

BLETCHINGTON VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE – SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1979

ISSUE 277

August – September 2025



Greta's Final Journey

Reports from village organisations

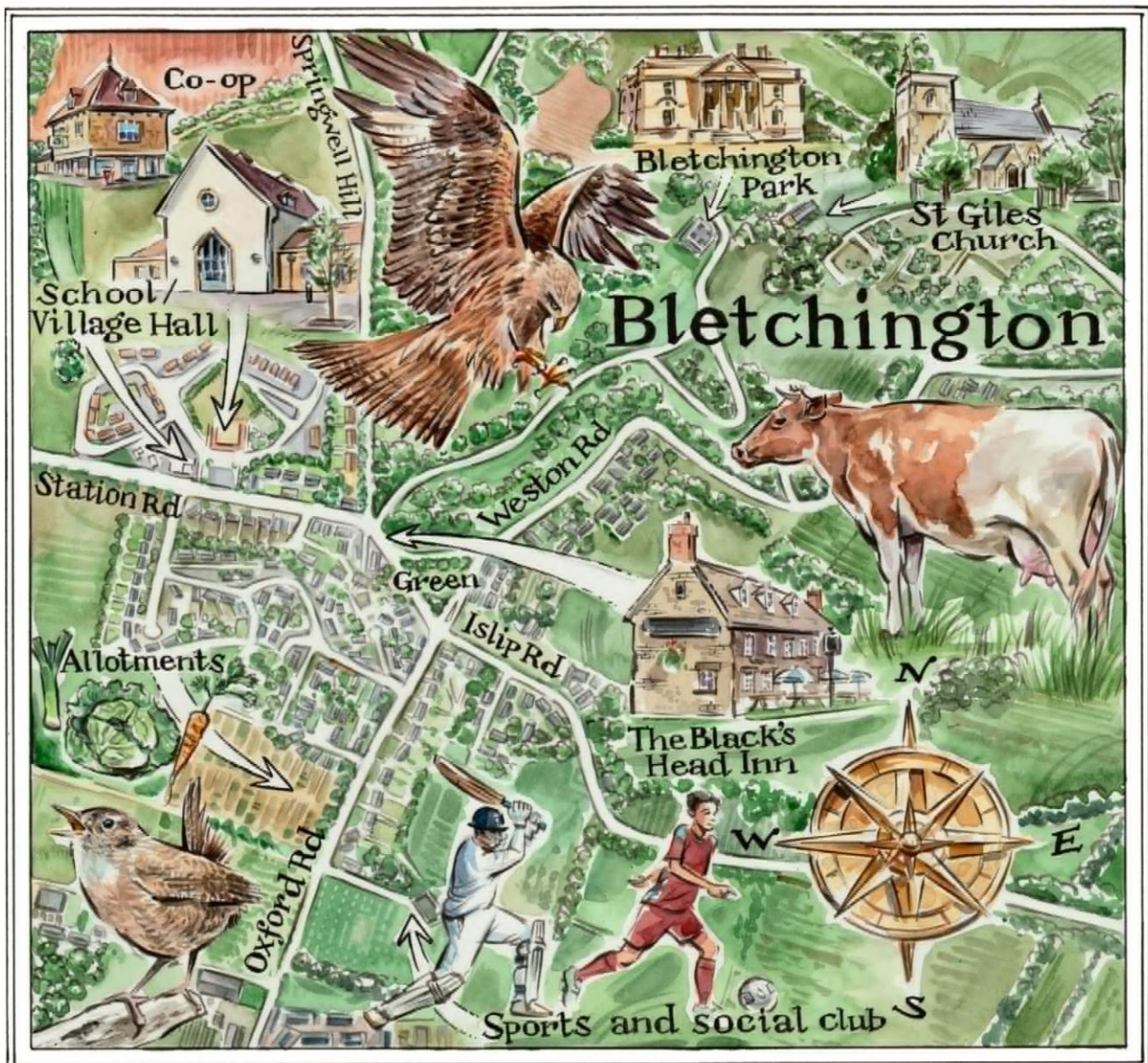
Our Village: a unique new map of Bletchington

Akeman Benefice visit to Swedish Link Parish

The Foods of Oxfordshire

Lamb Ale – in pictures

OUR VILLAGE



Local artist, Gary Wing has created this unique new map of Bletchington. He explained that, as part of his work, he has created maps of many places but never one of his own village before, so it was time to change that!

If you would like a print of this map, size 30cm x 30cm, the cost is £30 and it can be obtained directly from the artist. Please e-mail Gary on garywing1@btinternet.com to order your copy.



The artist at work

This picture features Gary hard at work at the recent Hillcrest Art Exhibition in the village – for a full report on this event, please see Page 24.

EDITORIAL

The tenth anniversary is defined as the 'tin anniversary'. This year, the Village Hall and School celebrate the tenth anniversary of opening. There will be no tin gifts exchanged but on 30th August, the anniversary will be celebrated with Bletch Fest, so make sure you have this date in your diaries. The last time we hosted something similar was Bletch Bash in 2021, which was held to mark the end of lockdowns and was a great success. We hope this year's event will be equally successful and will include food and drink plus entertainment for all ages – see Page 22 for more details. Bletchington has a bit of a reputation for baking with some excellent charity cake sales and, of course, our own cookbook, published by a group from the village during lockdown. So, all you bakers out there, you'll be pleased to hear that Bletch Fest will be featuring the Great Bletch Bake Off baking competition. Dust off your copy of 'Bletch Bakes for the NHS' cookbook for inspiration, or create something new, and bring it along on 30th August – details of the baking competition can be found on Page 23.

There have been a couple of key personnel changes in the village since our last edition. Firstly, Fiona Mason has resigned as Clerk to the Parish Council, to be replaced by Samantha Cox who takes over as the new Clerk. We warmly welcome Sam to the village. Meanwhile, Rob Newnham has stepped down as Chairman of the Sports & Social Club after 25 years. James Warton takes over as the new Chair of the Club. A massive thank you to Fiona and Rob for years of service to their respective organisations and to the village. Thanks also for the regular articles both have contributed on to the Village News on behalf of their organisations over the years. Congratulations to Sam and James on their appointments – we wish them success in their new roles.

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 news of anything going on in our community, including any fundraising activities. It would be great to receive some articles on nature, horticulture or gardening, either on a regular basis or as a one-off. These are subjects we would love to cover more, but receive little material on. Not keen on writing? No problem! Just get in touch and we can capture your views via an interview and produce an amazing article on your behalf. Please contact us via e-mail at bletchnews@gmail.com. The deadline for us receiving material is always the **18th of the month** prior to publication – so articles for inclusion in the October/November edition must reach us by **18th September** please.

bletchnews@gmail.com

Pete Baker

Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late Greta Bickley, would like to express our deepest gratitude to Chris Lane, Ian & Kathy Gedling and Fiona Mason for the special tributes to our beloved mum in the last edition of Village News.

We would also like to offer our sincerest thanks to each one of you who attended mum's funeral on Thursday 5th June; we were overwhelmed and deeply touched at seeing so many people at the church paying their respects, and for the kind words expressed in the many sympathy cards we all received.

Finally, we thank everyone who has very kindly donated to either St. Giles' Church or the Alzheimer's Society. We do not have a grand total yet but are aware that the donations to the Alzheimer's Society had nearly reached £900! Mum would have been immensely proud of this.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

Deborah, Angela, Theresa, Derek, Marianne, Marc & Families XXXXXX

Cover photograph: Our cover photograph, showing Greta Bickley's funeral cortege entering St. Giles' Church forecourt was taken by Fiona Teddy. Thank you, Fiona, for sharing your photograph.

Water pressure

There have been many issues over a long period of time regarding water pressure, with some parts of the village seemingly affected more than others. Our MP, Calum Miller, has been made aware of the situation. Thames Water now appear to have recognised there is a systematic problem and have advised that they have fitted two pressure boosters to the system which will hopefully alleviate the situation. Meanwhile, they have also fitted short-term water pressure monitors to certain homes in both Bletchington and Kirtlington and will let us know the results of this survey in due course.

If you continue to experience issues regarding your water pressure, please report them to Thames Water. The more complaints they receive, the more likely they are to come and try to resolve them.

Please keep dogs under control

We have, unfortunately, received further reports of dogs being out of control in the village, including jumping at people, circling them or generally harassing walkers. This includes unattended loose dogs and dogs being walked off-lead. Dog owners, even if your dog is just 'being friendly', please be aware that not everyone appreciates being bothered by uncontrolled dogs – what may be viewed as affection by one person may be seen as unwelcome harassment by another. One reader writes: "Public footpaths are supposed to be safe for everyone. I love dogs, but they need to be controlled or be on a lead or securely fenced."

Incidents have been noted on the footpath between Islip Road and New Road, along Kirtlington Road and around the lakes. Dog owners and non-dog owners have to share the same space, so let's do this amicably and, everyone, please respect each other's canine viewpoint.

Bletch Babes – Cake Sale

Bletch Babes will be holding their annual Macmillan Cancer Support Cake Sale in September. It will take place on the Village Hall Plaza – date to be confirmed nearer the time. Please watch out for messages in Facebook and BletchNet. Donations of cakes and raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

We are currently selling money squares if anyone would like to buy a square, with all profits going to the charity. There will be one prize of £501!!!! The way it works, as we are asked a lot, is you pick a random raffle ticket numbered between 1 and 500 from our pot and whatever the number is, you pay that amount in pence - so if you pick number 1 you pay 1p. The highest amount to pay for one ticket is £5, if you happen to draw ticket number 500. Anyone who would like a ticket can do so from the club on Tuesday nights when the Bletch Babes are in action playing darts or contact anyone of us: Cherrie East, Linda Allinson, Katie Sawyer, Marianne French or Suzanne Wickson. Some weekends we will be at the club too.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and for your delicious cakes.

Hosepipe ban

Due to the very dry spring and summer so far, Thames Water has imposed a Temporary Use Ban, better known as a hosepipe ban affecting, amongst others, the whole of the OX postcode area. This came into effect from 22nd July. Reservoirs and rivers are at lower than normal levels for this time of year so the ban is necessary to ensure the taps keep running for everyone. The means, for the time being, you cannot use a hosepipe, sprinkler or jet washer for the following purposes:

- Watering gardens and allotments
- Filling paddling pools, swimming pools and hot tubs
- Cleaning vehicles, windows and patios

There are exceptions and if you have limited mobility or are on Thames Water's priority services register, under certain circumstances, the hosepipe ban may not apply to you – check with Thames Water or visit their website:

www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-supply-and-drought-update

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:	Kathy O'Connor	Sally Cross
		Pam Hayes

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:

5th June Greta Bickley Funeral

We offer our sincere condolences to Greta's family. Tributes to Greta appeared in the last edition of Village News.

14th June Lorna Georgiana Ann Barrie Baptism

Daughter of Victoria and Ned Barrie, we welcome Lorna to the family of the Church.

23rd July Christine Ann Mercer Funeral

Christine was a life-long member of St. Giles' Church. She served as church warden, member of the parochial church council and was a talented flower arranger. We are grateful for Christine's life of service and we send our condolences to Alan, Sarah, Julie and all her family.

27th July Emelia Rachel Teddy Baptism

Daughter of Claudia Fife and William Teddy, we welcome Emelia to the family of the Church.

Ride and Stride

This year's event takes place on Saturday 13th September. Ride and Stride is run by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust to raise funds to restore and preserve historic churches and chapels. Oxfordshire is very fortunate to have so many beautiful churches but their maintenance is often beyond the reach of their congregations.

Further information is available at the back of the church and online. The idea is that you obtain sponsorship to walk or cycle (or travel on horseback!) between local churches where you will find refreshments available. Money raised can be given to the Historic Churches Trust or designated to be shared with a particular church, St. Giles, Bletchingdon!

If you enjoy visiting the wonderful churches in our neighbourhood, why not consider combining a family day out with helping to look after our heritage.

Stay cool!

Don't forget, if the weather is very hot, the church is the coolest place in the village. There is free wi-fi and there are facilities to make a drink. Everyone is welcome to use the church to "work from home".

Hymns & Pimms

We have a number of these events coming up in August. It's just another name for Songs of Praise, but you do get a glass of Pimms afterwards! A chance for people to come along to an informal service and choose a favourite hymn. We extend a special invitation to those who perhaps do not attend church on a regular basis, but who help behind the scenes – the noble army of flower arrangers, cleaners, singers, bell-ringers, churchyard-mowers, and many others. In Bletchingdon, this takes place on 31st August at 1700 – dates for the other churches can be found in the Church Services schedule on the facing page.

Harvest Services

Bletchingdon's Harvest Service takes place on 21st September at 1500. Most of the other churches in the benefice have similar services on the same date, but at differing times. If you would like to attend a Harvest Service but cannot make this date, there will also be a couple of services on 5th October at Hampton Gay and Chesterton at 1600 and 1100 respectively.

There will also be some Harvest Suppers - dates have not been agreed yet. Please look out for local information.

VJ Day

Kirtlington will be commemorating the final end of World War II on VJ Day with a bring-and-share tea in the church at 1600 on Sunday 17th August, to include the singing of some war-time songs. The afternoon will finish with evensong for those who wish to stay at 1800. Do come along and, if possible, please bring an item of food to put on the common table.

Rededication of Wendlebury Church

Following its refurbishment, Wendlebury Church will be rededicated by The Bishop of Dorchester during the Harvest Service on 21st September at 1530.

Oxford Male Voice Choir

Oxford Male Voice Choir will be performing in Kirtlington Church on Saturday 27th September (evening – time tbc).

Church services for August & September

AUGUST 2025	Sunday 3rd <i>Trinity 7</i>	Sunday 10th <i>Trinity 8</i>	Sunday 17th <i>Trinity 9</i>	Sunday 24th <i>S.Bartholomew</i>	Sunday 31st <i>St. Giles</i>
Bletchington	09:30 Morning Worship		09:30 Holy Communion 15:00 Family Service		17:00 Hymns & Pimms
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Worship	17:00 Hymns & Pimms	10:00 Benefice Communion
Hampton Gay	16:00 Evensong				
Kirtlington	11:00 Holy Communion	09:30 Morning Worship	18:00 Evensong	10:00 Benefice Communion	17:00 Hymns & Pimms
Middleton Stoney	09:30 Morning W.		09:30 Holy Comm.		
Wendlebury	09:30 Holy Communion		11:00 Morn. Worship & Baptism		17:00 Hymns & Pimms
Weston-on- the-Green	11:00 Café Church		11:00 Holy Comm.	17:00 Hymns & Pimms	

SEPTEMBER 2025	Sunday 7th <i>Trinity 12</i>	Sunday 14th <i>Trinity 13</i>	Sunday 21st <i>Harvest Sun.</i>	Sunday 28th <i>St. Michael</i>	
Bletchington	09:30 Morning Worship		09:30 Holy Communion 15:00 Harvest Family Service		
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Communion 11:00 Family Service	11:00 Holy Communion & Baptism	11:00 Café Church at Community Centre		
Hampton Gay	16:00 Evensong				
Kirtlington	11:00 Holy Communion	09:30 Morning Worship	18:00 Harvest Evensong	10:00 Benefice Service	
Middleton Stoney	09:30 Breakfast Ch.		09:30 Harvest Comm.		
Wendlebury	09:30 Holy Communion		15:30 Harvest & Rededication of Church by Bishop of Dorchester		
Weston-on- the-Green	11:00 Morn. Worship		11:00 Harvest Comm.		

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

I am writing this on the 20th anniversary of the 7/7 bombings in London. I just caught a snippet on the radio of the memorial service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

We hardly need reminding of the atrocities that can be perpetrated by man against man (and it is sobering that it is usually – though not always – MEN who are the source of violent thoughts and actions). The events in Gaza, not to mention Ukraine, serve up a daily shock to our sensibilities and consciences. Even at the local level, one notices a discernible increase in levels of incivility. More than once recently I have been honked at or had two fingers raised at me for driving within the speed limit!

For all the evils around us, and for all the worries about levels of poverty and social exclusion, it is worth bearing in mind that – generally speaking – health and wealth across the globe are on an upward trajectory. In our own country, although life expectancy figures have dropped a little in recent years, the number of people living well beyond 90 is greater than it ever has been.

This should not make us complacent. It is well known, for example, that while the numbers of elderly are increasing, the number of those fit and capable of looking after them is diminishing.

It is good that, by and large, we have good health care systems in our area and, as far as I can tell, pretty good community care. But it is easy to turn a blind eye to pockets of need, and in some cases real poverty, even in this fairly affluent part of the world. Our village communities are not monochrome, and I am regularly made aware of people who face major struggles with disability, sickness, childcare, loneliness, bereavement, and many other things. As churches we cannot respond to every need, but we do try to be a caring presence. If you know someone who needs a listening ear, or some other kind of support, do let us know.

Gareth

1st BLETCHINGTON BROWNIES

Volunteers make it happen! Thank you to our four volunteer leaders who put a lot into our meetings, planning and more.

We had a great time at Blenheim Palace Adventure Play with the Woodstock Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in a special after-hours session on what was then the hottest day of the year. We loved water play!

We're excited that there are some new Brownie badges being launched soon.

Brownies have finished until September and we're looking forward to welcoming new members. If your daughter would like to join, please contact us at girlguidingwoodstock@hotmail.co.uk or register at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus.

Rainbows for girls age 4-7
Brownies for girls age 7-10
Guides for girls age 10-14
Trefoil for anyone age 18+



CALUM MILLER MP – Summer update

I continue to work hard, with the support of my small team, to represent you in Parliament and to ensure that the issues you raise with me are addressed. Since setting up the office and hiring the team we've replied to over 10,000 email enquiries and closed over 5,500 cases. We have assisted flood victims, followed up with problems in housing, education and health to name just a few. My small team and I work to represent all the (approximately) 102,000 people across our constituency of Bicester & Woodstock. So far, our first year has been a privilege and a steep learning curve. One of the best things about my job is meeting more people in communities like Bletchingdon, and elsewhere.



Calum Miller MP with local residents

My team and I were heartbroken when we learnt the dreadful news that we had lost three members of our community in the fire at Bicester Motion. Firefighters Jennie Logan and Martyn Sadler and business owner Dave Chester were well known and loved in Bicester. My thoughts and prayers are with their bereaved families and the two injured firefighters.

I reflected the views that residents and local representatives had shared with me to Cherwell District Council (CDC) ahead of the deadline for responses to Oxford United FC's planning application for their stadium at the Triangle. I have met with CDC, Chiltern Railways, National Highways, OUFC, Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Police. The decision is expected to come to planning committee on 31st July.

At the request of the public meeting held last November, I chair a group of the local stakeholders who can help make a new GP surgery in Woodstock possible. The current premises is totally unsuitable: it has just 38% of the capacity that it should. I continue to press ministers on the wider question of funding for GP surgeries in our area, using Woodstock as an example.

I would like to thank campaigners whom I have worked alongside to make the case for a fully accessible underpass to replace the London Road crossing in Bicester. In June, I presented the House of Commons with my petition, signed by over 4,500 people, calling for an underpass that will allow cars as well. It is important that Bicester's voice is heard when this decision is made by ministers over the summer.

Hundreds of staff who work at the BMW Mini plant live in our constituency of Bicester & Woodstock. The automotive industry is facing multiple challenges which had led to uncertainty around jobs, both at the plant and in the many local firms that contribute to its supply chain. I have met with Unite, the Union, and the management team at BMW to understand more about the challenges they face. After I asked the Industry Minister in the Commons about the plant, she agreed to meet with me. We discussed upcoming US tariffs as well as the steps the Government could take in the industrial strategy.

Congratulations to all councillors elected to the County Council on 1st May. Oxfordshire now has a Lib Dem majority administration after they won 36 of the 69 seats. I know that your councillors are committed to working hard for the benefit of all in the county and I look forward to working with them.

AKEMAN BENEFICE VISIT TO SWEDISH LINK PARISH

On 12th June, nine people, mostly from the Akeman Benefice and Bicester & Islip Deanery, enjoyed a six-day visit to the parish of Mönsterås with Fliseryd. This parish within the Kalmar County of Sweden has been linked with the Akeman Benefice for seven years and is part of the Växjö Diocese with which Oxford Diocese has been twinned since 2003. The Reverend Gareth Miller, team rector of the Benefice and Area Dean, organised the visit along with The Reverend Magnus Johansson and his team from the Swedish parish. The two parishes have been alternating visits to each other since their twinning.

The trip, which was more like a pilgrimage, was a wonderful mixture of time spent in churches and cathedrals, enjoying hospitality and appreciating the space, forest roads, colourful architecture and the peace of the Baltic Coast.

On our first evening we visited the daughter church of Fliseryd for a Lutheran Eucharist for Pentecost with a joyful choir and atmospheric red lighting within the sanctuary. Our hosts treated us to a supper of delicious smörgastårta (a multi-layered sandwich in the style of a cake) and a quiz.

The next day our group explored the little town of Mönsterås and walked along the estuary of the Baltic Sea. It was interesting to witness sixth formers dressed in dark suits or white dresses celebrating the end of their time at school with a special ceremony in the church and gifts of flowers. We also learned how the parish is able to own buildings and employ quite a lot of staff thanks to the Swedish tax system in which taxpayers contribute to their local church (though there is an opt-out). We visited the parish's beautiful woodland chapel and burial grounds with a newly built barn that houses several tractors and farm machinery and were invited to a delightful woodland walk and tea with two parishioners from Fliseryd.

One of the many highlights of our visit was the day spent in Växjö where we were struck by the beautiful exterior of the Cathedral with its russet colour paint. Thomas Wärfman, the Domprost (Dean), gave us a tour of the interior with its unusual font and altar triptych and a prayer station in the form of the Tree of Life. By happy coincidence Bishop Olivia, former Bishop of Reading, was visiting the cathedral to give a talk on the environment so we were all able to attend that meeting after lunch and a pleasant visit to the bishop's house (Östrabo).



*With Dean Thomas Wärfman and Bishop Olivia Graham
outside Växjö Cathedral*



On Sunday morning we worshipped at Mönsterås Church where the clergy in our team were invited to participate in the Eucharist. Gareth may have pulled the short straw by being invited to preach on the Trinity! Once again, we enjoyed the generous hospitality of the parish by being invited to lunch in the Parish House and an evening barbecue outside one of the parish retreat houses at Tallviken on the coast.

The rector in full flow!

Our last full day was spent in Kalmar where we visited the magnificent castle overlooking the coast, spent time in the baroque cathedral and made a trip over to the long island of Öland where we were entertained to the traditional “fika” coffee break in the grounds of another stunning retreat house.

A visit to the beautiful city of Stockholm was arranged as part of our journey home. This included seeing inside both the Riddarholmen Church where many of the kings and queens of Sweden are buried. We visited the Cathedral with its magnificent statue of George slaying the dragon and also crossed by ferry to the Vasa Museum with its preserved 17th Century ship that sank in 1628.

During our time in Sweden, not only did we get to know each other as a group of pilgrims, but also established continuing friendships and made new ones with our hosts who were generous and open in their invitation to us to participate in the life of their church. It was particularly uplifting to experience Lutheran worship in Sweden – a combination of formal ritual, joyful music and inclusive welcome.

We were sad to say goodbye to our friends from Mönsterås with Fliseryd but look forward to welcoming them to the Akeman Benefice for a return visit before too long.

Diana Glover

OBITUARIES

Christine Mercer

We were very sad and shocked to hear that Christine had died suddenly. She was born in Bletchington and came from a long line of Bletchington ancestors, all of whom were very involved in village life and she certainly carried on their sense of service, particularly to the church. She was a member of the PCC for several years, and churchwarden for many of them. (It was very useful when we were churchwardens together and I could pop over the road for wise advice and to put the church and the world to rights!)

She was an expert flower arranger and together with Sue Macready she decorated the church for many years with beautiful flowers, from weddings, funerals, special services, All Souls posies and Bletchington in Bloom to the usual weekly services. They also made crafts to sell at the Christmas bazaars and fetes. Christine was always cheerful and there to help organise whatever the church was doing, such as Christingles, concerts and workshops.

Christine was also involved with other organisations in the village and enjoyed volunteering at the Primary School, doing crafts with the children and being an extra pair of hands in the classroom.

She will be very much missed by everyone who knew her and we send our condolences to Alan and all her family.

Kathy Gedling

Paul McRobbie

Thank you for your messages and memories of Paul, known as Noodle to his friends, who died at the end of June from cancer, aged 56.

He moved to Bletchington over 25 years ago with Rachael where they raised Tanisha and Charlie.

Those of us who knew him will always remember his fun, cheekiness, love and great gravy at the Black’s Head!

Lorraine Wing

History Corner

The Rise of the Holiday Camp

Forever immortalised in the popular sitcom 'Hi-de-Hi', the holiday camp has always been primarily a British institution with its heyday back in the 1950s and 1960s. Dominated by three chains, Butlins was the biggest and most famous with Warners and Pontins offering smaller, more intimate camps.

The earliest recorded holiday camp was Cunningham's Young Men's Holiday Camp established in 1894 on the Isle of Man by Liverpool baker, Joseph Cunningham. The original aim was to provide an inexpensive holiday for the young men of Liverpool. Accommodation was in tents and, with Cunningham being a Presbyterian and a strict advocate of temperance, there was no alcohol permitted on site. Moving from its original location at Groudle Glen to Douglas in 1904, this operated until the outbreak of World War II. A similar camp was opened at Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, by John Fletcher Dodd in 1906. The first holiday camp to offer accommodation in permanent wooden huts, rather than tents was opened in Hemsby, Norfolk, by the Potter family in 1920.

The name synonymous with holiday camps is, of course, Billy Butlin, a South African who moved to Britain at the age of seven, and with a background in the fairground trade. Up to the 1930s, most people's seaside holiday accommodation would have been a boarding house and Butlin observed that holidaymakers were forced to vacate the premises after breakfast and, in inclement weather, would often be seen sitting around sheltering with little to do. His vision of an all-inclusive holiday with accommodation, food and entertainment all on one site was beginning to take shape. Warners was actually the first of the 'big three' to open a camp, on Hayling Island in 1931. Butlin initially joined the board of Warners but he soon branched out in his own, opening his first camp at Skegness in 1936, quickly followed by another at Clacton. When World War II broke out in 1939, most holiday camps were taken over by the Government for military purposes.

After the war, holiday camps really began to take off. The Holidays with Pay Act of 1938 presented workers the ideal opportunity to take a holiday and Butlins adopted the slogan "A week's holiday for a week's pay", indicating the good value their holidays offered. The third of the main holiday camp operators, Pontins, entered the scene in 1946 when Fred Pontin opened his first camp at a disused army camp at Brean Sands, Somerset. The general offering was now becoming established, including sporting facilities, a swimming pool, daytime activities for guests and evening entertainment centred around ballroom dancing. Butlins was the only one of the three to include fairgrounds, no doubt a legacy of their founder's background in this industry.

As air travel and package holidays abroad became cheaper in the 1970s, many people turned their backs on traditional holiday camps. The 'big three' holiday camp chains are still trading today, but all with much slimmed down estates and they are no longer in the hands of the families which started them. The standard of accommodation has been greatly improved as have some of the facilities offered, whilst many of the more bawdy activities of yesteryear have now been discontinued.

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.



**Joint concert with Friends of Welsh National Opera
and
OXFORD WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR
With harpist Zanna Evans**

Saturday 6th September 2025 at 4:00pm

Tickets £20 per head

At Bletchington Village Hall - OX5 3FD

Easy access and free parking

To attend this event please contact: **Bernadette Whittington**

Please email Bernadette on: bwhittington2@btinternet.com to request your tickets
or call her mobile on: **07813 907466** quoting your email address.

Then make a bank transfer @ £20 per ticket to **Oxford Friends of Welsh National Opera**
Sort Code: **09-01-55** / Account No: **21026709** - Please put your surname as the reference.

Alternatively, please send a cheque for £20 per ticket required, payable to Oxford FWNO to:
Manor Farm, Wotton Underwood, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP18 0SB stating your mobile number/email
address if you have these.

Please note: We will not be issuing physical tickets for this event - there will be a list of attendees at
the door on admission.

WARTIME DIARIES: ALAN JONES

In our last edition, we included an excerpt from Bletchington resident, Chas Jones' book '*Ordinary Heroes, The extraordinary tale of 106 Company Royal Engineers*' (ISBN ref. 1904623085, published 2004) which is based on diaries and interviews with World War II service people which he conducted whilst they were still with us. Chas has kindly shared with us another piece from his book, again about his father, Alan Jones who lived in Valentia Close from 2005 until his death in 2009, at the age of 93. You will recall, Alan was born in 1914, orphaned and put into the army as a boy soldier where he rose to be a Sergeant Major in the Royal Engineers.

1941: A waste of time?

Disembarking in Egypt, the Company was unemployed since their tortuous journey, deprived of their naval escorts which had been stripped to hunt and destroy the Bismark, meant they were too late for their assigned task of turning the island of Crete into a fortress. The island had surrendered at the start of June.

Instead they were tasked with creating a defence line between the coast and the Quattara Depression, providing a last line of defence for the Suez Canal. General Wavell had observed the recent success of the blitzkrieg operations in Europe and in August 1940 noted that "further instructions will be issued about defence based on KAFR, EL DAUWAR". This would be the final line of defence protecting the Nile Delta.

Someone recalled this instruction and a recce party from 106 Company was dispatched and chose the small town of Fuka where there was a platform to allow their heavy equipment to be unloaded. But the supply train had been rescheduled and was told to unload further down the line. Stones were quickly gathered to make an unloading ramp and for the next four months they cleared fields of fire, blasted gun pits in the desert rock, and with the help of some willing native people fed the rock-crushers to create a network of roads from the railhead and radiating from the underground headquarters they built inside the limestone of the Miteiria Ridge and the larger Ruweisat Ridge which overlooked a sea of loose sand which would be a trap for Rommel's outflanking tanks.

At the start of November they were told to stop work and head for Kabrit on the Bitter Lakes, well to the rear. Seemingly their efforts preparing a series of 'boxes' was a complete waste of time and effort as they lined up their vehicles at the railway halt of El Alamein that had been their base in the inhospitable desert. The war had moved on with the Allies in the ascendancy and the siege of Torbuk was about to be lifted. The following June their preparations would be appreciated by the new desert commander who would hold this line and then launch the Desert Rats in the second battle of El Alamein in October 1942.

They found two other units already in training at Kabrit. A New Zealand infantry battalion and a small group of irregulars who were referred to as 'L Det'. This bunch of veterans indulged in a training regime that seemed excessive to the newcomers sharing their camp. 'L Detachment' would go for hikes in the desert with a full load of 75 lbs on their backs. Watching them depart terrified the Sappers who wondered if they were about to embark on such tough military training but they had mastered the soldier's ability to suspend rationality when contemplating the orders of their military masters.

They were informed that they were now at the Naval camp 'H.M.S. Saunders' for Combine Operations training which was military speak for various arms and services working together. The camp at Kabrit was being used to prepare troops for depth attacks on the enemy including sea and airborne landings. So they practiced boarding and disembarking imaginary landing craft by day and night always fully dressed including their heavy greatcoats.

This boring routine was disrupted for some by trips to the Delta where their neighbours would load the trucks with liberated stores for various construction projects. They were persuaded to build a proper parachute training tower to the design of the detachment commander, Capt. David Sterling. Later, ramps and slides were constructed to 'add variety and excitement' to the training.

Just two weeks after making their acquaintance many of the neighbours left. Many did not return. The mission was thwarted by sand storms but the SAS was born on this mission and the Regiment have adopted the 17 November 1941 as their birthday.

The operation mounted by David Stirling did much to dent the enthusiasm of high command for daring raids. Nevertheless, 'Operation Bootjack' was conceived as the opening act of 8th Armies 'Operation Crusader'. Planners had identified the need for some forward air cover. The target airfields were at Agheila, Buerat and Misurata. Long range Hurricane aircraft from Malta, armed with cannons rather than the normal machine guns, would then operate from these airfields extending the striking range of the Air Force for the advancing army.

However, it was the Navy who killed off 'Bootjack'. They pointed out that the weather in January offered very few days suitable to land such a force on this inhospitable coast, and the vital supply ships would be out of action especially if the weather prevented the landing and the troops had to be taken all the way back to a suitable harbour. They even questioned the military logic of sending such a large force to attack lightly defended airfields. This was the last entry in the file.

Operation Bootjack was quietly shelved and soon brought an end to their amphibious training. No more time would be wasted wading ashore and the engineers were soon plying their trades out 'in the blue' finding and repairing old pipes or laying new ones to supply the advancing army especially with water. Almost a year later 'Operation Agreement' dusted off the plans for Operation Bootjack. It was a disaster, costing 800 lives.



BLETCHINGTON SILVER BAND

It's been a busy summer for Bletchington Silver Band – playing for numerous village fetes and events in the area – notable highlights include delicious cakes at Duns Tew, and some players being sabotaged by a friendly animatronic dinosaur at Kirtlington! It was fantastic to join the congregation of St. Giles for an open-air church service too!

We played our concert in the Village Hall on what felt like the ONLY rainy day in weeks, but still took everyone Back to the Future, Under the Boardwalk, and to many other fabulous musical destinations. Our fabulous Euphonium player, Ed, performed the hauntingly beautiful Holy Well by Peter Graham as a parting gift before leaving to begin his master's degree. The B band played brilliantly – a rousing selection of TV theme tunes from The Muppets and Scooby Doo, and we all joined together to play a medley of Beatles songs.

Please come and join us as we celebrate the Village Hall 10th Anniversary on 30th August, and keep your eyes peeled for our Autumn and Christmas events.

We always welcome new players to the band. For more experienced players the Senior Band is looking for a Euphonium player, and we rehearse every Tuesday and Friday from 7:30pm. If you are new to brass but would like to give it a go, pop along to our training programme on Friday evenings (6:30pm) where we can set you up with an instrument and teach you all you need to know to join the band.



The Bletchingdon Community Foundation

The BCF hosted a Public Meeting at the Village Hall on Monday 30th June. Led by Chairman Tony Saunders alongside Finance Manager Sue Green plus two of the other trustees, it was attended by 12 villagers on a very warm evening. A big thank you to those of you who came along. For those who were unable to attend, here is an overview of what was discussed.

Where things are today – the current situation in general

The MUGA (Multi-use Games Area)

One of the earliest requests, at probably our first community meeting regarding the Village Hall and School developments, related to the Multi-use Games Area or MUGA and the question of a tennis court. The BCF can reveal today that the MUGA has been professionally cleaned and a tennis court has been marked out. Unfortunately, some of the new tennis court lines began to break up in the spring and had to be reworked recently. Next step, already in progress, is to provide a tennis net and posts to use here and to provide storage for these items. There is also now a set of netball posts to go with the already marked-out netball court. Providing storage close to the MUGA for the equipment proved a challenge. There were a number of options but all seemed to attract higher than expected costs. We currently have a concept design, thanks to Mark Webber, which we expect to complete for around 25% of the next best estimate. As soon as we find someone to carry out the work, we will proceed. Thanks to Helen Webber who is managing this.

Car park lighting

This has finally been resolved. Planning approval to remove all the original lighting bollards and replace with a new layout was granted by CDC. The new configuration uses a series of cat's eye type lights opposite the entrances to the school and hall, and at the front of the hall, plus a centrally positioned lamp standard in the car park itself, to the same specification as those in the Duchy Field development. The planning application was approved on 24th November, but delays ensued in getting the lights delivered and then installed. The cat's eye lights were eventually installed in April and the main street light was finally installed at the end of May.

Shop ownership

After a long and seemingly protracted legal path, the ownership of the shop and the flat above it and the adjacent parking spaces, including resident's space, have now been fully transferred from the Duchy of Cornwall to the BCF. There is no immediate benefit, but in about 19 years when construction costs have been recovered, the BCF and consequently the village will gain financially from rent to be paid by the Co-op (or other leaseholder of the shop) at the market rate.

Planters

We have now established a row of planters along the side of Sand Furlong to discourage people from parking in that area. Thanks to Sue Green for organising these and to Mark Webber for planting.

Village Hall usage

Usage of the hall is good. It sees around 70 regular bookings per month on weekdays, with bookings every evening and around 8 bookings on average at weekends. The only weekday with no daytime bookings is Tuesday, but this is no bad thing as it offers some flexibility for ad-hoc events. Unfortunately, no wedding receptions have been held in the hall so far this year and there are no such bookings currently in the diary. If you are planning a wedding in the near future, please consider hosting your reception at the Village Hall and book early to avoid disappointment – other functions are filling up the diary.

Hire charges

With costs continuing to rise, notably utility charges, the BCF reviewed the Village Hall Schedule of Charges and introduced new charges from January 2025. This was the first price increase since the hall began operations nine years previously. Our regular hirers understood completely the need for a modest increase and, to date, we have received no negative feedback. Hire charges at Bletchingdon Village Hall remain competitive with other comparable local halls.

New website

The BCF is in the early stages of a complete website refresh. We currently 'squat' on the Parish Council website but have decided the time has come to develop our own. We are currently reviewing quotations for this work. This will cover the whole of the BCF, including the Charity, but will primarily focus on the Village Hall. Helen Webber is project managing this.

The school

Our relationship with the school continues to be a good one. Tony Saunders and Sue Green have regular meetings with the head teacher and a school governor to ensure the smooth working of the relationship and to review and resolve any issues. This arrangement works well.

Meet the team

Tony Saunders has been Chairman since the BCF's inception in 2013. As well as leading the team, Tony is proactively involved in the smooth running of the Village Hall, including organising routine and ad-hoc maintenance tasks. Tony proceeded to introduce the other members of the team.

Sue Green is our Finance Manager and has also been a trustee since the BCF's inception. Sue has the onerous task of managing and maintaining our accounts and investment portfolios. We depend completely on her professional accounting background.

Pete Baker became a trustee in 2016. Shortly after becoming a trustee, he offered to take the minutes at one of our meetings and has continued to do so ever since. Pete also represents the BCF at the Charity committee meetings.

Rebecca McNaught (unable to attend tonight) joined in 2019 and looks after our open spaces. She organised access to the Slipe (on Islip Road) and is currently seeking a contractor to maintain the site for us. She has also hopefully found someone to maintain the open areas around the Village Hall.

Helen Webber also became a trustee in 2019 and takes responsibility for activities, be it organising members of the community to arrange occasional social events (such as the forthcoming Bletch Fest and the Christmas Lights event) or getting markings and equipment for community use in the MUGA sorted out. Helen also assists Sue with accounting matters.

Howard Dellar is the Company Secretary and has, over the years, provided invaluable legal services to the BCF. Howard no longer lives in the area but continues to support the BCF, mainly remotely now.

Andrea Lambert is the Chair of the Bletchington Charity committee. The day-to-day functions of the Charity are managed by a separate committee of volunteers (with BCF trustee overview), led by Andrea. The committee makes decisions regarding grant applications.

Also, Tony gave a mention to **Grace** and **Kelly** (not Grace Kelly!) for their help with cleaning and bookings respectively. A big thank you to all the trustees and everyone else who helps out in some way for all the contributions they make.

We could really do with two or three more trustees. If anyone is interested in joining the team, please drop an e-mail to bcf.chair@thebcf.net. Fresh ideas on running the Village Hall and other aspects of the BCF are always welcome – if you have a small amount of time available, you could help shape the future of your village.

Finance

Tony once again thanked Sue Green, Finance Manager for the BCF, for all her hard work in maintaining the accounts for each of the individual charities. He then passed the floor over to Sue who proceeded to present an overview of the financial situation for each of the charities.

The Charity

The Charity's income comes from a Permanent Endowment Fund which fluctuates in value – in 2017 it was valued at well under £400,000 but, as of now, sits at just below £600,000. This also yields a dividend of around £4,000 per quarter, which is used to pay grants to the community. During 2024, the income from the investment was £16,554 whilst the amount paid out in grants totalled £14,572. A further £350 costs were incurred, meaning the Charity underspent by £1,602. Main types of grants awarded were to help residents with utility charges and the cost of living in general, for educational purposes and for health & well-being in the community.

Village Hall

Sue compared the figures from 2019 with those from 2024 which revealed that whilst the income remained almost constant, costs had risen significantly. In 2019, the Village Hall achieved a surplus of £10,021 but for 2024, this had turned into a small loss of £284. Utility costs have risen significantly as have general maintenance charges, meanwhile there are also additional staff costs as a Bookings Manager is now employed whereas this role was previously carried out on a voluntary basis. There will be an additional cost of around £13,000 in the current year to cover replacement of the external lighting, although this will partially be offset by £4,000 received from insurers to compensate for damage to the old system as a result of vandalism. To address this situation, hire charges were increased with effect from the start of 2025. There have, however, been no weddings booked this year which could have brought in £3,500 in hire income. The Village Hall also holds money in an investment fund which is valued at £150,000 at present. £3,000 was withdrawn from this to pay for the lighting.

The BCF

The BCF's sole income is a relatively small amount generated by solar panels on the roof, £1,394 in 2024. Costs incurred were £1,458, meaning a small overspend, whilst a further £12,660 was spent on the Slipe for the road side entrance and gate – this comes from a special ringfenced fund set aside specifically for the Slipe. Significant costs are anticipated in 2025 with around £4,500 for legal costs relating to the transfer of the shop and around £10,000 for the work carried out on the MUGA. The BCF also holds cash in an investment fund, initiated with a deposit of around £65,000 in 2021 which has now fallen in value to around £50,000 as of now, but with £10,000 withdrawn in 2024.

Questions from the floor

Would the BCF consider solar panels for the roof of the Village Hall?

We already have solar panels in the Quad which bring in a modest income. Installing them on the Village Hall would be a major undertaking but the trustees agreed to consider this. It is possible a grant could be obtained to fund the work.

Why has £10k. been withdrawn from the BCF investment fund?

This was to pay for the construction of the entrance to the Slipe. The BCF has funds ringfenced to cover Slipe maintenance and the money has ultimately come from this pot, but these funds were invested alongside other BCF money as they were not immediately needed, in order to hopefully yield some growth.

Are plans afoot to clear dead trees from an area backing onto Duchy Field?

These are not the BCF's responsibility and need to be dealt with the Duchy Field Management Committee. Now the BCF has ownership of the Shop premises, it should get a seat on that committee, so it will then be better placed to get issues of this nature sorted in future.

Will the tennis court be able to be booked through the new website?

The plan is to consolidate the MUGA with the overall booking system for the Village Hall and for this to be directly accessible from the website. There are, however, some challenges which need to be resolved, most notably how to deal with deposits.

How will the BCF website link with the Parish website (which is also currently in the process of an upgrade)?

The intention is for there to be a link on the parish website to take the viewer directly into the BCF website. Likewise, the BCF website is expected to include a link into that of the parish. The trustees involved with developing the website will liaise with the Parish Council to ensure the necessary co-ordination of the two projects.

Is there any age restriction on booking the tennis court?

Village Hall bookings must be made by someone aged 18 years plus and this age restriction will also apply to booking the MUGA. Younger people will, however, be permitted to use the facility but the booking must be made by an adult who will remain responsible for the MUGA for the duration of their booking.

Is there any scope for a table tennis table at the Village Hall? Could a table tennis club be formed?

The BCF would consider purchasing a table tennis table if a suitable place to store it could be found. The BCF's policy is to maintain a clear space throughout the hall and, as such, any equipment must be put away after use. With regard to a club, firstly someone would have to come forward to run it, then a time slot would need to be identified. As outlined earlier in the meeting, there is only a limited amount of availability at the hall.

A member of the Parish Council in attendance added that the PC is looking at adding sporting equipment to the play area on the corner of Springwell Hill. This could include an outdoor table tennis table.

What is the timescale for implementing a regular maintenance plan for the Slipe?

The trustees acknowledged this has taken longer than it should have done. Access to the site was an issue, but this has now been resolved with the installation of a gate. We are now proactively looking for someone to take on the work, but there is some tough vegetation in situ at present, which will require substantial work to clear.

Could a seventh planter be added?

The six planters in place already are a credit to the BCF, one attendee stated, but we could probably do with one more, as some cars are still managing to squeeze between the existing ones and thus park inappropriately. The trustees acknowledged this and will look into the possibility of adding an additional planter.

What is the BCF's policy regarding hiring the Village Hall for wakes?

The trustees appreciate the need for sympathy with bereaved families but there is a laid-down set of hire charges which are not negotiable. It is not possible to waive charges for specific events such as wakes.

Village Hall directory

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	zumbawithmarianoxford@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 Website: 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

KIRTLINGTON & BLECHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our Society offers 6 talks per year and had 40 members last season, with nearly half from Bletchington. We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month from September to March, excluding December, at Kirtlington Village Hall.

Meetings begin at 7:30pm, except for the January and February meetings, when they will be at 2:30pm. Talks last about one hour, with refreshments beforehand and questions afterwards. The talks are very varied. For instance, we will have 'The Mitford Sisters' for our opening meeting in September, 'The Commonwealth War Graves Commission' in November and 'Christopher Wren's Oxford' in February.

The first meeting of the new season will be on **Thursday, 25th September** and we hope that you will be able to come.

Annual membership is £15 with a £5 fee per meeting for a visitor.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Ian Gedling - 01869 350491



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.

Do you remember the old Yellow Pages adverts? The most famous of them featured an elderly gentleman called J. R. Hartley searching for a copy of a book he had written many years before called “Fly Fishing”. But the general theme of these was that Yellow Pages was there not just to help with the nasty things in life like a leaking pipe or a blocked drain, but they could also help with the nicer things too. And the ethos of the Bletchington Charity is much the same. We are here to help those in need financially when some of life’s unpleasant surprises are thrown at us. But we can also help out with some of the nicer things too – such as grants for students’ education or to support sport in the community.

The committee assesses all grant applications, aiming to help as many people in Bletchington as possible, as well as providing support for village organisations. Unfortunately, there is only so much cash to go around, so the committee must prioritise applications and has to say no sometimes. That said, the committee does not want to see anyone in the village facing hardship so will always give fair and careful consideration to any reasonable requests for help. Examples of some of the things the Charity can help with are listed below.

If you would like to apply for financial support for yourself, a friend, family member or neighbour then you can do this using a form downloaded 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

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 20th August – Applications to be in by 18th August please.



**BLETCH
FEST**

Saturday 30th of August

BLECHINGTON VILLAGE HALL 2PM

Bar,
kids games,
food trucks,
Bouncy castle,
Dog Show,
music,
face painting,
kids
entertainment,
Cakes,
ice cream
and lots more

W PARTY TIME

W PARTY TIME

TICKETS £1 CALL 07974409520 OR 07717495054

The poster is a vibrant blue with a central white cloud containing the event details. It is surrounded by numerous colorful illustrations: a cupcake, a boy juggling, a burger, two children, a dog, a trumpet, two beer mugs, musical notes, an ice cream cone, a cookie, a slice of cake, a bouncy castle, a ring toss game, a cup of coffee, two elderly people dancing, two glasses of pink drink, and a group of people dancing under a disco ball. The text is in a mix of bold, blocky fonts and a handwritten style.

BLETCH FEST BAKE OFF

calling all Bakers ...



**GET YOUR APRONS ON AND START
CREATING.**



**PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY
ENTRANCE FEE IS YOUR CAKE**

BEST SPONGE CAKE,

BEST FRUIT CAKE,

CAKE CONTAINING A VEGETABLE,

BEST DECORATED CAKE/ NOVELTY

**CHILDRENS'S CAKE OR BISCUITS,
AGE 4-7, AGE 8-12, AGE 12-16**

**CONTACT SUE ON 07717495054
TO ENTER**



**ALL CAKES TO BE DELIVERED
TO HALL BY 10AM 30/08/25**



HILLCREST ART EXHIBITION – 5th/6th JULY

Hillcrest Art delivered another varied and high-quality exhibition in early July, with 10 artists contributing, including painters, illustrators, printers, ceramicist, photographers, a silversmith and three sculptors.



Thanks to Roland and Dillon for operating the train which took passengers down to the signal box where the exhibition continued. Lots of smiling faces as the steam rolled and brought folk back up the hill.

Despite some torrential rain, the atmosphere was vibrant and there were many inspiring and dynamic conversations about how and why work was produced. Several artists were in action which also helped folk understand the processes involved.

Plans are already afoot for next year!

Here are some of the artists, exhibiting their works.....



Photographs courtesy of Pete Seaward

Bletch Diary

7 th August – 8:30am	Coach trip – To Weymouth (<i>see Page 29</i>) Organised by the Thursday Club
9 th August – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash bingo (<i>see Page 31</i>)
17 th August – 3:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Family Service (<i>see Page 7</i>)
30 th August – 2:00pm	Village Hall – Bletch Fest Celebrate the 10 th anniversary of the Village Hall (<i>see Page 22</i>) Also the Bletch Fest Bake Off competition (<i>see Page 23</i>)
31 st August – 5:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Hymns & Pimms (<i>see Pages 6 & 7</i>)
6 th September – 4:00pm	Village Hall – Concert With Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir (<i>see Page 13</i>)
20 th September – 9:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Live music (<i>see Page 31</i>) With Sledgehammer – Ticket entry only
21 st September – 3:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Harvest Family Service (<i>see Pages 6 & 7</i>)
27 th September – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash bingo (<i>see Page 31</i>)



**Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum**

From 9th to 30th August, the Museum will display a new exhibition created by local artists and inspired by the story of a simple act of kindness during the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 1945.

Amid efforts to relieve the survivors, control the spread of disease, and arrest the camp guards and commandant, came a simple act of kindness. Survivor Naomi Warren, a Polish Jew, was desperate to contact her surviving family and approached her liberators for help. Oxfordshire Yeoman Arthur Tyler came forward to offer help. *"I met very many British soldiers and I asked everybody to write about me to my family, but nobody did it – only you"* wrote Naomi in a letter to Arthur Tyler. He began writing letters to Naomi's uncle and sister living in Houston, Texas. This simple act of kindness would eventually see Naomi reunited with them, and ultimately settling and rebuilding her life in the USA.

The new exhibition will combine artwork and film created in response to the story of Naomi and Arthur. Artist Suzanne Maria Hamber works with plaster, sculpture and paint alongside evanescent material like plants and flowers to explore themes of time, change and memory.

This new exhibition will coincide with the Holocaust Memorial Trust's *80 Candles for 80 Years* display visiting the museum on its tour of the UK in the run up to Holocaust Memorial Day 2026. The project has involved 80 communities and organisations across the UK who have created unique candleholders, each one inspired by the life stories of Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust and individuals targeted by the Nazi regime.



Kirtlington Morris

Warm enough? I'm writing this in the continuing hot spell of June/July and I can only say that I'm glad that the Lamb Ale Morris Festival didn't have to contend with the heat that we have had recently. It would have made life very uncomfortable for the good number of our camping guests and that's not to mention dancing in this sweltering heat.

The weather forecast for Lamb Ale in the middle of June was not promising but turned out just fine. Good enough for our Friday night music session at the Oxford Arms to be outdoors in the beer garden, just as well as there were a lot of us, and a very good session it was too.

We led our weekend guest sides, Hexham Morrismen and Lasses from Northumbria, and Leominster Morris from Herefordshire, on the traditional dancing tour of the village before boarding the Charlton Services coach to Sturdy's Castle for lunch, then on to Blenheim Park for a dance with a view and more dancing in Woodstock Square to the delight of the just-married couple emerging from the Town Hall.

Then back to Kirtlington for tea and biscuits and a bit of relaxation for our guests while Kirtlington Morris personnel prepared mystery cocktails and began roasting six (yes six) legs of lamb and setting out the various accoutrements to go with. Yet again we had invited about as many guests as we could possibly cater for but with a lot of activity behind the scenes we coped and everyone was well fed.

Meanwhile Whapweasel, this year's returning barn dance band, were warming up. Whapweasel really are one of the best dance bands on the circuit, and we are proud to say Kirtlington were one of the first to recognize this when we first booked them many years ago, and they've been a long way since. An appropriately good time was had by all, helped by Giles and Mark's efforts at the bar... And please remember that the barn dance is Open to All – the more the merrier!

Sunday featured a total of 15 morris sides processing to and from the church, around the village, before splitting up and displaying their dances at the School, Oxford Arms, Village Hall, and opposite the Dashwood Arms while it awaited its latest incarnation. And then all back to the School for the Grand Dance-off and that was it for another year. (See the photo gallery, opposite.) Especial thanks as always to Nicola, KSF and the school for being the hub of the day's events and providing the usual brilliant Vale Brewery mini beer festival and BBQ etc.

After all that we managed to put in an appearance at the Feast on the Monday. What an occasion that is – I can only apologize for the standard of dancing afterwards, of course nothing to do with the quantity of beer that necessarily has to be consumed at that historic event. But interestingly it did lead to two people expressing an interest in joining Kirtlington Morris, so I suppose it can't have been that bad.

And more interest was expressed at Kirtlington Fete when we danced there; it seems that we may have as many as five possible new members when we begin practice again, which would be a very fine thing indeed. But that's the best time to join us, at the beginning of practice season. This will probably be Tuesday 23rd September, 8pm at Kirtlington Village Hall, as always. If you are interested, please ring me to confirm the date: 07871 856323.

Oh, and we have also danced out at the Kings Arms in Kidlington, The Boat at Thrupp, and we're hoping to dance at the reopened Dashwood Arms in August. It'll be great to see it up and running again. We're also due to appear at Bletchington Village Hall 10th Anniversary celebrations and Ardley Beer Festival, both on 30th August! We'll see...

Cheers, and enjoy the rest of this Long Hot Summer!

Nigel Holt, Squire, Kirtlington Morris - July 2025

LAMB ALE – IN PICTURES

Lamb Ale was a great success, as you have read opposite. On the main day, Sunday 15th June, the weather was perfect, lovely and sunny but not too hot. In case you were unable to attend – or would like to relive the day – here is a selection of photographs of some of the many sides from all over the country, gathered in Kirtlington to celebrate the tradition of morris dancing.....



*Kirtlington Morris
The hosts get the dancing started*



*Mason's Apron
A local North-West clog side*



*Chinewerde Morris
Regular visitors to Lamb Ale - from Kenilworth*



*Ducklington Morris
A local Cotswold side*



*Hexham Morris
A Cotswold side – all the way from Northumberland*



*Hexhamshire Lassies
Ladies' side also from Northumberland*

THE FOODS OF OXFORDSHIRE

Cornwall has its pasties, Yorkshire has its puddings, Lancashire has its hotpot and in Staffordshire they have oatcakes. So what local foods do we have here in Oxfordshire?

Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade

Arguably the most famous food associated with the county is Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade. Frank Cooper inherited a grocery shop in Oxford High Street from his father in 1867 and in 1874 he began selling his own brand of marmalade, made to his wife, Sarah-Jane's recipe, using Seville oranges. The marmalade continued to be produced on the shop premises until 1903, by which time the product became so popular that larger premises were needed to keep up with demand. Cooper acquired a new site in Park End Street, specifically for the production of marmalade where its close proximity of the railway station made it much easier to distribute the produce further afield. After the Second World War, the company moved to larger premises in Botley Road (now the Waitrose site) where new products were added to the range including jams and sauces.

The Frank Cooper brand was bought in 1964 and production was moved away from Oxford 1967. Further changes of ownership ensued and, whilst the brand continues today and is available in all the supermarkets, it is now little more than a brand name of a multi-national company and one wonders how closely the Oxford Marmalade bought today resembles Sarah-Jane Cooper's original recipe.

Oxford sausages

Visit the Covered Market in Oxford today and you will see a photo gallery featuring a selection of interesting photographs of the market spanning many decades. One photograph, taken in 1909, features the butchers, Charles Clark with a sign outside advertising 'Real Oxford Sausages'. The Oxford Sausage is thought to date back at least to the 18th Century and is mentioned in *Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management*, of 1861.

Traditionally, the USP of the Oxford Sausage is the inclusion of veal amongst its ingredients, seasoned with lemon and herbs. Oxford Sausages are still available in the Covered Market today, although only at one location, the number of butchers in the market having seriously declined in recent years.

Oxford Blue cheese



Oxford Blue cheese was created in 1995 by Baron Robert Pouget of the Cheese Shop in Oxford Covered Market and is a delicious French style blue cheese, described as "*a soft, creamy and aromatic blue cheese, known for its tangy and spicy notes...crafted using unpasteurised cow's milk and aged for 14 to 16 weeks*". It has been produced in various locations including Derbyshire and Wales but it is now firmly at home in Oxfordshire, produced near Burford.

As well as being available in the Covered Market, Oxford Blue cheese can be found in other selected locations.

Banbury Cakes

The Banbury Cake Shop stood in Parsons Street in the town centre until it closed in 1967 and was demolished to make way for modern shops. Thought to date back the 13th Century, the cakes are mentioned in *The English Huswife*, an early recipe book by Gervase Markham. They are best described as flat, oval in shape, made of flaky pastry, coated with a crust of sugar and egg white and well spiced with a filling of dried fruit, candied peel and, perhaps, rum; not too dissimilar to an Eccles cake.

Until fairly recently, the cakes were widely available throughout the town in bakers' shops and such like. These days you would be hard pressed to find a traditional baker's shop in Banbury but original Banbury Cakes do still appear to be produced and available on-line from an address in Chipping Norton.

THURSDAY CLUB



We had a presentation by two members of Cherwell District Council Business Waste Service. James Nolan and Sandra Whitehead outlined the services they provide and gave some examples of changes likely to happen in the future. They explained which items of waste should or should not go into each bin and there was a collection of some of the bags and containers available for use with some free samples for members. It was a very interesting and informative presentation and James has promised to send us more information for members who are interested, including the possibility of visits to the incinerator at Ardley.

A bring-and-buy sale was held. A delicious tea was then served with strawberries and cream. Jackie came to the club with a fine display of old-fashioned games which were enjoyable and great fun playing, including roll-a-penny, bagatelle, pin ball, hoola-hoops, pop guns, and a photo quiz. All members participated and prizes were awarded.

There are still tickets available for the coach trip to Weymouth on 7th August. Tickets are £15 for members and £20 for non-members. If you are interested, please contact Neil Spencer on **01869 350437**.

There will be no meeting in August due to the trip to Weymouth. The next meeting will be on 4th September.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due for 2025-26.

Thursday Club is for anyone aged 50 or over. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2:00pm in the Village Hall for talks, a raffle, tea and entertainment.

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

We will be hosting 'IN STEAM' events on Sundays 17th August and 21st September, 2025.

17th August: Theme is '**Models & Collections**'. We have invited exhibitors to bring along the models they have made and collections of interest. Exhibitors will be from local clubs. Also, we have invited some Classic Cars. See our advert on Page 46

21st September: Theme is '**Crafts & Skills**'. We have invited crafters from the local area including *Oxford Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers* who will be bringing their Big Wheel, Needle Felting, Lace Bobbins, Children's Clothes and much more. Also, Charlbury Morris Dancers and Swindon Classic Car Club will be in attendance. Come along and browse the Mini Market too. See the advert on Page 46.

Tea Room will be open for refreshments and there will also be a BBQ, Gift Shop, Market Stalls and Tombola. Dogs on leads welcome – Parking free. Open 10.30am to 4.30pm.

Adults £9.00 – Seniors £7.50 – Accompanied children FREE. Website: www.combemill.org.

Combe Mill is a late 19th Century restored water mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode. All machinery will be 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.

Also open every Wednesday (not in steam) for self-guided tours with volunteer on hand and Tea Room open for cream teas, cakes, ham rolls, tea and coffee and soft drinks.

Adults £5.00 – Seniors £4.00 – Accompanied children FREE.

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 (U21, U15, U12 & U11), 2 adult men's Football Teams, 3 Cricket Teams plus youth cricket, 2 Bar Billiard Teams, 3 Darts Teams, a Quiz Team, Aunt Sally, 2 Pool Teams 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. More details can be found on our Facebook page.

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 is at the halfway stage with the first team in third position in division 4A. The second team are in a mid-table position in division 7B. Please visit the cricket club website at www.obncc.play-cricket.com for details and fixtures.

Net practise for the adults is on Wednesday evening and for the youths on a Monday evening at the Sports Ground.

Pool: The two teams who play in the Oxford Landlords Invitation Pool League are both holding their own in their respective sections.

Aunt Sally: The Club are in Section 3 of the Oxford Aunt Sally League. The team have won 6 and lost 6 but are languishing near the foot of the table. On the plus side, the team are performing very well in the beer legs.

Cribbage: At the finals night Dave Calicott won the singles competition and in the pairs competition John Clack and Roger Brock were runners-up.

Bletchington Nomads – Quiz Team: The summer season has now reached the midway stage. The Nomads got off to a great start, then had a bit of a wobble, but are back to winning ways once again, including an excellent away win over the Ploughman's Bunch!, a strong Premiership side. Furthermore, the Nomads' infamous 'Round 5 collapse' seems to have been rectified (fingers crossed). The team currently sit top of the Championship (second tier) although they have played one game more than everyone else.

Football: Both men's teams and the u21s have now started pre-season training with 13 pre-season games lined up over the next 6 weeks. The men's team had their first friendly on Saturday 12th July against Heyford Athletic and won 4-1.

Training is every Tuesday evening, 6:30-8pm for both the men's and u21s teams.

Our First team will be playing in Division 1 of the Oxfordshire Senior League after being promoted last season whilst Bletchington Development will be in Division 3. The u21's will be playing again in the Oxfordshire Youth league on a Sunday and are looking to go one better this year after finishing second in their league.

If anyone is interested in playing for our senior teams or u21s, head down to the ground on a Tuesday night. You must be aged 16 or over, otherwise all are welcome.

For any enquiries contact Vinny Barrett Bletchington FC First team & u21s Manager – **07746 851488**.



The BLETCH boys after their 4-1 win over Heyford Athletic - Ellis Matthews, Slavyan Atanasov and Jack Lay seem pretty pleased with their first win of the pre-season campaign

Don't forget, Club membership becomes due on 1st September. Please renew promptly and if you are not currently a member, why not consider joining? It's a very friendly club, volunteer run, with drinks at below-pub prices, various pub games and occasional events such as live music and bingo (see below).

What's On at the Club?

SATURDAY 9th August – CASH BINGO (eyes down 8:00pm)

SATURDAY 20th September – LIVE MUSIC: Sledgehammer (9:00pm – ticket required)

SATURDAY 27th September – CASH BINGO (eyes down 8:00pm)

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YOUR COUNCIL MATTERS

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

Welcome Samantha Cox



As we bid a fond farewell to one Parish Clerk, we welcome a new one in Samantha (Sam) Cox. Although Sam is not a resident of Bletchingdon, she is from nearby Beckley, where she has lived since 2021. She started out many years ago as a qualified Medical Secretary and went on to run a Plastic Surgeon's private practice. She then worked in various admin and financial roles in London and Thame, having moved to Oxfordshire in 2002.

Although she hasn't done it for a few years, she loves horse riding which she started when growing up near Ashdown Forest, the home of Winnie the Pooh! Sam loves nothing more than getting out in the countryside every day and walking with her three dogs, Bertie, Jack and Widget.

Sam plans on spending lots of time in the village working out of the parish office located just on the right of the foyer in the village hall. If you see the door open, please introduce yourself and welcome her to the village.

Next meetings

27th August & 24th September 2025

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

Website: www.bletchingdon-pc.org.uk

What's happening?

The Black's Head

One of the most commonly asked questions of the parish council, 'what's happening with the pub?'

We are in close contact with the owner and providing whatever support we can that will allow the pub to reopen at the soonest opportunity. A pre-planning application has been submitted and feedback has recently been received. The team is now preparing to submit a full planning application by the end of August.

Neighbourhood Plan

As part of the ongoing Neighbourhood Plan we need to develop a list of Community Improvement Projects. These are projects that could be funded by, grants, the Parish Council, another village organisation or by a developer building houses in the village. Currently we have suggestions for:

- Upgrading the Oxford Road playground,
- Establishing a Community Orchard,
- Hard surface footpaths from Bletchingdon to Kirtlington and Bletchingdon to Hampton Poyle.

We would like to hear your suggestions please. It could be a small thing or a bigger project, but does need to be something that is achievable. All suggestions please to clerk@bletchindon-pc.org.uk.

Community Emergency Plan

The Council has agreed to undertake a review of the Bletchingdon Community Emergency Plan. The initiative comes from the County Council which is encouraging all communities to be more aware of the risks of our changing climate and associated impacts and the need for adaptation and resilience. We are encouraged by Oxfordshire County Council to do this regularly and to ensure that everyone in the Parish is aware of it. You can find a brief summary here:

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/24963286.oxfordshire-council-adopts-climate-change-action-plan/>

Our County Councillor, Laura Gordon, is following up with the Council which can provide support to the project. We envisage holding a public meeting in the autumn to explain to residents, businesses and other community stakeholders what the review involves and how it will be managed.

Thank you to Anne Maclachlan, from Green Bletchingdon, for representing the Parish Council and providing the update.

What do you want to know?

If there is any information from the Parish Council that you would like included in the next Village News, please let us know.

Call for Volunteers

Your parish council is run by volunteers who are always looking for willing people to get involved in village matters. Any time or skill you can offer, however large or small really makes a difference. If you want to know more about how you can support your community please get in contact (clerk@bletchingdon-pc.org.uk). Here are just some of the initiatives that are currently going on in the community that need your support. Help make it happen, help make it better:

- Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) – Installation of signs to show the speed of vehicles as they enter the village
- Speedwatch – There is a small team doing a great job; the more people involved the less each needs to do!
- Neighbourhood Plan
- FixMyStreet SuperUser – Help identify and report local problems
- Community Fitness Area
- Community Emergency Plan

We're not looking for a huge commitment as even the smallest thing can make a big difference.

Planning Matters

New Applications Put Forward

5/00974/TCA – Damaris O'Hanlon – Corner House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Weeping Ash, to be removed.

25/00180/F – Perdix Partnership – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill, Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – Incorporate a new boat landing stage into the dam outlet structure on the Central Pool and erection of a boat house.

25/01418/F – Mr Niaz Muhammed – Family Farm House, Part of the A34 by Weston-on-the-Green, Bicester.

OX25 3QQ - Driver rest stop facility including the formation of a new entry and exit slip road adjoining the A34, parking area for cars and HGV's, erection of an amenity building (including toilets and catering area), EV charging station, solar PV array, battery storage facility, other ancillary structures/buildings and landscaped amenity area.

25/01528/F – Mrs Sally Cross – 1 St Giles, Bletchingdon, OX5 3BX – Dropped kerb of approx 3m in length to adjoin neighbours existing dropped kerb.

25/01659/LB - Mr & Mrs S Flint-Wood – 5 Bletchingdon Park Stables, Church End, Bletchingdon, OX5 3DN – New partition and doors to ground floor.

Appeals Received/Decisions

APP/C3105/W/25/3365167 with regards to refused planning application number 25/00556/F.

APP/C3105/D/25/33359138 – 2 Meadow Walk, Heathfield, Bletchingdon OX5 3FG with regards to planning application 24/02403/F. The appeal has been dismissed.

APP/C3105/W/25/3366681 – Trinity Properties Ltd – 8 Heathfield Cottages, Heathfield, Kidlington OX5 3DU.

APP/C3105/C/25/3365518 – Heathfield Yard, Street Through Heathfield Village, Heathfield OXON OX5 3DX.

Applications Approved

25/00614/LB – 5 Bletchingdon Park Stables, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DN – Internal re-configuration at first floor to provide an additional bedroom.

25/00969/F – New House, St Giles, Bletchingdon, OX5 3BX – Rear single storey extension to the existing housed and associated works.

Applications Refused

25/00556/F – Field House, 1 Ingleby Paddocks, Enslow, Kidlington OX5 3ET – Split the curtilage into two and erection of a new house on the east plot (self-build).

Contact Details

Name	Role	Email	Phone
Sam Cox	Parish Clerk	clerk@bletchingdon-pc.org.uk	351967

Website: www.bletchingdon-pc.org.uk/parish-council/

Parish Councillors

Name	Role	Email	Phone
Dan Robins	Chair	dan.robins@bletchingdon-pc.org.uk	350007
Rachel Pirie	Vice Chair	rachel.pirie@bletchingdon-pc.org.uk	07790 025110
Chris Lane	Councillor	chris.lane@bletchingdon-pc.org.uk	350257
Mark Taylor	Councillor	mark.taylor@bletchingdon-pc.org.uk	350609
Duncan Ledger	Councillor	duncan.ledger@bletchingdon-pc.org.uk	351542
Matt Whitehead	Councillor	matt.whitehead@bletchingdon-pc.org.uk	350991
Nicola Morris	Councillor	nicola.morris@bletchingdon-pc.org.uk	351025

District Councillors

Name	Email
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

Name	Email
Laura Gordon	laura.gordon@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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HOW TO CONTACT US

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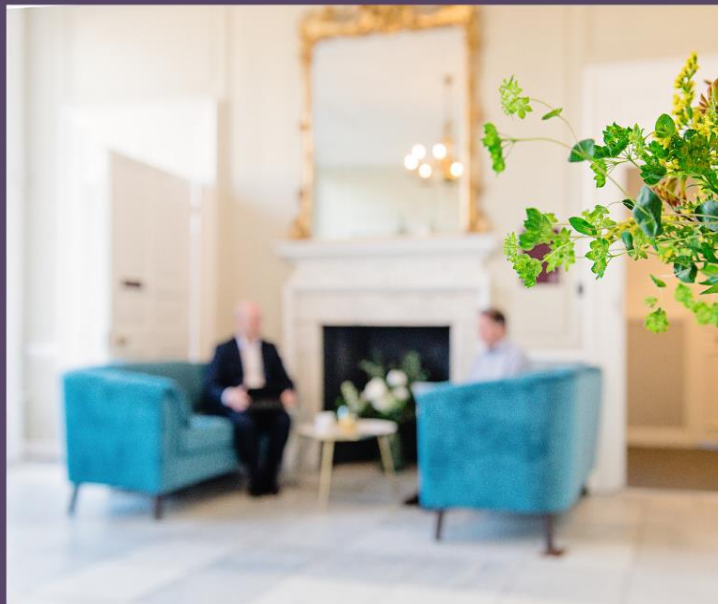
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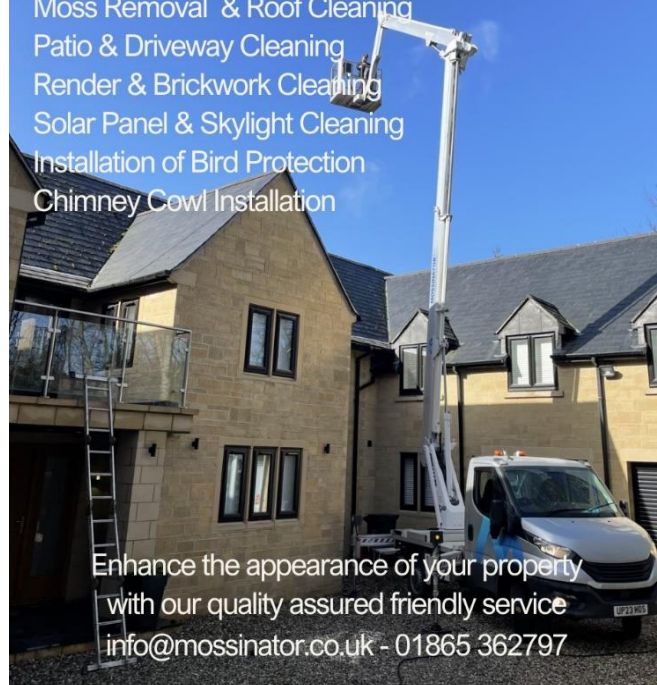


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Models and Collections



at Combe Mill
Sunday 17 August
10.30 - 4.30

Today only - enjoy displays of hand-made models
and collections of scale models

Browse our market stalls

Classic vehicles in attendance

All machinery working and in-steam plus demonstrations by volunteers
of old trade skills

Recommended last entry time is 3.30pm

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

Ask about making a donation and qualifying for a 12 month pass
Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxfordshire OX29 8ET

CRAFTS & SKILLS

at Combe Mill
Sunday 21 September
10.30 - 4.30 hrs

Recommended last
entry time is 3.30pm

Oxford Guild of Spinners Weavers & Dyers

Crochet and Decoupage

Bobbin Lace

Needle felting

Leather demonstrations

Vintage sewing machines

Dolls house with 1/12 scale dolls

Treadle sewing machine



Browse our market stalls

Charlbury Morris dancers in afternoon

Swindon Classic Car Club in attendance

Adults £9.00, concessions £7.50, children free

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

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