

# Blewbury Bulletin

Number 652 April 2023

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## RICHARD GILBERT

It is with great regret that the family announce the death of Richard who passed away on 20th January. Richard was born to Joyce and Bob Gilbert, and went to the family home "Abners" in Church Road, where he joined his brother, Brian and was followed by David a few years later. Schooling began at Healmwick School in Blewbury and then on to St Birinus, Didcot. Richard spent a great deal of his teens at Westbrook Farm, being mentored by John Snook, travelling the countryside to farmer's markets, learning to drive and being encouraged in country sports and banger racing. Richard had a passion for travelling, meeting and chatting to new people from all walks of life and helping those in need. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who so kindly sent letters, cards and flowers... all the shared memories were wonderful and helped enormously during such a difficult time. *Sandie, Kelly and Katie Gilbert*

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## BLEWBURY WANTS YOUR EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, TALENTS AND IDEAS

The Chalk Pits, Kids at Play, Ticker's Folly Field, and the Clubhouse are just some of the many facilities that make up the quality of life we all appreciate in Blewbury. Then there's the neighbourhood around us: the hedges, benches, public footpaths and village trees that need our care. And we work closely with Oxfordshire County Council and the Vale on speed reduction measures and village planning. Parish councillors, together with other members of the community, are busy making sure that Blewbury is a dynamic, beautiful and safe place in which to live and work.

Whatever your background, and wherever your interests lie, please think about bringing your talents and experience to the Parish Council. We accept that there may be many other commitments on your time and we are happy to work with you to find the right balance. It's an immensely satisfying way of helping our village to flourish, as well as learning new skills through working alongside a highly motivated group of villagers.

For further details see page 19 in this Bulletin. And do contact our parish clerk, Liz Cooper, for an informal conversation by email on [blewburypc@gmail.com](mailto:blewburypc@gmail.com), or call her on 07968 772935.

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## ELECTION ALERT: DO YOU HAVE VOTER ID?

Among the many millions of votes cast in the 2019 general election, just one person was convicted of voting fraudulently and one other received a police caution. In the 2021 local elections, there were no convictions and one caution [Source: UK Electoral Commission]. To head off this sinister trend before it completely overwhelms the democratic process, the Government has very sensibly decreed that all voters must carry approved photographic identity whenever they visit a polling station – and the first time that this new rule will apply is in the local elections on May 4th. ***This means that if you want to vote in May, you'll have to do ONE of these three things in April:***

1. Ensure that you have one of the approved forms of photo ID. These are: • Passport issued by the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country • Full or provisional photo driving licence issued by the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state • a Blue Badge • UK Government-funded Older Person's Bus Pass, Disabled Person's Bus Pass or Oyster 60+ Card • Freedom Pass • Scottish National Entitlement Card • Welsh 60 and Over Travel Card or Disabled Person's Travel Card • Northern Ireland-issued Electoral Identity Card, Senior SmartPass, Registered Blind SmartPass, Blind Person's SmartPass, War Disablement SmartPass, 60+ SmartPass or Half Fare SmartPass • a proof-of-age PASS card • Biometric immigration document • Defence Identity Card • National identity card issued by an EEA state.
2. If you don't have any of these documents, apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate **by 5 pm on April 25th**. You can apply via the UK Government website at <https://bit.ly/4084F5J> or request a postal application form from the Vale of White Horse District Council by calling 01235 422528.
3. If you'd rather not go to a polling station at all, apply for a postal vote **by 5 pm on April 18th** or a proxy vote **by 5 pm on April 25th**. For details of how to apply for a postal vote, visit the Vale's website at <https://bit.ly/42ytn0G> or call 01235 422528. For details on proxy votes, go to <https://bit.ly/3JEgmnf> or call the same number.

For details of how to earn £168 as a clerk at a local polling station on election day, please see page 19.

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## BULLETIN STOP PRESS SERVICE

If you would like to receive urgent village news and information by email, you can sign up to the Bulletin Stop Press service at [www.blewbury.co.uk](http://www.blewbury.co.uk). Powered by MailChimp®, all emails are blind copied so no addresses are shared.

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Dear Esteemed Composers, Performers and All-round supporters:

Just to let you know that plans for Blewbury Song for Europe are well underway. We are having an introductory meeting - with a glass of wine - **on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30 pm** in the Vale Room (Blewbury Village Hall) – **a change from previous notifications**. The meeting is intended for anyone who is interested taking part in any capacity. What you may need to know are the dates for the show which are:

- Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup> – Dress Rehearsal
- Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup> - Performance
- Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> - Performance
- Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Performance

Our deadline for completion of songs is: September 1<sup>st</sup>. This will give performers plenty of time to rehearse and perfect your wondrous compositions. *Sheila, Blewbury Players* [blewburyplayers@gmail.com](mailto:blewburyplayers@gmail.com)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED BULLETIN QUESTIONS

Among the many enquiries the Bulletin receives every month, some crop up far more frequently than others. So to save everybody a bit of time in future, here are the answers in advance!

- **When is the deadline for articles in the Bulletin?** The copy deadline for the next Bulletin is always given on the back page of the current Bulletin and on the home page of the Blewbury website ([www.blewbury.co.uk](http://www.blewbury.co.uk)). Deadlines for all Bulletins in the current year can be found on the Bulletin Editorial page of the website.
- **How much does it cost to advertise in the Bulletin?** Again, full details of advertising costs, sizes and deadlines can be found on the back page of the printed edition and on the Bulletin Advertising page of the website.
- **Can I have a quarter/half/full page advert?** Sorry, no; all our ads are smaller than that. See previous answer.
- **How much does it cost to put family announcements (births, marriages, deaths etc) in the Bulletin?** Nothing – as with any other piece of standard editorial, these are always free of charge.
- **Is there a maximum length for submitted articles?** We ask for a maximum of 500 words, and nearer 400 if there is an accompanying photo. We also reserve the right to edit articles down to below these levels if space is limited.
- **When will the next Bulletin be delivered?** A team of over 30 distributors deliver the Bulletin to every household in Blewbury during the week following the copy deadline. For example, the deadline for this Bulletin was Wednesday March 22nd, so it was delivered during the week commencing Monday March 27th. Exactly which day you get your copy depends on your local distributor, but we aim to have the whole village covered by the last Saturday of the month. In addition, an electronic version of the Bulletin is available on the Blewbury website from the Monday of each delivery week, and there is a paid-for mailing service for readers outside the village who prefer a printed copy.
- **Why are you still producing the Bulletin on paper?** Because almost everyone tells us that's what they want, and for some it's the only way they can read it. From a sustainability point of view, it's worth noting that following a trial of various recycled paper stocks last summer, *no* new paper is now used in the production of the printed Bulletin.



Next dates for donations to Didcot Food Bank

**SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL - MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**\*\*\*\*\*THESE DATES ONLY PLEASE\*\*\*\*\***

**PLEASE PLACE IN BOX AT CHARITY SCHOOL HOUSE-PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS IF BOXES ARE NOT THERE.**

**ALL DONATIONS ARE HUGELY APPRECIATED**

**SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

This is a very difficult time for the Food Banks. Fewer people are able to donate while at least twice as many people are facing great hardship. So, please help if you are able to give even one item.

**THERE WAS GREAT SUPPORT FROM BLEWBURY LAST MONTH- THANK YOU**

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## BLEWBURY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Thank you to everyone who came to Comedy Night and made the evening so enjoyable and such a success. The tickets sold out within two days, and we are very grateful for the amazing support from the village for this event. Paddy Lennox (our compere) never fails to deliver, and we were treated to three fantastic comedians. And in true Blewbury style, the audience did a superb job at trying to drink the bar dry! A huge thank you to everyone who helped us set up, run the bar, clear up and take the empties home for recycling.



**Easter Egg Rolling, Sunday 9th April** - The annual Easter Egg Rolling takes place on Easter Sunday, 9th April, at 3 pm. This event is open to everyone – bring your decorated eggs to the chalk pits (head up the footpath on the village side of Tickers Folly Field and you'll find us!) Prizes for best decorated eggs and longest rolls (see separate advert on page 14, designed by Elphin Lloyd-Jones).

**BVS and Parish Council AGM, Wednesday 26th April** - The combined BVS and Parish Council AGM will be held on Wednesday 26th April at 7 pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend to hear about the astonishing amount of activity that takes place in Blewbury, and contribute to future events.

**ReST Open Gardens, Sunday 11th June** - The BVS is supporting Blewbury Resettlement Support Team (ReST) to help run Blewbury Open Gardens on Sunday 11th June, when some of the village's most beautiful gardens will open to the public. For more information visit [blewburyopengardens.co.uk](http://blewburyopengardens.co.uk).

**Save the date for the Summer Dance – Saturday 24th June** - The annual Summer Dance will take place on Saturday 24th June at Ashbrook House and we are delighted to announce that McFunky will be performing, so put the date in your diary and look out for more information in the next edition of the Bulletin.

### BVS committee

The BVS committee is a team of volunteers who help to run events for the village, and we are always grateful to hear your ideas and for any offers of help! You don't have to join the committee (although we would welcome new members): there are always plenty of ways to support the BVS and your community. If you have an event that you would like to make happen, or if you would just like to support one of our regular calendar events, please contact us at [blewburybvs@gmail.com](mailto:blewburybvs@gmail.com).

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## ARTWEEKS EXHIBITION IN BLEWBURY- SAVE THE DATE

**The Clubhouse, Boham's Road, Blewbury 6-14 May, 10am-5pm (Tues-Fri 10am-3pm)**

Despite the remedial works currently being carried out at the Clubhouse, we WILL be hosting our annual Oxfordshire Artweeks exhibition there! The art show starts on Saturday 6th May and will be open every day until Sunday 14th May. My usual co-exhibitors Charlotte Houlihan and Ellie Wong are taking a break from Artweeks this year, but I'm very excited to be showing my textile and embroidery art alongside two other wonderful local artists. **Josie Clouting** ([www.josephineclouting.com](http://www.josephineclouting.com)) is an exceptional landscape artist whose vibrant paintings and drawings are inspired by the British Isles, with loose, immediate brush marks that portray a sense of adventure. **Valentina Gonzalez** ([www.valentinagonzalezart.com](http://www.valentinagonzalezart.com)) is an artist and architect who finds beauty in unexpected places, working with mainly paint and collage to create abstract compositions inspired by our built environment, construction sites, and simplicity.

We're very much looking forward to seeing you at the Clubhouse in May! **Yvette Phillips** [www.yvettephillipsart.com](http://www.yvettephillipsart.com)

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## BLEWBURY POST OFFICE NEWS

As expected, Royal Mail have announced the price of postage from 3rd April: 1st class will go up by 15p to £1.15, while 2nd class goes up by 7p to 75p, large letters stamps go up too. It's worthwhile buying a few extra before then, as they revalue themselves automatically. New King Charles stamps go on sale that day too. Speaking of stamps, please use up any non-barcoded stamps before the end of July (the pictorial ones are ok to use after that) and please don't tear off the barcode on the newer ones, they need that bit! You can download a swap-out form from the Royal Mail website, and send off any you are not going to use before the cut-off date.

International parcels can now be processed with us, but you must have the appropriate customs labels applied and filled out before you get to the counter because we now have to input the data onto our system, which takes a few minutes per parcel.

We have Duck Race tickets available, along with tickets for various other events. Please note that you can only pay with cash, but you can take cash out at the counter as usual.

I've handed in my resignation letter, and the new postmaster is about to go on his training, so you may see him in the branch by the end of April, but I'm afraid you've still got me until June!

We'll be closed for Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday (April 7th to 10th) and reopen on Tuesday 11th, allowances and pensions will be paid the previous working day. For emergency gas, electric and phone top ups, please call my mobile 07825 154842. Happy Easter everyone! *Love from Karen, Maggie and Andrew*





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## FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN INVEST IN A MODERN-DAY ALMS HOUSE FOR OUR COMMUNITY - 7–8 pm on Wednesday, 19 April at the Vale Room in Blewbury Village Hall

If you are looking for a genuinely good investment opportunity that will also help a family in need, don't miss this event hosted by Blewbury Resettlement Support Team (ReST). Your support has helped ReST achieve our initial funding target to help a refugee family start a new life as part of our community. However, we have yet to find a suitable house to rent that would allow us to welcome a family in need. We're also very aware that many people are also struggling to find a home in these challenging times. With this in mind, we are exploring an investment opportunity that would allow us to *buy* a house in Blewbury. For the first 2-3 years this would house a refugee family, but thereafter it could be offered at an affordable rent to any local family in need. A modern-day alms house, funded by the local community...

At the meeting, we will hear from Homes With Purpose ([www.homeswithpurpose.org](http://www.homeswithpurpose.org)), an Oxford charity which has bought and rented out six homes in the city using the same model that ReST proposes to use. There will also be ample opportunity to ask questions over drinks and nibbles.

To find out more ahead of the event, or to register your interest, please email [lydandmuz@gmail.com](mailto:lydandmuz@gmail.com).

## JAZZ AT MOCKBEGGARS HALL

**Saturday 29th April 8pm at Mockbeggars Hall, Church End, Blewbury OX11 9QQ**

Frank Harrison trio: Frank Harrison piano; Mark Hodgson acoustic bass; Tim Giles drums

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United Charities  
of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury

## DO YOU NEED HELP?

We are a local charity which supports people of all ages living in Blewbury, Aston Upthorpe and Upton, and have the funding to give a helping hand if you are struggling financially during these difficult times.

From the weekly food shop, help with clothing, equipment or dinner money for schoolchildren, to energy bills and other living costs, we can provide one off payments to help you, or someone you know in need.

There is a short application form to complete which can be picked up from the North Porch at St Michael's Church, Blewbury Post Office, or requested by email to [unitedcharities@outlook.com](mailto:unitedcharities@outlook.com). We can help you fill in the form if needed. Please don't be reluctant to ask for help, all applications are dealt with confidentially.

United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury Registered Charity No: 203538

## COFFEE & KIDS!

In April our usual village baby and toddler group will be on **Monday 24th April**, a later date in the month because we have squeezed in a session on **Tuesday 28th March** - with Easter activities. No session in May due to the bank holidays. We meet in The Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall, and open from 9.15am and the session lasts until 11am. We welcome parents, grandparents and carers with their babies and young children, hosted by Mothers' Union. Here is a safe, warm place for the little ones to play while adults enjoy some chat and refreshments. Action songs are a popular ending. A donation of £2 is appreciated. We look forward to seeing you, Louise 07837 009730

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH – SPRING CLEAN SATURDAY - 1ST APRIL 10AM – 12 NOON

At the end of a long rather dreary winter, to make sure the Church looks beautiful all ready for the Easter Services, the annual Church Spring Clean will be on **SATURDAY 1ST APRIL 10 am - 12 noon**. If you can join us for an hour or so between 10 and 12 NOON, you will make a valuable contribution. And on **Thursday 30th March from 10 – 12noon**, we will have a Brasses cleaning session.

So - two opportunities to help. We'd be more than happy to see you - nothing heavy involved. All cleaning materials will be there - just bring you and your rubber gloves. The floors have had a good clean by the teams on the regular cleaning rota so it will just be the extra bits that need a bit of TLC. Please ring Pat Mattimore if you have any queries.

*Many thanks Pat M 01235 851088*

## WW2

In 1945 my Dad came back.  
Lived through the war but still intact.

My Dad had bought me a model plane.  
A flying fortress he had made.

But he told me off, I remember so well.  
My Dad comes home and gives me hell!

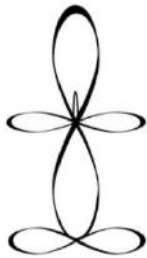
My Mum in tears for him to see.  
She did not expect him ever again to see.

I played with it as I thought I ought to do.  
Dive bombing the settee as wouldn't you?

*Jim Gooding*



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**VILLAGE CLEANUP and LITTER PICK, 11th MARCH:** Thank you to everyone who helped with our Blewbury clean-up and litter pick. We collected about 40 sacks of rubbish, mainly from the ditch along Bessels Way, but also from Ticker's Folly and the Rec. Pickers there were annoyed to find dog poo bags in the hedge – dog walkers can do better than this! This year, we also cleaned the road signs, as suggested by Lucy Pritchard.

## SUSTAINABLE BLEWBURY AGM

**Wednesday 19 April 2023, 8.00 pm, Village Hall:**

- Welcome drink from 7.45pm
- A short talk by Anthony Stiff, landscape architect:  
*Designing a woodland – first thoughts on the Quaker Wood project and possible climate benefits*
- Sustainable Blewbury AGM



**BLEWBURY GARDEN MARKET:** Our 14th season will start on **Saturday, 22 April: weekly at the filling station from 9.15 to 11.15.** We sell your plants and seedlings, Blewbury honey, jam, preserves and chutneys, flowers, home-made bread and pastries. If you have items to sell please bring them from 9.00am; you set your own prices and you keep 90% of the sale price. **New** this year: we plan to be able to accept payment by either **cash** or **credit card**. For more information, phone Eric on 07935 232296 or email [info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk).

BLEWBURY FREECYCLE FREE ITEMS TO A GOOD HOME	E-MAIL	TEL NO.
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6.5kg bag of World's Best cat litter (World's Best is the brand name!)	Chris Whatmore <a href="mailto:editor@blewbury.co.uk">editor@blewbury.co.uk</a>	851055

To freecycle your item please send a short description, email & phone number to Lydia Inglis ([lydandmuz@gmail.com](mailto:lydandmuz@gmail.com))  
Getting involved in Sustainable Blewbury can contribute to the village and its environment. To participate, or to receive our free bi-monthly Newsletter, email us at [info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk) or phone 850372.



## BLEWBURY WI NEWS

"Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote, the droghte of March hath perced to the roote ... thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages ... and specially from every shires ende of Engeland to Caunterbury they wende" (Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*) But if you're not on your way to Canterbury come and join us at:

**Wednesday 29th March at 10.30am Easter Coffee Morning at Sharon's** (Dragonwyke, South Street)) Enjoy

good company, Coffee, Hot Cross Buns and a Surprise Raffle (bring some change for the raffle)

**Wednesday 29th March Evening Scrabble at 7pm at Lyn's** Contact Lyn on 01235 850795 for further information.

**April Evening Scrabble** Check with Joy on 01235 850543 for date and venue.

**Monday 3rd April at 2.30pm (and every Monday) MahJong** Check with Sharon on 850412 for details and venues.

**Tuesday 4th April - Lyn's Walk** Meet at 9.30am Village Hall Car Park. A local walk.

**Friday 7th April (Good Friday) Craft Evening 7pm-9pm at Karen's.** Contact Karen on 01235 850219 for details.

**Thursday 13th April Coffee Morning at Style Acre Tearoom 10.30am.**

Contact Tish on 01235 850997 for further information or to let her know you are coming (or just come along).

**Thursday 13th April Afternoon Scrabble 2.30pm at Judy's.** Contact Judy on 01235 850381 for further information

**Wednesday 26th April MAIN MONTHLY MEETING 7.30pm in the Vale Room**

**Ann Ford will talk on "Morris Minors In the Media."** An illustrated talk showing the use of the cars in films, TV and publications etc. If possible please bring a donation for the Didcot Food Bank to the meeting.

### Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 3rd May 4 - 6pm "Prosecco and Pearls"** A garden party to celebrate the Coronation. Details to follow.

**Wednesday 23rd August 4pm - 6pm Summer Party.** Details to follow.

**Watch this space!** Details of the start of the fun Dance Club to be announced soon

**A Reminder:** Annual subs are due by 1st April. Please help the Treasurer by paying as soon as possible. (see the Information sheet for further Information as to amount and methods of payment)

For further details of WI activities or membership please see our monthly Information Sheet or contact me, Jill Allen on 01235 851870 or our Secretary, Joy Boness, on 01235 850543



# News from St. Michael's

**Rector - The Revd Jason St. John Nicolle**  
**BENEFICE OFFICE - 01235 850267**

You can contact the clergy & staff on: -

Revd Jason	01235 850267	rector@churnchurches.co.uk
Revd Louise	07837 009730	revlouiseb@aol.com
Revd John	01235 510073	jphclarke@gmail.com

Elaine de Ridder, Operations Manager, is available Monday to Friday from 9.00-2.30 pm on 01235 850267, 07434 686044 or via email office@churnchurches.co.uk

Bookings for Weddings, Baptisms and funerals may be made by contacting the office via email or on the office number.

## Services for April 2023 at St Michael's Church:

<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>† Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>All Age Service Christingle</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Good Friday service with the choir</b>
<b>EASTER DAY</b>	<b>† Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	MU Holy Communion
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>† Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>† Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Choir led Taizé Service, followed by APCM</b>
<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>† Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Village service</b>

Please note there will no longer be a Tuesday morning communion in Blewbury but everyone will be welcome to the Mother's Union communion which will continue to be once a month on a Thursday morning, usually on the third Thursday (apart from in April!). You will also be very welcome at the 10am communion service in St Andrew's Hagbourne every Wednesday.

In addition to the services in Church, we continue to have an **online service at 10.30 am every Sunday** and **online Compline at 8pm during weekdays**. The links and codes for these are published in the Churn. Please contact the Office if you would like to receive the Churn by email every Friday. You can unsubscribe at any time.

## Holy week services in the Churn Benefice:

- † **Maundy Thursday:** Eucharist and watch:  
8pm St Andrew's Hagbourne
- † **Good Friday**  
2pm Good Friday Service with the choir: St Michael's Blewbury  
2pm One hour at the cross: All Saints' North Moreton  
2pm One hour at the cross: St Andrew's Hagbourne
- † **Easter Day**  
8.00 Holy Communion: St Michael's Blewbury  
10.30 Parish Eucharist: St Michael's Blewbury  
(More Easter Day services in the Benefice on the back of the Churn)



## Recent baptism at St Michael's:

5<sup>th</sup> March: Ruby Rose King

*May God's blessing of peace and joy be with her and protect her all of her days*



To make sure the Church looks beautiful for the Easter Services, **the annual St Michael's Church (Blewbury) Spring Clean will be on Saturday 1st April 10am - 12 noon**. If you can join us for an hour or so between 10 and 12, you will make a valuable contribution! All cleaning materials will be there - just bring you and your rubber gloves.

Also an extra morning - **Thursday 30th March 10am - 12noon** - to clean all the brasses. We will also clean the Vestry that morning. Two opportunities to help, thank you!



## The Easter Message

Have you ever wondered why Christians make such a fuss over the celebration of Easter? Christians have been celebrating the resurrection of Jesus ever since the very first Easter morning. We tend to associate the celebration of the resurrection with one particular day in the church's year: Easter Day, which this year falls on 9<sup>th</sup> April. But the resurrection is in fact celebrated every week, in the usual Sunday service. Jesus rose again from the dead on a Sunday morning, and this is why the tradition arose of Christians going to church on a Sunday, and why Sundays have been kept as a special day, different from the other days of the week.



What makes Easter so special? In part, it is because Christians have seen Jesus' resurrection as God's seal of approval for all that Jesus did and taught. How can we be certain that Jesus is truly who he claimed to be? Yes, we can point to the coherence and truth of his teaching. Yes, we can point to the fact that his life and teaching has attracted countless millions of disciples down the centuries, and continues to do so. But we can also point to the fact of the resurrection: by this unique miracle, God affirmed that Jesus is indeed the Son of God.

But there is more to Easter than this. It shows us that death is not necessarily the end. If God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him new life, there is hope for us too. God can raise us from the dead, too. Death is not the end. It is the gateway to new life- the resurrection life. The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope.

Finally, the resurrection life is eternal life: it is life lived with God for ever. So this means that Jesus is alive today, in his resurrected body, and will be alive for ever more. He can guide us and help us today, and we can share in his life through baptism and holy communion. Most of us will never see Jesus in his resurrected body, but many of us will experience his presence through our prayer and worship, in the life of the Christian community, and in the love we share with one another in our everyday lives.

No wonder Christians continue to celebrate Easter day with such joy!

- Father Jason



**The Drop-In Coffee Morning**  
**Every Wednesday 10.30am to 12noon,**  
**Benefice Centre ("Church Office"), Blewbury**  
 All welcome to drop in for coffee & a chat.  
 Run by the Churn Branch of the Mother's Union



**CYGnets**  
**Hot chocolate and games!**  
 Benefice Office 2<sup>nd</sup> April 7-8.30pm



"CYGnets" is the Churn Youth Group network - an informal gathering of young people from in and around our Benefice, having a chat with a hot chocolate and playing board and card games. Aimed at secondary school young people. Those who recently left school or college are most welcome too! Enquiries contact Elaine or Father Jason.

## Food Bank Collection

**Saturday 1 April – Monday 10 April 2023**



St. Michael's Action Group regularly collect items for the Didcot Food Bank. Drop off at the Old School House between the dates above or at the Post Office anytime. **Your generosity would very much be appreciated!** Many thanks, *St Michael's Action Group*



## Sing for the King

To celebrate the Coronation, come and Sing for the King with a celebration of songs of praise.



**St Michael's Church on Sunday 7th May at 4.00pm**

Bring your flags to wave and then continue celebrating after the singing with delicious cakes and tea.  
 Everyone Welcome. See you there!

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## BRIDGE CLUB

It is with great sadness that we learnt recently of the unexpected death of Richard Brodie - a long-standing and core supporter of the club. Committee member, Vice Chairman, scorer, Director, regular player and IT expert, he will be a huge loss to the club both as a member and a friend, and will be greatly missed.

Our Wessex League team have had mixed fortunes during the second half of the season but have retained their ranking in Division 2, finishing 4th out of 7 with 3 wins and 3 losses overall. Well done to all who played.

Alternate online sessions will continue to be held on Thursday evenings. Dates for April will be Wantage BC on Realbridge on the 6th, and 20th. Blewbury BC on BBO on 13th and 27th. Dates for Friday evening Social Bridge will be April 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, subject to sufficient support. *Michael Allen 851870*



## NEW CHAIR OF TRUSTEES ELECTED FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

Following the resignation of Bruce Gibson, as Chair of the Trustees, at the Blewbury Village Hall AGM on March 13<sup>th</sup>, the nine trustees moved quickly to appoint a new Chair at a meeting the following week on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Trustees are delighted to announce that Andrew Forman has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of Trustees, and has taken on this role with immediate effect.

A number of tributes have been paid to the sterling work carried out by Bruce over all the years that he has held this position. His dedication to ensuring the effective reopening of the Village Hall, after the refurbishment was completed, and his selfless attention to the finest details of the running of the Hall have been emphasised by Dermot Mathias, Chair of the Parish Council, and Michael Allen, Chair of the Bridge Club among others. All of the Village Hall trustees have expressed their gratitude to Bruce for the very fine job he has done including through all of the complexities of Covid regulations in the past two years. He will be a difficult act to follow, but the Trustees are delighted that Andrew Forman has made himself available to take on that role straight away.

At the AGM on March 13<sup>th</sup> Meirion James (Treasurer) and Lydia Inglis (Vice Chair of the Parish Council) also resigned their Trustee positions, and were thanked for all the work they too have done for the Village Hall. Three new Trustees were then appointed, and they are Andrew Forman, Kate Mitchell and Tony Mather. All of these three new Trustees have already volunteered to take on specific briefs in the plan of work which has been agreed by the Management Committee for the year ahead. They will be working on a wide variety of tasks with the six continuing Trustees, who are John Ogden, Dermot Mathias, Tony Salter, Roger Murphy, Karen Forman and Penny Brassell.

The Village Hall is a great asset in the Village, and the Trustees are keen that it is kept in top class condition, and available for use throughout the year. The Main Hall, Vale Room and Committee Room all currently have availability for both regular and one-off bookings, and details of how these can be made are at the bottom of this article. The hire charges are very reasonable, with special rates for Blewbury residents, and the Trustees are keen to see the Hall in use even more than it is at present, so that the Village gets a good return on all that has been invested in it.

Contact us: [blewburyvillagehall.adm@gmail.com](mailto:blewburyvillagehall.adm@gmail.com) / 07398 919992 / <http://blewbury.co.uk/venues/village-hall/> or speak to one of the Trustees. *Blewbury Village Hall Management Committee*



## DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

D&D U3A meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining. On 18th April there will be a live encounter with **Chrissie's Owls**. For details email [chairman@didcotu3a.org](mailto:chairman@didcotu3a.org) or [membership@didcotu3a.org](mailto:membership@didcotu3a.org) or visit [www.u3asites.org.uk/didcot](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/didcot).

## OUTDOOR TABLE TENNIS HAS COME TO BLEWBURY!

Just in the last few days our brand new top quality outdoor table tennis table has been delivered, constructed and installed on Tickers Folly Field. Huge thanks to the District Council, who gave it to us, to the Parish Council, who brokered the deal, and to all who helped in different ways with this exciting venture – especially Mark Shayler, who did the groundwork and put in the concrete base and playing area.

The table is there now 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone to go to play on it (although we don't yet have floodlights installed!). Some tips for first time users are to take a cloth or old towel with you to wipe down the surface as it often gets wet or slightly muddy overnight. Also take your own bats and balls, as there is nowhere there where we can store them. And finally try to choose a time when the wind isn't too strong! Table tennis is fine as an outdoor game if the conditions are still, but if the wind is strong it can be very difficult to have a good game.

On **Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 2-3pm** members of the Blewbury Table Tennis Club will be up there with bats, balls, and coaching advice (if needed), so why not come up and have a go on Blewbury's new play area? Also if you want to play on our four fabulous indoor tables do join us for our regular Blewbury Table Tennis Club sessions in Blewbury Village Hall every **Tuesday from 5-6pm**. All standards and ages welcome.

*Roger Murphy, Chair, Blewbury Table Tennis Club*

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## EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>

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**Sustainable Blewbury**

# BLEWBURY GARDEN MARKET

*Our 14<sup>th</sup> year! Pay by cash or card*

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# Blewbury Beach Run



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# ***Blewbury Flying Squad***

For Blewbury residents of any age who cannot drive themselves, transport can be provided to any medical appointment including optician, dentist, physio etc. Donations are invited to cover costs. Contact details are on the back page of the Bulletin.

**New volunteer drivers are always welcome.**  
**Fuel costs are refunded. To sign up contact**  
[flyingsquadcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:flyingsquadcoordinator@gmail.com)



As you read this we will have enjoyed our annual 'Friends' Evening'. This year we invited a wider audience to enjoy a staged reading of *Midsummer Rekindled*, a new play written by Catie Flye of Blewbury and Nick Olcott. Many thanks to all involved both on and off the stage.

### Shakespeare in Love

It's full steam ahead for our summer production which is now cast. Costumes and props are being sourced, sets designed and scaffolding ordered! This year promises to be impressive, with a larger than usual number of actors, singers and musicians. Musicians and singers have already started to rehearse!

Our summer production at Orchard Dene will be *Shakespeare in Love*. **July 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July**. Based on the Academy Award winning movie and adapted for the stage by Lee Hall (*Billy Elliot*, *The Pitmen Painters*), this hilarious, romantic play finds William Shakespeare struggling to write *Romeo and Juliet*. For those who love Shakespeare, this play is for you. For those who hate Shakespeare, this play is for you too, written in English you can understand with lots of jokes. Directed by Steve White, *Shakespeare in Love* will bring Elizabethan London and its theatre back to life in Orchard Dene, with love, death, music, dance, cross-dressing...and a dog.

### Friends of Blewbury Players

The Players has a Friends organisation in which, in exchange for an annual subscription, supporters of the Players can obtain preferential ticket purchases and an evening of entertainment for Blewbury Players' productions and an annual entertainment and newsletter. We are grateful for our Friends' support, as their subscription fees are valuable contributions to the maintenance/update of our equipment and theatre. Please contact of Friends' Secretary, Roger Colebrook, at [bpfriends123@gmail.com](mailto:bpfriends123@gmail.com). Subscription is £15 and is renewable on 1st May 2023.

### Diary Dates

**Chris Whatmore on *Romeo and Juliet* and Shakespeare's theatrical world**, 27<sup>th</sup> June, the perfect introduction to *Shakespeare In Love*

**Music Quiz**, 11 November

**Blewbury, A Song for Europe**, 7-9<sup>th</sup> December

[www.blewburyplayers.co.uk](http://www.blewburyplayers.co.uk)

### NATURE NOTES: LADYBIRDS

*Ladybird, Ladybird, tell to me,  
What the weather is going to be,  
If it is fair, then fly to the air,  
If foul then fall to the ground.*

Ladybirds are one of Britain's most recognised and well-loved creatures and April is normally the month when on a warm day you can start to see them emerge from their winter lodgings. As a popular insect it has many colloquial names: in my native Suffolk I know them as Bishy-Barnabees, but other names include Clock o' Clay, Ladycow, Golden Knop and Reed Sodger.

The use of 'Ladybird' stretches back to the Middle Ages and in particular to the cult of the Virgin Mary. In art, Our Lady is often depicted in blue (the most expensive of dyes), in others red (representing the blood of Christ). The most common of ladybirds is the Seven Spotted and thus the mystic number seven becomes part of the symbolism of the ladybird as a wholesome bug. As insects were considered a lowly animal at the time, (and unfortunately still today!) the insect became a bird ... well, they do fly at least!

However, the Ladybird's heavenly reputation is unwarranted when we study them in the wild. They are highly promiscuous species and have a penchant for cannibalism! Cannibalism normally occurs at the larval stage. It is vital for the newly hatched larva to feed as quickly possible and if a sibling is in the way instead of an Aphid, then so be it. However, this behaviour can become much more complicated. Some mother ladybirds contain a bacterium that can only be transmitted to daughters but is lethal to males, thus when the females hatch, they benefit greatly from a nearby immobilised snack!

In the UK we have 47 species (over 6000 worldwide, 260 in Europe), but they are not all your classic 'red with black spots' species. Some can be hairy such as the Ant-nest Ladybird. The 22-spot Ladybird is a vivid yellow with black spots. Our more inconspicuous species can also be very small indeed; the Dot Ladybird is just 1.5mm long! Despite its small stature it can consume 150 spider mites a day and is a good pest controller in orchards. Unfortunately, Ladybirds, like most insects, have suffered severe declines. As well as the usual suspects of habitat destruction and climate change, the advance of the non-native Harlequin Ladybird also has a competitive edge over our native species. So this spring let us make space in all our gardens for one of Britain's most charming and useful insects!

*Glen Meadows*



## BLEWBURY PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

**Quiz & Curry Night!** Saturday 20th May at Blewbury Village Hall.

Please come and join us at 7pm for a complimentary glass of fizz to get you in the mood for some quizzing! Tickets are £22 for which you get to enjoy an excellent curry, prepared by Creative Catering, and a fun quiz. There will also be a cash and card bar with all proceeds going to Blewbury Pre-School.

Tickets will be available online at [preschoolfundraising.co.uk](http://preschoolfundraising.co.uk) or at the Blewbury Post Office so get a team together (up to eight people) and get revising. There will be a raffle drawn on the night with tickets on sale from mid-April, as well as on the night. Prizes include: tickets to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, a round of golf for two at Hadden Hill and 'Sing, Sign & Play' sessions. This is a fantastic opportunity to have a great night out and raise some much needed funds for a local charity. For more information please contact [secretary@blewburypreschool.co.uk](mailto:secretary@blewburypreschool.co.uk)

Winning numbers for the March **Blewbury Pre-School Lottery** were as follows: 1st - 095; 2nd - 034; 3rd - 035. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all our members. If you'd like to support the Blewbury Pre-School Lottery visit [www.blewburypreschool.co.uk](http://www.blewburypreschool.co.uk), or email us at [lottery@blewburypreschool.co.uk](mailto:lottery@blewburypreschool.co.uk).

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### FROM OUR CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT

Now that I'm a bona fide Resident of Canada, I should start using the local terminology, which differs from UK-speak in many different areas! I've mentioned sidewalk and pavement before but don't think I advised that the strip of grass down the street between the pavement and the road is called the boulevard, where residents are encouraged to dig up the grass and plant their own trees and shrubs, or erect wooden raised beds; it makes less to mow for the homeowner, whose responsibility it is to keep it tidy!

In buildings, I still find it confusing that the **ground** floor is referred to as the **first** floor, whereas in a lift (elevator), sometimes the ground floor is also called the **main** floor! Houses contain a positive minefield of misapprehensions, where skirting boards are known as baseboards (much more logical) and architraves become mouldings. The old-fashioned (but achieving a new popularity) dado rail is a chair rail, plasterboard is sheetrock or drywall, and roofing tiles are shingles (often made of asphalt reinforced with fibreglass) unless made of ceramic when they are still tiles, cladding is siding and render is stucco. Here, your house is built by a General Contractor, versus a General Builder in the UK, who has to comply with planning codes, not building regs, to obtain your Building Permit/Planning Permission. A casement window becomes an awning window, and the dreadful Artex ceilings are popcorn ceilings – again a better description! Tongue and groove becomes clapboard, gutters are eaves troughs and drainpipes become downspouts. Foundations are footings, lofts or attics are crawlspaces, sliding patio doors are picture windows, ordinary window frames are window cases. With the utilities, central heating and ventilation is HVAC and the downstairs toilet is often referred to as a washroom or half-bath! The tap is a faucet, a bucket is a pail, and dustsheets are drop cloths. And finally, the display cabinet on top of a sideboard is called a hutch on a credenza!

We are more familiar with the food names: Courgettes are zucchini, aubergines are eggplant, broad beans are fava beans and coriander is cilantro. However, baking terms are very confusing: a scone sometimes becomes a biscuit, but a biscuit is a cookie!! And jam is often jelly, but jelly is jello! And lastly, soda is any carbonated beverage... In the garden (yard), my pet peeve is a garden fork being called a pitchfork; I try to tell them that it is used for pitching bales of straw and only has two tines, but to no avail! *Angela Hoy (angelahoy23@gmail.com)*

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### BELL RINGING NEWS FROM BLEWBURY TOWER



Easter is fast approaching. There will be no practice on Good Friday; we look forward to ringing on Easter Sunday. The Annual Duck Race starts at 12 noon on the Playclose. There will be 5 heats with the first 10 ducks from each heat going into the final. The first 3 across the line in the final will win cash prizes for their owners £50 (1<sup>st</sup>), £20 (2<sup>nd</sup>), and £10 (3<sup>rd</sup>). Proceeds go to St Michael's Tower Fund. This is an event not to be missed, duck tickets are selling fast and are still available from Blewbury Post Office or from Gill Loyd 01235 850459 or Chris Cook 07786 635062. We are always grateful for the support for this event and look forward to seeing as many as possible on Easter Sunday morning.

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### HAVE A GO AT CROQUET

On Easter Monday (10th April), Blewbury Croquet Club is hosting a "come and try it event" after a barbecue spit-roast lunch, with a collection in aid of UN HCR (the UN Refugee Agency). A suggested charity donation of £5 per person would be appreciated.

All visitors - from the village, or further afield - are welcome. Lunch will be served from 1pm, priced at £15 (payable by card). The "have a go" session will start from 2pm. We will provide the necessary equipment and instruction. Please just come wearing flat-soled shoes or trainers, and we'll do the rest.

To help with catering numbers, please let me know if you want lunch. Otherwise feel free to drop in at any stage through the afternoon, until we wrap up around 4pm.

David Long, 07484 360169 / [secretary@blewburycroquetclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@blewburycroquetclub.org.uk)



## LETTER FROM DAVID JOHNSTON MP

My constituency-wide survey on local health services is currently open. It's just 8 questions long and should only take about 5 minutes (no more than 10) and you can complete it until 17<sup>th</sup> April on my website: <https://www.david-johnston.org.uk/health>. *[Editor's note: those without internet access can call the Bulletin on 851055 for a hard copy]*

Increasing our health services relative to the population growth we've had is one of the things I have campaigned on most since being elected 3 years ago – particularly the need for more GP surgeries. I've spoken about this in 19 debates in parliament and had numerous meetings with the local councils, local health leaders, ministers and local people about it. The more people who complete it, the stronger the message we can send.

I held a successful inaugural meeting of my Science and Technology Forum for the companies we have at Harwell, Milton Park and elsewhere which George Freeman, the Minister at the new Science Department, spoke at. He and I are very keen to promote what is going on here more as it is of both national and international significance – and we discussed some good ideas to do so. Watch this space!

I'll be holding an Apprenticeship Fair for local young people and employers across the constituency at Didcot Civic Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> April. I visit at least 1 school and at least 1 employer almost every week (and have been to 600 odd organisations overall since being elected) and I hear regularly that young people don't know the apprenticeships open to them and that employers struggle to recruit enough apprentices. I'm hopeful this fair will help.

My campaigning on behalf of the local AEAT Pensioners has been bearing fruit: the National Audit Office has published its report on the case following my request and Parliament's Public Accounts Committee recently held a hearing on it, with their own report to come.

A few highlights from many visits in the last month. It was good to be interviewed on Wallingford Radio which has been going great guns since it got its FM license. You can listen live on 107.3FM. I had a great visit to the new wedding dress shop in Wantage, About You Bridal, set up by Sharon to make the process of buying dresses, shoes and accessories as stress-free as possible. It's also home to Gallery Cakes, set up by Nicki, so that you can order your wedding cake too! It was very good to see The Place in the Corn Exchange in Faringdon, having seen the space when it was just an idea, which supports parents and their children under 5. I also met Keith and Sue to talk about the Faringdon Day Centre and will be back to visit that soon. And I'm pleased to say Michael Gove was very impressed with the Greencore Construction houses I took him to see in Southmoor.

If I can help with anything then do get in touch via: [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

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## BLEWSHED NEWS

**Meetings** - How to drive from Darwin to Adelaide in the 1993 'World Solar Challenge' using only energy from the sun, in a state of the art solar-powered car he built in his shed, was the topic of a fascinating talk by BlewShed member Phil Farrand at this month's meeting. Competing against multinational car producers, as well as other individuals, Phil designed and built 'Solar Flair', which is now on display at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu (see photo). He was assisted by a few friends as his support team and managed on a shoestring budget. They were first British team and 27th overall in the event which was won by Honda with a £6Million budget. Solar Flair came home just ahead of the Kia car company who were also heavily funded.



The next evening meeting is on Tuesday 11th April when Jason King-Spooner, curator of Wallingford Museum, will talk about his favourite subject, photography made simple.

If anyone in Blewbury or nearby with a particular skill or subject they wish to share with others at BlewShed, don't hesitate to let us know. Talks are open to anyone interested and there is no charge.

**Projects:** Look out for a new sign 'Wildflower Verges', which will be placed by the table tennis table at Ticker's Folly recreation ground. This was made by Mike Magnay at BlewShed from a piece of wild damson tree blown down in Blewbury by winter gales.

**Future projects** - A number of people have enquired about DIY courses for beginners. We hope to announce dates soon. If interested please leave a message on the BlewShed website or contact a BlewShed member.

**Opening times and membership** - Regular Shed opening times are Tuesday and Saturday afternoons 1.30-4.00 pm and also Thursday mornings 9.30-12.30am by prior arrangement. BlewShed annual membership fee is £25 and is excellent value. 'Club night' meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30-9pm in the Shed (opposite the tennis club) and everyone is welcome, whether or not you are a member. We look forward to seeing you.

Mike Wrottesley, BlewShed secretary <https://blewshed.home.blog/news/>

## BLEWBURY SCHOOL GOES GREEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SUSTAINABLE BLEWBURY!

An exciting new partnership between Blewbury School and Sustainable Blewbury is looking at green issues such as sustainability and care for the natural environment. The immediate focus is on developments within the School grounds, which are of course very extensive and look out over some superb farmland and downs views. It is a key part of the School's curriculum to explore and educate pupils about sustainability, biodiversity, the environment and climate change, and so this project ties in very neatly with the children's ongoing studies and curriculum coverage.

A recent site visit from Camilla Burrow and Sean Morris, of Sustainable Blewbury, accompanied by the headteacher Jo Reeder, and community governor Roger Murphy, led to the development of a list of suggestions about simple but effective improvements that could be made to further develop the very beautiful school grounds. These suggestions include adapting the School's existing Forest School site; creating a corner to plant native species of woodland bulbs, and dedicating an area to establish a long grass wildflower meadow.

The pond in our Forest School area is to be the starting point. Pupils in Reception and Year 1 (as pictured) have been busy scooping out the leaves and pondweed, leaving the leaves on the side of the pond for a couple of days (to allow bugs to creep out) before being composted. The next job is to create a better marginal low-gradient edge; using large logs and stones at the edges.

Following this the School would like to add native aquatic oxygenating plants. Can you help us with this? We would love the Blewbury community to donate a few plants from your garden ponds. Species such as Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), Broad-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), Fringed Water-lily (*Nymphaoides peltata*) or White Water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) would be ideal. And while we are asking for help the School Gardening Club urgently needs the equivalent of eight bags of compost to re-stock their raised beds ready for the 2023 vegetable growing season. Please email [office.3248@blewbury.oxon.sch](mailto:office.3248@blewbury.oxon.sch) if you can donate plants and/or compost to Blewbury School. Please also contact Sustainable Blewbury if you would like to help with some of the work that will be involved in this project. *Miss Reeder - Headteacher*



## BLEWBURY CLIMATE ACTION

**Repair Cafes** - This Bulletin should reach you just after our last Repair Café, on 26<sup>th</sup> March. I'm hoping it was a success. As well as our usual repairers we were joined by an expert on old clocks, who was going to give free advice and estimates of repair costs. There has been a lot of interest in this innovation.

\*\*\***Our next Repair Café will be on Sunday 21st May in Blewbury Village Hall from 2 pm to 4 pm.**\*\*\*

**Climate News - XR protest in London - Friday 21st April:** Extinction Rebellion are planning a mass action in London on 21st to 24th April, called 'The Big One'. It will be a *legal protest*, and will be facilitated by the police, following XR's change of tactics. The Big One's demands are: *A citizen-led democracy to end the fossil fuel era. And a fair society that includes reparation.*



Not unreasonable? Saturday 22nd is Earth Day – “A celebration of the annual international day of environmental awareness. We unite for nature, biodiversity and the planet.” They hope for 100,000 people - a significant number that would attract the attention of politicians and the media. If you want to raise your voice on

issues of nature degradation, and climate and social justice, join them. See: [extinctionrebellion.uk/the-big-one](https://extinctionrebellion.uk/the-big-one)

**Storm-weary California lashed with 12th 'atmospheric river' cloudbursts:** Nearly 250,000 homes and businesses were without electricity state wide ...Emergency teams throughout the state patrolled rain-swollen streams, repaired damaged levees and cleared debris from storm drains and culverts to minimize flooding of populated areas. A complete contrast to California's usual droughts! An atmospheric river is formed from “an immense airborne current of dense water vapor carried aloft from the ocean and flowing overland in bouts of heavy rain and snow.” Search for the headline – Reuters has lots of pictures.

**Guardians of the Land- celebrating natural climate solutions, from Indonesia to the UK:** From children in the UK to indigenous people around the world who are working with nature to protect us all from the effects of climate change. All over the UK school children are working on the campaign “Let's Go Zero” for schools to be zero-carbon by 2030. In Borneo Alam Sehat Lestari has been working with indigenous communities in Borneo to reverse illegal logging and deforestation. In rainforest communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo are now making a sustainable living through agriculture and tourism. This is all happening through the work of Ashden and their international awards See [ashden.org](https://ashden.org) *Jo Lakeland*





## PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of the Parish Council's meeting: 7pm, **Wednesday 8 March 2023**, Committee Room, Blewbury Village Hall. **Present:** Dermot Mathias (chair), Lydia Inglis, Vaughan Humphries, Anne Millman, Lee Robinson, Mark Shayler and Michael Penington. Also present Elizabeth Cooper (clerk) and David Hollick (lengthman). Apologies were received from Camilla Burrow, District Councillor Hayleigh Gascoigne and County Councillor Sally Povolotsky.

This month the PC bids farewell to **Camilla Burrow**, whose ecological knowledge and ability to engage people with energy and enthusiasm will be very much missed by the PC. We thank her for her valuable contribution.

On 4 May – if we have more applicants to be councillors than there are spaces on the council – there will be an **election** for the PC. Whatever your background, and wherever your interests lie, please think about bringing your talents and experience to the council. The PC is not political; there are no criteria for being a councillor apart from living in Blewbury, being over 18 and wanting to contribute to the village. Please contact the clerk to find out more.

**Ticker's Folly Play Space** has reopened – sincere apologies for the long period of closure, which was due to a lack of contractors prepared to quote for the work required. Huge thanks to Mark Shayler and David Hollick who, in the end, carried out the necessary work. This has been certified by a professional firm of playground inspectors. A new table tennis table for the village has been installed on TFF, with thanks to the Vale for supplying it and to Mark Shayler and Roger Murphy for all their help in facilitating its arrival and installation.

On Wednesday 12 April **Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley**, will be at the Vale Room in the Village Hall from 6pm, before the PC's meeting starts at 7pm. Please do come and hear what he has to say about local policing and other matters. If you have specific questions for him, please send them in advance to the clerk or to any parish councillor – contact details below.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

All Blewbury planning applications, decisions and BPC responses, including items under consideration, can be found in the 'Parish' section of the Blewbury website ([www.blewbury.co.uk/parish/planning/](http://www.blewbury.co.uk/parish/planning/)), updated monthly. This also has links to the Vale's planning site, with full details and plans for all applications.

#### Responses to the District Council:

P23/V0341/HH 21 Bridus Mead. Loft conversion with front/rear dormer windows & rooflights. BPC has no objection

P23/V0446/LB Corrydon House, London Road. Repairs to timber frame on upper SE gable. BPC has no objection.

Enquiries regarding planning in the parish may be sent to [blewburypc@gmail.com](mailto:blewburypc@gmail.com).

<b>NEED TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS?</b>	Anne Millman Brook Cottage, Church End
	Michael Penington Cleve Cottage, Chapel Lane
Vaughan Humphries 3 Cossicle Mead	Lee Robinson 6 Chailey Gardens
Lydia Inglis Chapmans, Nottingham Fee	Mark Shayler 2 Eastfields
Dermot Mathias The Old Mill, Berry Lane	Elizabeth Cooper (Clerk) 07968 772935 or <a href="mailto:blewburypc@gmail.com">blewburypc@gmail.com</a>

The next PC meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 12 April 2023, in the Vale Room at the Village Hall. *Note that the session with Matthew Barber will start at 6pm.*

### LOCAL ELECTIONS – POLL CLERK VACANCIES

Vale of White Horse District Council is looking for people (aged 18+) to work as poll clerks at the local elections on Thursday 4th May. If you sign up, you'll receive £168 for the day. To find out more and to apply, visit [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/electionjobs](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/electionjobs).

### VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE

*[The full version of this report can be found on the Local Government News page of the Blewbury website]*

We are delighted by the news that the Harwellian Club, Sustainable Harwell, Blewbury Parish Council and Sustainable Blewbury have all received grants from the Climate Action Fund for their fantastic projects: solar panels, community car sharing, planting wildflowers and a community woodland! We attended the recent launch event for Sustainable Blewbury's nature reserve and Quaker woodland. It was great to see the progress that has been made so far with this brilliant project; what a treasure it will be for future generations.

Please get in touch, either via Facebook message or email: [hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and [sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

### DEPUTY CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER - UPTON VILLAGE

A Deputy Clerk is required to join this small and thriving Parish Council. The role is mostly home-based, flexible, with evening Council meetings. Good administration and communication skills are required, together with a willingness to learn all aspects of the role of Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. Previous local authority experience is not essential, but would be an advantage. All necessary training will be given to the right individual. Remuneration is dependent on skills and experience, with an initial time commitment of five hours per week, excluding training. To register an interest and for further details, please contact [parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk) and see the full job ad at <https://bit.ly/42yhacE>.

**Autumn Leaves** The dates for April 2023 Bingo Sessions in the Vale Room at Blewbury Village Hall, at 2pm are April 11th and 25th. For further information call Norman Webb (850700) or Doreen Tyrrell (850332).

The next **Astons Online** event will be our monthly Zoom meeting on 11 April at 10:30 – 11:15. To book your place, or for general enquires, email us at [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com). On 18 April 10:00 to 12:00 Astons Online has its monthly event in Astons Village Hall. Please tell us, if you can, that you're coming so we can have helpers available. Also please bring a mask to keep us all Covid safe; see our Covid Protocol at [www.astonsonline.uk/](http://www.astonsonline.uk/)

**FLYING SQUAD Number 07891 768197** If the Flying Squad telephone holder is not available, you will be put through to voicemail and you will hear a message which starts – 'Hello, this is the Blewbury Flying Squad phone .....' and you will be prompted to leave a message. Wait for the beep at the end of the message and give your name and telephone number and you will be phoned back as soon as possible. Please speak clearly. **Please note that the Flying Squad is a voluntary service that relies entirely on people's personal time and vehicle availability, so we need as much notice as possible to arrange a driver.** Please also note that journeys to the Horton Hospital in Banbury are not available from the Flying Squad.

#### BLEWBURY POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays - 8.30 am - 12 noon and 2.30 - 5 pm. Wednesdays - 8.30 am - 12 noon.

Saturdays – closed until further notice.

*Closed for Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday, (April 7th to 10th). Re-opens Tuesday 11th.*

**April Bin Collection Days:** Food waste bin: **\*Sat 8th, \*Sat 15th**, Fri 21st and 28th. Grey bin or pink sack: **\*Sat 15th** and Fri 28th. Green bin or sack, and brown bin: **\*Sat 8th**, Fri 21st. **\*Extra brown bin: Fri 28th**

#### VILLAGE DIARY for April 2023

				Page
Saturday	1	10am-12pm	Church Spring Clean, St Michael's church	7,10
Sunday	9	Noon	Easter Duck Race, Playclose	16
Sunday	9	3 pm	Easter Egg Rolling, Chalk Pits	5,14
Monday	10	1-4 pm	Croquet Club Open Afternoon	16
Tuesday	11	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	20
Tuesday	11	7.30 pm	BlewShed meeting, The Shed, Recreation Ground	17
Wednesday	12	6 pm	Public meeting with local Crime Commissioner, Vale Room	19
Wednesday	12	7 pm	Parish Council meeting, Vale Room	19
Wednesday	12	7-10 pm	Indoor Games Night, Red Lion	
Wednesday	19	7-8 pm	Blewbury ReST public meeting, Vale Room	7
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Deadline for May Bulletin – Swallows, Church Road</b>	
Wednesday	19	8 pm	Sustainable Blewbury AGM, Village Hall	9
Saturday	22	9.15-11.15am	Garden Market re-opens for 2023, Blewbury Garage	9
Monday	24	9.15-11 am	Coffee & Kids! Vale Room	7
Tuesday	25	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	20
Wednesday	26	7 pm	BVS and Parish Council AGM, Village Hall	5
Wednesday	26	7.30 pm	WI Meeting and Talk: "Morris Minors In the Media", Vale Room	9
Saturday	29	8 pm	Jazz at Mockbeggars Hall	7

**HOW TO ADVERTISE IN THE BULLETIN** The Bulletin welcomes advertisements from organisations and individuals based in Blewbury and immediately neighbouring villages. Space permitting, we also welcome ads from further afield if they do not duplicate existing local services, are not widely advertised elsewhere and are likely to be of interest to residents. Acceptance of advertisements does not imply endorsement of the products or services offered. Display advertisements **must** be submitted in one of three rectangular sizes:

- 60mm wide x 40mm high (cost: £2.00)
- 60mm wide x 85mm high (£4.00)
- 90mm wide x 65mm high (£6.00)

Artwork should be in black and white only. You can also send plain text for us to fit into an appropriately sized box. If you are advertising a village event you can also present it as plain editorial, i.e. not highlighted in a box, for no charge.

All advertisements should be submitted to the Editor in the first instance, either emailed to [editor@blewbury.co.uk](mailto:editor@blewbury.co.uk) as a Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, JPEG or PDF attachment, or typed/handwritten and delivered to **Swallows, Church Road, Blewbury OX11 9PY**. If your advertisement is accepted, please note that payment **must** be received before the Bulletin goes to press. If you require repeat insertions over multiple months, you will be referred to the Advertising Manager to make the appropriate arrangements.

**WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS** We are always happy to receive editorial contributions, which can be submitted in the same way as advertisements – see above. We ask for a maximum length of 500 words (closer to 400 if there is an accompanying photo). Anyone supplying information for publication must be responsible for its accuracy. We require name and contact details in all cases, although if requested these will not be published. The editor reserves the right to reject submissions. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Bulletin.

To see the Bulletin online visit [www.blewbury.co.uk](http://www.blewbury.co.uk).

The Blewbury Bulletin is published at Swallows, Church Road, Blewbury, OX11 9PY. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of published information, the Editor and Officers accept no responsibility for the consequences of any errors. **Problems receiving your Bulletin? Call 01235 850337.**

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