

BLETCHINGTON VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE – SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1979

ISSUE 267

December 2023 – January 2024



Happy Christmas to all our readers

Reports from village organisations

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Neighbourhood Plan - Latest

The Postboxes of Bletchington

Autumn Picture Gallery

AUTUMN PICTURE GALLERY



The Macmillan
Cake Sale,
hosted by
Bletch Babes:
The Tombola stall

Did you win a prize?

All the fun
of the fair!

The annual
funfair comes
to Bletchington



Sunshine and
autumn blooms
at the
allotments

EDITORIAL

"It's only 19 shopping days to Christmas." That's a phrase we don't seem to hear anymore. Once the common way of describing how long it is until Christmas, this seems irrelevant in a time when shops open seven days a week. This wasn't always the case – up until 1994, only a limited range of products could legally be sold on Sundays. Today we are more likely to be told how many sleeps it is until the big day. In more recent years, however, shops have suffered through increasing competition from internet trading. This century we have sadly lost several big names from our high streets, including Woolworths, whose Christmas TV adverts were always eagerly anticipated, Debenhams and British Home Stores. I do feel that although internet shopping offers convenience and perhaps lower prices, it doesn't give you the same experience as Christmas shopping in the High Street. The hustle and bustle of the crowds, the shops all appropriately decorated, the festive lights, the traditional Christmas markets and so on all represent part of the overall Christmas experience; this can't be replicated by clicking on a computer screen.

And so we come towards the end of another year and the final edition of Village News for 2023. But as you settle down to your Christmas festivities, please spare a thought for those people across the world caught up in the middle of military conflicts and also for those closer to home less fortunate than ourselves. I wish all Bletchingtonians a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. I would also like to extend yuletide greetings plus a special word of thanks to all our valued advertisers, without whose support it would not be possible to produce this free magazine for readers. Finally, a big thank you to our amazing team of deliverers who go out in all weathers to ensure you receive your copy of Village News. Happy Christmas!

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. The magazine should ideally feature a mix of regular articles from organisations in the village and material from individuals. Whilst the organisations continue to send in their articles on a regular basis (thanks for that) we don't seem to receive so much from individuals and would love to hear from some new contributors, including younger readers. If you don't fancy writing, we can 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 always the **18th of the month** prior to publication – so articles for inclusion in the February/March magazine must reach us by **18th January, 2024**.

bletchnews@gmail.com

Pete Baker

School governor needed

Bletchington School needs another governor on their board. This is a wonderful way to contribute to our community. The role requires time, skill and commitment but you would be joining a strong team with training available. Contact boster@bletchington.oxon.sch.uk if you are interested or have any questions.

Co-op Christmas/New Year opening hours

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December - 7am to 6pm
Christmas Day, Monday 25th December - CLOSED
Boxing Day, Tuesday 26th December - 9am to 5pm
Wednesday 27th December - 7am to 10pm (normal hours)
Thursday 28th December - 7am to 10pm (normal hours)
Friday 29th December - 7am to 10pm (normal hours)
Saturday 30th December - 7am to 10pm (normal hours)
New Year's Eve, Sunday 31st December - 7am to 8pm
New Year's Day, Monday 1st January - 8am to 6pm



Macmillan Cake Sale

Sunday 9th October, Bletch Babes hosted another of their popular cake sales, raising £721.80 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Taking place on the Village Hall Plaza, on a lovely sunny morning, a delicious array of cakes and other goodies went on display – but they didn't remain on display for long, as villagers came along to snap up the delights on offer.

A big thank you to Bletch Babes for organising another great cake sale and to everyone who baked a cake for sale and to all of you who came along and made purchases. Well done for raising so much money, the cakes were thoroughly enjoyed!



Community funding – from your Co-op

Grants up to the value of £500 are available from the Co-op for projects in the local community up to the end of December. Grants are available to charities and community groups which must have been in existence for at least 3 months and have a bank account. To benefit from this funding, projects must be people led and help to build strong, diverse communities. The funding is not available to political groups and, in the case of religious based groups, it must be demonstrated that the project is inclusive, benefitting the wider community rather than a particular faith. To apply for funding or for more information, please visit:

<https://www.midcounties.coop/our-communities/funding/your-community-fund/>

Great news for bus users

The £2 single fare scheme has now been extended until the end of 2024. Whether to cut your carbon footprint or to save on the cost of fuel, this is a great reason to think about taking the bus.

For the month of December only, there is also a special £1 single journey fare available on Sundays. Unfortunately this will not be applicable to our 24 bus service, as it does not operate on Sundays, but the special fare will be available for bus journeys around Oxford city and elsewhere.

Zebra crossing



You have probably noticed that the zebra crossing on Station Road, after about two-and-a-half years with one of the Belisha beacon lights not working, has now been fixed. As well as replacing both of these lights, the road markings have also been repainted.

A big thank you to the Parish Council for relentlessly persuing the issue with the local authorities to get it resolved, and also to all villagers who have reported the fault numerous times on the 'Fix my Street' website. With persistence, the fault has at last been sorted.

Stand-up comedy is coming to Bletchington

Yes, on 13th March 2024, the Sports & Social Club will be trying something new. They will be hosting a live comedy evening featuring The Laughing Ox Comedy Club. This will be a ticket only event and the evening will feature three live stand-up comedy acts. Tickets will go on sale in the new year. Further details will follow in the next edition of Village News and watch out for a leaflet drop around the village in the new year too.

Royal British Legion poppy appeal

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all who supported the Royal British Legion poppy appeal this year. Special thanks to Anthony Reynolds for giving up his time to promote this worthy cause that helps our ex-service men and women, and to everyone who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets. Thanks also to the Co-op for making space in the shop to host the appeal. Raffle prize winners have all been notified and a full list of winners can be found in Facebook.

The total amount raised this year for the Bletchington district was £2,432.38.



A Christmas greeting from Annesley Close

Once again I would like to use the pages of the Village News as a huge Christmas Card for all my friends and neighbours in Annesley Close and Bletchington as a whole. I will again be donating the money that I would previously have spent on Christmas Cards and postage to the charity Centrepont – to help fund a room for a homeless young person over the Christmas Period.

This idea comes from a scheme we used to have at the church I attended when I lived in Kent and I hope all my friends and acquaintances in the village agree that this is in-keeping with the spirit of the season.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2024.

***Irene Barwick
(1 Annesley Close)***

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.

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:

13th November Gwendoline Emily Cato Funeral

The funeral of Gwendoline Cato took place at St Giles on Monday 13th November. We extend our deepest sympathy to Pam, Ian and all Gwen's family.

Advent and Christmas Services

There will be a range of services to mark the Christmas season throughout the benefice. In Bletchington our Carol Service will be held at 16:00 on 17th December then come along for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at 22:00. Also, the lovely little church at Hampton Gay will be hosting its Carol Service on 10th December at 15:15. For details of all the other services in the benefice, please refer to the schedule on Page 8.

Cantores Consort in Concert

Join us for a splendid evening of a cappella music, old and new, polyphony and jazz at Kirtlington Church on Saturday 2nd December at 19:30. Suggested donation: £10, proceeds to church repair funds. All welcome.

Sing with Joy

A fun musical service for children of primary school age 9 (and adults!) at Kirtlington Church on Sunday 3rd December at 16:00. Practice the day before 16:00-17:00. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Big Breakfasts

Two of our churches will be holding Big Breakfasts during December: Middleton Stoney on Sunday 3rd December in the Village Hall from 09:30, preceded by a short informal Advent Service at 09:00 and Weston on Saturday 9th December in the Village Hall 09:00-12:00.

Winter Wonderland....

comes to Chesterton on Thursday 21st December from 18:00-20:00. Join Russell Jones of The X Factor from 18:30 for Christmas carols and songs in this magical illuminated garden, Bignell Garden House, Chesterton, OX26 1UF (almost opposite Chesterton Hotel). No parking on site – please park in the village and walk up. Entrance: £6 per adult or £12.50 per family. Includes festive drinks, mince pies, and Christmas cookies. Proceeds to St Mary's Church for the modernisation programme.

Keeping your village church open

We hope that everyone has by now received a copy of the leaflet 'Keeping your village church open'. Do please respond as you are able. We are very grateful to those who have already done so. If you have not yet received the leaflet, please let your churchwardens know or email enquiries.akeman@gmail.com.

Rector's sabbatical

Gareth will be on sabbatical from early January to early April. During this time he will not be responding to emails or telephone messages. All enquiries should be directed to other members of the ministry team or the churchwardens, if appropriate. If you are unsure whom to ask, please contact our administrator, Julie Andrews, at enquiries.akeman@gmail.com.

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

A friend of mine, a cleric, is about to release himself from duties on this sceptred isle in order to undertake a continental chaplaincy, on the Mediterranean. I teased him with words from the Bidding Prayer at the service of 9 lessons and carols: "Ah, you're going to 'rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light!'"

Yet I am hardly one to speak enviously, as I am about to embark upon a sabbatical, with perhaps a little sunshine thrown in for good measure. I do not suffer from seasonal affective disorder, but the winter months are not my favourite, and I plan to spend at least a portion of my time away abroad. The rest of it will be given to study, prayer, writing, and time with the family.

For many, of course, there is no sabbatical, no break from the daily grind. For those in Israel/Palestine/Gaza, not to mention Ukraine, no rest from the attrition of relentless bombardment, offensive followed by counter-offensive, death, destruction, homelessness and humiliation. Yet in the pages of scripture a rest is promised, a sabbath for the people of God, a rest from labour but also an opportunity for refreshment and reconciliation. Rest is not intended as a way of squandering time, but rather a chance to re-group, to reflect, to repent, to grow in faith and grace. Is it just possible that the peoples of what we call the Holy Land might at last begin to feel after and find the things that make for peace?

I hope that in the approach to Christmas, as well as in the time afterwards, you will find time for yourself, for your family, your neighbours, both local and worldwide. And spare a thought and a prayer for those whose lives are so much less secure than our own, for whom talk of holidays and sabbaticals sounds like a very considerable indulgence.

I am grateful to the bishop and to the ministry team for permitting me to have some time apart after seven years here. My prayer is that I may use the time creatively and well, and come back reinvigorated – mentally, physically, and spiritually – to serve for a few more years, should I be spared (and if you will have me!).

I wish you all the most blessed Christmas and a creative and Spirit-filled new year.

Gareth

Church services for December & January

DECEMBER 2023	Sunday 3rd <i>Advent 1</i>	Sunday 10th <i>Advent 2</i>	Sunday 17th <i>Advent 3</i>	Sunday 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Monday 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>
Bletchington	09:30 Morning Worship		09:30 Holy Communion 16:00 Carol Service	22:00 Midnight Mass	
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Comm. (said) 11:00 Family Service	11:00 Holy Communion	18:00 Carol Service	16:00 Crib Service 23:00 Midnight Mass	
Hampton Gay		15:15 Carol Service			
Kirtlington	16:00 Advent Children's Service	09:30 Holy Comm. (said) 16:00 Evensong	18:00 Carol Service	16:00 Crib Service	10:30 Holy Communion
Middleton Stoney Village Hall	09:00 Breakfast Church		16:00 Carol Service	21:00 Midnight Mass	
Wendlebury	09:30 Holy Comm.			17:00 Crib Service	09:00 Holy Comm.
Weston-on- the-Green		11:00 Morning Worship	18:00 Carol Service	22:00 Midnight Mass	10:30 Morning Worship

JANUARY 2024	Sun. 31st Dec. <i>New Year's Eve</i>	Sunday 7th <i>Baptism of Xt</i>	Sunday 14th <i>Epiphany 2</i>	Sunday 21st <i>Epiphany 3</i>	Sunday 28th <i>Candlemas</i>
Bletchington		09:30 Breakfast Church		09:30 Holy Communion	
Chesterton		08:00 Holy Comm. (said)	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Worship	
Hampton Gay					
Kirtlington		11:00 Holy Communion	09:30 Holy Communion (said) 16:00 Evensong	11:00 Café Church	
Middleton Stoney Village Hall		09:30 Morning Worship		09:30 Holy Communion	
Wendlebury		09:30 Holy Communion		09:30 Breakfast Church	10:30 Holy Communion
Weston-on- the-Green	10:00 Holy Communion	16:00 Evensong	11:00 Morning Worship	11:00 Holy Communion	

OBITUARY

Gwen Cato – 13.5.1924–19.10.2023

Gwen was the oldest person in the village. Her family would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and flowers; it was so lovely to see so many at her funeral.

Here is a tribute written by one of her granddaughters, Rikki Bass:

NAN

My nan has always been a shining star in the lives of all who encountered her – from the many friends and relatives she has amassed around the globe to the postman and bin men who she would regularly encourage to come in for a break – a cup of tea, sandwich, or some biscuits...

She had more grandchildren, great grandchildren and even great great grandchildren than you could count on both hands, but always had the time to make us feel special and valued as individuals.

We would spend so much of our time as children with her, as she taught us to bake and garden, and on one occasion she even had me practicing my curtsy for hours on end – having convinced us all the Queen absolutely WAS likely to drop in unannounced for a cup of tea some day soon, as she was, apparently, 'a close personal friend'.

She gave us all the ability, when told by our parents that 'money doesn't grow on trees' to quickly answer back 'well it does at Nanny Gwen's house', as we would excitedly put on a bin bag to protect our clothes and dig under her special fairy tree for pennies that she and Doris would hide for us to find each time we visited.

Nan was truly all of our biggest supporters, always encouraged us to be the best we can be. She believed we could achieve things that seemed so far out of reach, and was always proud of us regardless.

She is present in most of my core memories, and I'm sure the majority here could say the same.

For longer than I have been on this earth, she has been the glue that holds the family together, a true matriarch, and the most loving person you could ever meet.

A world without her is unimaginable, but I am grateful for the number of years I got with her. We will all miss her greatly, and cherish her memory every day.

CHRISTMAS BLETCH CAFÉ

Free coffee/tea/squash and a mince pie at our Christmas café ... and a raffle too!

Wednesday 20th December – 8:45-11:45am

Bring the kids, drop in with a neighbour or just come yourself and enjoy this festive treat. Our thanks to the Co-op for the mince pie donation.

There will be fresh bacon rolls, Costa coffee and lovely homemade bakes for purchase as well from our resident café crew Sue, Katie and Julie.

Have a flutter on the festive raffle and help raise money for the Thursday Club.

Thanks for all your support this year and we wish you all a very merry Christmas!

LOWERING ENERGY BILLS FOR OXFORDSHIRE RESIDENTS

"It's going to be a real relief this winter, knowing there's heat there when we need it."

Debbie, Banbury



Are you concerned about the cost of energy bills and looking for ways to make your home cheaper to heat and more comfortable to live in? A grant is available from Oxfordshire County Council to improve residents' homes.

This government-backed scheme targets inefficient homes not heated by gas. With the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2), eligible homes can receive tailored energy solutions, from insulation to solar panels, resulting in a warmer home, lower bills and reduced carbon emissions - all delivered by the Welcome the Warmth team.

Check your eligibility and apply through the website at welcomethewarmth.org.uk. Get your home winter-ready today!

Neighbourhood Plan update – December 2023

Progress to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Bletchingdon, Hampton Poyle and Hampton Gay continues. Thank you to those who responded to our survey in March and April this year; the survey findings reveal plenty of useful information regarding what the residents of our villages would like to be considered regarding the future of our villages.

Over the summer we have been working with Community First Oxfordshire to draft the Neighbourhood Plan document, based on the feedback received both from the community meeting in January and the survey.

We would now like to invite you to a village meeting to hear more about the survey results and the proposed content of the Neighbourhood Plan. The meeting will take place at Bletchingdon Parish Church, at 7 o'clock on 12th December. Refreshments will be provided and we look forward to seeing you there.

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 to all our Brownies who have completed their Skillsbuilder badges towards their Theme awards. Also to Heidi and Georgie who gained their Baking badge; Lyra, Annabelle and Demelza who have done their Collecting badge.

We attended Remembrance parade in Woodstock, made poppies and painted poppy coasters. We also run Rainbows in Woodstock for girls aged 4-7 and Guides in Woodstock for girls aged 10-14.

For Christmas we'll be enjoying entertaining the residents of Spencer Court with Christmas songs.

We're nearly full! If you would like to join us, please register at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus.

Kirtlington and Bletchington Historical Society

China 1949: Year of Revolution

GRAHAM HUTCHINGS

7.30pm Thursday 25th January

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

Bletch Diary

2 nd /3 rd December – 11:30am	Hillcrest, Islip Road – Sale of artworks (<i>see Page 39</i>)
3 rd December – 5:00pm	Village Hall Plaza – Celebrate the turning on of the Christmas lights Hosted by the BCF – with mulled wine and mince pies Carols with Bletchington Silver Band (<i>see Page 14</i>)
9 th December – 4:00pm	Village Hall – Christmas Concert With Bletchington Silver Band (<i>see Page 18</i>)
9 th December – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Christmas Prize Bingo (<i>see Page 22</i>)
12 th December – 7:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Public Meeting Find out the latest on the Neighbourhood Plan (<i>see Page 10</i>)
17 th December – 4:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Carol Service (<i>see Pages 6/8</i>)
20 th December – 8:45am	Village Hall – Christmas Bletch Café Free tea/coffee/squash/mince pies plus festive raffle (<i>see Page 9</i>)
24 th December – 10:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Midnight Mass (<i>see Pages 6/8</i>)
31 st December – 8:30pm	Sports & Social Club – New Year's Eve disco With Tommy's Tunes (<i>see Page 23</i>)
7 th January – 9:00am	St. Giles' Church – Breakfast Church (<i>see Page 8</i>)
20 th January – 9:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Live Music With Jennah (<i>see Page 23</i>)



Kirtlington Morris

The future of Kirtlington Morris Men has been in considerable jeopardy in recent times. For several years we have suffered from slowly shrinking membership, resulting in many cancelled practice sessions and our inability to fulfil most invitations to 'dance out', the only exception being the Lamb Ale Morris Festival, which we have managed by superhuman effort to make happen each year.

At last I can give you some good news from Kirtlington Morris. In spring this year, after much discussion, we decided to go 'mixed', in a possibly last desperate effort to keep the side alive. I'm delighted to tell you that during the course of the year four new recruits have joined us for regular practices, and we very much hope to have them dancing out with us next spring. We have one man, Will, and three women, Rebecca (from Bletchington), Ingunn, and Sue, who is also one of our musicians. Sadly still no-one from Kirtlington, but we can't complain as at least we are now able to practise every week, which will bring on our new members at full speed.

And please note the new name: no longer Kirtlington Morris Men, but now plain Kirtlington Morris, for hopefully obvious reasons...

And lastly, it's not, no, never, too late to come forward and help keep your local morris side alive! Men, women, couples, all welcome. And don't forget the pint after practice! Practices 8pm Tuesdays, Kirtlington Village Hall.

Condiments of the Season to all, and do call me if you would like to be part of the new Kirtlington Morris...

Nigel Holt, Squire, Kirtlington Morris 01869 350219

THE VILLAGE NEWS CHRISTMAS QUIZ

No prizes – Just for fun!

1. What song, taken from the film "*Breakfast at Tiffany's*" and sung by Danny Williams was the UK Christmas No.1 single in 1961?
2. Christmas Island is an external territory belonging to which country?
3. Which newsreader and TV presenter famously revealed her legs in a dance routine on the Morecambe & Wise Christmas show in 1976?
4. Which popular grey horse won the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day four times, in 1986, 1988, 1989 and 1990?
5. Which English city hosts the biggest German style Christmas Market outside Germany and Austria?
6. Which legendary soap actress was born in East London on Christmas Day 1919 and died in 1985?
7. In "*The Jolly Boys' Outing*", the 1989 Christmas special edition of "*Only Fools and Horses*", which seaside resort did Del and his friends visit?
8. In which present-day country was Saint Nicholas born?
9. The old English custom, celebrated mainly around Twelfth Night, involving visiting orchards and singing to and dancing around the apple trees to encourage a good harvest, is known as what?
10. Peaking at No.3 in the Christmas chart of 1982, who duetted with Bing Crosby for the single "*Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy*"?

Answers in the next edition of Village News

History Corner

When Christmas was cancelled

Christmas had been a joyous occasion in Medieval England and during Tudor times – Henry VIII was noted for his love of Christmas and all the celebrations and indulgence that went with it. During this period, the full twelve days of Christmas were celebrated. The Tudor dynasty came to an end in 1603, with the death of Queen Elizabeth I, to be replaced with the Stuarts. By 1625, Charles I had become the monarch, but his rule was increasingly challenged by Parliament, leading to Civil War commencing in 1642. The New Model Army, representing Parliament and led by Sir Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell fought against the King's troops. As various battles raged, Parliament took control of large swathes of the country whilst the King established his wartime capital in Oxford.

Parliament was dominated by Puritans – an extreme branch of the Protestant church. They perceived Christmas celebrations as drunken and debauched, closely linked to Catholicism, and therefore sinful. Their belief was that Christmas should be a day of fast – not feast - and one for sober, religious contemplation. In 1647, Parliament passed laws abolishing Christmas Day as a feast day and holiday. Predictably, these laws did not go down well in many circles and pro-Christmas riots broke out in many towns and cities including London, Ipswich, Norwich and Canterbury.

After the execution of King Charles I in 1649, Oliver Cromwell was installed as Lord Protector, the head of state, ruling with an iron fist, and protests against the ban on Christmas celebrations abated. The attribution of the ban on Christmas directly to Oliver Cromwell, however, is a myth – the ban was the work of the broader Parliament. Further laws were passed in 1652 reinforcing the ban on Christmas celebration with fines for those disobeying the law. Generally, people were expected to go about their business on 25th December as though it was just like any other day whilst shops and businesses were ordered to remain open as normal. Celebrations continued in private, no doubt, at the risk of punishment if detected by the authorities but without a police force as such, the enforcement of the ban in many parts of the country was ineffective.

Oliver Cromwell died in 1658, to be replaced as Lord Protector by his son, Richard Cromwell, however he lacked the authority of his father and people were getting tired of puritanical rule. 1660 saw the Restoration of the Monarchy with Charles I's oldest surviving son, Charles II installed as King. Known as the 'Merry Monarch', the new King wasted no time in reinstating Christmas as a day of celebration, to the widespread approval of the people. Happy Christmas everyone!

BLETCHINGTON THURSDAY CLUB

In September we had a talk about the role women played in war time and also there was a display to look at. This was a very informative talk and very well received.

The October meeting was led by Neil, one of our members, and involved painting on slate. This was enjoyed by the members and caused a few laughs as to who was the worst artist. Thank you, Neil, for your help and advice.

Our Christmas lunch is on 1st December at Kirtlington Golf Club and we look forward to seeing you all there.

December's meeting will be a small Christmas bingo and quiz. We do not have a meeting in January.

On behalf of the committee, we wish you a happy Christmas and a jolly New Year.



THE

BLETCHINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

invites you to come along and join us for the turning on of the

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



- Mulled wine / apple juice
- Mince pies
- Toasted marshmallows
- Carols played by Bletchington Silver Band

Sunday 3rd December 5-7pm at the Village Hall

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



The trustees of the Bletchington Community Foundation wish all villagers a very happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all on 3rd December for the turning on of our Christmas lights.

Village Hall for hire

Full details of prices and terms & conditions can be found on the Village Hall page of Bletchington Parish website, where you will also be able to download a booking form. Special community rates are available to residents of Bletchington 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.



Christmas cheer from the Charity

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.

“We aim to serve you properly and well”

These words were written in the Village News many years ago by the late Harry Marsden, then chairman of the Bletchington Charity, summing up the way the Charity has developed and prospered over the years.

In recent years, however, the country has been through the Covid-19 pandemic, quickly followed by a cost-of-living crisis. The Charity has been on hand during these hard times to help those in the village in need of a little support. This has adversely affected the Charity’s finances with cash reserves having been used up, leaving less funds available for distribution. The committee therefore has to scrutinise all grant applications carefully and be extra prudent in allocating funds. But please do not be put off applying for a grant. The Charity committee does not want to see anyone going hungry or cold this Christmas – nor indeed at all this winter, and 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 – the Charity is here for all who live in Bletchington.

Applications will be considered at our meetings, generally quarterly, however, if the application is urgent, the committee will be able to consider it sooner.

The next meeting is scheduled for around 11th December 2023. Applications to be in by 9th December.



PTA Christmas Raffle

Draw: Wednesday 13th December 2023, 8.00pm
Live via Facebook on Bletch Village Community Group
Proceeds to Bletchingdon Primary School

The Bletchingdon Primary School PTA will be running a Christmas raffle again this year on Wednesday 13th December 2023 with lots of fantastic prizes to be won. Raffle tickets will have been delivered to your homes and can be returned via the school office or to Kelly Whitehead's house – Rogers Cottage, Station Road. There is, of course, no obligation whatsoever to purchase any tickets but we are very grateful for any purchased.

Thank you also to all those who have kindly donated such wonderful prizes to create such a special event for Christmas. Prizes include:

- Cash prizes: One £50 & Two £25 - donated by Smiths Bletchington
- Oven clean – £60 voucher
- Grow Jiu Jitsu – 1 month's family training
- The Heyford, Upper Heyford – bowling & round of drinks for 6
- Jump, Bicester – 2 passes x2
- Whizz Kids, Thame – 1 adult & 1 child pass x2
- Pendon Museum – family ticket x2
- Nuffield Gym, Woodstock Rd – 2 free day passes
- Witney Pony Partners – 1 hour lesson
- Crocodiles of the World – 1 adult & 1 child ticket
- Chipping Norton Theatre – 2 film screening tickets
- Laser Kombat – family pass
- Waterperry Gardens – years season ticket for 2
- Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmill – family pass

and many more.....

EASY WAY TO HELP THE SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

EASYFUNDRAISING: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bletchingdonpta/

Please help support Bletchingdon PTA by shopping online, using easyfundraising to shop with over 3,600 retailers who will give a FREE donation to Bletchingdon PTA.



Many thanks for all your support and helping to make our school a wonderful place for our village children.

Best wishes and Merry Christmas
Bletchingdon PTA



BLETCHINGTON SILVER BAND

The Band's first ever Halloween concert was held on 29th October. It was a really fun concert to put together and a great opportunity to perform pieces we have not played before. The concert started with the march from the film (He-Man and the) Masters of the Universe and was followed by the Overture to The Phantom of the Opera, our programme then included music from Pirates of the Caribbean and Unchained Melody, which featured in the film, Ghost. We finished with quite a challenge, playing Toccata in D Minor by Bach. The 'B' then played the theme from The Addams Family. This was followed by a suite called Things That Go Bump In The Night. They ended their performance with the spiritual, Dem Bones.

The second half of the concert kicked off with Ghostbusters theme This was then followed by the traditional folk tune. The Witch of West-mer-lands was beautifully played and featured Gaynor Bevan on baritone. The theme from The Munsters featured our Bass and Euphonium section. We then went with some Greek mythology for Go the Distance from Disney's Hercules. Scooby Doo got everyone's feet tapping with its catchy tune. We then went a bit jazzy with Cruella de Vil from 101 Dalmatians. The concert ended with the iconic Thriller by Michael Jackson. We brought both bands back for the encore and got everyone to 'click' along with a reprise of The Addams Family.

Thank you to everyone who came along to support us. It was fantastic to see so many people in the audience. We hope you all enjoyed it!

Bletchington Silver Band

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 9th December, 4pm
Bletchington Village Hall

Mince Pies and Refreshments.
Raffle

The Band held its annual Brass fest in October – this event is where members compete against each other and is always a fun event. Congratulations to the winners Della, Karen, Sarah, Felix, Fran, Belinda, Clare, Harriet and Sylvie.

The Band will be playing at the turning on of the Christmas lights at the Village Hall at 5pm on the 3rd December so if you like to sing a carol or two, please join us on the night.

Would you like some festive cheer? If so, some along to our Christmas concert on the 9th December at 4pm in the Village Hall. Mince pies, raffle and mulled wine will be available. We look forward to seeing you there!



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**100 years of
history!**

Representing London and
the Southern Counties twice
in the National Finals.

**Four local
concerts a year.**

**We provide
entertainment**

at fetes, weddings,
firework displays,
Bandstands, Church and
Christmas Events.

Contact the Secretary for further details



@bletchband



@bletchband



bletchingtonsilverband

THE POSTBOXES OF BLETCHINGTON

How many Christmas cards are you sending this year? The chances are it may be fewer than, say, twenty years ago. Sadly, the average number of cards sent per person has been steadily declining over recent years, particularly amongst the younger generation, as the use of social media and electronic forms of communication have become increasingly prevalent. If you are sending Christmas cards through the mail, you have a choice of two postboxes in Bletchington to post them in.

With about 115,500 of them in the UK, we often take postboxes for granted but they are very interesting, historic items of street furniture, some of them dating back to the 19th Century. All postboxes bear the royal cypher (*see note below) of the reigning monarch at the time of manufacture, giving us an idea of its age.

**A batch of so called 'Anonymous postboxes' was produced bearing no royal cypher, due to an oversight by the manufacturer. These all date from the reign of Queen Victoria and one such example can be seen in North Oxford, along Banbury Road.*



Above left: This postbox is located, as you can see, in Weston Road, facing the Village Green, set in the wall of what was the village shop, known latterly as Shop on the Green. This business, which closed early this century, also housed the village Post Office. The royal cypher on this postbox, a plain G R, reveals that it was manufactured during the reign of King George V (1910-1936). The exact date is not known, but the style of the box indicates it is from the latter years of his reign.

Above right: Bletchington's second postbox can be found in Valentia Close. This type of postbox is known as a lamp box, because they were originally designed to be attached to the side of lampposts. Earlier examples of such postboxes were smaller than this, with a very narrow aperture, and bore the words 'Letters only' – although this would have become obvious to anyone trying to post something larger! These early examples are becoming quite rare now, either replaced by newer models capable of accepting larger items of post or withdrawn altogether. Free standing on its own pole, the Valentia Close postbox dates from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II (1952-2022) and was installed in the 1990s.



WESTON ON THE GREEN WI

For our November meeting, we had a very interesting talk from Maurice East, who stood in at the last minute for Liz Woolley due to family reasons. He told us about William Morris from leaving school at 15 with no qualifications, through getting his first job as a cycle repair apprentice in St. Giles, to building a factory in Longwall Street where he made the early Bullnose cars, through to building the huge factory at Cowley employing thousands of workers at its height. Maurice had many 'before and after' slides of places where William worked and how the factory was built on the site of old barracks and expanded towards Littlemore before the present bypass was built, changing the face and nature of Oxford from a small university town to the beginning of the industrial town we now know. Morris was a humble man as anyone who has visited Nuffield Place will know and he gave much of his fortune to charitable causes in Oxford and beyond.

On the 13th December, a week earlier than usual, we will celebrate Christmas with a buffet meal for members and guests which must be pre-booked. Then on 17th January, Paul Baker is coming to tell us about RSPB Otmoor – Paul has been involved in the project since its beginning and has many slides of how the reserve began as well as changes during the years.

Our WI meets at Weston Village Hall every month, on the third Wednesday at 7.30pm (except for December). 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.

KEEP AN OLDER PERSON SAFER

Cold calling is not illegal. However, any trader who ignores a sticker or notice on a door stating that the occupier does not wish to receive cold calls may be committing a criminal offence. We are based in Norwich but, as a nationwide, live-in, home care provider since 1980 we have decided to try and help prevent, where we can, an older or disabled person becoming a victim.

This door sticker may be of interest to someone you know. They are free of charge and if you reply to this email: info@ablecommunitycare.com, we will be happy to send some for you to pass on, or individuals may contact us directly. Since 2019 we have given out over 180,000 stickers.

We do not keep any individual details on a database, and we do not give information to other organisations.



Angela Gifford, Managing Director

Able Community Care Ltd. The Old Parish Rooms, Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich, NR14 8TZ

Web: www.ablecommunitycare.com Tel: 01603 764567 Fax: 01603 761655

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.

TEAM NEWS

Football: After eight league games the men's team are in a mid-table position in Division 2 of the Oxford Senior League.

Cricket: The AGM will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday 11th December at 7:30pm. Please visit the cricket club website at www.obncc.play-cricket.com for details and fixtures.



Ladies Darts: The Winter league has just started.

Bar Billiards: The Winter League has just resumed with 3 teams playing from the Club, one on Tuesdays in the Eynsham League and two on Thursdays in the Witney League.

Pool: The team which play in section two of the Oxford Invitation Pool League on a Thursday evening are currently second after five games. The Club annual 9 ball competition will be held on Saturday 23rd December.

Aunt Sally: Season closed.

Bletchington Nomads – Quiz Team: The Oxfordshire Quiz League has started its winter season. Played 3, won 2, lost 1, and that to reigning champions, the Ploughman's Bunch!, leaving the Nomads third in the Premier League. Looking forward to the rest of the season.

In the Online Quiz League, the Nomads surpassed all expectations, lost only 2 games out of 11, and finished second in the 3rd Division. This means the team are promoted to Division 2 after Christmas and playing some of the best quizzers in the country. "Our aim is just to enjoy the experience." Meanwhile, the Nomads have just begun their defence of the John Jacob Cup which they won last year, winning their first round match.

Cribbage: The crib team play their home matches at the Social Club – for which we thank the committee and staff for hosting us – and play every Monday in the Witney & District league. After our very successful last season, we have started the 2023/24 season pretty well. We've played six league matches and won four – the two losses were very close! The team consists of six players (3 pairs of two) who play 5 games each on the night, against other pairs from the opposition. Each pairs results are then tallied at the end of the match – therefore achieving a 9-6 result (the best of 15 games) or similar.

Whilst we've started well in the league, we are progressing well in our cup matches – especially the mixed pairs and men's singles. The team is very enthusiastic and we always enjoy our Monday nights of crib – it's a good craic! – as well as having a few drinks.

Anyone who wishes to learn how to play Crib, or just find out more about our team, please come along on a Monday evening (our fixtures are on the Club notice board), and we'll be more than willing to help.

Dave Callicott (captain)

What's On at the Club?

**SATURDAY 9th December –
CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO
(eyes down 8:00pm)**

**SUNDAY 31st December –
NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO:
Tommy's Tunes (8:30pm)**

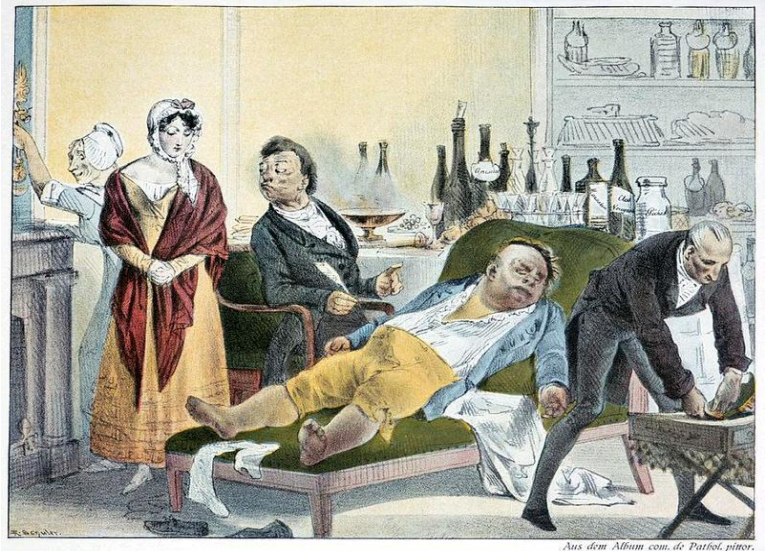
**SATURDAY 20th January –
LIVE MUSIC:
Jennah (9:00pm)**

**SATURDAY 17th February –
LIVE MUSIC:
Mike E (9:00pm)**



Kirtlington & Bletchington Historical Society

Our 2023-24 programme began with an excellent turnout for our September meeting when local author **Melanie King** gave an entertaining talk on medical advice in the 18th century, entitled **Can Onions Cure Earache?** Her focus was William Buchan's book, *Domestic Medicine*, published in 1769. This became a kind of medical equivalent of Mrs Beeton for middle-class households, so was enormously influential. The audience listened with a mixture of nodding approval, incredulity and alarm as Ms King went through Buchan's concoction of traditional herbal remedies, old wives' tales and frankly poisonous treatments to cure a range of everyday ailments and some more serious. At least not everything was reduced to the injunction "apply leeches", but the admixture of substances, some of which we now know to be dangerous, raised eyebrows and made us once more thankful that we live 250 years later. And the recommendation for earache was indeed the application to the cheek of a poultice of which a principal ingredient was mashed onion. I don't think any of our members has experimented with this... yet.



Another medical figure whose reputation has survived rather better than William Buchan's featured in our October talk, **The Crimean War: a Russian Tragedy?** Florence Nightingale made her name during the conflict, though the overall casualty and death rates remained appalling. **Kate Watson** reminded us that this was the first war to be photographed and the first to be reported by a professional journalist straight from the front lines which affected the British government's policy more than once. She framed the lead-up to the conflict as a struggle between competing political ideologies: the liberal western European powers of Britain and France versus the conservative, autocratic Russia, Prussia and Austria. This clash was always likely to result in an armed confrontation and the declining Ottoman Empire became the focal point when the Russians tried to



muscle in on what had previously been a sphere of significant French interest. The resulting military defeat for Russia was welcomed by the new reforming Tsar, Alexander II, but his programme which included the liberation of the serfs was brought to an end when he was assassinated in 1881. Russia then fell into a tightly-controlled conservative mindset which, though ill-equipped to survive the challenges posed by a much greater conflict in 1914, has nevertheless been its prevailing mode of government ever since.

Paul Clifford

Bletchington | Enslow | Heathfield

YOUR COUNCIL MATTERS

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

Latest News

A message from Oxfordshire County Council

Are you concerned about the cost of energy bills and looking for ways to make your home cheaper to heat and more comfortable to live in? A grant is available from Oxfordshire County Council to improve residents homes.

This government-backed scheme targets inefficient homes not heated by gas. With the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2), eligible homes can receive tailored energy solutions, from insulation to solar panels, resulting in a warmer home, lower bills and reduced carbon emissions - all delivered by the Welcome the Warmth team.

Check your eligibility and apply through the website at welcomethewarmth.org.uk.

Get your home winter-ready today!

Age UK have also put lots of helpful information together on the following website

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/winter-hub/>

Dates for your Diary

Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultation

There will be a public meeting of the Bletchington, Hampton Gay and Poyle neighbourhood planning group on

Tuesday 12 December at 7pm in Bletchington church.

This meeting will include an update and discussion on the emerging plan
Refreshments available.

Temporary Road Closure Notice

Oxfordshire County Council have advised that in the interests of public safety, it is necessary to temporarily close the A4095 road at Bunkers Hill, Enslow on **Monday 15th January 2024**.

This is in order to facilitate vegetation clearance works.

IN OTHER NEWS

Noticeboard

The Parish Council would like to remind everyone that important notices relevant to our Parish, will be found in the Parish Noticeboard outside the Co-op. If you would like to add something to this Noticeboard, please contact the clerk



Next Meetings

**10th January 2024 &
28th February 2024-**

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.bletchingtonparishcouncil.co.uk



Planning Matters. September & October 2023



New Applications Put Forward

23/02347/F – Perdix Partnership – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – Change in roof material and addition of new photovoltaic panels on the approved agricultural building to the north end of Bletchingdon Park.

23/02522/TCA – Sarah Witney – 5 Bletchingdon Park Stables, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DN - T1 - T3 x Sycamore Trees - Crown thin 20% thin in the garden of number 5 to include crown lifting up to 3m. All to allow more light into property and garden.

23/02572/TCA – Mrs Cadwallader – The Old Rectory, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T1 x Holly – Fell and grind due to lean over school. T2 x Damson – Fell, small and poor form. T3 x Cherry – Fell, overshadowed by larger trees.

23/02382/F – Mr Richard Anstis – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – Realignment of the existing access driveway to New Lodge.

23/02627/PIP – Mr Mina Louka – Land Off Islip Road, Bletchingdon Oxford OX5 3DP – Permission in Principle application for the erection of between 1 and 5 no. dwellings.





Applications Approved

23/01859/LB – 3 Bletchingdon Park Stables, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DN.

23/02589/TCA – Laurel Farmhouse, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – T1 x Holly, Remove.

23/02190/F – 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 – 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.

22/03088/F – Manor House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Demolition of existing dwelling and ancillary buildings and replacement with new dwelling and garage building, associated landscaping and alterations to access.

23/01984/F – 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).

23/02572/TCA – The Old Rectory, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T1 x Holly – Fell and grind due to lean over school. T2 x Damson – Fell small and poor form. T3 x Cherry – Fell overshadowed by larger trees.



Applications Refused

22/03102/F – Land Adjacent to Stockyard Buildings, Station Road, Enslow – Proposed doggy daycare facility along with fenced outdoor play area.

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

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If you are interested in renting an allotment, contact the Allotment Association

E-mail: bletchingdon.allotments@gmail.com



BeccaLou Designs

Individually hand-decorated Christmas cakes available in time for the festive season

4 inch square and 4 inch hemisphere - £18

6 inch round - £26

8 inch round - £35

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Various traditional, cute and contemporary designs

A limited number of bespoke Christmas cake requirements can be catered for on request if ordered by early December

Other celebration cakes available. Allow at least 2 weeks prior to date required.

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Email: mandy@cobi.co.uk

Tel: 01869 351771 or 07941 949743



BeccaLou Designs



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- Pre & Post-Op Prep and Recovery
- Neck & Shoulder Pain
- Sports Injuries
- Knees, Feet & Ankles
- Integrating gut health, breathing and musculoskeletal discomfort
- Reduce stress

COUNSELLING SUPPORTS:

- Anxiety
- Workplace difficulties
- Relationship challenges
- Navigating Change
- Managing Uncertainty

*Monica is author of the books
BodyBrainHeart
&
The BodySense Journal*

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“Brilliant clinic helped me solve long term issues with my running style that were leading to re-occurring injury. Can't thank you enough!”

“I’ve seen Monica for a couple of problems. Her professionalism and expertise are faultless. I’ve had a huge improvement from just one session, really amazing. Great support with exercises too. Thank you!”

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IN BODY AND MIND.

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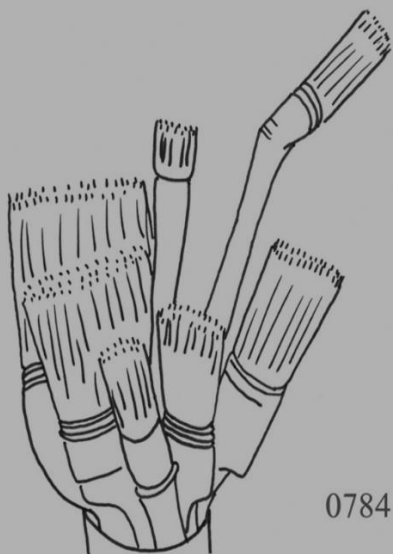
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P I L A T E S
& Y O G A**

BLETCHINGDON

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(MIXED ABILITY)**

**THURSDAYS 19:15-20:00
(MIXED ABILITY)**

KIRTLINGTON

**WEDNESDAYS 9:30-10:30
(MIXED ABILITY)**

**WEDNESDAYS 10:45-11:30
(BEGINNERS)**

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gemma.c.queralt@gmail.com
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GET IN TOUCH TO FIND
OUT HOW I CAN HELP
REALISE YOUR
DRYSTONE PROJECTS

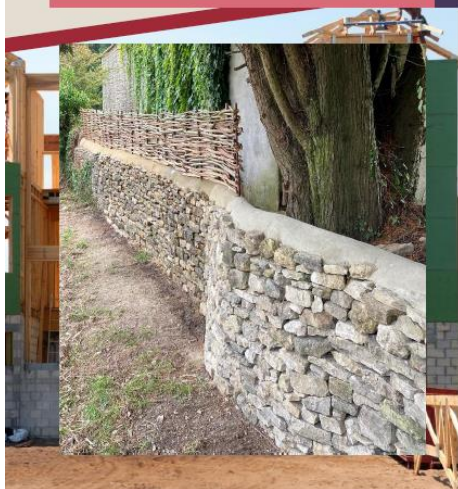
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PROJECT DREAMS TO
ENHANCE AND ADD VALUE TO
THEIR PROPERTY.'



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Humble Country

Christmas fayre

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1-2 DECEMBER 2023

40+ boutique stalls
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Food, hot drinks and mulled wine
Wreath-making, festive fun and lots more...

www.humblecountry.co.uk/christmas

Come along and enjoy the inaugural Humble Country Christmas Fayre at Rectory Farm on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd December from 10am to 5pm.

Immerse yourselves in the festive spirit of Christmas and browse over 40 boutique pop-up shops laden with a huge array of gorgeous gifts under twinkling Christmas lights. Exhibitors in the local area will be well represented and include: Annie Gray Designs; Bernwood Pottery; The Cattleshed Candle Company; Cosy Em; Olive Blue Jewellery; Ducky Zebra; Hot Creative and Fizzy Fuzzy.

Those attending the fayre will also have the chance to make and take away a Christmas wreath and purchase seasonal essentials such as a Christmas tree and all the trimmings for a festive lunch. A Santa's Grotto will be available for children. Christmas food, hot drinks and mulled wine will also be on offer from artisan sellers as well as foodie gift hampers in the farm shop.

Tickets to the fayre are free if booked in advance or £3 per person upon arrival. Visit the website (see left) to find out more.



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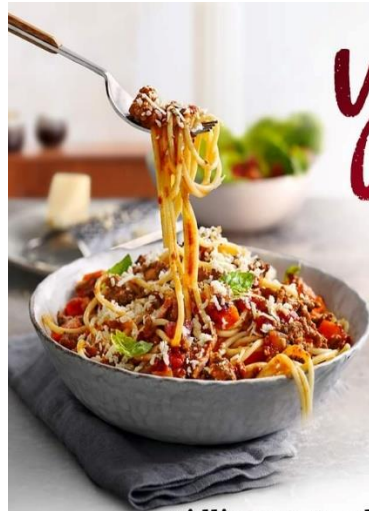
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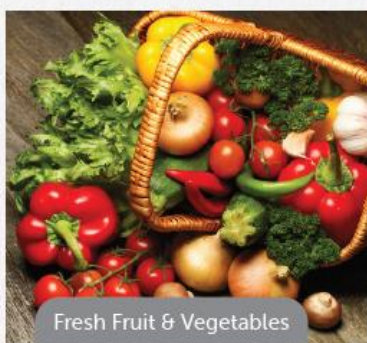
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