

Blewbury Bulletin

Number 685 April 2026

HELP OUR SCHOOL GROW A SENSORY GARDEN



We are a small village primary school with a big dream: to transform an unused outdoor space into a beautiful sensory garden for our children. This special area would provide a calm, engaging environment to support learning, wellbeing, and play for all pupils, including those with additional needs.

Our PTA has begun exploring plans and gathering quotes, but the cost of professional work – particularly for preparing the ground – has proven to be much higher than we can manage.

As a first step, we are hoping to make the area safe and usable by flattening and resurfacing the ground. We are reaching out to our wonderful local community to ask: **could anyone lend a hand?**

Whether you have experience in landscaping, access to equipment, or simply time and willingness to help, your support would make a huge difference. Even advice or recommendations would be greatly appreciated. Together, we can create something truly special for our children. If you're able to help in any way, please get in touch with the school office: office.3248@blewbury.oxon.sch.uk or the PTA: pta@blewbury.oxon.sch.uk *Jo Reeder*

BLEWBURY'S RUBBISH – LITTERALLY!

Congratulations and thank you to all who joined in the Great Litter Pick on 7th March. Twenty-three people came, including one child, and collected 26 sacks of litter. Most of it was food and drink containers although there were also two golf balls, two vapes, a wood saw and a steel bar! Bessels Way ditches didn't seem as bad as last year but we tackled Boham's Road, where six sacksful were collected. Quite amazing given the few houses on this no-through road. One volunteer wondered how we can tackle the problem of litter being thrown? It seems unsurmountable but I do know that we can all become 'litter-wombles' and pick it up when we see it. Thanks again, and to Mary for providing the tea and biscuits. *Jane Kinniburgh*



NIGHT CLOSURE OF LONDON ROAD

Resurfacing work on London Road (A417) will require overnight closure between 8pm and 6am for **three nights**, beginning on **31st March** and finishing at 6 am on **3rd April**. Between these times on those nights, London Road will be closed from Bessels Way to Bohams Road. See page 21 for details of other roadworks planned in the village.

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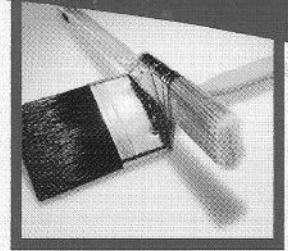
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FIRESIDE CHAT: FATHER JASON

Wednesday 4th March marked the fifth anniversary of Annabel and John taking over the Red Lion, and saw Elphin Lloyd-Jones guide Revd Canon Jason St. John Nicolle through their pub's second "Fireside Chat".

The son of a teacher (though his father moved into the clergy later in life), Father Jason grew up in Leicestershire, before moving to Dorset and then doing his History degree "in this area". That led to an initial career in law, working in London, including at a Law Centre helping people with debt or gambling problems. Enjoying the pastoral

side of that work, he felt a calling to become a parish priest. Ordained in 2004, his first such role was as a curate in Kidlington, before he moved here in 2008 with his wife Maranda.

Father Jason revealed the pleasure he now gets from writing organ music and performing recitals, as well as spending time with his family; and also from the opportunities he gets to teach, or just to "be there" for others. At Elphin's prompting, we learned his views on a wide range of topics; from the decline of church attendances, to reflections on human nature, the subjectivity of knowledge, and the violence we see in the world today.

The whole conversation can now be watched at <https://vimeo.com/1171387641?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci> (with thanks to Alastair Laidlaw for his video-recording). Father Jason's next Organ Recital is at St. Andrew's Hagbourne, at 5pm on Easter Sunday (5th April).



PICKLEBALL

Prepare yourselves for Pickleball starting in the village hall in April. After two taster sessions with the Oxfordshire pickleball rep, we look forward to starting a club to play in the main hall on Wednesday afternoons 5-6.30pm. Our start date will depend on how many people will attend over the Easter holidays. With 1 court, only 4 people can play at a time. So, we'll be organising how to arrange matches & players in due course. Pickleball is similar to tennis but with its own character. It's fairly easy to start out and the emphasis is to enjoy it & have fun. If you'd like to come and give it a go or be included in email updates, please contact Evi Holroyd on: blewburyvillagehall.adm@gmail.com or 07398 919992.



This month's Food Bank dates are Saturday 28th March to Monday 6th April. This delivery will be just after Easter but Easter treats for children would still be very welcome. Donation boxes outside the Charity School House on these dates or at The Post Office any time; local supermarkets also accept donations. All the usual items welcome; please ensure all food is within its sell by date. Foodbank cannot accept alcohol, razors, medicines, or homemade preserves. Cash donations, however small, are also very welcome. <https://didcotbaptist.churchsuite.com/donate>.

BULLETIN SEEKS HUMAN HELP TO DIGITISE

We would like to get all the pre-digital editions of the Blewbury Bulletin online (in due course). Scanning them will take a long time, and will only be an interesting job if you stop to read them – in which case it'll take even longer! If anyone has access to a scanner and is willing to take this on, even partially, for a modest payment, or can suggest a service provider, please contact editor@blewbury.co.uk.

PRE-SCHOOL LOTTERY

The winning numbers for this month's **Blewbury Pre-School Lottery** were as follows: March Draw 1st - 009; 2nd - 036; 3rd - 010. The prize fund was shared (50%/30%/20%) between the three winners and £177.50 was raised for Blewbury Pre-School. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all our members for their continued support. Membership spaces are available - to be a part of the next draw, download and fill out a form from www.blewburypreschool.co.uk, from the Post Office, or email lottery@blewburypreschool.co.uk.

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BLEWBURY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Thank you to everyone who came to Comedy Night and made the evening so enjoyable and such a success. Paddy Lennox, our compère, never fails to deliver, and we were treated to three fantastic comedians. A huge thank you to everyone who helped us set up, run the bar, and clear up. The tickets sold out (as usual), and we are very grateful for the amazing support for this event. The BVS is delighted to report that the event made over £1,500 to go on upkeep of the village's playgrounds.



Egg Rolling, Sunday 5th April, 3 pm

The annual Easter Egg Rolling is back on Easter Sunday, 5th April. It's open to everyone – bring your decorated eggs to the chalk pits (head up the footpath on the village side of Tickers Folly Field and you'll find us!). Prizes for the best decorated eggs and longest rolls (see the separate advert on page 7, designed by Elphin Lloyd-Jones).

Inter-pub Football Match: Blue v Red, Saturday 18th April, 3 pm, Blewbury Clubhouse

Following the success of the last two years' charity pub football matches, organised by Ben Silverthorne, the BVS is delighted to be able to support the latest Cleve Derby this year. Blewbury is incredibly lucky to have two amazing pubs, so come along and cheer on the Blueberry and Red Lion teams while raising money for Blewbury Pre-School and the Village Cob Wall Fund. Kick-off is at 3 pm, and the bar will be well stocked in time to welcome the crowds.

Blewbury Garden Market, Saturdays from 25th April

The Blewbury Garden Market will be running as usual this year at 09:15–11:00 on Saturdays from 25th April to September at Blewbury Service Station (see separate Bulletin entry on page 11).

BVS and Parish Council AGM, Thursday 21st May, 7 pm

The combined BVS and Parish Council AGM will be held on Thursday 21st May in the Village Hall. All welcome, to hear about the astonishing amount of activity that takes place in Blewbury, and contribute to future events.

Blewbury Summer Dance, Saturday 27th June

The annual Summer Dance will take place on Saturday 27th June at Ashbrook House, with music from the brilliant Too Much Stuff (you may remember them from previous Halloween discos and Beer Festivals). This is a great evening to get together in a beautiful setting with your village friends and beyond. More information on how to buy tickets will be available in next month's Bulletin.

BVS marquee for hire

The BVS marquee is available for hire by 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 Night or Summer Dance, you may have seen it in action. To book it, contact lydia.wanstall@gmail.com.

BVS committee

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

NORTH MORETON BOOK SALE

A reminder that North Moreton will be having its next Book Sale on Saturday 11th April in North Moreton Church, 10am until 3pm. Please let us know if you have any to give away. Email northmoretonbooksale@gmail.com, call 07908 314771 or 01235 818900 and the organisers will happily collect. And, of course, please come and buy!

JAZZ EVENTS

A look ahead to two concerts, both in St Michael's Church. Tickets from izabela@dircon.co.uk.

Sunday 7th June, Bossa Gringos – a truly fabulous Latin flavoured quintet

The Bossa Gringos take two melodic handfuls of classic Bossa Nova style pieces and make them their own to create a truly joyful jazz performance - Bossa Nova style! What's unusual about the band is that they have two bassists - Paul Jefferies (double bass) and Raph Mizuraki (bass guitar), plus the brilliant Ukrainian saxophonist Anatoliy Vychaslavov, critically acclaimed guitarist Hugh Turner and one of the UK's finest percussionists - Keith Fairburn. Paul, Raph and Toliy also play percussion. Uplifting, virtuosic music augmented by a host of musical / instrumental surprises! Doors 5pm, Concert 5.30-7.30pm with break, £20 includes glass of wine / soft drink

Sunday 5th July, Jo Harrop Trio

Amazing singer, a Ronnie Scott's favourite, with ace guitarist Jamie McRedie and bass tbc. Timings as above.

DUCK RACE

And don't forget the Duck Race, organised by the Bellringers: Easter Sunday, 5th April, in the Playclose, starting at 12 noon. If you haven't yet got your ducks (*in a row – sorry! Ed.*) please contact Richard Loyd on 07767 463285.

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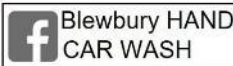


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ARTWEEKS IN BLEWBURY

2nd-10th May | Weekends & bank holiday: 10am-5pm | Weekdays: 10am-3pm | Blewbury Clubhouse

Featuring the works of four local artists: Julian March, Yvette Phillips, Karina Tarin, and Eleanor Wong; each artist bringing their own unique medium to life. Part of Oxfordshire Artweeks festival running throughout May with over 400 venues to visit. www.artweeks.org

JULIAN MARCH - Ceramics

Jules is all about soul food crockery. His collection spans the functional and the decorative: from bowls and plates to vases and jugs, food to flowers. What sets Jules' work apart are the interesting and vibrant colour combinations, paired with quirky, playful shapes that add character and charm to every piece. Much like humans, every piece carries its own small idiosyncrasies, making each creation special in its own right, just like us - perfectly imperfect, and full of personality.

YVETTE PHILLIPS - Textiles & Embroidery

Yvette combines vintage fabrics with intricate hand embroidery to create boldly coloured and visually striking works of art. Her pieces range from small, finely detailed embroidered works to large-scale collages, each showcasing a rich and diverse palette of colours, patterns, and textures. Her work is deeply inspired by her love of nature and the natural world.

KARINA TARIN - Oil Painting

Karina's richly coloured narrative oil paintings are inspired by ancient stories, symbolism, Renaissance and medieval art. Her work is a celebration of resilience, beauty and the magic that is an intangible part of our everyday lives. She is drawn to the age-old stories that are told to make sense of life and the powerful natural world around us - the myths, fables, folklore and symbolism that are woven into our collective understanding of the world and our place in it.

ELEANOR WONG - Semi-abstract Painting

Ellie's practice explores connections - to oneself, others, and the world we inhabit - through animals as powerful gateways revealing human essence. Inspired by childhood play and her children's unfiltered creativity, she builds dioramas to capture scenes, energy and imagined dialogues, drawing from them to create layered paintings, blending, oil, acrylic and ink.



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall is having its annual spring cleanup, which keeps everything looking fresh; hall users please report any issues to the hall administrator asap. The next BlewTube film is on Wednesday 8th April, 2pm in the Vale Room: *Fisherman's Friends*, a British comedy drama about a group of singing Cornish fishermen who are reluctantly signed up by a cynical London music executive. Tickets on the door £6, with refreshments. There's an up-to-date list of clubs and groups available at the hall, on the main entrance door, so everyone can find out what is happening!

Yoga with Cathy - 8am on Friday morning in the Village Hall

This class is the perfect way to start your yoga practice. We focus on slow movements, aiming at building up your mobility and flexibility, engaging different muscles in your body to slowly grow your strength - all whilst enjoying a nice, community environment where everybody is welcome. This class is the perfect way to finish your week as we always make sure to have a nice, long relaxation at the end, leaving you ready to enjoy the rest of your Friday. Please bring your own yoga mat, or let me know if you need to borrow one. You can book on the website: <https://www.momoyoga.com/yoga-withcathy/teacher-profile> or email: yogawithcathy@gmail.com

Blewbury Bridge Club – Weekly Duplicate Bridge Sessions

Blewbury Bridge Club warmly invites players to join our friendly duplicate bridge sessions held each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm (please arrive by 7.15pm for a prompt start) at the Village Hall.

Our sessions are open to players of all abilities, from improvers to experienced competitors. A partner is required, but if you need one, please contact us in advance and we will do our best to arrange a pairing. Table money is £2.50 payable by bank transfer.

♠ What to Expect

- Pre-dealt boards with hand records
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♥ Requirements

- Please arrive in good time for setup and scoring
- Mobile phones on silent during play

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OLLY GLOVER MP

Spring is finally here, and I am pleased to say it has brought some great progress in the constituency, as well as hopeful developments in Parliament. The roads have been a main topic of discussion, particularly the ongoing roadworks near Milton and Culham to improve road safety and the stepping up of pothole repairs now the weather has improved. There is more work to be done, so please continue reporting potholes and other defects on www.fixmystreet.com to make sure they are logged with the County Council.

As a regular cyclist myself, I raised concerns in parliament about the lack of government investment in active travel, which in many areas could reduce congestion, improve public health, and lower carbon emissions. In a Transport Committee meeting, we heard interesting evidence about the future of electric vehicles and the barriers which prevent them from being more widely used.

I asked the Department for Culture Media and Sport minister about the much-loved Vale and Downland Museum in Wantage, which, like many others, has battled against funding cuts to keep up the valuable work they do.

In the Westminster Hall Debate on Environmental Protection and Biodiversity, I had the opportunity to raise the outstanding work of many local groups and organisations. Community action groups, including The Letcombe Brook Project, The Earth Trust, and Sustainable Didcot, need adequate support from the government to continue to protect the countryside in our constituency.

My team has received much casework on student loan repayment plans, and I was able to raise two of these cases in a parliamentary debate. The Treasury Committee have now launched an inquiry into student and graduate finance to identify ways to make it fairer. If you're over 16 you can respond to their survey via www.parliament.uk/treascom. Back in the constituency, I have had the pleasure of meeting Carbon-ion Energy, a tech company developing next-generation energy storage, and Agratas Innovation Lab, a cutting-edge research facility on battery manufacturing. At UTC in Didcot, I spoke with students and staff, answering questions about local and national political activities, and even shared my own curry recipe. As always, if there is anything you feel I can help with, please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk or by leaving a voice message on 0207 219 7657.



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POST OFFICE AND VILLAGE SHOP NEWS

Spring has arrived at last, and we hope everyone is enjoying the lighter days and signs of the new season.

Easter Opening Hours

Over the Easter period we will be operating reduced hours.

From Monday 30th March to Monday 13th April 2026, the Post Office will be open Monday to Friday: 9am – 12 noon.

These temporary hours help us manage staffing over the holiday period. Normal opening hours will resume from Tuesday 14th April 2026 (see back page).

In the Shop

We are keeping the shop stocked with everyday essentials alongside our popular fresh free-range eggs, local honey, and sweet treats. We are also starting to stock a selection of handmade gifts and beautiful floral wreaths, perfect for springtime, seasonal decorating, or as thoughtful presents for friends and family. With Easter approaching, we'll have a selection of seasonal chocolates and treats available too.

As always, whether you need to post a parcel, top up the cupboard, or simply stop by for a chat, we're here and happy to help.

We would like to wish all our customers a very Happy Easter, and thank you again for supporting your local Post Office and shop - it really does make a difference to our small village community. *Sarah, Karen & Andrew*



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DIDCOT AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

D&D U3A meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining.

On 21st April there will be a talk entitled **Forensic Science Experience** by **Hayley Scott**, an opportunity to hear about the life of a real 'Crime Scene Investigator'. For details

email membership@didcotu3a.org or visit <https://didcot.u3asite.uk/>.

COFFEE & KIDS!

Our next monthly session is one week later than usual after the Easter holidays, on **Monday 13th April** from 10am to 11.30am in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall. We welcome all bumps, babies & toddlers, along with parents, grandparents or carers. Here is a warm, friendly and safe place to enjoy the company of others and have some refreshment as the little ones have fun with toys, learn to play together and even do some craft activities! A donation of £2 is appreciated towards our costs. Mothers' Union hosts look forward to welcoming you. Any queries, contact Louise on 07837 009730.

BLEWBURY GARDEN MARKET- COME AND JOIN THE PARTY

Blewbury Garden Market will reopen on 25th April, selling surplus garden produce, plants, baked goods etc, every Saturday morning in summer, 9.15 to 11 at Blewbury Service Station. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help – we believe we can start the season, but we still need more people, and the more we have, the less each person needs to do. Please contact blewburygm@gmail.com; further details at www.blewburygm.co.uk. You would be very welcome! And of course, we look forward to seeing anyone coming to the stall to pick up some early-season bargains. *Sarah Hargreaves*



BLEWBURY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting in April will be held in Aston Tirrold (at the Village Hall) on 14th April at 7.30 when we will learn about how the history group there has catalogued their historical collections. Please contact Mary Gaines if you are planning to attend. Meetings from May onwards will be held at 9 Westbrook Green on the second Tuesday of the month, starting at 7.30pm. Our meetings are open to everyone; if you would like further information, please contact Mary at m-gaines@outlook.com.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME

A reminder that British Summer Time begins on Sunday 29th March, when clocks go forward one hour at 01:00 GMT to 02:00 BST.



News from St. Michael's Church

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 for April 2026 at St Michael's:

<i>Maundy Thursday 2nd</i>	7.00pm 8.00pm	Time for Reflection Please join the 8pm service instead Maundy Thursday service and watch
<i>Good Friday 3rd</i>	2pm	An hour at the Cross
† Sunday 5th April Easter Day	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Parish Eucharist The service will finish in time for the Duck Race!
<i>Wednesday 8th</i>	7.30pm	Fellowship group, Charity School House
† Sunday 12th April Second Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Choir-led Taizé service
<i>Thursday 16th</i>	10.00am	Mothers' Union Holy Communion (in Blewbury not Upton)
† Sunday 19th April Third Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Parish Eucharist
<i>Wednesday 22nd</i>	7.30pm	Fellowship group, Charity School House
† Sunday 26th April Fourth Sunday of Easter	10.30am 4pm	Parish Eucharist Benefice confirmation service with Bishop Gavin: <u>All Saints' North Moreton</u>

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** (15 minute night prayer) every weekday night at 8pm via link <https://meet.goto.com/312446493>.



Life events in our parish

Recent funeral:

12th March at the South Oxfordshire Crematorium: Fleur Hope, aged 85.
May she rest in peace and rise in glory

Recent baptism:

1st March at St Michael's Blewbury: Cleo Louisa Florence Saunders



Free Organ recital

Every first Sunday of the month

St Andrew's Church

East Hagbourne OX11 9LP

Next recital Easter Day 5th April at 5pm

Father Jason will play an Easter programme



Dying in Order to Release New Life

There are so many hymns and songs which have been written to celebrate the feast of Easter. I wonder if you have a favourite? One of my favourites begins:

“Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth many days hath lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green”. These words were written by the Revd John Macleod Campbell Crum, a Church of England clergyman who served as Rector of Farnham in Surrey and as a Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.



The hymn focusses on a simple but profound image: if a seed is to release new life, it has to die to itself. Jesus used this image in a conversation with some of his disciples: *“very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”* (John’s Gospel, chapter 12, verse 24).

At one level, this saying is about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus’ death was necessary in order to release the power of the resurrection: that new life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, which brings new hope to us all, transforming our own lives and our relationships with God and with one another.

At another level, the death and resurrection of Jesus reveals a more general truth. Sometimes things have to come to an end before there can be a new beginning. It can be hard for us to let things die, in order that something new can start. We can gain a sense of security from keeping to the familiar and the well-tested. But sometimes we need to let go of what has gone before, and open ourselves to a new beginning in our lives. We need to have the courage to die to the old, so that we can welcome in the new.

Easter is the great celebration of the new life which comes to us as God’s gift in Jesus. This new life gives us hope, even in the face of death itself. We can look with confidence to the future, knowing that we have nothing to fear from the changes in our life and in our world. In the words of the hymn, love will *“come again, like wheat that springeth green”*. The death and resurrection of Jesus teaches us that God’s love never dies – it always *“lives again”*. No wonder Easter is the greatest festival of the Church’s year!

- Father Jason



A significant objective for Mothers’ Union members is to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service. One very meaningful way that we do this is by linking up with members in different parts of the world. Each Diocese is connected to others. Here in Oxford, we are linked with members in **Kinshasa** in the Democratic Republic of Congo, **Victoria Nyanza** in Tanzania, **Ahoda & Warri** in

Nigeria and **Port Moresby** in Papua New Guinea. Sometimes communications are difficult, but we try to keep regular contact with MU in these areas so we can understand their issues, celebrate their joys and pray for their needs. We send MU Oxford news to these places too.

For three days every year Mothers’ Union worldwide hold each group of Dioceses in prayer. It is called **The Wave of Prayer** and our Oxford group is 20 – 22 April. This year, Oxford are holding their Spring Meeting in Reading Minster on 21st April and Bishop Mary will lead our Wave of Prayer; 1pm if you are interested in joining this event. These prayers are compiled by one of our members, Maranda St John Nicolle, who has some personal contacts with these overseas members. It is likely our branch will meet for prayer one evening during this period, but the prayers are also published in our Spring Magazine, FOCUS, so can be used privately in our homes.

Our branch continues to meet monthly for a Holy Communion service followed by refreshments. In the Summer months we return to Blewbury, so the service is at 10am at St. Michael’s Church, Blewbury on Thursday 16th April. All are very welcome. Join us and Join in.

Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730, leader, Churn MU branch

Food Bank Collection

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH - MONDAY 6TH APRIL

Thank you for your continued generosity. Giving even one item to the Didcot Emergency Foodbank will make a difference to the Foodbank’s ability to help those in need. Drop off at the Old School House between the dates above or at the Post Office anytime.

Financial contributions are also very welcome. Please donate directly to <https://didcotbaptist.churchsuite.com/donate/> choosing “foodbank” in the “fund” option.

- St Michael's Action Group



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Dates for 2026

A Flye on the Wall - Songs, Sketches, Memories and Merriment to celebrate this Venerable Village and the 50th anniversary of the Blewbury Players, St Michael's Church, 20 June

The Wind in the Willows, Orchard Dene, 15-18 July

Fifty Years of Blewbury Players, Exhibition, Orchard Dene Garden, 15-18 July

A Christmas Carol, St Michael's Church, 25-28 November

More details for all at www.blewburyplayers.co.uk



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CRICKET CLUB

As we (hopefully) start to bid adieu to a long, wet winter and the daffodils start swaying in the spring breeze, attention drifts to warmer months and the bucolic sound of leather on willow. Blewbury Cricket Club is always looking for new members and passionate supporters. We are a club for **all ages and abilities with everyone welcome**. We have about 50 members; fixtures take place from mid-May to mid-September. We host three different types of matches throughout the season. Midweek games are generally 20 overs and played against local opposition or indeed scratch teams.



They start at 6 and are normally finished by 9pm - they tend to take place on Tuesdays and sometimes Wednesday and Thursdays. On Fridays we have an interclub match turn up and play with 2 teams (The Badgers and The Roosters) playing a T20 against each other. These are fun for all the family, with a well-stocked bar and non-cricketers watching or indeed playing around the outfield. Finally we hold a few Sunday 40-over games against local opposition for those who like to take their cricket slightly more seriously. There is a pay bar at the ground and changing/toilet facilities. This season Didcot Cricket Club will be using the ground for a number of fixtures, both midweek and over the weekend and may also be looking for players. Thanks to the invaluable support of BlewShed we have had our gang mowers serviced which will no doubt improve the quality of the outfield. If you are interested in becoming a member or simply coming up to watch, do get in touch – contact details below. Fixtures will appear on the club website and Whatsapp group shortly. We thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support of the cricket club.

New youth cricket coaching - every Friday, 5pm-6pm from 8th May 2026. We would like to welcome any children aged 4-10 to come for some coaching at the Rec. Please contact John Barrett (johnbarrett6@gmail.com) for more information. If any parents would like to help out with the sessions then please get in touch.

Dates for your diary - Friday Night Lights Club nights begin on **Friday May 8th** and on **Friday May 22nd** - **Cricket Club BBQ and Community Cricket Night from 6pm**. All are welcome, especially those who have never played cricket before to give it a go – women and girls are especially welcome as we would love to encourage more to take up the game. *Rob Southwell-Sander, Club Captain* rsouthwellsander@yahoo.co.uk

James Barrett, Secretary - jimbaret@gmail.com; Whatsapp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ini9dXhahm48Gb0Z8LRlgS>
Club website: <https://www.blewburycricketclub.co.uk/>

BLEWBURY WI

Our next monthly meeting is **Wednesday 22 April** at 7.30pm in the Vale room. Jim MacLeod will tell us all about “The history of the traditional British Toastmaster”. ‘My Lords - Ladies - and Gentlemen - pray silence...’ (really, really, ladies). From the first time the red tailcoat was worn by a toastmaster in 1894 to the current time, there have been many changes in the way that toastmasters work. A humorous and informative history of a very British tradition.



The committee is concocting a super programme of meetings and visits as well as the usual subgroups of Scrabble, Mah Jong, craft club and book club. Blewbury WI often features in our 4,000 copy County magazine “Oxfordshire Inspires” in the ‘Over to you’ section which highlights what different WIs have been up to. You’ll often see us featured in the Didcot issue of the “Round and About” free publication, too.

We have a few new members and welcome them all to our sisterhood of fun and support. Although our WI is currently full yet again, we are running a shorter waiting list. If you are thinking of coming as a visitor please ring Joy to ensure that this will work (don’t want the room to be too full - H&S and all that).

The Blewbury WI secretary is Joy on 850543 or email blewburywi@gmail.com.

Mondays	2.30pm	Mah Jong	Sharon
Friday 3 April	7pm	Craft club	Karen
Monday 13 April	10.00am	Coffee morning	Trish
Monday 13 April	7pm	Scrabble	Karen
Thursday 16 April	2.30pm	Rummikub	Susanne

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BLEWBURY PLAYERS

We are having a wonderfully busy year, delighted by and appreciative of the involvement, attendances and support of so many with our ongoing 50th celebrations. If you missed our entertaining evening preview of Steve's new book **Drama in an Oxfordshire Village Fifty Years of the Blewbury Players** do please take a moment to look at our informative flyer (with barcode for



ordering) which is enclosed in this Bulletin issue. We would be very grateful if you would consider pre-ordering to help us cover the up-front costs of printing. Every pre-ordered copy will be signed by Steve!

Things may appear a little quieter for a while but be sure that what you can't see is a hive of activity in preparation for future events. This week that includes our first gathering and read through for the cast and production team of *The Wind in the Willows*. Always an exciting day watching the world emerge from the page. If anyone is interested in providing technical support or joining a non performing role for this production please do get in touch at blewburyplayers@gmail.com. We can support with training and mentoring etc.

Our next event is...

A FLYE ON THE WALL - An entertainment of Songs, Sketches, Memories and Merriment to celebrate this Venerable Village and the 50th anniversary of the Blewbury Players, St Michael's Church, 20 June. Box office opens online 29 May. £15 (to include a glass of wine). Start 7.30pm. Catie Flye will be joined by her usual Two Cousins and a Piano team, which have performed so many enjoyable revues in Blewbury over the years.

Full details of all our 2026 plans are at www.blewburyplayers.co.uk. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

BLEWSHED

BlewShed Community Projects: Repairs to the Cricket Club Jeremy Faulkner memorial spectators' seat are



complete, ready for the new season. A BlewShed member, Dick Street, who worked on this project, was in the same class as Jerry at school! Enjoy watching the matches in comfort. BlewShed members are now restoring the old and wobbly teak bench that used to be by the playground on Tickers Folly Field.

BlewShed Maintenance: is a constant work in progress with current priority being an upgrade of the electrical system. When this has been completed, work can begin on installation of a dust extraction system and compressed air supply for the machine shop.

Meetings: Prostate cancer research was the subject of BlewShed's February Tuesday evening meeting. We were fortunate to have public health medical scientist Dr Claire Friedemann-Smith, Senior Researcher at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Sciences, University of Oxford come to talk about her important work and how eligible volunteers can take part. Her research covers improving routes to diagnosis for cancer, clinician-patient communication, clinical decision making, and patient safety. Not a usual topic for a metal and wood workshop but a very important one which was well-attended by both members and non-members. For anyone who could not attend, Claire left some information leaflets at BlewShed. The next meeting, which may be before you receive your Bulletin, on Tuesday 24th March will be a demonstration of veneering and marquetry by Mike Magnay. All welcome.

Courses: There have been several recent enquiries about a repeat of the 'DIY for Beginners' courses which BlewShed held a couple of years ago. If interested, please contact a member of BlewShed or just drop in and talk to us.

Collaboration with Sustainable Blewbury proved a success when SB held their recent repair café at the Melland Room including tool sharpening in BlewShed. This is likely to be repeated later in the year.

BlewShed opening times: Monday 2-4pm, Tuesday 1.30-4pm, Thursday 2.00-4pm, Friday 2-4pm and Saturday afternoons 1.30-4.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to club nights on the **fourth** Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at BlewShed. We look forward to seeing you. *Mike Wrottesley, BlewShed secretary*
<https://blewshed.home.blog/news/>



Thanks again for the **Great Litter Pick** which is covered on the front page.

Nature Reserve. Next volunteering day is Saturday 11 April between 0930 and noon. Our priority task is to plant 1,000 yellow rattle plugs which didn't arrive in time to be planted in March. Everyone welcome. More details from the secretary (see below).

Annual Celebration and AGM, Weds 22 April, the Manor Barn. Andy Evason, one of our Trustees, has kindly agreed for SB to use his barn for the AGM. Andy has been 'greening' the Manor since he moved here a few years ago. He will show us what he has been doing and what he is planning to do in future including to improve energy efficiency. We will walk around the Manor Gardens from 7.30pm, return to the Barn for free refreshments and then have our AGM when we will report on 2025. There will be time for discussion, and we would like to hear your views about our activities. Do come along and meet other supporters.

Next Repair café, Sun 14 June, 2 to 4pm, Melland Room and BlewShed. More details next month but don't throw away any broken items in the meantime. Save them to bring along. *Jane Kinniburgh*

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To freecycle your item please send a short description, email & phone number to Lydia Inglis (lydandmuz@gmail.com) with "Freecycle" in the email subject.		

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

NATURE NOTES

As T. S. Eliot states in the very first line of *The Waste Land*, surely one of the greatest poems of the 20th Century, "April is the cruellest month." Whilst there are many interpretations of this line, my take is that he is referring to the vagaries of the good old British weather. April can be a time of much warmth and lengthening days, promising much of the summer to come. Then just as you are settling down, enjoying spring, a cruel twist can appear from the left-field; East winds and hailstorms batter the new, green growth and destroying the delicate blossom.

However, a sight to brighten any April day, whether rain or shine is a trip to one of our magical Bluebell woods. Although the common Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) can be found from the Iberian Peninsula to north-western Europe, it is in the British Isles where they can be found in the highest densities, forming extensive carpets of dark blue on the forest floor and filling the air with a heady, sweet bouquet. They are sign that the wood they live in is from an ancient time. In the Victorian secret world of 'floriography', or language of flowers, Bluebells represented everlasting love, and due to the nature of their nodding, bowing heads they were also seen as a sign of gratitude and humility. Although nowadays they are protected by law and cannot be picked. Going further back in time the bulbs contain a sticky 'mucilage' that has been used for book binding, the fletching of arrows and the stiffening of many an Elizabethan ruff!

Apart from the continued loss of our ancient woodlands, the native Bluebell is suffering from competition and hybridisation from the 'Spanish Bluebell' (*H. hispanica*), which was introduced to the UK in the 17th Century. This species has paler flowers with less recurved petals and the flowers are produced on all sides of the stem. Our native species has much darker blue flowers, and only produces them on one side of the stem. *Glen Meadows*

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

Wildlife corridors are living tapestries woven together to produce a natural passage connecting fragmented habitats. They allow animals to safely migrate, find food, reproduce, and adapt to environmental changes while keeping our landscape functioning as a single, connected system rather than a scatter of isolated fragments. But with increased development of land, the mobility of wildlife has become restricted, areas isolated, and the genetic diversity of our ecosystems reduced. And this extends to our rivers and waterways.

At the Evenlode Catchment Partnership, hosted by Wild Oxfordshire, we have developed innovative approaches to river restoration, such as the creation of wetlands, ponds, and fish passages, alongside natural flood management efforts like the installation of leaky woody dams and storage bunds. These interventions not only restore natural habitats but also reduce flood risks, benefiting local communities. In addition, farmers are being supported to adopt approaches that work with natural processes rather than against them. <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>.

UPTON NATURE GARDEN

News from our neighbouring village, where Blewbury residents were amongst those who helped establish the Nature Garden. Spring flowers, red admiral butterflies, lots of singing birds and several ladybirds were amongst the wildlife in the Garden on 15th March. Eight valiant volunteers shifted a triple mountain of chippings to give all the paths and picnic glade a deep weed-suppressing layer. A couple of nettles around the banana bench have been removed, ready for restful contemplation whilst the little ones race the figure of eight path around the trees.

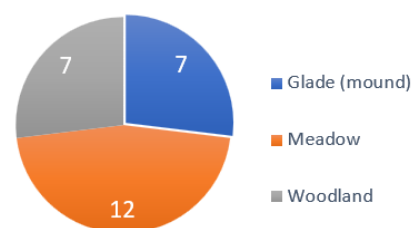


Our next meet-up is on Sunday 19th April, 10 am; we will tackle the orchard and nut bank, carry out a bird song survey and mow the meadow path.

Spring Plant Survey (15th March)

In this survey we counted how many different plants we could see inside a 1m square. We're not botanists, so identification was done using a plant recognition app. In the height of summer, the big white oxeye daisies can appear to be only plant in the meadow. This survey shows there are many more plants there. In 1m² we spotted shepherds purse, snakes head fritillary, yarrow and salad burnett amongst the 12 species. On the mound in the centre of the glade, we spotted ivy leaf speedwell and wood avens – a food plant for the grizzled skipper butterfly. In the woodland, plants that we saw included wild strawberry, cowslips and bluebells. We'll repeat the survey in July and September to look for summer and autumn plants. *Kathryn Fletcher*

Species count in 1 m²



BRIDGE NOTES

See also page 9 for details of our weekly sessions in the Village Hall – please do come and join us! Meanwhile, some exciting club news: in the Wessex League, Blewbury is going to win Division 2. The second-placed team still has a game to play, but the maximum score per game is 20 and they can't catch us. Congratulations to the team.

Bidding up

Bidding is often seen as a scientific exercise, where you describe your hand as accurately as possible and always look for the "right bid". I disagree; you want to win the deal. If you have rubbish, don't stand aside. Get in the way. Aggression is often a winning tactic. Should you open on an 11-count, for instance? (There are 40 points between the four players, so 10 is average and 11 is only slightly better.) Traditionally, no. In practice, if you can see an excuse, yes. Two aces and a king suffice, for instance. There's something called the Rule of 19... I never bother with it, but it's interesting here. This says "open the bidding if your point count plus the length of your two longest suits is 19 or more). You'll end up failing in some thin games if you follow my advice, admittedly, but it can pay in the long run.

FIRST HAND: my partner opened 3H as West, so we missed a slam. Open 1H! Or, if you really must, 4H. (For me, a three-level opening is always weak and destructive. It suggests a desire to get in the way and no ambitions of your own.)

SECOND HAND: you're East, with two chunky six-card suits and eight points. What should you open? Weak 2H? Answer: not on your nelly. Your hand is fantastic, regardless of the point count. Remember the Rule of 19? Open 1H and you'll reach the superb 6C slam. Partner will be unstoppable on hearing about your second suit (and don't do anything silly like chickening out because you're nervous about your opening bid). If you're lucky, North might even double! *Finn Clark*

	♠ 10962	N
Bd 23, Dlr S	♥ 74	Other table
4♥+2 W	♦ K1098	6♥= W
W	♣ J82	E
♠ J		♠ Q85
♥ KQJ10953		♥ A62
♦ Q764		♦ AJ
♣ 10		♣ AK764
	♠ AK743	W N E S
	♥ 8	3♥ P P 4♥ P
	♦ 532	P P P
	♣ Q953	
	♠ 9532	N
Bd 10, Dlr E	♥ 5	Other table
4♥+2 W	♦ AKQJ42	5♥+1 E
W	♣ A4	E
♠ AK8		♠ 7
♥ K4		♥ AQJ1062
♦ 10753		♦ -
♣ KQ52		♣ J108763
	♠ QJ1064	W N E S
	♥ 9873	INT P 2♥ P
	♦ 986	2♥ 3♥ 4♥ P
	♣ 9	4♥ P P P

CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT

Long overdue, I think, is a review of the regional favourite foods across this vast country. Starting in the east, a favourite in the Province of **Newfoundland and Labrador** is the humble but delicious pea soup, combining dried peas and salt pork or ham to feed the population through harsh winters, served with homemade bread. **New Brunswick** (the only province which officially has two languages), is famous for its oysters, and adjoining Nova Scotia for its lobster and seafood chowder.

The large province of **Quebec** favours Tourtière, a savoury meat pie (minced pork, veal or game), flavoured with cloves and cinnamon; and also Poutine, a weird mix of chips, fresh cheese curds and rich savoury gravy – a favourite fast food staple! But in Montreal, brined, smoked and steamed beef brisket is served on rye bread with mustard and pickles. Up to 80% of the world supply of maple syrup is produced here, tapped from the national Maple tree when the sap is rising, traditionally drizzled over stacks of fluffy pancakes and grilled bacon – yum!

Ontario loves Butter Tarts, flaky pastry filled with a mixture of sugar, butter and eggs, and also raisins or pecans. Specific to Ottawa, the local delicacy is Beaver Tails: fried doughnuts shaped like a beaver's tail, topped with sugar, cinnamon chocolate and fruit!

Schmoo Torte is a Winnipeg (**Manitoba**) specialty consisting of sponge cake, whipped cream, nuts, and caramel, prepared by Jewish mothers and served at Bar Mitzvahs. A Manitoban savoury delicacy is Goldeneye, a smoked freshwater fish, marinated in brine before being dried then smoked over a fragrant wood fire, enhancing the flavour of the otherwise bland-tasting fish.

In **Saskatchewan** we find the unique Saskatoon berry pie: sweet and nutty berries native to the Canadian prairies, the abundant summer produce being preserved for winter and baked into a warming pie. **Alberta**, with its vast prairies, majors on grilled meat, specifically beef and bison; this is also where the famous Red Fife Wheat is grown.

In **British Columbia** we find the Nanaimo Bar: a sweet delicacy with a no-cook crumb base and custard filling, topped with chocolate and coconut flakes. Pacific Wild Salmon has been central to indigenous diets for centuries; smoked, dried or roasted, it highlights sustainable fishing practices. Another (short seasonal) delicacy is Spot Prawns.

In the **North West Territories**, Tuktuk (Caribou) stew is a traditional hearty dish of cubed caribou meat simmered with root vegetables and barley until the meat is tender; often served with Bannock, originally a no-yeast Scottish bread cooked over an open fire or pan-fried, now made from locally harvested grains and roots and popular with Indigenous groups. *Angela Hoy* (ahoy2343@gmail.com).

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

We're coming off X

Be kept up to date with the latest from Oxfordshire County Council by following us on WhatsApp:

- Follow our WhatsApp news channel <https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb6XZLW4IBhD22T8tn1z> for the latest news, alerts, and more from across the county.
- Follow our WhatsApp travel channel <https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb6EkJw4NVik6FXQda3I> for the latest travel alerts, road closures and disruptions.

Alternatively, why not follow us on BlueSky? <https://oxfordshirecc.bsky.social>

Roads and potholes

In the week of 2nd March we fixed 1,885 potholes. Dragon patchers have been key to this, as they are working on some of the higher priority routes. They are able to deliver faster repairs. (*If, like me, you didn't know what a Dragon Patcher is, have a look online...it's quite an apt name – Ed.*)

We also saw a significant drop in the most severe defects allowing us to make some good progress. There is still lots to do but with a further increase in teams we are making sure we're keeping up the pace and quality. Take a look at our highways blogs at <https://blogs.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tag/transport/>, including an explanation of the different types of repair we used for different road defects. You can also see news and updates at <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/oxfordshire-county-council-highways-and-transport/>. We'll be adding videos and other content to this portal over the coming weeks on a range of highways related topics so keep coming back.

Targeted Youth Support Service

Working with young people through small group sessions and tailored one-to-one support, The Oxfordshire Targeted Youth Support Service address specific challenges they may be facing, such as risks in the community, difficulties with peer relationships or exploitation. They help them build life skills, develop healthy relationships and make decisions that are right for them. Adults who work with young people can request support from the Targeted Youth Support Service (with the young person's consent). For details see <https://oxme.info/services/targeted-youth-support-service>.

PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of Blewbury Parish Council's meeting: 7pm, **Wednesday 18 March 2026**, Melland Room, Blewbury Clubhouse.

Present: Sheila Austin, Andrew Calder, Andy Evason, Anne Millman, Sarah Parkin, Lee Robinson, Julia Saunders (chair), Ben Scott and Mark Shayler. Also present Michelle Taylor-Parish (clerk.)

There were apologies from: district councillors Hayleigh Gascoigne and Andy Cooke, county councillor Rebekah Fletcher and Iain Wood.

Local news – The highways agency has visited the village and committed to some repairs as follows. The flooding on Westbrook Street by the school will be fixed within 28 days. The catchpits and gullies on Berry Lane will be cleared during April. We're not always told in advance when the roadworks will start but will endeavour to let people know. Resurfacing work will be done on London Road (A417). **These are overnight works from 8pm to 6am, and will take place from 8pm on 31 March for 3 nights until 6am on 3rd April. During these times, London Road will be closed from Bessels Way to Bohams Road.**

District council news – The Vale of White Horse District Council is keen to bring empty houses back into use. They are offering homeowners information, advice and support, including help: to make the property more energy efficient, refurbishing the property including VAT reduction for renovation and alteration works, additional revenue by renting the property to a tenant in housing need, alongside financial assistance if the property requires minor refurbishment works before being let, additional revenue by letting privately, selling the property privately, through an estate agent or through auction.

Planning Applications

Enquiries regarding planning in the parish may be sent to blewburypc@gmail.com. All Blewbury planning applications, decisions and BPC responses, including items under consideration, can be found in the planning section of the Vale of White Horse website. This has full details and plans for all applications.

Responses to the District Council

P26/V0323/FUL: Downside Farm Woodway Road Blewbury Didcot OX11 9EX. Erection of extension to existing workshop to form an office. No objection.

P26/V0331/AG: Winterbrook Farm Bessels Way Blewbury Didcot OX11 9NL. Straw shed. No objection.

P26/V0326/FUL: Downside Farm Woodway Road Blewbury Didcot OX11 9EX. Erection of storage barn. No objection.

P26/V0292/HH: Orchard House Chapel Lane Blewbury Didcot OX11 9PQ. Proposed single storey rear extension, remodelling works including recladding of existing garage, replacement of front porch-veranda structure, changes to the fenestration and the introduction of PV panels. No objection.

Decisions from the District Council

None.

Need to contact your parish councillors? **Sheila Austin** 3 Ladycroft Park, **Andrew Calder** Trefagus, Chapel Lane, **Andy Evason** The Manor, Berry Lane, **Anne Millman** Brook Cottage, Church End, **Sarah Parkin** Lowmans, South Street, **Lee Robinson** 6 Chailey Gardens, **Julia Saunders** Charity School House, Church Road, **Ben Scott** Little Morters, Dibleys, **Mark Shayler** 2 Eastfields.

Michelle Taylor-Parish (clerk) 07968 772935 blewburypc@gmail.com

The next parish council meeting will be at 7pm on **Wednesday 15 April 2026**, in the Melland Room at the Clubhouse.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

If you haven't yet had your say on the future of local government in Oxfordshire, there's just time for early readers of the Bulletin to get your responses in: **the consultation closes at 23:59 on Thursday 26th March**. We would strongly encourage everyone to have a say, because this decision will affect all council services, potentially for decades to come. <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/oxfordshire>.

POLICE COMMISSIONER

Last month I joined Thames Valley Police Officers for the launch of the Force's new Roads Policing Unit (RPU) Tasking Team, which will deliver a more strategic and targeted approach to road safety using data and intelligence to identify areas of greatest risk and highest harm. The team will then proactively deploy to these locations to directly address the behaviours and offences driving those risks. *Matthew Barber*



Concert by 4-piece folk band
Traditional and contemporary folk songs and
tunes from UK and Ireland
**St Michael's Church, Bank Holiday Monday,
4th May; £15 incl. a glass of wine or soft drink**
– contact Pat Mattimore
bernardmat@btinternet.com
Every toe will be tapping!

Autumn Leaves The dates for the Bingo Sessions in the Vale Room, Village Hall at 2pm are 14th & 28th April. For further information, or if anyone would like to join Autumn Leaves, call Cilla Maguire on 01235 851966. We would welcome any new members to come and join us.

Astons Online CIC supports people who want to be digitally confident on the Internet, with smartphone apps or online services like health and banking. **Astons Online** CIC events and support are free and open to all. There are in-person one-to-one sessions in Aston Upthorpe Village Hall (OX11 9EQ) on Tuesday 21st April from 10:00 to 12 noon. Please book an appointment by email theastonsonline@gmail.com or by phone 07780 958249.

Didcot based charity, **Getting Oxfordshire Online**, would love to have your **unwanted laptops, tablets and smartphones** to distribute to others who are not able to have their own. Demand in the county is greater than supply so any used devices would be welcome. Contact us by email or phone as above.

BLEWBURY FLYING SQUAD is a volunteer hospital car service for Blewbury residents. We cover appointments in hospitals, doctors' surgeries, dentists, opticians, chiropodists, 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

Easter Holidays (30th March to 13th April): Monday-Friday 9am-12 noon.

Normal hours: Monday: 9am-3pm. Tuesday: 9am-3pm. Wednesday: 9am-12 noon. Thursday: 9am-3pm. Friday: 9am-3pm.

VILLAGE DIARY for April 2026

				Page
Sunday	5	12 noon	Duck Race, Play Close	5
Sunday	5	3 pm	Egg rolling, Chalk Pits	5
Wednesday	8	2 pm	Blewtube film: Fisherman's Friends, Vale Room	7,9
Saturday	11	9.30 am - 12 noon	Sustainable Blewbury volunteering, Nature Reserve	18
Monday	13	10 - 11.30 am	Coffee & Kids!, Vale Room	11
Tuesday	14	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	22
Tuesday	14	8 pm	Local History Group meeting, Aston Tirrold Village Hall	11
Wednesday	15	7 pm	Parish Council meeting, Melland Room	21
Saturday	18	3 pm	Inter-pub football match Blue vs Red, Blewbury Clubhouse	5
Tuesday	21	7.30 pm	Editorial and advertising deadline for May Bulletin	
Wednesday	22	7.30 pm	Sustainable Blewbury AGM, Blewbury Manor	18
Wednesday	22	7.30 pm	WI meeting and talk: The British Toastmaster, Vale Room	15
Saturday	25	9.15 - 11 am	Blewbury Garden Market first stall, Blewbury Service Station	11
Tuesday	28	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	22
Tuesday	28	7.30 pm	BlewShed meeting, The Shed, Recreation Ground	17

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)

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 at editor@blewbury.co.uk in the first instance, ideally as a Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, JPEG or PDF attachment. 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, 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 Brokenwood, Bessels Way, Blewbury, OX11 9NP. While we work hard to ensure the accuracy of published information, the Editor and Officers accept no responsibility for the consequences of any errors. **Problems receiving your Bulletin? Email louise.esplin1@gmail.com.**
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