

Blewbury Bulletin

Number 658 November 2023



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Members of the Royal British Legion are asked to assemble outside the Church at 10.45 am. Other organisations in Blewbury and Upton are cordially invited to join the Service and to gather at the War Memorial in London Road for the laying of wreaths immediately afterwards.

Logo courtesy of Royal British Legion



80 YEARS ON – THE HOME GUARD ARE BACK IN BLEWBURY!

Editor's note: Every month we receive an update from the Blewbury bellringers, for which we are always grateful. We are particularly indebted to them this month, though, for providing the only explanation we've heard for the presence of eight apparently fully armed members of the Home Guard recently spotted wandering around the village! Here is their report:

The late summer weather, whilst very welcome, has somehow detracted from the fact that the clocks go back at the end of the month, and we are heading towards the festive season which is always an enjoyable time for ringing. Thank you Helen and Christine for manning the bell ringing table at the Clubs and Societies day at the Village Hall.

Sunday 15th October saw eight local uniformed Home Guard enthusiasts, complete with full kit and dummy rifles visit St Michael's tower. Some of them apparently had a history of relatives (Lalleys) who were in the Blewbury Home Guard, and they came to remember the volunteers who were positioned on the tower roof to watch for enemy aircraft or fires during the war. If anyone has any photo-



Photo: Gareth Clark  @garethclark_photography  garethclark_photography

graphs, documents, or memorabilia from the Blewbury Home Guard then they would be delighted to hear from you. It is always lovely to welcome other ringers to Blewbury and equally nice to ring at other towers; we have a mini outing to towers in West Oxfordshire coming soon. Blewbury are hosting our Branch Quiz Night in mid-November with teams from other towers in the Branch, a lovely social event, and a chance to blow the cobwebs from our brains! Our regular practice night is Friday 8-9.30pm so if you'd like to find out more about bell ringing do come along.

DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK

British Summer Time ends at 2 am on Sunday October 29th, when the clocks go back one hour.

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. Powered by MailChimp®, all emails are blind copied so no addresses are shared.

S. C. Huart

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BOX OFFICE
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Not long now... Tickets are selling very well. Come and enjoy an evening full of fun musical entertainment cheering up a November evening.

Best availability on Thursday & Friday. You can buy tickets for a whole table of ten or in smaller numbers.

The twelve countries battling to win the Song for Europe Trophy fight it out on three separate nights (Thursday November 30th, Friday December 1st and Saturday December 2nd). Each night is a "one off" contest. Will it be a different winner every night or will one song dominate the competition? Each evening we have twelve tables (10 seats per table - £15 a seat) with each table representing a participating country. For one night you could be Danish, Spanish, Irish, Italian, German, Dutch, Swedish, French, Greek, Belgian, Australian(!) or be patriotic and represent the United Kingdom.

It would really enhance the evening if audience members joined in the spirit of the show and donned some form of fancy dress or national costume according to which table they are on. Please also feel free to bring food but do refrain from bringing your own drink as we would like you to support the Bar. Each table casts votes in order to find the evening's winner but, as per Eurovision, you cannot vote for your own country. Hopefully there will be no bribery or rigging of votes, but don't bet on it!! Tickets limited to a maximum of 10 per person per evening.

Be there and see history in the making!!! ** DON'T FORGET YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!!



BLEWBURY SCHOOL IS CONSULTING ON ITS 2025/2026 ADMISSIONS POLICY

As required by the School Admission Code, the Governors of Blewbury CE Primary School have initiated a consultation period on the Admissions Policy for 2025/2026 which will run until 20th November 2023. This consultation is to comply with our statutory requirements to consult at least every seven years. The only changes to the Admissions Policy are those required by the Schools Admissions code introduced in

May 2021. There are no substantive changes to either our admissions criteria, catchment area or PAN.

The draft policy may be viewed on the school website: <https://blewbury.oxon.sch.uk/>

Any comments on the draft policy should be emailed to Mrs Bealey, School Administrator, at office.3248@blewbury.oxon.sch.uk by 20th November 2023.



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Our Autumn clear up will have taken place by the time you read this, and we'll be planting some low maintenance bulbs, shrubs and hardy perennials to try and brighten up the outside space.

If you're looking for a great venue for your event or party, please email blewburyvillagehallbookings@gmail.com or ring the mobile phone and leave a message 07398 919992



NEXT FOOD BANK DATES: 28th OCTOBER – 6th NOVEMBER 2023

The Didcot Emergency Foodbank is currently helping an average of 84 families each session due to very high demand – that is almost 650 families every month. If you can give even one item, collection boxes are outside the Charity School House on these dates or at Blewbury Post Office any time. They ask for: -

- Tins of meat / fish / potatoes / carrots / peas / soup / fruit / puddings
- Jars of pasta sauces / jam / peanut butter / coffee (small)
- Packets of pasta / rice / packets dried potato / breakfast cereals / biscuits / treats / tea
- Cartons of long-life milk / long-life juice / hot chocolate
- toiletries, toilet rolls, tissues & laundry products, washing up liquid
- Please make sure that all food is within its sell by date.
- Foodbank cannot accept alcohol, razors, medicines, or homemade preserves

CASH DONATIONS HOWEVER SMALL ARE VERY WELCOME Visit <https://churchsuite.co.uk/donate/> and select Foodbank. In October, we needed to make 3 trips to the Food Bank: one after the Church Harvest Festival, one after the Village monthly donations and one after Blewbury School Harvest Festival. Thanks to everybody who donated and particularly to the pupils at the School – the School donations were very generous.

MANY THANKS - ST MICHAEL'S ACTION GROUP & DIDCOT FOOD BANK

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POST OFFICE NEWS

We have some exciting news! Sarah will be officially taking over the post office on the 30th October and Karen can FINALLY put her feet up or go travelling around the world! We will be closed the morning of October 30th whilst transfer takes place but hope to open from 12pm till 3pm. **From October 31st until the end of November we will be running temporary opening hours of 9am-3pm Monday to Friday.**

Blewbury School PTA will be hosting a Spooky Halloween Trail from the 21st to the 29th of October. Trail sheets can be purchased from the post office for £2 a sheet and all completed sheets returned to us will receive a prize!

Christmas stamps will be available for sale from the 3rd of November. The Bell ringers' Christmas post box will also be arriving in November: for a small fee you can have your Christmas cards delivered and help the bell ringers raise much needed funds. There will also be a Christmas Tree collection tin to help with the increasing cost of the Christmas Tree that sits on top of the church tower.

The post office will be getting very busy soon so please put any customs labels for international parcels on before you reach the counter. The last posting date for International economy to Western Europe in time for Christmas is 27th November so if you require this service please get your parcels into us before then.

...and a little note from Karen...

The time has finally arrived where I can hang up my date stamp and get out in the garden! Thank you to everyone who has supported our little village post office over the years, and I hope you'll all be as supportive and kind to Sarah when she takes over on Monday 30th October. I'll still be here on a Tuesday for a while, and Andrew will be working on a Friday, plus any holiday cover. Thank you again. *Karen and Andrew x*

...and another little note from Karen!

As the clocks go back, the dark evenings and mornings are here again. Please wear some reflective clothing and have a torch as you walk, cycle or run around the village. It's incredibly difficult to see those in dark clothes.

Please be considerate of others who have small children and pets if you are holding a fireworks event, try and tell your neighbours so that they can prepare any vulnerable pets and children.

I'm noticing a lot of people still speeding through the village above the speed limits, it's 20 mph through the village, and could be dangerous with the falling leaves on the roads, and the people in dark clothes with no lights! *Karen x*

BLEWBURY BRASS BAND AUTUMN CONCERT

Blewbury Village Hall on Saturday 25th November 7pm

Adults £10, Concession £8, Under 13s Free

Tickets available from Blewbury Post Office, on the door or email: secretary@blewburybrassband.org

CAN YOU HELP MATTY AND KEEP HIS VISION ALIVE?

Sandy and Serena from Church Road are having a fundraising event at The Red Lion on Saturday 25th November. It will be a retro 70s themed night with a 3-course meal, an auction of promises and music with dancing - all to raise money for our godson Matty and his charity Joe Wild. The meal is sold out but we would love to invite anyone along at around 9.45pm to have a drink and support the auction and have a dance afterwards (70s fancy dress is optional!)



Matty's Story

Our godson, Matty Horkan, is passionate about being in nature. In February 2023, in response to the tragic loss of two younger brothers, James and Joe, he started Joe Wild, a charity that helps young people with mental health challenges to reconnect with nature to support their wellbeing. Matty had just started his journey – he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro last year to raise funds, was due to go on a whale-watching tour to mentor young people and was studying conservation at college – but tragically, while volunteering for a conservation charity in Tenerife earlier this year, he suffered a 'complete' spinal cord injury that has left him paralysed. Matty now wants to focus on reconnecting wheelchair users with the outdoors to support their recovery and wellbeing.

Matty is an amazing young man and is now at Stoke Mandeville spinal rehabilitation unit, keeping his vision alive from his hospital bed and facing the immense challenges he now has with such bravery and determination. We are supporting his remarkable parents, Bev and Sean, in raising money to build a place for Matty to live independently and to support his plans and vision for Joe Wild.

Sandy and I would like to thank John and Annabel for kindly supporting this event and to locals who have kindly donated a promise for the auction, we have been blown away by people's kindness here in Blewbury.



JEFF AND PETER'S MUSIC QUIZ

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER



This ever-popular Music Quiz has questions for all ages and all types of music. Big and small teams are welcome. Maximum size 10. Loads of lovely prizes, including a wheelbarrow of wine!

Tickets are £10 and available from Blewbury Post Office. Hall and Bar open from 7.15pm. Quiz starts at 8pm.

Please support the bar because monies raised will be donated to support activities for young people in the village.



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To apply there is a short form to complete which can be picked up from the Post Office, the North Porch of St Michael's Church or requested by email to unitedcharities@outlook.com. We can help you fill in the form if needed. All applications are assessed on an individual basis but, as our funds are limited, we give priority to those in receipt of benefits such as Universal Credit, Tax Credits and Pension Credit or those who have extenuating circumstances such as ill health or vulnerability. Please don't be reluctant to ask for help, all applications are dealt with confidentially.

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JAZZ AT MOCKBEGGARS: LIANE CAROL SOLO - SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

Doors open 7.30pm, 8pm start. Mockbeggars Hall, Church End, Blewbury OX11 9QQ. All tickets £30, strictly prepaid through izabela@dircon.co.uk

BLEWBURY VILLAGE SOCIETY

A big thank you to all who attended the Clubs and Societies day on 24 September. Your enthusiasm was greatly appreciated, and we hope everyone enjoyed themselves and learned something new about the many exciting things that go on in Blewbury.

Fireworks Night, Saturday 4th November

The BVS Fireworks Night is back this year on Saturday 4th November, in Tickers Folly Field.

We have a spectacular firework display planned, and the bar and baked potato stalls will be back, under our beautiful new marquee. Gates will open at 6:00 pm, the bonfire will be lit at 6:30 pm and the fireworks will start at 7:00 pm.

Entry is **£5 for adults and £2 for children** – cash or card accepted (card preferred). The entry fee includes a baked potato. We will have the usual wood collection for the bonfire for a small fee. Please email blewburybvs@gmail.com or phone Caroline on 07790 566754 if you would like your address to be included on the rounds. We politely request that you only put out reasonably clean firewood and remove as much metal and plastic as possible.

As always, we need lots of volunteers for this event – in particular with wood collection and potato baking beforehand, with setup and refreshment serving on the night, and with tidying up the field the following day. If you can help, please email us at the BVS email address above. We'd love to hear from you!

Dates for your diary

It seems a long way off, but December is always a busy month, so don't forget to put the regular Blewbury events in the diary: Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve (24 December) and the annual Boxing Day walk (26 December), as well as the Roger Cambray Memorial Walk from Blewbury to The Bell Inn at Aldworth (1 January 2024). More details to follow in next month's Bulletin and on the BVS Facebook page.



BLOWN AWAY IN BLEWBURY?

Blown Away is a new departure for Blewbury author Lorraine Fergusson. I had previously really enjoyed her historical wartime fiction *A Dangerous Act of Kindness*, a fictionalised account of the WW2 German plane crash up on the Downs. This latest book is however a collection of sixteen short stories.

In 2018, having already won the Blackwell's Prize in her MA degree in Creative Writing at Oxford Brookes University, Lorraine discovered NYC Midnight, which is an international short story knockout competition for authors, with randomly generated prompts sent out to thousands of writers across the world with a very short time allowed to submit your entries. She has done well in this competition, and, in particular, has loved the feedback she got from the judges. One judge stated "Something that struck me in your writing was how rich your descriptions were, using such varied and original sensory detail. Even in the first paragraph, you've got the 'warm current', the 'floating flowers' that glint like stars, the bubbling springs – it's stunning, and what's more you maintain it throughout. Great work!" This helped me a great deal to understand why it was that time and again I had been quickly gripped by each of her NYC stories.

None of these short stories are set in Blewbury, but although you can take an author out of Blewbury, it seems that you can't take Blewbury out of the author. One features a drama in a garden centre, which advertises with 'Get your Cabbages from Babbages'. Now where have I heard that one before? Another story involves a local community theatre group, who perform in an amphitheatre in someone's garden, and give the hired in professional director a real runaround, as he tries to exercise his artistic talents in this unfamiliar local amateur dramatics setting. Then we find ourselves in two Oxford University Colleges where murder is attempted in one, and an imported box sold by mistake in an auction at the Pitt Rivers Museum appears to be the source of a malevolent curse in the other. *Blown Away* in Blewbury – well I hope that some of you will read it and enjoy the ride!

Both of the books mentioned are available from Amazon and other reputable booksellers. Roger Murphy



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YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Someone once said, "I don't want to go to Church, but I do want there to be a Church not to go to." This sounds rather contradictory, but it is something many people can relate to. We want the church to be there for us all, which indeed it is, but modern life means Sunday mornings can be important time for family activities, visiting friends or just having a long lie-in! Special events in the church such as the Carol Concert, Jubilee Evensong or Crib Service at Christmas are always well-attended by villagers, which indicates the value we place on the church. In difficult times, it is a place to pop in for a quiet moment, to sit and think and reflect. The ancient stones seem to understand and bring relief. At those great events in life such as the christening of a new baby, a marriage or a funeral, the church plays such an important part. We want the church to continue to flourish but also want to create another central space in the village for concerts, talks, coffee mornings, prayer meetings, rehearsals and plays.

Many people who may not attend the Services, already work to keep the church in good order by being on the Cleaning rota, the Maintenance Team, or the Flower Arrangers' Group and we have an active Bell-Ringers group. Their voluntary work is appreciated and vital. Please let us know if you would like to get involved. We would also like to invite everyone to become a member of the Friends of St Michael's Church so that we can widen this group of supporters and develop the church even further. Since Covid our Sunday services have become more diverse and we now have Communion, All Age Services, Taize Worship and services run by congregation, including talks about faith in a Café Church setting, and outdoor services where we celebrate the countryside and wildlife around us. We also offer a Sunday morning online service which you can join on "gotomeeting" or access by phone.

If you would like to join the Friends of St Michael's, please complete the form on the leaflet found in this Bulletin or come along to a free **Drinks and Nibbles** event in the church on **Saturday November 18th at 6.00pm-7.15pm** to hear a little more about our aspirations to develop the Friends of St Michael's. Everyone is welcome.

SUSTAINABLE BLEWBURY TALK – 'TO THE RESCUE: SAVING OUR LOCAL WILDLIFE'

Monday 20th November 8.00pm, Vale Room at the Village Hall

Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue (OWR) is an award-winning wildlife charity that rescues, cares, and recuperates sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals throughout Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Tiny mice, foxes, owls, swans, hedgehogs, and deer are just some of the wild creatures that are nursed back to health by OWR. The charity works with veterinary professionals to care for and rehabilitate its patients, aiming to always release them back to the wild where possible.

Luke Wacławek, founder and CEO will tell us about the specialist techniques and practices his team have developed for a wide variety of different species. He'll advise us on what to do if we find a sick or injured animal, open our eyes to the huge variety of creatures that make their homes around us, and talk through the specific vulnerabilities of these animals and birds. Tickets £6, including a drink of your choice, available at the Post Office or on the door.

RED LION NEWS

Last week we enjoyed hosting a gathering of The Blewbury Players to watch an extract of Channel 4's production of the making of Blewbury's 1983 "Snow Queen", which provided an intriguing and contrasting precursor to viewing this year's video of "Shakespeare In Love". Other local gatherings include the choir on Thursdays, tennis club drinks, croquet club quarterly lunches, WI coffee mornings and the cricket club's AGM and end of season awards ceremony.

Wednesday is our monthly 'quizzical night'- sometimes a Pointless format and by popular request we've introduced a 'winner takes all' monthly darts challenge. Our Thursday combos give you the perfect excuse to take a break from midweek cooking! Enjoy a worldwide variety of tasty street-food plus live music - everything from solo vocalists to electric and acoustic guitar, folk, Blues Americana... and more. Favourite street-foods include Gurkha, Korean, Middle Eastern, Greek and Italian and we're always on the lookout to expand your tastebud repertoire.

We're hosting an increasing number of birthday parties of bespoke three course lunches and dinners for a wide range of ages from 21 to 90. We also broadcast most major sports events - provided not on Sky! Our outdoor, tented TV 'lounge' has proved particularly popular during the Rugby World Cup, and we expect our supply of cosy blankets to be fully deployed for the remaining games as the ambient temperature dips and the finals hot up!

There's much more to come, starting with the judging of our Halloween pumpkin carving competition on Saturday 28th October at 6pm. Remember to drop your entries off by 5pm that day. In the run-up to Christmas we are already taking bookings for parties of 12 to 24 guests for a 3-course traditional Christmas lunch or dinner, so don't leave it too late!

*****Part time vacancy: Kitchen assistant for Fridays and Saturdays. Call Annabel or John on 01235 850403*****



BLEWBURY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 November in our room which is behind Robinson's House (on the road to Parsonage Farm). We are very pleased to welcome visitors to our meetings so please just turn up or contact Audrey Long (01235 850427) or Mary Gaines (01235 850728) for further information. We are continuing to work on the Quaker presence in the village and also on the Miser's coat. Interviews with long time village residents are continuing and are proving to be very successful and informative. We also have many family trees of village residents so if you would like any information about them or could contribute further information to them please contact Audrey Long.



News from St. Michael's

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

You can contact the clergy & staff on: -

Father Jason St John Nicolle
 01235 850267 office@churnchurches.co.uk

Revd Louise Butler
 07837 009730 revlouiseb@aol.com

Revd John Clarke
 01235 510073 jphclarke@gmail.com

Revd Dr Mark Rhodes-Smith
 01235 850267 mark.rhodes-smith@churnchurches.co.uk

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. Website www.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 November 2023 at St Michael's Church:

ALL SAINTS' DAY	† Sunday 5th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	All Age Service
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	† Sunday 12th	11.00 am	Parish Remembrance Service
	Thursday 16 th	10.00 am	MU Holy Communion
2ND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	† Sunday 19th	10.30 am	Choir-led Taizé Service
	Saturday 25 th	12.45 pm	MU Prayer service
CHRIST THE KING	† Sunday 26th	10.30 am	Parish Eucharist

In addition to the services in Church, we continue to have an **online service at 10.30 am every Sunday** via the link <https://meet.goto.com/ChurnBenefice/sundayservice>. We also have **online Compline at 8pm during weekdays** via link <https://meet.goto.com/312446493>.

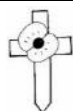
Everyone is invited to the mid-week communion service **every Wednesday at 10am at St Andrew's Hagbourne**.

Please contact the Office if you would like to receive the Churn newsletter by email every Friday. You can unsubscribe at any time.

All Souls' Service - St. Andrew's Hagbourne 5th November 4pm



All are very welcome at this service, which includes the lighting of commemorative candles and reading out of names of those to be remembered. Anyone who would like to have a loved one remembered at this service is invited to let Elaine de Ridder in the Benefice Office know if they wish to add name(s) to the list.



Remembrance Sunday 12th November 11am with Blewbury Brass Band



Please be seated by 10.55am. The service will start with the one minute silence at 11am. Please join us for this special Parish Service of Remembrance. Following the service the congregation will walk up to the War Memorial.



Congratulations to Richard and Lucy Glover who brought their daughter **Amelia Flora Glover** to be baptised at St Michael's on October 14th.

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of the life of this child who has been brought to be baptized. May your blessing of peace and joy be with them and protect them all of their days.



Friends of St Michael's Drinks and Nibbles Event Saturday November 18th at 6.00pm-7.15pm

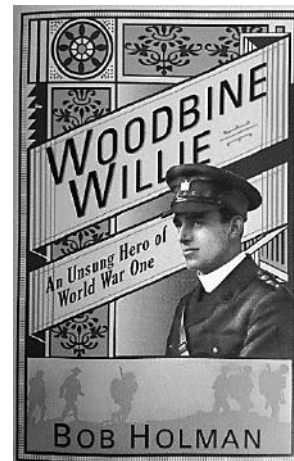
Please see full details elsewhere in the Bulletin.
 Everyone is welcome!



Have you heard of Woodbine Willie?

This month, many people will be taking part in services of Remembrance, remembering the names of those who have given their lives for this country, especially in the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

It is now over 100 years since the end of the 1st World War, but somehow this war has managed to etch itself onto the collective memory of our country. The war produced many well-known figures, among them an Army chaplain nicknamed Woodbine Willie. This was a time when probably the majority of men smoked cigarettes, and Woodbine Willie earned his nickname through his habit of distributing Woodbine cigarettes to the troops. His proper name was Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy. He was born in 1883, and, in addition to his time as a Chaplain to the Forces, he served as the parish priest of two urban parishes: St Paul's Worcester and St. Edmund, Lombard Street, in the City of London.



Woodbine Willie combined warmth of character with a deep faith, and he was able to relate to people from a wide range of backgrounds- hence his great success as an Army chaplain. He wanted to show the relevance of the Christian faith to the ordinary man and woman, as they faced the challenges of everyday life. He communicated his message through preaching, books and poetry. After the War, he worked in association with the Industrial Christian Fellowship, an organisation which tried to present the Christian faith to the world of industry.



Tastes change, and I suspect few if any read Woodbine Willie's writings today. But the heart of his message remains relevant today, especially at this time when we remember the dead of the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Jesus does indeed call Christians to be compassionate: to provide practical help and comfort to all who suffer. But Jesus also calls Christians to address issues relating to social justice: the Kingdom of God isn't just limited to the way we live our lives as individuals, but extends to the way we structure our society as a whole and the way the nations of the world relate to each other on the international stage.

Woodbine Willie knew the pain and complexity of the world as it is. But he was determined to work with others to try and make it a better place. I wonder if we have the courage to follow in his steps?

- Father Jason



Advent Candle-making Service



The whole Benefice is invited to our annual candle-making service.

This year it will be at **St Andrew's Hagbourne on 19th November at 6pm.**

Representatives from all of our 7 churches will be making Advent Candles for us to use.

Do let Elaine know if you would also like to be one of the people making our church's candles for Advent.

Everyone welcome – refreshments afterwards!

16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Mothers' Union (MU) join with other organisations to mark the **16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**. The campaign starts on **Saturday 25th November**, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.



At 1.03pm on that day there will be a "global moment" remembering the one in three people across the world who have experienced gender-based violence. There will be a time of prayer and reflection incorporating this on that day at **12.45pm in Blewbury Church** for 30 minutes. MU members invite you to join them on this significant occasion.

Food Bank Collection

28 October – 6 November



Donations for the Didcot Emergency Foodbank can be dropped off at the Old School House between the dates above or at the Post Office anytime. You can also donate at both Sainsbury's branches in Didcot.

Your generosity would very much be appreciated!

Many thanks, St Michael's Action Group



BONFIRE NIGHT
SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER

TICKERS FOLLY FIELD
GATES OPEN AT 6:00 pm;
BONFIRE AT 6:30 pm; FIREWORKS AT 7:00 pm

TICKETS ON THE GATE: ADULTS £5, UNDER 16s £2
 Ticket price includes baked potato. Beer, wine (mulled and non-mulled!) also on sale.
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COFFEE & KIDS!

Blewbury baby and toddler group meets again on **Monday 6th November** in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall, 9.30am - 11am. Toys, play, chat and refreshments with singing near the end of the session, in a safe and friendly environment. A donation of £2 is appreciated towards our costs. This month you have the opportunity to make a Christmas bauble with your child's handprint, for just £1 each, guided by our "crafty" mum, Kate. Mothers' Union hosts look forward to welcoming you. Louise - 07837 009730



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

We still need to gather data to support traffic calming and if anyone would like to join us, even if you can give up one hour a month it would be appreciated. During the winter months we are restricted by daylight hours, or lack thereof, and dismal weather. Online training takes around 40 minutes and then you will be trained at the roadside, or please come and



talk to us if you see us out and about.

20mph roundel at the entrance to Dibleys to be painted as soon as the lining gang are in the area.

SIDs (Speed Indication Devices) to be installed during October / November 2023, we are sure with some eye-watering evidence of the speed of traffic on our main roads.

With the nights drawing in and with us having no street lights we would urge pedestrians / dog walkers / horse riders / cyclists to use torches or wear high visibility clothing.

Please drive carefully in and around the village, a pedestrian hit at 30mph has a very significant chance of being killed. Most people travelling on our main roads are driving at more than 30mph.

To undertake the training follow the link below

1. Firstly type <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org> into a web browser.
2. Click on the [Register] tab.
3. Then to the left, click on [Join Existing Group].
4. Choose [Thames Valley] from the pull down and click [Continue].
5. Choose [Oxfordshire] from the pull down and click [Continue].
6. Now choose [Didcot Blewbury Speedwatch Group] from the pull down and click [Continue].
7. Finally complete their details in the registration form and follow the emailed instructions.

If you would like to attend a session, with no obligation, or you would like more details please contact Jill Ingoldby on jingoldby@btinternet.com. Remember: the more people we have on the street, the easier it is to keep the streets safe!

FROM OUR CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT

I think I can call our recent Apple Day a success! Approximately 50-75 people turned up and there was a wonderful buzz about the whole garden (enhanced by a swarm of wasps attracted to the apples). The new entrance sign made by our local Men's Shed was erected in time, the weather was absolutely splendid, and there was only one casualty requiring First Aid, and I managed to get stung twice by wasps whilst picking up buckets of prepared fruit, but was able to assuage the pain by applying a chewed plantain leaf to the stings, which worked!

In addition to the aforementioned equipment from the Tool Library, we were also able to borrow a scratter (shredder) from another community garden, complete with experienced operator! I left her in charge of a tableful of willing volunteers busily preparing apples, and others cranking the handle on the scratter. The equipment had its shortcomings – it is bulky and had to be lifted onto a table to enable a bucket to be positioned to catch the juice, and we had to slide an extra tray under it to ensure no juice was wasted. However, having sorted out the logistics, many apples were pressed and much juice was bottled and sampled.

Catherine was kept very busy selling her excellent apple chutney, apple cake, glasses of fresh juice, and apple chips made in the dehydrator, which was also demonstrated. Most people had never tasted freshly pressed juice before and were unaware how delicious it was. Visitors were also able to admire a display of the many types of apples being used and taste samples. We raised over \$600 for the Neighbourhood House in sales and donations!

Visitors enjoyed a potluck lunch of mainly apple-themed dishes prepared by volunteers, but unfortunately due to a mix-up over dates, our anticipated cider maker was unable to attend; however, we were all so busy nobody missed him!

We are already planning the next Apple Day and debating whether to invest in better equipment. In the meantime, we have two cases of cider awaiting tasting – it might even be drinkable! And my apple cider vinegar is now bottled and maturing. All the waste from the pressing was put in a black compost bin, layered with fallen leaves, and in two weeks has reduced by half and composting nicely! *Angela Hoy (angelahoy23@gmail.com)*

JOIN OUR NEW CHOIR!

Do you love singing? Would you like to sing in a group? Our new Choir is up and running and we are having great fun. Children and Young People and family members – come and sing with us as we learn new songs for Christmas. Happy Voices Family Choir meets on Mondays in term time from 6.00 – 6.45pm in The Benefice Centre, St Michael's Church, Blewbury.

For more information, contact Sharon at sharon.mrsphillips@gmail.com or Karen at karen.marsden@gmail.com

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APPLE JUICING

Our 2023 public sessions are finished. But you can HIRE our equipment for £15 in Blewbury and Upton, £20 elsewhere. For bookings or more information contact us at info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk or 07935 232296

SB talk – 8.00 pm, Monday 20 November in the Vale Room, Village Hall – ‘Saving our local wildlife’

By Luke Waclawek, founder and CEO of Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue, more information on page 9 of this Bulletin.

BLEWBURY NATURE RESERVE

We have now signed the lease with Thames Water and are the tenants of the Nature Reserve for 10 years. It's taken a while to get to this position but it's good to have finalised this. Alec Latham has been surveying the plants on site and recorded 69 species. A couple of people have seen common lizards but not in the 'reptile' area! It's good to know they are there. Thanks to everyone who helped recently. Our next **volunteering days** are **11 November** and **9 December**. For more information or details email: secretary@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk.

REPAIR CAFE – 2–4 pm, Sunday, 19 November in the Village Hall

In spite of the rain we held a very successful repair cafe on 17 September. Nearly every item was able to be repaired or sharpened – a record!



Photo: Jane Kinniburgh

BLEWBURY FREECYCLE FREE ITEMS TO A GOOD HOME	E-MAIL	TEL NO.
1. extending ladder, converts to step ladder 2. roll of greenhouse shading, unused 3. 3 ring supports for growbag tomatoes 4. beach windbreak	Gill Edwards gilliedwards8@gmail.com	07711 904612
• Various jam jars • Brand new mandoline that doesn't just slice veg but 'juliennes' it.	Chris Whatmore editor@blewbury.co.uk	851055
To freecycle your item please send a short description, email & phone number to Lydia Inglis (lydandmuz@gmail.com)		

Getting involved in Sustainable Blewbury contributes to the village and its environment.

To participate, email us at: info@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk or phone 01235 850372.



BLEWBURY WI NEWS

Wednesday 22 November Main monthly meeting 7.30pm Vale room. We are thrilled to welcome Steve Wilkinson with "Defying Logic" - a Magician and mentalist who will thrill us (we hope)! Apparently, there are five words he often hears after his performance - "how did he do that"? We hope to experience some astonishing magic and mind reading. Prepare to be amazed and have a fun evening.

As well as our monthly meetings how about Scrabble, craft, walks, Mah Jong, pub lunches, afternoon teas out, coffee mornings, all sorts? Plus our new Book Club has now been launched and will have met for the first time in late October to discuss the Book - "How the one-armed sister sweeps her house" by Cherie Jones.

We all love to make new friends. You need never feel lonely in Blewbury. Just give it a try! If you'd like to come along with someone else or find out more, ring our Secretary, Joy, on 850543 or email blewburywi@gmail.com.

Calendar of events

Every Monday afternoon	2.30pm	Mah Jong	Sharon
Friday 3 November	7pm	Craft evening	Val
Friday 10 November NB at The Red Lion	10.30am	Coffee morning	Trish
Thursday 16 November	2.30pm	Afternoon Scrabble	Susan
Wednesday 22 November	7.30pm	Main meeting	Joy
Wednesday 29 November	7pm	Evening Scrabble	Lyn

CAROL CONCERT – WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER – ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Plans are going ahead for our Carol Concert with great enthusiasm. All details in next Bulletin about how to take part in the ad hoc orchestra which will again be conducted by professional conductor Richard Blackford ; the Brass Band will be there and St Michael's Church Choir, Blewsing and some lovely Christmas readings. Lots of great Carols for all to sing – the usual format. A wonderful event which heralds all Christmas Festivities.



THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE, JULY 2024. DIRECTED BY ERICA HARLEY

A gem of a play. This is full of action, humour, music, and emotion. One of Bertolt Brecht's most celebrated plays - a wonderful story performed by a gang of actors - in a new translation. **Auditions will be held on 3 & 4 February.**

We had a great turn out for our launch event. Thanks to everyone who came with such enthusiasm. We video recorded all that Erica shared about her love for this play and her vision for our production next summer. This has been posted on our website www.blewburyplayers.co.uk for those who were unable to attend. We encourage anybody interested in joining the production team in performing or non-performing roles to get in touch @ blewburyplayers@gmail.com.



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CAN YOU HELP THE UNITED CHARITIES THIS WINTER?

We are pleased to report that we have continued to be able to help individuals and families in Blewbury, Upton and the Astons over the summer months as the economy has continued to put stress on everyday living expenses. We would like to thank those of you who have helped to make this possible by generously donating to help our local people.

As we approach the winter and Christmas, things are unlikely to get any easier for those struggling financially. We are therefore reaching out again to the local community for a helping hand. Any amount of money would be appreciated and can be donated through our Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/ucab. We thank you very much in advance and if you have any questions, please do get in touch with us by email unitedcharities@outlook.com

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

BLEWSHED NEWS

Community Projects: If you've been to Tickers Folly Field recently you might have seen the new park bench, just completed and installed by BlewShed members. We hope you enjoyed taking a moment to sit there in comfort. The old and rickety bench will still have many more years of life after BlewShed completes its refurbishment over autumn and winter. Another winter project we are about to embark on is an assessment of the cricket club's ageing mower to see if it can be repaired. Skilled engineers in the Shed will be wielding their spanners soon.

Before then BlewShed is holding a 'DIY for beginners' session on Tuesday 24th October, where attendees will have the chance to learn something about basic DIY tools and tasks. This session is now fully booked but we will be repeating it for those unable to attend.

Meetings: Those who attended October's meeting enjoyed a fascinating account of the role of Dunkirk 'Little Ship' Cordelia, currently undergoing restoration by current owner Keith Moseley of Didcot Woodturners. Her post WW2 history saw her sink at her Thames moorings during a flood, resulting in extensive damage. A huge amount of careful and arduous work enabled her to be refloated this year. The subject of the next meeting, on **Tuesday 7th November, 7.30pm**, will be 'clock making and restoration' by Dick Street. All are welcome.

Opening times and membership: Regular Shed opening times are Tuesday and Saturday afternoons 1.30-4.00 pm. BlewShed is also open on Thursday afternoons 2.00-4pm for those with a special interest in electronics.

BlewShed annual membership fee is £25 and is excellent value, that not only includes expert advice from fellow members but also the use of a very well-equipped workshop. Come and learn some new skills!

'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/>



HELLO FROM YOUR NEW CO-ORDINATORS - VIKKI CLARIDGE & LISA SHAYLER

Firstly thank you to Pip for her patience during the handover of this role, she will be a hard act to follow! It is a pleasure to take on this vital fundraising role: it may have been many years since our own children were lucky enough to attend Blewbury Pre School but it is never forgotten what a special setting it is.

The winning numbers for the October **Blewbury Pre-School Lottery** were as follows: 1st - 041; 2nd - 063; 3rd - 023. In October, the prize fund of £175 was shared (50%/30%/20%) between the three winners and £175 was raised for Blewbury Pre-School. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all our members.

Membership spaces are available - to be a part of the next draw, download and fill out a form from www.blewburypreschool.co.uk (also available from the Post Office) or email lottery@blewburypreschool.co.uk

INVITATION TO FILM SCREENING BY MAX VARVILL

Young Film maker Max Varvill will be screening his first hour length film, 'No Ordinary Passion' in the Vale Room on **Thursday 23rd November**. We are delighted to share it with friends and neighbours in Blewbury.

The film records the life of an extraordinary artist, sculptor and builder, Rory Young, who died earlier this year. Regarded by many as a modern day William Morris, Rory's life has been filled with creating beautiful things. The film will be of interest to anyone who loves historic buildings, art and craft.

Doors open at 6.45, and the film starts at 7.15. Tickets are £5 each, to include a glass of wine. All proceeds to charity. Tickets available in advance at the Post Office, or on the door.



Rory Young in his workshop

NATURE NOTES

Spider! Thou need'st not run in fear about
To shun my curious eyes,
I won't humanely crush thy bowels out,
Lest thou should'st eat the flies.
Robert Southey 'To a Spider', 1799

Admittedly not everyone's cup of tea, late autumn is the time when we come in to contact the most with spiders. The autumn season is when male spiders go in search of mates and some spiders seek the warmth and shelter of our homes. Arachnophobia is a common condition, with around 75% of the population being uncomfortable with spiders, but, as we will see, in truth there is very little to fear. There are around 660 species of spider in the UK. Of these only about 12 can bite through human skin and only two can cause what can be classed as a painful bite.

The name spider is derived from the Old English word *spinnan*, easily translated to 'spinner'. And whilst most spiders do spin a web not all species do. The tiny Zebra Spider actively pursues its prey. I often watch them on a sunny fence in the garden. First, they wait motionless, monitoring for prey using two pairs of eyes on the side of their head. Once a victim is detected the much larger front-facing eyes help the spider judge the distance it has to jump to get it.

The classic spider found in the bath is, more often than not, one of the three *Tegenaria* species of commonly encountered house spiders. The male often roams at night in search of a female. The females are found inside their funnel shaped webs. After mating she will store the male's sperm overwinter then lay fertilised eggs in the spring. *Tegenaria* also includes the Cardinal Spider (*Tegenaria parietina*), the UK's largest, with some male spiders having 120mm leg span!

The Daddy-longlegs Spider (*Pholcus phalangioides*) have very long, thin legs and a grey body. They make a tangled, non-sticky web and when disturbed they can vibrate rapidly, becoming almost a blur. These are the species that gave rise to the myth that they have the most powerful venom in the world but are too weak to bite through human skin. This is of course complete nonsense. Another species steeped in hyperbolic myth is the Noble False Widow Spider (*Steatoda nobilis*), a favourite of tabloid headlines. It does have a more toxic bite than any other native UK spider and it deserves our respect. I have several of them living in my attic quite peacefully. They live almost entirely within the funnel of their web. They are very shy, reclusive creatures. I only really notice them when they discard their prey, normally Wasps or mosquitos which are far more bothersome. Spiders provide this ecosystem service all for free! *Glen Meadows*

WEBSITE BUILDER WANTED!

The Malthus Trust would like to commission a computer science student in the village to build a basic website for our Blewbury-based educational charity. Ideally this would include a home page, links to the Trust's objects and policies, and a facility to allow applicants to apply for funding. Please contact malthustrustchair1@gmail.com with details of your experience in this field and your proposed charge to undertake the work.

BRIDGE CLUB

The AGM was held on Tuesday 10th October, ahead of a shortened session of bridge. Hilary Strang retired from the Committee and a vote of thanks was passed for her 10 years' support. Matt Wright has been welcomed as a new member onto the Committee. It was also decided at the AGM that we should, when it is Blewbury's turn (alternate weeks) to host Wantage Bridge Club online on Thursday evenings, change the platform we use from BBO to Realbridge, with self-alerting. Dermot Paddon has kindly agreed to run this, but it may take a few weeks to implement as training, etc., will be required, and one or two support Directors also recruited. The club will be kept informed about developments by email. We are running a heat of the annual Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs charity event once again this year, at our Tuesday evening session on November 7th. We will be collecting CASH only again for this one event on the night. Minimum of £3 per player, but it is hoped that more will be given - also that as many members as possible will support this very worthwhile charity. Similarly, on Thursday 9th November, Wantage will be running a heat of the CiN Simultaneous Pairs on Realbridge - £3 per player, collected as normal from your usual payments by bank transfer to Wantage. This would normally be a Blewbury BBO evening but their event will take place instead, and so the alternating weeks will change thereafter, with Blewbury hosting Wantage on November 16th, either on BBO or, hopefully by then, Realbridge. So, the Thursday evening online sessions for November will be

- Wantage on Realbridge - 2nd, 9th (CiN Sim Pairs), 23rd
- Blewbury on BBO or Realbridge - 16th and 30th.

NOTE - there will be no bridge F2F on Tuesday 28th November, as the Vale Room is needed for another event. It is hoped to run Friday evening Social Bridge on November 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.

Oxfordshire Bridge Association has decided to hold its qualification events for the County Pairs in clubs, on normal club nights. The first of these for Blewbury will be November 21st (members only). If you are not interested in this it is of no matter - just come and play as normal. Any pair scoring more than 50% will be eligible to play in the semi-finals on Realbridge on February 1st, 11th or 17th, if you wish to. The final is on March 17th.

The Blewbury Bridge Club playing year ends on 30th October. Cups will be awarded for Men's Tuesday Ladder, Women's Tuesday Ladder and Handicap Pairs. New competitions will begin 1st November. *Michael Allen 851870*



DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

At my door the rain is falling, the cold wild winds will come. . . . !'

So sang the late, great, Johnny Cash! **Autumn** is now upon us and what better way for **retired** or **semi-retired** individuals looking to keep active and making good use of their time-rich leisure days wishing to keep expanding on their life knowledge experiences and wishing to meet with like-minded people. . . . this can be achieved by visiting and joining your local branch of the University of the Third Age (**u3a**) in the Didcot and surrounding district which happens at **Monthly Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday in the month in the Didcot Civic Hall, starting at 2:30 pm., with a warm Welcome to current and new members** along with tea and biscuits **and an interesting presentation by Guest Speakers!** On 21st November there will be a talk entitled **Freda Skene: Oxford writer, prison reformer** by **Liz Woolley**.

In addition, at these monthly meetings you can learn about the numerous Interest Groups on offer (over 30!) which include diverse topics such as, photography, learn languages, nature and family history, ukulele, science/maths/technology to name but a **few** !

For details email chairman@didcotu3a.org or secretary@didcotu3a.org or visit www.u3asites.org.uk/didcot.

LETTER FROM DAVID JOHNSTON MP

I was really pleased with how my Pensioners' Fair in Wantage went. Lots of pensioners were able to get information and advice from a wide range of organisations, including Vale Community Impact, Carers Oxfordshire, Thames Valley Police and Grove Day Centre. My thanks again to Driving Miss Daisy in Didcot for sponsoring it.

Last month, I officially opened Soha Housing's new building in Wallingford, Frances Curtis Court. It provides retirement living options and I was very impressed that they had managed to build it on time and on budget despite the pandemic. It was particularly nice that Frances Curtis's Grandson was able to be there for the event, too.

Andy Baker is a local hero in Didcot and I am proud to be a patron of his charity, Play2Give. It was great to be able to be at his 2023 Gatsby Ball last month, a really great event with 140 people in attendance. It celebrated his organisation having now raised more than £100,000 for Oxford Children's Hospital. Well done, Andy!

Two things for you and your families to participate in before next month. I have just launched my annual Christmas Card Competition for primary school children. It's open till the 13th November and entries need to be on an A4 page – the winning design will go on the front of my card! I've also opened a survey asking what you think about the PM's proposal to increase the age you can buy cigarettes by a year every year so that a 14-year-old today is never able to buy one. Find details on both at www.david-johnston.org.uk. And do please sign my Grove Station Petition while you're there if you haven't already!

It's been a very busy first few weeks as Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing. I've met with lots of individuals and charities that work in the areas I'm now responsible for; helped to launch a new £70 million programme to improve support for children with special educational needs; responded on behalf of the Government in a debate about kinship carers (family members who take in children who can't live with their parents); hosted visits by Ministers from Sweden and the Netherlands to share ideas; and launched more of the Government's work to reform children's social care.

There've been plenty of visits, too – including to nurseries, a family hub, a children's home and the Seashell Trust, a charity that supports children with learning disabilities and autism. There's lots to do – the Special Educational Needs, Alternative Provision and Children's Social Care System are all being significantly reformed simultaneously and, at the same time, the Government is making the single largest investment in childcare ever to dramatically increase the free hours of childcare parents can claim. This constituency will always be my primary focus but I'm very much enjoying my additional responsibilities so far.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please get in touch via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

BLEWBURY CALENDAR 2024

Bernard's Blewbury Calendar with full colour photographs of Blewbury scenes and events and lots of space for writing your appointments, etc. will be on sale from the middle of November at Blewbury Post Office or ring Bernard Mattimore to reserve and we will deliver 01235 851088 bernardmat@btinternet.com. **Price £8.** A lovely gift or treat yourself. Thank You



STYLE ACRE 'SPARKLE AND DINE' BALL

Come and join us on **Friday 3rd November from 7.00pm-Midnight** for one of our biggest fundraising event of 2023, our **Sparkle & Dine Charity Ball** at Benson Parish Hall, Benson, Oxford. The night will be a spectacular evening of entertainment including Drinks on arrival, 3-course meal, live music, charity casino, silent auction, live auction, raffle and much more, all whilst raising money for Style Acre.

Dress Code: Black tie/Lounge suit and smart/cocktail dresses. **Seating:** Tables of 10, discount for full table bookings

PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of Blewbury Parish Council's meeting: 7pm, **Wednesday 11 October 2023**, in the Melland Room.

Present: Dermot Mathias (chair), Sheila Austin, Andrew Calder, Jane Gibson, Lydia Inglis, Anne Millman, Lee Robinson, Julia Saunders and Mark Shayler. Also present Elizabeth Cooper (clerk) and David Hollick (lengthman). Apologies were received from district councillors Hayleigh Gascoigne and Debra Dewhurst, and county councillor Sally Povolotsky.

Green Bin recycling

The Vale is asking residents to 'check it before you chuck it' as part of a drive to increase the amount and quality of recycling in the district. Because of contamination, around 11% of SODC/Vale's yearly green bin contents are rejected for recycling. Please follow these general tips:

- recycling should be clean, dry and loose
- glass jars and food trays should be 100% clean
- food waste, black bags, nappies, textiles, film from the top of plastic trays, plastic bags, plastic pouches (e.g. for pet and baby foods), sweet wrappers and crisp bags wrappers CANNOT be recycled via the Vale's green bins.

For more info go to southandvale.gov.uk/checkit

Health and wellbeing

Oxfordshire, like many other counties, is facing mounting challenges due to an ageing population, increased demand for services, mental health and wellbeing concerns in young people and significant inequalities in health service provision. A cross-county partnership is working to develop a strategy that gives power to communities to help deliver support so that people can make healthy choices, live independently and stay happier and healthier for longer. Please have your say by commenting on the new draft health and wellbeing strategy, open until 12 November at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/health-wellbeing>

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/), 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/V2066/HH & P23/2067/LB Granary House, London Road Refurbish and convert existing curtilage listed storage outbuilding into an ancillary residential annex for a family member or dependent relative. BPC has no objection, but asks that the proposed ancillary accommodation remains closely associated with – and subordinate to – the main house, in order to avoid future subdivision of this narrow plot on the main road.

P23/V2131/HH Lantern Cottage, South Street Proposed amendments to Planning Permission P22/V1817/HH dated 8 September 2022, and additional new proposals for the replacement of all of the existing single glazed windows with new double glazed upvc windows; replacement of existing door to the Tea Room with new upvc door; raising of the cills of the windows to the Tea Room and bricking up beneath, and insertion of a new Velux conservation rooflight in the existing rear roof. BPC objects to this application as Lantern Cottage is a non-designated heritage asset (NDHA) whose traditional features are part of the historic fabric and character of Blewbury's conservation area. The early C20 shopfront tells the story of this building's social history, and could be repaired and fitted with secondary glazing to improve the building's thermal efficiency. The village NDP also states that upvc is not a suitable replacement material for traditional windows or doors in the conservation area.

P23/V2079/HH & P23/V2046/LB Orchard Dene House, Watts Lane. Rear Extension. BPC has no objection.

Enquiries regarding planning in the parish may be sent to blewburypc@gmail.com

NEED TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS?	
Sheila Austin 3 Ladycroft Park	Anne Millman Brook Cottage, Church End
Andrew Calder Trefagus, Chapel Lane	Lee Robinson 6 Chailey Gardens
Lydia Inglis Chapmans, Nottingham Fee	Julia Saunders Charity School House, Church Road
Jane Gibson 5 Westbrook Green	Mark Shayler 2 Eastfields
Dermot Mathias The Old Mill, Berry Lane	Elizabeth Cooper (Clerk) 07968 772935 or blewburypc@gmail.com

The next PC meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 8 November 2023, in the Melland Room at the Clubhouse.

HELP TO CUT HALLOWEEN WASTE

Did you know, around 22 million pumpkins go to waste each year - that's around £32 million worth of edible food! Once Halloween is over, to save money and reduce food waste, why not cook and eat your pumpkin. If cooking your pumpkin isn't an option, then simply cut it up and put it in your food waste bin, or you can put it out whole next to your food bin on your next food waste collection day– just remember to remove any candles or decorations first. Or you can put it in your compost bin instead if you have one.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE



Hello from Hayleigh and Debra:

This month we had a full council meeting on 11th October (minutes published on the VOWHDC website). Two motions were passed: one regarding the council's ongoing commitment to being a Real Living Wage employer and extending that to employees of third-party contractors, and a second motion committing to tackling period poverty. We are, as a council, working on our Joint Local Plan with South Oxfordshire District Council, which will guide what kinds of new housing and infrastructure such as leisure facilities, green spaces and transport, are needed and where they should go. It will also outline the ways we can meet our targets to make our part of the county carbon neutral by setting environmental standards for development.

You may have noticed that work has started to prepare the new junction with the A4130 for Valley Park. We understand that Valley Park and its impacts continue to be a concern for residents. As a result, when the planning application for the first parcel of 172 homes was ready for a decision this month, we decided to bring this to planning committee. This means that rather than a planning officer making the decision, a committee of councillors considers the application during a meeting where members of the public and parish councils can raise their concerns. Debra spoke at the meeting on behalf of residents, reminding the committee that, although not in the scope of this application, these homes when first occupied, will lack the infrastructure needed to support them: healthcare, childcare and education, which are massively overstretched. Supporting infrastructure will be provided, as per the Valley Park outline planning permission, but will come later in the development when a certain number of homes are occupied. She also raised other issues residents had expressed concerns about including the noise from the A4130 for the homes closest to it, especially with the potential dualling of the A4130 due to HIF1.

It was good to see that the developers, Persimmon Homes, have made a commitment that each of these homes will have solar panels, air source heat pumps, EV chargers and cycle parking. Planning permission was granted by the committee. The meeting is available to watch on YouTube under South and Vale Committee Meetings.

Council News

Fun for all the family this October half-term: A range of free and low-cost activities are available for children and families during the October half-term across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. From orienteering to dance, sports and theatre. See whitehorsedc.gov.uk/HolidayActivities.

Supporting safer places: Our Community Safety team works closely with the police and local businesses to identify organisations and locations that can become **Safe Places** for people in need of help or somewhere to go where they feel safe, whether they may be frightened, are in need of medical support or just having a bad day. They can be identified by a nationally recognisable logo, which we have shared in the link below. We're looking for more organisations and businesses in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse that would be happy to sign up to being a Safe Place for our residents. They can find out more at www.safeplaces.org.uk or by emailing our **Community Safety team**.

More than £56,000 given away for climate action projects: solar panels for Little Pippins Pre-School in Harwell, **EV chargers for Blewbury Village Hall** and interactive displays to show the Harwellian Club's energy usage are just a few of the projects offered financial support by VOWHDC through its Climate Action Fund this month.

We use these monthly updates to keep you updated on our activities and general council news. We also post on our councillor Facebook Pages: www.facebook.com/CLlrHayleigh & www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell Please get in touch with any issues or concerns, either via email: hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Jeff and Peter's Music Quiz

Blewbury Village Hall

Saturday 11 November, 2023

Quiz begins 8pm PROMPT

Tickets £10 from Blewbury Post Office

Hall and bar open from 7.15pm

Please support the bar. Monies raised will be donated to activities for young people in the village.

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**

Autumn Leaves The dates for November 2023 Bingo Sessions in The Vale Room at Blewbury Village Hall, at 2pm are November 7th and 21st. For further information please call Cilla Maguire (01235 851966). If anyone would like to join Autumn Leaves, please contact Cilla on the above phone number. We would welcome any new members.

Astons Online Our **November round table webinar using Zoom** will be 10:30 on Tuesday 7 November 2023. Book your place at theastonsonline@gmail.com. Visit us at **Didcot Health Day** on Saturday 18 November in Didcot Civic Hall 10am - 2pm where we'll be helping with digital health resources. Astons Online's **November in-person event** in Astons Village Hall (OX119EQ) is on Tuesday 21 November from 10:00 to 12:00. Please tell us if you're coming, what you'd like to talk about and whether you'd like a 1:1 session. Website: www.astonsonline.uk, email as above.

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 (see p5 for details)

Until October 30th: Mon, Wed, Thu: 9.00am – 3.00pm. Tue and Fri: 8.30am – 12 noon and 2.30 - 5pm.

From October 31st to November 30th: Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 3.00pm

VILLAGE DIARY for November 2023

				Page
Saturday	4	6 pm	Fireworks Night, Tickers Folly Field	7
Monday	6	9.30-11 am	Coffee & Kids!, Vale Room	13
Tuesday	7	9.30-10.30 am	Introductory session for parents, Blewbury School	
Tuesday	7	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	22
Tuesday	7	7.30 pm	BlewShed meeting, The Shed, Recreation Ground	17
Wednesday	8	7 pm	Parish Council meeting, Melland Room, Blewbury Clubhouse	20
Thursday	9	9.30-10.30 am	Introductory session for parents, Blewbury School	
Thursday	9	5-6 pm	Introductory session for parents, Blewbury School	
Saturday	11	8 pm	Jeff & Peter's Music Quiz	5
Sunday	12	10.45 am	Remembrance Day service, St Michael's church	1
Tuesday	14	8 pm	Local History Group, Robinsons, Parsonage Lane	9
Saturday	18	6-7.15 pm	Friends of St Michael's inaugural meeting	9,10
Sunday	19	2-4 pm	Repair Café, Village Hall	15
Monday	20	8 pm	SB Talk 'To the Rescue: Saving Our Local Wildlife', Vale Room	9
Tuesday	21	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	22
Wednesday	22	7.30 pm	WI meeting and magic show "Defying Logic", Vale Room	15
Wednesday	22	7.30 pm	Deadline for April Bulletin – Swallows, Church Road	
Thursday	23	6.45 pm	Film: 'No Ordinary Passion', Vale Room	17
Saturday	25	7 pm	Blewbury Brass Band concert, Village Hall	5
Saturday	25	9.45 pm	Matty Horkan fundraiser, Red Lion	5
Saturday	25	7.30 pm	Jazz at Mockbeggars, Mockbeggars Hall, Church End	7
Thursday	30	7.30 pm	Blewbury Song for Europe, Village Hall	3

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 as a Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, JPEG or PDF attachment, or typed/handwritten and delivered to **Swallows, Church Road, Blewbury OX11 9PY**.

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.

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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