

Blunham Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF **BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Keep in touch with local matters

The Parish Council website has an option for you to register to receive email updates hot off the press. You will not be inundated – we only update it with Parish Council information that we believe is important to you.

Please go to **blunham-pc.gov.uk** and subscribe to the free update service on the home page. We also use the Blunham Parish Council Facebook page to keep you updated, so please join that as well. Plus of course we have our Parish Council noticeboards.

Blunham Community Fund

A reminder that we still have funding available for projects that benefit the residents of Blunham. Now that village groups are trying to get back on their feet, we hope we can help them out with this fund. We are keen to encourage suitable applications, & look forward to seeing the fund continue to be spent on a variety of projects in the village – large or small. ***Applying is simple, & application forms can be downloaded from the Parish Council website.***

East West Rail, Oxford to Cambridge

The preferred route for the Bedford to Cambridge section of the new railway line has just been published, & a public consultation is now open. There are five options that the route could take. Two of these options include a new railway station at Tempsford.

Would you like to have the convenience of an Oxford - Cambridge Railway Station at Tempsford? Or perhaps you are concerned it may create more traffic in the local area?

We have published detailed maps of the five route options on the Parish Council website, under the “news” section. There is lots of information on the East West Rail website – **eastwestrail.co.uk** & this is where you can take part in the consultation. There will be further consultations later in the year.

Community Noticeboards

We are pleased to tell you that the old noticeboard



Blunham P3 Group to remove Himalayan Balsam that has become so prevalent along the river - *see reverse for details*

on Station Road will be removed & replaced with a new one located by the bus stop further along the road (if not already done). This brings us up to three community noticeboards in the village, the others being at The Pound and at the junction of Jubilee Close. Please feel free to use these noticeboards to share relevant community information.

Reporting crimes in Blunham

Whilst we are lucky to live in a village like Blunham where crime levels are usually low, there was a rise in crime levels earlier this year – particularly related to vehicle crime. The Police are aware of this and have carried out additional patrols. We are pleased to see that crime levels have since reduced considerably.

It is important however, that members of the community report crimes to the Police so that they are aware of what is happening in the area. The easiest way to do this is either online at Report a crime or incident on **www.bedfordshire.police.uk** or by ringing **101**. If it is an emergency and the crime is still taking place, you should call **999** and ask for the police.

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements due 2022/23

This is the new proposed 10 mile 2-lane dual carriageway from the Black Cat roundabout to the Caxton Gibbet roundabout in Cambridgeshire. The

scheme includes a new three-level junction at the Black Cat roundabout, with the A1 at the lower level, the new dual carriageway on the upper level, and a roundabout between the two at approximately existing ground level. In the vicinity of the Black Cat junction, direct access onto the A1 from some local side roads and private premises will be closed for safety reasons. A new local road will provide an alternative route.

The existing Roxton Road bridge will be demolished and replaced with a new structure to the west to accommodate the realigned A421.

For more information:
web: highwaysengland.co.uk
email: info@a428.co.uk
phone: 0300 123 5000

Helicopter over Blunham

We would like to thank Skywatch, St Neots for the use of their helicopter by the Environment Agency to review flooding over Blunham, Winter 2020/21. We neglected to include Skywatch in our thank you in the last edition, so we want to put that right – thank you Skywatch!

Ian Smith
Chairman
BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

BLUNHAM STREET WATCH



Earlier this year there was regrettably a surge in criminal activity experienced in Blunham. Our Blunham Community Neighbourhood Watch have been working closely with Bedfordshire Police Street Watch to establish our own Street Watch Scheme. Our hope is that volunteers will come forward and join this scheme. Volunteers will be trained, supported and guided.

All we are asking is a commitment of a minimum of 2 hours per month. We already have at least 9 volunteers, but the more we have the better.

If you are interested in joining our **Blunham Street Watch Scheme** please contact **Phil Eves** on **phileves@aol.co.uk**.

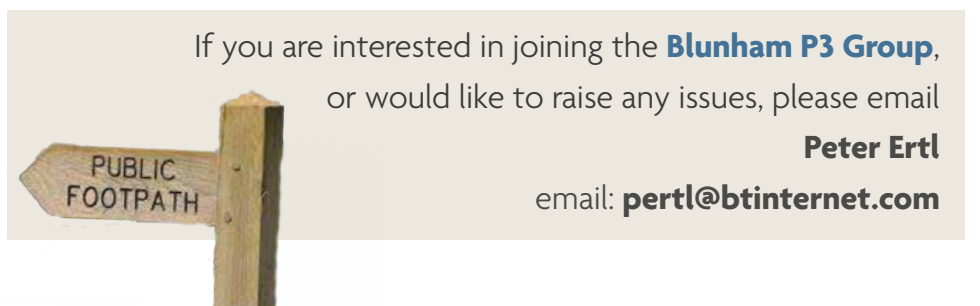


BLUNHAM P3 GROUP

P3 groups are sponsored by Central Beds Council to help maintain footpaths by supplementing the Council-funded maintenance and reporting larger issues and problems to CBC.

Once again, local landowners have done a great job trimming along some of the village paths over the winter, and this makes our job much easier. Our aim this year is to help to keep local paths open by trimming nettles and brambles as necessary, and we have been working with CBC to repair and improve footpath signage.

One additional activity we started last year was to attempt to control the Himalayan Balsam that has become so prevalent along the river. Despite its attractive pink flowers, Himalayan Balsam is an invasive species that competes with native plants, reducing biodiversity, and allowing erosion of riverbanks when it dies back in the winter. You may see some of us working along the riverbank trying to reduce the density of this weed.



If you are interested in joining the **Blunham P3 Group**, or would like to raise any issues, please email

Peter Ertl

email: **pertl@btinternet.com**



SOME HISTORICAL NEWS ITEMS FROM JANE MARNER

The Bedfordshire Times and Independent - Friday May 27 1921.

BLUNHAM - Notwithstanding the continued dry weather crops in the district look very well, but early peas and potatoes could do with a good rain. Mr W Sims and Mr E.C. Jefferies, both of Park Lane have received their war and victory medals. The parents of Sidney Percy Battle have received both medals and a letter stating that they were the medals which would have been presented to their son had he not fallen in the war.

The Bedfordshire Times and Independent - Saturday January 23rd 1892.

BLUNHAM - Accident- As Mr Maskell, baker, of Blunham, was going on his rounds on Tuesday, his horse fell in the road near Blunham station and shot Mr Maskell and the bread into the road. Beyond the cutting of his hand and dirtying of the bread no damage was done.

The Bedfordshire Times and Independent - Friday July 28th 1911.

BLUNHAM - On Tuesday night several villagers heard cries for help coming from the river, which runs through Mr Smith's meadow. Percy and Charlie Hunt at once rushed to the spot, and Percy, who was the first to arrive, found that a boy named Charlie Odell had been stuck in the mud, but had managed to get out. Charlie Hunt rushed up a moment later ready to dive in, with only his shirt on, as he had discarded his other clothing on the way. Quite a crowd gathered and smiled to see Charlie Hunt strolling about in his shirt, but for all that they had to confess that it showed willingness on the part of himself and his brother.

THIS PUBLICATION

Would you like to write for this publication?

If you have something interesting to say about village life in Blunham, please submit it to us. We can publish one article per edition (500 words are about right, but no more than 1,000 maximum, please. We may need to edit it to fit).

Please send articles for inclusion in the next edition to:

gillwiggs@btinternet.com
by **10th August 2021**

e. **blunham-pc.gov.uk**
t. **01234 270016**

