

BLETCHINGTON VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE – SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1979

ISSUE 272

October – November 2024



Fundraising for Breast Cancer Research

Reports from village organisations

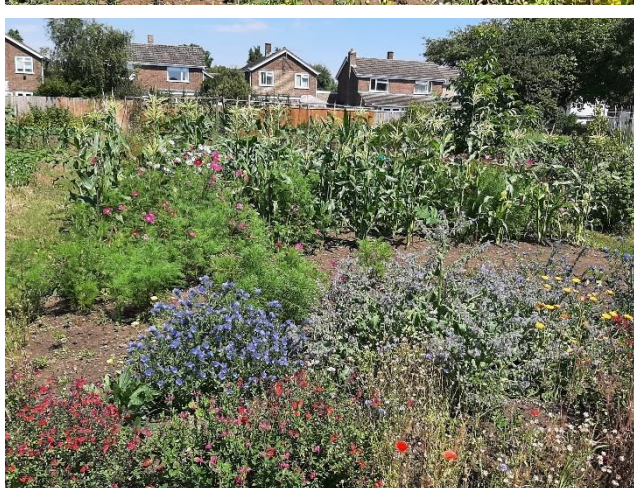
Making Our Roads Safer

Breast Cancer Research Bazaar

Captain Arthur Annesley

Allotments Gallery 2024

ALLOTMENTS GALLERY 2024



EDITORIAL

If you have been into Oxford City Centre during the summer, you can't help but have noticed some of the many colourful, unique, full-size ox statues that were on display. There were also smaller statues dotted around the rest of the county. As well as brightening up the city, at the end of the summer, the statues were auctioned off to raise funds for Sobell House Hospice, with at least £155,000 raised. Did anyone in Bletch buy an ox statue?

On the subject of charity fundraising, Bletchington has its own long standing tradition of doing this. It is so gratifying to live in such a caring village. On 31st August, the Ward family organised a Breast Cancer Bazaar which raised £4,000 for the charity – an amazing sum of money for a small village like this. Well done to the family and everyone else involved in raising a fantastic sum of money for a very well deserving charity. Thanks also to everyone who came along and supported the event. Read more about this event in our feature on Page 9. It seems strange to be mentioning the 'C' word as I write this in September, but the next charity fundraiser in the village will be a Christmas Craft Fayre in aid of Guide Dogs coming up on Saturday 23rd November – for details on this, please see the poster on Page 15. Another deserving cause, so do come along and take the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping.

This is **your** Village News and we are reliant upon material from organisations in the village and, of course, from you, the readers. Please keep your articles and photographs coming and do keep us updated with anything going on in our community, including any fundraising activities. We especially love to hear from new contributors and also welcome contributions from younger readers. If you have something to say of interest to the community and don't fancy writing, we can always capture your views via an interview and write an article on your behalf. Yes, it's that time of year again, so don't forget to keep us informed of any Christmas and New Year events taking place. Please get in touch with us via e-mail at bletchnews@gmail.com. The deadline for receiving material is always the **18th of the month** prior to publication – so articles for inclusion in the December/January magazine must reach us by **18th November** please.

bletchnews@gmail.com

Pete Baker

Allotments

Growing your own vegetables can be very rewarding, saving you money by not having to buy them and also ensuring you have the freshest produce available – from growing in the soil to your kitchen table in under an hour. But managing an allotment is a commitment and can involve quite a bit of hard work.

Our Allotments Gallery, opposite, showcases some of our many well-maintained allotments, but this does not tell the whole story – there are still quite a number of vacant plots, available to rent. If having an allotment is something that may be of interest to you, please see the advert on Page 27 for details on how to go about obtaining one. The rental is very inexpensive but please consider whether you have sufficient time and are willing to make the commitment of maintaining an allotment before taking it on.

Walking the footpaths

We are fortunate that the village we live in has a variety of interesting and picturesque country walks, right on our doorstep. Do enjoy the countryside but whilst out walking, please stick to the recognised public and permissive footpaths, which are usually clearly signed, and observe the Countryside Code. Please show due respect for the land you are walking over – and your fellow walkers.

Bottle recycling

Please dispose of your bottles and other glass items responsibly by placing them in the bottle banks situated in Oxford Road, near the entrance to the playing field. Please also ensure that you put them in the correct bin for the glass colour.

If you should find the bottle banks full, please take your glass home and try again later. Do NOT dump glass in front of the bins – the situation pictured here during the summer is not acceptable. This is littering and, if caught, could leave you liable to prosecution and a hefty fine.

Full bottle banks may be reported to Cherwell District Council via their website – select 'Rubbish & recycling' then, near the foot of the page, select 'Report a recycling bank'.



Home upgrade grants

Home Upgrade Grant funding will be closing soon. The deadline to apply is 31st October 2024, so there's not much time left for Oxfordshire residents to take advantage of this opportunity for free energy efficient home upgrades. "Welcome the Warmth" is funded by the Government's Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Phase 2 scheme, administered by the Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), to offer funding to provide energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating to qualifying off-gas homes.

Find out more about the scheme at www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk.

Dogs

There are many dogs that call Bletchington home and the vast majority are well behaved and in the care of responsible owners. Both dog owners and non-dog owners are requested to show respect for each other. There are some people who are not comfortable with dogs jumping on them, no matter how friendly the dog is being. However, do appreciate that dogs are animals, not robots, and need the freedom to be let off the lead in the appropriate place. Meanwhile, some dogs themselves show anxiety with other dogs and may be on a lead for that very reason – in which case if you approach a dog on a lead, it may be sensible to put your own dog on a lead as you pass.

Ultimately, we all have to share the same space: dogs, their owners and non-dog owners. The message is please show respect for each other. Bletchington is a friendly village for both humans and dogs. For further helpful hints and advice, please see the poster on Page 26.

Defibrillators

We have three defibrillators available in the village, located at the Village Hall, on the side nearest to the Co-op, at the Black's Head pub 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:

10 th August	Emily Taylor & Sam Freeman	Wedding
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We wish Emily and Sam every happiness in their life together.

28 th August	Andrew Newell	Funeral
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We extend our deepest sympathy to Denise and all Andrew's family.

Salt and light

During Holy Week the Christian drama group LAMPS put on a really moving and thought-provoking performance of The Passion. They have been invited back to present their production of Salt and Light (tales of the first disciples) on Saturday, 5th October in St. Mary Magdalene, Woodstock at 19:30. Tickets are available from stmmwoodstock@gmail.com.

Benefice Service

There will be a Benefice Service at Weston-on-the-Green on Sunday 27th October at 10:30 with the Akeman Church Community Choir. Do come along!

All Souls' Service

The All Souls' Services, at which we remember our deceased loved ones, especially those who have died during the past year, will be on Sunday 3rd November. The service in Bletchington takes place at 11:00.

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Sunday Service will be on Sunday 10th November at 10:45.

Stir-Up Service

On Sunday 24th November there will be a Stir-Up Service at Kirtlington Church at 18:00, with a pre-Advent theme and flavour, again with the Akeman Church Community Choir.

Shoeboxes

For the first time St. Giles' Church, Bletchington is taking part in the scheme to send shoeboxes containing toys to children abroad who would otherwise receive no Christmas presents. Some people have been collecting toys over the past few months and if you would like to consider contributing you will find details in leaflets which can be picked up from the church. Please would you cover your shoe box with Christmas paper before you fill it. There is a £5 donation for transport, this can be paid in cash or by cheque payable to Samaritan's Purse.

There will be a collection of boxes at the church on Monday 14th October from 4 to 5pm but if this is not convenient for you, please email Judith at: Judith.m.ledger@gmail.com to make other arrangements. Boxes will be taken to Banbury in November and then on to their final destinations.

OBITUARY

Kim Amos

Kim Amos, who was head teacher of Bletchington School between 1996 and 2012, died at home on 23rd June. She came to Bletchington from a teaching post in Witney. She inherited a challenging situation and built up a successful school. Her focus was to ensure every child had an education that was both happy and fulfilling.

People who knew her would remember how she held on to the school traditions during a time of rapid change and disruption, for example, Maypole Dancing and Pancake Racing.

For all schools, but particularly a small school, the demands were considerable - the introduction of the national curriculum, Ofsted and devolved financial management to name just three.

She continued to teach throughout her years as headteacher. Teaching was her first love; she taught with calm efficiency and made learning fun. Her management of the school was also effective, driven by collaboration and sound leadership.

Kim was loved by the children, her staff and the parents. She was regarded with affection by the wider education community in Oxfordshire. She was, however, the first to admit the task was never easy and sometimes very hard indeed. Kim retired with an impressive legacy: a new school was planned, generations of "well" educated children and the appreciation and affection of the community. She enjoyed a rich retirement with her dog and camper van back in Wales.

Michael & Joan Blades

Church services for October & November

OCTOBER 2024	Sunday 6th <i>Trinity 19</i>	Sunday 13th <i>Trinity 20</i>	Sunday 20th <i>Trinity 21</i>	Sunday 27th <i>Trinity (Last)</i>	
Bletchington	09:30 Breakfast Church		09:30 Holy Communion		
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Comm. (said) 11:00 Harvest Service	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Worship		
Hampton Gay		16:00 Harvest Evensong			
Kirtlington	11:00 Holy Communion	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Morning Worship		
Middleton Stoney	09:30 Morn. Worship		09:30 Holy Comm.		
Wendlebury	09:30 Holy Comm.		09:30 Breakfast Church		
Weston-on- the-Green	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Morning Worship	11:00 Holy Communion	10:30 Benefice Communion with ACCC	

NOVEMBER 2024	Sunday 3rd <i>All Souls</i>	Sunday 10th <i>Remembrance</i>	Sunday 17th <i>2 before Advent</i>	Sunday 24th <i>Next before Advent</i>	
Bletchington	11:00 All Souls' Service	10:45 Remembrance Service	09:30 Holy Communion		
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Comm. 11:00 Family Service 16:00 All Souls' Serv.	10:45 Remembrance Service	11:00 Café Church at Community Centre		
Hampton Gay					
Kirtlington	18:00 All Souls' Service	10:45 Remembrance Service	11:00 Morning Worship	18:00 Stir-up Service with ACCC	
Middleton Stoney	09:30 All Souls' Service	09:30 Holy Comm. & Remembrance Service		10:30 Holy Communion	
Wendlebury	16:00 All Souls' Service		09:30 Morning Worship		
Weston-on- the-Green	18:00 All Souls' Service	10:45 Remembrance Service	11:00 Holy Communion		

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

By the time you read this the blackberrying season will be well over. In fact in my lane it began at the end of July and was almost over by the beginning of September. I went out almost every morning at about 5.30 with my punnet in hand, and now have a freezer full of them! I hope I haven't deprived any locals – there seemed to be plenty left!

I found the whole enterprise hugely therapeutic. Connecting with nature in this simple but rewarding way helped me to get in touch with the primitive man lurking somewhere inside me, the foraging cave man. For someone who spends too much of his time (of necessity) in front of a computer screen or one the 'phone, to collect fruit from brambles was a healing and restorative experience.

I often marvel at how modern humans manage to exist at all – how primitive *homo sapiens* overcame all the extraordinary hurdles of life on the evolving planet to become the sophisticated creatures we are today. Of course, in some ways we have become TOO sophisticated, and have not only the means to destroy ourselves but a range of other possibilities that threaten our continued existence, or at the very least our sanity and safety.

It is good, therefore, that many people are eschewing the option of an ever-more-materialistic lifestyle and trying to return to a simpler way of being – living in greater harmony with the environment, thinking carefully about what we buy and what we eat, being more thoughtful about our choices and more conscious of the effects of our actions on others.

Yet, while it is good to seek the simpler life, we also have to try to rise above our primitive instincts – the lust for power, the desire for revenge, the sense of rivalry, the need for enemies. Sigmund Freud identified for us the *id*, the *ego* and the *super-ego*. The first, the *id*, is the set of uncoordinated instinctual desires; the super-ego plays the critical and moralising role; and the ego is the organised, realistic agent that mediates between the instinctual desires of the *id* and the critical super-ego. As we age and (ideally) mature, the ego serves to moderate the *id*, with its base instincts and the dangers associated with them. This is what enables us to become thinking, reflecting adults. Sadly, this summer, we saw on the streets of some of our towns and cities what happens when primitive instincts run riot.

So, let us return to our roots. Let us re-connect with the things that really matter. Here is St. Paul's advice:

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Gareth



***Remembrance Sunday is on
10th November***

Our Church Service is at 10:45am

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH BAZAAR

On Saturday 31st August at Bletchington Village Hall, Sam & Chantelle Ward, with their family, hosted a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research.

Following a huge success in 2021, we were back but better than ever! In 2021 we raised £2,600 so this year we were aiming for £3,000. However, we actually raised an amazing £4,000!

With Sam Ward being diagnosed with Breast Cancer a few years ago, this was a charity very close to our hearts – literally!

We hosted multiple craft stalls, with two amazing raffles, a tombola and lots of yummy refreshments.

Prior to the event we stuck circa 275 bras all over our vehicle for awareness around the area. Plus we had Finders Keepers, Woodstock very kindly place advertising boards around the village.

We'd like to thank every single person for attending our event. We had a huge turnout and raised a considerable amount of money for such a great cause.

We really appreciate everyone who donated raffle and tombola prizes and everyone who baked any yummy refreshments. The cakes were all delicious!



A huge thank you to everyone who supported us by purchasing raffle tickets, supporting us on the day and volunteering to help us. We couldn't have done it without you. Again, a huge thank you.

The main aim of the event was to push awareness for breast cancer symptoms so please make sure you check your breasts and get anything checked out which looks or feels different (men included).

Thanks again and we'll be back soon!

Lots of love.

***Sam, Chantelle & family
Valentia Close***

This October, wear pink and raise more money to help make life-saving breast cancer research and life-changing support happen.

On Friday 18th October, Breast Cancer Research is holding a '**Wear it Pink**' Day. Wear something pink to work or school or the gym or at home and make a donation to the charity.

To sign up for this fundraising initiative or for more information on planning an event, please visit:

<https://breastcancernow.org/wear-it-pink>

Breast Cancer Now Mission statement

Every 10 minutes, someone hears the words "you have breast cancer". That's why we're here. And we always will be. We support thousands of people affected by breast cancer every year. We've invested over £268 million in world-class breast cancer research. We're here to make sure that by 2050, everyone diagnosed with breast cancer will live, and live well.

MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER

Many residents will be concerned about the speed and volume of traffic in the village. A Community Speedwatch Group has recently been set up under Police guidelines with volunteers completing some brief online training beforehand to operate the speed monitoring device.

The team have had a few sessions so far, in the morning or early evening rush hour. 10% of the vehicles monitored have been caught travelling over the reported speed of 24mph. It is noticeable how many of the other 90% of drivers are slowing down significantly when monitoring is taking place, which shows it is a helpful reminder of the 20mph speed limit through the village. The more sessions we are able to arrange, the more drivers are reminded of the 20mph speed limit on our roads.

So far, some 80 drivers have been reported travelling over the speed limit. These drivers will be contacted by the Police and informed they were speeding. Any driver travelling at double the speed limit (40mph) will be visited by the Police in person within 48 hours.

Monitoring traffic speeds:

One session saw a PCSO briefly join the local team, thanking them for their work



Can you spare some time to help make our roads safer?

If anyone would like to join the Speedwatch Group, please contact Rebecca Watkinson on **07976 977227**.

A big thank you to Rebecca for co-ordinating the Speedwatch Group and also to all the other volunteers for helping make our roads safer.

Kirtlington and Bletchington Historical Society

The British Civil Wars 1642-51 in Eight Paintings

STEPHEN BARKER

Thursday 24th October, 7.30pm

Kirtlington Village Hall - Non-members £5

History Corner

Oxford Covered Market

Often described as the 'jewel in the crown' of Oxford's shopping centre, the Covered Market is celebrating its 250th anniversary, having officially opened on 1st November, 1774.

A charter in 1355 from King Edward III granted the university the rights to hold a market in the city. The Chancellor or Vice-chancellor controlled the market, regulating prices and ensuring no unfair practices took place. By 1380, the market boasted 16 butchers, 18 fishmongers and 7 grocers, spread out around several streets in the city centre. The market continued to expand over the centuries but by the 18th Century had become a messy, sprawling affair, sometimes impeding the flow of traffic so it was decided to relocate all the stalls into one area. In 1772, architect John Gwynn (who was also architect of Magdalen Bridge) drew up plans for a High Street frontage for the market, meanwhile a market committee was formed, comprising 12 people, six from the town and six from the university.

Initially, only meat was allowed to be sold in the new market, with provision for twenty butchers' stalls in the original plans, soon expanding to forty. Fines of £5 were issued to anyone selling other products within the confines of the market, but as it began to expand, other foods were soon allowed to be sold, although non-food products were generally off limits for many years. The market also housed an arena where punishments were administered, mainly to thieves, with records of people spending time in the pillory or being publicly whipped. There is also a record, from 1789, of a man selling his wife at the market.

In 1808 the market expanded to incorporate a further 48 stalls, primarily for the sale of fruit and veg. Further extensions were added in 1838 and 1881, by which time it was beginning to look something like the market we know today. A further change occurred in 1889 when responsibility for the market was transferred from the University to the City Council.

Up until very recently, the many butchers' shops made the market a sight to behold at Christmas time but, sadly, many of the traditional traders have now departed the market. The past few years have seen a significant transformation which has resulted a big increase in the number of fast food outlets, offering a wide range of cuisines from around the world. The market retains its vibrancy but the atmosphere has changed and it now has somewhat the feel of a fast food court; a great place to come for lunch, but some of the original character has been lost.

Kirtlington and Bletchington Historical Society

William Wilberforce from his Diaries

MARK SMITH

Thursday 28th November, 7.30pm

Kirtlington Village Hall - Non-members £5



The Bletchington Community Foundation

Save the date!

Start your Christmas celebrations with us! This year we will be turning on the Christmas lights at the Village Hall on Sunday 1st December at 5:00pm (until about 6:30pm). You are invited to come along and join us for mulled wine and mince pies (soft drinks also available). As usual, Bletchington Silver Band will be there to entertain us with carols. We look forward to seeing you.

Village Hall directory

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

BCF PUBLIC MEETING

to be held at

the Village Hall

on

Wednesday, 9th October at 7:30pm

Please come along to meet the BCF trustees and find out more about the organisation which also encompasses the Village Hall and the Bletchington Charity. Learn what the BCF has been doing over the past year and what its plans are for the future. Have your say – we welcome ideas from everyone in the village.



- Would you like to make an impact in the community?**
- Can you help improve your Village Hall?**

The BCF would welcome the support of one or two residents from the village to join the team and assist in the running of the Village Hall. You can have a say in how the hall is run and what type of events you would like to see taking place there. You would really make a difference in the local community.

If you are interested in joining the BCF team or would like further information, please come along to our Public Meeting (see above) and have a chat with one of the trustees or, if you can't make it, drop an e-mail to bcf.chair@thebcf.net.



The Charity is here to help anyone who needs it

The purpose of the charity is to:

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

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

So, the Government has decided to end winter fuel payments to most pensioners. This will no doubt result in hardship for many people throughout the country but, fortunately, in Bletchington, we have the Charity which is here to help in times of hardship. We don't want to see anyone going cold or hungry this winter. If you are adversely affected by the Government's decision, please apply for a grant from the Charity.

As you will appreciate, the Charity's income is finite and with little remaining by way of reserves, the committee has to be prudent in its allocation of grants. So please do not look upon grants available from the Charity as some sort of 'entitlement'. It is here to help those in genuine need – the Charity committee must scrutinise all grant applications carefully to ensure the optimal use of limited funds available. But please do not let this put you off applying for a grant. We do not want to see anyone facing hardship this winter and will, as always, continue to give fair and 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 Charity's page on 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 can assist applicants in filling it out. Preferred contact is via e-mail: charity.secretary@thebcf.net or ring and leave a message on **01869 350180**. All applications are treated in complete confidence.

Examples of regular grants given 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 which are generally held quarterly. However, if an application is urgent, please let us know and the committee will be able to consider it sooner.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9th December. Applications to be in by 7th December please.



In support of



Bletchingdon Christmas
Craft Fayre &
Guide Dogs Event

FREE ENTRY

ALL WELCOME

Saturday 23rd November
10.30am to 3.30pm

Bletchingdon Village Hall
OX5 3FD

This is a great chance to:

Do a bit of Christmas Shopping, we have a great selection of handmade gifts on offer from local crafters,
Have a go at our fantastic Christmas Raffle,
Meet the Oxford Guide Dogs Team and their Dogs,
Have a natter with Tea and Tasty Cakes.
Christmas Trees, wreaths and plants will also be available from Bunkers Hill Plant Nursery.

All proceeds go towards much needed funds to support both the Oxfordshire Guide Dogs & Age UK.

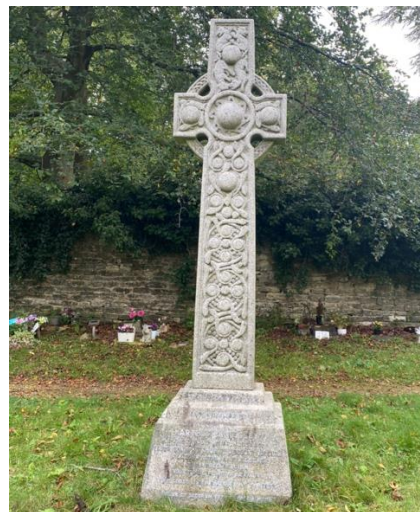
Looking forward to see you there!



CAPTAIN ARTHUR ANNESLEY

Most of us will be familiar with the memorial cross that stands close by the door of St. Giles' church. The dedication is succinct: "To the glory of God, and in memory of Arthur Annesley, Captain X Royal Hussars, elder son of Arthur, 11th Viscount Valentia, killed in action at Zillebeke, near Ypres Belgium, November 16th 1914, aged 34, this cross is dedicated by his parents. Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori."

The Latin tag, from the Roman poet Horace, translates as: "It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country." That had been a conventional sentiment for many centuries, though of course it concealed immense pain. It was transformed by Wilfred Owen's bitter poem later in the war in which he called it "the old lie." But in 1914 it was still, just about, a comfort to a grieving family.



As a young officer, 1900

The Annesleys, who were viscounts in the Irish but not the British peerage, had lived at Bletchington Park for several generations, indeed in the 1780's they had built the house that still stands there. They were good landlords by the standards of the time and were much involved in public life. The Hon Arthur Annesley, born 24th August 1880, had a younger brother and four sisters. He would have learned to ride here, before going to Eton, and then serving in the Oxfordshire militia for two years from 1898. Having thus gained useful military experience, he was commissioned into the Tenth (Prince of Wales' Own) Royal Hussars in 1900. His father and grandfather had also served in the regiment.

The Tenth Royal Hussars was a fashionable cavalry regiment, originally raised in 1715. It fought in many of the great battles of the 18th and 19th centuries, including Culloden, Minden, the Peninsula (where it particularly distinguished itself), Waterloo and the Crimea. Many of the regiment's officers were aristocrats. It was reputed to be the most expensive regiment in the army after the Life Guards, and officers needed a substantial private income. Its nickname in the army was "the shiny Tenth". However, its record shows that it was a highly professional regiment as well as a smart one.

Arthur saw action in the Boer War, being awarded several campaign medals. He was promoted to Lieutenant after only a few months in the army, suggesting he possessed both efficiency and dash. Thereafter he settled to the life of a professional soldier during the Edwardian heyday of the British empire. The Hussars were stationed in India from 1902 to 1912, and Arthur Annesley served for a time on the Northwest Frontier. He was promoted to Captain and command of a company in 1907. A posting to India was no holiday: about a tenth of the Hussars died during those years, either in action or of disease.

But Captain Annesley particularly excelled as a polo player. To quote from the Roll of Honour by the Marquis of Ruvigny:

"Captain Annesley, like his father, was a distinguished polo player. In 1907 he played at No. 1 for the 10th Hussars, when they won both the Inter-Regimental and the Subaltern Tournament of India, and, excepting in 1909, he was always at No. 1 in the team, which, between 1907-12, ran up such a remarkable series of successes in the Indian Inter-Regimental tournaments. He also assisted the 10th Hussars to win the Indian Championship at Calcutta."



X Hussars polo team, with Arthur Annesley seated left

In 1912, when the Tenth Hussars were posted once more to South Africa, Captain Annesley was detached to serve as ADC to Major General Julian Byng, the British commander in chief in Egypt. This might have presaged a rise within the command structure of the army – his new boss was an influential senior cavalryman, also a Tenth Hussar and a keen polo player. However, at the outbreak of war in August 1914, Byng was recalled to England to take command of the Cavalry Division, and, rather than follow him, Arthur Annesley chose to rejoin his regiment which had returned from South Africa.

Being in transit from South Africa, the Tenth Hussars did not take part in the earliest battles of World War I, such as Mons and Le Cateau. They reached Belgium on 6th October 1914 and were soon in action against the Germans pushing to take Ypres. By early November, having suffered significant losses in officers, men and horses, they were resolutely holding the line at Zillebeke near Ypres. Captain the Hon. Arthur Annesley was shot dead by a German sniper on 16th November, an otherwise uneventful day.

Such are the fortunes of war: though it was statistically unlikely that Arthur would have survived unscathed the next four years, during which his regiment was constantly engaged and suffered grievous casualties. Few of the men of October 1914 were still there in November 1918.



Capt. Annesley September 1914

One of Arthur's younger sisters, Lettice, was married to Capt. Geoffrey Salvin Bowlby, Royal Horse Guards, killed in action 13th May 1915. In later life she was lady in waiting to HRH the Duchess of York, remembered today as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Arthur Annesley had been the heir to the Valentia viscountcy, which passed on their father's death in 1923 to his younger brother Caryl Arthur James Annesley. When he died, unmarried and without issue in 1948, the peerage went to a distant relative and the Bletchingdon Park estate was sold.

Patrick Heren

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Hello people of Bletchingdon and the surrounding area!



I am a self employed private carer with over 20 years of experience across care and companionship roles. I have undertaken challenging nursing care for clients with debilitating and terminal illnesses and now care for a lovely lady with anxiety and mild confusion. My clients tend to become my friends. I am trusted and valued by my clients and their families and to reflect this, I can provide very good references. I am looking for a role closer to my home near Bletchingdon.

I have an NVQ in adult care and have completed other training with certification.

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If you are looking for a reliable, positive minded and knowledgeable carer with a good heart and a natural interest in people's wellbeing, please do send a message:

jackiemarsh522@gmail.com

1st BLETCHINGTON BROWNIES

Welcome back to Brownies!

19 Brownies and 4 leaders all ready for a jam packed term.

Baking and games for the first few weeks all towards our theme awards. Well done to Emily and Isabel who have completed their bronze awards.

We're looking forward to celebrating International Day of the Girl in October joining WAGGGS members across the world in earning special badges. We'll also be learning more about the WAGGGS World Centre Sangam in India as our leaders are off to visit there in October.

Soon some of the older Brownies are moving up to Guides in Woodstock; we're excited about them joining us and have spaces for any girls age 10-14 to come too.

www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus.

Bletch Diary

6 th October – 9:30am	St. Giles' Church – Breakfast Church (<i>see Page 7</i>)
6 th October – 4:00pm	Village Hall – Autumn Concert: "A Transport of Delights" With Bletchington Silver Band (<i>see Page 21</i>)
9 th October – 7:30pm	Village Hall – BCF Public Meeting Find out about the BCF's latest activities (<i>see Page 13</i>)
12 th October – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash bingo (<i>see Page 23</i>)
19 th October – 9:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Live music With SledgeHammer – Ticket entry only (<i>see Page 23</i>)
9 th November – 9:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Live music With Jennah (<i>see Page 23</i>)
10 th November – 10:45am	St. Giles' Church – Remembrance Service (<i>see Pages 7 & 8</i>)
16 th November – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash bingo (<i>see Page 23</i>)
23 rd November – 10:30am	Village Hall – Christmas Craft Fayre In aid of Guide Dogs (<i>see Page 15</i>)
23 rd November – 9:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Live music With Inter-60's Band (<i>see Page 23</i>)



Kirtlington Morris

Not a great deal to tell you at this time of year as, like many people, we have been on our summer break. As promised our last danceout of the season, at the end of August, was at the Masons Arms, North Leigh with our friends Eynsham Morris and Sharp & Blunt from Adderbury.

Then it was holiday time, maybe taking in a few folk festivals scouting for potential guests for next year's Lamb Ale Morris Festival – yes, organizing the next Lamb Ale really does start this early to ensure we can get the guests we want. Only the best!

By the time you read this we will have started practising again, 8pm Tuesdays at Kirtlington Village Hall, as you very well know. Our recent recruits have a lot of dances to learn and we 'oldies' need to refresh our memories of some of the dances that we haven't been able to do while nurturing our newer members. Speaking of which, our most recent recruit, aged 16, is already showing us up by dancing out in kit after only five practices. Maybe you could do it too? Come along on a Tuesday, have a go and maybe join us at the pub afterwards for a well-deserved refreshment.

Next spring should see us right up to speed again and we are already talking about the possibility of being able to perform at festivals with a full contingent of dancers and dances, which we haven't done for a while.

The future's bright!

Nigel Holt, Squire, Kirtlington Morris, 01869 350219

BLETCHINGTON THURSDAY CLUB

At our September meeting we were entertained by Pete & Phil North who sang folk songs and played the accordion and guitar. We were invited to join in with the singing and some members also did some dancing. This was followed by tea and a raffle.

Our October meeting will be a harvest lunch and a quiz.

Thursday Club is held on the first Thursday of the month in the Village Hall at 2 o'clock. This is open to anyone aged 50 and over. Membership is £6 a year.

*Phil & Pete entertain members with
their unique brand of folk singing*





BLETCHINGTON SILVER BAND

Avid followers of the Band will recall that we left you in the August issue on the verge of celebrating a wedding for one of our Horn players, Sarah. We were very pleased to help her and Doug celebrate by playing both outside Woodstock Town Hall and, with a small group, inside during the ceremony. The weather was beautiful for them, and hopefully, they and their guests enjoyed the music we provided.

On Sunday 8th September we ran our annual Brass Festival where players get to try their hand at solos, duets, and larger ensembles in a mildly competitive atmosphere. Often this heavily features members of our B-Band but it was very good to see them supported by Senior Band players teaming up with B-Band partners for duets this year. After a morning of music and cake this year's results were:

Best Solo: Della Dawe

Best Duet: Martha & Rebecca McNaught

Outstanding Performance: Rebecca McNaught

Otherwise, the summer has been spent working towards our Autumn Concert which will be on **Sunday 6th October** at 4:00pm. Titled (with apologies to Flanders & Swann) "A Transport of Delights", we hope you will join us for a musical journey featuring both our bands. If you are a regular at our concerts, then we look forward to seeing you again; if you've never heard us, why not give it a go!

PERCUSSIONIST WANTED – for the first time in several years, our Senior Band is almost at full strength (thanks to returning players and promotions from our B-Band). We even have a drummer! For much of our concert music, however, and especially for competitions it would be perfect if we could find someone to play non-kit percussion (timpani, glockenspiel etc). Perhaps we have a closet percussionist in the village or, alternatively, an experienced musician who fancies trying their hand – contact our MD (md@bletchingtonsilverband.co.uk) for details.

Remaining 2024 Concerts: **Sunday 6th October (Autumn Concert) - 4:00pm**
 Sunday 8th December (Christmas Concert) – 4:00pm

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

As summer comes to an end, we look forward to seeing you all at our final steam event of the year.

20th October: In steam themed event – **Woodcraft + Autumn Market**. See the advert on Page 38.

We have invited Wood Turners Clubs along with vintage demonstrations, spoon carving, pole lathe and much more. Come along and see how it was done in the day.

Combe Mill is a late 19th Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode. All Machinery running 'In Steam', volunteers will be on hand with lots of interesting information. Come along and see the Blacksmiths in the forge - you might just be able to make a poker. Tea room will be open, BBQ, Gift Shop, Tombola and Market Stall - come along and browse.

Dog on leads most welcome - Parking free.

Adults £9.00 – Seniors £7.50 – Children are now FREE. Open 10.30am to 5.00pm.

1st December: Annual Christmas Market - 11.00am to 4.00pm

Market stalls with lots to browse, get your Christmas gifts early. Santa will be in his Grotto - bring the children along (you may need to book your slot). BBQ, Chestnuts & Mulled Wine, Tea Room, Gift Shop, Tombola and Grand Raffle.



BLETCHINGTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB



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

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

We currently have 4 youth football teams (U17, U14, U11 & U10), 3 Cricket Teams, 2 Bar Billiard Teams, 3 Darts Teams, a Quiz Team, Aunt Sally, Pool and a Cribbage Team who all base themselves at the Club. We also have a very active social committee who regularly host Bingo, Live Music and other events that are generally free admission and open to everyone.

We have Sky Sports, Darts, Pool and a Bar Billiards Table. We generally open for any major televised sporting events.

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

Cricket: The season has now finished with both teams having a better second half of the season and finished in midtable positions. Please visit the cricket club website at www.obncc.play-cricket.com for details and fixtures.

Football: The men are running two teams this season and have made an average start. Training is at the Sports Ground on a Tuesday evening.

The under 11's training is on a Monday evening from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Bar billiards: Summer league has just finished and the winter league starts soon. New and experienced players welcome.

Bletchington Nomads – Quiz Team: In the Oxfordshire Quiz League, the summer season has just finished. The Nomads didn't reach their recent heights, winning 7 of their 16 games, finishing last of four Premiership teams.

In the National Online League, the winter season has just got under way. Three close games all finished in narrow defeats. A long way to go yet.

Darts: Karen Young's ladies' team finished runners up in the League and Clare Pounder is in the final of the Open Individual competition. The men will be running a team on Wednesday evenings, old and new players welcome.

Aunt Sally: The team unfortunately finished bottom of their section but are looking forward to a better season next summer.

Cribbage: The team have just started their season.

Pool – The season has just started.

What's On at the Club?

SATURDAY 12th October – CASH BINGO (eyes down 8:00pm)

SATURDAY 19th October – LIVE MUSIC: SledgeHammer (9:00pm)

Ticket entry only – **SOLD OUT**

SATURDAY 9th November – LIVE MUSIC: Jennah (9:00pm)

SATURDAY 16th November – CASH BINGO (eyes down 8:00pm)

SATURDAY 23rd November – LIVE MUSIC: Inter-60's Band (9:00pm)



Don't forget – Club membership became due for renewal on 1st September. If you haven't yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible.

If you aren't a Club member, why not consider joining? Members can enjoy the club bar with cheaper-than-pub prices and events such as live music and bingo.

Live music with Declan Gaynor – assisted by Tommy!

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YOUR COUNCIL MATTERS

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Latest News



Oxfordshire County Council are introducing MyBus: Unlimited bus travel across the county - all on one ticket!

Prices start at £3.50 a day or £14.50 a week for under-19s, and £6.50 a day or £25 a week for adults. Keep in mind that depending on your journey, there may be cheaper ticket options available.

Make sure to explore all your choices.

You can find out more if you visit

<https://www.mybusoxfordshire.org.uk/mybus-oxfordshire-tickets>

IN OTHER NEWS



Coming Soon...

Bletchingtondon Parish Council have successfully secured funding via the Lottery Community Fund for a new climbing wall to be put up at the Recreation Ground. Once installed, this will provide children with ten different challenges, improving climbing skills, agility, balance, strength and coordination, whilst encouraging teamwork and interaction with other children.



CSW Group

Our fabulous Community Speed Watch (CSW) group have been out three times since our last article. They are recording drivers not adhering to the speed limit and reporting them to Thames Valley Police. This is all in an effort to make our roads safer and can help collect evidence to prove the need for further traffic calming measures in the future.

They are still seeking more volunteers so if you are interested, please contact the clerk who will put you in touch with the CSW co-ordinator.

Bletchingtondon Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the CSW group for all of their efforts so far.

Next Meetings

30th October & 27th

November 2024- The Village Hall.

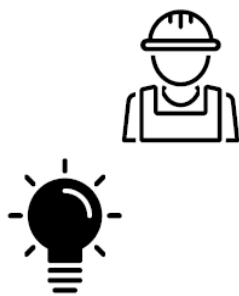
Visit our website for information on public attendance and participation at Council Meetings.

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.bletchingtondonparishcouncil.co.uk



Planning Matters July & August 2024

New Applications Put Forward



24/01602/F – Mr Marcus & Mrs Louisa Dixon – 1 Station Road, Bletchingdon OX5

3DE – Demolition of utility extension and covered arm, erection of two storey rear extension and single storey section.

24/01683/F – Mr J Bell – Land East of Heathfield Cottages, Heathfield OX5 3DX – Erection of 2 horse stables, feed store and secure tack room land used for keeping of horses and for equestrian purposes.

24/01899/F – Mrs Catherine Murfitt – Frogs Nest Farm, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DS – Proposed external toilet steps and relocation of original south east elevation gable window (Amendment to previously granted planning permission 22/01146/F).

24/02124/F – Totem Scaffolding – Heathfield Yard, Street Through Heathfield Village, Heathfield – Retrospective application for the retention of temporary uses and ancillary structures in connection with the use of the site as a scaffolding yard (sui generis).



Applications Approved

24/01129/F – Land South of Springwell House, Station Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DE – Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of 20/02870/F – To alter the approved boundary treatment from a stone wall to a 5ft feather edge timber fence.

23/02149F & 23/02150/LB – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – Repairs to the 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.

24/01610/TCA – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, OX5 3DW -

T5001 – Veteran oak tree immediately adjacent Estate gate lodge, leans towards residence and public road. Crown reduce 20%. T885 – Mature horse chestnut at old park entrance – leans out over Islip Road. Fell to ground level.



Applications Refused

24/01602/F – 1 Station Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DE – Demolition of utility extension and covered arm, erection of two storey rear extension and single storey section.

Councillors, Responsibilities & Contacts



Name	Role	Address	Contact Number:
Dan Robins	Chair	Four Views, Oxford Road	350007
Rachel Pirie	Vice Chair	12 Valencia Close	07790025110
Matt Whitehead	Councillor	Rogers Cottage, Station Rd.	350991
Mark Taylor	Councillor	Stoneacre, Oxford Rd.	350609
Duncan Ledger	Councillor	3 Islip Road	351542
Chris Lane	Councillor	Village Farm	350257
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

Alisa Russell - Alisa.Russell@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

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

"IT'S OKAY! MY DOG IS FRIENDLY!"

HOW TO NAVIGATE TRICKY SITUATIONS

ALL DOGS NEED SPACE

Whether it is your dog, or someone else's, there's so many reasons why some dogs need space:

- ✗ A young puppy learning about the world
- ✗ An aging or elderly dog needing gentle exercise
- ✗ A newly adopted dog
- ✗ A dog in training
- ✗ A dog who is fearful of novelty or new environments
- ✗ A dog recovering from illness or surgery
- ✗ A deaf or blind dog
- ✗ A leash reactive dog
- ✗ A dog suffering from arthritis or other painful physical condition
- ✗ A dog who is fearful of, or reactive around, other dogs
- ✗ A dog who is fearful of people and/or children

RESPECT THOSE THAT NEED SPACE

You might have a friendly dog, but not everyone wants a strange dog to approach them, nor does every dog want to say hello. Always ask another owner's permission before allowing your (on or off-lead) dog to approach - and if in doubt, don't approach and give them plenty of space!

BE YOUR DOG'S BEST ADVOCATE

- ✓ Grow confidence and disengagement skills through games.
- ✓ Don't put them in situations if they won't enjoy the experience.
- ✓ Advocate for your dog in ALL situations and environments.
- ✓ Train FOR the situation, not IN the situations!
- ✓ Guard optimism and protect your dog from potential negative experiences with off-leash and unknown dogs.
- ✓ Have responses ready for every situation - such as "my dog won't enjoy that experience" or "my dog is in training and needs space".

PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU

Put your own dog back on lead and increase the distance between yourselves and another dog or moving in a different direction are great ways of respecting the space of other dogs and pet parents.

GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES



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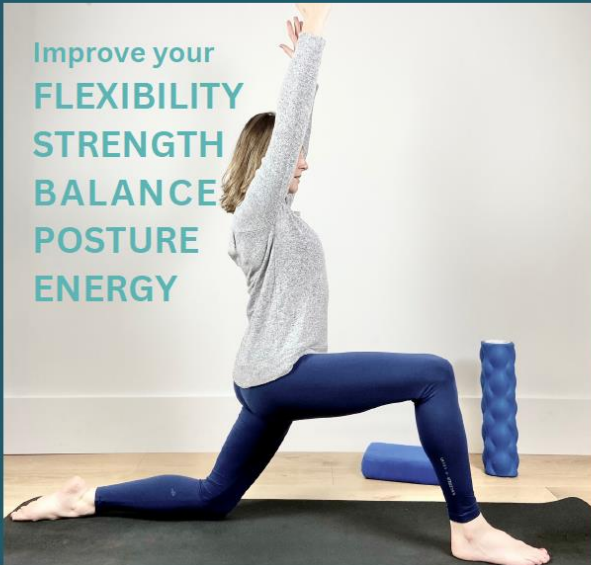


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HOME COMFORTS

Moving can potentially be a stressful time, that's why we believe it is our job to make your move as smooth a journey as possible.

Simply give us a call, stick the kettle on and we'll be round in a jiffy:

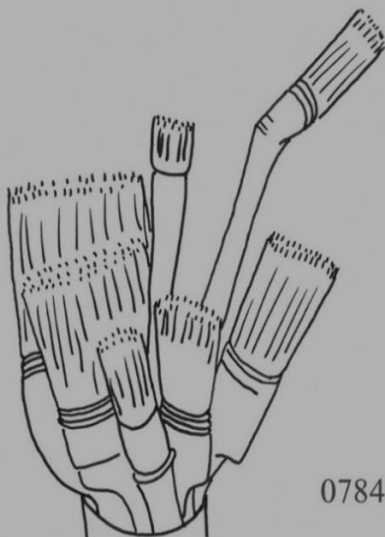
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Wood Crafts

at Combe Mill
Sunday 20 October
10.30 - 17.00 hrs

Working machinery driven by steam beam engine +
blacksmiths' forge

Demonstrations of working with wood

Charlbury Morris in afternoon

Adults £9.00, concessions £7.50, children under 16 free.

Ask about making a donation and qualifying for a 12 month pass

See www.combemill.org or telephone 01993 358694 for full details

Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxfordshire OX29 8ET

Browse amongst our Autumn market stalls

Sunday, 1st December

11:00am – 4:00pm

Annual Christmas Market

- **Market stalls**
- **Santa's Grotto**
- **Barbecue**
- **Mulled wine & chestnuts**
- **Tombola & Grand raffle**
- **Free entry & parking**

Time To Switch Agent?

We can make it easy

Landlords often select agents because they were enticed by a deal, or were perhaps referred by a friend or colleague. However, you may now find that the relationship just isn't working for you, and may be unsure if it's possible to move to another agent. The short answer is: yes, you can.

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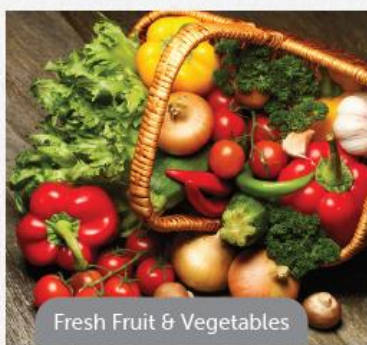
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