

BLETCHINGTON VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE – SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1979

ISSUE 271

August – September 2024



Steam Train rides and Art Exhibition

Reports from village organisations

“A Saunter in Bletchington” by Beatrix Lown

Meet our new Co-op Manager

Art Exhibition at Hillcrest

Lamb Ale – in pictures

ART EXHIBITION AT HILLCREST – 13th/14th JULY



EDITORIAL

This edition of Village News marks my fifth anniversary of becoming editor, taking over from Greta Bickley whose 40 years at the helm is unlikely ever to be surpassed. It has been both an honour and a challenge to be editor of the village magazine, but it's a challenge I have relished. As a child, I always fancied being a journalist but it never happened so I am, in a way, fulfilling a childhood ambition. At this point I would like to say a big thank you to my colleague Ian Gedling, our treasurer, for all his support and also to everyone who contributes material, either on a regular or casual basis, to our distribution team who deliver the magazines to your door and finally to our loyal advertisers, without whose support we would not be able to produce a free magazine for the community. During my time as editor we have seen a pandemic, a cost-of-living crisis, a succession of the monarch and four Prime Ministers.

We have also seen two appearances by England's men in a Euros final but, unfortunately, no trophy. They did very well to reach the final this year, so congratulations to Gareth and the team on that achievement, and what an exciting climax to the tournament it turned out to be, with Cole Palmer's great equaliser but then Spain's winner scored late in the game. England tried to battle back, seeing a shot cleared off the line in the last few moments but, in the end, it wasn't to be. It has to be said, the better team on the day won. But hey! There's always the ladies' Euros to look forward to next year, followed by the men's World Cup in 2026.

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 thoughts via an interview and write the article on your behalf. Please get in touch with us via e-mail at bletchnews@gmail.com. The deadline for receiving material is always the **18th of the month** prior to publication – so articles for inclusion in the October/November magazine must reach us by **18th September** please.

bletchnews@gmail.com

Pete Baker

Welcome, Harry

On behalf of everyone in Bletchington, we would like to wish a very warm welcome to our new Co-op Manager, Harry Osborne. Harry replaces Mike Seaton, who has moved on to manage a larger store. We hope you will enjoy your time working in Bletchington. Read Harry's own introduction to us all on Page 13.

Sports & Social Club subscriptions

Don't forget subscriptions for membership of the Sports & Social Club become due on 1st September. If you are an existing member, please try to renew promptly and, if you are not, why not consider joining?

The Black's Head shows no sign of reopening any time soon so the Club remains the sole venue in the village to go for a convivial drink. Volunteer run, drink prices are generally cheaper than in local pubs, and members can enjoy a variety of social events such as live music and bingo. For more information about the Club, see their article on Page 26.

Art exhibition and steam train rides

A massive thank you to Barbara and Roland for hosting a lovely weekend combining art exhibition with steam train rides, much enjoyed by many throughout the village and beyond. The art exhibition showcased the work of several local artists. Our gallery opposite (courtesy of local photographer, Pete Seaward) features the work of some of the artists who exhibited at the event.

General election

Following the General election on 4th July, the political map of Oxfordshire has changed dramatically. Except for Oxford City, Oxfordshire was formerly a Tory stronghold, but the county now has no Conservative MPs. In our own newly created Bicester & Woodstock constituency, the full results were as follows:

Miller, Calum	Liberal Democrat	19,419 votes
Harrison, Rupert	Conservative	14,461 votes
Oakeshott, Veronica	Labour	8,236 votes
Obodo, Augustine	Reform UK	5,408 votes
Middleton, Ian	Green	2,404 votes
Funnell, Tim	Social Democratic	291 votes

Calum Miller was duly elected to serve as our MP, representing the Bicester & Woodstock constituency. Turnout was 68% from an electorate of 74,350. Congratulations to Calum on becoming our new MP.

D-Day 80 bell ringing



On the 80th anniversary of D-Day, on Thursday 6th June, our bellringers at St. Giles' Church joined churches throughout the country, ringing their bells to mark the occasion. The national message accompanying the event was to 'Ring out for Peace'.

Tower Captain, Sue Macready (pictured here on the right of the group), emerged unscathed from her encounter with a very large hornet at the start of the evening to lead the bell ringing. Many thanks to Sue and her dedicated team of bellringers for chiming the bells for our village.

Family Fun Day

The PTA would like to say thank you to everyone who came and supported the school at the village Family Day held on 22nd June. The weather was kind and the PTA made a whopping £5,341! We hope everyone enjoyed the day and look forward to future fundraising events. A big thank you to the PTA committee for all their dedication and hard work. Well done to everyone involved for raising so much money.

Summer fun for Cherwell's young

Parents can now sign their children up for exciting summer activities which will be happening at North Oxfordshire Academy, Bicester Leisure Centre and Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre. The Activate Holiday Club will start on Monday, 5th August and features a healthy mix of sports, arts, nature activities and games. All staff leading the sessions are First Aid trained and Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checked. The sessions cost £22.50 per day, running from 8:45am to 3pm and are offered for children aged 5 to 11. Find out more and book on-line at: www.cherwell.gov.uk/Activate.

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:

23 rd May	Karen Taylor	Funeral
21 st June	Kenneth & Jennifer Richardson	Interment of Ashes

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Karen and of Kenneth & Jennifer.

7 th July	Louis Wright	Baptism
----------------------	--------------	---------

We welcome Louis to the family of the Church.

Akeman Family Picnic & Games afternoon

(With a touch of Wild Worship): Sunday 4th August at 15:00 on Kirtlington playing field – see advert on Page 39. Please bring a picnic and a game. See you there!

Hymns and Pimm's

We have two of these coming up in August. It's just a fancy name for Songs of Praise, but you do get a glass of Pimm's afterwards! A chance to choose some favourite hymns, and maybe learn a little bit about some of them. And NO SERMON! Weston on 4th August, and Kirtlington on 11th August, both at 18:00.

Summer Compline

With Akeman Church Community Choir – this will be a lovely reflective evening service, based on the monastic service of compline. Come and enjoy some restful music and a time of silence and gentle prayer. This takes place on Sunday 25th August at 18:00, at Chesterton Church.

John the Juggler

We are greatly looking forward to a special family event with John the Juggler and the Bletchington Silver Band on St. Giles' Day, Sunday 1st September, at 10:30am at Bletchington Village Hall (on the plaza outside if fine). This event is especially suitable for children and families. Save the date now! (See the poster on Page 9.)

Rise & Shine

This takes place every Wednesday during term-time, 09:15–10:45 at Kirtlington Church. Plenty of home-made cake and snacks for all ages along with freshly brewed coffee and squash. Begins again Wednesday 4th September.

Community Walks

On 8th September, there will be a walk shared by the congregations of Shipton-on-Cherwell with Thrupp and Hampton Gay. Meet at Thrupp Bridge (near Annie's) at 14:30 for a gentle walk up the canal, a brief stop at Holy Cross, Shipton, and then across the river and canal and railway line to Hampton Gay for Evensong at 16:00 followed by tea. All very welcome.

Bicester & Islip Deanery's next community walk will also take place on Sunday 8th September, starting at St. Olave's Church, Fritwell, going via Somerton and returning to Fritwell. The distance is 6.7 miles, but there is a shorter route for those who would prefer that! The walk will be followed by refreshments and a short service. All are welcome.

Local walks: see our website for information about walks around local churches:

<https://akemanbenefice.org.uk/about-the-benefice/pilgrim-paths>

Joint Creation-tide service with our Swedish Partners

On Wednesday 11th September at 18:30 there will be an online service with our friends from the Diocese of Växjö in Sweden. This will have a special focus on the environment and our care of creation. We will be joined by Bishops Steven and Olivia from our diocese, and by Bishop Fredrik from Växjö. A Zoom invitation will be sent out nearer the time. Please let Gareth know if you would like to join.

Net Zero

The churches in our benefice are working hard to meet the Church of England's commitment to achieve Net Zero as soon as possible. Your PCCs are trying to make each church more eco-friendly and some are setting aside areas of the churchyard to encourage more wildlife. Some churches are considering becoming eco churches, for which various awards are given. Watch this space!

Harvest Services and lunches/teas/suppers

The Harvest services in the benefice will be straddled over several Sundays. In Bletchington, our service will be on Sunday 22nd September at 16:00, followed by tea in the church. For other Harvest services in the benefice, please see the Church Services schedule.

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

Well, believe it or not, I am writing this in the early hours of Friday 5th July. I have been up all night, and should probably not be doing this now, being I'm being pressed by a very hard-working editor to get this material in by the morning!

Did you stay up all night for the election results? Perhaps I am a little nerdy, but I can't imagine not doing so. It's one of the highlights of life in the UK! I may have dozed off very briefly at about 3am, but I was there for Shapps, and Mordaunt, and Rees-Mogg – oh, and Corbyn – and Truss! I find it hard to understand people who are not excited by it, and take themselves to bed at the usual hour!

We are hugely fortunate to live in a democracy. It is far from perfect, but it could be an awful lot worse. I am glad we don't have to make the rather binary choices that our friends in France and the USA do, though I would be much happier with a fairer voting system. But first past the post is a good deal better than a one-party state!

On election day I was leading Collective Worship at Bletchingdon School while voting was taking place on the other side of the partition in the hall. I was surprised and pleased at the level of knowledge and interest shown by many of the children, but disappointed that several pupils said that their parents didn't intend to vote. I was also amused by one very small boy who said, "My mum's voting red, as it's her favourite colour!"

So, we have a new government, and I wish them well. It's easy to be an armchair critic, but the burdens of office are huge and I take my hat off to any who offer themselves for elected office. I hope that a new parliament will see greater accountability, greater probity, and a real commitment to public service. Christians are encouraged in scripture to pray for those in authority. So please do that – for our new MP, Calum Miller; for our new Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer; and for all who serve in local and national government – that they may seek justice and equity, with fairness and moderation, in serving the well-being and prosperity of all.

Gareth



St. Giles' Church, taken in 1904

Church services for August & September

AUGUST 2024	Sunday 4th <i>Trinity 10</i>	Sunday 11th <i>Trinity 11</i>	Sunday 18th <i>Trinity 12</i>	Sunday 25th <i>Trinity 13</i>	
Bletchington	09:30 Morning Worship		09:30 Holy Communion		
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Comm. (said)	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Worship	18:00 Summer Compline with ACCC	
Hampton Gay		16:00 Evensong			
Kirtlington	11:00 Holy Communion	09:30 Holy Comm. (s) 18:00 Hymns & Pimms	11:00 Morning Worship		
Middleton Stoney	09:30 Morn. Worship		09:30 Holy Comm.		
Wendlebury	09:30 Holy Comm.		09:30 Morning Prayer	10:30 Holy Comm.	
Weston-on- the-Green	18:00 Hymns & Pimms	11:00 Morning Worship	11:00 Holy Communion		

SEPTEMBER 2024	Sunday 1st <i>Trinity 14</i>	Sunday 8th <i>Trinity 15</i>	Sunday 15th <i>Trinity 16</i>	Sunday 22nd <i>Trinity 17</i>	Sunday 29th <i>Trinity 18</i>
Bletchington	10:30 Benefice Service at Village Hall Plaza		09:30 Holy Communion	16:00 Harvest Service + tea in church	
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Comm. (said)	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Café Church at Com. Centre		10:30 Holy Communion
Hampton Gay		16:00 Evensong			
Kirtlington		09:30 Holy Comm. (s) 18:00 Evensong	11:00 Morning Worship	16:00 Harvest Service & tea in church	
Middleton Stoney			09:30 Holy Communion		17:00 Harvest Songs of Praise with ACCC
Wendlebury			09:30 Morning Worship		17:00 Harvest Service + supper in VH
Weston-on- the-Green		11:00 Morning Worship	11:00 Holy Communion	10:15 Holy Comm. (s) 11:00 Harvest Service + lunch in VH	

Juggling John

in action at a special
Akeman Benefice
all-age open-air
service

with the Bletchington Silver Band
outside Bletchington Village Hall
(inside if wet)

Sunday 1st September, 10.30 am

Stilt-walking,
magic,
fire-eating



10 am: Refreshments, and Juggling John on stilts

OBITUARIES

Karen Taylor

7th February 1945 – 6th May 2024

Karen was born in Wallingford on 7th February 1945, the eldest of 6 children. In around 1950, Karen's parents Geunther and Silvia Porsch moved to Hilltop Cottage in Enslow. Karen then attended Bletchington Primary School where Mrs Lydington was head teacher. Karen's education continued at The Bicester Grammar School.

When she was 16 Karen left school to work for a short period in a bank in Oxford before starting work in the weighbridge office at The Blue Circle Cement Works in Shipton. It was there she met Alec Taylor who was a Lorry Driver. They married in the mid 60's and in 1968 had their only son William and were married until Alec passed away in 1993.

When William started secondary school, Karen found a job as a secretary at The Centre for English Studies at Bletchington Park where she also helped to organise social events for the students and acted as a taxi driver, driving the school minibus up and down to Heathrow, collecting and delivering students.

In around 1980, Karen Joined Bletchington Silver Band and soon after started to coach and teach young players (and their parents) to read music and to play brass instruments. When she started playing at Marsh Gibbon in the mid 80's she soon became the resident teacher there too.

Through their common interest in Brass Bands, Karen met and married Brian Drake in 2002. They continued to play in Marsh Gibbon band right up to the pandemic in 2020.

Karen's real passion was her family. All of her grandchildren, great grandchildren and their friends affectionately knew her as "Nanny Whistle".

Karen was a wonderful lady who will be missed dreadfully by her family, her friends and fellow bands people. She would have never realised the amount of people whose lives she influenced teaching students young and old to read music and to play brass instruments.

On behalf of our family, I would like to thank everyone who attended her funeral to pay their respects, and in particular the members of Bletchington and Marsh Gibbon Silver Bands for giving their time to come and play the music. It would have meant so much to her.

Will Taylor

Cyril Emery

We first met Cyril in 1969 when we lived in Botley and attended his carpentry evening class at Matthew Arnold school. By coincidence, he started building his house (The Shavings) at Hampton Poyle in 1970 just before we moved to Bletchington, so we have always been in touch and he later made our garage doors and garden gate, amongst other things. He was a very talented carpenter, building everything from boats, the bus shelter and entrance 'gates' in Hampton Poyle, to small lamps, with no regard to health and safety regulations!

When St. Giles' Church was renovated for the millennium, he made the two large cupboards with the memorial cabinets at the back of the church, the book cupboard by the door and the storage bench in the tower for the bell ringers, all in ash to match the vestry. In addition, he and his wife Gloria removed every Victorian pew to treat the woodworm, then repair and clean them, no mean task given their weight and length! He also gave a lovely corner cupboard as a raffle prize in the days when we had a church bazaar. For several years he rented the little shop on the Green, which he called the Squirrels Drey, opening at weekends to sell unique hand-made gifts.

The church at Hampton Poyle was at standing room only for his funeral, and in a wonderful eulogy we heard of his colourful life, his useful help and advice to all who asked, and of his many other interests.

We send our condolences to Gloria, his family and many friends.

Kathy & Ian Gedling

Margot Teall

So sad to be writing this about our dear friend Margot who sadly passed away in hospital on 13th July 2024.

Margot, so much we can all say about her kindness and caring for others during her lifetime living in Bletchington.

Margot had been ill for many years but I never heard her complain, she was always thinking of others. When my husband Mick passed away I was in a dark place but got a phone call from guess who? Margot. "How are you doing my duck", that was Margot. She had an instinct and must have had a red hot telephone checking on all of her lost souls she cared so much about.

Charities, she supported so many, from Cherwell food bank to sending hand crafted greetings cards, toys or anything others needed. Joe, her carer and husband, was asked to bring any surplus food back where he gave to others in our neighbourhood, yes another caring quality. Margot chatted most days by phone and got me into knitting twiddle muffs for Alzheimer's, new born hats for J R babies, plus Easter chicks; again her lovely Joe delivered or posted for her.

I've missed Margot's calls with her being in hospital and will never forget the brightest, caring soul I've yet to meet.

Sleep tight lovely.

JEL

EXPERIENCED CARER SEEKS LOCAL CARE ROLE

I am a highly experienced female carer who lives in the Bletchington area - Seeking a local daytime care role. Currently providing live-in care for a lady with mild dementia in Cirencester, I'd like to be closer to home to see my children. I have provided more intensive care to people with Down syndrome, cystic fibrosis, advanced dementia and other complex physical and psychological needs.

Ideally, I'm looking for a companion type of care role. I offer compassionate care and have done for the past 25 years. Above all, I am kind, communicative, diligent and well regarded by the people to whom I provide care and their families. I can provide exceptional references and I am a car owner.

I am CRB checked and have full public liability insurance. I am NVQ qualified in care. I am a fully qualified lymphatic drainage therapist and Thai foot massager.

History Corner

Otmoor Riots

In the early 19th Century, Otmoor, which lies to the north-east of Islip, comprised mainly of marshland, watered by the River Ray, and was a very remote area with its own character and close-knit community. The residents were very protective of their rights, and from time immemorial had been allowed to graze cattle, sheep and horses on the land, as well as huge flocks of ducks and geese. A local legend of 'Our Lady of Otmoor' was cited as having granted these access rights to the people of Otmoor in perpetuity but, in reality, it is more likely that they had been granted by a monarch although it is not known which one. By whatever means these access rights were come by, the local population was not prepared to allow landowners to take them away.

An Enclosure Act was passed in 1815, allowing landowners to dredge the moor, as well as to install ditches, hedges and fences. Local farmers became disadvantaged by the enclosures whilst a series of floods were blamed on the dredging. Beginning in 1829, a series of public disturbances ensued, known as the Otmoor Riots in which an increasingly hostile population began destroying fences, hedges and ditches in an attempt to return the land to common use. On some nights up to 150 men were involved, disguised with blackened faces, headscarves and often wearing women's clothes. Coldstream Guards were stationed at Islip, in an attempt to keep the mobs under control, whilst policemen were also positioned in surrounding villages. Attempts to bribe people in this closely-knit community to reveal the identities of rioters proved fruitless.

It was on 6th September, 1830, the day of St. Giles Fair in Oxford, when things really came to a head. Around 1,000 people, some of whom had come from further afield such as Oxford or Bicester, encircled the moor in broad daylight, destroying every fence in their way. The Oxfordshire Yeomanry was summoned to the scene and the Riot Act was read but as many rioters refused to disperse, 61 arrests were made, with 41 people escorted in wagons towards Oxford with the intended destination of Oxford Gaol. But as the convoy reached the outskirts of the city, it was set upon by a mob comprised of attendees of the fair, armed with stones and cudgels, enabling the prisoners to escape.

CHELSEA ROYAL HOSPITAL – FOUNDERS DAY



The ceremony marks the founding of the Chelsea Royal Hospital by King Charles II in recognition of the part the army played in the restoration of the monarchy. The architect was former Bletchington resident, Sir Christopher Wren, with work commencing on the site in 1682, however it was not completed for another ten years, after the death of Charles II in 1685. James II succeeded to the throne, continuing to support the development and approving the distinctive scarlet coat still worn by the Chelsea Pensioners today. By the time the hospital opened in 1692, the country was under the reign of William & Mary.

The Reviewing Officer at this year's parade of the Chelsea Pensioners, held on 6th June, was HRH The Princess Royal. The Sovereign's Mace is ceremonially marched onto parade to be received with a general salute before the Parade is inspected by the Reviewing Officer. The event was attended by a small contingent of specially invited guests from Bletchington and Kirtlington (pictured above, by the statue of King Charles II).



MEET OUR NEW CO-OP MANAGER

Hi everyone, I'm **Harry Osborne** the new store manager at Bletchingdon Cooperative. Firstly would just like to pay tribute to Mike Seaton who has done a wonderful job in both assembling and leading a brilliant team here for 5 years, the store setup and growth in that time has been fantastic and that's a real testament to how he leads as both a manager and community leader.

To the people of Bletchingdon, I must say a real thank you for the way you have welcomed me to your village and shop. I've never worked somewhere so personal that has such a community feel and aspect to it. I hope to both continue and grow the store and any feedback suggestions you may have, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Finally, just a little bit about myself. I am from Swindon, don't worry Oxford United fans, not a Swindon Town fan (Leeds fan who's looking forward to the 6 points from you this coming season). Outside of work, I play football as much as I can and like to run and do marathons, in which I'm doing both Paris and Barcelona next year.

Thank you all again, and I look forward to the future as your store manager for Bletchingdon.

CONGRATULATIONS OWAIN



Congratulations to Owain Davies who graduated with a 1st class honours degree in Animation at Portsmouth University on 17th July.

Owain was also awarded an outstanding achievement award by a BA Animation Student.

Well done Owain!



Bletchington
Parochial C of E School

The end of summer term saw a packed schedule of events at Bletchington School, including KS1 and EYFS enjoying an exciting visit to Science Oxford and a whole school Sports Week (including Quidditch Day!) The Year 6 Leavers had a special service in Christchurch Cathedral as well as a punting trip to celebrate the end of their time at the school.

Big Bletch Bike Wash

What a wonderful soggy and sudsy afternoon the Robins class had on 12th July as they grabbed their sponges for a charity bike wash. Thank you to those parents who came to support the Robins, those who brought along their bike or scooter to be washed and those who donated. The superhero Robins raised £131.85 for Helen & Douglas House Children's Hospice.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

On 17th & 18th July, we were treated to fantastic Shakespeare performances as the pupils rose to the challenge of putting on A Midsummer Night's Dream. There were over 100 pupils in the cast, and it was wonderful to see the acting talent on show.



From the Governors

We are looking to fill the position of Clerk on the governing body. If you are interested in filling this vital role, or know of anyone who might be willing to take this on, please contact the school office:

office.3141@bletchington.oxon.sch.uk.

Pupil work

Woodpeckers have been reading 'A Walk in London' by Salvatore Rubbino. They were inspired to write their own guidebooks all about Bletchington. See Beatrix Lown's "A Saunter in Bletchington" (opposite).

A SAUNTER IN BLETCHINGDON – by Beatrix Lown

Are you looking for a new place to saunter in? Come and see lovely Bletchingdon Village. It has lots of green spaces and it is very popular because it is so quiet. How marvellous it is! Did you know that there are new houses there? Read on to explore more.

Co-op

First stop the Co-op. You can get refreshing ice cream here. They have delicious peas also. Maybe you can get some chips too!

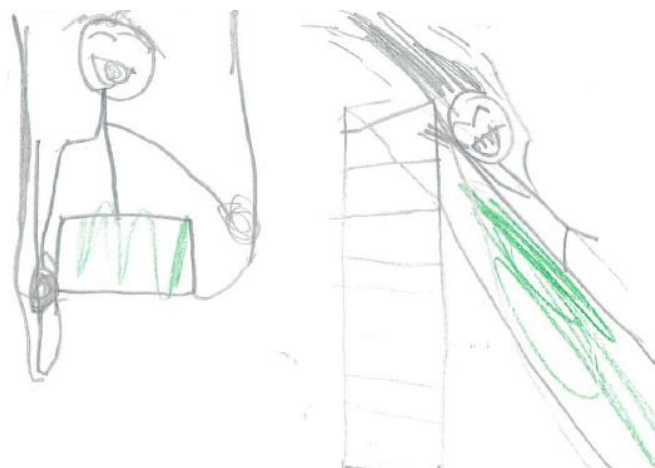


Village Green

Next stop is the village green. It is very green (as it says in its name)! The village green is very good for resting.

The Village Hall

The village hall has a big circle window on it. The village hall is very big and you can have parties there.



The Parks

The big park is very big and lovely. The big park has lots of things to play with. The big park has fun swings in it. They have lovely swings for you, and one even has a slide!

Do you want to saunter in Bletchingdon village?
Come and see for yourself!



Kirtlington Morris

It seems a long time since the dust settled on Lamb Ale Morris Festival 2024 at the beginning of June. Dust there was, as we were yet again blessed with good weather, unlike the incessant pouring rain as I write this in early July. But the garden needs it, as we say through gritted teeth. My water butts are full again anyway.

Back to Lamb Ale; it really was a great success from the point of view of our many guest sides. On the Friday night we held a packed music session at the Oxford Arms which caused the pub to be perilously close to running out of beer. We took a Charlton Services busfull of our three (!) weekend guest sides to Sturdy's Castle for lunch on the Saturday after dancing round Kirtlington, and then on to Woodstock to dance in the square, including a morris guard of honour for the newly married couple coming out of the Town Hall into our midst. Good luck and fecundity will be theirs!

Then back to Kirtlington Village Hall for tea, cocktails and then lamb roast BBQ with all the trimmings, to the sound of 78rpm records on an ancient gramophone, with much winding of the motor. We gave ourselves a lot of hard work again with so many guests, but it was a little easier this year thanks to the additional hands provided by our recent new recruits. But at least the extra bodies helped make the following barn dance go with a swing (pun intended).

On to Sunday, the main public day, with the eventual arrival of another dozen guest sides, processions to and from the church with the Lamb Ale service in between. The second procession arrived at the school where we were treated to the performance of a dance specially created for the children, in lieu of the Maids dance, while we wait for the population of Years 5 and 6 girls to increase so that the Maids dance can be performed again...

Following the usual well-tried formula, guests split into four ever-changing groups and danced around the village at the school, Oxford Arms, Village Hall and on South Green in front of the Dashwood Arms, unfortunately for all, closed for renovation.

And then to the Grand Finale back at the school where each side performed one of their best dances for all to see. An excellent bar as always (was it really six beers to choose from?) was provided by KSF, along with snacks and cakes. So that was it for another year, until next year, when Lamb Ale will be as late as it can be, 13th–15th June 2025, thanks to the phases of the moon and consequently Easter.

As for the rest of the summer, we are getting out a little more as our new recruits settle in. We danced at Bampton Day at the end of May to great acclaim, Kirtlington Village Fete, and also a couple of traditional pub danceouts at the Butchers Arms in Fringford and The Bell at Lower Heyford, with the Masons Arms, North Leigh, to come at the end of August, and we have also given a well-received presentation/demonstration to Kirtlington WI fuelled by a glass of wine and a delicious buffet...



Dancing at Bampton

And that's about it for now. Enjoy the rest of the summer, when it eventually arrives, and don't forget Kirtlington Morris practices will resume in September, 8pm Tuesdays, Kirtlington Village Hall, open to all. Ring me for confirmation of date!

Nigel Holt, Squire, Kirtlington Morris, 01869 350219 / 07871 856323

LAMB ALE – IN PICTURES

As you have read, Lamb Ale on Sunday 2nd June was a great success and we were blessed with lovely weather. In case you missed it – or would like to relive the day – here are some of the many sides from all over the country, including Jersey, gathered in Kirtlington to celebrate the tradition of morris dancing.....



*Kirtlington Morris
The hosts get the dancing started*



*Belle d'Vain
North-West clog side from the Vale of Evesham*



*Jersey Lilies
All the way from the Channel Islands!*



*Wolvercote
A local Cotswold side*



*Witchmen
Border morris side from Kettering*



*Mr. Hemmings
A Cotswold side from Abingdon*



The Bletchington Community Foundation

Could you be our new trustee?

Looking for a new challenge? Perhaps you would like to contribute to the community. If so, why not consider joining the BCF as a trustee? We run the Village Hall and the Bletchington Charity (which is managed via a separate committee) and will soon take ownership of the shop premises. We have a meeting about once every two months. If you are interested in becoming a BCF trustee or would like further information, please drop an e-mail to bcf.chair@thebcf.net including some brief details about yourself.

Horses

Following a recent incident where we had to shovel horse mess from the seating area at the front of the Village Hall before the Silver Band concert, can we please request that horses are not taken onto the Plaza area in front of the hall. If your horse does mess on a pavement or pedestrian area in the village, please clear it up.

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	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 <u>Website:</u> www.tumbletots.com.northcotswolds
1 st Bletchington Brownies (girls, 7-10yrs.)	Monday – 6-7:30pm (Term time only)	Lorraine Wing	girlguidingwoodstock@hotmail.co.uk
Total Body Conditioning	Monday – 7:30pm Wednesday – 6:30pm	Geraldine Jennings	07875 364130 geraldine_jennings@yahoo.co.uk
Stretch & core (non-sweat)	Wednesday – 7:30pm	Geraldine Jennings	07875 364130 geraldine_jennings@yahoo.co.uk
Thursday Club (over 50s)	First Thursday of the month – 2:00pm	Rozz Wing	wingrozzw@aol.com
Bletchington Silver Band (Senior band)	Tuesday - 7:30pm Friday – 7:30pm	Laura	secretary@bletchingtonsilverband.co.uk
Bletchington Silver Band (B band)	Friday – 6:30pm	Laura	secretary@bletchingtonsilverband.co.uk
Children's Martial Arts Class (Jiu Jitsu)	Wednesday – 5:15pm	David Plested	07515 560201 inspirebjjuk@gmail.com



The 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.

The Bletchington Charity has been helping residents of the village for more than 400 years. Obviously much has changed over that time, but we are still here to give a helping hand to those in need. In recent years, we have helped villagers financially through the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent cost of living crisis and provided continuing support wherever it is needed.

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. It must therefore scrutinise all grant applications carefully to ensure the optimal use of funds available. But please do not let any of this put you off applying for a grant. The Charity committee does not want to see anyone facing hardship this summer and autumn 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 4th September. Applications to be in by 2nd September please.

BLECHINGDON BREAST CANCER BAZAAR



Join us at Bletchingdon Village Hall on Saturday 31st August from 11:00am to 2:00pm for our Bazaar in aid of Breast Cancer Research.

STALLS: Full of crafted and homemade items for you to browse and buy.

RAFFLE: Amazing prizes, including a spa Day, golf vouchers, hairdressing & beauty vouchers, canoe experience, a huge hamper plus many more.

TOMBOLA: Tickets ending 0 and 5 win a prize!

REFRESHMENTS: Yummy homemade cakes; tea & coffee being served during the event.

£1 ENTRY: We look forward to seeing you and raising funds for this wonderful charity.

BLETCH BABES

BLETCH BABES will be hosting their ever-popular annual cake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer soon – date yet to be decided (September or October). Please look out for more details in the near future. Cake donations and raffle prizes always gratefully accepted.

Every cake and every coffee matters

Cancer can disrupt someone's whole life. Coffee Mornings like this mean we can do whatever it takes to help people with cancer live life as fully as they can. The money you raise today will go towards:

Physical support

We provide specialist nurses and information on cancer, side effects such as hair loss, exercise and nutrition, so each and every day is a bit more bearable.

Financial support

We provide benefits advice, grants and a team of experts who are on hand to help make sure money is one less thing for people with cancer to worry about.

Emotional support

We provide free specialist counselling and local support groups so people with cancer can talk and get help with how they're feeling.



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261071), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. Printed on sustainable material. Please recycle. MAC19x71_Matters_Card



1st BLETCHINGTON BROWNIES

End of term = awards and ice cream!

Well done Isabel in gaining the Bronze Award and Ivy for the Silver Award.

We've all been working on the inventing badge, finding out more about female inventors and designing our own problem-solving inventions.

Thank you to all our volunteer leaders for their hard work at meetings, doing the admin, accounts and all the little things that keep us going.

We have a few spaces for September start, please register at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus.

If you're heading out for the Oxtrail, look out for the Girlguiding ones. Brown Owl helped to paint them.

BLETCHINGTON THURSDAY CLUB

For our June meeting, Ian Gedling brought a selection of old village photographs which were enjoyed by the members, many spotting relatives and friends. Many thanks Ian for bringing them in to the club.

In July we had a visit from Dogs for Good who gave a talk on how the dogs were trained. They brought along a dog who showed us how he helped his owner with daily tasks such as loading and unloading the washing machine and opening and closing doors.

We are not having a meeting in August as a coach trip to Bournemouth has been organised which we hope will be a nice day out.

In September we have folk singers coming to entertain us and encourage us to join in with some folk dancing.

Thursday Club is open to all who are 50 plus. It is held on the first Thursday of the month in Bletchington village hall from 2 o'clock. Join us for a chat, some entertainment, tea and a raffle. All are welcome.

Bletch Diary

1 st August – 10:00pm	Coach trip – To Bournemouth Organised by the Thursday Club (<i>see above</i>)
3 rd August – 9:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Live music With Declan Gaynor (<i>see Page 27</i>)
31 st August – 11:00am	Village Hall – Bazaar In aid of Breast Cancer Research (<i>see Page 20</i>)
1 st September – 10:30am	Village Hall Plaza – Akeman Benefice all-age open-air service With Juggling John and Bletchington Silver Band (<i>see Pages 6 & 9</i>)
22 nd September – 4:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Harvest Service Plus tea in the Church (<i>see Page 6</i>)
25 th –28 th September	Village Green – Funfair All the fun of the fair – the annual funfair visits Bletch (<i>see Page 28</i>)
28 th September – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash Bingo (<i>see Page 27</i>)



BLETCHINGTON SILVER BAND

June, as always, was one of busiest months of the year. We began our summer season with our longest-standing engagement, Boarstall Tower Fete, before moving on to fetes at Duns Tew and Kirtlington. Our B-Band even had an engagement of their own at the PTA fete.

To follow the fetes, we were glad to see so many people at our Summer Concert outside the Village Hall – and, of course, we were much luckier with the weather this year! Those who joined us enjoyed (we hope) a varied selection of light summer music ranging from traditional Brass Band marches, through Rock-and-Roll, the Muppets and even something by Taylor Swift. Our soloists this year showcased the family nature of the Band with our youngest soloist, Della Dawe, performing “Make Me Feel Your Love” by Adele in the first half whilst her Auntie (Mik Barwick) featured in the second half with a rendition of the 60s classic, “Pretty Flamingo”.

Once we have helped our Second-Horn player, Sarah, celebrate her wedding at the end of the month, we will spend the rest of the summer building up to our Autumn Concert on 6th October. This gives us the chance to fill in some of the gaps in our line-up and we are, of course, in the great position of having our B-Band to train up home-grown players, several of whom should be moving into our Senior Band over the next few months. We are also glad to welcome back Ed Pick, following his university studies, who has rejoined the Band playing Euphonium.

That is not to say that would not still welcome other players to the Band – specifically we still have empty chairs for a Front-Row cornet and another permanent Euphonium, if any experienced Brass Players are looking for a new home. Our Senior Band rehearse at Bletchington Village Hall each Tuesday and Friday from 7:30pm. For those looking to learn a new skill, why not come along to our Training Programme and B-Band on Fridays from 6:30pm.

Next Concert: Sunday 6th October, 4:00pm.

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

Combe Mill steaming events are well under way, looking forward to seeing you all.

18th August: In steam themed event – **Models & Collections.** See the advert on Page 42.

We have invited Exhibitors to bring along the models they have made and collections of interest. Exhibitors will be from Local Clubs.

15th September: In steam themed event – **Crafts & Skills.**

We have invited crafters from the local area including *Oxford Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers*; they will be bringing their Big Wheel, Needle Felting, Lace Bobbins, Children, and much more.

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.

Also open Wednesdays to end of October for self-guided tours with volunteers around and Tea Room open. Adults £5.00 – Seniors £4.00 – Children FREE.

From your Cherwell District councillors - Launton & Otmoor District

We hope you are enjoying the warmer weather (at least warmer at time of writing). It feels like summer has finally arrived! There are a few updates from Cherwell District Council.

At full council on 22nd May, we voted in a new leader of the council, David Hingley, from the Liberal Democrats. This followed the local elections in May where the Liberal Democrats were voted in as the largest party. David leads an executive made up of Lib Dems, Greens and Independent councillors. Over the last couple of months we have taken some time to properly understand the situation at Cherwell, particularly around finances and the local plan and will report more when those investigations are completed (this has been held up by officers focusing on the General Election).

Speaking of the General Election you should hopefully have seen that Bletchington has moved into the new Bicester & Woodstock constituency and Calum Miller has been elected as the new MP. He's still getting to grips with parliament but he does now have his parliamentary email set up and it is:

calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk. Please do get in contact with him if you need support!

Finally, we had another full council meeting on 15th July and we unanimously passed a motion to look into children's mental health. The motion asked for a 12-week programme in schools to focus on transition years and supporting children through it. The viability of the programme will depend on the financial situation at Cherwell, as outlined above, but we do hope to be able to do something to help children during those particularly hard years at school.

As always, please do get in touch! Our emails are:

gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk julian.nedelcu@cherwell-dc.gov.uk alisa.russell@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

All the best,

Gemma, Julian & Alisa - District Councillors for Launton & Otmoor

GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES



ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE TO RENT

Each plot is approximately 28m. x 8m. = minimum 220 square metres

Rental is £12 per annum per plot

Available in double-plots, single plots and half-plots

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

E-mail: bletchington.allotments@gmail.com

Big Meadow Search

In 1987, some research was published* in a scientific journal which showed that since the Second World War, 97% of meadows in the UK had disappeared. Previously, most farms were mixed farms but even those specialising in arable crops needed horses for ploughing and pulling carts; they and other livestock (sheep, beef and dairy cattle) were fed on hay during the winter when the grass doesn't grow. The hay was produced in hay meadows, and for many centuries, every farm in the UK had one or more such meadows. Before the time of artificial

fertilisers, these fields contained not only grass but many species of flowering plants as well, and they supported lots of insects and other invertebrates. Post-war, horses were replaced by tractors, and hay was replaced by silage as winter feed – it contains more calories and protein weight for weight than hay, and highly fertile silage fields can yield several crops per year, compared with only one hay crop. Hay meadows were now as obsolete as the working farm horses they fed during the winter, and so they almost all disappeared. But, sadly, much of the wildlife they supported has also gone. Areas of species-rich grassland are now quite rare, but they are very valuable and it's important that we know where they are. Hence, the Big Meadow Search!

The Big Meadow Search (BMS) is a citizen science project which aims to encourage people to record plants in an area of grassland of their own choice. The idea is to get them outside, to look at what they're walking through, and to learn to identify the plants they find, thus raising awareness and interest in grasslands and their importance. It began in 2021 as an initiative by the Carmarthenshire Meadows Group in West Wales, and was at first only intended to be carried out within our county. But it generated interest beyond Carmarthenshire, and beyond Wales too, so we are now looking for participants all over the UK.

The BMS species tick list is based on the National Plant Monitoring Scheme grassland indicator species, plus additional species of interest from meadows and grasslands. Any type of species-rich grassland can be searched; meadows, churchyards, road verges, amenity grassland. Obviously, if it's not public access land, make sure to get permission!

To take part:

- Select your grassland
- Record the location name, grid reference and date
- Walk around and write down all the plants you can see
- If you aren't sure on a species, take photographs from multiple angles of the flower heads, basal and stem leaves, upper and lower leaf surface, leaf base shape and either post on our social media or email to us and we will try and help to identify the species
- Enter your results on our website and once we have finished our BMS analysis, we will send them on to your local environmental record centre (LERC)

You can find lots of information on our Facebook page Big Meadow Search, or on our Twitter account @bigmeadowsearch, or you can get in touch via email on bigmeadowsearch@gmail.com. Our website (www.bigmeadowsearch.co.uk) has lots more information, and you can enter your findings directly. This year's BMS will run until 31st August.

** Fuller, R M (1987) The changing extent and conservation interest of lowland grasslands in England and Wales: a review of grassland surveys 1930-1984. Biological Conservation 40: 281-300*



KIRTLINGTON & BLECHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our Society offers 6 talks per year and has around 40 members. We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month from September to March, excluding December, at Kirtlington Village Hall. Most meetings begin at 7:30pm, but for a change this season, the January and February meetings will be at 2:30pm. Talks last about 1 hour, with refreshments beforehand and questions afterwards.

The talks are very varied. For instance, we will have 'Tricks of the Trade: Spying in the First World War' as the topic for the January meeting, followed by 'Z-A of Oxford' at the February meeting. The first meeting of the new season will be on Thursday, 26th September, when the talk is entitled 'Garden Archaeology "not that kind of gardening" - an overview of recent discoveries in historic gardens' 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)

Kirtlington and Blechington Historical Society

Garden Archaeology

Recent discoveries in historic gardens

STEPHEN WASS

26th September 2024, 7:30pm in Kirtlington Village Hall

Members free; non-members £5. All welcome.

Did you know.....?

The feast day of St. Giles, after whom our parish church is named, is celebrated on 1st September.

St. Giles' Fair in the City of Oxford, held on the street that bears his name, dates back to 1625. The date of the fair is defined as 'the Monday and Tuesday following the Sunday after St. Giles' Day'. This year, that will be on 9th and 10th September.

Amongst the many churches named after St. Giles, including our own, is Edinburgh Cathedral – St. Giles is the Patron Saint of the Scottish capital. He is also Patron Saint of beggars, blacksmiths, hermits, horses, lepers, mental illness, poor people, spur makers and various others.

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: Both teams are struggling in their respective leagues. The first team captain, Devane Warner, suffered a dislocated knee and will probably miss the rest of the season. We wish him a speedy recovery. 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. Training is at the Sports Ground on a Tuesday evening. The under 11's training starts on 12th August. Fixtures start in September.

Bletchington Nomads – Quiz Team: After a bright start to the summer season, the Nomads have hit a poor run of form in the Oxfordshire Quiz League. Losses against several teams they would normally expect to beat have left the Nomads languishing at the bottom of the Premiership, having won just 5 games out of 10.

In the Online Quiz League (a national league), the team have fared no better, with a second successive relegation, this time from Division 3 to Division 4, confirmed with one game still to play.

Ladies Darts: At the half way point through the Ladies Bicester Area League season, both teams are progressing up the table.

Suzanne Pollard & Hayley Pollard from Bletchington SSC B-team have successfully reached the Open Pairs play-off to be played on finals night.

Aunt Sally: The team are languishing in last place of their section but are managing to win the beer legs.

Cribbage: The 2023/24 season ended on a high for the Crib Team. The team finished a respectable second in the league – having lost just 4 matches throughout the season (the league winners won by an additional eleven points) – but the team went on to win the 6-a-side competition, whilst the team's captain, Dave Callicott, won the Captain's Cup competition. The cups and trophies were presented to the team at the Witney & District Crib League Finals Night held on Monday 20th May at The Windrush Club, Witney (where the team are pictured below).

The team now can rest over the summer months and look forward to the new season commencing in September.



We play our home matches at the Social Club – for which we thank the committee and staff for hosting us – and play every Monday in the Witney & District League. The league is made up of two sections, each section consisting of 10 teams from all parts of West Oxfordshire. Each team consists of six players (3 pairs of two) who play 5 games each on the night, against other pairs from the opposition. Each pair's results are then tallied at the end of the match – therefore achieving, for example, a 9-6 result (the best of 15 games) or similar. The BSSC team is very enthusiastic and we always enjoy our Monday nights of crib – it's a good craic! – as well as having a few drinks.

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

Dave Callicott (captain)

What's On at the Club?

SATURDAY 3rd August – LIVE MUSIC: Declan Gaynor (9:00pm)

SATURDAY 28th September – CASH BINGO (eyes down 8:00pm)

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

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

BINGO

Bingo is having a summer break for July and August. The next bingo session will be on 28th September.

Bletchingdon | Enslow | Heathfield

YOUR COUNCIL MATTERS

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

Latest News

General Election

The Liberal Democrats have won in Bicester and Woodstock making Calum Miller the first ever MP for the new constituency.

His contact email address is

calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk

MPs can help with issues that are the responsibility of UK Parliament, such as hospitals and the NHS, problems with benefits, pensions and national insurance, immigration, school closures and funding, and transport facilities.



Thank you to the people of Bicester and Woodstock. I am honoured to be elected as your MP. This is my home. I stood because I want to serve my community, to speak for my neighbours and to represent this wonderful part of Oxfordshire. I won't let you down.

IN OTHER NEWS

Dates for your Diary

Village Fair, The Green

Hatwells Fair is coming to Bletchingdon again and will be open from Wednesday 25th September 2024 to Saturday 28th September 2024



Donations made in the last 12 months

Bletchingdon Parish Council have carefully selected the following for a charitable donation so far this year. This is reviewed quarterly to ensure it remains within the budget and each is selected based on the benefit it provides to those within our community;

Clean Slate -£50.00

Oxfordshire Mind - £50.00

Village News - £450.00

Church Grounds Maintenance - £900.00.



Next Meetings 28th August & 25th

September 2024- The
Village Hall.

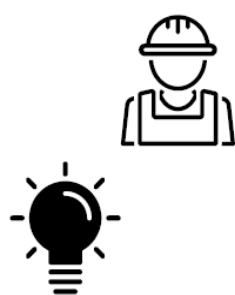
Visit our website for
information on public
attendance and participation
at Council Meetings.

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.bletchingdonparishcouncil.co.uk



Planning Matters May & June 2024



New Applications Put Forward

24/01129/F – Mr Franklin – 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.

24/012838/TCA – Mr Mark Webber – Holly Cottage, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T1 x Holly. Reduce height by 2 meters around old points. As well as trimming/reducing to clear buildings by 0.5 meters.

24/01523/F – Park Farm – Akeman Street, Kirtlington, OX5 3JQ – Extension of existing leisure/tourism site via the introduction of 4 No. additional cabins.

24/01610/TCA – Nick Evans – Bletchingdon Park House, Springwell Hill Bletchingdon OX5 3DW – T5001 – Veteran oak tree immediately adjacent Estate gate lodge, leans towards residence and public road. Recent decay detection identifies significant area of compromised material around lower stem and buttress routes. Recommended work: Remove all deadwood. Crown reduce 20%. (reduce re growth on the western side of the canopy by about 1.5m-2m to remove some end weight retaining the shape and habit of the species).

T885 – Mature horse chestnut at old park entrance – leans out over Islip Road. Kretzschmaria deusta fungal fruiting bodies identified around lower stem, recent decay detection indicates lower stem is compromised. Recommended work: Fell to ground level. (Note: this trees was previously planned for reduction, but we already had concerns about the overall stability and given the location, concluded it needs to be removed.

24/01650/F – Build the Future Ltd – Heathfield Park Caravan Site, Street Through Heathfield Village, Heathfield OX5 3DX – Use of land for the siting of residential and holiday mobile homes retaining the layout approved under permission 23/00899/F.

24/01620/F – Mr & Mrs Shirley – 28 Valencia Close, Bletchingdon OX5 3DF – Single and two storey side extension and single storey rear extension with internal alterations.



Applications Approved

24/01283/TCA – Holly Cottage, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T1 x Holly. Reduce height by 2m around the old points. As well as trimming/reducing to clear buildings by 0.5m.

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



Changes to telephone landlines

The UK's telephone network is being upgraded, which means that landline services are changing. You can still have a landline in your home, but the technology that powers it will be different.

This means that in future, landline calls will be delivered over digital technology called Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which uses a broadband (internet) connection.

For most, switching over will be straightforward, but some people may need new equipment or support to make the changes.

When the changes are happening

This change will be happening across the country and for most networks the move to digital landlines will be complete by December 2025 (though this may be delayed to 2027). Your supplier will let you know when they are moving you.

Contact your telephone supplier and let them know if you:

- Have a disability or any other needs that mean you will need extra help with this change
- Don't have a mobile phone or if the mobile phone signal at your home is too poor to ring for emergency services

Your telephone supplier may be able to delay changing your system or provide additional help during the change.

What effect the change will have on your phone number and bill

You will be able to keep your current phone number. Your supplier will be able to offer you a telephone plan at the same cost you currently pay, or you can choose to upgrade your service, if you wish.

What effect the change will have on personal alarms and telecare

This switchover may affect some telecare devices and other equipment such as pendant alarms.

Carium is the supplier for people who have an alarm fitted by Oxfordshire social services. New Carium devices are already digital and will work after the switchover. If you have an older device Carium will get in touch with you to swap it for a digital version.

If your device is not from Carium, we suggest that you take the following steps:

• Contact your personal alarm or telecare device supplier to check if your device will be affected. If you need to upgrade your device, they may be able to provide this for free or they may need to charge a one-off fee

• Whoever your telephone supplier is, make sure they're aware that you have a telecare alarm and will need extra support during the switchover



What effect the change will have on home-security alarms

If you have a home-security alarm, such as a burglar alarm, which uses your telephone line to alert you when the alarm is triggered, you will need to contact your alarm provider to check if your device will be affected by the digital switchover. If you need to upgrade your device, they may be able to provide this for free or they may need to charge a one-off fee.

What effect the change will have during power cuts

The new digital landline system will rely on electricity from your household electrical socket, so will not work during a power cut. You can use a mobile phone as a 'back-up' way of getting in touch with people.

Checking your mobile phone signal in various areas of your home would be sensible to ensure you can make a call should you be in bed, for example. You may wish to change your mobile phone provider, if another service has better signal in your area.

If you live somewhere where you rely on your landline (for example you may have not have a mobile phone, or experience poor mobile signal), then your landline telephone supplier will offer you a 'resilience solution' to make sure you can still make emergency calls during a power outage.

Ofcom rules for telephone suppliers currently state they only need to ensure you have access to emergency calls for 1 hour, though most suppliers are providing solutions which will last on stand-by for up to 8 hours.

More information

For more information on the digital switchover please contact your telephone provider.

For many telephone providers you can dial 150 from your phone to speak to them, or you will find their contact details on bills and paperwork you have received from them.



BeccaLou Designs

Special occasion and every day cakes available to order from a local small business.

All cakes are bespoke and freshly made to specific requirements.

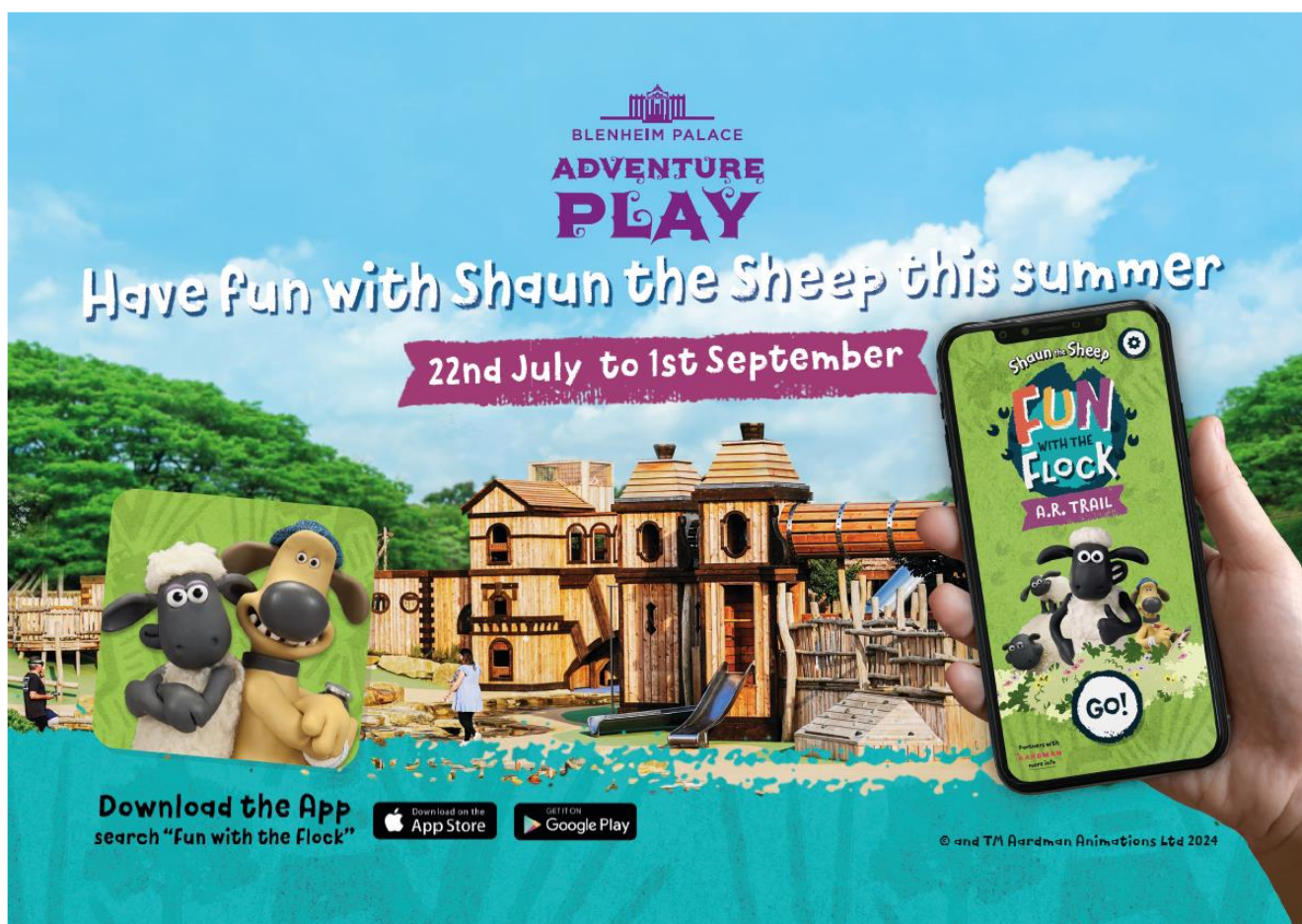
A variety of flavours and designs, cupcakes, sponge, fruit, gluten free and vegan can be discussed.

Please allow at least 2 weeks prior to date required.

Email: mandy@cobi.co.uk

Tel: 01869 351771 or 07941 949743  BeccaLou Designs  beccalou_designs

Or order through Weston-on-the-Green Village Pantry



BLENHEIM PALACE
ADVENTURE
PLAY

Have fun with Shaun the Sheep this summer

22nd July to 1st September

Download the App
search "Fun with the Flock"

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

© and TM Aardman Animations Ltd 2024



At



I love movement, and I am in awe of human capacity.
In all of my work, it my passion to support people in understanding how their body is working.
I put the science of movement, motivation and emotional resilience into practice.

OSTEOPATHY CAN HELP WITH:

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

COUNSELLING SUPPORTS:

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

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

MOVEMENT, BREATHING AND SPORTS PERFORMANCE:

- FORTHCOMING – Oxygen Advantage Advanced Instructor – Fitness, Performance, Mental Wellness
- Improve Running Mechanics
- Improve the relationship between your feet, hips and ribcage for better joint range and power – increases comfort *and* performance
- Classes online and bespoke 1-2-1

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY:

“Monica is truly holistic in her care and helps you to think about your issue so that you get to sustainable and ongoing health.”

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

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

I LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING YOU IN REACHING YOUR GOALS
IN BODY AND MIND.

Ruby Radwan
Client-centered Holistic Therapist



Seeking Help?

Sharing your concerns and fears openly is a daunting task. I approach therapy with non-judgmental support, empowering you to transform aspects of your life that require change.

As an integrative therapist, I've cultivated a holistic perspective over 30 years, training in psychology, holistic health, hypnotherapy and psychotherapy. I am able to integrate diverse theoretical approaches and a range of techniques to tailor therapy to your unique needs.

Get In Touch

Secure your spot now for a complimentary consultation.

Website: ruby-therapy.com

24/7
EMERGENCY PLUMBING



**New
Generation**
Plumbing & Heating

LOCAL PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEERS
INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE



07884081360

WWW.NEWGENPLUMBING.CO.UK



Bicester Candles

Diffuser & Candle Making Bar

Jewellery & Gifts

Homeware

Workshops / Events



www.bicestercandles.co.uk

Bicestercandles@gmail.com

Greenhill Farm Campsite, Bletchington, OX5 3BQ



ALISTAIR REDHOUSE
PROPERTY PARTNERS



Tired of the traditional estate agency experience? Alistair Redhouse Property Partners offers a fresh approach. Our 1-on-1 model eliminates communication issues and inefficiencies, ensuring you receive the personal attention you deserve.

Enjoy a seamless, bespoke property journey with better outcomes. We're not just changing the game; we're revolutionising UK real estate.

We Care More!
Contact us today



www.arpropertypartners.co.uk



01865 364541



hello@arpropertypartners.co.uk



GOSFORD HILL
SCHOOL

Gosford Hill School Open Events

for prospective parents and their
children in Year 5 and Year 6

Open Evening

Wednesday 25th September
(6:00pm to 8:00pm)

Open Mornings

Monday 30th September
Tuesday 1st October
Wednesday 2nd October
(9:15am to 10:15am)



Gosford Hill School, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 2NT



www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/open-events



01865 374971

GET IN TOUCH TO FIND
OUT HOW I CAN HELP
REALISE YOUR
DRYSTONE PROJECTS

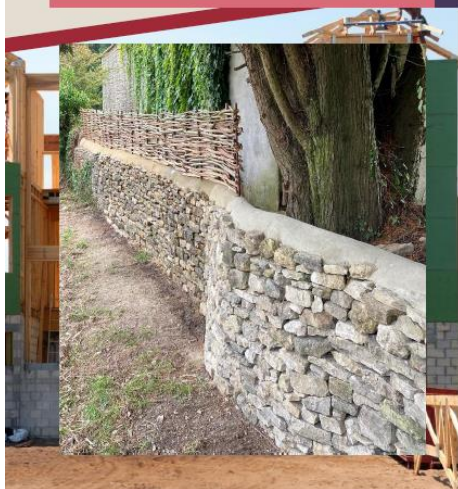
REPAIRS / NEW BUILDS /
GARDEN FEATURES

NO JOB TOO SMALL

ALDEN DRYSTONE
NO STONE LEFT TURNED

LOCAL BUSINESS SERVING
THE OXFORD AREA AND
BEYOND SPECIALISING IN THE
REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION
OF DRY STONE WALLS

USING LOCALLY SOURCED
MATERIALS ,WORKING
CLOSELY WITH THE
CUSTOMER TO REALISE THEIR
PROJECT DREAMS TO
ENHANCE AND ADD VALUE TO
THEIR PROPERTY.'



89 Wise Avenue,
Kidlington,
Oxford

07952964106

Robert.alden@hotmail.com



KNIGHT 
CARPET & FLOORING LTD.

Carpet • Vinyl • LVT • Laminate

Domestic and Commercial Flooring Specialists

Please contact us today for a free quotation

07903 706047

07769 707877

KnightCarpetFlooring@outlook.com



**RECTORY FARM
CELEBRATES**
1954 - 2024



TRACTOR FESTIVAL

21ST AND 22ND SEPTEMBER 2024

**VINTAGE PLOUGHING MATCH | NEW HOLLAND TRACTOR DISPLAY
PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES | FOOD TRUCKS | TRACTOR RIDES
GAMES & ACTIVITIES | POTATO HARVESTING
MEET THE FARMERS**

**TICKETS £3 PER PERSON - UNDER 2S FREE
PROFITS SPLIT WITH THOMLEY
TICKETS GO ON SALE MONDAY 1ST JULY**

Bring a picnic and your family for an Akeman

family picnic and games afternoon

with a touch of
wild worship

on Kirtlington Playing Field

Sunday 4th August, 3-5pm

Some chairs, rugs and games
will be provided
but you are welcome to bring more.



SMITHS NEWSAGENTS

**We deliver daily newspapers
and magazines to the village.**

**Any combination of
days per week catered for.**

**Ring us on 01295 268499
or e-mail:
info@smithsnewsagents.co.uk**



Kirtlington Property Maintenance

*Local and reliable home and garden
improvements, maintenance and repairs*

- Painting and decorating internal and external
- Household repairs
- Various jobs inside and out
- Garden maintenance
- Pressure washing
- Landscaping including fencing, gates, decking, turfing, patios, driveways, shed/base installation etc.

Competitive rates, fully insured
and references available on request

No job is too small – please call Noel Price
on 07884 185171 or 01869 351619
or email noelprice@btinternet.com

www.kirtlingtonpropertymaintenance.com

For domestic and commercial cleaning
please call Jayne Price on 07795 055202

Oxfordshire's Plant Emporium

An old-fashioned nursery with a huge
selection of shrubs, climbers, perennials,
peat-free compost & oak barrels.

It also specialises in mature trees,
pleached trees, hedging, fruit trees,
ornamental trees, fruit bushes & roses.

Honesty tearoom with delicious cakes &
children's hunts throughout the year.

Open every day except Tuesdays.

"The good value plant nursery"



Bunkers Hill Plant Nursery

Bunkers Hill, Nr. Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 3BA

01869 331492

www.bunkershillgardenshop.co.uk



@bunkershillgardenshopoxford

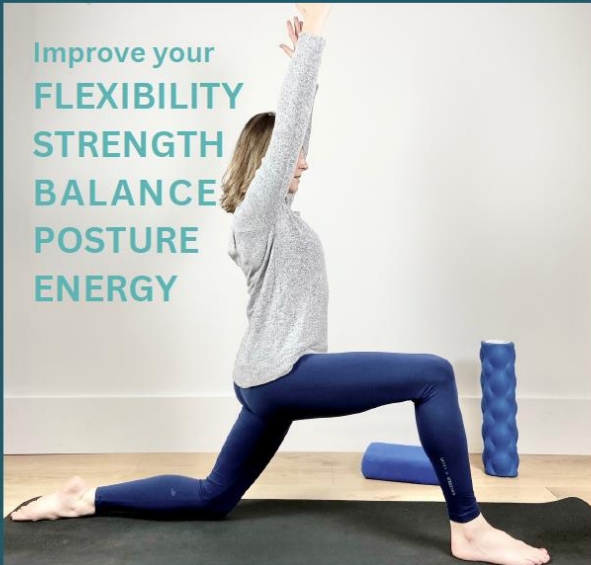


@bunkersgarden



PHYSIO-LED PILATES/YOGA FUSION CLASSES GEMMA QUERALT MCSP HCPC

Improve your
FLEXIBILITY
STRENGTH
BALANCE
POSTURE
ENERGY



www.gqphysio.co.uk | ☎ 07974692287

BLETCHINGDON VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY

10 - 11am (intermediate)

THURSDAY

7.15 - 8pm (intermediate)

KIRTLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
WEDNESDAY

9.30 - 10.30am (intermediate)

10.45 - 11.30am (beginner/improver)

Also available for:

Physiotherapy consultations

1:1 pilates or yoga

Why shiver...

... when we can deliver!



- Supplier of oils to homes, farms & industry for over 30 years
- Payment plans & Top-Up service available



01869 342111 | info@nolanoils.co.uk | www.nolanoils.co.uk



**DEREK BICKLEY
GENERAL BUILDER**

Extension, Alterations, Paving etc

All types of building work considered

Telephone: 01869 351532

Mobile no: 07817496502

Web page: yell.com

Email: lizadez@btinternet.com



ARBOCARE TREE SURGERY LTD

Tree surgery
Landscaping
Grounds Maintenance



**Qualified, insured,
experienced arborists**

- Contractors to the National Trust
- Surveys & reports
- Patios & Decking
- Turfing & Fencing

For more details contact us on:

Freephone **0808 155 5815**

Mobile **07778 811136**

Email **mharvey31@gmail.com**

www.arbocare.co.uk



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:

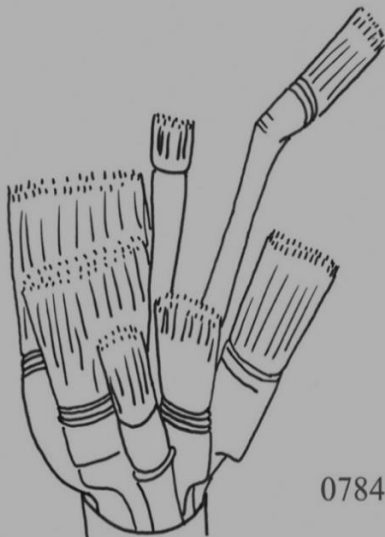
01869 343 600
cridlands.co.uk



Kate Byrne

Painting & decorating

Colour & style consultation also available



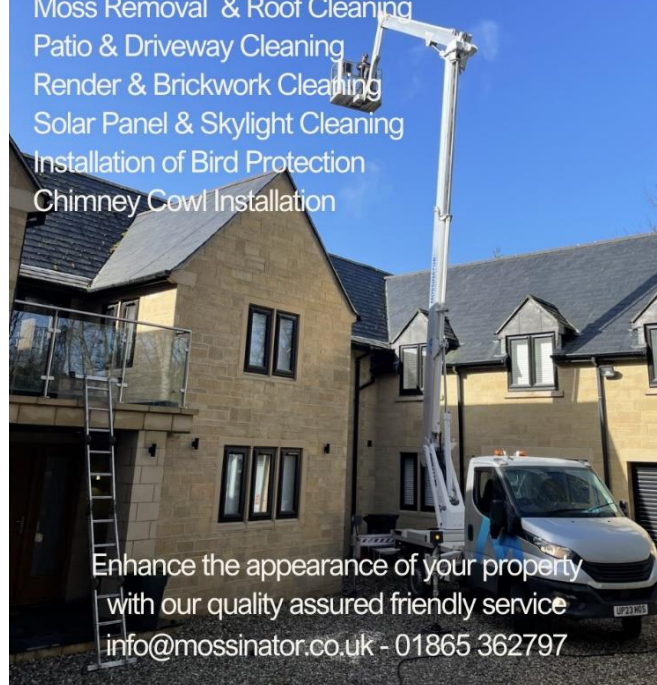
0784 9885768

Email: katebyrne@btinternet.com



MOSSINATOR®
ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS

Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning
Patio & Driveway Cleaning
Render & Brickwork Cleaning
Solar Panel & Skylight Cleaning
Installation of Bird Protection
Chimney Cowl Installation



Enhance the appearance of your property
with our quality assured friendly service
info@mossinator.co.uk - 01865 362797



Kidlington Football Club
Tuesdays 4.00, 5.30 & 7.00pm
Wednesdays 9.30 & 11.00am
Saturdays 8.30am
Laura 07795 150872

Cassington Sports & Social Club
Thursdays 5.30 & 7.00pm
Gemma 07581 306746
slimmingworld.co.uk



Models and Collections

at Combe Mill
Sunday 18 August
10.30 - 17.00 hrs



All machinery working and in-steam plus demonstrations by volunteers of old trade skills
Also for today only enjoy displays of hand made models and collections of scale models



Browse our market stalls

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

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.

**Switch to Finders Keepers
and let us manage the rest.**

01993 627766

woodstock@finderskeepers.co.uk



FindersKeepers™

Property. Property.



your
coopfood

We're here for you.

We're
open

Mon – Sun
7am – 10pm

Visit your Co-op food store in
Bletchington today.

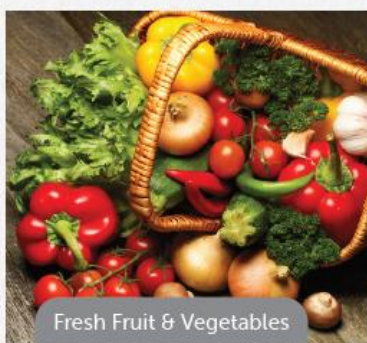
There's so much to tempt you, from our delicious Cook frozen range, to our Costa Express coffee and instore bakery. We've got it all, including chilled beers, wines and spirits, fresh meat and fish, fresh fruit and vegetables. Visit us today and see for yourself!



Costa Express Coffee



Cook Frozen Range



Fresh Fruit & Vegetables



Instore Bakery



Fresh Meat & Fish



Beers, Wines & Spirits



Ready Meals



Fresh Flowers

your
coopfood

Station Road, Bletchington,
Oxfordshire, OX5 3DE

Opening Times:
Mon-Sun 7am-10pm

 midcounties.coop

 [@coop_food](https://twitter.com/coop_food)

 facebook.com/midcountiesfood

Join us at
midcounties.coop/membership

