

Blewbury Bulletin

Number 666 July/August 2024

BLEWBURY SCHOOL RATED 'GOOD' AND 'OUTSTANDING'

Blewbury School is delighted with the outcomes from its recent Ofsted inspection, which gave the School an overall grade of 'Good' with its Early Years provision being graded as 'Outstanding'. The now published Ofsted report recognises the School's 'high ambitions' and how children work hard, behave well and achieve well. It states that leaders '*have high aspirations for pupils. They share the same inclusive vision and keep pupils at the heart of decision-making*'. Inspectors also praised the School's focus on reading, and how it 'provides well for pupils' wider development' with a range of experiences such as pupil leadership opportunities, trips and clubs.

The 'Outstanding' Early Years provision is highlighted, with the report stating that '*children get off to an excellent start. The early years curriculum prepares children well for the next stage of their education. Children cooperate extremely well with each other and happily share resources with friends.*'

Headteacher, Jo Reeder, said: '*We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the inspection. The first sentence of the report 'pupils*

are proud of their inclusive and caring school' absolutely reflects our ethos. I am incredibly proud of the staff team for their hard work and dedication; and am grateful to governors, parents, carers and wider community for supporting the School on its improvement journey. I am delighted with the way pupils articulated and showed our values to the inspectors, who particularly commented to us on how respectful and tolerant they were of each other's views and differences.'

The successful inspection outcome marks an important milestone for our School which joined multi-academy trust Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) in January 2020 following a previous inspection that was not so positive. The School has since undergone a transformation with new leadership and support from ODST.

Anne Dellar, ODST Chief Executive said: '*Ofsted inspections are rigorous and to be graded 'Good' with 'Outstanding' for Early Years education is a remarkable achievement. Children really are getting the best possible start at Blewbury. I'm extremely proud of the School leaders, staff and children, who make it such a happy and inclusive environment in which to learn. Blewbury strives for excellence and ODST will continue to support the school through this next exciting chapter.*'

The School governors, led by Ann Parham, have also congratulated the School for this huge commendation for its work.



Jo Reeder (left) & Ann Parham with four jubilant House Captains

COULD YOU HELP DELIVER THE BULLETIN?

The Blewbury Bulletin team includes around 30 volunteers who once a month deliver the latest issue to every street in the village. From time to time, some of them retire from the job or move away, and now is one of those times! So if you could spare up to an hour a month helping to get the Bulletin to its readers, we'd love to hear from you. To apply, or for more details, please email Kathy Edmunds, our Local Distribution Manager, at kathy_edmunds@btinternet.com.

JULY ROAD CLOSURES

Between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm on Wednesday July 10th two Blewbury roads will be closed for tree pruning and maintenance works.

The closure at the bottom of **Bohams Road** will block vehicular traffic access to Tickers Folly Field and Recreation Ground car parks and all points south. The closure at Whiteshoot at the top of **Woodway Road** will block vehicular access to all points south of Downside Farm. In both cases pedestrian access will be maintained.

BULLETIN STOP PRESS SERVICE

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The Caucasian Chalk Circle at Orchard Dene Garden Theatre - 17-20 July 2024.

Box office IS NOW OPEN online at www.blewburyplayers.co.uk.

You can also order picnics!

Did you know?

- > We open the garden and the bar one hour before the performances.
- > We welcome you to enjoy a drink and maybe a picnic (bring your own, or order when booking tickets) on the lawn before moving through to our open-air auditorium with seating 200+ each performance. The seating is tiered from row C upwards.
- > Each year up to 100 local people contribute in so many ways to create a wonderful summer event. Why not add it to your summer calendar?
- > Performances start at 8pm (plus 3pm matinee on 20 June) and tickets are Adults £15, Child £8 (under 18)



This play is full of action, humour, music and emotion. A wonderful story performed by a gang of actors - in a new translation. **This production has 24 plus actors, 66 characters, multiple costumes and props, short scenes, changing locations and musical moments, we tell a universal story. Grusha, a maid, flees with abandoned baby Michael and faces many challenges to protect him. This is a story as old as Solomon, of motherhood and maternal love. What makes a good mother: a mother by blood or mother by nurture? Is Azdak a drunk or genius - judge or villain? Who will he protect - the landowners or the people? The Caucasian Chalk Circle welcomes the audience into a world of huge characters, big emotions, and the eternal question of who has the right to claim ownership - who should own what?**

Directed by Erica Harley. This adaptation provides an alternative and more accessible version than the more traditional text. Described as a masterpiece of 20th century drama.

Front of House roles. Fancy joining the front of House Team? Please call David Long on 01235 851574 or 07484 360169 or @blewburyplayers@gmail.com

For updates on events refer to www.blewburyplayers.co.uk, Facebook or Instagram. You can contact us at blewburyplayers@gmail.com

GET READY FOR THE FÊTE!

We are excited to share with you the details of our up and coming Village Fête which will be held on Saturday 6th of July from 1pm till 4pm (see also our ad on page 14).

We are raising money for the school in hopes of purchasing some new play equipment for the school playground. We will be running a variety of stalls, BBQ, bar and the lovely WI will be hosting Tea and cake in the school hall. We also have our exciting summer trail and dance performances.

We need your help in order to make the day a success. Most of our PTA and teachers will be running the day, however we do need a little extra help. We are looking for families or kids that could run a stall. The stalls we have in mind are tombola, face painting, coconut shy and hook-a-duck. If you could spare a few hours to help us out, please do let us know. If you have a fabulous idea for a stall you'd like to run, please do let us know your ideas and we can make it happen.

We are also in need of donations towards...

- Our teddy (e.g. soft toys), bottle (any bottled drink) and chocolate
- Good quality 2nd hand toys
- Good quality 2nd hand children's books
- Plants for our Plant Stall
- Garden games - we would like to borrow some garden games to have around for people to play.

Please email us at pta@blewbury.oxon.sch.uk if you have any ideas, are happy to donate anything or are able to volunteer so we can keep track of what we have coming and what we still need.

We look forward to seeing you and hope to raise lots of money for our School. Many thanks, *Blewbury School PTA*

BLEWSING - BLEWBURY CHOIR



BlewSing meet weekly in term times on Thursday evenings at the Melland Room on the Recreation Ground on Blewbury 7.30 – 9.15 p.m. with Mark Stanley as their esteemed teacher and conductor. The choir always sings for pleasure. There are no auditions and no requirement to read music; the only requirement is simply a love of singing. We need to know who is coming along so, if you would like to join us and/or would like further information re dates, fees, repertoire etc, please contact Sheila Loy on sloy24@gmail.com or have a look at our website: <http://www.blewsing.org/>

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IN MEMORIAM

ERIC EISENHANDLER

Claire, Dan, and Seanna want to thank our Blewbury friends for the many heartfelt and much appreciated messages of condolence. Eric died on 16 April in Sobell House with all three of us present. *Claire Eisenhandler*

BERNARDINE SHIRLEY-SMITH

During her years in Blewbury Bernardine made several contributions to village life. She joined the BVS Committee soon after arrival and then became a very diligent Chairman. The Blewbury Environment Group – later to become Sustainable Blewbury – was founded in 1993 and Bernardine was one of the small group of people who helped to set it up. As a Biology teacher her contributions were invaluable.

A surprising side of her character was revealed when she became really keen on playing Croquet and she did what she could to launch the Croquet Club.

Her gentle manner and elegant poise endeared her to many and neighbouring children, when mildly distressed, were often warmed by her wise words.

Bernardine wrote 'Nature Notes' for the Bulletin for many years and when her failing health stopped her from undertaking long walks she would write the notes based on observations from her garden, sometimes just by looking out of the window.

Bernardine died recently, in peace, in a care home. She would have turned 90 on August 1st. *Anita Rendel*

COLIN BANKS

Sadly Colin Banks, of Grahame Close, passed away at the John Radcliffe Hospital on May 14 after a short admission. Colin was a very well known member of the village community and had lived in Blewbury for over 40 years with his wife Norma, who was very well loved and cared for during her illness by Colin before passing away in 2022.

Colin and Norma raised their children Jamie and Katie in the village for many years and were active participants in Blewbury life. They enjoyed attending the Summer Dance, making Scarecrows for the autumn competition and Colin was a regular at The Red Lion. His family have fond memories of going to see Father Christmas on the Playclose on Christmas eve and having BBQs with their neighbours in Grahame Close.

During his retirement from Culham Laboratory, Colin was a fun-loving and caring character around the village, visiting lonely older residents and hosting three Ukrainian refugees who he saw as his extended family.

He will be very much missed by his family and friends. *Jamie Banks*

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN BLEWBURY

The Trustees of the Educational Foundation of William Malthus will meet again in September to consider applications for financial assistance from the following:

- Parents of Blewbury School pupils moving on to State Secondary Schools in September 2024, to help toward cost of uniform and other essential items.
- Students currently at or about to start University.
- Students currently attending or about to start at other establishments of Further Education.
- Individuals about to commence Apprenticeships.
- Anyone under the age of 25 who can demonstrate that they need financial assistance in any way with education.

Application forms will be available at 6 London Road from 15 July or can be requested by emailing Malthustrust@gmail.com. All completed applications must be returned to 6 London Road or emailed back **ON OR BEFORE 31 AUGUST 2024**. Late applications will be held over to the March 2025 meeting.

THE FRANCES FRY SCHOLARSHIP

This is a separate fund where additional assistance is available, at the discretion of the Trustees, to provide one or more "science-based" scholarships to assist applicants under the age of 25 to further their scientific studies. No additional Application form is required but please explain the nature of your studies on the reverse of your form.

THANKS FROM ANNA

I just wanted to say thank you so much to all those people who took the time to come and visit my studio and look at my work. There were lots of interesting folk from within the village as well as those who came from further afield and were kind enough to show their support by visiting. Hope to see you again. Many thanks. *Anna De La Mare*

BRIDGE CLUB

Finn Clark has set up some new pages on the website to cover the Wessex League. This means that the link to the Wessex league results previously located on the right hand side of the website is no longer there. All Wessex League information can be accessed through new links listed in the menu down the left hand side. As well as details of our team's results over the past 3 years, Finn has added another new link with recommendations about how to play with/against robots and some examples of 'mad' bidding by the robots. Very amusing and well worth looking at.

Dates for Blewbury Thursday evening Realbridge sessions will be July 4th and 18th, and Wantage sessions will be on the 11th and 25th. *Michael Allen 851870*

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BLEWBURY BRASS BAND NEEDS YOUR HELP (AND YOU DON'T NEED TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT!!)

Do you have a head for figures? We are currently looking for a band treasurer. If you have experience in book-keeping or accounts and would like to help our village band, please contact secretary@blewburybrassband.org

COFFEE & KIDS!

Our next session is on **Monday 1st July**. We welcome all bumps! babies & toddlers, along with parents, grandparents and carers. We meet in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall, 9.30am - 11am. A friendly and safe place to enjoy the company of others and have some refreshment as the little ones have fun with toys, learning to play together. We finish the session with songs and action rhymes. A donation of £2 is appreciated towards our costs. Mothers' Union hosts look forward to welcoming you.

In **AUGUST** we invite our young families to **THE TEDDY BEARS PICNIC**.

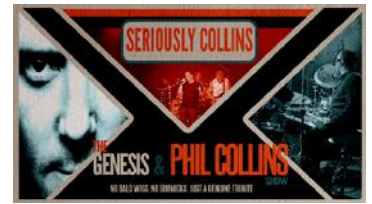
A big thank you to the Chantler Family who will host this in their garden in Blewbury on **Wednesday 7th August**. Come between 12 noon and 2pm with your picnics, teddy bears and something to sit on. Drinks and ice creams will be provided, grandparents and older brothers & sisters are welcome too. Please ring or text Louise for directions, which will also be sent out to the Coffee & Kids WhatsApp group - 07837 009730



THE TONY LOY TRUST

SOMETHING IN THE AIR TONIGHT...

Love Genesis and Phil Collins? The Tony Loy Trust are excited to bring you **Seriously Collins**, the genuine tribute act, on Saturday 23rd November. Box Office opens 20th September. Limited capacity at the village hall so put it in the diary to not miss out on this very special event. Watch this space for more information...



POST OFFICE NEWS

Hello! The school summer holidays are fast approaching. This is a reminder that from the 24th of July to the 3rd of September, during the School summer holidays, we will be operating our reduced hours of 9am - 12pm, Monday to Friday. Thank you for your understanding during this time.

We are currently collecting donations for the Village Fête on July 6th (see article on page 3 and advert on page 14). Please see the PTA piece on page 3 to see the list of items needed. You can drop these into the school office or post office. Any donations are gratefully received.

We have fresh Kitty's eggs and local honey on sale. As well as a variety of sweet treats, ice lollies, chocolate and cool drinks available to help keep cool this summer.

As well as sending parcels, you can also do all your banking at the post office, including cash withdrawals, cash deposits and cheque deposits.

We look forward to seeing you in the post office soon. Thanks so much, *Sarah, Karen and Andrew*

JAZZ AT ST MICHAEL'S AUTUMN SEASON

Friends of St Michael's and Mockbeggars Jazz are planning an autumn season of three early Sunday evening gigs with top ranking artists. Please mark **September 29th**, **October 27th** and **November 24th** in your diary now to not miss out!



FOOD BANK DATES SATURDAY 29TH JUNE – MONDAY 8TH JULY
SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST – MONDAY 12TH AUGUST

The Didcot Emergency Foodbank is still helping a large number of needy families and during school holidays there is a very high demand. If you can help by giving even one item it will make a difference. Please do help if you are able. The collection boxes are outside the Charity School House on these dates or at The Post Office any time.

All the usual items will be welcome - Please make sure that all food is within its sell by date.

- 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 - To make a cash donation online visit

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

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BLEWBURY VILLAGE SOCIETY

At the time of writing, all efforts are in full swing in preparation for the Blewbury Summer Dance on Saturday 22nd June. Keeping our fingers crossed for the weather, we are hopeful of a hugely enjoyable village event.



BVS Beer Festival update - Thanks to everyone’s hard work drinking and eating (and listening to fantastic performers), the BVS is delighted to announce that we are able to donate £1,500 each to the UNICEF Ukraine appeal and Blewbury Pre-School. On top of which, Blewbury School PTA raised over £800 from the food stand and the Pre-School raised over £500 from the soft drinks/cakes stall.

Blewbury Garden Market, Saturdays, 9:15–11:00 - The BGM is back for its 15th year on Saturday mornings at the garage forecourt. It is a community venture, giving local people an opportunity to sell excess home-grown or home-made produce and plants, to promote local food and reduce waste. We welcome all types of produce for sale, including fresh fruit and vegetables, cut flowers, seedlings, bedding plants and perennials, free-range eggs and home cooking – such as jams and chutneys, bread, cakes and biscuits. Producers set their own prices for their sale items; the BGM takes a 10% levy to cover costs. See blewburygm.co.uk for more information.

Save the date – Fireworks night, Saturday 2nd November - The BVS Fireworks night will be back again this year, so put the date in your diary. Look out for more details in the September Bulletin.

BVS marquee for hire - The BVS has purchased a marquee that we would like to make available for other groups, societies and individuals in the village for a small charge. It measures 12m x 6m and has sides if needed. If you were at the Beer Festival, or have supported the Fireworks or Summer Dance you may have seen it in action.



Sustainable Blewbury

www.sustainable-blewbury.org.uk

Reminder: Repair café, Sun 30 June, 2 to 4pm, Village Hall Bring your household items including clothing, electrical, and gardening articles for mending, tools for sharpening and bikes for fixing for free. Refreshments available. Donations welcome to cover costs.

Community Orchard It is a good year for apples and pears. Please help yourself when they are ripe and enjoy them but leave some for other people and take care not to break the branches. It is not a good year for plums, cherries, quinces or cob-nuts but that is how it goes.

Nature Reserve This will open again in August so we need help to reinstate the paths on Sat 27 July. They have become quite overgrown! When you visit again, please be aware that there is a lot of poisonous hemlock there (see photo) as well as itchy buttercup and deadly nightshade, so please don’t touch the plants. Other volunteering dates are 10 August and 14 September. More details from the secretary.



Quaker Wood plans are progressing well. We expect that the legal issues surrounding the transfer of land to Sustainable Blewbury will be completed within a month or two. As a result, we are making progress with the plans to convert the site to a community woodland over in the Autumn and Winter. A lot of thinking has gone into the layout and planting and we expect to mount an exhibition of our plans in the Autumn to give you the opportunity to view and comment on the plans. It will also be an opportunity for volunteers to reaffirm their offers to help. The first stage will be site preparation, particularly along the boundaries. We anticipate using contractors for the main phase of supplying and planting the trees. To that end we have received very encouraging offers of financial support by way of grants and private contributions. It has taken a long time to bring the project to this stage and so the exhibition will be an opportunity for celebration as well as information.

BLEWBURY FREecycle FREE ITEMS TO A GOOD HOME	E-MAIL	TEL NO.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two sets of 4 heavy duty bed/chair/table risers, 4 inches square, will lift furniture 3” or 6” if stacked. • One set of 4 heavy duty chair risers, 2 inches by 3 inches, joined in X formation for stability, lift chair 1” or 2” if inserts are used. 	Jo Lakeland jolakeland@blewbury.uk	850490
To freecycle your item please send a short description, email & phone number to Lydia Inglis (lydandmuz@gmail.com)		

If you want to know more about Sustainable Blewbury and become a supporter who receive occasional newsletters, email secretary@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk



News from St. Michael's

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

How to contact us: -

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.

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

Services at St Michael's Blewbury for July and August 2024

† Sunday 7th July	6th Sunday after Trinity 8.00 am Holy Communion 10.30 am All Age service
† Sunday 14th July	7th Sunday after Trinity 10.30 am Choir-led Taizé Service
<i>Thursday 18th</i>	<i>10.00 am MU Holy Communion</i>
† Sunday 21st July	8th Sunday after Trinity 10.30 am Parish Eucharist
† Sunday 28th July	9th Sunday after Trinity 10.30 am Village Service
† Sunday 4th August	10th Sunday after Trinity 8.00 am Holy Communion 10.30 am Parish Eucharist
† Sunday 11th August	11th Sunday after Trinity 10.30 am Choir-led Taizé Service
<i>Thursday 15th</i>	<i>The Blessed Virgin Mary</i> <i>10.00 am MU Holy Communion</i>
† Sunday 18th August	12th Sunday after Trinity 10.30 am Type of service TBC
† Sunday 25th August	13th Sunday after Trinity 10.30 am Type of service TBC

In addition to the services in Church, we continue to have an **online service at 10.30am 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, as well as the Mothers' Union communion service on the third Thursday of the month here in Blewbury. We can also bring home communion to those who are unable to attend a service.



Afternoon Teas in Church 3-5pm every Sunday until 25th August

We have been treated to many delicious cakes and great conversations so far!
Teas every Sunday apart from 14th July due to the Wimbledon final.



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



The Churn Festival of Science

Have you ever wondered about the relationship between Science and Religion? Is it possible to be both a committed Scientist and a faithful Christian? Is there a conflict between Religion and Science?

Well, the short answer to this last question is that there is no necessary conflict between Science and Religion. Personally, I am committed to celebrating and developing the links between Science and the Church. As far as I am concerned, Science and Religion both have the potential to give glory to God – I say “potential”, because there is such a thing as Bad Science, just as there is such a thing as Bad Religion.



Later in July, we are putting on a local festival to celebrate Science and Religion. There are events for all the family, and to ensure that the events are as widely accessible as possible, all the events are free! No prior Scientific knowledge is required.

The festival starts on Sunday 21st July, with an All Age Celebration of Science Service at St Andrew’s East Hagbourne at 1030am. Our Curate, the Revd. Dr. Mark Rhodes-Smith, will give a talk about his life as a Christian and as a Scientist, and there will be an opportunity to ask Mark questions. At 3pm In the afternoon on the same day, there will be family friendly event at St Mary’s Upton, focusing on an environmental theme. This event will be looking at the plants and animals to be found in St Mary’s churchyard. And at 6pm on the same day, the informal evening service at St Andrew’s East Hagbourne will include a short talk given by myself on the history of the relationship between Science and Religion down the centuries, and there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

As well as these two special services at St Andrew’s and the environmental activity in Upton Churchyard, there will be family-friendly Science activities during the day on Wednesday 24th July, Thursday 25th July and Friday 26th July. The timing and location of these family-friendly Science activities will confirmed nearer the day - check our website for details. By describing them as family-friendly, let me assure you don’t have to be part of a family group to come along. You will be very welcome just to come along by yourself, although children under 18 need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. You may wonder what we will be getting up to in these Science activities. Basically, we will do some fun experiments to test various scientific theories, and then talking about the results afterwards. There will be light refreshments. As mentioned before, there is no charge for these activities, although any donations towards expenses will be welcomed.

As well as service and activities, we will be offering daily prayers for all Scientists, especially those who work in our local area.

Why are we holding this Festival of Science? It’s because Science is one of the greatest of God’s gifts to the human race, and we need to celebrate this gift and show our appreciation for all that Scientists do. I do hope you will be able to join us in our celebrations – it will be lovely to see you!

- *Father Jason*

Teddy Bears Picnic

Wednesday 7th August 12 noon - 2pm



We meet in the garden of the Chantler family. We welcome all babies and pre-school children with siblings, parents, grandparents or carers. Please bring a teddy bear, picnic and a rug to sit on. Soft drinks and ice-creams will be provided. We’ll hope to be outside, but will find some shelter if its wet! Hosted by members of The Churn Mothers’ Union. For directions please contact the Benefice Office on 850267

Poppy project update

Thank you for the lovely responses I’ve had so far about the Poppy project for Remembrance Sunday. To recap, I need as many crocheted or knitted **red poppies** as we can get together for the main display. Easy knitting patterns are available in the Post Office, Church and from me in the Benefice office. I also have crochet patterns. Finished poppies can be brought to the office or left in the boxes in the Post Office or in Church (north door). Deadline: 18 October please. Enquiries 01235 850267 or office@churnchurches.co.uk. THANK YOU! *Elaine*



Food Bank Collection

SATURDAY 29 JUNE - MONDAY 8 JULY



If you can help by giving even one item to the Didcot Emergency Foodbank it will make a difference. Drop off at the Old School House between the dates above or at the Post Office anytime. **Your generosity would very much be appreciated!** - *St Michael’s Action Group*



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BLEWBURY ReST

As you'll remember from our previous Bulletin entry Blewbury ReST has teamed up with the Didcot Refugee Group to support a family who recently arrived in the UK. The mother and her three teenage children (two girls and a boy aged 19,17, and 16 respectively) have now been in their new home in Didcot for just over eight weeks and are settling in really well. Our fundraising has covered rental payments on the property for an initial three months and the family will now take on paying this themselves. We've agreed that the Blewbury financial contributions will now be allocated to activities that are crucial to the family's development and wellbeing such as enabling the girls to attend English lessons at a private college in Oxford. Liz Cooper, a member of Blewbury ReST, is actively involved with the English Language teaching programme and with a larger group of refugees who meet in Didcot Library on a regular basis. We're planning to invite the family to visit Blewbury over the Summer. As always, if you have any questions about this work do just get in touch. Thank you all again for your outstanding contributions and help.

PS: the mother of the family is a keen seamstress so if you hear of a spare sewing machine please let us know.

NEWS FROM BLEWBURY PRE-SCHOOL

As we move into the final academic term this year, we are delighted that we have six children who are well prepared to enter the final stage of their Early Years education, as they move onto their chosen primary Schools. This year has been a smaller year of children and it is reflective of the fall in birth rate for 2020/2021 as we moved out of the pandemic. Our numbers are looking very healthy for the following year however, and we will be very pleased to welcome back nearly twenty children in September. We would like to offer Blewbury Primary School our congratulations on their success in their recent Ofsted Inspection.

We have been very fortunate to offer our children and their parents the opportunity to listen to a talk on dental care and hygiene from Dr Sam Chegini, a local Dentist, who is also our Committee Chair person. Sam was accompanied by Lucy, the Dental Nurse from her practice, and we all learnt some useful tips for looking after our teeth. Our term will finish with our very popular Sports Day and summer excursion.

We are still selling RAFFLE TICKETS for our Grand Summer draw on Friday 19th July, which are available from Pre-School or at the Post Office.

We have been really fortunate to receive a grant from the Lord Lieutenant of Oxford's Office for a new raised garden bed for growing fruit and vegetables with the children – our old raised bed has now seen better days and we are delighted to be able to carry on with the green space in our outdoor area. Over the summer holidays, we will be having some maintenance work undertaken and a new heating system installed into our lovely building. We are very grateful to The Malthus Trust, who always support the valuable work of our children in their Early Years at Blewbury Pre-School. Thank you to all our lovely friends for your continued encouragement for Blewbury Pre-School. We appreciate all of your kindness to us.



The winning numbers for the June **Blewbury Pre-School Lottery** were as follows: 1st - 032; 2nd - 086; 3rd - 019. In June, the prize fund of £197.50 was shared (50%/30%/20%) between the three winners and £197.50 was raised for Blewbury Pre-School.

BLEWBURY CLIMATE ACTION

It is a perfect June day at the moment. Bees are buzzing, birds are singing and slugs are eating my cabbages ...

But it has been a long time coming this year: one of the effects of climate change has been to make our weather less stable - we are experiencing more violent rain, but for shorter intervals. I am NOT being political about this, because all the major parties say the same thing - we have to be aware of climate change and to take personal action (including going to hustings). I read more news online, to become more aware of what is happening internationally, and try to boycott the companies who use the most fossil fuels and plastics.

Read labels, and avoid the food that must have been produced in heated greenhouses. Look at where fruit and vegetables come from. Savages are really good with their origin labels. (A lot of salad and fruit in the supermarkets now comes from Peru. Why?)

I am trying to work with nature rather than force it into something unattainable. My lawn was green all last summer because I never cut it shorter than six inches, and this year I am leaving half of it to grow wild. The white dog daisies are flowering and the cow parsley has cat and rabbit pathways through it. I don't walk on it, so why cut it? The other half is short enough for junior football/netball. I use trickle watering in the green house, pumped round by a solar pump There are no extreme actions in all this, just an attempt to be more sustainable. *Jo Lakeland*



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BLEWBURY WI NEWS

Blewbury WI generally meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Vale room. An interesting speaker plus a glass of something nice with friends! Blewbury WI is well known for being friendly with tons of things to do. Look at our Calendar below! Clearly, there are going to be hordes of WI ladies flitting out and about on 10th July! – just join in as much or as little as suits you.

July main meeting Wednesday July 24 “The life of Estee Lauder”

“I never dreamed about success. I worked for it.” —Estée Lauder. Mrs. Estée Lauder started her business with four skin care products and a simple premise: that every woman can be beautiful. Armed with that philosophy, plus perseverance, creativity and passion, she changed the face of the cosmetics industry. Jane Sampson talks about the life of this cosmetics icon. We are privileged to be able to see Jane’s collection of stunning beauty compacts.

August main meeting Wednesday August 28 “Blewbury WI Summer Party”.

4-6pm in the Melland Room. Sadly, members only. We are looking forward to a sumptuous repast all served to the WI ladies by our lovely “Tweenies”! This will be a ‘bring and share’ lunch with drinks provided. If you’d like to come along to Blewbury WI with someone else or find out more, ring our Secretary, Joy, on 850543 or email blewburywi@gmail.com. New members can join at any time and pay a ‘pro-rata’ rate for the rest of the year.

Calendar of events

Monday afternoons	2.30pm	Mah Jong	Sharon
Friday 5 July	7pm	Craft evening	Karen
Tuesday 9 July	10.30am	Coffee morning	Trish
Wednesday 10 July	9.30am	Walk round Dorchester	Jill
Wednesday 10 July	2.30pm	Afternoon Scrabble	Susan
Wednesday 10 July	7pm	Evening Scrabble	Lyn
Wednesday 24 July	7.30pm	Main meeting	Joy
Thursday 25 July	2.30pm	Rummikub	Eli
Wednesday 28 August	4pm	Summer Party	Joy

N.B. Information on August dates for all other sub-groups will be available in late July - look out for the lovely “Information sheet”, Blewbury WI ladies.

PUSS IN BOOTS – A PANTOMIME FOR BLEWBURY

We are beginning preparations for our pantomime Puss in Boots, directed by Andy Jarvis, to be performed in January next year (29th January – February 1st).

Auditions will take place on Saturday 31st August and Sunday 1st September. If you’d like to book an audition (including children from Year 6 upwards) please email us at blewburyplayers@gmail.com. If you’d like to audition, but can’t make these dates, let us know and we’ll fit you in at another time. And do let us know if you are interested in taking part backstage in any way. Once the Pantomime is cast, we will have a Read Through on Sunday 29th September and rehearsals proper will begin on the weekend of November 2nd/3rd with a break over the Christmas period.



TEAS IN ST MICHAEL’S CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY 2nd JUNE – 25th AUGUST 3pm – 5pm

We serve teas in St Michael’s Church, Blewbury every Sunday from 2nd June until 25th August between 3pm – 5pm. £3.00 for a delicious piece of homemade cake and as many cups of tea as you’d like! 50p Squash and Biscuits for children. Everybody is welcome – come with a group or by yourself and join a friendly group – we are always pleased to see families and children can occupy themselves in the children’s corner while parents enjoy their tea. Well behaved dogs welcome too.

There is always a very happy atmosphere and plenty of good friendly conversation and debate so do come and join us. We look forward to seeing you in our lovely old Church. All funds raised from Sunday Teas are for St Michael’s Church. Thank you. *Pat Mattimore and Team*



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Blewbury Village Hall was pleased to see the recent BVS Beer Festival was so well attended and organised, and we have had several big celebrations held there recently too. The Table Tennis Club will continue to meet every Tuesday at 5pm: no need to book, just turn up for some fun throughout the summer. Did you know we have an over 55s Monday morning Zumba at 9.30 with the lovely Stu, and at 10.30 we all have a bit of a lie down and stretch everything out with a wonderful Pilates session? Contact Stu on 07799 693044 or stu-zumba@hotmail.co.uk

If you have any questions for the trustees please contact andrewforman@live.com or bring your concerns to the user group forum planned for early September. To book the hall go to www.blewbury.co.uk/venues/village-hall or leave a message on 07398919992 or email blewburyvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

BELL RINGING NEWS FROM BLEWBURY TOWER - A STRIKING COMPETITION



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This might conjure thoughts of perhaps a boxing tournament or even bowling. In fact it means a lot to bell ringers who constantly strive (and sometimes struggle!) to position or ‘strike’ their bell accurately amongst the others to create the best musical and rhythmic sound possible. Bell ringing has a unique requirement for both individual and team participation. We practice weekly on Friday nights and also on weekday nights in other local churches to constantly perfect this need for rhythm. Each year a competition is held where local teams try to demonstrate their striking abilities against each other. Last year Blewbury was awarded first place among 6 teams. This year, on 15th June at Radley, there were 8 teams and Blewbury were beaten into second place by the Wantage bell ringers. Never mind, it is the taking part that counts!


We have rung the bells to celebrate two weddings, which is always a joyous thing for us to do. Recently some of us were invited onto a four day tour of the Isle of Wight where we rang at 10 of the 14 churches possessing rings of bells. We joined others from East Hagbourne, North Moreton, Milton and Wantage towers and rang with a group of ringers from Kent who we hadn’t met before. Ringers always share the same interest and sense of fun so we all got on well together and had a very enjoyable time.

If you might like to join our happy band, do come up the tower one Friday evening and see what it is all about!

FROM OUR CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT – OKANAGAN

Two years ago our friends in West Kelowna invited me to the Garden Tour Day, which was very impressive, featuring some dozen or so beautiful and imaginative gardens in the Okanagan district of British Columbia. The event is organised by Flower Power Garden Tours and has been running for many years. This year’s tour featured nine gardens, all different from the previous tour! In addition to the gardens themselves, each location offers specialist advice on topics of interest to home gardeners, such as xeriscape gardens, making use of the City-owned boulevard (grass verge!) to extend a garden, gardening on a hillside (of particular interest to my hosts for the weekend as they garden on a precipitous slope leading down to Lake Okanagan), advice on composting, and several featuring the art of Zen gardens. The Kelowna Master Gardeners were also in attendance, one of whom I knew from my involvement with the Vancouver MG course! An interesting day out!

Getting to the various venues involved driving by many of the famous vineyards we have come to know and love during recent years, and it was heart-breaking to see the devastation caused by the extreme heat last summer and record low temperatures (minus 27c in some places) in January. But it was not everywhere! Some areas were not damaged at all, while others had the vines grubbed up and new ones planted. And then there is wildfire damage, with the smoke (if the vines have not been destroyed) causing what is known as smoke taint, which ruins the flavour; research is on-going to correct this, including adding activated carbon, reverse osmosis filtration, or just removing the skins earlier in the case of red wine. However, it is anticipated that the wine production this coming year will be markedly down on previous years, with some vineyards sadly going out of business. For those that survive, it means a massive replanting exercise and then waiting at least three years for the vines to begin producing. Inevitably this will mean higher prices. It’s a small wine-producing area, and having to deal with the effects of climate change will only make it worse. Tourism will also be down, reducing the area’s viability even more. However, there are many loyal customers (including ourselves) who love the area and the wines and will be coming back to support them again this year. Some producers are thinking of bringing in grapes from other areas such as Washington or Ontario, which may mean Governments will have to introduce regulatory changes. *ANGELA HOY (angelahoy23@gmail.com)*



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PUBLICISING EVENTS IN THE BLEWBURY DIARY TO AVOID CLASHES

If you are arranging a Blewbury event, *please* write about it in the Blewbury Bulletin and ask for it to go into the diary on the back page of the Bulletin. And to avoid clashes, please also ask for it to be put into the online Bulletin diary <https://blewbury.co.uk/diary/> Jo Lakeland

PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of Blewbury Parish Council's AGM: 7pm, **Wednesday 12 June 2024**, Melland Room, Blewbury Clubhouse.

Present: Dermot Mathias (chair), Sheila Austin, Andrew Calder, Lydia Inglis, Anne Millman, Lee Robinson and Julia Saunders. Also present Elizabeth Cooper (clerk) and county councillor Sally Povolotsky (via zoom). Apologies were received from district councillor Hayleigh Gascoigne and Iain Wood (lengthman).

Councillor Povolotsky confirmed that OCC has dropped the proposed pedestrian crossing on London Road (east of Savages) due to budgetary constraints. The PC is investigating the viability of other types of crossings, but options are limited because of the average speeds recorded on this busy road. However, speed monitoring took place before the SIDs were installed, so council has asked OCC to do this again.

The PC recently applied to OCC's 'Lead Local Flood Authority Funding' for funding to remedy two flood-prone areas in the village, and were pleased to win a grant for one of them. This will be used to clear vegetation, reinstate drainage ditches and replace pipe connections along Church End, and should fix problems that have seriously affected pedestrian access between the Church and Berry Lane. Disappointingly, our proposal to remedy serious flooding problems on the London Road was turned down because OCC judged it '*potentially very complex to deliver, at least in its entirety, making it seem unlikely it could be successfully developed and delivered within this financial year, when this funding needs to be used*'. The PC knows how important this work is, and we have arranged to meet OCC for further discussions about it later this month. Meanwhile, we are aware of the continuing serious flooding issues at the junction of Westbrook Street and Berry Lane, and are pressing OCC and BT to find a solution.

Thames Water has launched a 12-week consultation on its proposed giant reservoir near Steventon – the 'South East Strategic Reservoir Option' – which ends on 28 August. The company is also running a series of consultation events across the district – the nearest is at Didcot Civic Hall on 9 July (2–8pm), or at Milton Hill House on 15 July (2–8pm). Do have your say, as this project will have local ramifications. <https://thames-wrmp.co.uk/projects/sesro/>

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:

P24/V1218/HH 9 Chailey Gardens Garage conversion and single storey rear extension. BPC has no objection.

P24/V1179/HH The Lintols, Church Road Selective demolition of existing house to allow for rear extension at ground floor and extension over at first floor including new roof and loft space above first floor extension. BPC has no objection.

P24/V0887/HH Thatchers Cottage, Church Road Proposed extension and upgrade to the existing Thatchers Cottage and extension to existing garden room/studio. The works will involve the demolition of an existing conservatory and garage. BPC has no objection.

Decisions from the District Council:

P24/V0945/LB Corrydon House, London Road Various alteration works to cross wing of listed building: Creation of ensuite and associated plumbing, restoration of mullion window, remove modern gallery mezzanine and ladder stairs, remove modern kitchen wall to enable structural intervention, restore timber frame posts, lay new limecrete floor with underfloor heating, install new French doors and wood burning stove. Granted.

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

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

The next PC meeting will be at 7pm on **Wednesday 10 July 2024**, in the Melland Room at the Clubhouse.

Autumn Leaves The dates for July & August Bingo Sessions in the Vale Room at Blewbury Village Hall, at 2pm are July 2nd, 16th & 30th and August 13th & 27th. For further information 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 to come and join us.

Astons Online supports anyone who wants to be digitally confident on the Internet, with smartphone apps or online services like health and banking. Our events and support are free of charge. There are in-person one-to-one sessions in Astons Village Hall (OX119EQ) on Tuesday 16 July from 10:00 to 12noon. It would help to know if you're coming. We're available for Zoom, Facetime, WhatsApp or telephone one-to-one sessions on Tuesday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00. Our next Zoom webinar will be on Tuesday 17 September @ 10:00. (No Astons Online event in August this year.) Website: www.astonsonline.uk Email: theastonsonline@gmail.com

Autumn Leaves and Astons Online – please see previous page

BLEWBURY FLYING SQUAD is a volunteer hospital car service for Blewbury residents. We cover appointments in hospitals, doctors' surgeries, dentists, opticians, chiropractors, physio etc. As the Flying Squad is a voluntary service which relies entirely on people's personal time and vehicle availability, we need as much notice as possible to arrange a driver. Please note that journeys to the Horton Hospital in Banbury are not available from the Flying Squad. To make a booking, telephone **07891 768197**. If the Flying Squad telephone holder is not available, you will be prompted to leave a voice message. Wait for the beep at the end of the BFS phone message then give your name and telephone number. Please speak clearly. You will be phoned back as soon as possible.

BLEWBURY POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Mon: 9am-3pm. **Tue:** 8.30am-12pm, 2.30-5pm. **Wed:** 9am-12pm. **Thu:** 9am-3pm. **Fri:** 8.30am-12pm, 2.30-5pm.
From July 24th to September 3rd (school summer holidays): Monday to Friday 9am – 12 noon only

Please note that the next Bulletin will be circulated at the end of August

VILLAGE DIARY for July 2024

				Page
Monday	1	9.30-11am	Coffee & Kids! Vale Room	7
Tuesday	2	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	17
Saturday	6	1-4 pm	Summer Fête, Blewbury School	3,14
Wednesday	10	7 pm	Parish Council meeting, Melland Room	17
Tuesday	16	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc, Vale Room	17
Wednesday	17	8 pm	Blewbury Players: <i>The Caucasian Chalk Circle</i> , Garden Theatre	3
Thursday	18	8 pm	Blewbury Players: <i>The Caucasian Chalk Circle</i> , Garden Theatre	3
Friday	19	8 pm	Blewbury Players: <i>The Caucasian Chalk Circle</i> , Garden Theatre	3
Saturday	20	3 pm	Blewbury Players: <i>The Caucasian Chalk Circle</i> , Garden Theatre	3
Saturday	20	8 pm	Blewbury Players: <i>The Caucasian Chalk Circle</i> , Garden Theatre	3
Saturday	27		Volunteers needed for work on Nature Reserve	9
Wednesday	24	7.30 pm	WI Meeting and Talk: 'The Life of Estée Lauder', Vale Room	15
Tuesday	30	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	17

VILLAGE DIARY for August 2024

Wednesday	7	12-2 pm	Teddy Bears' Picnic (see article for venue details)	7,11
Tuesday	13	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc, Vale Room, Village Hall	17
Wednesday	21	7.30 pm	Deadline for September Bulletin – Swallows, Church Road	
Monday	26		Late summer bank holiday	
Tuesday	27	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	17
Wednesday	28	4-6 pm	WI Summer Party, Melland Room	15
Saturday	31		Deadline for Malthus Trust applications	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 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 sizes:

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

Please note that artwork is printed 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**. If your advertisement is accepted, please note that payment **must** be received before the Bulletin goes to press. If you require repeat insertions over multiple months, you will be referred to the Advertising Manager to make the 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.

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. **Local Distribution Manager:** Kathy Edmunds, Wayside Cottage, Westbrook Street, OX11 9QA tel 850337 kathy_edmunds@btopenworld.com **Postal & Email Distribution Manager:** Helen White, Southbourne, Bessels Way, OX11 9NJ tel 850483 mail@daisyh.net **Advertising Manager:** Elizabeth Murphy, The White House, London Road, OX11 9PD tel 851244 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.