

Minutes of Blewbury Annual Parish Meeting

On Thursday, 22nd May 2025 From 7:00 PM in the Blewbury Village Hall

Preceding Meeting:

Blewbury Village Society (BVS)

Annual General Meeting

The evening commenced with the **BVS Annual General Meeting** at 7:00 PM. The Society provided an overview of its activities over the past year.

Attached Reports:

- BVS Annual Report
- BVS Annual Financial Report

Election of BVS Officers for 2025-2026:

- **Chair:** Tom Laugharne (nominated by Sue Gunawardena, seconded by Ciara Hartman-Cole)
- **Treasurer:** Tony Salter (nominated by Adam Stockley, seconded by Lydia Wanstall)
- **Secretary:** Sue Gunawardena (nominated by Tom Laugharne, seconded by Ciara Hartman-Cole)

Annual Parish Meeting

Attached Reports:

- Annual Parish Council Statement - *Cllr. Dermot Mathias (Chairman)*
- Planning Report - *Cllr. Lydia Inglis*
- Financial Report - *Kim Lloyd (Clerk)*
- Tony Loy Trust - *Sheila Loy*
- Blewbury Players - *Steve White*

Community Reports (Verbal/Written Submissions): While these updates were shared through brief presentations or written notes, they are not formally minuted as they were not submitted directly to the Parish Council.

- **Police s Crime Commissioner (PCC):** *Matthew Barber* delivered an informative update on recent developments in policing and crime. Key concerns raised by residents included anti-social behaviour and vehicle speeding through the village.
- **Community Speedwatch**
- **Village Hall Management Committee** - *Andrew Foreman*
- **Blewbury Amazons Girls Football Club** - *Sandy Flakelar*
- **Blewbury Cricket Club** - *Rob Southwell-Sander*
- **Friends of St. Michael's Church** - *Jo Laugharne*
- **Blewbury Local History Group** - *Mary Gaines*
- **Sustainable Blewbury** - *Anne Millman*
- **BlewShed** - *Mike Magnay*
- **Croquet Club** - *Susan Tilbrook*

Open Forum s Closing

The meeting concluded with a QCA session for residents, followed by thanks and closing remarks from the Chairman, **Cllr. Dermot Mathias**.

Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting: To be confirmed and publicised nearer the time.

2025 BVS Chairman's report - Tom Laugharne

In this the 59th year of the BVS.

Committee members: Tom Laugharne (Chair), Tony Salter (Treasurer), Sue Gunawardena (Secretary), Ian Cluett, Alex Elderfield, Jonathan Fraser, Ciara Hardman-Cole, Tom Laugharne, Hayley Roberts, Adam Stockley, Lydia Wanstall, Charlie Luckhoo, Claire Davies

Joiners since April 2024 – Alex Whittenbury, Kelly Gilbert

Leavers since April 2024 – Caroline Pettigrew

A big thank you to the committee for their dedication and enthusiasm, which have made this society such a pleasure to be part of. We're also incredibly grateful to all the volunteers who help run BVS events – these occasions wouldn't be possible without your amazing support.

Events since the last AGM – May 2024

This report outlines the events organised by the BVS from April 2024 to May 2025. As a non-profit organisation, the BVS runs social events for the community with the goal of covering costs. Surplus funds are donated to local causes. Two of our key events – Comedy Night and the bi-annual Beer Festival – serve as fundraisers for charities (see dedicated sections below). Inter-pub football challenge which was run under the auspices of the BVS also raised money for a variety of charities.

2024

Summer Dance – June 2024

Thanks to the Barrett family for once again hosting the Summer Dance at Ashbrook House. We're grateful to McFunky, who brought wonderful energy to the evening. Attendance and the weather held up nicely. Thank you to all who helped set up beforehand and clear away after the event.

Blewbury Garden Market – April to September 2024

In its first year under the auspices of the BVS, the Blewbury Garden Market – which is held on the garage forecourt on Saturday mornings from April to September – had near record sales, with some new producers and stall helpers. The Market is now able to take cash and contactless payments.

Thank you to Neville and Sarah Hargreaves for taking hold of the reins of the BGM in 2024 and keeping it going.

Bonfire Night – November 2024

Bonfire Night was resounding success, building on last year's format. Beer and baked potatoes were served by the BVS while the WI offered mulled wine, and the Preschool ran a stall with treats and gifts, raising funds for their respective causes.

Special thanks to Jonathan Fraser and his team for taking on this event. It remains perhaps the most complicated to organise and run. This event relies heavily on community support—thank you to everyone involved, including wood collectors, tractor drivers, bonfire builders, bakers, servers, bar staff, WI volunteers, marshals, and many more.

Thanks also to Pete Baker for orchestrating another brilliant firework display.

Santa's Sleigh – December 2024

This was the first run out for the new, sleek more efficient sleigh. The ease of handling was much appreciated by all of the reindeer. A huge thank you to Blewshed for its design and construction.

Santa delivered over 100 gifts to children from across the village. Many thanks to Santa, Mother Christmas, our local reindeer, and the team of elves managing logistics, safety, and refreshments.

Boxing Day Walk – December 2024

We were lucky with a dry day for the annual Boxing Day Walk, which drew a fantastic turnout. A new cup was introduced this year in memory of the first winner of the Boxing Day Walk, John Grice. This cup is to be awarded each year to the best newcomer, hopefully encouraging people new to the village or those who have previously not felt inclined to take part to join this unique event. Thanks to all volunteers, judges and those who ran the drink stops: Paul Finnon and family, Sally and Andy Lewis, Pat and Bernard Mattimore, as well as the Blueberry and Red Lion pubs.

2025

Roger Cambray New Year's Day Walk – January 2025

We welcomed 2025 with the traditional walk to The Bell Inn at Aldworth, joined by a small but hardy group of villagers. The live folk music in the Bell's snug was a particular highlight.

Comedy Night – March 2025

Thank you to Ciara Hardman-Cole for yet again organising another outstanding event. Thanks also to David and Wendy Carless for the sound, Adam Stockley for the lighting as well as the amazing bar team.

Paddy Lennox returned as compère, introducing three outstanding comedians. Proceeds from this event support the upkeep of the village playgrounds via the Parish Council.

This popular event sold out in just three days – thank you for the continued support!

Inter-Pub Football Match – April 2025

The second of what we all hope becomes an annual event of the inter-pub football match was played. After an intense game, the honours went to the Blueberry Pub for the second year running I am sure that this fact alone will motivate some to hold the event again next year. Thanks go to Ben Silverthorne for organising such a highlight of the year. Charities supported by the event were the Blewbury Preschool, Blewbury School and Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue.

Easter Egg Rolling – April 2025

It was estimated that it was a record turn out for the Easter Egg Rolling at the chalk pits. We had a wonderful display of decorated eggs and a fierce competition for the longest roll. Special thanks to Jonathan Fraser, Alex Whittenbury, and Alex Elderfield and his family for organising it.

Blewbury Garden Market – April to September 2025

The Blewbury Garden Market is now in its second year as part of the BVS.

The market takes place on Saturday mornings at the garage forecourt . It gives local residents a chance to sell surplus home-grown or homemade items and promotes local food and reduced waste. Sellers set their own prices, and a 10% fee covers running costs.

Upcoming events – 2025

- **Blewbury Garden Market** – every Saturday from May
- **Quaker Wood Opening** Sunday 22nd June
- **Summer Dance** – Saturday 28th June at Ashbrook House
- **Bonfire Night** – Saturday 8th November
- **Christmas events** – Santa’s Sleigh, Boxing Day Walk, Roger Cambray New Year’s Day Walk

Other updates

- The BVS has purchased a large container for the storage of the sleigh, marquee and other equipment
- Our BVS marquee continue to be available for hire by other clubs, societies, or private users in the village at a cost of £100.

Blewbury Village Society
Annual Accounts
(01/04/24-31/03/25)

Events and Sales	Income	Expenses	Profit / (Loss)	Last Year
			This Year	
Beer Festival	6,988.15	3,330.68	3,657.47	0.00
Bonfire and Fireworks	6,024.68	3,928.78	2,095.90	634.55
Comedy Night	4,238.21	2,954.12	1,284.09	1,181.64
Marquee	500.00	10.47	489.53	
Summer Dance	2,075.14	1,838.94	236.20	783.12
Garden Market	2,656.43	2,465.78	190.65	575.00
Christmas Eve Sleigh Ride	356.21	477.30	-121.09	116.14
Boxing Day Walk	755.16	1,083.27	-328.11	25.69
Egg Rolling	n/a	n/a	0.00	-39.49
ReST Open Gardens			0.00	8,336.75
	23,593.98	16,089.34	7,504.64	11,613.40

Donations

Blewbury Pre-School (profit from Beer Festival)	-1,500.00	
UNICEF Ukraine (profit from Beer Festival)	-1,500.00	
Blewbury Parish Council (profit from Comedy Night)	-1,200.00	-1,100.00
ReST (profit from Open Gardens)		-8,336.75
	-4,200.00	-9,436.75

Projects and Expenses

Container purchase	-3,238.86	
Insurance	-707.83	
Advertising	-78.00	-635.55
Miscellaneous	-20.40	-105.00
Bank charges	-4.25	-74.60
	-4,049.34	-815.15

Overall Totals

Events and Sales	<i>(as detailed above)</i>	7,504.64	11,613.40
Donations	<i>(as detailed above)</i>	-4,200.00	-9,436.75
Projects and Expenses	<i>(as detailed above)</i>	-4,049.34	-815.15
	Net surplus for the period	-744.70	1,361.50

Add surplus brought forward from previous period **4,699.48** 3,337.98

Accumulated funds at year end **3,954.78** 4,699.48

Represented by balances

Lloyds Bank	5,052.58	5,504.27
Accruals	-1,200.00	-824.71
Cash	102.20	19.92
Total	3,954.78	4,699.48

Inter year running totals

	<i>b/f</i>	<i>this year</i>	<i>c/f</i>
Garden Market	575.00	190.65	765.65
Marquee	-1,566.81	489.53	-1,077.28

Tony
Salter
(Hon
Treasurer)

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Introduction.

In preparing for this meeting I have again encouraged attendees to limit themselves to brief reports. In the same spirit of brevity, I have also limited my comments to highlights in the hope that there will be more time for feedback and discussion.

A number of the activities listed below are outside our remit but important to the village. In those cases, we have used our position to influence others, most commonly OCC for roads and flooding, Thames water, also for flooding and the Vale for planning. These are all matters to which we devoted time and energy and sometimes money.

The annual meeting provides villagers with the opportunity to comment on or ask questions about these topics which are listed below, in no particular order.

I attach as an appendix an explanation of how the Council functions.

Staff

Our long standing clerk, Liz Cooper, stepped down from the role of Parish Clerk in March and was succeeded by our new clerk, Kim Lloyd. Liz was an excellent clerk and we thank her for her hard work. We have been tremendously lucky to find the experienced Kim who has made an excellent start. Our remaining staff are Evi Holroyd (Hall Administrator) and Iain Wood our new Lengthman, both of whom do a great a job,

Councillors

With regard to councillors we started the year with a vacancy which enabled us to co-opt Andy Evason to the board. Andy is an experienced businessman and engineer and I am sure he will make a great contribution to the council.

From time to time vacancies crop up as result of retirement, moving house or changed circumstances and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to know more about joining the council.

Finances

After a difficult couple of years for our finances caused mainly by a hike in insurance costs I am pleased to say that we are now in a relatively stable position. See note from Kim.

Skate Park

As reported last year we have received an anonymous donation of £50000. We subsequently agreed with the donor that the money would be devoted to building a replacement skate park appealing to a wider range of skill, age and experience. During the year we ran a tender process in order to select a contractor. We were not happy with the tenders and so we are now reviewing alternative approaches.

Speed watch/speed reduction

We continue to work with the speed watch team to lobby for 20 MPH on the 2 main roads through the village. In the meantime, we have agreed to the installation of bollards to indicate informal crossing points and of 'WigWags' to slow traffic down during peak school hours.

Flooding

We have lobbied OCC and Thames Water to carry out work which will hopefully alleviate flooding in a number of areas. Projects under negotiation include the A417 London Road and the upper part of Church End near the Benefice Office.

Blewshed

We have provided much more space to Blewshed in the scout hut by removing the Lengthman's and Amazons' equipment into the metal shed.

The recreation ground

This is shared by the cricket club and the Blewbury Amazons (girls football club). The 2 clubs are seeking to manage the ground through a working party comprising representatives of the clubs and the Lengthman

Community Art Project

The reason why the armillary sphere has been removed is so that a larger base can be fitted, making the structure more stable.

EV chargers

When we first examined the possibility of installing 2 EV chargers, we concluded that it was not viable. We are now exploring an alternative funding source, which might allow us to proceed.

Conclusion

This has been a busy year for us. Every one of the projects listed above (and others) have required many hours of time outside of the monthly meeting. We have an excellent, diverse council and I thank all of the councillors and indeed our 3 staff for their hard work and commitment

Thank you also for the support we receive from the village

Dermot Mathias
May 2025

APPENDIX

OPERATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Composition.

Members of the council are either co-opted or elected at the time of the local elections (which take place every four years). If at the time of an election we do not have a full quota of 9 people standing, there is no vote and those who have put their names forward become parish councillors. Thereafter additional councillors up to our quota can be co-opted by the other members. Councillors are supported by the Parish Clerk who implements our decisions, ensures that we conduct our business legally, oversees projects and ensures that our activities are properly documented and reported to the community.

Council meetings take place at 7pm, on the second Wednesday of the month and are open to the public. Indeed, we welcome attendees from the village and, if appropriate, elsewhere.

Main Responsibilities

Council has a wide range of responsibilities including looking after:

- the Clubhouse at the Recreation Ground;
- the Recreation Ground itself;
- Ticklers Folly Field and its play area, half pipe and fitness trail;
- the Pound (land at the junction of A417 and South St);
- the playground by the Village Hall;
- the Chalk Pits, on Rubble Lane;
- the cemetery;
- some footpaths
- trees on our own land (mainly the locations listed above).

Planning

There is a separate report on planning produced by Lydia Inglis which gives an excellent overview of our activities in this area. Essentially we do not make planning decisions but we do review planning applications and bring issues to the attention of the District Council. The Parish Council was responsible for developing our Neighbourhood Plan, monitors the extent to which it is adhered to and reviews the need for updates.

Other Activities

There is a long list of other activities which councillors choose to take on, very often in conjunction with community groups. We work with Sustainable Blewbury on maintaining footpaths and leaf clearing. We work with the Blewbury Village Garden Association on dealing with matters connected with the allotments. We work with the speed watch team on seeking to control speeds, particularly on the A417 and Bessels Way. We installed 2 defibrillators in the village (at the Village Hall & The Blueberry) last year and a third one at the Clubhouse this year.

Blewbury Parish Council (BPC): Annual Planning Report, May 2025

Planning in Blewbury

There have been 35 applications for planning permission or listed building consent since the last Annual Planning Report in April 2024 (compared to 26 applications in the previous year). There are no applications awaiting determination by the Vale. All applications determined during the year were granted apart from four: one was withdrawn (P24/V1902/LB, Ashbrook House) and three were refused (certificate of lawful development at Blewbury Riding Centre, Bessels Way; P24/V2122/LB, Naylesbridge Cottage; P24/V1557/FUL, Downside Farm). Two cases of enforcement action taken by the Vale were overturned at appeal (Red Lion PH, Nottingham Fee).

BPC assesses planning applications primarily by email. Contentious applications are then discussed and agreed at monthly council meetings. Note that BPC is only a consultee: we do not make planning decisions.

BPC scrutinises applications on the basis of the policies in the village's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), along with the Vale's planning policies. If an application conforms to both the NDP and the Vale's local plan policies, 'material considerations' are the only other means we may use to object to an application. Planning law does not define material considerations – they are derived from case law, but can include:

- Overlooking and loss of privacy
- Overshadowing and loss of light
- Local circumstances (local knowledge from the PC is key here)
- History of a site e.g. if contaminated
- Local knowledge of drainage or other possible problems with services
- Noise, disturbance, smells
- Traffic and highway issues
- Scale of development
- Over-dominance
- Public view across the land
- Loss of important open spaces
- Landscaping
- Design, appearance, layout and materials
- Retention of important physical features
- Conservation of buildings etc.
- Impact on surroundings e.g. whether it affects the character or an area
- Emerging planning policy, depending on what stage it's at.

They cannot include:

- Morals or motives of the developer
- Effect on the value of a property
- Private property rights such as boundary or access disputes
- Possible future development not included in the application
- Comparison with other previously approved schemes on the site
- Matters covered by laws such as alcohol or gaming licences, or Building Regs.

Those interested in planning applications should first of all consult the Vale's website*. BPC encourages parishioners to email the Vale's planning office, either in support of or against an application – the more voices that are heard, the better.

*<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/>

The presumption in favour of 'sustainable development' remains enshrined in the National Planning Policy Framework – this means that the job of planners at the Vale is to enable (rather than block) planning applications that meet the criteria.

Blewbury's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

The NDP was adopted in November 2016 and the PC has plans to start what could be a long process of reviewing the NDP once the Vale/SODC's joint local plan is adopted in late 2025. Various omissions and a loophole relating to the definition of agricultural buildings have come to light in the years since the NDP was made. New policies could relate to the following broad subjects:

- climate change
- discouraging loss of gardens to encourage biodiversity and minimise flooding
- providing greater protection for green lungs within the village
- energy saving and retro-fitting measures for old buildings
- the lifecycle/environmental cost of materials used in new developments

Conservation Area Appraisal

Blewbury's new conservation area appraisal was formally adopted by the Vale in October 2024. Both the Vale and the PC will be able to use this new, evidence-based document to protect and enhance the conservation area, including its green spaces. It is accessible here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/building-conservation-and-design/conservation-areas/>

Planning in the Vale of White Horse DC

The new, long-awaited GP practice at Great Western Park has been granted planning permission. This should reduce the pressure on GPs in Didcot and surrounding villages, including Blewbury.

In December, South Oxfordshire DC and the Vale submitted their Joint Local Plan 2041 to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. (The Vale's current local plan expires in 2031).

The new government is pushing for consolidation of district councils into bigger, unitary councils. The Vale has submitted its preferred option of forming a new unitary council with South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. The direction of travel will ultimately be decided by Westminster. It is unclear how these changes will affect the new local plan.

The Vale's published five-year housing land supply position as of 1 April 2024, published in a statement in January 2025, is 5.81 years.

Plans for Didcot Garden Town seem to have slowed in recent years. We continue to monitor these.

The Oxfordshire Leaders Joint Committee

The Oxfordshire Leaders Joint Committee (formerly *The Future Oxfordshire Partnership*, and before that *The Oxfordshire Growth Board*) has adopted a vision for a 'healthy, sustainable, thriving future for Oxfordshire', which all six LPAs have agreed to adopt. It can be summarised as follows:

1. Our natural environment will be in a better state than that in which we found it.
2. We will already be carbon neutral and accelerating towards a carbon negative future.
3. Our residents will be healthier and happier, and overall wellbeing will have improved.
4. Our local economy will be globally competitive, sustainable, diverse and inclusive.
5. Our community will be a more equal, fair and inclusive place for everyone.
6. Our vibrant historic and cultural offer will be rich, diverse and enhanced.
7. We will have energy efficient and affordable homes in the right number, location and tenure.

8. Our county's connectivity will be transformed in ways that enhance wellbeing.
 9. Our diverse and vibrant communities will thrive with a strong sense of identity.
- It is not entirely clear how this aspirational vision will be delivered. The organisation's website refers to advocacy, dissemination of best practice and funding of various projects in the county.

Lydia Inglis, Blewbury Parish Council

7 May 2025

Blewbury Finance Report for 2024-2025

	01.04.23 to 31.03.24	01.04.24 to 31.03.25	Explanation of figures
Balance carried forward	102,826	54,684	This is the bank account balance at the end of the financial year C before the first half of the precept is received in April.
Precept	85,000	113,000	This is the amount of precept raised through council tax. This is paid in two instalments, in April C September.
Other Receipts	100,130	143,702	Includes Clubhouse bookings income, Cemetery income C reclaimed VAT, it is considerably higher than the previous year due to a kind donation of £50,000 towards a new Skate Ramp. The Parish Council are currently obtaining tenders.
Staff Costs	29,925	48,656	The Council has 3 members of staff; the Clerk, Lengthman C Hall Administrator. The figure is larger for 2024-2025 because the HMRC (i.e. Tax and NI) payments are included in 2024-2025. They were included in 'other payments' in 2023-2024 in error.
Other Payments	162,727	93,970	This figure in 2023-2024 was considerably higher than 2024-2025. This is due to payments made by the Council during the Clubhouse post flood remedial work. It also includes the Council's insurance payment, which rose by over 300% (c£7000 to c£30,000), due to there being two floods in the Clubhouse within a two-year period.
Loan Repayments	15,154	14,829	Capital payment on Public Works loans for the Clubhouse rebuild (c2012) C the more recent Village Hall refurbishment.
Fixed Assets	1,099,000	1,099,000	Fixed assets include: - Clubhouse, Scout Hut, Steel Garage, Tennis Clubhouse, Croquet Hut C lawns.
End of Year Balance	54,684	153,931	



THE TONY LOY TRUST

The Tony Loy Trust

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2025

The Tony Loy Trust was set up in 2012 in memory of Tony Loy and supports young people in Blewbury and the surrounding area to follow their dreams in the arts and sport.

The past year has been a busy one. We received donations of £7,229, which included an extremely generous anonymous donation of £5,000 and £1,509 in memory of Pres Wells, which is a generous tribute to a great friend of Tony and a strong supporter of the Trust. We also received a £321 share of the money raised by the Reds v Blues charity football match at the Recreation Ground and other donations of £494, which included donations from local artist Peter Ritson, who has made a donation whenever he sells a painting and has allowed us to print greeting cards of his paintings to sell for the Trust's benefit. We are grateful to all our donors.

The Trust also organised two very successful fundraising shows. In June, a Celebratory Concert in St Michael's Church, Blewbury showcased the talents of a number of young performers who have been supported by the Trust and raised £2,469. In November, Seriously Collins, a tribute band, entertained in Blewbury Village Hall, raising £1,285.

The Trust awarded twelve grants last year totalling £8,970, of which £1,400 covered motorcycle racing, football coaching and girls football and £2070 covered music, contemporary dance, acting and the purchase of an electronic piano. The remaining two grants totalling £5,500 were made to Blewbury Primary School PTA for the purchase of a trim trail for their youngest pupils and a climbing frame for older pupils, helping them to develop skills and confidence supporting both sports and arts.

Over its twelve years of operation, the Trust has awarded 127 grants totalling £61,902 to young people in Blewbury and the surrounding area. We are very proud to be supporting the development of young people, in Tony's name, and grateful for the contributions and encouragement of all our supporters.

More information about the activities of the trust can be found on our website www.thetonyloytrust.org and Facebook page. Applications for support should be made to Sheila Loy.



Blewbury Players

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2025

The Players have had another busy year.

Last summer's production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* was directed by Erica Harley. It had a large cast with some people new to the company. Brecht is not everybody's cup of tea but a modern translation made it more accessible than usual and the audiences enjoyed the strong ensemble performances and clear storytelling.

Once again, Jeff and Pete's Music Quiz, attracted a large turnout in November and raised money for Blewbury School PTA who were raising money for a climbing frame in the school, which has now been built.

In January, we presented *Puss in Boots* in the village hall. This was written and directed by Andy Jarvis and sold out. The hall was transformed into a colourful theatre for one week and looked fabulous. With a live band and back-projected scenes designed by Elphin Lloyd Jones, this was a real multi-media experience and everybody – cast, crew and audience – had a thoroughly good time.

In March, Linnet Theatre visited to perform a rehearsed reading of their play *The Lost Art of Keeping a Secret* for the annual Friends Evening. Linnet Theatre has been set up by graduates of the Guildford School of Acting including George Brooks, who grew up in Blewbury and started acting with the Blewbury Players when he was eight.

Rehearsals for this summer's production, *A Monster Calls*, have just begun. This will be directed by Sabina Netherclift, an experienced professional director who runs her own company, Filament Theatre, and has particular interest in physical theatre and community work. This is a story about the power of stories, about imagination and fantasy, grief and survival, heartbreak and love and about growing up and letting go. There is a strong cast and an imaginative set and we expect this to be a moving, uplifting production. Performances are from 16 to 19 July and The Box Office opens for Friends on 4 June and for the general public on 6 June.

The Music Quiz returns in November and preparations will then begin for the Players' Fiftieth Anniversary in 2026. In anticipation, I am writing a history of the Players. A lot of people have already shared their memories and stories with me; any information and recollections you have will be of interest so please get in touch.

The Players have just built a new shed at Orchard Dene to store equipment and are especially grateful to the Friends of the Players for helping to fund investment in new facilities such as this. The Players are grateful for all the support they receive from the village community. We would not be able to do what we do without it. You can find more information on www.blewburyplayers.co.uk.

Steve White, Trustee