

Blunham Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF **BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Christmas in Blunham

This year we want to build on the success of last year, when we had Christmas lights in the village for the first time. The good news is that we have some funding this year to buy some more.

Last year, due to COVID, the Church was unable to hold the traditional Blunham Christmas Market, & although there were plans for Christmas Caroling, this was also cancelled due to COVID. However, some residents came together to provide a tree outside the pub, and there was a successful event attended by those who felt safe going out in public.

The Parish Council are very much hoping we can work with the Church & the volunteers who organised last years' tree, to help plan a wonderful Christmas in Blunham this year. *If you want to get involved, please do get in touch.*

Wildflowers in the Cemetery

As part of our commitment to the environment, we have reviewed our grass cutting schedule. Next year we will be leaving some targeted areas uncut for longer periods in the early part of the Summer; this being the Cemetery, the Church Yard and an area within The Pound. We will continue to review this matter. We would also love to create a wildflower garden within the Cemetery. However, to do this we will need some volunteers to plant it up & look after it – *anyone interested, please get in touch.*

The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Next year our Queen will be the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. To mark this amazing achievement, there will be a number of celebrations across the country between 2nd June 2022 and 5th June 2022, and an additional bank holiday – **HOORAY!**

There will be beacons lit across the country, and a UK wide “big lunch”, which we hope to hold on the playing field. The Parish Council, the Blunham Playing Field Association & the Church, are working



Wildflowers in the cemetery

together to plan these celebrations, & we will keep you posted. We would also love to be able to resurrect the Parish Flag in time for this event, so this is something we have also started working on. If you want to get involved in planning the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Blunham, please do get in touch.

Blunham P3 Group

You will see the report from the P3 group below. I just wanted to add sincere thanks from the Parish Council for the great work this group of volunteers is doing. Most years it is a battle to keep the footpaths passable, but this year has been incredible – mostly thanks to these volunteers.

Blunham Street Watch

We would also like to place on record our thanks to the newly formed Blunham Street Watch Group. Crime can be a tricky issue to tackle as a volunteer, and it is good to see these volunteers have full Police support. Over the years, we have been lucky enough to have very little crime in Blunham. In June this year we had **no reported crimes at all** (latest figures provided by the Police at the time of going to print). This is unprecedented in recent memory – so we hope this low trend will continue.

Blunham Flood Review

A formal review of the flood event over the 2020/21 winter has taken place. Representatives from the Environment Agency (EA), Central Beds Council, Blunham Parish Council & Blunham residents took part. The flood event affected hundreds of homes in this region, & was a once in twenty-five years event. The response by the community in Blunham was described as excellent.

Most of the surface water from Blunham drains into The River Ivel at The Pound (on the corner of The High Street & Tempsford Rd), & it was a property adjacent The Pound that unfortunately flooded. There does not seem to be funding to divert the water, as The Pound is part of the flood plain & is considered by the EA & Central Beds Council to be the right place for water to drain into. It is hoped the drainage pipe can be cleaned & flushed to improve flow, but this is reliant on access being provided by local home owners & land owners, & Central Beds Council Officers are working on this.

For a full copy of the meeting notes please contact clerk@blunham-pc.gov.uk

Ian Smith
Chairman

BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

BLUNHAM PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3)

Firstly, a very big THANK YOU to everyone who turned out for the Great British Spring Clean in May.



Around 15 people took part of all ages from all parts of Blunham; including Annalie Patent & Jessie the dog (pictured).

We were able to cover almost every street, and most of the footpaths around the village. There really was a great sense of fun and community spirit amongst the volunteers. I don't know exactly how many bags of rubbish were collected in the end, as several people kindly took them home to put in their own bins, but the village was much clearer afterwards, at least for a while.

On other matters, the P3 group has been able to meet several times this summer to trim back the brambles and nettles along overgrown paths, and this year we are also aiming to keep the little-used footpath behind the school open.

In our previous update I mentioned that we were hoping to help control the Himalayan Balsam (HB) that has become so prevalent along the river. HB is an invasive species which competes with native



plants, reducing biodiversity. We received some comments on this activity, and this has prompted us to further consider our approach. Among others, we have contacted Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC), who themselves have started to clear HB from some stretches of the Ivel, starting upstream of Blunham. We will ensure a search for nests is made before pulling a strand, however BRCC have advised us that the plant isn't substantial enough before the nesting season begins to provide a suitable habitat & we are therefore unlikely to come across any nests. BRCC have advised us that the environmental benefits of HB appear to be small. Whilst the plant is good for pollinators, it is so very attractive to them, that it is to the detriment of other native plants in the area. Based on their advice we hope to be able to restart our activities in this area soon, as this will assist the BRCC when they eventually move down to Blunham. We have therefore been seeking permission from local landowners to pull the plant where it grows on their land.

Peter Ertl

Blunham P3 Group



Join us!

THE BLUNHAM P3 GROUP
are looking for more members.

If you are interested in joining the group, or would like to raise any issues or suggest areas that need our attention, please email Peter Ertl
pertl@btinternet.com

For more information
on P3 groups please visit
https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/82/countryside/433/countryside_volunteers

THIS PUBLICATION

Would you like to write for 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 usually 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).

*** For immediate news updates from Blunham Parish Council please subscribe to our email news service on blunham-pc.gov.uk, and/or join the Blunham Parish Council Facebook Group **

Please send articles for inclusion in the next edition to:

clerk@blunham-pc.gov.uk
by **10th November 2021**

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



Taken from Bedfordshire Times and Independent 18th November 1921.

St Edmunds School Blunham
(six miles from Bedford)

The REV.W.H.Hopkins M.A. assisted by an efficient staff, receives a limited number of boys requiring special coaching in Mathematics, Classics, French, Shorthand, Typewriting and Drawing.

The Music Teaching is in accordance with the Associated Board of the R.A.M. and R.C.M.

There is a first class Drill Instructor.

Every facility is available for Outdoor Games.

St Edmunds is a fine modern house standing in THREE ACRES of Grounds. The rooms are large and well ventilated. The sanitation is on modern principles. The climate is particularly suitable for young boys. Every home comfort guaranteed.

