2. Toast the put the mustard and cumin seeds in a frying pan for 30 seconds. Put the oil into a large roasting tray, add the mustard and cumin seeds, garam masala and turmeric. Mix together.
3. Toss the onions and potatoes in the spicy oil until coated, season with ground black pepper and roast for 30mins.
4. Add the remaining vegetables and turn all together. Return to the oven for 25-30 mins until the potatoes are crisp and golden brown and the vegetables have softened.

To make variations of roast vegetables try:

- * thyme, rosemary, garlic, salt and pepper or
- * smoked paprika, dried oregano, garlic, salt and pepper which is delicious with chicken and chorizo.

Enjoy!

BLUNSDON NOTES by Richard Radway

Continuing with the tales from Alfred Williams, he tells us that the enclosing of common land and building of cottages by the poorer folks of Blunsdon Hill at the beginning of the 19th century wasn't always easily accepted by the more established villagers. He relates how around the earlier part of the 19th century Farmer Smith and his neighbour Mundy, whose farms were at Hyde on Ermin Street just below Cold Harbour were on their way to Cricklade market one day. Mundy shouted out to a group of them to stop what they were doing enclosing land or else he said to Smith we shan't be able to get "neether up ner down". Smith intervened in the confrontation and told his neighbour "Let'em bide. Ter's room enough for thee an' I". Mundy's prompt attempt to stop them was subsequently unsuccessful.

Not long after that incident Mundy fell into financial troubles and had to work on the roads for a livelihood. Then old Paul Hancock, who lived down the hill and had no doubt witnessed the incident ran out from his cottage and gloated over Mundy's downfall and shouted "Hello! Hello! Is a wide enough now far tha? A's wide enough now, I'll lay a penny".

Hancock is another very old Blunsdon name and Alfred Williams also tells of Tom Hancock "journeyman farmer" of Blunsdon Hill who lost his white fustian* coat from his clothes line. He promptly tramped off to visit Moll Wilkins, the Blunsdon witch who had recently moved to Cirencester. He duly arrived at her home with a shiny new fourpenny bit in his pocket to pay old Moll. She pulled out three portraits of three men, the last of whom Tom remembered. "That's the man as got tha coat. You go to Ashton Keynes an ther' thee't see'n werrin it." Sure enough when Tom got there the first person he saw was a drover wearing his fustian coat with its big pearl buttons!

Tom was a "love child" and was born in what was then called the "Bastard House". It was administered under the Poor Law and was where poor labourers in distress and not able to keep their children had to place them. The unfortunate mother was then often sent by the local magistrate to prison with a warning not to transgress further. When Moll Hancock appeared before the magistrate to answer for her faults, she took the opportunity of passing scathing remarks on this awful practice and calmly said "and now gentlemen you can send me to prison for as long as you like but I'll have another child when I come out as sure as you're sitting there!"

The Hancock family were hard working and enterprising in subsequent generations and moved to Lower Village from Blunsdon Hill where they lived in Callais House built in 1834. I well remember Alfie Hancock, our village postman for many years who worked from the old post office on Ermin Street. He delivered to all parts of the village on foot and in his van and also kept a vast garden and orchard.

Alfie's mother Agnes had also worked hard all her life and was an excellent business woman. For many years she was a familiar sight in Swindon selling her home-grown fruit and vegetables as well as bunches of daffodils grown in her garden.

Alfie's son and family continue to live at Callais House and keep it all in immaculate order to this day.

It's so rare these days of so much change but also rather comforting to find there are still some families living in the village where they have been for over 200 years.

*(fustian is thick, hard-wearing twilled cloth with a short nap, usually dyed in dark colours)



BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB

Recent Results

First XI Position: Premier League Leaders

Priory Vale won 9 – 2

Ashton Keynes won 4 – 1

Nalگو Sports won 5 – 1

The first team have continued their impressive unbeaten start to the new season and currently sit **top** of the Premier League. Although, it has not all been plain sailing, with players missing through injury and absence which meant that gaffer, Iain Rosewell had to don his boots again to make a return to the back four and keeper Will Gage was sent up front and managed to score before suffering a painful injury himself.

Development Side Position: Division Two, 7th out of ten

Swindon Centurians won 6 – 2

Pewsey Vale lost 3 – 5

Cricklade Town drew 5 – 5

Ramsbury drew 2 – 2

The Development Side celebrated their first win of the season and have also picked up two further league points, one of these coming in the most entertaining games seen at Sutton Park for many a year in the Autumn sunshine against local rivals Cricklade Town. Blunston trailed several times but never gave up, and Chris Quinton's hat-trick included a stunning overhead bicycle kick "Messi" goal, which even caused Stuart "Jock" Hepburn to get out of his deckchair and do a little Highland Fling.

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

Date	First XI	Development XI
6th	Swindon AFC, home	Shield & Dagger, Penhill Rec
13th	Reserved - Cup	Redhouse Res, home
20th	Redhouse, home	Siddington, away
27th	Hatherop, home	Moredon, home

Your support of both sides is always welcomed

Blunsdon Village Garden Club

The Garden Club committee following several meetings, can now announce that, barring any unforeseen circumstances(!) arising in the near future, we will resume meetings for existing members on Thursday 11th November with a social event in the Village Hall at 7.00-7.30 pm.

Subsequently, normal meetings will recommence on Thursday 13th January 2022, starting with a guest speaker, Geoff Hodge, garden writer, broadcaster and horticultural consultant. We have yet to choose our talk from the wide range on offer.

We hope that many members, existing as well as new, will be able to join us for the January meeting. Guests are welcome and the entrance fee is £2.00. Give it a trial run and see if you would like to become a member! Refreshments are served after the talk. If you have recently moved to Blunsdon or would like any advice on how to deal with your new garden, this may be your answer. If you would like further information, please telephone the number below.

A Christmas meal at the Heart in Hand has been arranged for existing members in December; it's been a long break!

Brenda Boyd

01793 725928



Platinum Jubilee celebrations – thinking of organising a street party or another event?

Next year, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. In October the government published guidance including tips, advice and support on organising a street party. There is an extended bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022.

For more details: - Platinum Jubilee website: <https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/>

Highworth & District Probus Club

This Club has survived for over forty years and has even come through lockdown with video talks and a regular newsletter! We have some thirty members and have now resumed meetings every other Tuesday morning at the Cold Harbour Inn in Blunsdon.

We would welcome applications for membership from retired (or soon to retire) business and professional men who do not wish to stagnate and are looking for social contact and new interests.

The main feature of our meetings (apart from chatting in the bar afterwards) is a talk from expert speakers on anything from aerospace to blacksmithing to Bentley racing to travel. In normal years we also have an annual holiday and occasional lunch parties to which partners and guests are invited.

To find out more, please look at our website, www.highworthprobus.co.uk or send us an email to info@highworthprobus.co.uk.



THE INNER WHEEL CLUB OF NORTH WILTSHIRE

Ladies did you know there is a thriving Inner Wheel Club in your area?

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Blunsdon House Hotel.

The objects of Inner Wheel are:

- To promote true friendship
- To encourages the ideals of personal service
- To foster international understanding

But our main focus is FUN. Not a month goes by when we do not have a pub lunch somewhere or a theatre trip etc. We also socialize with our neighbouring clubs. We run two or three events annually - bridge drive, quiz night etc. to raise funds for local charities sometimes in association with the Rotary Club of Swindon North.

So, if you think you would like to be part of this, do give me a call for more information. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Margaret Bracher

Tel: 01793 752935

Email: margaret.bracher@btinternet.com



Use Your Voice and Help Make Wiltshire Safer



Wiltshire's PCC Philip Wilkinson has launched a public survey and consultation – and wants to hear from you!

Part of the PCC's role is to produce a Police and Crime Plan for the county. It's a blueprint for the strategic policing and crime priorities for the next three years. As this current plan comes to an end by March 2022, the new Plan will start immediately afterwards.

It sets out how the PCC's pledges and priorities will be delivered throughout Wiltshire but more importantly it should reflect the needs and priorities of all our communities too.

So this is where YOU come in.

The PCC is asking you to Use Your Voice and help him to make Wiltshire safer for all.

It is vital that all parts of our communities' voices are heard.

What you say will directly influence Wiltshire Police's priorities, objectives and activities. The new Police and Crime Plan will ensure both the force and the PCC's office are working towards the same goals in a joined-up, co-ordinated, approach. It also will be the way the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account for delivering these priorities – your priorities.

Remember, if it matters to you, it matters. Use your experience to help make Wiltshire safer.

Complete the survey online <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z3J5RXN>

You can email your thoughts around policing priorities. Please email: pcc-consultation@wiltshire.police.uk or send us a message on Facebook or DM us on Twitter

This survey is open for four weeks until **November 14th** and there will be a variety of ways you can get involved during the process. This will be updated on the PCC's website www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

Thanks - we can't wait to hear from you!

Zara-Ann Prendergast (OPCC, Campaign & Communications Manager, Wiltshire)

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Opening hours:

Due to the ongoing vagaries of life as we know it, the shop hours keep changing, so we have removed them from here. Please see either the article in this month's magazine or check the Facebook page.

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