

BLETCHINGTON VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE – SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1979

ISSUE 283

August – September 2026



Wild flowers at the Allotments

Reports from village organisations

Bletchington Community Foundation Public Meeting

Tower Captain Sue's commemorative supper

A Friend's Tribute to Angie Higginson

Lamb Ale 2026 – Gallery

LAMB ALE 2026 – GALLERY

This year's Lamb Ale took place in Kirtlington on 31st May. After a long hot, dry spell, the weather was perfect with temperatures down sufficiently on the day to make dancing more comfortable but nestling in there before a change to a period of inclement weather which was about to follow from the next day.

Kirtlington Morris were unable to find weekend guest sides this year, who normally come from far and wide so this year's line-up comprised solely of local sides, mainly from Oxfordshire, with a few from neighbouring counties. Here is a selection of photographs taken on the day, showcasing the tradition of morris dancing.....



Kirtlington Morris – our hosts get things started



Adderbury Morris



Shakespeare Morris – from Stratford



Owlswick Morris – with their 'Green Man'



Adderbury Village Morris



Ducklington – Lamb Ale's most frequent guests

EDITORIAL

I am writing this just after England were beaten in the World Cup semi-finals by Argentina. So, once again, massive disappointment for England fans and, of course, all the many others who don't normally engage with football but were actively following the big tournament. England always seem to do well in the big tournaments but never quite get over the line. Why did we sit back and try to defend as soon as we took the lead, with so long still to play? Whether things would have turned out differently had we adopted more positive tactics, we'll never know, but the debate continues.

So, after a long wait, we finally hear the planned structure for Oxfordshire councils (details in Page 4). The government has opted for three unitary authorities to cover the county with Bletchington being placed under Greater Oxford. Some of the current councils are not happy with this arrangement, so there may yet be some challenges to the decision. The new Ridgeway Council to cover the south of the county also includes West Berkshire, which is something I personally feel uncomfortable about. I have always felt that Counties are sacrosanct and the idea of a council including elements of different counties represents a further erosion of local identity. As for our own positioning in Greater Oxford, this probably means planning decisions being taken in Oxford rather than Banbury and, whilst geographically we are nearer to Oxford than Banbury, it still feels that our local interests are less likely to be considered and we can probably expect further house building on our doorstep. On the other hand, it could mean better bus services for Bletchington, something on a par with what they have in Oxford city – but I'm not holding my breath.

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. We always love to hear from new contributors and we are also very keen to hear from younger readers in the village. Got something to say but not keen on writing? No problem! Just get in touch and we can capture your views via an interview and produce an 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

Car parking

Followers of BletchNet will have seen there have recently been a number of issues regarding inappropriate parking by users of the Co-op. If you live in the village and are able to do so, please walk to the shop. If you need to drive, please park in the spaces provided – there are parking spaces in Duchy Field, alongside the school playing field fence, and also in Station Road, just beyond the shop, heading out of the village. (We appreciate that parking offenders are most likely people who live outside the village.)

Please do **NOT** park in any of the following areas:

- Between the bollards adjacent to the Village Hall Plaza
- On the zig-zag lines either side of the zebra crossing
- In any spaces marked out with yellow lines
- Anywhere that blocks people's driveways
- Too close to road junctions

Cover photograph: Our beautiful cover photograph for this edition, featuring wild flowers at the allotments, was taken by Judith Ledger. Thank you, Judith, for sharing your photograph.
--

New council structure for Oxfordshire

On 16th July, the new structure for unitary authorities for Oxfordshire was announced, dividing the county into three, with a Greater Oxford in the centre, significantly extending beyond what is currently the City of Oxford and with two further council authorities: Northern Oxfordshire incorporating Cherwell and West Oxfordshire minus those parts taken into Greater Oxfordshire and Ridgeway which comprises of those parts of South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse not absorbed by Greater Oxford plus West Berkshire. Looking at the map, it would appear that Bletchington has been placed into Greater Oxford, along with Kidlington, Islip and Weston-on-the-Green but, interestingly, not our nearest neighbour, Kirtlington. The structure of the council may not be final as objections may be raised by some of the existing councils – notably the Lib Dems on Oxfordshire County Council who have raised serious issues over the way the councils have been divided up.

Two points of note from the 3councils website:

- This approach would mean Northern Oxfordshire and Ridgeway would no longer need to help meet Oxford's unmet housing need - Greater Oxford would be able to meet all its housing needs within its expanded boundaries
- The proposal estimated that, by year five, the three-councils model would deliver recurring annual savings of around £48.6m across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire

Full details can be found on the 3councils.org website.

The new council structure is expected commence from 1st April, 2028 when all services from education to bin collection to pothole repairs will be delivered by a single authority for each area. Until that date, things should remain as they are. Local elections are expected to be held in May 2027 for the new councils, enabling the new councillors to start taking decisions in preparation for the 'go live' date whilst working with the existing councils to ensure a smooth transition to the new structure. 1st April 2028 is called **vesting day**, the date when the new structure goes live.

Management changes at the Co-op

We were sorry to hear that popular Co-op manager, Harry Osborne, has left the Bletchington store and moved on to pastures new within the organisation. We wish him well in his new store. In his place we welcome new manager James O'Farrell-White. We wish James all the best in his new appointment and hope that he enjoys his time in Bletchington and feels very much part of our community.

Islip Bridge closure

Please be aware that works are planned on the B4027 at Islip Bridge, commencing on 21st September for approximately 10 weeks (subject to weather and site conditions). For the first week only, traffic signal controlled access will allow vehicles to cross the bridge, but for the remainder of the works there will be no vehicular access across the bridge. Pedestrians and cyclists will still be permitted to cross the bridge throughout the period of closure. This means the route from Bletchington towards Wheatley, the A40 and southbound M40 via Islip will not be available for the duration of the works so motorists will need to join the A40 at the Cutteslowe Roundabout to head east.

This work is necessary to strengthen the bridge and improve pedestrian safety. Upon completion, there will be permanently installed traffic signals controlling single-file crossing of the bridge.

The Slipe

The Slipe is a small piece of land located on the B4027 towards Islip, about a mile or so outside the village centre. Owned by the Bletchington Community Foundation, it was originally a site where drovers could rest their cattle en route to market, and is now managed by the BCF for its historic interest and as a haven for wildlife. A small working group has recently been established to consider how best to manage the site, with their first meeting taking place on 27th July – too late for us to report back on in this edition of Village News. If anyone else, with an interest in nature and conservation, would like to get involved with this group, please drop an e-mail to project co-ordinator Helen Webber on bcf.trustee5@thebcf.net.

Traffic filter trial to start on 14th September

The long-planned traffic filter trial will replace Oxford's temporary congestion charge on Monday 14th September as a way to further reduce traffic in the city. This follows the planned reopening of Botley Road at the end of August.

Oxfordshire County Council's traffic filter trial will operate in a similar way to the temporary congestion charge, with the filters being at the same six locations and a permit scheme in place. The trial, under an experimental traffic regulation order, can last for up to a maximum of 18 months.

The key difference is that, from 14th September, car drivers will no longer be able to pay the £5 congestion charge to go through the traffic filters. Cars with permits and all other vehicles can travel through the filters at all times. However, with Botley Road open, everywhere in Oxford will be accessible by car without driving through a traffic filter. You may need to take an alternative route, but often you won't.

Bletchington residents, and anyone in Oxfordshire outside the Oxford permit area, are eligible for 25 day passes per year. On-line applications are now open on:

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/traffic-filter-trial-to-start-on-14-september/>

Hosepipe ban

As we went to press, Thames Water have just announced a hosepipe ban, which affects Bletchington. This comes as no surprise, given the weather we have recently been experiencing. With a few special exemptions, this means you cannot use a hosepipe, sprinkler or pressure washer for watering the garden, washing the car or external parts of your property, or filling a paddling pool or hot tub. People are also requested to use water sparingly – there is only so much to go around until we receive some significant rainfall.

A PROFESSOR'S REFERENCE...

From a grateful daughter about the care her mother received.

"It is quite hard to explain just how wonderful Jackie was in caring for my mum, and also for our wider family. She made all the difference and was there for us all until the day mum died."

"Somehow Jackie won mum over very quickly. They shared love of charity shops and Jackie willingly took mum as often as mum could manage."

"Jackie became a friend and confidante to mum, and would listen to her stories, many of them interesting, but many also repeating over and over the difficulties she had had."

"This was the context of Jackie coming into our lives and it cannot have been not easy to take on a client who didn't really want help."

"The last few weeks were incredibly difficult and Jackie was there every day, not just for mum but for me too. She was a great source of strength for me at a time I really needed it."



"I cannot recommend Jackie enough to anyone who needs a relative or friend cared for. She is truly a very special person."

Written by a Professor

Name withheld at the author's request.
June 2026



theotmoorcarer@gmail.com



07718231035

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
Synod member:	Kim Taylor	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:

27th June David John Little Interment of ashes

We send our deepest sympathy to all of David's family.

29th July Sylvia Howard Interment of ashes

We send our deepest sympathy to all of Sylvia's family.

Hymns & Pimms

On Sunday 23rd August at 5pm, we continue with the tradition of Hymns & Pimms. This will be a celebration of well known hymns and an opportunity to enjoy a glass of Pimms on a summer evening. If you would like to nominate your favourite hymn please speak to any member of the PCC.

Fulford Tapestry exhibition

To (almost) coincide with the opening of the Bayeux Tapestry exhibition in London, we are delighted to be able to display the Fulford Tapestry throughout the week of 17th-22nd August in St. Giles' Church. Fulford, near York, was the first great battle of 1066. King Harold's brother, Tostig, ruled the York area for thirteen years but then allied himself with the Norwegian king and together they invaded England. The invasion was halted at Fulford on 20th September 1066 and five days later the invaders were defeated at the battle of Stamford Bridge. It is believed the English forces were weakened by having to fight the two battles in Yorkshire and their exhaustion was a major factor in their defeat at Hastings in October.

The Fulford Tapestry depicts the battle and the events leading up to it. It was designed by Bletchingdon resident Charles Jones and completed over seven years by a team of embroiderers using authentic materials and techniques. The Fulford Tapestry has been displayed in Normandy, Sweden and the USA.

Charles will be present to give explanatory talks at 10am and 11am each day then, from 2pm to 4pm, workshops will be held during which you can learn to dye wool from sheep on Adam Henson's farm with plant dyes grown in Bletchingdon. You may like to stitch your own scene or contribute to a new tapestry based on the life of St. Giles.

The exhibition is free (donations welcome, suggested amount £5) but there will be a small charge for the workshops. Children are welcome and there will be refreshments for sale. If you are interested in history or in handicrafts do not miss this unique opportunity.

Outdoor Service with the Band

Our annual outdoor service takes place on the Plaza outside the Village Hall on Sunday 30th August at 10:30am, with the Bletchingdon Silver Band. This is always a happy and uplifting occasion. It will, of course, move indoors in the event of inclement weather.

Meet the bellringers

On Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August, between 10am and noon, come to the church and meet the bellringers. Learn something about the history of bellringing and how bells are made, how they are put in place and what is involved to become a bell ringer. Refreshments will be served.

Choral Evensong

Why not take a trip out to Chesterton on a Sunday evening for a special Choral Evensong with the Akeman Church Community Choir. This takes place on Sunday 13th September at 6pm.

Harvest Sunday

Harvest Sunday this year is on 20th September. Our Harvest Festival Service in Bletchingdon will be at 4pm and this will be followed by a bring-and-share tea. There will also be a Harvest Service at Hampton Gay on 4th October at 4:30pm and look out also for various harvest lunches, suppers, and teas in the all the villages in the benefice. Please see local publicity!

Sirinu Concert

We are delighted to announce that Sirinu, a British Early Music Ensemble, will be performing a concert of medieval music in Bletchingdon Church, on Friday 25th September at 7:30pm. Sirinu have performed at St. Giles several times before and each occasion has been great fun a memorable experience. According to their website, their concerts "bring history alive through lively musicality and audience engagement". Tickets are £15 (pay on the door); proceeds to the church.

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

I'm writing this on the day the Church commemorates John Keble, the 19th century churchman who, together with Newman and Pusey, was one of the leading figures of what became known as the Oxford or Tractarian Movement, which in turn gave rise to what we call Anglo-Catholicism.

At first sight, they may seem rather distant figures. They wrote long theological treatises, preached scholarly sermons, and became caught up in controversies that might seem remote from our modern concerns. Yet beneath all that lay a profound spiritual conviction: that God is holy, that the Church exists to draw people into that holiness, and that worship should help us glimpse the beauty of heaven.

Keble and his colleagues believed that the Church was not simply a voluntary association like the Boy Scouts or the WI, but the Body of Christ. They believed that the sacraments are real means of grace through which God acts. They believed that worship matters, because how we worship shapes who we become. And they believed that beauty is not an optional extra but an essential pathway to God.

During the 18th century many Anglican churches had become rather plain. Communion was celebrated infrequently. The altar was often little more than a table. Music could be sparse, and the church building itself might seem neglected. The Oxford Movement gradually inspired a remarkable renewal. Churches were restored. Frequent communion returned. Choirs flourished. Vestments, candles, incense and processions reappeared in many places. Gothic architecture was rediscovered. Of course, not everyone welcomed these developments. Some thought they were introducing unnecessary ceremony or imitating Roman Catholic practice. The controversies were sometimes fierce!

Yet perhaps the deeper question is this: why does worship take so many different forms? Why does one person find God most readily in silence, while another finds God through music? Why is one person's soul lifted by the fragrance of incense, while another finds such things distracting?

The Christian tradition has long recognised that people are made differently. At one end of the spectrum we find The Religious Society of Friends, the Quakers. Their meetings may consist almost entirely of silence. There is important wisdom here. Modern life is full of noise. The Quaker witness reminds us that silence is not emptiness. It is a space in which God can speak.

At the other end we find the richness of Catholic and Orthodox liturgy: bells ringing, incense rising, candles shining, sacred music filling the church, beautiful vestments marking the seasons of the year, and every sense engaged in worship. This too has important things to say. Human beings do not worship with the mind alone. God gave us the senses - hearts and ears and hands and voices. Why should they not all combine to become instruments of praise?

The important question is not which style is "best." Rather, does it draw us closer to Christ? Does it deepen love of God and neighbour? Does it help us become more holy? The outward form always needs the inward reality. Keble himself understood this well. He was certainly no advocate of empty ritual. Beauty, for him, was never an end in itself. It was a window through which we glimpse the beauty of God.

The Oxford Fathers teach us something deeply Christian: that the infinite God is generous enough to meet each of us according to our need, while always drawing us beyond our preferences into deeper communion with him. May we never mistake the doorway for the destination.

Gareth

Church services for August & September

AUGUST 2026	Sunday 2nd <i>Trinity 9</i>	Sunday 9th <i>Trinity 10</i>	Sunday 16th <i>Trinity 11</i>	Sunday 23rd <i>Trinity 12</i>	Sunday 30th <i>Trinity 13</i>
Bletchington	09:30 Breakfast Church		09:30 Holy Communion 15:00 Family Service	17:00 Hymns & Pimms	10:30 Outdoor Service at Village Hall Plaza with Silver Band
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Worship		
Hampton Gay	16:00 Evensong				
Kirtlington	11:00 Holy Communion	09:30 Morning Worship	18:00 Evensong		
Middleton Stoney	09:30 Breakfast Church		09:30 Holy Communion		17:00 Hymns & Pimms
Wendlebury	09:30 Holy Communion		17:00 Hymns & Pimms	10:00 Benefice Communion	
Weston-on- the-Green	11:00 Morning Worship		11:00 Holy Communion		
SEPTEMBER 2026	Sunday 6th <i>Trinity 14</i>	Sunday 13th <i>Trinity 15</i>	Sunday 20th <i>Harvest</i>	Sunday 27th <i>Trinity 17</i>	
Bletchington	09:30 Morning Worship		16:00 Harvest Service	10:00 Benefice Communion	
Chesterton	08:00 Holy Communion 11:00 Family Service	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Harvest Café Church		
Hampton Gay	16:00 Evensong				
Kirtlington	11:00 Holy Communion	09:30 Morning Worship	18:00 Harvest Evensong		
Middleton Stoney	09:30 Morning Worship		09:30 Harvest Communion		
Wendlebury	09:30 Holy Communion		16:00 Harvest Service		
Weston-on- the-Green	17:00 Hymns & Pimms		11:00 Harvest Service		

OBITUARY

Angela Marie Higginson (nee Bickley), 1960-2026

Angela sadly passed away on Friday 10th July in Sobell House Hospice after bravely fighting a 15-year long battle with cancer.

Angela was the second daughter of the late Ken & Greta Bickley.

She attended Bletchingdon Parochial C of E Primary School and The Marlborough Secondary School, Woodstock. On leaving school she took on various waitressing jobs until early 1979, when she pursued her ambition to become a nurse and started training as an Auxiliary Nurse at The Old Radcliffe Infirmary, continuing at the new John Radcliffe Hospital, until taking medical retirement in 2017.

Angela met her husband Ian Higginson at a disco in the Old Village Hall, Bletchingdon in 1977. They later married in 1983 at St. Giles' Church, Bletchingdon. They lived in Bicester before moving back to Bletchingdon in 1986 where they settled and started a family, having two sons, Luke and Ben. Work and family life continued with the addition of a daughter-in-law, Charlotte and two grandchildren, Lucas and Neve.

Angela or Angie or Ange will be remembered for her generous caring nature, a smile that lit up any room, and always having time for everybody. She will be very much missed by everyone who knew her, especially her family.

A tribute to my best friend, Angie Higginson, by Karen Newnham

Where do I start to describe how much Angie's friendship has meant to me!

We met not long after I moved into Bletchingdon in October 1991.

We quickly realised we had a lot in common: both nurses, both from a family of 6 kids - 4 girls and 2 boys! Our parents very similar ages.

We were also fellow Scorpions - Angie almost my twin - me 14th and her 15th of November; when we met Helen she too joined the Scorpio gang as her birthday is 17th November!

Our children were very similar ages! Luke, just a year older than our Chris, Ben and Tana in the same school year though nearly a year apart. Helen's girls were also same ages as well.

So over the years we did many things together, from taking the kids to events locally, cinema, Fox FM day out in Oxford, to going on a joint camping trip to the south coast; good weather fishing, even I caught a big one!!

Even our working lives mirrored each other. My last 10 years in Max Fax outpatients, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, I would see the patients who would then go on to have their operations and be seen and helped by Angie on the ward. Then I again would see them in the out-patients department for follow-up care.

When Angie got breast cancer 15 or so years ago, it wasn't too long before she took medical retirement. For other reasons, I too had to retire medically - me at 58, Ange being that bit younger at 54. The 4 years between us has never been an issue - age is just a number, some days 21 & others felt like 101!

Once both retired, health and finances permitting, we started to go to more concerts and other things too. I think the furthest we travelled was to Wolverhampton with Helen to see Duffy! Over the years, due to our love of music and dance, we have seen Robbie Williams at Knebworth plus a few times more, Gary Barlow, Jess Glynne (one of Angie's favourites) and many more. We saw Simple Minds in Oxford with Ian & my husband Rob (his favourite). Not so much Ian's, but he made us all laugh by putting his sunglasses on in the dark - the lights are too bright! Another big favourite was Mike & the Mechanics, one of the original Mechanics being Ian's cousin. We also saw Paul Carrack on his own several times too. We also enjoyed many performances at Blenheim Palace over the years, often with Angie's sisters too. And so many more; think I have most of the programmes still - great memories to look back on.

We started going to musical theatre, locally here in Oxford, but also our fab days out in London as well. Some on the list include:

- Top Hat with Tom Chambers
- Frozen
- Shrek
- Legally Blonde
- The Bodyguard
- We will Rock You and many more

One of the best was seeing Sister Act. Due to a train strike on the day, I drove us to Westfields, White City, then we took a taxi to the Hammersmith Apollo. On arrival discovered it was a first night!! We were surrounded by so many famous faces just standing at the bar: Greg Wise, Emma Thompson, Wayne Sleep to name a few!! We were sat just beside Christopher Biggins and his partner who were happy to chat with us in the interval - to then see Christopher Biggins come on stage at the finale dressed as the Pope in a Popemobile!

We walked locally, our favourite being Blenheim Palace. We would walk, talk and put the world to right, then have a coffee and cake, or share a sandwich. Also locally to The Flight Centre for a look around, walk, talk and after to the cafe. Further afield we went to places like Aston Potteries - great food and lovely shopping.

Just making the most of a couple of hours or so once a week, family ties permitting for both of us, was important. We also texted each other several times a week, keeping up with each other's happenings.



Karen (left) and Angie at Blenheim Palace

Our last concert together was to see One Republic (my favourite) in September 2025.

Angie will continue to be with me, in my heart of hearts, and I will continue going out and about, seeing and doing the things we both loved, living for the two of us.

I saw Jess Glynne on Friday 3rd July in Hyde Park at BST festival. I recorded, where I was able to, a few of her tracks. I then played them to Angie on Saturday 4th July and it was so good to see her foot tapping away to the music.

Angie, a one in a million, a very best friend. No one could ask for anyone better.

TOWER CAPTAIN SUE'S COMMEMORATIVE SUPPER



In the last edition of the Village News, you will have read about Sue Macready's retirement as Tower Captain. To mark Sue's massive contribution to the village and the church, the bellringers held a commemorative supper in her honour. Steve Vickers, Tower Captain of Kirtlington gave a speech summarising Sue's achievements in the role:

So we are here today to raise our glasses and celebrate Sue's 26 year tenure as Tower Captain of St. Giles, Bletchingdon.

Let's go back in time to 1998 or so. The five bells of St. Giles had become unringable but, due to the upcoming Millenium celebrations, money was available to augment the bells to six and also rehang them in a new cast iron frame, which was carried out by White's.

As part of the recruitment programme at that time, Sue was trained up to ring and, although having relatively little experience, became Tower Captain in 2000.

I understand there weren't many Bletchingdon ringers around at that time but Sue, undeterred, built a useful network of ringers at Yarnton (including through cousin Jane) and Tackley to share practices and experience different bells. For a long time there was a strong collaboration with Ron Burgess, Tower Captain of Kidlington, who came and helped out at Bletchingdon on a Wednesday evening. A bit of a taster of what currently goes on now.

My first memory of meeting Sue was at Kirtlington when she and other helpers from local towers came to support the new recruits at Kirtlington some 11 years ago. Sue came across as very welcoming, positive, encouraging and friendly, a genuinely popular person. One particular exercise I remember Sue trying to get us to do was Full Pull Plain Hunt, but which we could never get the hang of somehow. Sue kept coming to Kirtlington practices after all of the other helpers had stopped coming, so was always a valued member of the team.

The last 11 years or so have seen a very strong collaboration and friendship between our two towers, and I particularly appreciate the opportunity to try out some of the new teaching techniques at Bletchingdon that I had learnt with ART. Over the years our teams have very much behaved as one team, helping each other out for service, wedding and funeral ringing, as well as special events.

Over the last 26 years, there have been some 388 Quarter Peals and 67 Peals and Sue has booked them all (or almost all) in, opened up and locked the tower and managed the fees. Sue has ensured that the bells have been maintained in good order, most important given the use they have had.

Sue, you are very much appreciated and loved by so many ringers both near and far. We hope that you will enjoy a well-deserved retirement from Tower Captain duties, and that you will continue to come and enjoy just ringing.

So Sue, here's to your very good health!

History Corner

Forecasting the Weather

As temperatures soar and heat records are broken this summer, we take a look at the history of weather forecasting. Attempts to predict the weather go back to ancient times when astrology, the position of the moon, cloud formations and numerous folklore customs came into play, none of which were backed up by scientific theory. Greek philosopher, Theophrastus, writing in the 3rd Century BC, produced his "*Book of Signs*", an early journal of the art of weather prediction. Then in 904 AD, Ibn Wahshiyya published his "*Nabatean Agriculture*", an influential work on all aspects of agriculture, including methods of forecasting the weather, based on planetary and astral alterations, lunar phases and wind movement. Fast forward to the 1640s and the barometer was an early, more scientific based, instrument for weather forecasting by tracking atmospheric pressure, but not until Robert Hooke's marine barometer of 1668 was this really effective.

The advent of the electric telegraph in 1835 heralded the start of a more science-based form of weather forecasting as information about weather patterns in other parts of the world, applied to prevailing wind conditions could be used to project the expected weather in a given location, a few days ahead. Two naval officers, Francis Beaufort (also noted for his Beaufort Scale for defining wind speeds) and Robert FitzRoy were early pioneers of weather forecasting and, whilst their work was initially dismissed by the press, it soon gained scientific credence, paving the way for modern forecasting methods.

In 1854, FitzRoy founded the Met Office, which was initially formed to improve safety at sea. A storm in October 1859 which resulted in the loss of the steam clipper, Royal Charter, off the coast of Anglesey led to the establishment of the Shipping Forecast, a warning service to shipping. Two years later, forecasts were produced for the benefit of the general public, the first being published in The Times on 1st August 1861. This was very basic, compared with the detailed forecasts we receive today.

1911 saw the first marine weather forecasts broadcast on radio then in 1916, the Met Office began producing operational military forecasts as it was realized that knowing the weather in advance could provide a military advantage. The most important forecasts of them all came in June 1944 when they were used to determine the optimum date for the D-Day landings. The BBC had experimented with television weather forecasts before World War II but these were shelved until 1949 when regular televised weather forecasts were broadcast, including the use of the now familiar weather maps, albeit in a very rudimentary form.

The Met Office acquired its first computer in 1959 and from 1965, computer-driven forecasts employing a process known as Numerical Weather Prediction Modelling, using mathematical equations and physics-based models, were produced. Techniques continue to evolve and we now benefit from weather forecasts that are more detailed, more accurate and look further into the future – but weather forecasting is still not an exact science, particularly the further ahead that forecasters are attempting to predict.

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.

Bletch Diary

2 nd August – 9:30am	St. Giles' Church – Breakfast Church (<i>see Page 9</i>)
6 th August – 9:00am	Coach trip – To Weymouth Organised by the Thursday Club (<i>see Page 17</i>)
8 th August – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash bingo (<i>see Page 28</i>)
16 th August – 3:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Family Service (<i>see Page 9</i>)
17 th – 22 nd August	St. Giles' Church – Exhibition: Fulford Tapestry (<i>see Page 7</i>) Including talks by the designer and afternoon workshops
23 rd August – 5:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Hymns & Pimms (<i>see Pages 6 & 9</i>)
30 th August – 10:30am	Village Hall Plaza – Open air church service With Bletchington Silver Band (<i>see Pages 7 & 9</i>)
31 st August – 10:00am	St. Giles' Church – Meet the bellringers (<i>see Page 7</i>)
5 th / 6 th September – 11:00am	Hillcrest, Islip Road – Art Exhibition Plus steam train rides & live music on Sunday (<i>see Pages 24 & 25</i>)
12 th September – 8:00pm	Sports & Social Club – Cash bingo (<i>see Page 28</i>)
19 th September – 8:30pm	Sports & Social Club – Live music With The Inflatables (<i>see Page 28</i>)
20 th September – 4:00pm	St. Giles' Church – Harvest Festival Service (<i>see Pages 7 & 9</i>)
25 th September – 7:30pm	St. Giles' Church – Concert With Sirinu, a British Early Music Ensemble (<i>see Page 7</i>)
30 th September – 6:00pm	Village Hall – Table tennis tournament (<i>see Page 17</i>)
30 th September – 3 rd October	Village Green – Funfair



St. Giles' Church – there's lots going on here in August and September

1st BLETCHINGTON BROWNIES

Long long time ago, I can still remember when... You know the song!

Well a long time ago, Rozz Wing stepped in to take over running 1st Bletchington Brownies. Hundreds of Brownies know her as Brown Owl and have memories of the fun times as a Brownie.

At the Girlguiding Oxfordshire Celebrates event, Rozz was awarded an Oxfordshire Lozenge Award in recognition of everything she has done for the Brownies and continues to do. Thank you, Brown Owl.

Thank you to our other volunteers too.



The year ended with Gold awards for Demelza, Lyra and Daisy who are moving up to Guides next term.

We've had sleepovers, learnt skills, had fun, completed challenges, earnt badges and awards, made things, been on trips and so much more.

At the end of July, Girlguiding are launching a brand new uniform for everyone - we're very excited!

If you are interested in becoming a member register at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Rainbows in Woodstock for girls aged 4-7 - has a waiting list so register your interest

Brownies in Bletchington for girls aged 7-10 - has spaces to start in September

Guides in Woodstock for girls aged 10-14 - has a waiting list so register your interest

Young Leaders can help at any of our units - girls age 14-18

Trefoil for anyone age 18 + meets monthly. If you remember your Brownie days, or never got the chance to join in then come along!



BLETCHINGTON SILVER BAND

Phew, what a scorcher! Our summer season has been something of a struggle this year, sitting out in the blazing sun playing music for fetes and such like is not as much fun as it sounds so we've been very grateful for the audiences that have joined us so far. We're especially grateful for those who gave up the British Grand Prix, or an afternoon of sleep-in advance of a late night football match, to join us at our summer concert outside the Village Hall at the beginning of July. Unfortunately, our massed-band encore performance of Three Lions doesn't seem to have had the desired effect!

By the time you read this, we will only have one summer engagement left so why not join us at the Bandstand in Garth Park, Bicester, on 9th August as the finale to their "Sundays in the Park" events for 2026. Several local bands have played there over this season and we are pleased to round out the list.

Following on from that, our B-Band (and maybe some senior players as well) will be working towards our internal brass festival, which takes place on 13th September, as well as starting rehearsals for our Autumn Concert.

And don't forget the rest of our 2026 Concert Series:

- Garth Park (Bicester) Bandstand – 9th August
- Autumn Concert – 11th October
- Christmas Concert – 6th December

All concerts (except Garth Park) are at Bletchington Village Hall and will feature both our Senior and B-Bands.

For full details of our upcoming engagements, and all our other news, why not visit our website:

www.bletchingtonsilverband.co.uk or follow us on social media.

As well as our B-Band, who will happily teach any novice players, our Senior Band is currently short in a couple of positions. If you've played cornet or horn in the past (or still do) and are looking for a new challenge then why not give us a go. Contact md@bletchingtonsilverband.co.uk for details or pop along any Tuesday or Friday from 7:30pm.

Kirtlington & Bletchington Historical Society

What happened to the Rorke's Drift VCs?

CHRIS GREEN

24th September 2026, 7:30pm in Kirtlington Village Hall

Non-members £5 - All welcome

THE FIRST ANNUAL BLETCHINGDON TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Think you've got the fastest serve in the village? Fancy a friendly challenge with neighbours, friends and family? Then don't miss the First Annual Bletchington Table Tennis Tournament – an exciting evening of fun, competition and community spirit!

Whether you're a seasoned player or simply enjoy a casual game, this tournament is open to all ages and abilities. Youngsters, parents, grandparents and everyone in between are invited to take part and battle it out for the coveted championship trophy.

- Trophy for the champion
- Prizes for all participants
- Fun, friendly and inclusive atmosphere

Date: 30th September – **Time:** 6:00pm–8:00pm – **Venue:** Bletchington Village Hall

Come along to test your skills, cheer on friends and neighbours, and help make this inaugural event a memorable one for the village. Whether you're playing to win or just for the fun of it, there's something for everyone.

Interested in taking part? Please confirm your place with John via WhatsApp on **07885 693903**.

Grab your bat, bring your competitive spirit, and join us for what promises to be a fantastic community event!

THURSDAY CLUB

The coach trip to Lechlade on 4th June, visiting Hilliers Garden Centre, was very successful. A very enjoyable lunch was followed by exploring the many shops and stalls, including footwear, clothing, food stalls and the huge array of garden plants and equipment.

2nd July, we had 19 members in attendance, which was less than expected, but mainly due to the extreme temperatures we were getting. We had a variety of quizzes from Valerie. It was very enjoyable and a little different from the previous ones. This was followed by tea which included cakes and sandwiches plus a large helping of strawberries and cream. Thanks to Linda and Sue for sourcing the ingredients and preparing the spread and to Sandra for helping.

There are still seats available on the coach for the trip to Weymouth on 6th August. Coach departs from the Black's Head at 9:00am. Tickets are available from Tommy Coombes on **07931 817235** or Neil Spencer on **07508 442550**.

Forthcoming events include a visit from the Guide Dogs for the Blind team on 3rd September, then on 1st October we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the forming of the Thursday Club with high tea and music from Declan Gayner.

We are still looking for someone to take over the job of treasurer, which is very important for the club to keep running. Anyone interested please contact Tommy for more details.



The Bletchingdon Community Foundation

The BCF hosted its annual Public Meeting at the Village Hall on Monday 6th July. Led by Chairman Tony Saunders alongside Finance Manager Sue Green plus three of the other trustees, it was attended by 6 villagers, a very disappointing turnout. Perhaps everyone was tired out, having stayed up until 4am the previous night to watch England win in Mexico in the World Cup. A big thank you to those of you who did come along, and for those who were unable to attend, here is an overview of what was discussed.

Finance

Tony thanked Sue Green, Finance Manager for the BCF, for all her hard work in maintaining the accounts for each of the individual charities then passed the floor over to her to present a financial overview of each of the charities for 2025.

The BCF

The BCF's sole income is a relatively small amount generated by solar panels on the roof, £1,445 in 2025. Costs incurred were £4,005, meaning an overspend of £2,560. The main cost was legal fees in association with the transfer of the shop premises and apartment to the BCF. Rental from the shop will eventually benefit the BCF – but not for another 19 years. A further £7,784 was spent on the MUGA, purchasing equipment and marking out lines for tennis and netball, partly subsidised by the Co-op, but this cost has been capitalised, to be depreciated over five years. Funds of £32,710 remain with the BCF, but these will have to last for the 19 years until rental income from the shop is received. There is also £24,574 ringfenced for spending on maintaining the Slipe for which no costs were incurred in 2025, but an ongoing maintenance programme has now been implemented from 2026, with expenditure for this year expected to be around £3,000. The BCF 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 and a further £4,500 earlier in 2026.

Village Hall

Sue compared the figures from 2019 with those from 2025 which revealed that income was slightly lower whilst costs have risen significantly. In 2019, the Village Hall achieved a surplus of £10,021 but for 2025, this had turned into a loss of £3,122. Regarding hire income, despite a price increase in 2025, which contributed to an uplift of around £3,500 from regular hires, this was offset, disappointingly, by £3,500 less income from weddings – in fact there were none in 2025, although we are pleased to report there are some in the diary for 2026. Costs have roughly doubled over this time period, with significant increases in utilities, maintenance and staff costs. The Village Hall also spent £10,365 on developing a new website and on upgrading the external lighting – this has been capitalised, to be depreciated over five years. In 2026 significant costs will be incurred in decorating the hall inside and out and for emergency lighting repairs. The Village Hall holds money in an investment fund which is valued around £140,000 at present from an initial investment of £120,000 and withdrawals totalling £13,000. This fund increasingly will have to be utilised over the coming years to pay for major expenditure as various items of equipment and the hall itself continue to age.

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, used to pay grants to the community. During 2025, the income from the investment was £17,102 whilst the amount paid out in grants totalled £18,986 plus other costs of £680, meaning an overspend of £2,864. There were sufficient funds in the pot to cover this. Biggest expenditure category of grants awarded was for education whilst other types of grants included health & wellbeing, sports, help to residents with utility charges and special grants (eg. help with cost of living, to replace/repair appliance breakdown).

Chairman's Report

A brief history of the BCF

The Bletchingdon Community Foundation was formed in 2013 as construction of the new combined village hall and school was under way and ownership of the new buildings and land were offered by the Duchy of Cornwall to 'the village charity'. The BCF was created as both a charity and a limited company to deliver a properly managed business structure, taking ownership of these newly identified community assets. It would also embrace the two existing village charities: the Bletchington Charity whose origins go back over 400 years, and the Village Hall Charity, which had run the original hall on the opposite side of Station Road.

Tennis/Netball court

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. Last year, this became a reality. The MUGA was thoroughly cleaned and marked for tennis, only to find that some of the lines were breaking up and required remarking. Tennis equipment (net and mobile posts) was purchased together with netball posts. A storage solution for these items was developed immediately adjacent to the MUGA entrance which would provide security and deter misuse. A process to allow potential users to access these items is in place with details posted at the storage area. Tennis was quite popular last summer and now that summer 2026 has arrived, we hope more people will use this facility. Take-up for netball has been slower. Thanks to Helen Webber who is managing this.

Table tennis

Continuing on the sports and fitness theme, the village hall now hosts the Bletchingdon Table Tennis Club. With Bletchingdon Community Foundation support, resident John Upham has established a club which meets on Wednesday evening, and has been running since March. Four tables were purchased with the help of a Lottery funded grant. Thanks to John for this initiative.

Parking for Co-op users

After a long and often seemingly protracted legal path, the freehold ownership of the shop and the apartment above and the adjacent car parking spaces, including residents' space, have now been fully transferred from the Duchy of Cornwall to the BCF. Particular focus is on the two parking spaces immediately adjacent to the shop which have become adopted as a parking location for residents in Sand Furlong. A group of residents, concerned about people parking on the area immediately outside the Village Hall café, next to the school gates, wished to take measures to prevent vehicle access to prevent vehicles driving on to this area, especially when families were arriving at, or leaving school. This is an issue which the BCF continues to address using planters to close gaps between bollards. I met with a small group of these concerned residents to discuss options. This resulted in the following actions: 1. Placing two more planters closer to the school end of the area - these are now in place. 2. Placing signage on the walls facing the area of concern indicating 'No parking - access required at all times'. 3. Placing signage on the wall facing the two spaces for Co-op parking as 'Co-op customer parking only' and 'no overnight parking'. These signs were erected quickly and seemed to work for the first week, shop spaces having been left vacant for Co-op customer use. Unfortunately we seem to have permanent parking there again.

New website

We have a new website up and running, designed and developed by DiddyRox Marketing, proudly based in the village. The landing page is a stunning piece of drone footage of the school and the hall. A small group of Trustees have begun a short training programme to allow the Bletchington Community Foundation to access, update and modify content as and when required. Thanks to Helen and DiddyRox Marketing for making this happen.

The website can be found at: bletchingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Refreshing the hall

We are planning to refresh the hall with a deep clean and new paintwork. Currently we are looking for a contactor (or contractors) who could do this.

The school

Our relationship with the school continues to be a good one. Sue and I have regular meetings with the head teacher and a Governor to ensure the smooth working of the relationship and to review and resolve any issues. This seems to work well.

Village Hall usage

Village Hall usage is good. The hall sees around 65-70 regular bookings per month with bookings every weekday evening, and around 8 bookings on average at weekends. The hall hosted zero wedding receptions in 2025, but this year we have five in the diary. The only weekday with no daytime bookings is Tuesday but this is no bad thing as it does offer some flexibility.

Meet the Team

Tony Saunders has been Chairman of the BCF since its 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 Financial Manager and has the onerous task of managing and maintaining our accounts and investment portfolios. We depend completely on her professional accounting background.

Pete Baker, shortly after becoming a trustee, offered to take the minutes at one of our meetings. No one enjoys taking minutes but Pete is very good at it, so, he is currently stuck with it. He also represents the trustees at Bletchington Charity committee meetings.

Helen Webber takes responsibility for activities, be it organising members of the community to arrange the occasional bash, or arrange markings and equipment for community use in the MUGA. She also helps Sue out with accounting matters.

Since our last public meeting Rebecca McNaught resigned as a trustee, moving away from the village. We were fortunate to enlist two new trustees in **Paul Atkins** (not present tonight) and **Jonathan Cox**, who are fitting in well. Jonathan has taken responsibility for maintenance of the Slips and the area around the hall and car park.

The day-to-day functions of the Bletchington Charity are managed by a committee of volunteers with Trustee overview, and led by **Andrea Lambert**. They make the decisions regarding grant applications.

Also a quick mention for **Grace** and **Kelly** (not Grace Kelly!) for their help with cleaning and bookings respectively.

So my thanks to all of the Trustees for the contributions they make.

Questions from the floor

Is the Charity Commission happy that the Charity has £600k. invested?

Yes, it is quite normal for charities to have substantial sums invested. This investment is necessary to generate a regular income to pay grants from. We can draw down on this if necessary, as was the case during Covid, but this is avoided if possible and any reduction in the investment impacts the quarterly dividend received.

Does the BCF choose who to invest in?

No, the trustees are not experts in financial investment, therefore our investment portfolio is managed by the CCLA (Charities, Churches & Local Authorities) who are expert in this field of investment. They offer a range of safe investment opportunities for organisations such as ourselves and the BCF chooses which of those funds to invest in. The BCF has considered alternative investments, such as property, but this was considered too risky.

Are the funds invested ethically?

Yes, the CCLA specialises in investing in ethical businesses.

When will the BCF receive rental income on the shop?

In about 19 years. The Co-op financed its building and transferred ownership of the premises to the BCF on the basis that it occupies the shop rent-free until its building costs have been recovered. This will be an asset and a source of income for the village for future generations.

The exterior of the Village Hall is looking rather shabby – are there any plans to get it repainted?

Yes, plans are afoot to redecorate both the outside and inside of the hall.

Are grants available to cover the cost of redecoration?

The BCF were not aware of any. A representative from the Parish Council present said he would check whether the PC had any contact details for an organisation which may contribute towards such costs.

Are there any issues ongoing regarding the Village Hall alarms going off?

There have been issues with the intruder alarm at both the school and the village hall, particularly if the alarm is triggered at night. This was very disturbing to our neighbours and often their pets. Our intruder alarm system is monitored 24/7 and so in the event of an alarm trigger the keyholder would typically be notified by phone and a trip to the building was then required to silence and reset the alarm.

In May this year, following discussion with our security advisors and our insurers, it was decided to silence the alarm sounders completely. We are now notified of unconfirmed alarms by email usually the following day when they can be evaluated and necessary action taken to address the cause. Confirmed alarms are notified immediately and this allows the keyholder to assess whether or not an actual break-in has occurred and respond accordingly. We don't have many confirmed alarms, and none of those has been an actual intruder.

The fire alarm, on a different monitored system, does require the alarm sounder to be heard. We have around 2 or 3 fire alarms every year, mostly caused by spiders and bugs accessing the smoke detectors or, if you can believe in this day and age, people smoking or vaping in the toilets.

What are the BCF's plans for the Slipe?

It was purchased by the BCF, with the aid of a grant, to conserve the site, firstly for its historic value and secondly as a haven for nature. It has never been the intention for it to become a leisure facility for the village. Lying a mile or so outside the village along a road with no pavement and with no car parking, uses for the site are limited. The BCF will look into establishing a small committee for managing the Slipe and would also consider any requests for use of the Slipe provided they did not compromise the ecology of the site.

Why are the costs of maintaining the Slipe so high?

Quotes were obtained and the charge of £1,200 for two days work for mowing and clearing overgrown vegetation was the best price received. An attendee indicated he may be willing to do the job at a lower rate, so it was agreed to discuss this outside of the meeting.

Kirtlington has a community orchard – is there any opportunity for Bletchington to have one?

Use of the Slipe for this purpose was ruled out due to the accessibility issues outlined above. The BCF, however, would be supportive of such a venture if an appropriate site could be identified and sufficient volunteers came forward to make it happen. It was suggested there may be some unused allotment plots that could be transferred to community use for the creation of an orchard.

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 Friday – 10:30am	Gemma Queralt (MCSP Chartered Physiotherapist)	07974 692287 gemma.c.queralt@gmail.com
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
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
Community Café	Wednesday – 8:30-11:30am	Sue Davies	Just come along!
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
Children's Martial Arts Class (Jiu Jitsu)	Wednesday – 5:15pm	David Plested	07515 560201 inspirebjjuk@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Wednesday – 6:00-8:00pm	John Upham	07885 693903
Stretch & Core (non-sweat)	Wednesday – 7:30pm	Geraldine Jennings	07875 364130 geraldine_jennings@yahoo.co.uk
Zumba Gold (low impact)	Thursday – 10:30-11:30am (Term time only)	Mariana Bujons Palmer	zumbawithmarianaoxford@gmail.com
Thursday Club (over 50s)	First Thursday of the month – 2:00pm	Tommy Coombes Neil Spencer	01869 350860 / 07931 817235 01869 350437 / 07508 442550 neil.sandra@hotmail.co.uk

To book the hall, please visit our website: <https://bletchingtonvillagehall.co.uk> then go to the 'Booking' page where you will find our Schedule of Charges, our calendar to identify if the hall is available on your chosen date and other useful information. If you wish to go ahead and book the hall, click on 'Request Booking' then complete all the relevant details.



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 those in need in the village for over 400 years and continues to do so in 2026, at a time when, for some people, it is needed more than ever. If you are struggling to make ends meet, the Charity may be able to help. The committee assesses all grant applications and aims to help as many residents as possible with the funds we have available. There is not a limitless pot of money so the committee must prioritise applications and has to say no sometimes or offer a smaller amount of money than requested. The Charity Committee does not, however, want to see anyone in the village facing hardship so will always 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 using a form downloaded the Village Hall/BCF website. Go to <https://bletchingdonvillagehall.co.uk> then from the 'Home' page, click on 'About' or, at the foot of the page, click on 'More About Us and Our charities' then scroll down to find three columns about each of the BCF's charities – our Charity is in the left-hand column. To access and download your grant application form, open up 'How do I apply for a grant?' then click on the blue text. E-mail the completed form to charity.secretary@thebcf.net.

If you do not have internet access, 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 are considered at our meetings - generally held quarterly. If an application is urgent, please let us know and the committee will consider it sooner. Please submit applications punctually and only mark 'urgent' if that really is the case. Any which do not appear genuinely urgent may be held until the meeting date.

The next meeting is scheduled for 26th August 2026 – Applications to be in by 21th August please.

HILLCREST ART EXHIBITION

5th-6th September
11am-4pm

Join us for our annual
celebration of
local artists' work
plus steam train rides!
Admission free

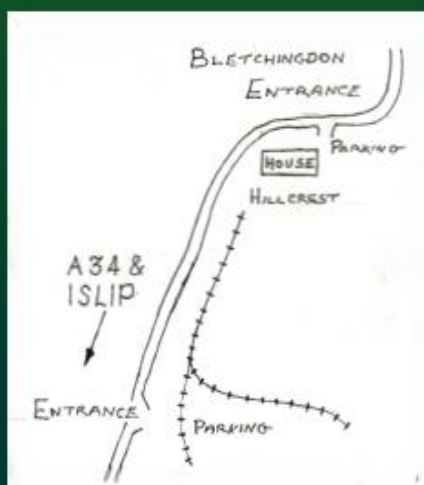


Hillcrest, Islip Road, Bletchington, OX5 3DP

Hillcrest Art Exhibition 2026



- **Catherine Binnie** - sculpture, painting
- **Rod Craig** - watercolour painting
- **Jon Earney** - sculpture
- **Hannah Farncombe** - sculpture, print, painting
- **Anne Marie Lepretre** - printmaking, painting
- **Barbara Oster** - sculpture, stained glass
- **Pete Seaward** - photography
- **Tim Wait** - oil painting



- **Refreshments**
- **Saturday**
art demonstrations
- **Sunday**
live music 2-4pm



Kirtlington Morris

Phewhatascorcha! Writing this in mid-July on the first day for weeks that temperatures haven't reached into the thirties: garden wilting, lawn browning, all five water-butts near empty, hosepipe ban imminent; lots of courgettes though. And the chili plants seem to like it too. Just as well as it's going to get hot again...

So Lamb Ale Morris Festival went very well thank you, a little smaller than usual without weekend guests, which meant that Kirtlington Morris were able to do our own thing on the Saturday, a mini tour of the village, then off to the Horse & Groom at Caulcott for lunch and a bit more dancing, after which the more enthusiastic newer and younger members went to dance at Woodstock Town Hall while the old guard stayed at the pub for just one more pint. Lovely. No barn dance or lamb roast to worry about this year which made it all the more relaxing not having to cater for 50 guests; but it will be back to busy again next year as we are already assembling the guest list so that we don't get caught out again...

Sunday, the big public day, was much as per normal, thank goodness the heatwave hadn't arrived yet at the end of May, and a good time was had by all with plenty of support from the audience, and the fantastic real ale bar and bbq. The Monday Feast was sold out, especially as there were 15 of Kirtlington Morris and partners there, anxious to experience the tradition in its current form. Let's hope it continues under potential new management though. We actually managed three dances after a beery lunch, a record!



Dancing at Lamb Ale

We spent a wet day as guests of Windsor Morris in early June and danced with local clog side Masons Apron in Woodstock mid-June. Then it was Kirtlington Fête at the end of June when we had the unusual experience of being piped onto the field by Scottish bagpipes. An unusual juxtaposition of two cultures perhaps? Our new flag was also on display, designed by our Will Smith, incorporating the gryphon emblem of the Dashwood family.

Which brings us almost up to the moment with just a couple more dates on our calendar, 1st August lunchtime at the big Highwayman Party in north Kidlington, and 8th September in Eynsham with our old friends Eynsham Morris, always good value and guaranteed a song session after the dancing; oh, and a possible appearance at Floras Fringford on 19th September.

Quite a busy season, made possible by the influx of new members over the last couple of years. Just think, you could do it too! We aim to start practising again 15th September, subject to confirmation. Kirtlington Village Hall, Tuesdays, 8pm. Give me a ring to check the date and come along for a taster session.

Nigel Holt, Squire, Kirtlington Morris, 07871 856323 - July 2026



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Events at the Museum during August and September

All events can be booked during your visit to the museum, or via www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on.

Summer Holiday family craft workshops – every Thursday in August, 10:00am–1:00pm & 1:30pm–3.30pm

Enjoy drop-in crafts throughout the school holidays, in collaboration with The Oxfordshire Museum. Inspired by our photography exhibition, you can decorate your own photo frame, make striking black and white silhouette prints, or surreal collage postcards! Free, donations welcome.

Women at war with Dr. Kate Vigurs – 7:00pm, Wednesday 19th August

Fresh from Chalke Valley History Festival, historian and author Kate Vigurs presents a two-part talk, looking at trailblazing women like Lee Miller who covered the events of the Second World War as they happened. In the second part, she'll uncover the stories of women who dropped into Occupied France, following their journeys from recruit to SOE secret agent. Tickets: £15.

An evening with Ami Bouhassane: 'Lee Miller – A Woman at War' – 7:00pm, Thursday 3rd September

Author and co-director of Farleys House & Gallery, Ami Bouhassane, joins us to discuss the life and legacy of her grandmother – Lee Miller. Tickets: £15.

Woodstock's 'Last Night of the Proms' at St. Mary Magdalene Church – 7:00pm, Saturday 26th September

This year's concert with the Waterloo Band & Bugles of The Rifles at St. Mary Magdalene Church aims to bring a taste of The Last Night of the Proms to Woodstock. Tickets: £12.

Our two guest speakers



Kate Vigurs at the Chalke Valley History Festival



Ami Bouhassane, Lee Miller's granddaughter

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 club is self-funded and run entirely by volunteers. We offer memberships throughout the year, renewable on 1st September. Annual memberships costs 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 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

If you are using the public footpath that runs from Oxford Road through the sports field, please 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, necessitating costly repairs. We respectfully ask that this is avoided.

Quiz Night

Do you know the first names of the three Bronte Sisters? That was just one of the testing questions set to contestants by quiz-setter James Warton at the quiz night held on Saturday 6th June. The teams were asked to answer questions on the year 2026 to date, identify the flags of nations who qualified for the World Cup, name the song title and artist of a diverse selections of songs with the word 'summer' in the title and more besides. After five challenging rounds plus a blockbuster, the Desperate Dans emerged victorious by just half a point. Congratulations to them for their win and a big thank you to James for setting and reading a very challenging quiz and to Beth for keeping scores. (The Brontes sisters' first names are Charlotte, Emily and Anne.)

Test yourself with these further questions from the evening, courtesy of James:

1. In which part of the human body is the strongest muscle?
2. Which two metals combine to give the alloy, bronze?
3. By what name are garbanzo beans better known as?

Answers on Page 31.

What's On at the Club?

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

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

SATURDAY 19th September – LIVE MUSIC: The Inflatables (8:30pm)

Classic 2-Tone, Ska & Reggae - This is a ticket only event priced at £10

TEAM NEWS

Cricket: The season is halfway through and both teams are currently top of sections 3B and 7A. Training is on a Wednesday evening at the Sports Ground. There are Under 13 and Under 11 youth teams who train on a Monday evening at the Sports Ground. Please visit the cricket club website at www.obncc.play-cricket.com.

Aunt Sally: The Club are in Section 4 of the Oxford League and currently are in 4th place.

Pool: The A team are currently 2nd in section 1 and the B team are currently 6th in section 2 of the Oxford Landlords Pool League 3.

Football: The season starts in September.

Bar Billiards: Summer leagues have just started.

Darts: Summer leagues have just started.

Cribbage: Summer recess.

Bletchington Nomads – Quiz Team: The Nomads got off to a slow start for the summer season in the Oxfordshire Quiz League, losing their first three matches. Things have since improved and, eight matches into the season, they sit in second place in the Championship (second tier), lost 5 and won 3.

Travelling to the Masons Arms in Headington Quarry for the mid-season music tabletop quiz on the day after England were knocked out of the World Cup, there was a degree of optimism that they might go one better than the runners-up position achieved at several recent tabletops. This confidence was not misplaced. The Nomads took a single point lead after three rounds but did not panic or sit back and defend. Instead, they went all-out attack and eventually cruised to victory by nine points.



Music quiz winners at the Masons Arms



Captain Carl lifts the trophy for the Nomads

Membership due

Don't forget your Club membership becomes due on 1st September.

Bingo

Apologies to all bingo fans for the cancellation of the July bingo session. We hope you didn't miss your monthly bingo fix too much but are sure you will appreciate this was for good reason – the clash with the England v. Norway match in the World Cup.

Bletchington | Enslow | Heathfield

YOUR COUNCIL MATTERS

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

Parish Council update

A much smaller update than normal from the Parish Council – the recent heatwave (and our regular meeting room hitting an extremely high temperature), resulted in us having to postpone our June meeting, so expect a bumper update from us in the next issue.

Parish Council Elections

The Parish Council Elections were the leading agenda item for our May meeting. The elections follow a four-year cycle and provide the opportunity for anyone who lives in Bletchington to get involved in the decisions of how our village looks and feels.

Cllr Rachel Pirie proposed Cllr Dan Robins as Chair and this nomination was seconded by Cllr Nicola Morris. Cllr Robins accepted and was duly elected.

Cllr Susan Davies proposed Cllr Rachel Pirie as Vice Chair which was seconded by all remaining councillors present. Cllr Pirie accepted and was duly elected.

The following councillors now make up Bletchington Parish Council: Dan Robins, Rachel Pirie, Chris Lane, Mark Taylor, Nicola Morris and Sue Davies.

Biographies on the Parish Council are being collated and will be shared in the next issue as well as on the noticeboard near to the Co-op.

Minutes from May's meeting (and previous meetings) can be found by visiting: www.bletchington-pc.org.uk.

The Annual Parish Council public meeting

The annual Parish Council public meeting also took place in May and provides members of the parish with the opportunity to hear, first hand, updates on activities, developments and news from across the village. We would like to take the opportunity to thank those who came along and gave such valuable input and feedback.

Fix my street

The Parish Council continues to encourage those finding issues on our roads to use the FixMyStreet app to log/report them. This app is easy to find just by searching on your smart phone in the app store or you can report any issues via their website: www.fixmystreet.com.

The reporting system is for much more than just potholes though; you may notify authorities of any concerns such as fly tipping or malfunctioning street lights. The process is straightforward and ensures that District and County Councils are promptly apprised of problems, allowing for efficient tracking of outstanding matters. The website is accessible to all, and we urge everyone in the community to utilise this resource. Increased reporting facilitates a timelier response.

The Parish Council also raises matters directly with District and County Councillors, actively communicating concerns - especially regarding ongoing delays in repairing potholes, which remain a significant and increasing challenge. While the Council can help facilitate and expedite resolutions, they advise that without submitting reports via FixMyStreet, their capacity to assist is limited.

Volunteers needed

The Parish Council is run by volunteers who are always looking for more willing people to get involved in a variety of village matters. Any time you may have or skill you can offer, 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!
- Community Fitness Area
- Community Emergency Plan
- Playground – we are thinking about any improvements that our playgrounds could benefit from and grants available

We welcome any views and volunteers to help decide how and whether this work can be taken forward.

Future meetings

All future parish council meeting dates can be found by visiting:

www.bletchingdon-pc.org.uk/parish-council/meeting-dates/

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

On Sunday **16th August** the mill will be 'in steam' with a '**Models & Collections**' themed event. Invited exhibitors will bring their models and collections - all from local clubs. Oxford Vintage Motor Cycle Club will also be visiting. There will also be a Mini-Market. Please see our advert on Page 42.

Then on Sunday **20th September** the mill will be 'in steam' with the theme '**Crafts & Skills**'. Local invited crafters include the Oxford Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers with their big wheel, needle felting, lace bobbins, and children's clothes. Swindon Classic Cars have also been invited and, in the afternoon, we will be entertained by Charlbury Morris Dancers. The Mini-Market will also be taking place. Please see our advert on Page 42.

Combe Mill is a late 19th Century Grade II listed watermill on the Blenheim Palace Estate, by the River Evenlode; in its day it was the workshop for Blenheim Palace Estate. All machinery running 'in steam' and volunteers will be on hand. Blacksmiths will be working in the forge and perhaps you can make a poker. The Tea Room and Gift Shop will be open as well as a food trailer and there will also be tombola and a raffle.

Adults £9.50 – Seniors £8.50 – Accompanied children FREE. Dogs on leads welcome – Free parking – Open from 10:30am to 4:30pm (last entry 3:30pm).

Also open Wednesdays until the end of October (not in steam) for self-guided tours with volunteers around. Our Riverside Tea Room will be open for refreshments including ham rolls, cream teas and cakes.

Adults £6.00 – Seniors £5.00 – Accompanied children FREE

GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES



ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE TO RENT

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

Rental is £15 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: bletchingdon.allotments@gmail.com





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



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





LINCROFT MEADOW

KIDLINGTON
A PORTHAVEN CARE HOME



Enjoy the magic of cinema here at Lincroft Meadow Care Home

Join us on the second Wednesday of every month at 10.00am for a complimentary dementia-friendly cinema screening in a warm and welcoming environment.

To RSVP or find out more call 01865 950500 or
email suzanne.morgan@porthaven.co.uk

Lincroft Meadow Care Home, The Moors, Kidlington OX5 2AA

NURSING • RESIDENTIAL • DEMENTIA • RESPITE





THE TRAVEL DIRECTORS



Joanne Scurr & Kelly White are the Travel Directors, your local travel experts

We are based in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and have between us more than 60 years of Travel Industry experience. We have worked a leading luxury long haul tour operators and have been lucky enough to have experienced first-hand the most amazing destinations across the globe. This means our experience and training helps guide and advise you on your holiday plans.

Our ethos for setting up our own business as The Travel Directors was that we felt there is a genuine gap in the market for a local Travel Company that not only has a wealth of knowledge, a love of travel but also a genuine passion for great customer service.

We can offer you everything from Luxury Long Haul, Worldwide Escorted Tours, Sporting Events & Golfing Holidays, City Breaks, Cruise, Weddings, from the Americas, Europe right across to the Far East and Down Under to Australia

We are fully ABTA bonded and ATOL protected meaning your money is 100% safe

Why would you risk your money booking online, trawling through endless websites where you cannot speak to a person and are just a number or a seat on a plane. Even with a High Street agency, you will see directional selling, promoting their own products rather than what is best for you. We are truly independent but with the financial backing and buying power of the Mid-Counties Co-operative meaning that we have access to the best rates from only trusted suppliers.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Joanne Scurr Tel: 07900 492787 / Email: joanne.scurr@thetraveldirectors.co.uk
Website: <https://www.thetraveldirectors.co.uk/joanne-scurr>

Kelly White Tel: 07732 353592 / Email: Kelly.white@thetraveldirectors.co.uk
Website: <https://thetraveldirectors.co.uk/kelly-white/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/joandkellythetraveldirectors/>

 <https://www.facebook.com/joandkellythetraveldirectors/>

DISCOVER  EXPLORE  RELAX  UNWIND 



The Shop Bicester Candles

Diffuser & Candle Making Workshops
Chunky Yarn Arm Knitting Workshops



Jewellery & Gifts

Homeware

Custom Paw Collars - Leather & Biothane

Crafters - Sell with us



www.bicestercandles.co.uk

Info@bicestercandles.co.uk

Greenhill Farm Campsite, Station Road, Bletchington, OX5 3BQ



UK SOLAR GENERATION

POWERING CHANGE



**Friendly, responsive,
Oxfordshire company**

**Save up to 70% on your
electricity bills**

Solar PV Systems
Battery Storage Systems
Electric Car Charging Points

TESLA
POWERWALL
CERTIFIED INSTALLER

MCS
CERTIFIED



t: 01869 932250

e: info@uksolargeneration.co.uk



C.S. Boswell

Independent Family Funeral Services



**58 Bucknell Road,
Bicester OX26 2DW
01869 221937**

**77 Bicester Road,
Kidlington OX5 2LD
01865 373712**

**364 Banbury Road,
Summertown OX2 7PP
01865 553737**

E: info@boswellfuneralservices.co.uk



Carl S. Boswell
Managing Director



Ryan Boswell
Director



Joy Davies, Dip FD
Funeral Director



Sophie Hastings-Blaine
Funeral Director



Greg Buzzard
Funeral Director



Bernice Steeples, Dip FD
Funeral Director

24 Hour Personal Service

"For Every Life is Unique, So is Every Funeral"

www.boswellfuneralservices.co.uk



Simple, Dignified and Affordable Cremations in the heart of Oxford

£1295.00

Our compassionate team will guide you through the process to arrange an unattended Direct Cremation.

What makes us different

- YOUR LOVED ONE WILL BE CARED FOR IN OUR OXFORDSHIRE FUNERAL HOME •
- YOU CAN VISIT YOUR LOVED ONE IN OUR CHAPEL OF REST •
- YOUR LOVED ONE'S CREMATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN OXFORDSHIRE •
- WE DO NOT CHARGE A TRANSFER INTO CARE FEE •
- WE ARE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND MANAGED •

7 Bicester Road, Kidlington OX5 2LA

01865 956334

Email: info@oxondirectcremations.co.uk

Directors:
Carl Boswell & Ryan Boswell

www.oxondirectcremations.co.uk

Our services are at a fixed price for residents where the death occurs in Oxfordshire. Terms and Conditions apply.

· **T B P** ·

**THE BURNSIDE
PARTNERSHIP**

Specialist Private
Client Lawyers &
Tax professionals

Trusted advisors to
individuals and their
families

We provide specialist advice on Wills, inheritance tax planning, probates, powers of attorney and generally protecting your assets. Our tax specialists are also here to help with your personal tax compliance.



For more information, please call our Combe office on 01865 987781, visit www.theburnsidepartnership.com or email anna.boucher@theburnsidepartnership.com

"The team is superbly put together, showing professionalism and personality in equal measure"
Legal 500, 2024

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



ALL ROOFS, GUTTERS & CHIMNEYS

- House maintenance
- Repointing
- Internal & external decorations
- Patios
- Decking
- Fencing

For a personal service, call Peter N. Southam:

• 01869 278333 • 07721 633220

• peteroofer@aol.com

INSURANCE APPROVED



A new season. A fresh perspective.

As the days grow lighter and the market gains momentum, we would like to thank the Bletchington community for continuing to trust AR Property Partners with your property decisions.

Spring is a time for clarity, opportunity and forward planning. If a move is on your radar this year, we are here to help you navigate your next step with confidence, discretion and expert local insight. From family homes to lifestyle moves and strategic investments, our approach is considered, personal and results-driven.

Make your move smarter with AR Property Partners.
Where good decisions find great homes.



01865 364541 Kidlington Office



Hello@ARPropertyPartners.co.uk



www.ARPropertyPartners.co.uk

We Care More



Albany Care Home

7 London Road, Headington, OX3 7SN



Welcome to Albany Care Home where our friendly team truly care for your family like they would their own - providing compassion, respect, and dignity.

With a deep commitment to meeting residents' individual needs, whether it's **residential**, **nursing** or **dementia care**, Albany is your perfect choice.

Call 01865 950750 for a friendly chat with an advisor.

healthcarehomes.co.uk



Images for illustration purposes



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



www.gqphysio.co.uk
tel:07974692287



Improve your
FLEXIBILITY
STRENGTH
BALANCE
POSTURE
ENERGY

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

BLETCHINGDON VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY

10 - 11am (intermediate)

THURSDAY

6.30 - 7.15pm (intermediate)

FRIDAY

10 - 11am (intermediate)

KIRTLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

WEDNESDAY

9.30 - 10.30am (intermediate)

10.45 - 11.30am (beginner/improver)



ALSO AVAILABLE
Physiotherapy consultations
1:1 pilates or yoga

BLETCHINGTON VILLAGE NEWS

It pays to advertise

Thank you to all our advertisers
for your continuing support

If you run a local business
and do not currently advertise
with us, please consider doing so

Our rates are very reasonable -
please contact us for a quote at:

bletchnews@gmail.com

We deliver bi-monthly to
about 375 homes in the village

Why shiver...

... when we can deliver!



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





Friendly and reliable
family-run business
Passionate about customer service
Over 15 years' experience

01865 708464
info@jmfwindows.co.uk
CERTASS approved installer



[COMPUTERPRO]

IT Support & Computer Repair



Repairs & Upgrades



Phone & Tablet



Wifi Issues & Installation



Online Security



Data Backup & Recovery



Onsite Support



Cloud Services



Remote Support



New & Refurb Machines



Recycling Service

Supporting Oxfordshire's homes & small businesses for over 20 years

01869 352002

hello@computer-pro.co.uk www.computer-pro.co.uk
Heyford Park Innovation Centre, 77 Heyford Park, OX25 5HD



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 6.00pm
Gemma 07581 306746
slimmingworld.co.uk



Models and Collections



at Combe Mill
Sunday 16 August
10.30 - 4.30

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

Browse our market stalls

Oxford Vintage Motorcycles in attendance

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

Recommended last entry time is 3.30pm

Adults £9.50, concessions £8.50, 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 20 September
10.30 - 4.30 hrs

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

Recommended last entry time is 3.30pm



Charlbury Morris dancers in afternoon

Browse our market stalls

Swindon Classic Car Club in attendance

Adults £9.50, concessions £8.50, 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
Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxfordshire OX29 8ET



**RECTORY
FARM** *Est 1954*

FARM SHOP, CAFE, PICK YOUR OWN



FARM SHOP



CAFE OPEN FROM 8AM

**PUMPKIN PATCH BOOKING
OPENS MID AUGUST**



RECTORY FARM, STANTON ST JOHN, OXFORD. OX33 1HF

www.rectoryfarmpyo.co.uk

CHECK OUR WEBSITE TO SEE WHAT'S PICKING!

your
coopfood

We're here for you.

We're
open

Mon – Sun
7am – 10pm

Visit your Co-op food store in
Bletchington today.

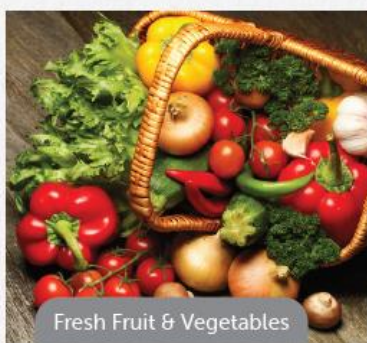
There's so much to tempt you, from our delicious Cook frozen range, to our Costa Express coffee and instore bakery. We've got it all, including chilled beers, wines and spirits, fresh meat and fish, fresh fruit and vegetables. Visit us today and see for yourself!



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

