

Blewbury Bulletin

Number 686 May 2026

DUCK RACE RESULTS AND BELLRINGING NEWS

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Duck Race this year, especially those involved with the tickets, posters etc, those in the stream and to Sarah, Karen and Andrew at the Post Office. Most of all, thank you to all the families who came to enjoy this lovely village social occasion in the spring sunshine. This was the 30th Duck Race and a strange meteorological fact is that it has only rained once on Easter Sunday during those 30 years! Do the ducks have special powers over the weather we wonder? The winners, in order across the finish line, were first number 90 (Eden Bramhill), number 343 (Emily Doyle Benn), and number 459 (Katrina Kowalczyk). The lucky winner of the 'name the bunny' competition was Jenny Bennett who correctly guessed that the name of the bunny was Basil.

The proceeds from the race go to St Michael's Tower and Bell Fund. Due to wear and tear, we will soon have to replace our eight bell ropes which will cost £200 each, so we really appreciate your support and hope that you enjoyed the fun and excitement of the race as much as we did.

Our three new learners are making great progress; we hope that they will continue to enjoy this ancient art, and help us to keep St Michael's bells ringing out in future years. *Richard Loyd*



BOLLARDS IMPROVE CHILDREN'S SAFETY

A parent writes: we were hoping you can share some positive feedback from our child on the recently added yellow bollards on London Road. *"The bollards are helpful because drivers notice me waiting to cross for school. Cars often slow down or stop and I don't have to wait for ages to get to my bus."*



MESSAGE FROM DAVE WALL

I would like to say a big thank you to Karen and Andrew for my farewell party, and to all that attended, plus a big thank you for all the cards and gifts. I will be keeping all the cards as they had some beautiful and touching words in them. It was a privilege to be your village postman for so many years.

From Karen and Andrew: Thank you to everyone who came, to everyone who had sent cards and donations to the post office, huge thanks to those who brought delicious cakes and biscuits, to Fr Jason for his kind words, and to the village hall trustees for allowing us to use the hall.

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MOONRAKERS CONCERT

Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May, St Michael's Church

7.30pm (doors open 7:00pm). The show features the 4-piece folk band Moonrakers – traditional and contemporary folk songs

and tunes from the UK and Ireland (see www.moonrakers.net). Tickets £15 including a glass of wine or a soft drink. This will be a very lively evening and every toe will be tapping. Some audience participation and we promise an evening of first-class entertainment. Profit for St. Michael's Church. Tickets on sale now at Blewbury Post Office or on the door but best to reserve to avoid disappointment. Reservations/enquiries Pat Mattimore 01235 851088 or email bernardmat@btinternet.com. Look out for the posters and see April Round and About for more details.



FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S UPCOMING EVENTS – OPEN TO ALL

Church Tower Tour - Saturday May 30th 1:00pm - Back by popular demand, a rare chance to climb the Church Tower and see Blewbury from above. Numbers for the tour of the tower are limited, please book your place by emailing fosmblewbury@gmail.com. Not suitable for under 12's. Children's events will be taking place on ground level, do come along and join in the fun & games. Refreshments available.

Season of Jazz concerts - Starting with Bossa Gringo on **Sunday 7th June**. Doors open 5:00pm. Tickets £20 including a glass of wine or soft drink, available from Gill & Richard Loyd 07767 463285 or from the Post Office.

Fathers' Day Curry Lunch - After a few years of rest the hugely popular Curry Lunch is back! **Sunday 21st June**, to be held at Old Malthouse Close, Chapel Lane from 12.30pm. Proceeds in aid of building maintenance and improvements to St. Michael's Church. Full details in the June Bulletin.

Deadline for 2027 Calendar photos - Tuesday 30th June. Email your photos of the village all aspects, all seasons to fosmblewbury@gmail.com for a chance to be in next year's Village Calendar.

Hold the Date - future events, more details to follow

Season of Jazz concerts: further dates are 5th July, 13th August and 11th October

Barn dance: 17th October

Autumn fair: 7th November

With the help and support of the Friends and villagers we ran several successful events last year including a tour of the church tower, a season of jazz & music concerts, a book fair and advent wreath making. All of which, along with subscriptions, donations and sales of Blewbury Snowdrop cards and mugs, allowed us to contribute £9,875 to the essential restoration work of the lime wall plastering and gutter repair of the church and £908 for the installation of the path lights, making it much safer for everyone.

Thank you for your ongoing support towards the preservation of this important historical church building in our beautiful village. *Friends of St Michael's Committee*

ARTWEEKS EXHIBITION IN BLEWBURY - OPENING 2nd MAY

The Clubhouse, Boham's Road, Blewbury, OX11 9HF

2nd – 10th May | Weekends & Bank Holiday 10:00am-5:00pm | Weekdays 10:00am-3:00pm

Just a reminder that we will be holding our annual Artweeks exhibition in the Blewbury Clubhouse, opening on Saturday 2nd May at 10:00am. Come and see new work by Julian March (hand thrown ceramics), Yvette Phillips (textiles & embroidery), Karina Tarin (oil painting), and Eleanor Wong (semi-abstract painting).

Just over the hill in Aston Tirrold there will be 8 artists spread across 3 venues, open 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th and 10th May, 11:00am-6:00pm: Anna Dillon, Hedley Thorne and Rebecca Carrozza (Heathersage, OX11 9DJ), Sarah Keogh, Deb Sutcliffe and Caroline Vivian (Finches, OX11 9DD), and Susanna Brunskill and Mel Edwards (Twitten, OX11 9DQ).

For more information, please see the enclosed flyer or visit www.artweeks.org where you'll find details of over 400 exhibitions taking place across Oxfordshire throughout May.



This month's Food Bank dates are Saturday 1st to Monday 11th May. The Didcot Emergency Foodbank is still helping a large number of needy families. 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>.

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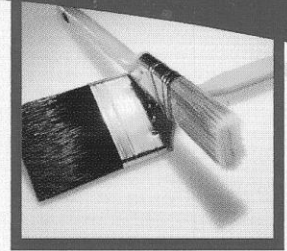
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WEDNESDAY MORNING DROP-IN

Our Wednesday drop-in continues weekly in the Benefice Centre as a valuable place for friendship and conversation as well as warmth in the colder months. Attendance continues to be about 10 – 12 people each session, but sometimes as many as 15! From the weekly profits donations are given to a range of charities. This past year it was an amazing **£560**; £50 each to the Samaritans, British Red Cross and Sight Savers; £30 each to Lifeboats, Salvation Army, Maggies, Thames Valley Air Ambulance, M.S. Society, Deaf Blind, and Dogs for Good; and £75 each to Styleacre and Helen & Douglas House. We also gave £50 to the United Charities here in Blewbury in memory of our dear member Audrey Long who sadly passed away last year.

The Mothers' Union organises the hosting rota which includes non-members. We are very grateful for their support. If you want to find out more, please contact Penny at penny@brassell.org.uk

BLEWBURY SCHOOL NEWS: FOOTBALL REPORT

Small Schools League match report by Matvii and Liam, Year 6, Blewbury School

On Thursday 19th March, we went to Harwell to play the second part of the Small Schools League, and it was a really exciting day! First, we played a friendly match against Harwell. It was a tough game and we lost 3–1, but it helped us warm up for the rest of the tournament. Next, we played a league match against Whitchurch and drew 1–1. Liam scored an amazing backheel goal, which was definitely one of the highlights of the day. After that, we played St Johns and won 3–1. The goals were scored by Matvii, Jai and Archie, and we worked well together as a team. In our final match, we played Stanford and won 3–0. Rudy and Archie scored, with Archie getting two brilliant goals!

Overall, it was a great tournament, and we were really proud of how we played as a team. We also drew with Harwell overall, so we will keep the cup for half a year before sending it to them for the other half. There were some fantastic individual performances too. Rudy was an excellent goalkeeper, making some amazing saves, including shots heading for the top corner. Theo made some great throw-ins, Wen and Robert were strong in defence and helped set up goals, and Reegan was powerful in midfield, especially in the game against Stanford. We all had a brilliant time and showed great teamwork throughout the day.



BLEWSING SUMMER CONCERT

Blewsing are holding a Summer Concert in St Michael's Church Blewbury on Sunday 28th June, 5:30 – 7:30pm. Songs will be popular and traditional and there will be guest performances. Tickets are available from the Blewbury Post Office and Choir members. Tickets £12 for adults – £8 Children under 18 - which includes a glass of wine/soft drink. A proportion of the profit will be going to local charities.



DIGITISING THE BULLETIN - UPDATE

Thank you to the one volunteer (apart from the webmaster and the editor) who has come forward to help with scanning the old Bulletins and thus preserving this fascinating archive for the village. Between us we have done 59 issues so far, almost exactly 10% of the total. More offers of help are welcome! All you need is a scanner, and we have now determined that it takes less than 5 minutes per copy. Please contact editor@blewbury.co.uk.

PRE-SCHOOL LOTTERY

The winning numbers for this month's **Blewbury Pre-School Lottery** were as follows:

April Draw 1st - 024; 2nd - 100; 3rd - 016. 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 - also available from Blewbury Post Office - or email lottery@blewburypreschool.co.uk .

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We were recently pleased to host the farewell party for David Wall, our retiring village postman (see front page).

We continue to monitor the space for our users, with regular maintenance checks and updates, spring cleaning has almost finished, and a little work on the outside space will commence soon. Sometime in May, we will start work on installing 2 electric car charging stations outside the Post Office, these will boost our revenue a little, we are also looking at installing solar panels, to reduce our electricity bill.

We welcome our newest bookings for karate and pickleball in the main hall, and Blewtube will continue in the Vale Room on the 2nd Wednesday of the month: the next one is *Downton Abbey* on 13th May, 2pm. Please see the advert on page 20 for details. We have also seen an increase in bouncy castle bookings, we have an approved list of suppliers with their insurance policies on our books. Contact us at blewburyvillagehallbookings@gmail.com.

Our revised timetable will be available in the June Bulletin. Meanwhile, a spotlight on two of our regular activities:

Autumn Leaves

The main object of the club is to provide entertainment and social activities for older members of our community, and is open to all over 50s. The club meets every other Tuesday in the Vale Room for bingo sessions and a raffle. Because of the decline in membership over the years, the bingo sessions are the main attraction and source of income to the club. There is a membership fee of £12 per annum. The affairs of the club are conducted by a committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice Chairman and a Treasurer, along with six other committee members, The club is always looking for new members. Programme details for the bingo sessions with contact details are published each month in the Blewbury Bulletin, the cost of each game starts at 10 pence.

For more information please contact Maureen Knapp, Club Chairman - maud24a@gmail.com

Betty Bloom Dance

I have a passion for dance, and a desire to promote its exhilarating and therapeutic effects. After a life-changing event forced me to re-evaluate my life choices, I decided to start a truly fun and inclusive dance school where students are celebrated for their individual strengths and what they bring to classes.

We started modestly in Blewbury 12 years ago and now teach over 300 children a week across Oxford and South Oxfordshire, with 6 employed teachers. Our classes are for everyone, and are known for their fun and imaginative instruction. We have excellent, hand-picked teachers who know how to motivate all the children, and know to celebrate each individual and own particular strengths. Our classes are inclusive, we welcome everyone!

Some of our first ever students, many from Blewbury, were just 4 years of age when they joined us, and are now in their late teens and due to move on to adult life. It's been an absolute joy and privilege to teach each child and be a part of their dance journey. We wish them all the very best in their chosen paths.

The highlight of our dance calendar is our Grand Performance Show which takes place annually at the Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, in the summer, where everyone has fun with costumes and face-paints, on a very elegant stage with posh lighting effects and sound system. A good time is had by all.

Our relatively recent addition of Adult Dance Classes has been a big hit, with classes now full to the brim. With a good balance of cardio, dance technique and dance styles ranging from Bollywood to Musical Theatre to Disco and Charleston they are open to everyone, though be quick as they do get fully booked very quickly.

Life is never dull when there is dance and music in our lives!

For more information on classes and how to contact us, please visit our website: www.bettybloomdance.co.uk

COFFEE & KIDS!

Our next monthly session is one week later than usual following the May Day Holiday, so this will be on **Monday 11th May** from 10:00am 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.





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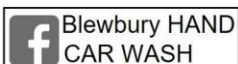


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We can help you fill in the form, so please don't be reluctant to ask for help, and all applications are totally confidential. *United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury Registered Charity No: 203538*

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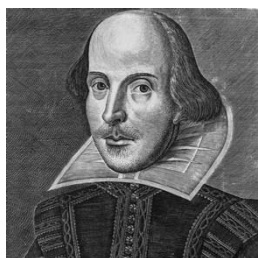
Come and enjoy a beautiful organic garden, with wildlife pond and bee habitat, and help to support our charity, enabling us to provide our unique, vital sitting service for local families with a disabled child.

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Entrance free but donations to Flexicare. Teas, cake & sale of plants in aid of Flexicare. Disabled access (with car).



United Charities
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TALK ON SHAKESPEARE'S *THE TEMPEST*

In advance of The Motley Crew's visit to Stratford at the end of May, Chris Whatmore will be giving an introductory talk – twice! – on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. While it's primarily designed for those coming on the trip, anyone with an interest in the Bard's final solo-authored play is welcome to join us at **7.30pm in the Vale Room**, either on **Wednesday May 20th** or on **Monday May 25th** (Bank Holiday Monday). No need for tickets, but there will be a nominal £2 charge at the door to cover venue hire costs, plus an extra £1 for an interval drink.

POST OFFICE AND SHOP

With spring in full swing, we'd like to thank everyone for your continued support of Blewbury Village Store and Post Office. It's lovely to see the village coming to life again as we head into the warmer months.

Post Office Opening Hours

Our regular opening hours remain: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am – 3pm; Wednesday: 9am – 12 noon
May Bank Holidays & Half Term

- Monday 4th May: Closed (Bank Holiday)
- Monday 25th May: Closed (Bank Holiday)

During May Half Term (Tuesday 26th May – Friday 29th May), the Post Office will be open: 9am – 12 noon
Normal opening hours will resume from Monday 1st June.

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We've had some lovely new additions arrive in store this month!

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Alongside these, we continue to stock all your everyday essentials, fresh free-range eggs, local honey, and sweet treats. Thank you, as always, for supporting your local Post Office and village shop - it truly means a lot to us and helps keep our community thriving. We look forward to seeing you soon, *Sarah, Karen & Andrew*

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BLEWBURY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Blewbury's Easter Egg Rolling 2026 had a great turnout, and the effort everyone put in to decorating their eggs was very impressive. Thank you to Alex Whittenbury for judging this year's best dressed eggs and to Thomas and Henri Elderfield for keeping us on track with the rolling.

The champion rollers were as follows. In the 0–7 category, 1st: The Egg Extreme Skateboarders (Rowan Vivian, Elsie Vivian & Izzy Faring); 2nd: Bubble Bee (Gaia Hart). The 8–adult category had two 1st places: Viking (David Farthing) and Fruit Bowl (Clara Marsden, Tiny Wright, Reuben Pickard & Rose Pickard); and two 2nd places: Dobby and Harry Potter (Annabel Lomas) and Willow Pattern (Suzanna Wong). Congratulations to all!

At the time of writing, preparations are under way for this year's charity inter-pub football match. We'll include a celebration of the event in the next Bulletin.

Blewbury Garden Market, Saturdays from 25th April

The Blewbury Garden Market will be back on Saturdays at 9:15–11:00am on the garage forecourt from 25th April. The BGM gives Blewbury 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 home 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 our costs. See www.blewburygm.co.uk/ for more information. More volunteers for the stall are always welcome – no experience necessary, please contact blewburygm@gmail.com for details.

BVS and Parish Council AGM, Thursday 21st May

The combined BVS and Parish Council AGM will be held on Thursday 21st May in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend 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 with your village friends and beyond, to enjoy “bring your own” food and drink in beautiful surroundings, listen and dance to great live music. Gazebo set up 4–5pm Saturday; collect by 11am Sunday.

Tickets are £15 each and can be bought in advance online at: <https://square.link/u/YTWbsRha> or at the gate on the evening.



Save the date: the Blewbury Beer Festival returns on 3rd October!

Ten years after its inception in the Village Hall in 2016, the Blewbury Beer Festival returns as an Oktoberfest in 2026. Make sure you put 3rd October in your diaries!

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 × 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.



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BVS committee

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



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 <https://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 May 2026 at St Michael's:

- † Sunday 3rd May 5th Sunday of Easter**
 - 8.00am Holy Communion
 - 10.30am All age service
 - Thursday 7th 7.00pm Time for Reflection
- † Sunday 10th May 6th Sunday of Easter**
 - 10.30am Choir-led Taizé service, followed by APCM at 11.45
 - Wednesday 13th 7.30pm Fellowship group, Charity School House
 - Thursday 14th 8pm Benefice Ascension Day service with Blewbury choir at St Mary's Upton
- † Sunday 17th May 7th Sunday of Easter**
 - 10.30am Parish Eucharist
- † Sunday 24th May Pentecost**
 - 10.30am Parish Eucharist
 - Wednesday 27th 7.30pm Fellowship group, Charity School House
 - Thursday 28th 10.00am Mothers' Union Holy Communion
 - Saturday 30th Afternoon Friends of St Michael's Tower open day
- † Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday**
 - 10.30am BCP Mattins

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>.



Friends of St Michael's – Tower open day! Saturday 30th May

Please see entry on page 3 with details of the tower open day and activities for families.

Fellowship in the Garden

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 7.30 pm at the Charity School House. Everyone welcome!
We are looking at 'what next for the disciples?', studying their stories after the Resurrection.



Moonrakers Concert 4th May at 7:30pm!

Moonrakers folk band's material is a combination of traditional Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English music and their own contemporary songs and tunes. *There is a tapestry of multi-instrumental acoustic sounds and harmonies around each song and tune. Becki Luff's luscious Celtic harp is complemented by Jacqui Johnson's superb cello, backed by Jon's bouzouki, guitar, whistles and bodhran. The warm vocals of Sarah Fell combine with Jon's rich baritone...* Not to be missed! **Monday 4th May 7.30pm, see page 3 for details**

A Different Perspective on the 1st May

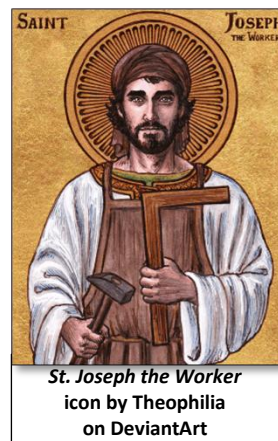
I wonder if you have anything planned for the 1st May? May Day is rich in customs, many of which go back centuries. Indeed, back in the days of Ancient Rome, there was a custom that on this day the priest of Vulcan would sacrifice a pregnant sow to the goddess Maia. The custom of sacrificing pigs has, fortunately, fallen out of favour, but there are lots of other customs to be celebrated at this time of year. We might choose to dance around a Maypole, or to hold a procession, led by a young girl or woman specially chosen to be the Queen of the May. In Oxford, there is still the tradition of May Morning – this involves standing at the bottom of the base of Magdalen tower at 6 in the morning in order to hear the choir sing a Latin hymn. I have not attended this event myself, but perhaps you have done so.

In more recent years, the 1st May has been an occasion to celebrate the importance of workers in our society, and all the improvements in working conditions which have won over the last hundred years or so. Indeed, in the UK, the May Day Bank Holiday was first instituted, back in 1978, in order to allow time for trade unionists to hold their celebrations. Some years before, in 1955, Pope Pius XII declared that the 1st May would from now on be celebrated as the feast of Joseph the Worker. It would be a public reminder that workers mattered, and that as a society we should ensure that all workers have safe conditions of work and fair remuneration for their labour.

The world of work has changed almost beyond recognition since the days of 1950s, but the need for appropriate regulation and protection remains the same as ever. Employees have the right to expect a safe place of work and fair treatment. There will be disagreements as to what this means in practice, but the general principle remains. We need to treat workers fairly.

For Christians, this is about respecting the value of every human being, and the Christian belief that we should treat one another fairly and with justice. I wonder what this might mean for us? How might we improve the lives of the men and women on whose labour we depend? There are lots of things we might do, but perhaps a good starting point is to appreciate the workers we meet in our everyday lives – the workers who make our own lives possible. I wonder: when was the last time we bothered to thank the delivery driver who dropped off the package we ordered on the Internet? Or the customer service agent who dealt with our query? Everyone deserves to be appreciated, perhaps especially those we can so easily ignore.

- Father Jason



MAKE MAY MATTER has become a catchphrase for MU members across the Oxford Diocese to encourage each of us to make a difference in our villages and communities. MU is a “grassroots” organisation which means that every member has a contribution to make in their local neighbourhood or indeed world-wide. Locally, we organise the weekly Blewbury Drop In, providing a supportive meeting place and monthly, a baby and toddler group, “Coffee & Kids”, in Blewbury Village Hall. We keep our ears open to respond to any need in other villages.



Our Diocese sets up projects which members can support. One of these is to support parents of very sick children at the JR. For several years now we have been collecting toiletry items which are distributed at Ronald MacDonald House. Welcome packs of these goods are made up for parents who suddenly find they need to stay overnight, or often for prolonged periods.

Can you help us to **MAKE MAY MATTER**? Items required are:

Toothbrushes and Toothpaste; Shaving foam/gel; razors; Deodorant; Small bars of soap; Packets of tissues; Combs; Body lotion; Body wash; Shampoo

There will be collection boxes in our churches. Thank you for supporting this.

Our branch continues to meet monthly for a Holy Communion service followed by refreshments. This month the service is at 10am at St. Michael's Church, Blewbury on Thursday 28th May. All are very welcome.

Join us and Join in.

- Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730, leader, Churn MU branch

Food Bank Collection

SATURDAY 2 MAY - MONDAY 11TH MAY

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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BLEWBURY PLAYERS

Whilst our production team and cast beaver away designing, building, sewing, and line learning for *The Wind in The Willows* (15-18 July) our next event is...

A FLY ON THE WALL, by Catherine Flye

An entertainment of Songs, Sketches, Memories and Merriment to celebrate our Venerable Village and the 50th anniversary of the Blewbury Players.

St Michael's Church, 20 June, Starts 7.30pm. Our online box office will open on 29 May. Tickets: £15 (to include a glass of wine). Based on the beloved tradition of the British Music Hall, the cast includes a company of old friends - Catie Flye and her cousin Ian Clarke tapping the ivories with gusto: Actor Garth Bardsley hot foot from the West End: Soprano Rosa Lamoreaux all the way from Washington DC and our very own local thespian, Chris Mousley Jones. The show also includes musical favourites together with audience participation.



We are looking for artefacts!

EXHIBITION - Fifty Years of the Blewbury Players, Orchard Dene Garden, 15-18 July. If you have props, costumes pieces of scenery, which were produced for any of the many shows (including old time music halls and operas) produced over the last fifty years, we would love to borrow them for the week of 13-19 July. Please contact Jo at laugharne355@btinternet.com if you can help.

Drama in an Oxfordshire Village - Fifty Years of the Blewbury Players. Publication date: 14 July 2026. Price: £25

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! Orders at www.blewburyplayers.co.uk or using this QR code. Explore 300 pages packed with 270 images and reviews of 62 major Blewbury Players productions. Perfect for Blewbury locals, past cast and crew, theatre-lovers, and anyone who loves the charm (and chaos) of village life. Funny, factual and brilliantly researched, this book takes you behind the scenes—from post-war Blewbury and the buzzing drama years of the 60s and 70s to the moment the Players was born. See how a local group became a true community cornerstone—and earned a reputation far beyond the village.

Details of all our 2026 plans are at www.blewburyplayers.co.uk or contact us at blewburyplayers@gmail.com.

RED LION – NEXT FIRESIDE CHAT

Our next Fireside Chat features Steve White, whose book on the Blewbury Players is to be published shortly (see article above). He will talk about 50 years of the Players with expert interviewer Elphin Lloyd-Jones, on **Wednesday 29th April at 8pm**. It's free to attend, but donations are welcome to the Alzheimer's Society. You can donate online through the QR code, right, or visit:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/red-lion-blewbury?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

If you missed our previous Fireside Chat, with Father Jason, you can watch on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_S5ov02yZc.

Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming you to the Red Lion anytime. <https://www.theredlionblewbury.co.uk>

Annabel and John



BOSSA GRINGO CONCERT

Some more about this concert on **7th June at 5:00 for 5.30pm in St Michael's Church**. Brain-child of saxophonist Anatoliy Vyacheslavov, this quintet features TWO percussionists and two bassists performing the music of Brazil and all things Latin. Harmony is created by guitarist Hugh Turner, who brings three of his favourite instruments to the mix, Anatoliy (Toliy) on soprano & tenor saxes (and percussion), the critically acclaimed multi-percussionist Keith Fairburn takes the main rhythmic role, ever popular bassist Raph Mizraki uses his electric fretted and fretless basses and takes second lead on percussion when not on his 'axes' and Paul Jeffries narrates us through the show and plays both double bass and percussion extras. See page 3 for ticket details.

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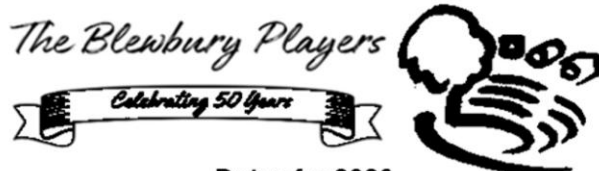
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Dates for 2026

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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BLEWBURY WI NEWS



Our next monthly meeting is **Wednesday 27th May** 7:30pm in the main hall of Blewbury Village Hall. *Please note this change of venue!* We will hear about "It could have been me", a talk about understanding the Holocaust through the life of a victim and his family. The Holocaust, known in Hebrew as the Shoah, was the genocide of European Jews and other ethnic minorities during World War II. We are looking forward to an intriguing and thought-provoking presentation.

Blewbury WI is much more than you think. Monthly meetings, and playing informal games of Scrabble, Mah Jong and Rummikub. A monthly craft get-together plus a monthly coffee morning at Style Acre. Recently we have had a public transport outing to Wallingford and a coach trip to visit to Jane Austen's house in Hampshire. Coming up shortly is a cheese and wine get-together. We are delighted that we have been invited to provide the teas (and cake, of course) for the Manor Gardens open afternoon on Sunday 17th May. Do stop by for some homemade WI cake! Although our WI is currently full, we are running a short waiting list. To find out more, ring our Secretary, Joy, on 850543 or email blewburywi@gmail.com.

Mondays	2:30pm	Mah Jong	Sharon
Friday 1 May	7:00pm	Craft club	Karen
Thursday 7 May	2:30pm	Rummikub	Jane
Monday 11 May	7:00pm	Scrabble	Joy
Friday 15 May	10.15am	Coffee morning	Trish

NATURE NOTES: LOGJAMMER HOVERFLY

There is often a large amount of serendipity involved in the recording of nature, as with my latest discovery of a new species for Blewbury. During a hot spell over Easter I was trying to take some photos of various bees, feeding on the Lungwort in my Grahame Close garden. A small fly zoomed in and rested on a leaf. I managed to get just two photos before it buzzed off again. One was completely blurred, but thankfully the second was in focus. It wasn't a species I immediately recognised, but at first glance it didn't look very interesting, and I forgot about it and carried on bee hunting.



A few days later I was reviewing my macro-photographic endeavours. Up popped the image of the fly. On closer inspection it had intriguingly hairy legs and thorax, with subtle dull bronze stripes and large eyes. Using an app, called 'ObsIdentify', which uses image recognising algorithms, it confidently identified the species as the Logjammer Hoverfly (*Chalcosyrphus eunotus*). This was later confirmed by an eminent entomologist! This species is now classified as being Nationally Scarce and was formally a Red Data Book 2 species (a list of the country's rarest insects). It is normally found in the West Midlands and Welsh Marches. In Oxfordshire, the species was first noted in 1953, at Cothill, northwest of Abingdon. It seems to have been re-discovered in that area in 2022 and now we have our very own Blewbury record in 2026!

It has a very interesting lifecycle. Its larvae are dependent on semi-submerged wood in the headwaters of rivers. The males patrol a territory around a suitably saturated and submerged piece of wood. Mating occurs and the female lays her eggs in a crack in the wood at the water line. This demonstrates the importance of woody debris in the streams of Blewbury. With the sympathetic introduction of some woody debris, without blocking any bridges, maybe we can increase the population? Without the odd log or branch poking out of the streams this rare and charismatic hoverfly cannot survive.

BRIDGE NOTES

National Pairs. Finn Clark and Stuart Forsyth from Blewbury Bridge Club have come second in a National Pairs championship. Any pair countrywide scoring 55% in a club game in the first half of February was eligible for a regional final, then the national final was on the weekend of 11-12th April.

Bridge Quiz. (rotated to make South declarer) – for answers see page 19.

Q1. West leads ace and another spade, which you win in hand with the nine. How do you play trumps? Finesse against the king, or play ace and another?

Q2. East's double was takeout, suggesting something in the other suits and diamond shortage. West's double was for blood, i.e. penalties. When you're on lead, how do you play trumps? If you lead the diamond eight from hand, West plays the five.

♠ Q1064	♠ J852
♥ Q97	♥ J76
♦ AJ7	♦ K104
♣ QJ4	♣ 985
W N E S	W N E S
1C X 1S 2D	P P 1S 2D
P P P	P P X 3D
	X P P P
DEALER WEST	DEALER WEST
LOVE ALL	GAME NS
♠ K97	♠ A3
♥ J64	♥ KQ3
♦ Q8532	♦ Q87632
♣ K6	♣ A6

BLEWSHED

BlewShed Community Projects: Another month, another bench restoration. The BlewShed team has transformed the old Ticklers Folly Field bench which is now in full working order on the Melland Room terrace and expecting plenty of use from this season's sports spectators.

BlewShed Maintenance: Continues with the upgrade of the electrical system which will be followed by improvements to the lighting - essential for safe wood and metal working.

Meetings: From the intricate and precise art of marquetry, BlewShed's next Tuesday evening meeting moves into the space age with a presentation by BlewShed member Richard Varvill on the Reaction Engines British hypersonic space engine project. Richard headed the group for many years and has a wealth of exciting material to tell us about. The meeting is on **Tuesday 28th April, 7.30** at BlewShed and all are welcome (*luckily the May Bulletin should be with you before this!* – Ed.).

Future Meetings: One of our members, Simon Keogh, has just embarked on a cycle ride down the whole length of Portugal with his brothers, so we hope he takes plenty of photos and tells us all about it on his return. This is a remarkable undertaking as Simon suffered a severe stroke several years ago and now pedals a reclining tricycle for his travels.

Courses: Enquiries continue to be made about a repeat of the 'DIY for Beginners' and other courses which BlewShed has held in the past. We will hold these again when enough people have registered. Please contact a member of BlewShed, send a message via the website (link below) or just drop in and talk to us.

BlewShed opening times: Monday 2-4pm, Tuesday 1.30-4pm, Thursday 2-4pm, Friday 2-4pm and Saturday afternoons 1:30-4pm. 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* <https://blewshed.home.blog/news/>



CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT

With this year's mild Winter and early Spring, we have had an amazing show of cherry and other blossoms this year, and I decided to investigate how this all came about.

In 1925, the mayors of Kobe and Yokohama presented the Vancouver Park Board with five hundred trees of the Ojochin variety for planting at the cenotaph in Stanley Park, in honour of Japanese Canadian veterans of WWI. Many more were planted in the 1930s - '50s by Park Board staff, thanks to contributions from Japanese Canadians, including a thousand cherry trees in 1935 in anticipation of Vancouver's golden jubilee. In the mid-20th century, cherry trees began to replace elms, maples, and other varieties that had grown to full maturity, causing problems such as roots invading sewer lines, canopies interfering with utility lines, and heaving sidewalks. Instead Park Board gardeners planted flowering plum, cherry, hawthorn, and crab-apple trees as they gave better value in colour and decorative effect whilst also reducing damage to pavements and sewers. In 1958, three hundred more cherry trees were donated by the Japanese consul as a symbol of friendship between Canada and Japan and planted in streets and in Queen Elizabeth Park, and around the cenotaph in Stanley Park. By 1990, nearly 36 percent of the 89,000 trees on city streets were of the *Prunus* genus—the flowering plum and cherry trees. The most popular species are the *Prunus* Kwanzan (double pink blossom) and the Pissard plum *Prunus cerasifera* (white blossom cherry plum).

To evoke the Japanese poet Kobayashi Issa, there is no stranger under the cherry tree: the cherry blossom's ephemeral nature reminds us of our own fleeting lives, and the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival inspires everyone to seize the moment in celebration. The Festival draws inspiration from the Japanese cultural tradition of hanami (花見, "flower viewing"), and initiates awareness of the cherry blossom's transcendent beauty. Each year, the festival encourages artists to express their responses to these beautiful trees through music, poetry, photography, design, film, craft, cuisine, and other artistic practices. While fostering civic pride at home, the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, which ranks in the top five in the world, also builds international friendships and cross-cultural exchanges via the international Haiku Invitational, which receives poems from 43 countries annually. The festival's programming includes Bike the Blossoms, Tree Talks & Walks, The Big Picnic, Birthday Blossoms, and Cherry Jam, to name just a few! The interactive Blossom Map tracks an estimated 43,000 cherry trees and displays some of the best spots across Metro Vancouver for cherry blossom viewing. *Angela Hoy* (ahoy2343@gmail.com)

YOUR STORY IN THE BULLETIN?

What makes our village such a wonderful place to live is its people – that means you! We welcome stories of things you've done or are about to do – whether noble, crazy, amusing or just a bit different. Sporting success, professional recognition, artistic endeavour, charitable activities...if there's a good story there, Blewbury wants to hear it, so don't be shy. You know where to send it: editor@blewbury.co.uk (publication at the editor's discretion, naturally).

Guided bird-watching and nature walk. Saturday 2nd May starting from the Village Hall car park at 09:00. Conor Mackenzie, a new resident, will help us to identify birds by song and flight as we walk to and around the Nature Reserve. It will last about two hours. Book your free place by emailing the secretary (see below). Children welcome if accompanied by an adult. Bring binoculars. Numbers limited to 12.

Quaker Wood. We're pleased to see people enjoying the site, but please note that there is **no exit** at the northern end into the adjoining fields. These are Private Property and there are no rights of way or footpaths. Please show due respect and use the main way in and out.

Volunteering. We hold sessions on the second Saturday mornings of each month. Our next one will be **Saturday 9th May** between 09:30 and 12:00 when we will start weeding inside the tree shields in Quaker Wood. We have started to do some maintenance at Chalk Pits and monitoring reptiles at the Nature Reserve. To be added to our volunteer list email the secretary. The more volunteers the merrier!

Community Orchard at Tickers Folly. This is coming into blossom and we expect an amazing display. Do take a look. Thanks to Sean for pruning all the trees!

Next Repair café, Sun 14 June, 2 - 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.

BLEWBURY FREecycle FREE ITEMS TO A GOOD HOME	E-MAIL	TEL NO.
Two three foot mattresses in very good order, having been at all times mattress protected	Franklyn Roberts franklyn.roberts@fgr777.uk	07881 781016
Eight round garden stakes (diameter 5cm), length 150cm	Anita Rendel	01235 850131
4 pairs hand weights for strength training exercises: 1/2kg, 1kg, 3kg and 4kg. +1 pair ankle weights: 1kg. + 1 book with strength training exercises.	Jean Richards jean@brooksend.co.uk	07966 774235
Large garden shed, unfortunately damaged by a leaking roof. But most of the wood is in good condition and the shed could be rescued if someone was willing to take down, move and rebuild it.	Sandy Hubble hubble2@mail.com	07814 864190
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 receives occasional newsletters, email secretary@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk.

BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS (for the questions, see page 17)

Bd 49 2♦-1 SOUTH	♠Q1064 ♥Q97 ♦AJ7 ♠QJ4	
♠A2 ♥AK83 ♦106 ♣109753	W N E S 1C X 1S 2D P P P DEALER WEST LOVE ALL	♠J853 ♥1052 ♦K94 ♣A82
	♠K97 ♥J64 ♦Q8532 ♣K6	

A1. East bypassed the red suits to reply 1S on a measly J853 and also never supported West's clubs, so that's likely to be his only suit and he's exactly 4333. If so, West is 2425 (five clubs, four hearts and two doubletons). Finessing in trumps let the defence ruff a spade and beat the contract. The winning play was to bash out trumps from the top.

A2. Why have you been doubled? You're delighted with dummy and the doubler hasn't many points. What are his

Bd 19 3♦X-1 SOUTH	♠J852 ♥J76 ♦K104 ♣985	Other table 3NT= WEST
♠97 ♥9852 ♦AJ95 ♣J73	W N E S P P 1S 2D P P X 3D X P P DEALER WEST GAME NS	♠KQ1064 ♥A104 ♦— ♣KQ1042
	♠A3 ♥KQ3 ♦Q87632 ♣A6	

trumps? AJ9? No, that's not enough. A double would be ridiculous. Double would be respectable with AJ95, though, so start with a deep finesse and run the diamond eight! Then you'll make your contract. *Finn Clark*



DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

D&D U3A meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining.

On **19th May** we will hold our AGM, and Emma Teasdale will give a talk on reducing the risk of domestic abuse by raising awareness. For details email

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

OLLY GLOVER MP

In recent months, I have been engaging in many local community campaigns, including the sudden closure of East Hagbourne Post Office. During a visit to the East Hagbourne Community Shop, I met with the shop's dedicated volunteers. They explained that the post office closure limits residents' access to essential services and risks the future of the community shop. Having already met with the national Post Office organisation directly, I will continue to work with the East Hagbourne community and raise this case with government ministers to find a solution.

Trump's illegal military actions in Iran have caused many deaths and global disruption to gas and oil supplies. Many constituents have expressed concerns over tripling oil prices and the need for urgent support for rural communities, many of whom are dependent on heating oil for warmth. I signed an Early Day Motion to introduce a three-month zero rating of VAT and price caps to help alleviate some of this financial burden. The government must take further action to protect rural residents who are vulnerable to sudden price rises.

In Parliament I raised concerns about local government funding, road safety, and improving women's health. In a debate on the condition of rural roads, attended by MPs representing dozens of counties, I spoke about the need for better approaches to road design, maintenance, and repair across the country. Funding must be spent both on fixing potholes, and on long-term, preventative work, such as drainage improvements and surface dressing.

Back in the constituency, I have spent time with some incredible community organisations, education facilities, and local businesses. I had a beautiful tour of the nature reserve at the Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, near Milton Park, run by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), which educates the community about protecting nature and local wildlife. In addition, I answered questions from Year 12 Politics students at Wallingford School.

I had a fascinating visit of Moderna Innovation and Technology Centre, a biotechnology company manufacturing vaccines based on Harwell Campus, and learnt about Infinis, based in Sutton Courtenay, who are turning gases from landfill sites into renewable energy.

After an excellent lunch at the White Hart in Harwell, I spoke with the publican about ongoing pressures on the local hospitality industry. I have joined Liberal Democrat colleagues in calling for a 5% VAT cut for hospitality, and against government policies on business rates and employer national insurance contributions, which are making life very difficult for our hospitality sector. I also attended Wantage and Grove Street Pastors on an evening patrol, engaging with the local community.

These constituency activities help me understand the day-to-day challenges faced by local people and organisations, and I will continue to hold the Government to account and push for change at a national level. 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 leave a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage



BlewTube
Wed 13th May
Blewbury Village Hall
(Vale Room)
Doors open 13:45
Screening 14:00
Tickets £6
(on the door only)

Licensed bar.



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PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of Blewbury Parish Council's meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 15 April 2026, Melland Room, Blewbury Clubhouse. Present: Sheila Austin, Andrew Calder, Andy Evason, Anne Millman, Sarah Parkin, Lee Robinson, Julia Saunders (chair), Ben Scott, Mark Shayler and Iain Wood (lengthsman). Also present Michelle Taylor (clerk) and county councillor Rebekah Fletcher.

There were apologies from district councillors Hayleigh Gascoigne and Andy Cooke.

Local news – litter levels in the village have been rising, please take any litter home with you, especially dog poo! If you see litter, please feel free to pick it up and help contribute to a prettier village. The Parish Council will be holding its AGM on 21 May at 7pm, please come along and give us your ideas to improve the village and hear about what we have planned for the year ahead.

County council news – a review panel has been set up for the forced academisation of Woodeaton Manor School. If you have been affected by this and would like to contribute to the panel, please contact rebekah.fletcher@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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/V0584/HH: Penny Chase, Bessels Way, Blewbury Didcot OX11 9NH. Demolition of loose boxes, rear extension with room in the roof. No objection.

Decisions from the District Council

P26/V0114/LDP: 6 Chailey Gardens Blewbury Didcot OX11 9FL. Formation of habitable room in roof space with front and rear velux roof lights. No objection. Granted on 19 March 2026.

P26/V0331/AG: Winterbrook Farm Bessels Way Blewbury Didcot OX11 9NL. Straw shed. No objection. Granted on 25 March 2026.

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 20th May 2026**, in the Melland Room at the Clubhouse.

POLICE COMMISSIONER – MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS

Mobile phones are ubiquitous, and bring many benefits in life, but they also create real problems, particularly within schools. Most schools will have some kind of “phone free” policy; but how effectively these are enforced varies hugely.

Last month I met with teachers and governors from several schools at Aureus Secondary School to talk about their approach to banning phones in school. They have adopted a particular system, using lockable pouches, but there are lots of those things used by schools, such as lock boxes. For most of us a mobile phone is a useful - sometimes indispensable - addition to our lives, but during the school day they distract pupils, disrupt classes, can lead to poor discipline and lower attainment.

There are a number of perceived barriers to implementing a phone free policy in school - phones connected to medical devices, and young carers for example - but the experience of schools that have embraced a proper ban shows that these problems can be overcome. The benefits of removing the distraction can hugely outweigh the costs, reducing disruption, truancy and bullying.

I've already been in touch with other schools and discussing how we can spread best practice to all schools in Thames Valley and will hopefully be launching a new project later this year.

As well as increasing the number of neighbourhood police officers locally, as part of my Education Strategy, every secondary school in Thames Valley now has a named schools police officer - and primary schools also have access to local support. The important role these officers play can be both dealing with incidents involving children - as either victims or perpetrators; but also working with teachers to educate children - and parents - about some of the risks facing them. *Matthew Barber, Police Commissioner*

Autumn Leaves The dates for the Bingo Sessions in the Vale Room, Village Hall at 2pm are 12th and 26th May. For further information, or if anyone would like to join Autumn Leaves, call Cilla Maguire on 01235 851966 or contact Maureen Knapp, Club Chairman - maud24a@gmail.com. We would welcome any new members to 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. Events and support are free and open to all. **Tech support is free** for computer users in Aston Upthorpe Village Hall (OX11 9EQ) on Tuesday 19th May from 10:00 to 12 noon. Book a one-to-one appointment with a digital helper or apply to join 10:30 briefing + Q&A on *Landline Switchover to Digital* 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

Half term (Tue 26th – Fri 29th May): 9am-12 noon. Bank Holidays (4th and 25th May): closed.

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

VILLAGE DIARY for May 2026

				Page
Saturday	2	9 am	Guided birdwatching: meet at Village Hall	19
Saturday	2	10 am - 5 pm	Art Weeks begin, Blewbury Clubhouse	3
Monday	4	7.30 pm	Moonrakers concert, St Michael's Church	3
Saturday	9	9.30 am - 12 noon	Sustainable Blewbury volunteering, Nature Reserve	19
Monday	11	10 - 11.30 am	Coffee & Kids!, Vale Room	7
Tuesday	12	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	22
Tuesday	12	8 pm	Local History Group meeting, 9 Westbrook Green	-
Wednesday	13	2 pm	Blewtube film: <i>Downton Abbey</i> , Vale Room	20
Tuesday	19	7.30 pm	Editorial and advertising deadline for June Bulletin	-
Wednesday	20	7 pm	Parish Council meeting, Melland Room	19
Wednesday	20	7.30 pm	Motley Crew talk on The Tempest, Vale Room	9
Thursday	21	7 pm	BVS and Parish Council AGM, Village Hall	11
Friday	22	6 pm	Cricket Club BBQ and Community Cricket Night, Blewbury Clubhouse	-
Monday	25	7.30 pm	Motley Crew talk on The Tempest, Vale Room	9
Tuesday	26	2 pm	Autumn Leaves Bingo etc., Vale Room	22
Tuesday	26	7.30 pm	BlewShed meeting, The Shed, Recreation Ground	18
Wednesday	27	7.30 pm	WI meeting and talk: "It could have been me", Vale Room	17
Saturday	30	1 pm	Church tower tour, St Michael's Church	3

HOW TO ADVERTISE IN THE BULLETIN The Bulletin welcomes advertisements from organisations and individuals based in Blewbury and immediately neighbouring villages. Space permitting, we also welcome ads from further afield if they do not duplicate existing local services, are not widely advertised elsewhere and are likely to be of interest to residents. Acceptance of advertisements does not imply endorsement of the products or services offered. Display advertisements **must** be submitted in one of three rectangular sizes:

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

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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