

# Round and About

[www.blisworthvillage.org](http://www.blisworthvillage.org)

**Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter**  
**February/March 2026 No 167**



Photo W. Alexander

**Keep in touch:** We've launched a NEW website <https://blisworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/> and NEW email address [clerk@blisworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@blisworthparishcouncil.gov.uk).  
Tel: 0798 3233501.

**Join our Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/>  
**Council Meetings:** First Monday of the month, 7:30 pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Road.

## Building a Better Blisworth Parish Together

### **Happy New Year to everyone!**

We've had a fantastic response from residents with lots of ideas for future village projects. We're now working with residents and local organisations to check which proposals meet the eligibility criteria, what permissions may be needed, and, as always, to get the three required quotes for any funding application to West Northants Council.

### **New Defibrillator & Bleed Kit Installed:**

A huge thank-you to the owners of **Blisworth Stores**, who kindly allowed us to install the new defibrillator and emergency bleed kit in a central, accessible location. Both are now fully operational.

### **Future of the BT Telephone Box:**

BT has advised that it will be removed if we do not take it on. Adoption itself is inexpensive, but there would be ongoing costs for maintenance and insurance. If we do keep it, how would you like to see it used? Some ideas already suggested include:

- **Information Point:** Maps, village history, local events and helpful resources for residents and visitors.
  - **Mini Art Gallery:** A space for local artists to display work.
  - **Plant & Seed Swap:** A hub for gardeners to exchange plants, seeds, and tips.
  - **Food Bank/Produce Swap:** Space for non-perishables or surplus fruit and veg.
- If you have a different idea, we'd love to hear it - please contact the Clerk.

### **Community Speed Watch & Road Safety:**

We have responded to concerns about Police speed-watch activity focusing mainly on Towcester Road rather than within the village. We are working with our local Police team to establish the Community Speed Watch group and to request more Police checks around the village, especially the 20-mph zones near the school, High Street and Stoke Road up to the Doctors' Surgery.

We plan to purchase two hand-held speed monitors, which will allow community speed watch volunteers to carry out checks in different parts of the parish. If you can spare even a little time to help—whether regularly or just occasionally—please contact the Clerk.

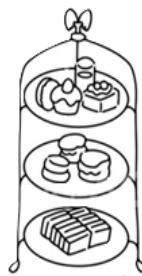
### **Closed Cemetery Ash Tree**

Unfortunately, after careful consideration, we have reluctantly agreed to reduce the ash tree in the Closed Cemetery. By the time this is printed the work will have been completed. An arboricultural consultant assessed the tree and identified several serious issues: extensive deadwood; heavy overcrowding on the western side; a long split along one of the main branches; and considerable weight on multiple limbs. The tree's condition meant that the risk of failure was great and safety must take priority over its aesthetic value.

This was not an easy decision. The conservation group and the arboricultural consultant recommended reducing the tree to 5 metres so it can remain as a monolith—a compromise that still benefits wildlife rather than removing it to ground level. Thank you for your understanding as we balance safety, conservation, and the character of our village.

Best wishes **Steve Billing** Chair to Blisworth Parish Council.

## *Blisworth Brew & Bloom*



*Mother's Day Classic Tea*

*Saturday, 14 March 2026*

*Village Hall 2:30 pm - 5 pm*

*£12.50 pp By reservation only*

*Pre-order by 28/02/2026*

*Tel: 07771 763 026 to book*

*All proceeds to Blisworth's Graveyard Shift: Beautiful blooms for our bees & butterflies.*

*In collaboration with Blisworth Parish Council*

## **Christmas Fund Raising**

The wonderful Wreford family Christmas lights raised £2,282 for Motor Neurone Disease while Santa's tour of the village collected £935 for village organisations.



## Blisworth Football Club

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who visited the club on Boxing Day and New Year's Eve.

The annual Blisworth Residents v Coaches match attracted a crowd of over 300 on Boxing Day, and our first New Year's Eve celebration in the club's newly built facilities was a huge success. It was fantastic to see the clubhouse so busy and to share these occasions with the local community.

We are always keen to welcome new sponsors. If any local businesses would like to support the club, either by helping us re-tarmac our car park or by sponsoring one of our teams, please do get in touch.

Dates for your diary:

- Friday 13 February – Mr & Mrs Games Night - great fun for couples and families of all ages
- Friday 20 March – RINGO's Bingo returns

We are also delighted to announce that our Pop-Up Kitchen will be open every Friday for six weeks from 30 January, between 10.30am and 3.30pm. A range of full breakfasts, homemade soups, sandwiches and jacket potatoes will be available, perfect for catching up with friends.

The clubhouse is available for hire during the day and in the evenings. For further information, please contact us.

Finally, with fewer village events taking place these days, we would love to hear from anyone with ideas for activities or events that we might be able to help support or host.

**Sam King** - Chairman [Secretary@Blisworthfc.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@Blisworthfc.co.uk)

## Stitchery Do

*Creating with fabric and thread*

Recently, someone asked if the Stitchery Do group was still functioning! Well, YES IT IS! Last month there were 17 ladies who came together in the Village Hall to knit, sew or learn to make an easy cushion cover. So spread the word that we are definitely alive and well. New 'members' are always welcome, we don't charge a subscription, it's pay as you go, with resources provided, as well as cake! We provide refreshments and good company. Bring your own projects or learn something new. Just pop into the Village Hall, see what we are doing, maybe get inspired over a cup of tea/coffee!

### Thursday 5th February

A second 'Cushions made Easy' workshop with Margaret, bring your own fabric and cushion pad, or 'Starting Felting', learning the techniques of dry felting with Angela. Village Hall, 10.00 - 2.00pm. Admission £4, includes felting materials.

### Thursday 5th March

A continuation of the dry felting as required. Easter Bags, decorations etc, in readiness for the festive season. Tell us in advance what you would like to make and we can prepare the resources. Village Hall, 10.00-2.00pm.

### Thursday 2nd April

TBA, but possibly a demonstration of Piping Techniques to enhance edges of cushions etc.

**Margaret Holiday on 858590**

**Angela Cadd on 858137**

## Monthly Coffee & Cake Club

The monthly Friday Coffee & Cakes at 7 Pond Bank became a fixture in the diary for lots of people. Originally started in 1998 by Derek & Shirley Bull; they were very successful both as fund raisers for St John's Parish Church and happy social occasions for 20 years!

When they decided to 'retire' we (Pat & Mason Masterman) offered to host them at our house in Pond Bank. Although unsure if people would be happy to come down Chapel Lane hill - and up again! Our fears were unfounded, as the monthly events are as popular as ever.

Coffee & Cakes are still going strong, serving a good selection of gluten free, vegan, biscuits, cakes and savoury options. Special treats for Easter and Halloween are always popular. Edith's marmalade is much sought after and you need to pre-order, or arrive early, to ensure you get some!

In the better weather we will be outside in the rear garden or on the front drive with the help of our lovely neighbours.

We meet every month except for November, when it is combined with the Christmas Bazaar in Church, and December when we have a break. Everyone is very welcome at 7 Pond Bank 10 – 12 the last Friday of the month; **January 30<sup>th</sup>, February 27<sup>th</sup>.**

You can come for the "Cheerful Chat" if you are trying to avoid cakes after the festivities. We are very happy to help anyone who needs a lift, just get in touch [07732 191778](tel:07732191778).

Pat Masterman



## Blisworth Heritage Society



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 in the Village Hall.**

**"From the Archives"** A chance to sample more items from our extensive village archive. Find out about interesting documents about, buildings, maps, Peter Newcombe and the 1919 sale. What did Blisworth look like in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Who was the Blacksmith/dentist? Where was the cobblers? From horse and cart to over 80 lorries, 100 years of Wrefords, Blisworth Pleasure Gardens in 1879. Do come and find out more about the past in our village

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 7.30 in the Village Hall**

**Northamptonshire on the big and little screen.** Movies, TV and stars from the county.

All are welcome to join our meetings. For more information contact **Hilary Spurrier on 859181**

## BVHPFA 250 Club Results

Wishing all 250 club members a very happy, healthy 2026.

	Dec	Jan
£30	12	240
£20	230	125
£20	16	99
£10	229	15
£10	102	55

I have a few numbers spare if anyone would like them. It's just £10 per year and 5 prizes every month.

Our collectors will be coming shortly so please have £10s ready. If you'd prefer to pay by bank transfer, please contact me for details. A massive THANK YOU to all our collectors who turn out year after year to collect your money, we couldn't do this without you **Estelle 858482**

### Christingle

St John the Baptist Christingle and friends' family service. Thank you to Ordinand Tracey Smith who led our service and all who helped with the preparations, to make our Nativity once again a very special time for us all.

Thank you to all who attended, especially the children who were all amazing. Mary and Joseph, Three Angels. Several shepherds and Three Kings. What a wonderful sight to see everyone with their Christingle candles lit in the darkness.

The attendance this year was up to 168, with £210. pounds in donations going to the Children's Charity.

Best wishes to all and thank you.

**Maureen Smith**



### Blisworth Parish Church

*"At once the spirit sent Him out into the desert, and He was in the desert for days, being tempted by Satan"*

Mark 1 v12

The season of Lent is often associated with giving something up, perhaps extending "dry January" up to Easter or giving up chocolate or biscuits. Others give money to good causes of their choice. If you do decide to do something Good Luck, it is a discipline taking dedication and determination and but a small sacrifice in comparison to Christ's 40 days in the wilderness.

#### Services for February and March

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 11 am Family Communion

February 15<sup>th</sup> 11am Family Worship

February 18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday - The start of Lent – 10.30 am Benefice Service at Milton Malsor

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 11am Family Communion

March 15<sup>th</sup> 11am Family Worship

March 29<sup>th</sup> Benefice service 10 am Alderton

All are welcome to join services in this friendly, welcoming church and to stay for refreshments afterwards. The church is open every day for those who want to pray, contemplate or just enjoy our Historic building. It was fantastic to see the Church full for the annual Christingle Service with over £200 raised for the Children's Society.

The Christmas Coffee morning was also a great success. On the last Friday of each month a coffee morning is held at 7 Pondbank. All are welcome to enjoy refreshment, socialise and to buy fresh cakes and produce.

A huge thank you to all who decorated windows for Advent. The variety was impressive and the event was well supported.

The weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> June will be one of great celebration as we will commemorate 800 years of Blisworth Church – the oldest building in the village and long seen as at the heart of the community. This will be an opportunity to bring the different societies and facets of village life together for a weekend of activities. Do get involved and support this historic celebration. If you have ideas or would like to help organise this event contact **Maureen Smith** on **07967 898687**

Rector	Rev'd. Canon Richard Stainer	857619
Warden	Fiona Mckenzie	859541

### BMC - Blisworth Mothers Club

Following discussion at our recent AGM, it has been decided that the Blisworth Mothers Club, established over 50 years ago, could now be 're-branded' as Blisworth Ladies Social Club, in order to include all ladies who wish to enjoy our vibrant meetings and events. We will retain the BMC as our logo, saving laborious changing of bank details! For many of us, 'Mothers' Club' is the name we will always know and love, but feel the new designation is more appropriate for today's wider, more inclusive membership, but still within the remit of our Constitution.

#### Thursday, 19th February

Ellie Tollan, and Jo, talented local singers, will be performing a programme of modern and classic popular songs from West End theatres and films. Join us for a musical evening with drinks, nibbles and a seasonal raffle in the Village Hall, from 7.30 pm. Admission members £3, visitors (always welcome) £5

#### Thursday 19th March

The role of a Medical Detection Dog. Learn more about the life, the incredible 'sixth sense' and training of these amazing animals. There will be a fund raising merchandise table rather than a raffle at this meeting. From 7.30pm. Admission members £3, visitors £5.

For further details contact:

**Margaret Holiday on 858590, Linda Yuill on 858356 or Linda Gunnett on 859319**

### Towcester Area Door to Door (TADD)

Provides voluntary drivers to drive people from the village and surrounding areas to their doctors, hospital and other medical appointments. Mileage is reimbursed. There is a waiting list for customers wanting to join but there is a shortage of drivers in Blisworth.

#### Your Neighbours Need Your Help

If you can spare some time and would like to help, please contact us for an informal chat: **01327 810300**

**tracy@towcesterareadoor2door.co.uk**

### Blisworth Film Club

#### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February "Jay Kelly"

Famous movie actor Jay Kelly (George Clooney) and his devoted manager Ron (Adam Sandler) embark on a whirlwind and unexpectedly profound journey through Europe. Along the way, both men are forced to confront the choices they've made, the relationships with their loved ones and the legacies they'll leave behind. The Daily Telegraph called it "A Masterpiece."

**Please Note** this film replaces "Goodbye June".

#### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March "The Choral" starring Ralph

Fiennes, Jim Broadbent and Simon Russell Beale. Under the direction of the demanding Dr. Guthrie (Fiennes), the Choral recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls. Together they discover the joys of singing and the urgency of desire as the boys come to terms with their imminent conscription into the Army.

Films are shown in the Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm, for 7.30. £7 on the door and no need to book, just turn up.

Hugh & Tracey E.mail - [montydavenport@outlook.com](mailto:montydavenport@outlook.com)"



## Blisworth Women's Institute

2026 was not a good start for our WI, courtesy of Storm Goretta which was at its worst on the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January, so we had to cancel our meeting for the safety and wellbeing of the members. It should have been 'Bystander to Life Saver', which we hope to reschedule at a later month.

The next meeting is on **12<sup>th</sup> February** - 'Name that Tune', which will be I'm sure a fun evening and test all our memories!

On the **12<sup>th</sup> March** we have our **AGM**, once the reports etc. are concluded, a variety of 'puddings' provided by the committee will be served.

As in the previous couple of years we are continuing with the 'Four Seasons Meal', where we visit local pubs/restaurants for an enjoyable evening meal out. This is always a good evening and the use of a minibus is a real help and cuts down on worrying about car parking spaces.

We will continue to collect items for the food bank in Towcester, our members are always generous and Alison always has a car load each month!

New members always welcome, just come along to the Village Hall, we are there every second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

**Tina Alexandrou Secretary**



## Blisworth Friendship Group

We have been very lucky again this year with kind donations to our group. This enables us to have special parties or buy equipment we need.

A special THANK YOU to Father Christmas who came round Blisworth on his sleigh and donated us £150 from the proceeds and also earlier on in the year a donation from Earls Barton Steam Rally, both of these were courtesy of Mick and Daphne Wreford .

The family of Dougie Walker sent us a lovely donation at his request as he enjoyed coming to our group so much. Graham Cadd and Shirley Brown also donated to us.

Thank you all for your kindness, we've had a lovely year. We enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner cooked by Yvonne and her team, Liz and Brenda. Most said it was better than the ones they'd had in restaurants. Everyone had a Christmas gift to take home as well. It is a lovely happy group, so if you feel you'd like to get out and meet new friends please give me a call on 07964 060369 or 858482.

We meet on alternate Wednesdays 1-3pm in the winter when it gets dark early and 2-4pm in the summer at the football club . If you'd can't make your own way there we can pick you up. **Estelle x**



## BLISWORTH LITTER CAMPAIGN



The group worked with the school and held a poster competition in October. We had 27 entries, the standard was very high; we selected 7 winners. These children received a book 'What a Waste' by Jess French. All other entrants were also given a prize. We are currently hoping to have the winning entries turned into more longer lasting posters that can be displayed around the village.

Dan Johnson, the street cleaning supervisor from West Northants Council has attended our last couple of meetings and has been very helpful with advice and suggestions.

Belinda Brown from the Parish Council attended a meeting in December to discuss further support for the group. The group have also applied for a grant from WNDC/PC with the view to displaying signage at the village gateways to encourage people to take their litter home with them.

Caroline Lee, Senior Social Advisor from Volker Rail has offered support from her team for litter picking in and around the village.

Again, a huge thank you to the unsung heroes who regularly litter pick and help to keep Blisworth litter free.

**Sue Cox 858962**

## Blisworth Arts Society

Meetings are held each Thursday from 2pm—4pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to join this friendly group of artists (any art from stitchery and photography to painting and drawing). Our term runs until Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

For more information contact Hilary Spurrier on **859181**

## Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Field Association

Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Field Association is a charity run by a small group of voluntary Trustees. Although the Hall and the Playing Field are in the village of Blisworth they are not owned by Parish Council, however, the PC support the Trustees in the running of the charity. Blisworth Football Club is not part of this charity and do not own the field; they pay annual rent to the charity.

The Village Hall is an ideal venue for functions of all kinds from children's parties to celebrations and meetings. Villagers receive preferential hire rates.

For any correspondence regarding hiring the Village Hall for an event, maintenance and upkeep of the Hall, questions about the charity or any offers to support us in the running of the charity, please contact us at [blisworthvh@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthvh@gmail.com)

## Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Tuesdsy 24th March for the April/May Issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

**[blisworthranda@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthranda@gmail.com)**

or send to the Editor: Alan North  
89 Buttmead, Blisworth, Northants

**THE PARISH COUNCIL ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER.**