

BLETCHINGTON

VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE – SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1979

ISSUE 266

October – November 2023



Autumnal scene on the Village Green

Reports from village organisations

Spotlight on the Sports & Social Club

Bletchington FC – Latest

Caring for our Elderly

Rise and Shine

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB



The Road to the Clubhouse



The Club bar



Live music – Sparky & Sprite



Running event at the Club

BLECHINGTON FC MEN'S SQUAD 2023-24



Back row: Wayne Hawood, Jimmy Deabill, Andy White, Jordan Okwesa, Steve Barker, Riaz Slavik-Ali, Miles Weston, Joseph Brady, Andrew Peet, Chris Fennell, Adam Wells, Vinny Barrett, Martin Coates.

Front row: Adam Riseley, Jake Simpson, Alex Robinson, Chris Thorne, Richard Wells, Corban Ridgway, Archie Pepper, Dan Willoughby.

Huge thank you to our sponsor **Serco** for supplying our matchday kit.

EDITORIAL

Congratulations to the Lionesses on reaching the final of the Women's World Cup. They put up a great performance throughout the tournament but, unfortunately, were unable to bring home the trophy, being beaten 1-0 by Spain in the final. So England's search for a first Football World Cup win since 1966 continues. Nevertheless, the girls should be proud of their achievements and the legacy to women's football will be felt for many years to come. It can only be a matter of time before we see a Bletch Ladies' team competing for local glory. A big thank you to the Sports & Social Club for opening up on the Sunday morning to show the final on TV.

Towards the end of July, my Village News colleague, Ian, and myself plus several others from Bletchington attended a very interesting talk at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, given by Charles Eldridge. The subject of the talk was "A One Place Study – Bletchingdon 1737-1947". It was given primarily for the Oxfordshire Family History Society, but Bletchington residents were also invited to attend. Charles talked about the development of the village over the defined period, both the buildings and the families who lived here. This was all backed up with a fine selection of old photographs of the village. A short Questions & Answers session followed. Everyone in attendance appeared to find the talk very interesting. Thanks, Charles, for sharing your research with us.

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 including any fundraising activities. 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. Please get in touch with us via e-mail at bletchnews@gmail.com. The deadline for articles is now the **18th of the month** prior to publication – so articles for inclusion in the December/January magazine must reach us by **18th November, 2023**.

bletchnews@gmail.com

Pete Baker

Village News advertising

The cost of advertising in Bletchington Village News has not increased since 2000. What else costs the same now as it did at the turn of the century? But with printing costs soaring, particularly during the last year, we are no longer able to sustain those prices. In order to continue producing your community magazine, free to readers, reluctantly we have decided, with effect from 2024, to increase our advertising rates by around 33%. We believe the new rates still represent excellent value for advertisers. Since 2000:

- Circulation has increased by at least 60 copies per edition, following the completion of the new Duchy Field development plus other newly built properties
- Average number of pages per edition has increased
- Overall quality of the magazine has been enhanced with the addition of a full colour cover

We do hope the new rates will not deter existing advertisers from renewing annual subscriptions and, if you run a local business and do not currently advertise with us, please consider doing so. As a free magazine for readers, we are reliant upon the support of local businesses, through advertising. If you take out an annual subscription in time for our next edition, December/January, you will be charged at the old rates.

Sports & Social Club subscriptions

Don't forget subscriptions for membership of the Sports & Social Club became due on 1st September. If you are a member, please remember to renew and, if you are not, why not consider joining? With no pub currently open in the village, the Club is the sole opportunity for residents to meet up for a convivial drink. Volunteer run, drink prices at the bar are generally cheaper than in local pubs, and members can enjoy various social events such as live music and bingo. Everyone is most welcome here.

Wednesday Café

The Wednesday morning Café at the Village Hall has resumed once again, following its summer break. Opening time is 8:45 to 11:45am. Come along for teas, coffees, bacon sandwiches and delicious homemade cakes. And, of course, friendly conversation – this is great opportunity to meet up with your fellow villagers and perhaps make some new friends. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. Tumble Tots sessions run alongside the Café, in the main hall on Wednesday mornings.

Glass recycling

The bottle banks have now been re-sited. They are very close to their previous location in Oxford Road, opposite the entrance to the playing field and Sports & Social Club, but have been re-orientated so they are now at right-angles to the road and have a smart new convenient pathway leading up to them.

Please try to recycle all your glass using this facility, and be sure to place the bottles in the correct bin. If you should find the bins full, please do NOT dump your bottles on the floor – take them home and try again later. Full bottle banks can be reported to Cherwell District Council on-line or on 01295 227003.



Clean up after your dog and your horse

Following on from our news item last edition where residents were reminded of the need to clean up after their dogs, a Duchy resident writes: “It’s lovely to see the horses on the Duchy Field development. But could I kindly ask riders not to let their horses foul the footpath - or at the very least clean it up. It’s not acceptable. Thank you”. Footnote from the Editor: As it’s not a legal requirement to clean up after horses, perhaps the gardeners amongst us could clear up any surplus horse manure and make appropriate use of it.

Cake Sale

Look out for a pop-up Cake Sale some time in October, weather permitting, to be hosted by Bletch Babes, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Date has yet to be determined, with weather forecast to be taken into account. Watch out for details appearing in the village Facebook page and BletchNet. These events have always been very well supported in the past, with some delicious cakes on offer, and generous amounts of money raised for Macmillan and other good causes.

Our 24 Bus



A reminder to use our smart, comfortable and reliable bus.

Currently at £2 per journey the bus remains great value.

Whether to cut your carbon footprint or to save the cost of fuel, please think about taking the bus.

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:

19th August Adam Timson & Josephine Pilling Wedding

We extend our very best wishes to Adam and Josephine for their life together.

11th September Penny Marsden Funeral

Penny and her family lived for many years at "Quincotts" on Islip Road. She was part of the team involved in refurbishing the church at the millennium. We extend our sympathy to all Penny's family.

Harvest

A big thank you to all who decorated our churches for harvest, and who helped prepare harvest lunches, suppers, breakfasts and other events.

Hallowe'en Festival of Lights

A special Hallowe'en-tide afternoon of activities, especially for younger ones – at Chesterton Community Hall on Sunday 29th October from 15:00-16:30. Come along and bring your friends and family.

All Saints' Tide

As All Saints' Church, Middleton Stoney will be closed for refurbishment, we will be holding our All Saints' Tide service at Weston-on-the-Green on Sunday 29th October at 10:30. We are delighted to be able to welcome the Hexachord Choir to this service, who will be singing Byrd's 4-part Mass.

All Souls' Sunday

We will observe All Souls' Day this year on Sunday 5th November. This is our chance to remember our deceased relatives and friends, especially (but not only) those who have died in the past year. There is also a chance to light a candle in memory of loved ones. In Bletchington our All Souls' Service takes place at 11:00.

Remembrance Sunday

This will be observed this year on 12th November. Bletchington's Remembrance Service takes place at 10:45.

Choral Concert

On the evening of Saturday 2nd December there will be a choral concert by the group 'Cantores', who come to us highly recommended. It will be in Kirtlington Church – time and price to be decided. Please book this date now.

Children's Choir Event

During the autumn we will be coming into the schools to invite children to take part in a children's choir event on Advent Sunday, 3rd December at 16:00 in Kirtlington Church. More information to follow. This should be a fun occasion!

Swedish Visitors



In September we welcomed a party of 22 visitors from our link parish of Mönsterås och Fliseryd in Sweden. They had a most enjoyable time. Huge thanks to all those who acted as hosts, helped with food, and in many other ways. This link is now very well established, and is proving a blessing and inspiration to our churches in both countries.

These young people were part that group. We enjoyed "fica", a mid-morning snack, in the church. As the photo shows, some Swedish folk are now up to speed on the DON/TON debate.

Christ Church Cathedral – St. Frideswide Pilgrimage

Taking place on Saturday 14th October between 14:00 and 17:00, join one of five guided walks around the diocese or simply make your own way to Christ Church Cathedral, entering via Tom Gate. Explore the Cathedral with the help of 'Five in Five' – five minute talks on five of our greatest treasures. Enjoy tea in the Great Hall for just £6 (free for under 8s). Take part in children's activities in the Chapter House. Then gather for a Pilgrim Service at 17:00. Booking is essential for this special event – please book on-line at: chch.ox.ac.uk/pilgrimage.

Church services for October & November

OCTOBER 2023	Sunday 1st <i>Trinity 17 Stewardship</i>	Sunday 8th <i>Trinity 18 Stewardship</i>	Sunday 15th <i>Trinity 19 Stewardship</i>	Sunday 22nd <i>Trinity 20</i>	Sunday 29th <i>All Saints</i>
Bletchington	09:30 Breakfast Church		09:30 Holy Communion	11:00 Holy Communion	
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Comm. (said) 11:00 Harvest Service	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Worship		15:00 'Light Festival' at Community Centre
Hampton Gay		11:00 Harvest Matins			
Kirtlington	11:00 Holy Communion	09:30 Holy Comm. (said) 18:00 Evensong	11:00 Morning Worship & Holy Baptism		
Middleton Stoney	09:30 Morn. Worship		09:30 Holy Comm.		
Wendlebury	11:00 Holy Baptism & Morn. Worship		09:30 Breakfast Church		
Weston-on- the-Green	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Morning Worship	11:00 Holy Comm.		10:30 Holy Communion (with Hexachord)

NOVEMBER 2023	Sunday 5th <i>All Souls</i>	Sunday 12th <i>Remembrance</i>	Sunday 19th <i>Advent -2</i>	Sunday 26th <i>Advent -1</i>	
Bletchington	11:00 All Souls' Service	10:45 Remembrance Service	09:30 Holy Communion		
Chesterton	11:00 Family Service 16:00 All Souls' Serv.	10:45 Remembrance Service	11:00 Morning Worship	18:00 Stir-Up Service	
Hampton Gay					
Kirtlington	18:00 All Souls' Service	10:45 Remembrance Service 18:00 Holy Comm.	11:00 Morning Worship	09:30 Holy Communion (said)	
Middleton Stoney	09:30 All Souls' Service	09:45 Remembrance Service	09:30 Breakfast Church		
Wendlebury	16:00 All Souls' Serv.		09:30 Morn. Worship		
Weston-on- the-Green	18:00 All Souls' Service	10:45 Remembrance Service	11:00 Holy Communion		

CARING FOR OUR ELDERLY



Easily the oldest building in our village is the church. It's stood here for many centuries. It's been the scene of tears of joy at countless weddings and tears of sadness at innumerable funerals. It has echoed to the sound of babies and children, of choirs and organs. It has been a place of refuge where anyone can go at any time to share their thoughts and prayers, hopes and fears with their God. It still is all those things and we'd like it to be around for a good while yet. But it is under threat.

The threat doesn't come from blind bureaucracy at 'the centre'. No one in the general Anglican hierarchy or more locally has plans to re-organise our church out of existence or to close it. On the contrary, everyone responsible for it at every level wants it to flourish. But the simple fact is that it costs more to keep it open than the weekly congregation can afford.

Parish share (what we pay to the diocese as our proportion of paying and housing our clergy), heating, lighting, insurance, maintenance and myriad smaller bills all add up to more than the faithful few in the pews can contribute. External fundraising events: fetes, race nights, 200 clubs, quizzes, all help. But there is still a gap.

Before you reach for your pen or keyboard to demand to know why the wealthy Church of England or the government doesn't pay for the upkeep of our church, here are a couple of facts. The Church of England is wealthy but the money its capital earns each year goes to pay for the training of the clergy of tomorrow, for the pensions of many of the clergy of yesterday, for the upkeep of cathedrals and bishops' staffs and for mission projects around the country. Not, you will note, for the upkeep of individual churches. Government support is largely confined to waiving VAT on some maintenance bills. So responsibility for the 16,000 or so local churches rests, *as it almost always has*, with local communities.

When there is a need for a capital sum to repair the roof or porch or to install a toilet or automate the clock or replace the pews with chairs, the local community responds with overwhelming generosity. And there are capital grants to help with these things too. But, meanwhile, the drip-drip of ongoing regular financial commitments is wearing away the stone represented by the faithful people who make up the body of the Church.

Could you help? You may only go to church very occasionally or perhaps not at all. But you may value the church for its heritage and for what it still represents. You may have relations lying in the churchyard; perhaps a son or daughter was baptised or married in the church; maybe you have popped in on occasion to reflect or to have a word with God. In the near future a leaflet outlining ways in which you can contribute financially to your church should be in your hands. Please read it, consider its message and act on it if you can.

We do the best we can for our elderly folk even though we know they probably won't be with us for much longer. With the best we can do for our church it will be around for many years to come, still offering everything it did in the past to us and to future generations.

Thank you.

Paul Clifford, Licensed Lay Minister

OBITUARY

Penelope Rose Marsden – 30.7.1927–15.8.2023

Penny and Harry Marsden moved to Bletchingdon with their two small children (David and Sally) in 1953. They had more or less completed turning 'Cottage Row' (a row of 5 tiny cottages destined for demolition in the Islip Road) into one house, Quincotts, their dream home. Penny was a home maker and family was everything to her. It wasn't long before their family grew to fill the house with two more children (Robert and Nicholas). She was a tireless housewife, mother and gardener and as Harry turned half the huge garden into a wonderful vegetable plot, Penny turned the other half into a beautiful flower garden, with orchard and secret paths and places for the children to hide.

Penny loved living in Bletchingdon. As the children grew older, she and Harry threw themselves into helping organise Church fetes and Bazaars. Harry was Church Warden for many years and Penny, a Sidesman.

After Harry's death in 1997, Penny continued to help with church flowers and cleaning, often seen buzzing around in her mini, visiting family and friends, or delivering (and organising) Meals-on-Wheels. She was thrilled to see that a new village hall and school were being built and went to all the meetings, highlighting the need for safe road crossings. She enjoyed going to lunch at the Blacks Head, especially when Jane was landlady, and enjoyed meeting old friends from the village there.

Bletchingdon was very dear to her and central to her life. As Penny grew older, her memory and health began to fail, she went to live at Wytham care home, where she enjoyed the fun and activities, until it was time to say goodbye to the world and meet Harry again.

Sally Popplewell (Marsden)



Families are invited to

SAINTS ALIVE!

A FAMILY ACTIVITY AFTERNOON

with games, dragon-making, quiz, and refreshments

on Sunday 29th October, 3 – 4.30pm

**in Chesterton Community Centre,
Geminus Road, Chesterton OX26 1BJ**

To book this **free** event for your family contact:

Joanna on joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com

or Sue on sueeashdown@hotmail.co.uk



1st BLETCHINGTON BROWNIES

Welcome to our new Brownies who joined us in September. It's great to have so many of you.

This term we will be focussing on our Be Well theme award and learning first aid skills, completing wellbeing activities and looking at helping everyone around us.

Our Brownie units are almost full so if your daughter would like to join us at any point in the future, please register her now at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus.

We also run Rainbows in Woodstock for girls aged 4-7 and Guides in Woodstock for girls aged 10-14.

Our Trefoil group for anyone age 18+ meets monthly. We've solved murders in Oxford, been axe throwing, baking, geocaching, crafting and always have lots of fun. We'd love more people to join us so if you are interested please email us at girlguidingwoodstock@hotmail.co.uk.



Lorraine recently returned from the National Trefoil Walking week in Dartmoor. It was a great week; lots of hiking, amazing views, new friends, murder mystery and a huge cooked breakfast every day!

Bletch Diary

1 st October – 9:30am	St. Giles' Church – Breakfast Church
7 th October – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash bingo
14 th October – 9:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Live Music With Sledgehammer – 80s tribute band
29 th October – 4:00pm	Village Hall – “Spooktacular” Concert With Bletchington Silver Band
5 th November – 11:00am	St. Giles' Church – All Souls' Service
11 th November – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash bingo
12 th November – 10:45am	St. Giles' Church – Remembrance Service
18 th November – 9:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Live Music With Inter 60s – Hits of the Sixties

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – SHARED LIVES

ABBIE’S STORY

“It’s just such a lovely thing to do” – how being a shared lives carer can be something the whole family can enjoy

For Abbie and Sam Clayton, who live in Wallingford in South Oxfordshire, being a shared lives carer is part of their DNA.

Sam grew up sharing his family home with people with additional needs through the shared lives scheme. The innovative programme, run by Oxfordshire County Council, carefully matches adults with long term conditions with a caring household who can support them to live independently, often giving their full time carers a chance to take a break. And having seen what a positive experience the programme brought to his life, Sam and his wife Abbie wanted the same for their children.

Abbie said: “It’s great to have more people in the family. Rather than detracting from the children, it makes them appreciate diversity. It’s nice to see them growing up in an environment where they can provide that caring role as well. It really gives something back.”



Abbie and Sam Clayton and their two children

Abbie and Sam have been shared lives carers for 17 years, helping to support eight people during that time. The paid position comes with regular ongoing support and training, enabling them to feel confident that they’re providing an environment for their guests to flourish.

Abbie continues: “The most rewarding thing is seeing people grow and develop into the people they become, pushing them that extra mile to really be independent and experience life as part of the family. We get as much training as we need, especially around recognising each person as an individual. We have a really open communication with the shared lives team when we need it and other carers as well, so support is always available.”

Shared Lives carers come from all walks of life, from different backgrounds and live in all kinds of homes. If you are a naturally caring person and think you could support an adult with additional needs, you can find out more about the programme at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives or contact Molly Davies at Oxfordshire County Council by e-mail on molly.davies@oxfordshire.gov.uk or contact the Shared Lives Team on sharedlives@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Around the UK, over 9,000 Shared Lives carers open their homes and hearts to someone who needs support after hospital treatment, for mental ill health, dementia, learning disability, older age or for young people leaving care. In Oxfordshire, there are around 100 shared lives households offering short stays, support for a few hours a day, or somewhere to live longer term. Shared Lives carers receive a fee based on the level of support they offer, rent and bills, in return for including someone in their home and community life.

150 Shared Lives services – including the programme run through Oxfordshire County Council - carefully match people together based on interests in common, lifestyle and personalities. People can visit or live with a Shared Lives carers for a few weeks, or many years. Shared Lives care is consistently rated the best quality and safest form of care across the UK – 96% rated good or outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

KIRTLINGTON MORRIS

Not surprisingly I have little to report of Kirtlington Morris activities over the summer as our ongoing lack of members has very much affected what we are able to do. Apart from organizing a very successful Lamb Ale Morris Festival, we were at least able to dance out twice: once on our own at the King's Arms in Kidlington, and once with Eynsham Morris and other sides at the Mason's Arms in North Leigh.

But since Kirtlington finally and officially went 'mixed' in the spring we managed to get a few practices in with women recruits before the summer break, and by the time you read this we will have resumed practice (on Tuesday 26th September) and hope to be joined by more. No experience necessary, all genders, come singly or as a couple (or as a group!), 8pm Tuesdays at Kirtlington Village Hall. The more of us there are, the more we will be able to do next year.

And don't forget the social side; we always go for a beer after practice, currently at the King's Arms in Kidlington, a few minutes' drive away.

And that's it. Any questions, call me on 0787 185 6323. Hoping to see you on a Tuesday in the near future...

Nigel Holt

Kirtlington and Bletchington Historical Society

Crimea: A Russian Tragedy?

The Impact and Legacy of the First Crimean War

KATE WATSON

Thursday 26th October

China 1949: Year of Revolution

GRAHAM HUTCHINGS

Thursday 23rd November

Kirtlington Village Hall. Members free. Visitors £4. All welcome.

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.

History Corner

Edward the Confessor – our local King

Edward the Confessor was born just three miles away from Bletchington in the village of Islip, circa 1003. He was the son of King Ethelred the Unready who reigned between 978 and 1016 and Emma of Normandy. The name 'Confessor' refers to his pious nature (he was canonised in 1161). The family was exiled in France briefly in 1013 following a Danish invasion, but returned and Ethelred was reinstated as King until 1016 when the Danes, under Canute, seized control. Exiled again, Edward did not return until 1041 when Canute's son, Hardecanute, had become King. The two ruling factions were now integrated as Hardecanute, like Edward, was a son of Emma of Normandy, thus they were half-brothers. In ill health and unmarried with no known children, Hardecanute is believed to have invited Edward to be his successor. Emma may well have influenced this arrangement, in order to retain her own power by continuing to have one of her sons on the throne.

Edward reigned between 1042 and 1066 and is credited with restoring the rule of the House of Wessex, a dynasty dating back more than 200 years and included, amongst others, King Alfred the Great. Edward's coronation was at Winchester Cathedral on Easter Sunday, 1043. A significant event of Edward's reign was the construction of Westminster Abbey, which commenced between 1042 and 1052 as a royal burial church. It was consecrated in 1065, shortly before Edward's death, but was not completed until 1090. It remained in situ until 1245 when Henry III had it demolished, to be replaced by the new building which remains to this day.

Edward is often described by historians as an ineffective monarch, having to maintain good relations with powerful earls, notably Godwin, Earl of Wessex, but he managed to retain the crown and preserved the dignity of the monarchy over his 24 year reign. Edward's marriage to Edith of Wessex, daughter of Godwin in 1045 brought him closer to the Godwins, but it was always an uneasy alliance with that family. Godwin was arguably the most powerful person in the country and, upon his death in 1053, this position of power was assumed by his son, Harold Godwinson.

When Edward died early 1066, he left no direct heir but, amongst several potential claimants of the crown, it was inevitably taken by Harold Godwinson (Harold II) on the basis of family ties, being Edward's brother-in-law. Whether this was ever Edward's intention is open to debate – the Godwin's were a constant thorn in his side, but he may have reluctantly become reconciled to the idea that they would one day succeed him. William of Normandy (the Conqueror), a distant cousin, however, had other ideas, claiming Edward had promised the throne to him, again a matter open to historical debate. In October of 1066, William's conquest of England proved decisive.

BLETCHINGTON THURSDAY CLUB

In August we had a lovely trip to Bournemouth. The trip was opened up to all and everyone enjoyed it and had a good day.

In September we played skittles but as it was a hot day, we only had a few games. In October we will have our Harvest lunch and a talk on Children in times of war.

New members are always welcome. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2 o'clock in the Village Hall.



The Bletchingdon Community Foundation

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. 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



Village Hall for hire

Full details of prices and terms & conditions can be found on the Village Hall page of Bletchingdon Parish website, where you will also be able to download a booking form. Special community rates are available to residents of Bletchingdon and Hampton Poyle, using the hall for non-profit purposes. If you would like to enquire about booking the Village Hall, please drop an e-mail to: vh.bookings@thebcf.net.



The Charity is here for anyone who needs it

The purpose of the charity is to:

- **Relieve financial hardship.**
- **Reduce social isolation.**
- **Support education**

It is available for anyone living in the parish of Bletchington.

The origins of the Bletchington Charity date back several centuries, providing support for those in need, living in the village.

The cost-of-living crisis is affecting people throughout the country, including many people in our village. The Charity continues to offer financial assistance to anyone in the parish of Bletchington who is in need.

As reported at the BCF Public Meeting, the impact of Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis has adversely affected the Charity's finances. Cash reserves have been used up as a result of helping villagers through these crises, leaving the Charity with less funds available to distribute. The committee therefore has to scrutinise all grant applications carefully and be extra prudent in allocating funds. But please do not let this put you off applying for a grant – the committee will continue to give careful consideration to any reasonable requests for help.

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.bletchingdon-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
- Travel to school
- School uniform
- Sixth form grants
- University grants
- Help towards funeral costs
- Payment of over 75s television licence

PLEASE DO APPLY, this charity is here for all who live in Bletchingdon.

Applications will be considered at our meetings, generally quarterly, but an additional meeting has been scheduled for October. However, if the application is urgent, the committee will be able to consider it sooner.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9th October 2023. Applications to be in by 7th October.



BLETCHINGTON SILVER BAND

We have now completed our 2023 summer season. With lots of new music in our folders we set off for our first summer engagement at Duns Tew Fete which is a long-standing fixture of the Band's calendar and always a pleasure to play at especially as we are very kindly provided with complementary tea and cakes. The following weekend, we provided the musical entertainment at Boarstall Fete and Steam Rally which the band has played at for over two decades. The weather was fine this year so lots of people sat and listened to the music and could be heard singing along to 'The Rivers of Babylon' and 'I'm still Standing'. To round off the summer season, we travelled down the road to a very warm and sunny Kirtlington to play at their wonderful Fete where they always make us feel welcome. Sheldon, our Musical director, always chooses music to suitable for outside engagements that the audience can sing along and dance to and certainly our music seems to go down well.

Sunday 16th July saw our summer concert which, due to the covid pandemic, was our first one since 2019. In typical British summertime style, the day of concert there were signs of threatening clouds and strong winds but we were really keen to perform outside. We completed all the necessary tests to determine whether we could play and set up outside including sticking our arms out the doorway to see if it was raining to pegging a piece of paper to a stand and counting out many times the paper blows away and the stand falling over. Even though the results of our rigorous testing were slightly inconclusive, we decided to go for it and set up outside. The bunting was untangled and pulled out around the trees to help with the summer feel. The Band started the first half with a piece called "Bandology" which is a rousing concert opener. Our programme then included



a selection of music from Broadway, the Genesis classic "Afterglow" and we ended our first set with the foot tapping favourite "Proud Mary". It was then the turn of the fabulous B Band to entertain with their set of "Yellow Submarine", "Over the Rainbow", "Hey Jude" and finishing with "YMCA". This certainly got the audience (and the main band) up and dancing. Trying to remain optimistic about the British summer, the band started the second half with "I Do Like to be Beside the Seaside" followed by "Mr Blue Sky". However, this did not work, and the heavens opened. The show went on and the rest of the second half was performed in the hall which included our encore of "Sweet Caroline".

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful audience who attended this concert; who braved the weather and sat outside to listen to our concert and then to help the band carry chairs and equipment into the hall and to listen to the rest of the concert. It was very much appreciated and was great to perform to a large audience. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all at our "Spooktacular" Concert on Sunday 29th October at 4pm.

From your Cherwell District councillors - Launton & Otmoor District

Local Plan update

The public consultation dates for the local plan have now been published. The consultation will run from Friday 22nd September for six weeks and close on the 3rd November. The local plan sets out the planning policies for Cherwell and so this consultation period is a really good time to have your say on how you want Cherwell to grow and change. If you have any questions about the local plan or how to access the consultation please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Bicester Market Square

The Cherwell executive have approved hiring Town Centre regeneration consultants to look at Market Square in Bicester. The consultants will be looking at:

- the relocation of parking and wider impacts of parking within Bicester
- traffic movement and flows through Market Square and around the Town Centre, including access for existing businesses/users
- a full design of the Market Square public realm improvement project with full business case for the capital expenditure and future revenue impact from changes to car parking income and any future costs

Get in Touch

As always, please do get in touch!

Our emails are gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk and julian.nedelcu@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or phone us on 01869 717712.

All the best,
Gemma & Julian



WESTON ON THE GREEN WI

At our July meeting, Sarah Churchill gave us a very interesting talk on tuberculosis, which is still surprisingly common in this country. Thankfully treatment has improved and now a cocktail of antibiotics is given over several months. Sarah worked at the Churchill Hospital and her job involved ensuring that the medication (some not so easy to swallow) was being taken, often having to travel around the area as patients returned home. She had many facts and insights into her work and it was a very informative and thought-provoking evening, as well as entertaining.

We don't have a meeting in the summer, but we have enjoyed a coffee morning and a lunch at Aston Pottery.

Ruth Warner will be talking to us at our meeting on 18th October about 'The Survival of the Fittest' and on 15th November Liz Woolley will be telling us about the Life and Work of Lord Nuffield.

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 lived 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 are WI initiatives although you don't need to be a member to take part in these).

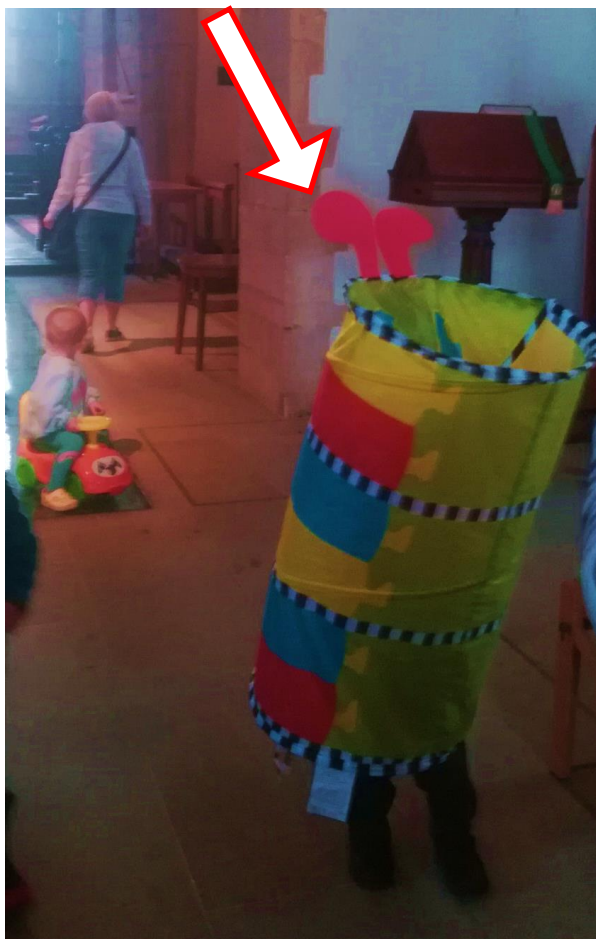
We'd love to see you - please contact our secretary Lyn Barnett on 01869 350707 or email her on wotg.wi@gmail.com if you would like to know more.



RISE AND SHINE reports...

Invasion at Kirtlington Church?

Who was this alien being coming down the aisle? Oh well, no matter, all are welcome at the church!



That was anyway the theme of our end-of-term party in July, at which we celebrated and gave thanks for another happy year of our community, inter-generational café, which takes place every Wednesday morning in term-time, 9:15 (school drop-off time) until 10:45 (definitely coffee-and-cake time).

The generous supply of home-made cakes helps the jollity along, as does the freshly-brewed coffee in the pot, but mainly people come for the mixed group of people to chat to, and, for the families, the chance to sit down while the children are happy with the plentiful toys and activities.



Do we need to make good our escape?

Sit-down time – a rare treat



Time to chat

People have been very generous with their toys, both as donations and as one-offs. An ancient and venerable wooden engine 'chugged in one day, and we now have some lovely doll buggies and Duplo bricks among the permanent resources. One young chap heads immediately for the large collection of donated small cars every week.

For the little family story-time at the end, "Stories Jesus told" was the running theme last term, which naturally involved sand, bricks, treasure hunts, some sowing, a good deal of water, both sprayed and poured, teddies with bandages, and Jelly Baff (try it, it's great!). Treasure chests have been decorated, a finger-print tree created, and play-dough modelled.

With the new school year starting Rise and Shine has embarked on a theme of "New Life". The creation stories provide all sorts of opportunities for activities with mud, light, water, plants, and toy animals. All are welcome to come and join in.



Treasure Chest



*An unusually contemplative moment at Rise and Shine.
The dinosaur enjoyed it, too.*



Story-time: the sower sowed some seeds...



Rise and Shine is for all the villages in the Akeman Benefice, including Bletchington, though some also come from further afield.

Any enquiries to Joanna Clifford, Children and Families' Co-ordinator in the Akeman Benefice group of churches: joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com

BLETCHINGTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB



Bletchington Sports & Social Club is situated at the end of the drive in the playing field on Oxford Road. 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.


Our opening hours vary during the week, but we are always open from 5:00pm on Friday and 7:30 on 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.

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.





INTER 60'S

PLAYING THE POP, SOUL AND ROCK & ROLL HITS OF THE SIXTIES

**BRINGING ON BACK THE GOOD
TIMES**

Bletchington Sports and Social Club
Saturday 18th November
9:00pm



TEAM NEWS

Football: The men's team has started well, winning two and drawing one of their first three games. See the men's team photograph on Page 2 and read the latest news on the men's and under-17s teams on Page 22.

Cricket: The teams are 2nd, 7th, and 9th in divisions 5B, 6B and 8C. The first eleven will hopefully be promoted for next season. Please visit the cricket club website at www.obncc.play-cricket.com for details and fixtures.

Ladies Darts: The B Team (Karen Young's team) finished second in the summer league.

Bar Billiards: The Summer league has just finished and unfortunately there are no trophies to report.

Pool: The Club now have a pool team which play in section two of the Oxford Invitation Pool League on a Thursday evening. The winter league has just started.

Aunt Sally: The team are in section 3 of the Oxford Aunt Sally league. They finished 4th in the league.

Bletchington Nomads – Quiz Team: The Oxfordshire Quiz League summer season has just finished. The Nomads had a reasonable season; no trophies in the league, but they won the music tabletop trophy, and finished equal first in the 'end of night' Blockbuster League. At the end-of-season tabletop quiz in Woodstock, against all teams in the League, the Nomads finished the evening runners-up. After a short break, the winter season kicks off on 19th October.

The summer season of the Online Quiz League ended with Bletchington Nomads achieving promotion to Division 3. The winter season has just started and the team have got off to a great start, winning their first four games.

Cribbage: The season is due to start soon.

What's On at the Club?

SATURDAY 7th October – CASH BINGO (eyes down 8:00pm)

SATURDAY 14th October – LIVE MUSIC: Sledgehammer – 80s tribute band (9:00pm)

SATURDAY 11th November – CASH BINGO (eyes down 8:00pm)

SATURDAY 18th November – LIVE MUSIC: Inter-60s (9:00pm)



Back by Popular Demand

**SLEDGE
HAMMER**

Playing the best of the 80s

*Bletchington Sports and Social Club
Saturday 14th October
9.00pm
FREE ENTRY ALL WELCOME*

BLETCHINGTON FC – LATEST

Up the Bletch!

Men's team

With the season underway and 40 players signed on for Bletchington FC it's now time to build for the future for many years to come. A huge thank you to our secretary John Clack for all the work getting these players registered along with Bethan Hilsdon for the under-17s. This season will be a challenging one, with some players experiencing their first taste of Men's football but with the experience from games and from the more senior players. The Bletch boys are up for it! See the team photo on Page 2.

The start of the campaign saw Bletchington FC away to Kennington in which Bletch won 3-1 with two goals from Jake Simpson who is our under-17s striker also debuting for Bletch men. The other goal was scored by one of our more senior players, Richard Wells.

Second game was our first home game on what was an extremely hot day against East Oxford FC which saw a debut for our linesman Fred Sawyer. Not much football was played that day due to the extreme heat but with goals from Jake Simpson and Archie Pepper, the boys managed a 2-2 draw.

A big thank you to Master Chefs Jim and Maureen for doing the food for our first home game.

We would also love to see as many of our community as possible down at the ground on match days to support your local team. Upcoming fixtures include Adderbury Park (home, 7th October, 2pm), Halse United Reserves (away, 21st October, 2pm) and Cropredy (away, 28th October, 1:30pm).

Under-17's team

Bletchington Under-17s continue in the Oxfordshire Youth league in Division B and are looking to improve on last years performance.

Just like the men, the Under-17s started their campaign with a great start away to Freeland, winning 6-2 with goals from Jake Simpson, Lorenzo Meta both scoring twice and new signings Owen French and Mallee North each scoring on their debut for Bletch.

Upcoming fixtures include Freeland (away, 1st October), Banbury United (home, 8th October), Freeland (home, 15th October) and Halse United (home, 5th November). All matches kick off at 2pm.



Right: *Jake Simpson and Lorenzo Meta on the attack for Bletch*



Far left: *Harry Barrett showing his skills to get past Freeland defender*

Left: *New signing Josh Coulling driving past his man*

Bletchingtondon | Enslow | Heathfield

YOUR COUNCIL MATTERS

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

Latest News

Traffic Calming



The Parish Council continue to raise concerns about the zebra crossing on Station Road with both Oxfordshire County Council's Highways department and the developers. The repairs to the missing beacon are confirmed and the Parish Council are putting pressure on all parties to request that the developers stick with the original plans, which included a raised crossing.

Plastic Footpath

You may have noticed that the plastic path near Spingwell Close has been upgraded. This is with thanks to both the Duchy of Cornwall for arranging this on behalf of the Parish Council and the Franklin family for installing it.

We hope this new and improved footpath serves you all better, especially during the winter months.

Defibrillator Training

The Parish Council would like to offer you the opportunity to attend a course on how to use a Defibrillator in the case of an emergency. It is likely to be held in the Village Hall and with no cost to you. This is yet to be booked so please look out for more details in the future but to gage interest, please let either your Councillors' or the clerk know if this is a course you would like to attend.



IN OTHER NEWS

Date for your Diary

Temporary Road Closure at Springwell Hill 01/11/2023

We have received notice of a temporary road closure at Springwell Hill. This will begin on the 1st November 2023 with an estimated duration of 6 days.

Please look out for more information on the village noticeboards, nearer the time

Next Meetings

25th October and
29th November 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.bletchingtondonparishcouncil.co.uk



Planning Matters. July & August 2023



New Applications Put Forward

23/01765/DISC – Mr Mina Louka – Land opposite Hillcrest, Islip Road, Bletchingdon – Discharge of Condition 3 (means of access) 22/02887/F.

23/01798/F – Percy Lawson – Park View Cottage, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DL – Proposed addition of basement for plant room and storage and amendments to the internal layout and fenestration – following approval of 22/00622/F.

23/01928/TCA – Mrs Abigail Lennon – Mymms Cottage, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T1 x Bay – Fell.

23/01859/LB – Mr Simon Ralf – 3 Bletchingdon Park Stables, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DN – Replacement of single glazed windows with slimline double glazed windows.

23/02100/TCA – Marni Charnock – Manor House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – T1 x large conifer – fell. Due to losing limbs onto the property.

23/01984/F – Robin Investments Ltd – Diamond Farm, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DR – Change of use and conversion of ground floor of a facilities building and separate garage unit associated with former holiday use of the courtyard area to form five residential flats (part retrospective).

23/02149/F & 23/02150/LB – Mr Percy Lawson – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW - Repairs to brick and stonework of the existing ice house chamber and entrance, to reinstate the entrance tunnel of the ice house chamber and to construct a protective structure over the existing remains of the ice house vestibule revealed by the latest archaeological investigations.

23/02190/F – Bletchingdon Community Foundation – OS Parcel 5772 Adjoining B4027 South East of Diamond Farm and North East of Frognest Farm, Islip Road, Bletchingdon. – New field access gate to land known as The Slipe.

23/02115/F – Dan Simmonds – New House St Giles, Bletchingdon OX5 3BX – Retrospective – Demolition of garage and part of the existing house, erection of one bedroom house and rear single storey extension to the existing house as previously approved under 19/01568/OUT.



Applications Approved

23/00684/CLUE – Dairy Cottage, 6 Ingleby Paddocks, Enslow OX5 3ET – Certificate of Lawfulness of existing development from B1 Office to C3 dwelling, consent 06/00762/F (issued 27/03/2007) required part of the dwelling to be used as B1 office space. This condition has been breached for a continuous period in excess of 10 years, with the use of the whole area continuing C3 use.

22/03709/F – Starbucks, Park of the A34 By Weston on the Green, Weston on the Green, Bicester OX25 3QQ – Addition of a drive-thru facility and associated parking changes.

23/01571/LB – Manor Barn, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – The installation of a twin wall steel flue pipe painted black to the rear of the curtilage listed property with a maximum height of 600mm above the ridge line.

23/01675/F – Lynwood, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Single Storey front extension with associated alterations. Insertion of solar panels and proposed air source heat pump.



Applications Withdrawn

22/02389/OUT – Dan Simmons – New House, St Giles, Bletchingdon OX5 3BX – Variation of Condition 4 (plans) of 19/01568/OUT – alter location of the single storey rear extension to existing house. Application withdrawn.

Councillors, Responsibilities & Contacts



Name	Role	Address	Contact Number:
Dan Robins	Chair	Four Views, Oxford Road	350007
Chris Lane	Vice Chair	Village Farm	350257
Matt Whitehead	Councillor	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
Nicola Morris	Councillor	The Stables, Islip Road	351025

District Councillors:

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

Julian Nedelcu - Julian.Nedelcu@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

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

County Councillor: Nigel Simpson - nigel.simpson@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Into Battle! New exhibition explores the art and history of the best of British war comics

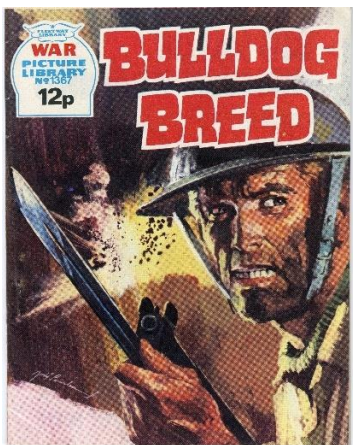
Into Battle: The Art of British War Comics will open to visitors at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, from 1st October 2023 to 30th April 2024.

The county's military history museum is collaborating with Oxford-based Rebellion Publishing on the new exhibition which will offer visitors a chance to explore the history of British war comics through the archives of classic comic titles such as *War Picture Library* and *Battle Action*. Hugely popular today, Britain has been publishing comics continuously for over 130 years. During that time, conflict has remained a staple of comic book storytelling and by the 1960s and 1970s war stories were the most popular genre.

The exhibition, featuring original comic artwork on public display for the first time, tells the story of war comics decade by decade. From satirical comic strips and patriotic illustrated story papers of 19th Century and early 20th Century, to the revolutionary comics of the 1970s, which presented much more gritty, authentic and emotionally-charged stories.

Long-time readers of comics will be given a nostalgic look back at some of their favourites, while younger and more recent fans will gain an insight into how their favourite medium has developed over the years. Drawing on Rebellion's extensive archives, the exhibition features artwork from the very best of British comics - taking in spectacular covers and action-packed panels from the *War Picture Library*, *Battle Picture Weekly* and *Battle Action*.

Battle Action, which Rebellion have recently revived with the work of renowned comic writers and artists such as Garth Ennis (*Preacher*, *The Boys*), Keith Burns (*Commando Comics*, *Johnny Red*) and Dab Abnett (*Warhammer 40k*, *Marvel Comics*) features heavily throughout. The comic, which was known as *Battle Picture Weekly* before merging with *Action* comics in 1977, notably featured the series *Charley's War* by Pat Mills and Jo Colquhoun - regarded as one of the greatest war comics of all time. Following its working-class hero from underage recruit in 1914 through almost every major event of the war, the strip sees Charley lose friends in battle, portraying the human cost of war through the eyes of an ordinary soldier.



The incredible artwork on display will include original 1983 *Charley's War* panels by Mills and Colquhoun, alongside full colour original artwork from Jordi Penalva (*Bulldog Breed*, 1965), Giorgio de Gaspari (*Spy 13*, 1959) and Graham Cotton (*Gun Duel*, 1967). Alongside much to capture the interest and imagination of adults, the exhibition will offer younger visitors the chance to discover how comics are made and have a go at creating comics themselves.

Into Battle: The Art of British War Comics has been proudly sponsored by Ridge, multidisciplinary property and construction consultants. Partner Mark Richards said of the exhibition, "Ridge is delighted to support the local community near its Oxford office with a new exhibition showcasing the best British war comics. Supporting this exhibition on British war comics celebrates the rich history and honours the bravery and sacrifices of soldiers while promoting cultural engagement and education in our community. This exhibition will showcase the best of British war comics, providing a platform to appreciate the storytelling, artwork, and historical significance they offer, which Ridge is proud to be a part of."

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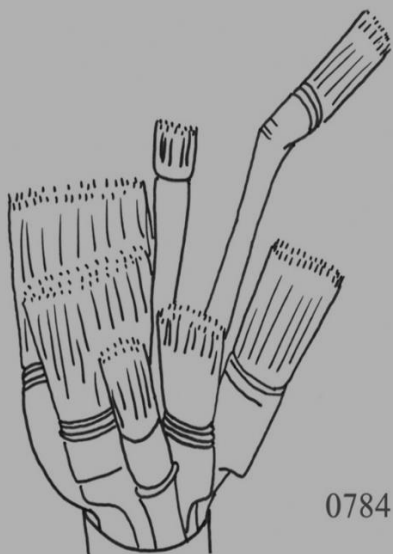
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& Y O G A**

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KIRTLINGTON

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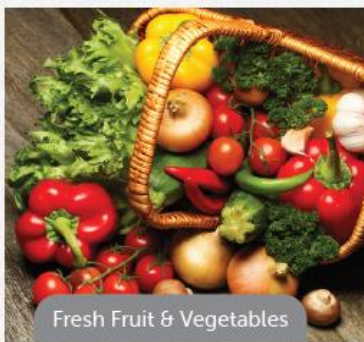
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