

BLETCHINGTON VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE – SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1979

ISSUE 263

April – May 2023



Bletchington – now a 20mph zone

Reports from village organisations

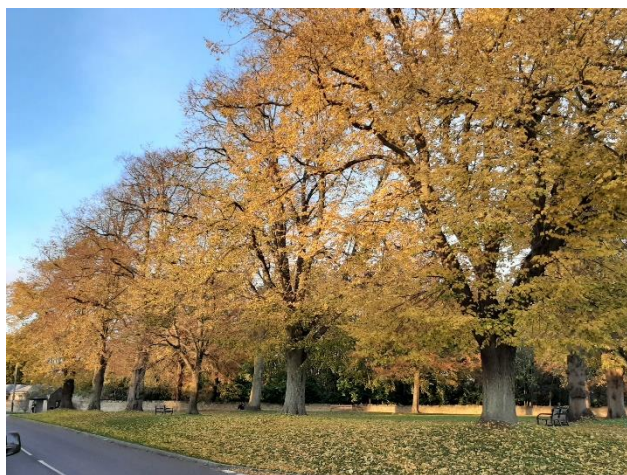
Four Seasons on the Village Green

The Mystery Pairs Darts Evening

Bus 24: Latest news & revised timetable

History Corner: Coronations

FOUR SEASONS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN



EDITORIAL

Spring has arrived at last and during the two months covered by this magazine we can look forward to five days designated as public holidays, more than half the total for the whole year. The May Day public holiday was first introduced in the UK in 1978 but it has always been a constant source of irritation to me that the public holiday is set for the first Monday in May, rather than on the actual First of May. We don't celebrate New Year's Day on the first Monday in January – it's on the First of January regardless of what day of the week that falls on – so why should May Day be any different? May Day has long been an important day of celebration, with many traditional customs taking place throughout the country, heralding the start of summer. Locally, May Morning in Oxford sees crowds gather below Magdalen Tower at 6:00am to witness Magdalen College Choir sing the *Hymnus Eucharisticus* from the top of the tower. This is followed by morris dancing and general merriment around the city centre, all before the shops open. And this year, the first of May does actually fall on the Monday!

A week later we see an extra public holiday added to the normal schedule. This is on Monday, 8th May to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. The coronation itself is on Saturday, 6th May and we can watch this on television, then we have the Sunday and Monday to celebrate the event in our own ways. Village celebrations in Bletchington will take place on the Sunday – then with the Monday being a holiday, for most of us, we won't have to worry about getting up for work or school the next day. A big thank you to Grace and Sue for stepping in to organise our village celebrations. For further details, please see below and poster on inside back cover.

This is **your** Village News and we are reliant upon material from you, the readers. Please keep your articles and photographs coming and do keep us updated on anything going on in the village. We always love to hear from new contributors and from younger readers. If you don't fancy writing, we can always capture your thoughts via an interview and write the article on your behalf. If you have any historic photographs of Bletchington in times past, please consider sharing them with us – we would love to feature them in a future edition. Please get in touch with us via e-mail at bletchnews@gmail.com. The deadline for articles is always the **20th of the month** prior to publication – so articles for inclusion in the June/July magazine must reach us by **20th May, 2023**.

bletchnews@gmail.com

Pete Baker

Coronation celebrations

In Bletchington, there are plans afoot to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on Sunday 7th May, the day after the actual coronation ceremony. Commencing 3:00pm at the Village Hall there will be an afternoon tea plus games for the children then later we can look forward to live music plus a bar and barbecue. The afternoon tea will be free, but the organisers would like to know how many people are coming, to ensure they have the right amount of food. Please look out for details on how to register your attendance in the village Facebook page and BletchNet over the next few weeks. If you do not have access to these social media forums, please telephone 07974 409520. Take a look at the Coronation poster on Page 39.

Twenty is plenty

You may have noticed that, after much campaigning, 20mph signs were finally erected around the village on 16th March, making Bletchington officially a 20mph zone. Please be good enough to respect the new speed limits and, as the sign upon entering the village says: "Please Drive Carefully".

Defibrillators

We have two defibrillators available in the village, located at the Village Hall, on the side nearest to the Co-op and at the Sports & Social Club. To access these devices, you will need to call 999 to obtain a code whilst also requesting an ambulance. Instructions on how to use the defibrillators and how to keep the patient safe are posted close by. Your prompt action before the ambulance arrives may save a life.

Bus 24 timetable - Anne Maclachlan, Parish Transport Representative, writes:

Bus service 24 has now completed its first month of operation, however it has become clear that the timetable as originally designed is not achievable. Some sections of the route do not have sufficient time to be completed (most notably between Kirtlington and Weston-on-the-Green, and between Weston-on-the-Green and Wendlebury) and increased congestion is causing delays on arrivals into Oxford. This time cannot be made up throughout the day and drivers are currently not receiving the breaks they are legally entitled to. In order to remain compliant with relevant legislation the revised timetable has been agreed between the County Council and Grayline buses after wider consultation.

The main changes to the timetable are:

- Earlier departures on morning peak journeys into Oxford to ensure sufficient time to complete the journeys
- Slightly widened spaces between buses in the daytime
- Slightly later departures in the afternoon peak journeys from Oxford
- Changes to Saturday afternoon journeys, including the combining the final two journeys from Oxford into one

The changes are necessary to ensure compliance with the law and to avoid problems retaining driving staff. It is hoped that these changes will lead to better punctuality and happier drivers.

When the new service started, Grayline agreed that they would offer £2 fares up to 31st March. Now that the national scheme has been extended, OCC are encouraging Grayline to participate in the government scheme beyond this date, but this has not yet been agreed.

The revised timetable, shown opposite, is effective from Monday 3rd April. Note: not all bus stops are listed in this timetable.

Other local bus service changes

The 2/2A bus service (Oxford–Kidlington) now calls at the forecourt at Oxford Parkway Station. Meanwhile the route 7 service (Oxford–Woodstock) has been renumbered S7 and is now extended beyond Woodstock to Witney via Long Hanborough. This no longer pulls into the station forecourt.

Local council elections – Voter ID required

Be sure that you don't lose your vote! Local council elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday 4th May. Please note that, for the first time, voter ID will be required at polling stations. Acceptable forms of ID include passport, driving licence, blue badge, defence identity card, various travel passes and other options. For a full, detailed list of ID options, visit Cherwell District Council's website, select 'Elections' then select 'Voter ID' where a complete list of acceptable ID is shown. In all cases, the ID must include a photograph but documents that have expired are acceptable for use as ID at polling stations provided the photograph is clearly recognisable as that of the holder.

If you do not have a suitable identification document, then you should apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Don't delay - the deadline to apply for such a certificate is 5:00pm on Tuesday, 25th April. Apply on-line at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

then select **Register to vote**. There are some straightforward questions to answer, and you will also be required to provide your National Insurance number and attach a digital passport-type photograph of yourself. Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate may also be made by post, but you will have to complete a form which is obtainable from above web page so, if you can, ask a friend or neighbour to download and print the relevant form for you. If you do not have access to a computer, please telephone **0800 328 0280**.

Bus 24

Timetable

Bicester to Oxford via Bletchingdon

Monday-Friday (excluding Public holidays)

Bicester Pioneer Square (4)	---	---	09:55	12:05	14:15	16:25
Wendlebury Lion	---	---	10:05	12:15	14:25	16:35
Weston-on-the-Green Oxford Court	06:30	07:30	10:13	12:23	14:33	16:43
Kirtlington Oxford Arms	06:40	07:40	10:23	12:33	14:43	16:53
Bletchingdon Blacks Head	06:45	07:45	10:28	12:38	14:48	16:58
Hampton Poyle Bell	06:49	07:49	10:32	12:42	14:52	17:02
Kidlington Sainsbury's	06:53	07:53	10:36	12:46	14:56	17:06
Oxford Magdalen Street (C4)	07:06	08:18	10:52	13:02	15:12	17:22

Saturday

Bicester Pioneer Square (4)	---	09:55	12:05	14:45	16:55
Wendlebury Lion	---	10:05	12:15	14:55	17:05
Weston-on-the-Green Oxford Court	07:40	10:13	12:23	15:03	17:13
Kirtlington Oxford Arms	07:50	10:23	12:33	15:13	17:23
Bletchingdon Blacks Head	07:55	10:28	12:38	15:18	17:28
Hampton Poyle Bell	07:59	10:32	12:42	15:22	17:32
Kidlington Sainsbury's	08:03	10:36	12:46	15:26	17:36
Oxford Magdalen Street (C4)	08:19	10:52	13:02	15:42	17:52

Oxford to Bicester via Bletchingdon

Monday-Friday (excluding Public holidays)

Oxford Magdalen Street (C4)	08:25	11:00	13:10	15:20	17:30	18:40
Kidlington Sainsbury's	08:43	11:14	13:24	15:40	17:50	18:54
Hampton Poyle Bell	08:48	11:19	13:29	15:45	17:55	18:59
Bletchingdon Blacks Head	08:52	11:23	13:33	15:49	17:59	19:03
Kirtlington Oxford Arms	08:57	11:28	13:38	15:54	18:04	19:08
Weston-on-the-Green Oxford Court	09:06	11:37	13:47	16:03	18:13	19:17
Wendlebury Lion	09:13	11:44	13:54	16:10	---	---
Bicester Pioneer Square (4)	09:23	11:54	14:04	16:20	---	---

Saturday

Oxford Magdalen Street (C4)	08:25	11:00	13:10	15:50	18:25
Kidlington Sainsbury's	08:43	11:14	13:24	16:10	18:45
Hampton Poyle Bell	08:48	11:19	13:29	16:15	18:50
Bletchingdon Blacks Head	08:52	11:23	13:33	16:19	18:54
Kirtlington Oxford Arms	08:57	11:28	13:38	16:24	18:59
Weston-on-the-Green Oxford Court	09:06	11:37	13:47	16:33	19:08
Wendlebury Lion	09:13	11:44	13:54	16:40	---
Bicester Pioneer Square (4)	09:23	11:54	14:04	16:50	---

No Service Sundays or Public holidays

Effective from 3rd April 2023

www.grayline.co.uk

Tel: 01869 244610

ST. GILES' CHURCH NEWS

We are part of the AKEMAN BENEFICE (Bletchington, Kirtlington, Weston-on-the-Green, Chesterton, Middleton Stoney, Wendlebury and Hampton Gay). The benefice is named after Akeman Street, the Roman road which runs through it.



Ministry Team

Rector: The Rev'd Gareth Miller	01869 350224	akemanbenefice@gmail.com
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Nick Ktorides	01869 324191	nickktorides.akeman@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: The Very Rev'd Robert Wilkes	01869 350159	bobwilkes.akeman@gmail.com
Licensed Lay Minister: Paul Clifford	01869 351652	paulclifford.akeman@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer: Nicky Donne	01869 351748	safeguarding.akeman@gmail.com
Benefice Website:	www.akemanbenefice.org.uk	
Churchwarden:	Judith Ledger	Treasurer: Kate Ehrman
Assistant Churchwarden:	Fiona Teddy	Members of the PCC: Natasha Pitts
Secretary:	Pam Hayes	Sally Cross

If you or anyone you know would like to talk to a member of the ministry team please do not hesitate to phone or email.

A small prayer group meets remotely each Wednesday morning. If you would like to join or if you have a request for prayer, please phone 351542.

The church remains open each day for private prayer.

Details of services and an introduction to the ministry team together with information about the benefice churches can be found on our website at: www.akemanbenefice.org.uk

From the registers:

6 th February	Betty Truscott	Funeral
We send our sympathy to all Betty's family.		
25 th February	Emily Pritchard-Pitts & Alex Sephton	Marriage
We extend our very best wishes to Emily and Alex for their life together.		

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

These are important occasions in the life of our local churches – a chance to look back on the past year but more importantly to look forward. It's also the occasion when we elect church officers. Do come along to your village APCM if you can. In Bletchington, the meeting will be on 25th April at 19:30.

Palm Sunday Procession

On Palm Sunday, 2nd April, we will have our annual Procession and Service. This is suitable for all ages, and will include a quadruped of some sort! Meet on Bletchington Village Green at 10:00. If you cannot manage the walk up to the church, please take your seat there and await the arrival of the procession at about 10:15.

Concert - Saturday 22nd April at 7:30pm

The Oxford music group Sirinu is returning to St. Giles to give a concert in aid of church funds. We shall be transported to a grand house in the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth. Tickets are £15, to include refreshments, available from any member of the PCC. Do come to support the church and enjoy exceptional music.

Deanery Walk

Our third deanery walk takes place on St George's Day, 23rd April. We had a really good turn-out for the first two. Do come along if you can. This is a longish walk (about 5.5 miles). Meet at Islip Church at 13:30 (parking at Islip Station or in the village). Circular walk via Oddington and Noke then back to Islip. There will be rest breaks and a short history of the church at each village. Bring your own water. Tea at Islip on return and a short Evening Service with the Akeman Church Community Choir at 17:30.

Ascension Day/Pentecost

On Ascension Day, 18th May, we will be having a Sung Eucharist at St. Giles' Church, Bletchingdon at 19:00. Our preacher will be Canon Andrew Bunch. This will also be the occasion for the annual churchwardens' supper. At Pentecost, 28th May, we are hoping to hold a Jazz Eucharist at Kirtlington Church at 11:00. Look out for further updates.

Stewardship

During May we will also be holding a Stewardship Programme – an opportunity to reflect on the place of the church in the community, and also to think how we can best support our local churches, practically and financially. We will be preaching on the subject and distributing leaflets in each village in the Benefice.

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

My phone has a habit of showing me clips from old comedy programmes. I don't know how or why it does it (I guess I must have googled something once), but I must say I am very grateful for them. When a day is proving particularly testing, there's no better tonic than three minutes of *Fawlty Towers*, *The Two Ronnies*, or *The Vicar of Dibley*. Speaking of which..... it does sometimes feel as if Dibley is not such a fictional place after all!

One of the Dibley episodes is called "Spring". It's time for Alice and Hugo's baby to be christened. As Geraldine is one of the godparents, the Bishop arrives to perform the ceremony. Somewhat surprisingly David proposes marriage to Geraldine, who says that she will consider it. However, after Sean Bean has appeared to her in a dream telling her not to go through with it, she turns David down!

Life certainly has its disappointments! Not to mention things that give us cause to worry. A friend and I were chatting the other day, and noting all the anxieties in people's lives – Ukraine, climate change, the cost of living, the NHS, social media, etc. He felt that a lot of these big anxieties are manifesting in our personal interactions, and I think he may have a point. However, new life has a habit of popping up despite the evidence to the contrary, like the crocuses poking their heads through the unexpected March snow as I write. Spring arrives as a jolt to our winter pessimism, just as humour can serve to prick our depression and solemnity.

Humour, of course, needs to be handled with care. If deployed carelessly it can make a bad situation worse. But used thoughtfully it can defuse tensions and help put things in perspective. Tom Wright, the New Testament commentator, believes that Jesus was funnier than he comes across in our English translations! And Easter is God's supreme joke - that, despite all the evidence to the contrary, death does not have the last word. As someone once said, "We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song." However dark things may seem, however tough the going, perhaps we can find a space in the day to say an alleluia, however soft it might sound.

Gareth

Church services for April & May

APRIL 2023	Sunday 2nd <i>Palm</i>	Friday 7th <i>Good Friday</i>	Sunday 9th <i>Easter</i>	Sunday 16th <i>Easter 2</i>	Sun. 23rd/30th <i>Easter 3/4</i>
Bletchington	10:00 Palm Sunday Procession & Service <i>Meet on Green</i>	10:00 Family Worship	09:30 Holy Communion		30th : 10:30 Holy Communion (Benefice)
Chesterton	11:00 Family Service		08:00 Holy Comm. 11:00 Holy Comm.	11:00 Morning Worship	
Hampton Gay					
Kirtlington		20:00 Compline (sung)	11:00 Holy Communion	18:00 Evensong	23rd : 10:30 Holy Communion (Benefice)
Middleton Stoney		14:00 An hour at the Cross	09:30 Holy Comm.		30th : 16:00 Pet Service
Wendlebury			09:30 Holy Comm.		
Weston-on- the-Green			11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Worship	
MAY 2023	Sunday 7th <i>Easter 5 Coronation</i>	Sunday 14th <i>Easter 6 Stewardship</i>	Thursday 18th <i>Ascension Day</i>	Sunday 21st <i>Easter 7 Ascension</i>	Sunday 28th <i>Pentecost</i>
Bletchington	09:30 Coronation Service		19:00 Holy Comm./ Sung Eucharist	09:30 Holy Communion	
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Comm. 11:00 Family Coronation S.	11:00 Holy Communion		11:00 Café Church	
Hampton Gay		11:00 Matins			
Kirtlington	11:00 Coronation Service	09:30 Holy Communion 18:00 Evensong		11:00 Morning Worship	11:00 Holy Communion 11:00 tbc Jazz Eucharist
Middleton Stoney	15:00 Coronation Service			09:30 Holy Communion	
Wendlebury	09:30 Coronation Service			09:30 Holy Communion	
Weston-on- the-Green	11:00 Coronation Service	11:00 Café Church		11:00 Holy Communion	

Ring for the King



As you will all know, on 6th May 2023 the Coronation of King Charles III will take place and all Bell Ringers will be ringing in as many Towers as possible.

If there are any lapsed ringers in the Village and you would like to be part of this historical pageant it would be lovely if you could help. This also applies to anybody who would like to chime the bells - training would be given and there would be no safety issues as we chime when the bells are "down and safe".

Please contact me if you are interested at:

suemacready@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Sue Macready - Bletchingdon Tower Captain

A Neighbourhood Plan for Bletchingdon and Hampton Gay & Poyle

In January we held a meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan which is currently in development for Bletchingdon and Hampton Gay & Poyle.

The meeting was our launch event to share more about why we are developing a Neighbourhood Plan, what it can and can't do, and how to be involved going forward. It was also an opportunity to talk with the steering group members and meet the consultants from Community First Oxfordshire who are supporting with this.

It was great to hear feedback from people about the themes that people would like to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. We have also been gathering feedback via a questionnaire, which households have received through their letterboxes. Thank you to everyone who has filled this in; if you would still like to do so, please return the paper copy - follow the link on the Bletchingdon Parish Council website.

This survey is an important part of making The Plan. The Steering Group who will be drafting policies for the Plan need to understand what local residents think about and want in relation to key issues.

Further information about the Neighbourhood Plan is available on the Bletchingdon Parish Council website www.bletchingdon-pc.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning. If you would like to find out more, have a chat to share your ideas, or are interested in joining the Steering Group please speak to one of the Steering Group members or email futurebletch@gmail.com.

And please watch this space for further information!

Duncan Ledger, Andy Jordan, Wayne Dobbins, Rachel Pirie, Dan Robins, Mark Webber, Julian Bagwell, Peter Drobac

1st Bletchington Brownies

Well done Brownies, you all qualified as astronauts at our Space academy earning the space badge - fitness, star gazing and fun.

Our older Brownies are taking the lead, running a disco for everyone and leading activities during our meetings. They've found some aspects a challenge but it's given them a good idea of the life of a Brownie leader!

Congratulations Juno who has completed her Gold Award with all 6 themes, a visit to Guides and planning an activity for the unit. Lots of us are close to awards too.

We have spaces at our sister units in Woodstock for:

Rainbows girls age 4-7

Guides for girls age 10-14

Young Leaders girls age 14-18

Adult volunteer age 18+ in Bletchington

Our Trefoil group has been having fun working on a Birthday badge, going on tree walks and cooking. We'd love more people to join in at our monthly meetings.

Email us at girlguidingwoodstock@hotmail.co.uk for info on any of our units.

Community tree planting

The proposal to plant a community wood or orchard as part of the late Queen's Green Canopy was backed by the Parish Council last year. Unfortunately, the project has lost momentum for a while as most of the participants do not have sufficient capacity at this time.

A group of us from the village came together with a sense of purpose and enthusiasm last summer to discuss where and what could be developed as a community space in nature for the enjoyment and well-being of residents in the village. We want it to be easily accessible to all, and to enhance the biodiversity in the parish, providing a space to enjoy planting and maintaining trees and wildflower areas, and to linger and relax and appreciate nature.

The group has assembled some useful resources such as the Oxfordshire Treescape Project Opportunity Report for Bletchington Parish, and made some useful connections with other groups and villages.

Having established that the parish owns very little unutilised land, we acknowledge the need to work very closely with local landowners. We have considered potential sites bearing in mind the proximity to the village and the natural shape and quality of the landscape and the soil. We also discussed options such as rows of trees along a border or hedgerow, or something more like a woodland glade.

Since then, Bletchington has begun to develop its Neighbourhood Plan. We hope that this will provide a framework for further action when we have capacity to continue with a community tree planting project, protecting and enhancing nature around us.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Anne on 07967 045591.

***Happy Easter
to all our readers***



History Corner

Coronations

From William I in 1066 to King Charles III on 6th May this year, Westminster Abbey has hosted this country's coronations for almost a thousand years. The coronation ceremony has its origins in Europe and dates back well before 1066 as Kings were crowned in a religious based ceremony marking a time when the church was becoming increasingly involved in the running of the state. This country has always been big on maintaining traditions and of the remaining monarchies in Europe, Britain is the only one which retains this lavish ceremony.

The earliest known coronations in Britain, involved Anglo Saxon rulers and took place in various locations, with Bath Abbey, for example, being used for the coronation of Edgar in 973 AD with the ceremony devised by the then Archbishop of Canterbury who was later canonised as St. Dunstan. Since the Norman Conquest, Westminster Abbey has become the regular venue for coronations, beginning with that of William I, on Christmas Day, 1066, following his successful invasion of Britain which resulted in him seizing the crown. This ceremony is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry.

Westminster Abbey was rebuilt in a Gothic style from 1245, under the reign of Henry III. The first King to be crowned in the present Abbey was Edward I in 1274. The first Protestant coronation was that of King Edward VI, at the age of just nine, in 1547, conducted by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, but when Edward was succeeded by his half-sister, Mary I, first Queen to be crowned in her own right, the Catholic rite was temporarily restored. In 1603, upon the death of Queen Elizabeth I, the Union of the Crowns saw King James VI of Scotland become King James I of England. At his coronation, the service, which had previously been delivered in Latin, was translated to English for the first time, although the Latin version had to be brought back for George I in 1714 as the Hanoverian king did not speak English so Latin was seen as an appropriate common language.

The first coronation televised live was that of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, watched by an estimated audience of 27 million in the UK, plus millions more overseas. When the Queen passed away in September 2022, Charles immediately became king, but it is the normal practice the coronation to take place some time later. This is due to the celebratory nature of the event which would be inappropriate too soon after the death of the previous monarch, the nation still being in mourning. It also allows time for the necessary preparations to be made. Watch the coronation live on TV on Saturday 6th May, then come along and enjoy our community celebrations on the following day.

Bletchington Thursday Club

For our March meeting we had a competition to see who could arrange flowers in the most unusual container and this was won by Sue Beesley. We then had tea and a raffle.

Our April meeting will be a small Easter bingo and bring & buy.

Please note our May meeting will be on 11th May, not 4th May, as local elections are being held then. We will have our AGM followed by a tea party to celebrate the King's coronation and music will be played by Tommy. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

Thursday Club is held on the first Thursday of the month from 2-4pm in the Village Hall and new members are always welcome.



The Bletchingdon Community Foundation

New trustee

The BCF would like welcome Andy Jordan to the board of trustees. Andy has previously been a member of the Parish Council and is also a member of the Neighbourhood Plan team, so brings a wealth of experience to the team. Please join us in wishing success to Andy in his new role as a BCF trustee.

Village Hall activities

The Village Hall offers a wide range of activities for all age groups. Our directory below details the regular groups currently operating at the hall. If you are interested in joining any of these groups, please contact the organiser.

Event	Days & times	Contact	Telephone / E-mail
Physio-led Pilates/Yoga classes	Monday – 10:00am Thursday – 7:15pm	Gemma Queralt (MCSP Chartered Physiotherapist)	07974 692287 gemma.c.queralt@gmail.com
Zumba Gold (low impact)	Thursday – 10:30-11:30am (Term time only)	Mariana Bujons Palmer	zumbawithmarianaoxford@gmail.com
Tumble Tots (walking up to 4 years, play sessions)	Wednesday (Term time only) 10:15am to 2 yrs. 11:15am 2-3 yrs. 12:15pm 3yrs+	Catherine Codd	07305 097209 northcotswolds@tumbletots.com <u>Website:</u> www.tumbletots.com.northcotswolds
1 st Bletchington Brownies (girls, 7-10yrs.)	Monday – 6-7:30pm (Term time only)	Lorraine Wing	girlguidingwoodstock@hotmail.co.uk
Total Body Conditioning	Monday – 7:30pm Wednesday – 6:30pm	Geraldine Jennings	07875 364130 geraldine_jennings@yahoo.co.uk
Stretch & core (non-sweat)	Wednesday – 7:30pm	Geraldine Jennings	07875 364130 geraldine_jennings@yahoo.co.uk
Thursday Club (over 50s)	First Thursday of the month – 2:00pm	Rozz Wing	wingrozzw@aol.com
Bletchington Silver Band (Senior band)	Tuesday - 7:30pm Friday – 7:30pm	Laura	secretary@bletchingtonsilverband.co.uk
Bletchington Silver Band (B band)	Friday – 6:30pm	Laura	secretary@bletchingtonsilverband.co.uk
Children's Martial Arts Class (Jiu Jitsu)	Wednesday – 5:15pm	David Plested	07515 560201 inspirebjjuk@gmail.com



Supporting the village for over 400 years

The origins of the Charity go back to 1620 when Leonard Poure bequeathed the sum of £200 towards the maintenance of four almshouses and the schoolhouse. This has evolved into the charity we know today, supporting villagers through the recent Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

The rise in energy costs and essential goods is impacting on many people in our village.

The Bletchington Charity is now a grant making body that is there to offer financial assistance to anyone in the parish of Bletchington. The modern interpretation of the aims of the charity are to relieve financial hardship, reduce social isolation and support education.

If you would like to apply for financial support, for yourself, a friend, family member or neighbour then you can do this by downloading a form from the village website, www.bletchington-pc.org.uk. If you do not have access to the website, then a member of the committee will happily drop a form off to you and, if helpful, support people to fill it out. Ring and leave a message on **01869 350180**. Preferred contact is through the e-mail: charity.secretary@thebcf.net. All applications are treated in complete confidence.

Examples of regular grants include:

- Utility Bills
- Grants for travel to school
- School uniform
- Sixth form grants
- University grants
- Help towards funeral costs
- Payment of over 75s television licence

If you need help with fuel bills please do not sit in the cold, or worry about paying your spring bills, contact the charity and we can make a grant towards this. If you have applied before, apply again.

PLEASE DO APPLY, this charity is there for all who live in Bletchington.

Applications will be considered at our meetings, which are held every 2 to 3 months. However, if the application is urgent, we will be able to consider it before this date.

The next meeting will be held on 5th June 2023. Applications to be in by 3rd June.

Bletch Diary

1 st April – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Easter bingo
2 nd April – 10:00am	Village Green – Palm Sunday Procession to St. Giles' Church Followed by Church Service upon arrival, around 10:15am
9 th April – 1:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Family Rounders Tournament & Easter Egg Hunt Hosted by Project Active
22 nd April – 7:30pm	St. Giles' Church – Concert With Oxford group, Sirinu – in aid of church funds
22 nd April – 8:30pm	Sports & Social Club – Race Night
23 rd April – 4:00pm	Village Hall – Spring 'Audience Choice' Concert With Bletchington Silver Band
7 th May – 9:30am	St. Giles' Church – Coronation Service
7 th May – from 3:00pm	Village Hall – Village Coronation celebrations Afternoon tea, children's games, barbecue, bar, live music, etc.
10 th May – 7:30pm	Village Hall – Parish Council Annual Meeting Meet your councillors and find out what has happened over the past year
13 th May – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash bingo
18 th May – 7:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Ascension Day Service Sung Eucharist

Weston Walkers

Following our usual winter break in December and January, our first walk of the new year was on Monday 13th February, when we enjoyed a sunny afternoon on Kingsmere in Bicester, which does not necessarily sound very appealing but there is a surprising amount of green space and water in amongst the houses. There is also a very welcoming café in the Sports Centre where we inevitably ended up!

Our March walk planned for Monday 13th March was unfortunately cancelled on the day due to the very strong winds and rain.

The second Mondays in April and May are both Bank Holidays, so we will switch to the third Monday for those two months, being 17th April and 15th May. All are welcome to join in as and when; there is no commitment to every month, so if you wish to enjoy sociable company, conversation and exercise, please come along and join in or speak to me.

There are now also several local walks to enjoy published on the Weston-on-the-Green Parish Council website, under Health and Wellbeing.

If while out walking you encounter any problems with overgrown vegetation, damaged stiles or footbridges, or any other issues, please let me know for Weston Parish or Katie Holt (01869 350219) for Bletchington Parish, in order that they can be reported to the County Council for repair.

Graham Barnett - 01869 350707



BLETCHINGTON SILVER BAND

At last, it looks like winter is (almost) over which means it's time for the Band to prepare for our Spring Concert. This year's Concert is made up of music requested by the audiences at our last two Concerts so this has resulted in a programme full of popular music which we are enjoying rehearsing and very much hope will result in an enjoyable evening of Brass Band Music. We very much look forward to seeing you on the day.....

Sunday 23rd April

4pm

Bletchington Village Hall

The afternoon will include our legendary raffle, refreshments and our wonderful B Band.

After a three-year hiatus we were hoping to take part in the London and Southern Counties Regional Final Competition in Stevenage in March, however, due to various reasons we felt we couldn't go ahead and instead hope to take part in a local contest later in the year.

The Band continues to rally Post Covid but our Soprano player John has decided to take a break from Banding and we have a few vacancies to fill so if you have ever played a Brass instrument or you want to learn to play an instrument, we would welcome you to our friendly Band.



Combe Mill in steam - Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, OX29 8ET

Come along, bring the children on 16th April. Theme will be 'Military Vehicles' including North Oxforas & Cotswold Military Vehicle Trust, with others represented. If you have an interest in the Military this is the event for you. (See our advert on Page 38.)

May 21st themed event is 'Barn Engines & Horticultural Machinery', a very interesting display with invited exhibitors demonstrating. Combe Mill will be open 'In Steam' with all machinery working and being demonstrated by our lovely volunteers, a late 19th Century Grade II Listed Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode, in its day the workshop for Blenheim Palace estate, not to be missed.

Open days (non-steam) take place every Wednesday from 22nd March to end of October for self-guided tours and Tea Room open. 10:30am-4:30pm, last admission 3:30pm.



WESTON ON THE GREEN WI

At our February meeting, Richard Preston came to tell us about his beautiful 1 acre garden in Steeple Aston. It was originally the walled garden for the Manor House, then became a market garden from which he and his father grew and sold vegetables around the local villages. Now he and his wife have turned it into a lovely garden with ponds, statues, trees, shrubs and flowers, which we will visit in June.

Our AGM was held on 15th March, with wine, nibbles and refreshments. It was followed by a talk from Clare Phillips, one of our members, about her fascinating and varied career as a physiotherapist which took her to several countries, including China, Bahrain and Canada.

On 19th April we will have a visit from Pam Newall who will take us on a journey to Transylvania and the talk at our May meeting on the 17th will be given by Jill Saint (a Bletchington resident and member) on her experiences as a dresser and wardrobe assistant at the Oxford Playhouse.

We would like to invite all ladies to join us (several are already from Bletchington and other villages). If you are new to the village, it's a great way to make new friends, or if you have been here for a long time, give us a try – you will be very welcome. Our WI meets at Weston village hall every month except August, on the third Wednesday at 7:30pm. In addition, we have theatre and other visits, plus occasional coffee mornings and lunches. We also have a craft afternoon on the 4th Monday at 2pm and walks on the 2nd Monday at 1:30pm (both of which were WI initiatives although you don't need to be a member to take part in these).

We'd love to see you - please contact our secretary Lyn Barnett on 01869 350707 or email her on wotg.wi@gmail.com if you would like to know more.

Recycle with carrier bags at your local store, not kerbside

How many times have you read this instruction, or something very similar, and wondered what it means? We're very keen on recycling at home, as I hope are most if not all of our readers, and are anxious to do the right thing.

Cherwell has an excellent reputation for recycling, and I rather hoped that if I put all our recyclable plastic in the blue bin then the council would be able to sort it into 'bag plastic' and other types. Otherwise we would have yet another bag of recyclable plastic cluttering up our already cluttered kitchen, or outside in the rain. And then you have to remember to take it with you to the Co-op or Sainsbury's or wherever, and inevitably forget time after time. So we've been putting it all in the blue bin.

But the other day I read the instruction again and in a fit of guilt mixed with curiosity I rang up Cherwell DC Recycling and enquired how and why the system is meant to work. I got a surprising answer, but also a convenient solution.

So: Don't mix the different plastics in your blue bin, as they are difficult to separate from each other. Put all the usual recyclable plastics, with paper, cardboard etc in your blue bin, except the 'bag plastic'. Instead, put the bag plastic in the bin at the Co-op/Sainsbury's or in the green bin with all your other rubbish, which all gets sorted after collection anyway, when separating bag plastics from the rest of the rubbish is a lot easier than sorting from other plastics.

As they say, SORTED!

From your Cherwell District councillors **Launton & Otmoor District Update – March 2023**

Spring really is just round the corner hopefully, although the recent cold snap reminded us that winter had not quite given up yet. As always, we hope you are staying safe.

We are available, as always, on **01869 717712** or via email at:

gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or
angus.patrick@cherwell-dc.gov.uk



London Road level crossing

Some of you have asked how this is progressing, and the sorry answer is, very slowly. We are committed to keeping the crossing open to avoid cutting off half of Bicester and requiring people to go round the ring road to get to the other side of town. There are several options which keep coming to the table, yet no decision has yet been made. These include an overpass or underpass for pedestrians and vehicles, or a cycle and foot bridge only. There are more consultations planned, and we meet regularly with EWR to question them on this. We have support from OCC members on this as well. This missed opportunity when the Bicester Town station was re-developed is a real pain point for all us and we will continue to represent your views on this and push to a resolution, with a recent motion passed at the full Council meeting in February.

Local housing land supply and the Local Plan

As we mentioned last month, the Local Plan came before the Leadership Executive committee at CDC and a decision was postponed indefinitely while they considered comments from the Overview and Scrutiny committee. No change there I am afraid, however one positive development (no pun intended) to note is a new Housing Land Supply figure was agreed. The UK government requires councils to plan for and accommodate a housing land supply that exceeds 5 years. Essentially calculating the number of houses needed and the amount of land available in the area. We have been short on that figure, 3.5 years, and so speculative development has been fairly rampant, including in Launton, as developers point at this and say “you need to build these houses anywhere”. The CDC Executive recently passed a revised land supply figure of 5.4 years due to a number of recent changes. Pending ratification by HM Planning Inspectorate, this will close that “loophole” and should make this development much more difficult to approve.

Keep an eye on up-to-date information on road closures - more details can be found at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/roadworks/future-transport-projects/ploughley-road-a41-junction>

Voter ID for elections 2023

Just a reminder that you will need a form of ID to take with you to the polling station for the May elections. You can find out more about Voter ID at the CDC website: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/voterid>.

That's it!

Thank you for reading all the way to the bottom if you have! Please do get in touch on **01869 717712** or via email at gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or angus.patrick@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.

Cllr Gemma Coton & Angus Patrick

Kirtlington & Bletchington Historical Society



The variety of subject-matter at the society's meetings was well demonstrated in January and February. The **January** talk by **Carol Anderson, Over the Hills to Glory**, focused on the womenfolk of wretchedly poor, striking farm labourers in the small Oxfordshire village of Ascott-under-Wychwood at a time of agricultural depression in the 1870s. After several weeks of no labour, the workers' principal employer imported two young men to plant one of his fields. The wives, mothers and sisters of the strikers picketed the field to dissuade them from working there. Sixteen of the women, two with babies, were arrested, prosecuted and given short sentences to include hard labour at Oxford Gaol. This

heavy-handed treatment caused an outcry including a near riot in Chipping Norton involving perhaps 2,000 people which led to questions in the Commons. The Home Secretary intervened to commute the hard labour and, on release, the women returned in triumph to their village. Sadly, there was no long-term improvement in agricultural sector wages and a number of the families involved emigrated over the next few years. But the story of the bravery and unjust treatment of the so-called **Ascott Martyrs** endures.

In **February**, art-historian and writer **James Hamilton** gave a highly illustrated talk on the life of the British artist, **John Constable**, based on his recently-published biography. He described Constable's long struggle to get elected to the Royal Academy, an honour which his contemporaries like Turner and Wilkie achieved at a much younger age. At a time when fashion favoured portraiture or mythical and historical scenes, Constable's preference for close observation of the countryside featuring ordinary people made little impact on the artistic establishment.



Even when he finally became a member of this establishment. Constable once demonstrated how unfashionable his work was by submitting one of his landscapes anonymously to a selection committee of which he was himself a member only to have it rejected by his colleagues. Once they discovered it was by him, they changed their minds, but he insisted they stick to their original view. Dr Hamilton argued successfully that whereas we now think of Constable as the high-priest of conservative nostalgia, in his own time he was a real radical, promoting landscape as a subject in its own right rather than as a theatrical backdrop to more high-flown ideas, and thereby paving the way for the Impressionists.

Paul Clifford

The Mystery Pairs Darts Evening

On 25th February, Bletch Babes hosted a Mystery Pairs Darts Evening at the Sports & Social Club.



What a fantastic turnout for their Bowel Cancer UK charity fundraiser! 32 players turned out which meant there would be 16 mixed pairs. Fixtures were drawn and games had begun by 8pm. Play continued up to the final when proceedings paused for a supper of chilli, cheese and crusty bread. This was followed by the raffle.

Congratulations to everyone who won a raffle prize. Winners, including those who were not present on the evening have all been notified.

The winners who eventually took home the trophies were **Hailey Pollard** and **Steve Blake**.

Runners-up were **Sue Hendron** and **Joe Palmer**.

Steve Blake also won the special prize of a bottle of champagne for scoring the most 180s during the evening.

Well done to the winners, but also a big thank you to everyone who took part.

The total amount raised was an amazing **£871.30**.

Bletch Babes would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported them once again in their fundraising efforts: "We couldn't do it without you all, whether you bought raffle tickets, took part playing or donated money or prizes, and a massive thank you to ALL the businesses that donated fantastic prizes and to Bletchington Sports & Social Club and the staff too!"

Well done, Bletch Babes, for raising so much money for such a well deserving cause.

*Tournament winners Steve Blake and Hailey Pollard
with their trophies*



BLETCHINGTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Bletchington Sports & Social Club is situated at the end of the drive in the playing field on Oxford Road. The Sports field used to be located in the grounds of Bletchington Park. It moved to the current location which was owned by Lord Valentia and was rented to the village to use for football and cricket. In the 1960s Lord Rotherwick generously donated the land to the village. The original clubhouse was described as "a very basic structure". The first bar was opened on 19th March 1978 by Mr Arthur Eeley. The go-ahead to build the current clubhouse was given by the committee in 1980 at a cost of £50,000 and was extended around ten years ago adding the veranda and scoreboard.

The club is self-funded and run entirely by volunteers from the village. We offer memberships throughout the year that are renewed on 1st September. Memberships cost just £15 for a family, £10 for an individual and £5 for senior citizens and U18's. You are more than welcome to come in for a drink.

We currently have 4 youth football teams (U16, U13, U10 & U9), 3 Cricket Teams, 2 Bar Billiards Teams, 3 Darts Teams, a Quiz Team, Aunt Sally, and a Cribbage Team who all base themselves at the Club. We also have a very active social committee who regularly host Bingo, Live Music and other events that are generally free admission and open to everyone. We have Sky Sports, Darts, Pool and a Billiards Table. We generally open for any major televised sporting events.

Our opening hours vary during the week, but we are always open from 7:30pm on Friday and Saturday evenings. More details can be found on our Facebook page. Please join our Facebook page for details of opening hours and events.



We are able to offer use of the clubhouse outside of normal hours for Private Events such as Christenings and Funeral Wakes. If you would like to make use of the facilities drop into the club or make contact with a member of the committee to check availability. We can also accommodate parties during normal opening times, but members will still be permitted to use the bar.

Club News

The Club now opens on a Friday evening at 5:00pm. There will be a Mystery Pairs pool competition coming soon.

Polite Notice

There is a public footpath that runs from Oxford Road through the sports field. If you use this, we would be grateful if you could keep dogs on leads and clean up behind them. This helps us keep the area safe for the children and sports teams that use the facilities.

We have also experienced some damage to the clubhouse where ball games have been played against the building. These are costly repairs, and we respectfully ask that this is avoided.

Men's Darts: The team play in the King's Arms Invitation League on Wednesday evenings and are currently in 3rd place in the Singles league and 4th place in the Pairs.

Ladies Darts: The Wednesday night team currently sit in 3rd place with 2 games to go in the Premier and Section 1 League of the Oxford and District Darts Association League.

Bletchington Nomads – Quiz Team: Two weeks to go in the Oxfordshire Quiz League winter season and the Nomads haven't disgraced themselves in their first season in the Premiership. Results in the past few weeks have included victories over two top Premiership sides, one of which ended the 22-match unbeaten run of champions elect, the Ploughman's Bunch! No trophies but still a successful season.

The Online Quiz League season also approaches its end and a safe midtable finish looks likely for the Nomads. They are the second highest scorers in the division but seem to bring out the best in the opposition.

Bar Billiards: Playing in the Witney & District Bar Billiards League, the "A" Team led by Pete Soanes have won Division 1 - congratulations to them. The "B" Team are currently 3rd in Division 2 with Scott Gillam at the helm.

Cricket: Indoor Net Practice has started. Please visit the cricket club website at www.obncc.play-cricket.com for details and times.

Aunt Sally: Entries into the Oxford & District League will soon be invited. If you fancy joining us, come down to the Club and put your name down.

Cribbage: The crib team play their games on Monday evenings from September to June. The team consists of six local players, with additional players available when necessary, and have been playing together for the last 7 years. Originally based at the Rock of Gibraltar in Enslow, the team relocated to the Sports & Social Club in 2019 when the pub closed. The team consists of 3 pairs, competing in the Witney & District Crib League, which consists of two sections of 20 teams covering an area from Bampton to Bletchington and all points in between! There are also a number of cup competitions throughout the season. Since its creation the team have been fortunate to win several trophies and are currently sitting third in the league, with a few games in hand, so are hoping to add the league title (again) to their achievements.

The game of crib, or to give it its formal name of cribbage, is known to date back to the 17th Century. It is mentioned in Charles Dickens' Old Curiosity Shop and was also popular among prospectors in the American West (the small mining town of Nelson, Montana, to this day has a sign proclaiming it the "Cribbage Capital of the World"!). The objective of the game is to be the first player/pair to score a target of 121 points. Points, recorded on the crib board, are scored for showing certain jacks, playing the last card, for card combinations adding up to 15 or 31, and for pairs, triples, quadruples (cards the same), runs and flushes.

Like many other older 'pub' games it is usually played by adults in their later years (most of our team were taught by their grandparents when they were younger), and as youngsters find other means of entertainment this results in very little 'fresh blood' coming into the game. Therefore, if anyone wishes to learn the game, either old or young, please contact the team captain, Dave Callicott on 01865 841803 for further information.

What's On at the Club?

SATURDAY 1st April – EASTER BINGO (eyes down 8pm)

SUNDAY 9th April - Family Rounders Tournament and Easter Egg Hunt (1:00pm)

Please register your interest at www.project-active.co.uk/events

SATURDAY 22nd April – RACE NIGHT (8:30pm)

SATURDAY 13th May – CASH BINGO (eyes down 8pm)



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

'Their Finest Hour' Collections Day **aims to preserve Second World War memories**

- **Share your family's Second World War stories and objects to be digitized for an online archive**
- **Opening from 11am - 3pm, Saturday 1st April 2023**
- **Museum Open Day - free admission to the museum throughout the day**
- **See Second World War living history displays, kit displays, and art exhibitions in the museum galleries**

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) is looking for people to bring their stories and objects relating to the Second World War to their Digital Collection Day at the museum in Woodstock on 1st April 2023 from 11am - 3pm. The event is part of a nationwide campaign organised by 'Their Finest Hour', a team based at the University of Oxford and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is collecting and preserving the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War. As these stories are fast fading from living memory, it is vital that they - and the wartime objects that often accompany them - are preserved for future generations.

At the Digital Collection Day, stories about your family's wartime experience – and associated objects such as diaries, letters, medals, journals and ration books – will be recorded, digitised, and then uploaded to the 'Their Finest Hour' online archive, which will be free-to-use and launch in June 2024. To encourage even more people to drop in and share their stories, the SOFO Museum will waive its normal admission fee on the day - entry will be free to all on 1st April.

SOFO will also be hosting a range of other Second World War-themed events and exhibitions on the day. Visitors will be able to enjoy displays from 1940s living historians inside the museum, a recently installed replica Anderson Shelter, as well as a number of exhibitions. Attending Living History groups will include Winstan (Churchill), Doing Their Bit (Home Front), Oxfordshire Home Guard and Ham & Jam (Second World War British Airborne troops). Collector John Noott's expansive exhibition, *The Art of World War II*, will showcase a diverse range of perspectives of the era all produced during the conflict, while the Aces High gallery will have a range of impressive prints - including many signed by veterans - up for sale.

Visitors can talk to museum staff on the day about donating items to the museum's own collection if they wish, but the focus will be on digitisation - photographing objects, recording stories and scanning documents - so original items can remain with their families. Dr Stuart Lee, *Their Finest Hour* project leader, said, "We know from previous projects that people have so many wonderful objects, photos, and anecdotes which have been passed down from family members which are at risk of getting lost or being forgotten. Our aim is to empower local communities to digitally preserve these stories and objects before they are lost to posterity." The project team is especially interested in collecting contributions from people from underrepresented backgrounds in order to increase the diversity of people benefiting from Second World War heritage.



With often limited parking in Woodstock, Blenheim Palace will also be kindly supporting this event, offering free parking to those attending to share their stories. The museum is just a short walk into town through the palace's Woodstock Town gate.

An 'Unconventional Warrior' **an online talk to explore who T. E. Lawrence really was**

- Online Talk and live Q&A available on the museum website from 7pm, Tuesday, 18th April 2023
- Exploring the real story of behind the Oxford-educated 'Lawrence of Arabia'
- Free to view, this a fundraising event with donations encouraged in support of Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust
- Free to view on the museum's website, with donations welcome

Video Link: <https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/telwarencetalk/>

An online talk, streaming live and on demand from the Woodstock museum's website, will be available from 7pm, 18th April 2023 which will look at the myth and reality behind 'Lawrence of Arabia'. Brigadier (Retired) Hugh Willing CBE will discuss the story of Oxford-educated Thomas Edward Lawrence, popularly known as 'Lawrence of Arabia' for his role in campaigns during the Great War and in the Arab Revolt from 1916-18. Describing Lawrence as an 'unconventional warrior' the talk will try to get to grips with who he really was.

To the war-weary British in 1916, TE Lawrence rapidly became a hero - "Lawrence of Arabia" - the man who seemed a gallant brother to the Arabic people as they fought to gain their freedom from their Turkish overlords in the Ottoman Empire. But were Lawrence's motives as clear-cut as the legend suggests - was he far less interested in the freedom of the Arabs than in the future of Britain as a Middle Eastern power?

For those that watch the event live, Hugh's talk will be followed by a live Q&A session allowing viewers to get their questions answered. Like previous online events SOFO Museum has hosted, the talk will also become available to view on-demand from the following day. Live or on-demand, the talk will remain free to watch - but viewers will be encouraged to support the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum with a donation. Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust aims to preserve the county's military heritage for future generations in its archives and museum, and tell stories through events like these.



Dear neighbouring Villagers,

As some of you may be aware, despite being a successful, viable business and hub of the Weston-on-the-Green community (even in the wake of COVID and recent postal strikes), the Weston Pantry and Post Office is now looking to be sold.

As we consider the value this service offers to our neighbouring communities, we feel you may share our concerns that in placing the business on the open market, we may encounter a new owner who may not be so community-focused; or that the shop may eventually be converted into a residential dwelling and lost as an amenity to all of those it serves so successfully.

As such, a committee has been appointed, chaired by Sam Sharp with a simple aim in mind – to maintain a Shop and Post Office amenity. Nothing is off the table in terms of how that can be achieved, and we would welcome any ideas, feedback or support from you, our neighbours should you have any.

You can contact us via committee@weston-sos.org if you have anything to share and follow our progress or find out more via our website: weston-sos.org and our Facebook page: 'Weston SOS'.

Kindly,
The Weston 'SOS' Committee



Oxfordshire Community Land Trust Hits Half a Million Pounds Investment Milestone to Build Affordable Housing

Can it Keep Going?

The Oxfordshire Community Land Trust, a grassroots initiative providing sustainable housing solutions through a Community Land Trust model, has achieved a remarkable milestone – they have raised half a million pounds in investments to fund their very first development to house residents on the Vale of White Horse Housing List.

This ground-breaking achievement means they will now be able to reduce their reliance on costly debt finance, at a time when loan interest rates are rising. Fran Ryan, the Trust's co-founder and secretary said: "I am incredibly proud of OCLT's achievement. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has invested in the trust. By investing, we can avoid rising loan interest rates and build more affordable homes for Oxfordshire." OCLT are tackling this problem head-on by providing genuinely affordable housing that will remain affordable forever. Construction of their first development, Crofts Court, is due for completion this Summer. To complete the project and build more affordable homes, they are still looking for investors.

Oxfordshire is in the grip of a severe housing crisis. Average house prices are 15.3x the average salaries, making it the second least affordable city in Britain. Over 900 houses are second homes, and the number of holiday lets is increasing.

This is a unique opportunity to make a positive impact on the community and earn a return on your investment. The Trust has been overwhelmed by the response and is now 108% of their target of £500,000. However, they have extended their deadline and will continue their journey to secure further investment until 12th April 2023. By investing, people can help OCLT create a lasting legacy of permanently affordable homes in Oxfordshire.

Investors can visit www.ethex.org.uk/invest/OCLT

More information on the Trust's work can be found here: <https://www.oclt.org.uk/>
and with regard to the Share Offer here: www.oclt.org.uk/crofts-court

OCLT is run by volunteers. It will continue to depend on the generosity of grant funders and donors until we have a big enough portfolio of permanently affordable homes to generate a small income to support an office. If you would like to help this innovative, equitable and sustainable approach to housing please [join us](#), and/or become a [supporter member](#).

We are also always interested in land and housing opportunities for the provision of permanently affordable homes.

Capital is at risk and returns are not guaranteed.

Oxfordshire School Aged Immunisation Service

The School Aged Immunisation Service offer the following vaccines to eligible school aged children aged 5 to 16:

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
- Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio (TDP)
- Meningitis (ACWY)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Flu (seasonal)

If your child is educated at home:

- They can attend a local Community Based Clinic
- Please contact us (details below) to book into a clinic and to provide consent

If your child is in school:

- They will be offered their vaccinations at School
- The School will contact you directly with details

Contact us through our web address, by scanning the QR code or by calling 07920 254400

Or visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms

To translate our webpages to other languages please click:



Bletchingdon | Enslow | Heathfield

YOUR COUNCIL MATTERS

"DEVELOPING A THRIVING, INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE, RURAL COMMUNITY"

Latest News

Coronation Plans

Bletchingdon Parish Council will be supporting the volunteers who have come forward to organise an event for Bletchingdon. If all goes well, there will be plenty of ways for people to celebrate this special occasion at our Village Hall on Sunday 7th May 2023.

Please look out for more information nearer the time.



Spring Clean

By the time you read this article, the Spring Clean has already taken place. Bletchingdon Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers for donating their time and effort to making our Village cleaner.

Photo identification (photo ID) now required for voting.

From 4th May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. For more details, please visit the following site;

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>



Annual Meeting of the Parish

When: Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7:30pm.

Where: Bletchingdon Village Hall

All Parishioners are invited to attend this meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet your Councillors face to face, find out what they have been doing over the past year and a chance to ask any questions you may have.

IN OTHER NEWS

Save the Date

Buckingham Palace has announced that the Coronation of His Majesty The King will take place on Saturday 6th May, 2023. The Coronation Ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey, London, and will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.



Next Meetings

**26th April and 24th
May 2023 - The
Village Hall.**

Visit our website for information on public attendance and participation at Council Meetings.

Primary Contact

Fiona Mason - Parish Clerk. | Tel: 351967 | eMail: bletchpc@gmail.com

The clerk is based in the Village Hall on a flexible part-time basis, but will respond to all messages at her earliest convenience.

www.bletchingdonparishcouncil.co.uk

Volunteers needed for the new tree on Valentia Close.

Oxfordshire County Council's Tree Service have secured enough funds to plant one new tree, per Parish and Bletchingdon is getting one on Valentia Close. Oxfordshire County Council are seeking any local volunteers who may be able to maintain this tree for the first few years to ensure it stays healthy. Maintenance will mainly consist of watering, weeding, upkeep of the ties, supports and cage, topping up mulch and reporting any issues to the Tree Service. Please contact the Clerk if you could assist with this.



Planning Matters. January & February 2023



New Applications Put Forward

22/03585/F – Bletchingdon Park Estate C/O Perdix Partnership – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – The proposal is a new design to a permitted building on site. The proposed alteration to the design will maximise ventilated convection and significantly increase drying time and vertical capacity for stored feed and bedding, a modern interpretation of the Tythe Barn system, to serve the surrounding land.

22/03588/LB & 22/03587/F – Bletchingdon Park Estate C/O Perdix Partnership – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – Addition of a water basin with a fountain sculpture west of the house.

22/03618/LB – Bletchingdon Park Estate C/O Perdix Partnership – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – Repairs to the stonework of the existing Plunge Pool structure, the forming of a new formal capping to the façade to the front and the construction of a protective metal roof over the existing stone dome.

22/03709/F – Dwyer Property – Starbucks, Part of by A34 Weston on The Green, Bicester OX25 3QQ – Addition of a drive through facility and associated parking changes.

22/03712/F – A Gallyer – Panthers Hill Cottage, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DJ – Two-storey side extension and roof extensions with associated internal works – resubmission of 22/02122/F.

22/03775/F & 22/03776/LB – Mr Heren – The Old Rectory, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – New gate piers and flanking walls forming front entrance to the Old Rectory.

23/00039/TCA – Ms Tania Ruck Keeny – 1 Bletchingdon Park Stables, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DN – T1 x Chestnut – Reduce the height of the canopy by up to 2 meters and crown raise to up to 3 meters.

23/00074/DISC – The Bletchingdon Park Estate C/O Perdix Partnership – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – Discharge of conditions 9 (plumbing), and 10 (historic floors) of 18/01970/LB.

23/00143/DISC – The Bletchingdon Park Estate C/O Perdix Partnership – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – Discharge of conditions 6 (subterranean works), and 11 (lift insertion method statement) of 18/01970/LB.

23/00142/DISC – The Bletchingdon Park Estate C/O Perdix Partnership – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – Discharge of condition 6 (subterranean works) of 18/01969/F.

22/03719/OUT – Gurbax Singh, OS Parcels 7977 8962 and 9553, Lince Lane, Kirtlington - Erection of 9 no new live/work units, each with C3 residential and integral B1 office – on former quarry land/more recently agricultural use site – all matters reserved except for access.



Applications Approved

x22/01146/F – Frogsnest Farm, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DS – Change of use of Agricultural Barn to Residential Accommodation (Use class C3).

22/02929/TPO – Allotments, Oxford Road, Bletchingdon – T1 (Plane) – Remove lower subsiding branch to north east; remove x2 lower to east; remove lower branch to the south. Raise the remaining crown height to approximately 5 meters high primarily targeting the removal or pruning of secondary branches to achieve the necessary height – subject to TPO 01/2011.

22/03292/F & 22/03539/LB – Manor Barn, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Installation of conservation rooflights in existing building.

22/03554/F – 6 Valencia Close, Bletchingdon OX5 3DF – Two storey extension.

22/03587/F – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon, Kidlington OX5 3DW – Addition of a water basin with a fountain sculpture west of the house.

23/00039/TCA – 1 Bletchingdon Park Stables, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DN – T1 x Chesnut – Reduce the height of the canopy by up to 2 meters and crown raise to up to 3 meters.

Councillors, Responsibilities & Contacts



Name	Role	Address	Contact Number:
Chris Lane	Chair	Village Farm	350257
Matt Whitehead	Vice Chair	Rogers Cottage, Station Rd.	350991
Mark Taylor	Councillor	Stoneacre, Oxford Rd.	350609
Duncan Ledger	Councillor	3 Islip Road	351542
Rachel Pirie	Councillor	12 Valentia Close	07790 025110
Dan Robins	Councillor	Four View, Oxford Rd.	350007
Nicola Morris	Councillor	The Stables, Islip Road	351025

District Councillors:

Gemma Coton - Gemma.Coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Angus Patrick - Angus.Patrick@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Simon Holland - Simon.Holland@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

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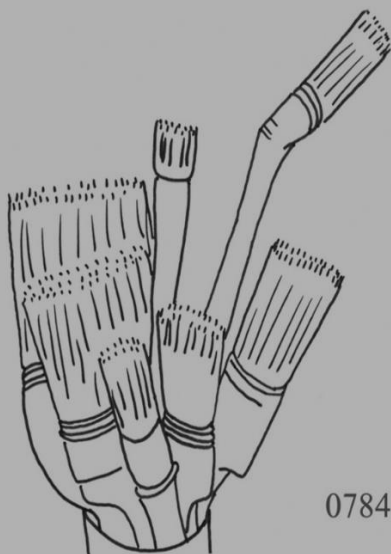
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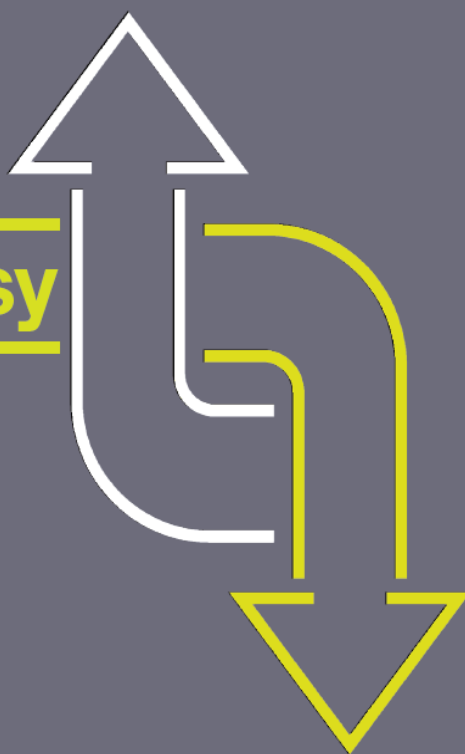
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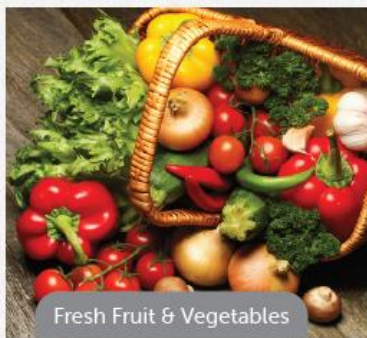
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