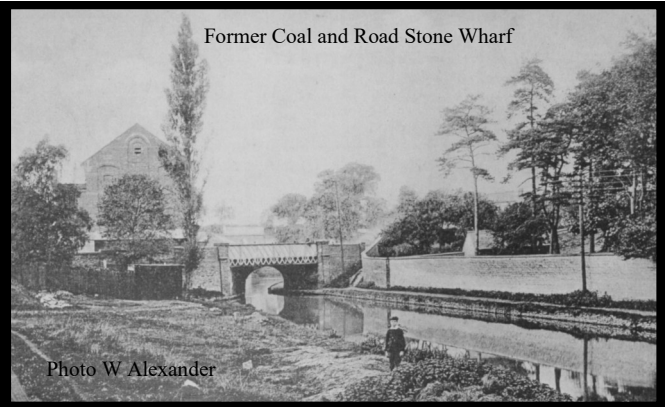


Round and About

www.blisworthvillage.org

Blisworth Parish Council Newsletter

April/May 2026 No 168



Keep in touch:

Website <https://blisworthparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Email address clerk@blisworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 0798 3233501.

Join our Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/)

BlisworthParishCouncil/

Council Meetings: First Monday of the month, 7:30 pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Road.

Council Surgeries: Most Tuesdays, 10:30-12:00 at Blisworth Baptist Chapel, Chapel Lane.

Ability Bus Closure – Important Update for Blisworth Residents

Representatives from Blisworth attended a packed community meeting at Hackleton Village Hall to discuss the closure of the Ability Bus service.

◆ Ability Bus has confirmed they can no longer operate, and the decision cannot be reversed. Their office remains open until 13/04/2026 and they will continue to run some services until that date.

◆ West Northants Council has no authority over the private operator.

◆ Other community transport providers are exploring options to take on the routes.

◆ Funding previously given for the service from West Northants Council is still available.

◆ West Northants Council are working across-political parties to ensure that the gap in this service is filled.

◆ Discussions with West Northants Council councillors are ongoing and Blisworth Parish Council will keep you updated.

📍 If you or someone you know relies on the Ability Bus, please attend the Council Surgery at the Baptist Chapel, Chapel Lane on Tuesdays (10:30 – 12:00).

We need to understand how many Blisworth residents are affected so we can support the development of a replacement service.

Updates will also be posted on:

• Blisworth Parish Council's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/>

Please use the Blisworth Parish Council's Facebook page to post questions/concerns so that we can collate the information and use it to petition West Northants Council.

Please share our Facebook updates with neighbours, friends and relatives - especially those who may not use email or social media.

Police Community grant open to all organisations: Details of the Police *Safe and Sound* community fund (£1,000–£10,000) can be found here: <https://northantspfcc.org.uk/our-work/grant-schemes/safe-and-sound-communities-fund/>. The Parish Council has previously secured funding from this scheme to purchase new VAS machines.

Community Speed Watch (CSW): CSW is now active. Two one-hour sessions have already taken place, with ten speeding vehicles reported to the police. Further sessions are planned. Residents wishing to volunteer should contact Cllr Nigel Chandler at

cllr.n.chandler@blisworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Grass Cutting: A new contractor began work in March, with cuts **every other Monday**. Please avoid parking on verges or green spaces so they can cut safely. Grass cuttings are only collected in Eastfield play area. Collecting the grass from all verges would significantly increase costs. If West Northamptonshire Council resumes responsibility in future, their schedule typically includes only a small number of cuts each year. Thank you for helping keep the village tidy.

Volker Rail – Community Support: Our thanks to Volker Rail for providing a cheerful and hardworking team to support the Graveyard Shift volunteers with important tasks at the Closed Cemetery.

Ash Tree Wood: Residents who can make use of ash tree offcuts from the Closed Cemetery are invited to contact the Clerk.

New Noticeboard – Buttmead / Bridleway to Courteenhall

Road: A new noticeboard has been installed to replace the previous rotten wooden board (one of five noticeboards purchased by BPC). Following resident feedback, the new board features: A glass door to keep notices dry and magnetic fixings instead of pins

More magnets have been added, and the board will be lowered shortly by Cllr Ingram and myself. Please continue to share feedback via the official Parish Council Facebook page. Remember that all councillors volunteer their time - respectful comments are appreciated.

Continued overleaf

Finally, the Council would like to thank **Alan North** for his many years of dedicated work editing and coordinating our newsletter. It's no small task, gathering and co-ordinating all the information especially to meet strict deadlines for each edition. The Parish Councillors are genuinely grateful for his continued hard work and professionalism. We wish Alan all the very best for the future and hope he enjoys relaxing times ahead.

Cllr Chris Read and Lee Hillyard have kindly agreed to take on this role going forward.

Steve Billing Chair of Blisworth Parish Council

St John's 800 Years

A note for your diary. The weekend of the **6th & 7th June 2026** at St John's Church Blisworth. The Church will be open all weekend for events outside and within. Refreshments will be available over the weekend.

We would like to invite everyone to help us celebrate activities depicting events over the Church's 800 years history, so please get in touch with your ideas and if you would like to take part.

If anyone knows of authentic crafts and would like to take part, e.g. bell ringing, flower festival, perhaps a few could dress up in clothes from over the 800 years, Wedding dresses display, an evening of music on Saturday night with Pimm's and nibbles, history of the Church exhibition, then please get in touch.

The Sunday service will be held at 11am-12 noon followed by afternoon refreshments.

We will be sending out posters nearer the time with a full list of events over the weekend.

Also the Church windows need cleaning once again (last cleaned in 2017) so we have asked the glass specialist team (who use approved conservation techniques and materials to remove the organic growth), and they have come back to us quoting £842. If anyone would be able to help raise this amount through a donation, we would be very grateful.

Please contact me with your ideas.

Maureen Smith (On behalf of the PCC) 07967898687
smithmaureenp@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you"



Blisworth Heritage Society



Our April meeting is on **Friday 10th April** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Neil Cooke will talk to us about the role of **Bletchley Park** in World War 2. Neil is a volunteer and guide at Bletchley Park.

Friday May 8 th 7.30 in the Village Hall. Derek Blunt will talk to us about **Unusual Buildings and Eccentricities** in Northamptonshire.

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

Garden Party in Aid of Ukraine



Sunday 29th April from 2pm at 2 Towcester Road Blisworth.

All are welcome to come and enjoy Ukrainian and English food including a BBQ. Donations in aid of those affected by the continuing war in Ukraine especially children and those on the front line.



Blisworth Football Club

Our Pop-Up Kitchen continues to be a huge hit with the village, and we're delighted to announce it will now be open every other Friday, serving up hearty Full English breakfasts plus a tasty selection of lunches. Keep an eye on our social media pages for dates and opening times.

On the pitch, it's been an exciting season for the club. Multiple Junior teams have reached cup finals, along with both of our Senior sides, a fantastic achievement and a real testament to the hard work across all age groups.

It's also brilliant to see so many players and families proudly wearing their Blisworth colours around the village on Saturday mornings. The atmosphere around matchdays continues to grow, with our Blissly Bites Kitchen a firm favourite for breakfast on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Looking ahead, we've got plenty more to offer the community, including:

Easter Egg Hunts

A Bottomless Brunch event planned for July

Again, full details will be on our socials, so don't miss out.

Finally, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ann North for her tireless dedication to the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee. Ann has given countless hours over many years and played a huge role in supporting the club, particularly during our rebuild.

Wishing you a very happy and well-deserved retirement, Ann.

Sam King - Chairman Secretary@Blisworthfc.co.uk

Blisworth Film Club

Thursday 30th April "I Swear"

Winner of 3 BAFTA's. Starring Robert Aramayo and Maxine Peake. True life story of John Davidson. Diagnosed with Tourette's at 15, labelled as "insane" by his peers, he struggled with a condition few understand. "I Swear" is a compassionate and clear-eyed portrait of this condition. It sidesteps clichés, focussing on identity, dignity and the road to acceptance.

PLEASE NOTE - by it's very nature, this film does contain swearing.

Thursday 28th May "H is for Hawk"

Claire Foy is tremendously authentic in this drama, as a grieving academic who trains a goshawk. Based upon Helen MacDonald's bestselling nature memoir.

All films are shown in the Village Hall.

Doors open at 7pm, films start at 7.30.

£7 on the door and no need to book, just turn up.

Hugh & Tracey E.mail - montydavenport@outlook.com"

Stitchery Do

Creating with fabric and thread

Thursday 2nd April

'Getting creative with unwanted fabric', a workshop on patchwork techniques to turn fabric scraps into something useful or decorative. We have lots of material in our store, but extra fabric is always welcome. If you bring your own sewing machine, please bring an extension lead! There's also the chance to complete Easter decorations or work on own projects.

Thursday 7th May

Unfortunately we cannot use the hall due to local elections. This has only just been announced, so we will plan an alternative date at the April meeting. There will be a continuation of patchwork and quilting, with a workshop on Piping techniques. Own projects are always welcome.

Usual details, £4 per session, with refreshments and resources included. Village Hall, from 10.00 -2.00pm
More details from Margaret on 858590 and Angela on 858137.

Blisworth Arts Society

We continue to meet in the Village Hall on Thursday afternoons from 2pm - 4pm. Our first meeting after Easter is on the 16th April. On the 7th May our meeting will be at 2, Towcester Road Blisworth as the Hall is needed for an election. There will be a chance to sketch in the garden.

On the 14th May we will meet at the church to produce small sketches/pictures ready for the 800th anniversary celebration of the Church on the 6/7th June.

We have other events planned for June and July.

New members are always welcome. For more information contact Hilary Spurrier on **859181**



Women's
Institute

Blisworth Women's Institute

At our next meeting on the 9th April, we welcome a speaker on Northamptonshire butterflies, which I'm sure will be very enlightening.

The 14th May is 'Resolutions & Gift bags evening, where, after a talk by a County representative, we make our vote for the 2026 Resolution.

Also, at this meeting we ask members to bring along a sealed 'gift' bag/bags. They are then displayed on a table and members choose one, two or more and get a nice surprise!

Our next 'Four Seasons Meal' is planned for Wednesday 15th April at The Fox & Hounds in Whittlebury. Always a good evening out, with the added bonus of not having to cook that day!

We continue to collect items for the food bank in Towcester, our members are always generous and Alison always has a car load to take 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 Village Hall and Playing Field Association

Charity news:

With the retirement of Ann North as secretary for the charity, there is an opportunity for someone to join the board of Trustees. If you are interested in this position or would like further information, please contact Jo Brooks at blisworthvh@gmail.com.

Village Hall news:

At the last BVH&PFA meeting, hire costs were discussed. Due to the increasing costs of daily running and maintenance, we are having to increase the hire cost of ad-hoc hire for residents of Blisworth. With the Village Hall being a vital asset to the community, this decision wasn't made lightly.

From April 1st 2026, the cost of hire for the Village Hall will be £30 for a 3-hour session (9am-12pm; 12pm-3pm; 3pm-6pm; 6pm-9pm). This is still a discounted rate compared to hirers from outside of the village.



FOBS

Friends of Blisworth School



FOBS is a registered charity made up of parents, carers and staff who raise funds and create fun experiences for the children at Blisworth Community Primary School.

It's already been a busy year with events including a family bingo night, non-uniform day, cake sales, our Dragon-themed Blisworth Bar sale for World Book Day, a Mother's Day gift shop and a school-wide Easter egg hunt — with plenty more still to come!

Thank you!

We'd like to say a heartfelt thank you for recent donations from Graham & Molly and Stop Rail Central. Support like this from our community makes a real difference and helps us continue to provide amazing opportunities and fund additional resources for the children.

How you can help

You can support us by attending events, donating prizes, or working with us through local businesses and sponsorship. You can also use our textile recycling banks at the school (for clothes, shoes and linens) or raise free donations while shopping via the easyfundraising app.

Friends of Blisworth School

c/o Blisworth CP School, Courteenhall Road, Blisworth, Northamptonshire, NN7 3DD

Registered charity number: 1102144

BVHPFA 250 Club Results

	February	March
£30	184	243
£20	36	32
£20	172	45
£10	18	7
£10	6	231

Thank you for your support, I have a few numbers available if you'd like one. I sincerely apologise to the lovely people who asked for a number before. I allocated a few but then lost the message on Facebook. If you'd like one, my number is **07964 060369** Estelle



Blisworth Parish Church

"Father forgive them for they do not know what they do" Luke 23v34

Easter is the time when we remember Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

Christ died for all of us and all who believe in Him have eternal life.

Services for April and May

2nd April Maundy Thursday 7pm Milton Malsor
3rd April Good Friday 2pm Blisworth
5th April Easter Sunday 11am Blisworth
12th April , 26th April 11am Communion
19th April 11am Family Worship
May 3rd, 10th and 24th 11am Communion
May 17th Family worship 11am
May 31st 11am Benefice Service at Alderton
June 6/7th 800th celebrations

Historical Snippet

When the first recorded rector was in post in 1226 the church would have looked very different. It would have been smaller as it has been expanded over the centuries. There would have been no pews so the congregation would have stood for services. Services would have been in Latin so churches tended to be more colourful than today with paintings of the key aspects of Christ's life.

The church would have been lit by candles and there would have been no heating. The church was the only stone building in the village at the time and village life would have revolved around the church year. The church would have been the main meeting place. As 1226 was well before the reformation the church would have been part of the Roman Catholic Church.

Do visit the church. It is open every day for prayer, contemplation or just to appreciate this historic building.

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



Blisworth Friendship Group

A sad time for BFG as we have lost 2 of our lovely members. Janet Archer and Jenny Cahill, both will be sadly missed.

Our next meeting is Wednesday April 1st then alternate Wednesdays after that. If you'd like a pleasant afternoon out and to make new friends please give me a call on 07964 060369 or Anne on 01604 858001. If you'd can't get to the Football Club under your own steam, we can pick you up.

We had a vote whether we should go back to 2-4 pm now the nights are lighter, but voted overwhelmingly to stay 1-3pm. It's £4 per session which covers room and refreshments and then have a raffle.

Estelle X

Farewell

After 18 years, 104 issues and having reached a significant birthday, the time has come for me to relinquish the role of editor of the Blisworth Round and About. A warm welcome to Lee Hillyard & Chris Read your new joint editors, who I am sure will do a stellar job. Their contact details can be found in the box alongside. Thanks for all the help.

A new, avid, reader **Alan North**

BMC - Blisworth Ladies Social Club

Thursday 16th April

Jackie from Jackie's Mobile Boutique (formerly Rock those Frocks) will be bringing her 'Springing into Summer' fashion show, modelled by our own fantastic models. A fun evening for all, with visitors invited to join us in purchasing items from her range of clothes and accessories. Debit and credit cards accepted. Wine and nibbles included, £3 members, £5 visitors. From 7.30pm

Thursday 21st May

Our Magical Mystery Trip. Enjoy a coach trip through some of Northamptonshire's beautiful countryside, arriving at a venue for drinks and relaxation, before returning home.

The coach (with easy access) will leave Blisworth at 7.00 pm, returning by 10.00 pm. Cost £10 pp, visitors and guests welcome. Please contact Babs on 07767368643 or email her on barbara.hughes@yahoo.com to book in for this enjoyable evening. Payment in advance by cash should be given to Babs by May 8th at the latest to secure your place. Details of pick up and set down will be circulated nearer the date after consultation with the coach company.

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

King Charles' Garden Party

As some of you may have heard already, I have been invited to King Charles' Garden Party at Buckingham Palace **for services to the community.**

I am very honoured by this and by all the lovely (very, very well deserved Ed) comments I've received, but also very humbled. Blisworth is full of wonderful people past and present who gave their time and their love to making this one of the best villages to live in. Let's remember and give a massive THANKYOU to all volunteers in our lovely community. All the many clubs and organisations need people for committees to run them:

The Parish Council and the Church and Chapel wardens, cleaners, flower arrangers and PCCs.

Plus: the wonderful Scouting Movement, teachers' assistants, TADD drivers, organisers of events, litter pickers

Project group, the Village Hall and Playing Fields Association, The Football Club.

Last but certainly not least. Good neighbours who quietly help each out and keep an eye on the elderly.

If I've missed anyone out, please forgive me, you all deserve a medal.

Estelle Rose

Next Round & About copy deadline is:

Friday 22nd May for the June/July Issue.

Please email items you wish to include to:

blisworthranda@gmail.com

or send to the Editors Chris Read and Lee Hillyard c/o Blisworth Parish Council 48 Pond Bank, Blisworth.

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