

# Blewbury Bulletin

Number 653 May 2023

---

## BLEWBURY CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season is upon us and yes, it is raining as I write this, but happily, Blewbury Cricket Club saw more dry days than wet last year and a good deal of cricket of all levels of quality (or not) was played in the village. Our season begins again at 18.00 on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting, up at Blewbury Sports Ground and all are welcome.

Friday night interclub fixtures take place throughout the summer and are a highly social, all levels catered for affair, open to young and old, ladies and gentlemen alike, with a well-stocked bar also available to help with the overall social feel of the event.

Similar games occur midweek (typically on Tuesdays or Thursdays) against an assortment of other cricket clubs and works teams and again, these are highly social affairs with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment, with the occasional bit of good cricket thrown in. We also play a few more formal, higher quality Sunday afternoon friendly games throughout the season against local club sides, to allow the more talented players in the club to truly flex their cricketing muscles.

If this sounds like your kind of thing, from either a social or serious cricketing standpoint, please feel free to join us on a Friday evening or contact Rob Southwell-Sander at [rsouthwellsander@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rsouthwellsander@yahoo.co.uk) or Ian Bacon on [ian.bacon@blewburton.com](mailto:ian.bacon@blewburton.com). Non-playing supporters also always welcome!

---

## ARTWEEKS EXHIBITION IN BLEWBURY - OPENING 6TH MAY

**The Clubhouse, Boham's Road, Blewbury 6-14 May | Weekends & Bank Holiday 10am-5pm, Tues-Fri 10am-3pm**

Just a reminder that we will be holding our annual Artweeks exhibition in the Blewbury Clubhouse this May. Opening on Sat 6th May (Coronation Day) at 10am, we will have transformed the space into a pop-up gallery, with a slightly more "industrial" look than usual! Come and see new work by **Josie Clouting** (painting), **Valentina Gonzalez** (collage & painting) and **Yvette Phillips** (textiles & embroidery).

[www.josephineclouting.com](http://www.josephineclouting.com) | [www.valentinagonzalezart.com](http://www.valentinagonzalezart.com) | [www.yvettephillipsart.com](http://www.yvettephillipsart.com)

Oxfordshire Artweeks is the UK's biggest artist open studios and pop-up exhibition festival.

For full details pick up your festival guide and local trail map from the Post Office, or visit [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

---

## LOCAL ELECTIONS ON MAY 4TH

District Council elections will be held on Thursday May 4th; in the Blewbury & Harwell ward, candidates for the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Reform UK will be standing. Details of the new photo ID requirements for those voting in person at local polling stations were given in last month's Bulletin. If you have opted to vote by post and you have not received your postal vote pack by April 27th, please contact the Vale elections team on 01235 422528.

---

## PRE-SCHOOL LOTTERY WINNERS

Winning numbers for the April Blewbury Pre-School Lottery were as follows: 1st - 080; 2nd - 024; 3rd - 010. The prize fund of £202.50 was shared (50%/30%/20%) between the three winners and £202.50 was raised for Pre-School. 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).

---

## TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES IN MAY

Oxfordshire County Council will be closing and imposing a 'No Waiting' restriction on the following roads this month:

- **Blewbury Road (B4016) between East Hagbourne and Sheencroft**, to facilitate the resurfacing of the carriageway and the subsequent reinstatement of all road markings and lines. This closure will operate from **2 May up to and including 4 May** between 07:00 and 19:00.
- **A417 between junction of Spring Lane and junction of Westfield Road, Aston Tirrold**, for carriageway surfacing works/repairs. This closure will operate from **15 May 2023 up to and including 04 June** between 20:00 and 06:00.
- **Brooke Lane, from West Hagbourne to Coscote** for surface dressing works. This closure will operate from **25 May up to and including 26 May** between 04:00 and 20:00.

---

## 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.

## GARDEN MACHINERY SERVICING & REPAIR



Everything from strimmers  
and chainsaws to push and  
ride-on mowers



Based in Blewbury



Contact James Brown

07818 665440

[james.bvestate@gmail.com](mailto:james.bvestate@gmail.com)



## JACKIE'S CARE

Warm and friendly self-employed  
carer available. Experienced in  
dementia and complex care need.

Services include: • Support with medication • Personal  
Care • Meal Preparation • Companionship • Supporting  
clients to live independently in their own homes

Hours: Monday to Friday 9am - 8pm

Hourly rates between £18-£20 depending on the level  
of care clients require.

Email [angelheights16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angelheights16@yahoo.co.uk)

Mob 07712 455093



## BLEWBURY GARDEN MARKET

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

**Saturday mornings:**

**9.15–11.15 at Blewbury Service Station**

**Buy/sell:** Plants & seedlings, local honey, jam,  
produce, chutneys, flowers, bread & pastries

**Producers:** Bring items to sell from 9.00 am

Set your own prices – you keep 90%

For more info, contact Eric: **07935 232 296**

or email [info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk)



MC Property Solutions

0774 624 1284

**Extensions • Renovations • Kitchens**

**Bathrooms • Carpentry**

**And all associated building works**

Instagram @mcpropertiesolutions

Email [mcpropertiesolutions1969@gmail.com](mailto:mcpropertiesolutions1969@gmail.com)

## Shaun Guard TV & WIFI SERVICES

- **Aerials** - supplied, repaired & poor reception solved
- **Satellite** - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installation
- **Internet** - black spots cured, internal & external data cables installed
- **TVs** - hung on your wall or set up & tuned



OXFORD AERIALS

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

[shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk](mailto:shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk)

**Call Wallingford 01491 833282**

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THE BULLETIN?

Find out how at

[http://blewbury.co.uk/  
contact/advertising/](http://blewbury.co.uk/contact/advertising/)

**Or check the back page of this (and  
every) Bulletin.**

*Rates from as little as £2  
per monthly insertion*

### BRIDGE CLUB

We had a few weeks' disruption with the scoring system while we updated the software, etc., but I am glad to report that through the sterling efforts of our Secretary, Alison Jarratt, all is working properly again now. Thanks also to those who offered to be trained as Directors, and also to Dermot Paddon and Diane Bell, who have returned to play F2F at the club in order to help direct regularly.

We intend to continue to run Friday evening Social Bridge sessions through the summer, whenever the Chairman is available and there are also sufficient participants. So, dates for May will, hopefully, be the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

The club's Funbridge sessions will also continue on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Thursday online sessions will continue to alternate with Wantage Bridge Club, who will be on Realbridge on May 4th and 18th. Blewbury will run sessions on BBO on May 11th and 25th. *Michael Allen 851870*



## BLEWBURY OPEN GARDENS - SUNDAY 11 JUNE 11AM-5PM

Blewbury's renowned gardeners are going to let you in to see the results of their hard work.

- Nine gorgeous gardens to peruse
- Delicious ploughman's lunches at The Village Hall
- Tea and homemade cakes at Chapmans
- Gardeners' plant stall

One £8 per adult for entry to all the open gardens— children go free with an adult. Card or cash at the main car park, or cash at the gardens. The website has further details and a detailed map you can download.

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



THE BVS IS SUPPORTING BLEWBURY  
RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT TEAM TO  
RUN THIS EVENT



## BLEWBURY POST OFFICE NEWS

We will be closed for the Thursday afternoon of 27th April, for a dear friend's funeral.

We're closed for the Bank holidays Monday May 1st, Monday 8th and Monday 29th. Allowances usually paid on a Monday will be paid the previous Friday.

Please remember that customs labels must be filled in before getting to the counter, and must include every item in your international mail if it's not just a card, letter or personal document. We now have to do an 'online data capture' which corresponds to the barcode on the customs label OR the barcode on a 'tracked or signed for' label. Hopefully this helps the customs departments and gets your post through quicker.

You may find new staff in the Post Office when you pop in over the next few weeks; I'm breaking them in gradually!

Kitty's eggs, local honey, pre school curry and quiz tickets are available now. *Love from Karen, Maggie and Andrew*

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The new Village Hall Trustee team has already been in action, looking at how we can make our beautifully restored Village Hall even more a part of the community.

We are looking at the outside space, and how to get the best out of the space. If you've not already seen inside, there's the District Council elections on Thursday 4th May. There's table tennis every Tuesday at 5pm, and Autumn Leaves every other Tuesday afternoon 2-4pm, visitors always welcome.

To book visit <http://blewbury.co.uk/venues/village-hall/> email [blewburyvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:blewburyvillagehallbookings@gmail.com) or call 07398 919992



## OXFORDSHIRE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CAR CLUB PILOT LAUNCHES

Fourteen new car club EVs have launched across Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Eynsham, Henley, Kidlington, Oxford, Thame, Witney, Wallingford and Wantage. These shared vehicles – operated by CoWheels, Enterprise CarClub and Thame EV Hire Club - are available for people to use on a pay-per-use basis that provides a convenient and affordable alternative to individual car ownership, as well as providing an opportunity for petrol and diesel drivers to try an EV without any long-term commitment. [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/EVcarclubs](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/EVcarclubs)



Next dates for donations to Didcot Food Bank

**SATURDAY 29th APRIL - MONDAY 8th MAY**

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

Please place in box at Charity School House – even one item helps. Please do not leave items if boxes are not there.

*All donations are hugely appreciated - sincere thanks for your continued support*

**CASH DONATIONS HOWEVER SMALL ARE VERY WELCOME**

**To make a cash donation on line visit <https://churchsuite.co.uk/donate/> and select Foodbank. This enables the Food Bank to make Bulk Purchases at a competitive price.**

**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.**

**TINNED, DRIED & PACKET FOOD, UHT DRINKS, PASTA, RICE, PET FOOD, HOUSEHOLD CLEANING MATERIALS, SOAP & TOILETRIES, ITEMS FOR BABIES, CEREALS, JAM. Please ensure food items are within best-before date**

**COLLECTION BOX AT POST OFFICE ANY TIME**

**St Michael's Action Group & Didcot Food Bank**



## S. C. Huart

B.Sc Grad., Dip. Phys., S.R.P., M.B.Ac.A., L.C.H.

### Chartered Physiotherapist, Registered Acupuncturist, Licensed Homeopath

at New Haven Clinic Blewbury  
Muscleoskeletal, Arthritis, back pain,  
sports injuries, headaches and stress,  
fertility a speciality. For all the family's  
painful healthcare needs,  
phone **01235 850399**



## WALTERS ELECTRICAL SERVICES

DOMESTIC  
COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

24 hour emergency call-out  
All types of electrical work, no job too small

**Tel: 01235 817384**

## BLEWBURY HAND CAR WASH

Operated by Spike Enterprise Ltd

	Car	4x4
Bronze (Outside only) .....	£10	£15
Mini-Valet (Outside & Inside) ....	£20	£30
Gold (Exterior & Interior Valet) ..	£40	£40
Platinum (See on-site notice) ...	£80	£80

Blewbury Garage, London Rd

**OPEN 7 DAYS** Mon-Sat 9am-6pm  
Sun 10am-6pm



Blewbury HAND  
CAR WASH

For bookings call 07988 801483 or 07455 225550

## ARE YOU STILL WAITING FOR THAT ODD JOB TO BE DONE?

TOO BUSY OR CAN'T DO D.I.Y.

**Call Alan!**

**Alan Clark – Tel: 01235 851168**

**All work undertaken. No job too small.  
Painting, Decorating, Tiling,  
Laminate Flooring, General Maintenance**

## ANIMATED CLEANING COMPANY

Domestic cleaners making  
life easier.

Fast, reliable and safe.

Insured.

DBS checked.

Call Jordan on: 07731 374871



[www.facebook.com/Animatedcleaningcompany](http://www.facebook.com/Animatedcleaningcompany)



## Our Services

Our wide range of wellness treatments will ensure a healthy lifestyle, less stress, better productivity, stronger, immune system and more



LUMINATE

- Lymphatic drainage
- Holistic facials
- Massage
- Skin tightening
- Oncology treatments
- Energy healing
- Pregnancy treatments
- Infrared sauna
- Meditation
- Hypnotherapy
- Nutrition and fitness
- Spa packages

[luminate-wellness.co.uk](http://luminate-wellness.co.uk)  
Becky - 07870 849351  
[luminatebarn@gmail.com](mailto:luminatebarn@gmail.com)

Ivy Barn, Main Street, West Hagbourne OX11 0ND

## Blewbury Honey



NON-BLENDED, NATURAL HONEY PRODUCED IN BLEWBURY

**TO ORDER CALL OR TEXT MATT ON:  
07817 955 205**

## Milton Garden Machinery Ltd

**40 years of repairing, servicing and selling all types of garden machinery**

We repair all types of petrol and battery driven machinery. New and used garden machinery for sale. Demonstration area.  
Delivery & collection service available.

Main dealers for: Alko, Atco, Briggs Stratton, Countax, Cub Cadet, Echo, Efco, Hayter, Lawnflite, Mitox, MTD, Murray, Toro, Westwood, Wheelhorse. We repair Stihl and Honda machines too.

**We are always busy, but never too busy to have your machine ready within 7-10 days**

Mon-Fri: 9.00am-4.00pm | Sat: 9.00am-12.00pm  
Windyridge Farm, Milton Road, Abingdon OX14 4EZ  
T: 01235 555115

E: [paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk](mailto:paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk)  
[www.miltongardenmachinery.co.uk](http://www.miltongardenmachinery.co.uk)

## BLEWBURY VILLAGE SOCIETY

**Easter Egg Rolling, Sunday 9th April** - We had an amazing array of spruced-up eggs at the annual Blewbury Easter Egg Rolling. First prize in the best-dressed competition was awarded to Eva Winterbourne, with closely fought second and third prizes for Ned and Liz. This was followed by a battle for the coveted title of the longest egg roll assisted only by a nose nudge and gravity: the winners were Eddie (under-5s), Alex (5–10), Rafe (11–18), Lindsey (Adults) and Mollie (Pets) – well done to all the prize winners in the different categories! Thank you to Jonathan Fraser, Ruth Elderfield and Joe Goyder for organising.



**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: see the article on page 3. For more information visit [blewburyopengardens.co.uk](http://blewburyopengardens.co.uk).

**Save the date for the Summer Dance – Saturday 24th June** - The Summer Dance will be held on the evening of Saturday 24th June in the wonderful gardens of Ashbrook House. Back by popular demand after their fantastic performance in 2021 will be local band McFunky: fun and dancing guaranteed. For those who haven't been before, it's a chance to listen and dance to great live music, while enjoying your own food and drinks, in the company of fellow revellers from the village and beyond. Advance tickets will be on sale from mid-May.

**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).

---

## DUCK RACE RESULTS/BELL RINGING NEWS FROM BLEWBURY TOWER

The weather on Easter Sunday was perfect for the Duck Race, thank you to all those who bought tickets and who came to cheer on the ducks. It was lovely to see so many people. The stream was running well enabling the ducks to negotiate the course easily. The winners were: -

1<sup>st</sup> 230 Lydia Inglis • 2<sup>nd</sup> 210 Russ Aitkins • 3<sup>rd</sup> 358 Ezra Quenet Loyd

**Name the Fox** was won by Chrissie Chapman, the fox was called Lulu.

Again, thank you for supporting this event, the proceeds going to St Michael's Tower and Bell Maintenance Fund.

The next big date in our calendar is the Coronation of King Charles III when we will be ringing on the Saturday and again for Blewbury's Sing for the King on Sunday afternoon.

Our regular practice evening is a Friday 8-9.30pm when visitors are welcome to come and see what ringing is all about. This month we have an extra evening of bell ringing when we host the Branch Practice on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, so do listen out for the bells.



---

## HELP WITH THE COST OF LIVING

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 Blewbury Post Office, the North Porch at St Michael's Church, 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

---

## TABLE TENNIS IN THE SUNSHINE!

The weather is getting better and now that Blewbury has its very own outdoor table tennis table at Tickers Folly Field what better way to enjoy it than a fun game of Ping Pong! If you haven't tried it yet then do give it a go. The Blewbury Table Tennis Club will over the next few weeks leave a box with some bats and balls in it, underneath the table, in case some of you still don't have your own equipment. Please feel free to use this equipment and put it back in the box when you finish your game.



As well as being able to play whenever you like we are also looking forward to a visit in half-term week, on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 2-4pm**, from the very lovely people who gave us this fantastic table. This event is open to everyone, there will be prizes, coaching and additional fun activities for everyone to participate in, including some multi-sports as well as table-tennis. If you can't wait for May 31<sup>st</sup> to come around the Blewbury Table Tennis Club welcomes visitors every **Tuesday at 5pm** to come along to play in the **Blewbury Village Hall**. First session free - then £1 (under 18s) and £3 (adults). *Roger Murphy, Club Chair*



## Creative Catering Blewbury

We have moved!

Unit S9 Greenlands Farm Moulsoford

All aspects of catering professionally presented  
Weddings, Parties, Pig roasts, Buffets,  
Funerals, Canape receptions & Business lunches

**Over 25 years experience**

For more information visit:

[www.creative-caterer.co.uk](http://www.creative-caterer.co.uk)

Find us on facebook at Creative Catering

Email – [sheilaaustin@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilaaustin@btinternet.com)

Phone – 01235 850931 or 07743 368373

## Pauline's Personnel

*All grades permanent and temporary office staff provided  
(other types of staff – by arrangement)*

Confidential correspondence typing/word processing service, plus theses, reports, manuscripts etc. Mail shots. Tapes transcribed. Fax and photocopying service. General Book-keeping, Wages, V.A.T. and P.A.Y.E. returns.

31 New Road, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon OX11 9JX

Tel: (01235) 812067

Fax: (01235) 811480

E-mail: [paulinecox31@gmail.com](mailto:paulinecox31@gmail.com)



A World of Dance for Children!

Excellent 5 Star Google Reviews!

Imaginative and engaging classes with:

- Musical Theatre
- Freestyle
- Dance Shows
- IDTA Exams
- Super Fun Competitions

Classes Every Monday (Termtime)

3.30pm – 4.10pm Sweet Pea Classes (4-6 years)  
4.10pm – 5.00pm Poppy Classes (7-9 years)  
5.00pm – 5.50pm Lily Classes (10- 12 years)  
5.50pm – 6.40pm Tiger Lily Classes (13 years +)  
Performance Squad – 6.45 – 8pm (by invitation only)

[bettybloombdance@gmail.com](mailto:bettybloombdance@gmail.com)

07785 232862

<http://bettybloombdance.co.uk>

## Blewbury Brass Band

Rehearsals are held in the Band Room, Bohams Road, Blewbury, 7.30 to 9pm every Wednesday. All ages/ levels welcome. Instruments supplied. Very friendly group.



**Band Room available for Hire**

£8 per hour (min. 2 hrs). Large practice room. Toilet but no kitchen or storage facilities. Suit pop groups, theatrical rehearsals, group meetings, etc.

Enquiries [secretary@blewburybrassband.org](mailto:secretary@blewburybrassband.org)



**Family Farm Shop Established 1960**

Greengrocer, Florist, Nursery, Giftware & Pet Food

The Nurseries, London Road, Blewbury, OX11 9HB

01235 850352

[savagesblewbury.co.uk](http://savagesblewbury.co.uk)

All aspects of heating, plumbing and gas work undertaken  
Fully qualified and insured



**Tom Houseman**  
Heating and Plumbing

- Boiler servicing, maintenance and installations
- Chimney sweeping and wood burner installations
- Bathroom design and installation
- Underfloor heating
- Water softeners
- Smaller jobs (taps, toilets, showers etc)

Tel: 0791 773 3492

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



● Design ● Transform ● Plant ● Grow ●



01235 835664

[office@wildtowonderful.co.uk](mailto:office@wildtowonderful.co.uk)

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



**Hatha Yoga in Blewbury Village Hall**

Tuesdays 6.45pm – 7.45pm

**Suitable for Beginners – Teens Welcome**

Email Emma to come along -

[yogawithemmahorwill@gmail.com](mailto:yogawithemmahorwill@gmail.com)

[yogawithemma.org.uk](http://yogawithemma.org.uk)

### **BLEWBURY GARDEN MARKET: Saturday mornings 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 accept payment by either **cash or credit card**. For more information, phone Eric on 07935 232 296 or email [info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk).

### **Our next REPAIR CAFE: Sunday 21 May, Blewbury Village Hall, 2 – 4 pm**

This will be our ninth Repair Cafe, so you might think they are becoming a tried and tested routine for the organisers, but this does not happen. *Repair Cafes depend on volunteers, and they are not always available.* At our last Cafe: 6 days before the event I was four repairers short, no one running the cafe and I was short of cakes. Fortunately, I know many of the other local organisers, and a sharpener and lady who mends clothes at Cholsey both volunteered to help, but she then tested positive for Covid. Luckily my daughter volunteered to mend clothes and my granddaughter helped out at the cafe. I estimate that there must be about 200 local people who have had things repaired and have seen that some of the repairs do not require professional skills. Ideally, I'd like a list of people I can ask to help occasionally. The skills we need are electrical repairs, sharpening, household repairs, mending and altering clothes, and bike repairs, also helping at the cafe and on reception. *If you can help, or know someone who is good at sewing or DIY or loves baking cakes PLEASE LET ME KNOW.* Jo Lakeland, 01235 850490, [jolakeland@blewbury.uk](mailto:jolakeland@blewbury.uk)

BLEWBURY FREECYCLE FREE ITEMS TO A GOOD HOME	E-MAIL	TEL NO.
Cream Faux Leather Click clack futon (Fire resistant label still attached). Faux leather has started to perish a little on seat but perfectly useable. Bed dimensions 183cm x 92cm. Height of sofa 71cm.	Louise Buckel <a href="mailto:louisebuckel@googlemail.com">louisebuckel@googlemail.com</a>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotpoint Future RZA 36 freezer, under worktop, graphite colour, 4 drawer</li> <li>Battery charger and jump leads</li> <li>3 pairs Wellies, two pairs long, size 45, one pair short, size 42</li> </ul>	Jo Lakeland <a href="mailto:jolakeland@blewbury.uk">jolakeland@blewbury.uk</a>	850490
To freecycle your item please send a short description, email & phone number to Lydia Inglis (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**

"Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May" (W. Shakespeare, Sonnet 18) but brave the weather and come out to enjoy yourself with us!

**Monday 1st May** MahJong at 2.30pm (and every Monday) Call Sharon on 850412 for details/venues.

**Tuesday 2nd. May** Lyn's Walk Meet at 9.30am Village Hall Car Park. Contact Lyn on 850795 for further information.

**Wednesday 3rd. May** PROSECCO AND PEARLS Put on your glad rags and come to celebrate the forthcoming Coronation at a Garden Party at ORCHARD DENE GARDEN, WATTS LANE 4pm – 6pm. Fizz and nibbles. Bring a chair (or contact Karen on 850219 if you can't) and bring an umbrella or parasol. Parking available in Orchard Dene orchard (opposite the house, on Watts Lane)

**Thursday 4th May** 2.30pm Afternoon Scrabble at 2.30 pm. Contact Judy on 850381 for further information.

**Evening Scrabble** at 7pm Contact Joy on 01235 850543 for further information as to May date and venue.

**Friday 5th May** Craft Evening 7pm-9pm at Karen's. Contact Karen on 850219 for further information.

**Friday 12th May** Coffee Morning at Style Acre Tearoom 10.30am. Contact Carolyn on 850216 for further information and to let her know you are coming.

**Wednesday 24th May** MAIN MONTHLY MEETING 7.30pm in the Vale Room. Jackie Loring will give a talk entitled "The reincarnation of the Japanese Kimono" relating the history of the kimono and when they should be worn. She may look for a volunteer model! If possible please bring a donation for the Didcot Food Bank to the meeting.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

**Thursday 8th June** 12.30pm. Pub Lunch at The Extraordinary Hare, West Hendred (a light lunch, sandwich, soup, baked potato options. Under £10) Sign up at the next meeting.

Spring Bulb Catalogues are now available from Sharon (850412) Orders and money to Sharon by 24th May, please.

### **Watch this space:**

The Dance Club will start shortly, probably fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons. If interested, call Karen on 850219. Christmas Lunch. Your Committee is researching venue options. Further details to follow.

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





**HAIR BY SHEILA**  
Mobile Hairdresser

**07895 051169**  
NVQ QUALIFIED HAIRDRESSER

sheilahelenasmith@gmail.com



01235 850579 | 07808 401554  
www.blewburybuilding.co.uk

## Meryl computer doctor & tutor

technical expertise with the human touch

**Setup** PC, Apple, tablet, phone, internet, printer  
**Fix** technical & user problems, big or small  
**Learn** getting started, new skills, better ways

**07794 656607**

info@computertutorabingdon.co.uk  
www.computertutorabingdon.co.uk



## Woodway B&B

Ideal for 5-night rentals or longer, but  
all enquiries considered  
Serviced accommodation with off-street  
parking & Wi-Fi.  
Working professionals preferred.

Call Matt on 07817 955205  
mattnap@tiscali.co.uk



**Landscaping, Mowing,  
Strimming  
Property Services  
Decorating, Floor & Wall  
Tiling, Kitchen &  
Bathrooms PVC Windows,  
Extensions & Alterations  
No Job to Small**

Call now for a free no obligation quote  
**07866 481808**  
graham-hammond@hotmail.co.uk

"Oxfordshire's award winning local  
independent garage"  
T: 01235 850707

Scotlands Ash Garage is a family-run business that thrives on its reputation for excellent service, honesty and transparency. We've been serving local motorists in Didcot & South Oxfordshire for over 30 years...

We offer a wide range of services:

- MOT (available from 6am by appointment)
- Vehicle servicing on all makes and models
- General repairs on all makes and models
- Tyre Fitting ● TerraClean Engine Clean ● Air-con check & re-gas
- Paint / Bodywork ● Batteries ● Tyres ● Complimentary Courtesy Car
- 24hr Booking Facility through website

We also have an air-conditioned waiting room with complimentary internet access, drinks and TV.



Follow us on Facebook & Twitter  
Scotlands Ash Garage, Main Street, West Hagbourne, OX11 0NA T: 01235 850707  
E: enquiries@scotlandsashgarage.co.uk  
www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk

Did you know? You have the right to repair & service your car at an independent garage and it will not invalidate your warranty



**SCOTLANDS ASH GARAGE**




George Daniel Long MHort (RHS) MSGD MCiHort  
Garden Design and Horticultural Consulting

01235 850489  
www.georgedaniellong.com

SGD SOCIETY OF GARDEN DESIGNERS  
Chartered Institute of Horticulture  
The Association of Professional Landscapers

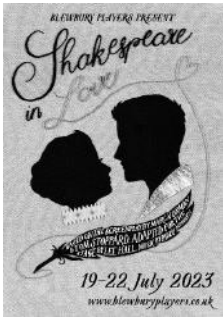


**Bespoke Metalwork**  
Gates  
Balconies  
Barbecue spaces

also:  
Bespoke joinery / timber work  
Pergolas  
Outside spaces

Daniel Austin  
Austin's Fabrication & Design  
info@austinsfabrication.com  
Phone 07547 704797





## Shakespeare in Love 19-22 July, 2023

Box office opens 2 June. You can see our stunning poster and artwork created by Yvette Phillips and Andrew Whiting online now. Not long before they will be providing a colourful addition to Blewbury and local village noticeboards. We have enjoyed a very successful read-through and workshop with the cast and production team and it's not long before rehearsals begin. Having said that, our musicians and singers have already started to rehearse!

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

Friends of the Players should now have received their e-mail reminder that annual fees are renewable on 1 May 2023. As always, we are very grateful for our Friends' support. Their subscription fees are valuable contributions to the maintenance/update of our equipment and theatre.

Friends can obtain preferential and early ticket purchases for Blewbury Players' productions, an annual additional complimentary evening of entertainment and newsletter.

If you would like to join or have any queries about renewal please contact our Friends' Secretary, Roger Colebrook, at [bpfriends123@gmail.com](mailto:bpfriends123@gmail.com). Subscription is £15 and is renewable on 1st May 2023.

## Diary Dates



We are having an **introductory meeting** - with a glass of wine - on **Sunday 25 June 2023** at 7.30 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.

Performances **30 November – 2 December**

**Chris Whatmore on Romeo and Juliet and Shakespeare's theatrical world, 6 July at 7.30pm**, the perfect introduction to Shakespeare In Love (**Change of date to previous notice**)

**Music Quiz, 11 November**

Please e-mail for more information on any of the above [blewburyplayers@gmail.com](mailto:blewburyplayers@gmail.com)

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



## BLEWBURY PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

As part of our Easter festivities this month the children have been collecting sponsored Easter eggs, so far raising £295 to go towards providing basic supplies for the pre-school. Coming up, the children will be celebrating the King's Coronation with a special coronation party. The teachers have also been extra busy recently building a new outdoor mud kitchen for the children to play in.

Hopefully you will have seen the notices for the 'Quiz & Curry Night' on Saturday 20th May, taking place at the Village Hall. Tickets are now on sale online at [preschoolfundraising.co.uk](http://preschoolfundraising.co.uk) or at the Blewbury Post Office. The raffle prizes continue to expand and include (amongst others): tickets to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, golf at Hadden Hill, tickets to Didcot Railway Centre, a family membership for Blenheim Palace, 'Sing, Sign & Play' sessions, artwork by Ellie Wong and tickets to 'Shakespeare in Love'. For more information please contact [secretary@blewburypreschool.co.uk](mailto:secretary@blewburypreschool.co.uk).

On the afternoon of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July there will be a children's dance in the Village Hall. This is kindly being organised and run by Kally of Betty Bloom Dance. More details to follow in the next bulletin but please save this date. The event will be open to all children of pre-school and primary school age.

Finally, members of the committee will be in the Red Lion on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April for any parents who want to meet socially or for anyone interested in learning more about the pre-school or potentially joining the committee. We hope to see you then.



# 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 May 2023 at St Michael's Church:

<b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>† Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>All Age Service</b>
		<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Sing for the King!</b>
<b>6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>† Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
<b>ASCENSION DAY</b>	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>MU Holy Communion</b>
		<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Ascension Day: Choral Evensong</b>
<b>7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>† Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Choir led Taizé Service</b>
		<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Outdoor Church for Rogation,</b>
			<b>Blewbury Orchard on Tickers Folly Field</b>
<b>PENTECOST</b>	<b>† Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Village service</b>

As previously advised, 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. You are also 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.



## All Age Service 7th May 10.30am

Child-friendly occasion to celebrate the Coronation, including crown making. Families will be given a small gift to commemorate this special occasion.



## 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

We would love to include your favourite hymns in the service. **Please nominate your favourite** by contacting Elaine on office@churnchurches.co.uk. Deadline for hymn suggestions: noon on Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> May.



## CYGnets

### Hot chocolate and games!

Benefice Office 7<sup>th</sup> May 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 with Elaine or Father Jason.





### Recent Baptisms at St Michael's:

16<sup>th</sup> April: Jack William Barrett

22<sup>nd</sup> April: Farah Aisling Horton

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

### Funerals at St Michael's:

24<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm: Richard Brodie, aged 57

27<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm: Ann Ling, aged 89

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

## A Significant Number

Are you interested in numbers? Sometimes numbers can express something very particular and precise, but on other occasions numbers serve to express a more general idea. For example, if someone said to you, "I'll be with you in 5 minutes", does this mean that they will be with you in precisely 5 minutes' time, or does it mean that they will be with you shortly? Clearly, the meaning of "5 minutes" depends on the context. The same is true of references to time in the Bible: sometimes the reference to a period of time should be taken quite literally, and on other occasions, it needs to be interpreted more loosely.

40 days

You may well wonder: why have I chosen to write about time? The reason is that this month will see the celebration of Ascension Day, which is by tradition celebrated 40 days after Easter. This year, Ascension Day falls on 18<sup>th</sup> May, and in our group of churches we will mark the occasion by a special service at Blewbury. Ascension Day commemorates the occasion when Jesus was "taken up to heaven": "he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of ... sight". The fullest reference to this mysterious event is found in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. I describe the event as "mysterious" because something mysterious happened to Jesus' resurrected body, and the event has been remembered ever since. In terms of when it happened, the account in the Acts of the Apostles points to it happening 40 days from Easter Day. However, in the Bible "40 days" is sometimes used quite loosely to express an indefinite but significant period of time. So when we read that the Ascension took place "40 days" after Easter, the reference to 40 days does not necessarily have to be interpreted literally.

Why is the Ascension celebrated? In essence, it's because it is the companion festival to Christmas. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus coming down from Heaven, being born as a human being; at the Ascension, we celebrate Jesus returning to Heaven, but still retaining his human nature. It's a way of saying that although we no longer have sightings of the risen Jesus in our day to day lives, he remains alive, fully human and fully divine. He is still present, caring for us and for our world – not just today, but for all time. This is good news indeed!

- Father Jason



## Ascension Day

Choral Evensong

Everyone welcome!

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 7pm



## Outdoor Church for Rogation

Meet at **Blewbury Orchard** on Tickers Folly at **3pm on Sunday 21st May**.

We ask for God's blessing across the village as we visit different environments.

Join the walk along Westbrook Street ending amongst the wild flowers in the churchyard.

Stay for tea in Church at 4pm if you can.



## 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.



## Food Bank Collection

**Saturday 29 April – Monday 8 May 2023**

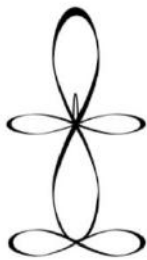


St. Michael's Action Group regularly collect items for the Didcot Food Bank. Drop off at the Old School House between the dates above or at the Post Office anytime. **Your generosity would very much be appreciated!**

Many thanks, *St Michael's Action Group*



**BORLASE  
PICTURE  
FRAMING**  
07901 552355



One to One Yoga  
Tailored to your own needs to  
support & sustain a healthy balanced  
lifestyle.  
Acupressure & Massage also  
available.  
Laura Vallis - [info@yogawithlv.com](mailto:info@yogawithlv.com)  
07771 868547

**Larkmead**  
VETS



*Outstanding  
independent pet  
care for  
South  
Oxfordshire  
24 hours a day*

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







**HAIR BY  
HAZ**



**MOBILE  
HAIRDRESSER**  
Tel : 07454 794009

Call now to make an appointment.  
Hair services in the comfort of your own  
home. No waiting around! No travelling!

Services include:  
Perming, Colouring, Gents' hair cutting,  
Ladies' spray down cuts, Wash and  
blow dry, Shampoo and Sets, Children's  
hair cuts etc...

Senior rates available too

**Drum**  
Landscaping



- Hard and Soft Landscaping • Fencing • Garden Clearance
- Garden and Grounds Maintenance • Hedge Planting
- Hedge Cutting • Grass Cutting • Turfing • Power Washing
- Winter Gritting • Licensed Waste Carrier • Insured

Call Nick – Home: 01235 859229  
Mobile: 07922 701634  
Email: [ndrumlandscaping@gmail.com](mailto:ndrumlandscaping@gmail.com)

**Ringrose**  
Tree Services  
Operating since 1992



**OUR SERVICES INCLUDE**  
Tree Surgery • Tree Pruning  
Crown Reduction • Crown Thinning  
Hedge Reduction • Stump Grinding  
Tree Surveys • Tree Planning  
Soil Decompaction

**01865 735235**  
[info@ringrosetrees.co.uk](mailto:info@ringrosetrees.co.uk)  
[www.ringrosetrees.co.uk](http://www.ringrosetrees.co.uk)

**Will Nutt**

Kitchen & Bathroom Fitting,  
Wall & Floor Tiling, Laminate Flooring,  
General Maintenance,  
Landscaping & Fencing

Tel - 01235 817346 / 07557 363517  
Email - [nutt.will@gmail.com](mailto:nutt.will@gmail.com)

**ASTON TIRROLD CENTRE  
FOR REFLECTION**

**Away Days and Quiet Days  
Workshops and Groups**  
[www.reflect.freeuk.com](http://www.reflect.freeuk.com)

Aston Tirrold United Reformed  
Church, Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold

**HOWARD  
PLASTERING**



Established local business for over 20 years

All aspects of plastering works undertaken

**LISTED BUILDING WORK  
LIME WORK  
FULL DECORATING SERVICE PROVIDED**



For a free estimate please contact  
**01235 851 624 // 07884456118**

**LONGPINE**  
Village Roofing  
&  
Property Maintenance

Sympathetic to character  
properties.

FOC written quotations.  
Re-roof and restorative  
solutions, including flat  
roofs.

[oxon@longpine.co.uk](mailto:oxon@longpine.co.uk)

**J Roxborough Services**

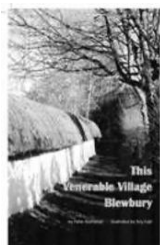
Tel: 01235 203881  
Mob: 07909 931601

**Providing Commercial & Residential  
Maintenance Services**  
**All building maintenance & small  
building works undertaken.**

- Full property renovations
- All aspects of plastering & rendering
- Floor & wall tiling
- Painting & decorating
- Brickwork repointing
- Flat roof renewal & roof repairs
- Bathroom & kitchen fitment
- Fascia & gutter replacement
- Free quotes, fully insured,  
recommendations freely available

[johnroxborough@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnroxborough@hotmail.co.uk)





## BLEWBURY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9 May at 8pm in our room at the back of Robinsons on Church Road. The meetings are open to everyone and recently we have been pleased to welcome some new visitors. The major project which we have just started is to record interviews with longstanding villagers. We hope to include not only those who have lived here all their life but also anyone who remembers schooldays here 50 or more years ago, or working on a local farm, or, for example, appearing in an early Players production. (1975 was the first, so that is nearly 50 years ago.) We will keep the recordings but we also intend to make a printed report of the main part of each interview. If you would like to take part please contact Audrey Long (01235 850427) or Mary Gaines (850728).

---

## JAZZ AT MOCKBEGGARS

We are very excited to present another gem of the British Jazz Scene: **Rosie Frator Taylor** at 7.30 pm on Saturday May 20th. At her young age she is already well respected for her talent and original approach to her own songs as well as classic jazz and pop covers. Tickets £30 from [izabela@dircon.co.uk](mailto:izabela@dircon.co.uk). Please book early if you can as this event will most definitely sell out very quickly. We do greatly appreciate your support in helping keep these amazing jazz events going. Without the audience the music can't continue.



---

## COFFEE & KIDS!

Blewbury Baby and Toddler group are not meeting in May as there are many holidays. Our next session is Monday June 5th, 9.30am in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall. Enjoy all the Coronation activities! Louise 07837 009730

---

## JOHN KIRKPATRICK @ CHOLSEY

John Kirkpatrick is one of the most enduring favourites of the folk music world, regularly wowing audiences with his consummate skill and verve as a squeezebox player, singer and composer. Whether he's on concertina, melodeon or his huge button accordion, reports tell that John is playing better than ever and you can see him at **The Cholsey Pavilion** on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**, courtesy of **Concerts@Cholsey**. Doors open at **7.00 pm** for **7.45 start**. There will be a moderately priced real-ale bar and support by the additional voices and squeezeboxes of **Three Pressed Men**. Tickets are just £10 in advance from [concerts@cholsey.com](http://concerts@cholsey.com) or 01491 652295, or £12 at the door - if not sold out.

---

## LETTER FROM DAVID JOHNSTON MP

Depending on when you read this, you may still have time to complete my Health Services Survey. It's 8 short questions about your experience of accessing services like GP and Dentist appointments and should take 5-10 minutes. You can complete it here: <https://www.david-johnston.org.uk/health>

Although I live in Didcot, I saw it and many other places in the constituency in a different light last month: from the back of a police car! No, I hadn't done anything wrong, I'd asked to go on a 'Ride Along' with the local force to get a better insight into the demands on the police as they respond to the calls they receive at the station. It turned out to be a relatively quiet 4 or so hours, but it was nonetheless fascinating to talk to PCs David and Alex about their experience in the force, the things they've had to respond to, how they're treated by the public and the things they'd like to see change. They perform a very difficult and vital role and I'm very grateful to them for letting me accompany them.

I continue to be on the case regarding the experience of parents and schools with Oxfordshire's service for children with Special Educational Needs. I spoke in a debate in parliament about some of the problems and then met the Government minister responsible for SEND nationally. Oxfordshire has just been given a further £1 million by the Government to deliver outreach services from SEND specialists to support children with a variety of conditions including autism and moderate learning difficulties. But this won't solve the problems people complain to me about regarding calls and emails not being answered and so I will continue to work on this.

On the subject of government funding, the extension to the Energy Price Guarantee for a further 3 months is welcome and will have saved the average household £1100 since it began, while Oxfordshire County Council has just been given a further £3 million to fix the potholes so many of you rightly complain to me about!

The Public Accounts Committee have held their hearing into the local AEAT Pension case I've been campaigning on behalf of and now we have to wait for their report in the coming weeks. I must give credit to OX10 Community Centre, Wild About Wallingford, the Town Council and Incredible Edible for keeping their Public Living Room going at the Bull Croft through a miserable afternoon of rain. It was designed to bring the community together and it did – at least some of them, and a great ukulele band. I had a good catch up with GWR about where next to take my campaign for reopening Grove Station – watch this space.

Straight after my Apprenticeship Fair on 24<sup>th</sup> April at 12pm at Didcot Civic Hall, I will start planning this year's Wantage and Didcot Climate Summit on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

As ever, if I can help with anything then please email me via [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

## OXNED NON EXECS

*This Blewbury-based professional practice provides a bespoke, independent, hugely-experienced, and specifically-professionally-qualified (FIBC), Non-Executive Strategic Reviewing, Strategic Planning, and Business Mentoring service to Mid-Sized Businesses (say 25 to 125 employees) in every Industry Sector, along the M4 Corridor and in the Thames Valley - Also available is a massively-experienced Board Meeting Chairing service, and an Interim MD service*

Please visit - [www.oxnednonexecs.org.uk](http://www.oxnednonexecs.org.uk) - or contact  
Franklyn Roberts FIBC at  
[franklyn.roberts@oxnednonexecs.org.uk](mailto:franklyn.roberts@oxnednonexecs.org.uk) -  
Or at 07881 781016

## PAINTER AND DECORATOR

Fully Qualified, Providing a High Quality Service, Free Quotations, Fully Insured

### GARY CUDDON

9 Harwood Road East Hagbourne  
Didcot  
Oxfordshire OX11 9LX  
[garycuddon@aol.com](mailto:garycuddon@aol.com)  
Mobile 07827752904  
Home 01235510680



## principal pilates

**PILATES CLASSES in E. Hagbourne**

**Tuesdays & Fridays 12.45 and 2.00**

[principalpilates.com](http://principalpilates.com)  
[carolinehunt@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinehunt@btinternet.com)  
07758 814578

## BUSINESS OWNERS On average take 11 days less holiday than their teams

If you're working harder than your  
staff - Let's talk



At Outside ideas we're on a mission  
to help people & businesses grow

[www.outside-ideas.com](http://www.outside-ideas.com)

**07818 388 642**

## S J Keats Builder

Property maintenance /  
improvements, renovations, brickwork  
and pointing, painting and decorating,  
patios, roof repairs, wall and floor  
tiling, small extensions, plastering.

Fully insured, established 1991

[keatsorchard@aol.com](mailto:keatsorchard@aol.com)  
**07962 271926, 01235 834342**



J J Woodage

ALL ASPECTS OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE INCLUDING  
ALL TREE WORK \* CERTIFIED AND FULLY INSURED

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

Tree pruning ✦ Tree removal  
Crown lifting ✦ Crown reduction  
Hedge cutting ✦ Hedge reduction  
Garden clearance ✦ Garden renovation

A professional and reliable service at an affordable price  
Tel: 01235 766893 Email: [woodagetrees@gmail.com](mailto:woodagetrees@gmail.com)

## BEAUTY ESSENTIALS

Gel Nails, Manicures, Pedicures, Facials,  
Massage, Waxing, Electrolysis, LVL Lash Lifts,  
Spray Tanning, Eyebrow & Eyelash Tinting,  
Non-surgical Face & Body Lift Treatments,  
Ear Piercing, Special Occasion Makeup

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

[beautyessentialsoxon.co.uk](http://beautyessentialsoxon.co.uk)  
5 Lostock Place, Didcot, OX11 7XT

[f beautyessentialsoxon](https://www.facebook.com/beautyessentialsoxon) [@beautyessentials\\_didcot](https://www.instagram.com/beautyessentials_didcot)

01235 359327  
07583 371198

## CPPM Locksmiths

- Locked Out
- Key Snapped or Lost
- Faulty Locks
- Lock Upgrades
- UPVC Locks
- 24 Hour Emergency Locksmith Service



[www.cppm.org.uk](http://www.cppm.org.uk)  
email: [colinpizzie@btinternet.com](mailto:colinpizzie@btinternet.com)  
tel: 01235 239068 / 07760 537147



## FROM OUR CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT

Some more Canadian oddities!

What we know as a Beanie hat or a woolly cap is here called a Toque (tuque or touque, pronounced TOOK) , not to be confused with Queen Alexandra's favourite headgear OR a chef's Toque (that large white one).

I'm aware that postmen in the UK tend to wear shorts through the direst weather, but here it seems to be taken to extremes, with (usually) men leaping into their shorts while there is still snow on the ground in early March. However, I have also seen the fashion oddity of full-length joggers worn under shorts, presumably for warmth!

And why is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police so called when they haven't used horses (except for rare ceremonial occasions) when on patrol since 1936! However, Toronto does have a Mounted Police Unit that is part of the municipal Toronto Police Service, but is not RCMP. As in the UK, horses are still occasionally used for crowd control as they are much more manoeuvrable than cars.

One of the oddest favourite Canadian foods is Poutine, a Quebecois dish first invented in the 1950s and now popular across Canada, comprising French fries and cheese curds (un-aged "squeaky" cheese!), topped with brown gravy... Surely the most unusual local accent has to be Newfoundland English, or perhaps Cape Breton English in Nova Scotia; on a delightful Home Renovation show that we watch which is based in Newfoundland (Newfie), they put sub-titles on the screen to help foreigners (anyone who hasn't lived there for over 100 years). It sounds somewhat similar to Northern Irish, which I suppose is probably where many of the original settlers came from.

As in the USA, dollars are bucks – but in Canada they are also called Loonies, named after the Loon, a bird featured on the coin. And the two-dollar coin is not called a Polar because of the bear pictured on it, but a Toonie, because it rhymes!! Weird.

I attended my first ever Bridal Shower last weekend – I seemed to be out of the country decades ago whenever any of my girlfriends got married – which included "High Tea" at 11am! True, there were finger sandwiches, scones and jam/cream, and some little pastries. There was also a lot of pink champagne, followed by coffee and/or tea. I suppose it couldn't be called "Brunch" as it did not include any of the breakfast dishes normally included in that meal. Confusing, though! *Angela Hoy (angelahoy23@gmail.com)*

---

## NATURE NOTES

But when eve shines lowly,  
And the light is thinned,  
And the moon slides slowly  
Down the far-off wind,  
Oh, then to be of all the birds the Swift!  
To flit through ether, with elves winging,  
Drawn up western fires, in frenzy singing.

Extract from *The Swift* by Wilfred Owen (1893 – 1918)

I managed to spot my first Swallow in Blewbury on the 11<sup>th</sup> April. Along with the Brimstone Butterfly, the first call of the Chiff-Chaff and the opening of the Lesser Celandine, these are my markers along nature's inexorable path towards spring. A few days later I spotted my first Sand Martin, skimming along the River Thames. There is always an excitement in glimpsing the return of a migratory species, and nowadays with global ecosystem under increasing pressure almost a sense of relief that species are still criss-crossing the Earth. One of the later migratory species to make it to our shores in May, and the one I look forward to the most is the return of the Swift.

The scientific name for the Swift, *Apus apus*, is derived from the Greek for 'without feet' and although technically they possess 'feet', they are small and vestigial. But the Swift has not much need for them as they are completely adapted to a life on the wing. They weigh no heavier than a hen's egg, yet can travel 200,000km per year. They are the fastest birds in the world in level flight. Almost everything is done on the wing. They are the only bird to mate in the air, they collect all their nest materials from the air and most remarkably they can sleep in the air. Utilising a state of unihemispheric sleep (Dolphins and Penguins and no doubt some Blewbarians can also do this!). They can shut down half of their brain. The other half remains alert as the bird circles high in the sky so it can remain on course during its long migration, or when settled, wake in the same place it went to slumber.

Despite being on Earth for over 70 million years, Swift numbers in recent times continue to fall. Insect numbers have plummeted and so they have less food, more arid areas in Africa makes migration more challenging. When they get here the old buildings and roof spaces have been blocked or demolished (erecting a swift box really can help!). We know this partly due to the long-term data collected from the tower at the Oxford Natural History Museum. Research started there in 1947 and continues to this day. Last year they arrived back at the tower on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, two weeks later than usual! I can't wait to once again hear their screeches and see their acrobatic flight over the rooftops of Blewbury. *Glen Meadows*

## BLEWBURY SCHOOL PUPILS GET OUT AND ABOUT!

You might imagine that Blewbury School pupils go to school each day, and then go straight home afterwards. Judging by recent reports that is far from the case. There is now a full programme of after-school clubs and many other activities that can broaden pupils' experience away from their classrooms. Here are a few examples:

### Football

The School has several very successful football teams for example. In recent games the year 4/5 team beat Harwell School 2-0 in an away fixture and also held on for a 0-0 draw against Whitchurch School.

Not to be out-done the boys team has also had some good results and this report comes from Kian in Picasso Class: "On Tuesday, the boys played at home against Sutton Courtenay. We won 3-0. I scored all 3 goals. We played well as a team and were attacking the other team well". *Kian, Picasso.*

### Choir

We are very fortunate that our Headteacher loves singing and she has been working with a School Choir, and taking them to sing in some great venues. A few weeks ago she took the choir to a Music Festival at Didcot Girls School, where over 260 children were taking part. Each school sang two songs then all the choirs joined together to sing one final song, which made it a great experience. Bryn Gibson, Head of Harwell School, said following the event 'Your children were fantastic today. They sang with joy and enthusiasm which gave me goosebumps!' Then a few days later they went off to perform in the stunning and acoustically brilliant setting of Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, which was an experience most of them will never forget. At the Cathedral they joined other ODST schools for the first ever ODST singing event, and by all accounts they did very well and the whole of Blewbury village should be proud of them and Miss Reader of course.

As well as these activities there are other very active after-school clubs for gardening, volleyball and cricket. So if you see some children going home in their red jumpers later on in the afternoon you will have some idea what they may have been doing! *Roger Murphy and Sarah Mols, School Governors*



## VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE



*The full version of this update can be found on the Local Government News page of the Blewbury website.*

Hello! It has been a real privilege to be your district councillors for almost four years now. Local elections take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May, where you will have the opportunity to vote for the district councillors representing Blewbury and Harwell ward for the next four years. If you normally vote in person (as opposed to a postal vote) you will need photo ID to vote. See the [Vale website](#) for more details on the elections.

We would like to thank residents for choosing us to represent you on the Vale of White Horse District Council since 2019. We have particularly enjoyed getting to know the numerous organisations and individuals who give so much of their time to support the community. We send our best wishes to the incoming district councillors for the parishes of Blewbury, Harwell, Chilton, Upton and Western Valley.

### Local News - Didcot & Villages Healthcare

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board, with the support of officers from Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, has been considering options to provide more GP consulting space in Didcot while longer term plans are made for delivery of new GP premises at Great Western Park. Options reviewed included the conversion of some rooms in the Great Western Park District (community) Centre to be used temporarily for primary care or creating temporary space or a permanent extension on the existing Woodlands Medical Centre site to provide more space for patient care.

All options present some challenges. However, a decision has been made by the ICB to seek to increase the space in the short term on the current Woodlands Medical Centre site. Work is underway to assess the viability of this. For more information please see the dedicated microsite at <https://adobe.ly/3LdPTW1>.

*We use these monthly updates to keep you updated on our activities and general council news. We also post regularly on our councillor Facebook Page: [Cllrs Hayleigh & Sarah – Blewbury & Harwell](#). Please get in touch with any issues or concerns, 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).*



## PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of the Parish Council's meeting: 7pm, **Wednesday 12 April 2023**, Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall.

**Present:** Dermot Mathias (chair), Lydia Inglis, Vaughan Humphries, Lee Robinson, Mark Shayler and Michael Penington. Also present Elizabeth Cooper (clerk), David Hollick (lengthman) and District Councillor Hayleigh Gascoigne. Apologies were received from Anne Millman and County Councillor Sally Povolotsky.

This month the PC bids farewell to Michael Penington, who has served as a councillor for eight years, and Vaughan Humphries, who has served for four years. Michael has worked tirelessly on the Clubhouse in recent years, and brought his financial and environmental expertise to bear in countless useful PC discussions. Vaughan has been our Facebook communicator, defibrillator champion and risk/compliance monitor. We thank them both very much indeed for all their work in our community.

Before the PC meeting Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, spent an hour discussing speeding traffic on Blewbury's main roads. Prompted by questions from Blewbury Speed Watch, Mr Barber has undertaken to confirm that letters are *definitely* being sent by TVP to persistent speeders. He also said he would consult Dorset Police about their strategy of deploying police patrols to support randomly-selected Speed Watch groups in that county. The PC will report back on both points. Mr Barber reinforced the positive nature of speed calming measures (as opposed to enforcement action for people who are already speeding). To that end, the PC's new speed-activated indicator devices (SIDs) should be erected in various locations on both Bessels Way and London Road soon. In combination with the work of Speed Watch, the PC expects the SIDs to reduce persistent speeding behaviour over the coming months. OCC councillor Sally Povolotsky provided additional information for questioners – it is OCC who sets speed limits and can plan to install traffic calming measures beyond the PC's capacity. Prompted by the discussions, Blewbury PC has officially asked OCC for a 20mph limit on both Bessels Way and London Road – this will be considered in 2024.

There are now two working defibrillators in the village – one at the Village Hall and another at the Blueberry PH. A third is planned for the Clubhouse once this is back in use.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish, facilitated by the Parish Council, will take place on **Wednesday 26 April at 7.30pm** in the village hall. This will be preceded by the Blewbury Village Society's AGM at 7pm.

### 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/V0560/HH 85 Dibleys The construction of a two-storey side extension and a single storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory. BPC found no grounds for formal objection but submitted the following comment: *the PC is aware of a legal covenant applying to this and other houses on the same side of the road that affects any owners' ability to extend. Issues have also been raised with the PC about limited parking on the road adjacent to the application site.*

#### Decisions from the District Council:

P23/V0341/HH 21 Bridus Mead Loft conversion with front & rear dormer windows & rooflights. Granted.

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

The next PC meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 10 May 2023, in the Vale Room at the Village Hall.

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

## SAVE THE DATE!

**The third North Wessex Downs Walking Festival is 2nd - 11th June this year.**

The Festival will include over 25 walks taking place across the North Wessex Downs and all in celebration of this stunning landscape. The varied programme will include family-friendly, evening and weekday walks with opportunities for you to seek out wildlife, history or culture, visit a farm or simply soak up the views from the top of the Downs.

Our welcoming and knowledgeable guides will bring alive some of their favourite places as you explore more of the landscape around you.

Be one of the first to hear when bookings for the festival open by signing up to receive the North Wessex Downs emailed newsletter at [northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking](http://northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking).

**Autumn Leaves** The dates for May 2023 Bingo Sessions in The Vale Room at Blewbury Village Hall, at 2pm are:- **May 9<sup>th</sup> Bingo and Coronation Tea. And May 23<sup>rd</sup> Bingo.** For further information call Norman Webb (01235 850700) or Cilla Maguire (01235 851966). If anyone would like to join Autumn Leaves, please contact Norman or Cilla on the above phone numbers. We would welcome any new members.

**Free IT advice** at Astons Online's friendly and informal events: There will be two Astons Online events in May. Our monthly Zoom meeting on 9 May at 10:30 – 11:15 about making the best use of ICT when on holiday. Book your place – [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com). On 16 May from 10:00 to 12:00 will be Astons Online's 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 in case a vulnerable person is present. Website: [www.astonsonline.uk](http://www.astonsonline.uk) Email: [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com).

**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.  
*For May Bank Holiday closures, see page 3*

**May Bin Collection Days:** Food waste bin: **\*Saturday 6th, \*Saturday 13th**, Friday 19th & 26th. Grey bin or pink sack: **\*Saturday 13th** and Friday 26th. Green bin or sack, and brown bin: **\*Saturday 6th** and Friday 19th.

#### VILLAGE DIARY for May 2023

				Page
Thursday	4	7am-10pm	Local Council election, Village Hall	1
Sunday	7	4 pm	Sing for the King, St Michael's church	10
Tuesday	9	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo and Coronation Tea, Vale Room	18
Tuesday	9	8 pm	Local History Group meeting at Robinson's, Parsonage Lane	13
Wednesday	10	7 pm	Parish Council meeting, Vale Room	17
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Deadline for June Bulletin – Swallows, Church Road</b>	
Saturday	20	8 pm	Jazz at Mockbeggars: Rosie Frater Taylor	13
Saturday	20	8 pm	Quiz & Curry Night, Village Hall	9
Sunday	21	2-4 pm	Repair Café, Village Hall	7
Tuesday	23	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo, Vale Room	18
Wednesday	24	7-10 pm	Indoor Games Night, Red Lion	
Wednesday	24	7.30 pm	WI meeting and talk: 'The Reincarnation of the Japanese Kimono'	7
Wednesday	31	2-4 pm	Outdoor table tennis event, Tickers Folly Field	5

**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 local interest. 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 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.**

**Editor:** Chris Whatmore, Swallows, Church Road, OX11 9PY tel 851055 [editor@blewbury.co.uk](mailto:editor@blewbury.co.uk). **Local Distribution Manager:** Kathy Edmunds, Wayside Cottage, Westbrook Street, OX11 9QA tel 850337 [kathy\\_edmunds@btopenworld.com](mailto:kathy_edmunds@btopenworld.com) **Postal & Email Distribution Manager:** Helen White, Southbourne, Bessels Way, OX11 9NJ tel 850483 [mail@daisyh.net](mailto:mail@daisyh.net) **Advertising Manager:** Elizabeth Murphy, The White House, London Road, OX11 9PD tel 851244 [elizabeth.murphy52@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.murphy52@gmail.com) **Treasurer:** Rachael Richardson, Robinsons, Church Road OX11 9PY **Webmaster:** Peter Willison, Fleetwith, Nottingham Fee, OX11 9PG tel. 850936 [webmaster@blewbury.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@blewbury.co.uk).