

Blunham Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF **BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Queen's Green Canopy



The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. We are all invited to plant trees, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

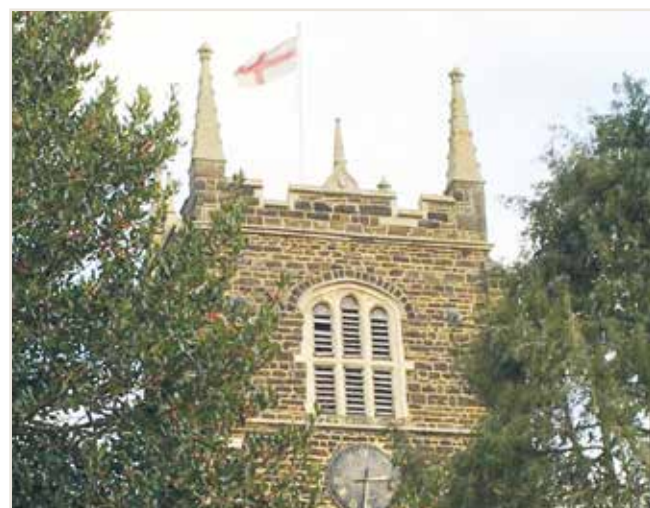
No matter how small a garden we each have, we can all find space to plant a tree. Please ensure the tree is a native species suitable for its location. The Woodland Trust has lots of ideas for suitable trees for British gardens. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
Let's get Blunham tree planting!

War Memorial

This looked wonderful for Remembrance Sunday this year, & we would like to thank all the volunteers who take time to look after it. In particular, we would like to mention Kevin Sheath & David Monks who between them, tidied up the area & carefully cleaned the memorial. We would also like to thank Gordon Horner for donating the beautiful pansies.

Parish Flag

No sooner had we decided to get it repaired, it was done – it can be seen from most parts of the Parish and doesn't it look fantastic! The flag was first erected to celebrate the coronation of the Queen, so it is fitting that we have been able to resurrect it in time for her majesty's Platinum Jubilee next year. A big thank you to Peter Holden for organising this.



New Parish Clerk

A big Blunham welcome to our new Parish Clerk, Jo Graves. We are delighted she is joining us & look forward to working with her.

Central Beds Council Dog Fouling Spraying campaign

We are not alone in Blunham in having some offenders who do not pick up dog poo. Other local communities have taken part in this Central Beds Council initiative with successful results. The purpose of a spraying campaign is to draw attention to dog fouling in a problem area in a very visible way, for a short period of time (about 5 weeks). The basis of the scheme is that the poo is sprayed a bright colour, & signage is put up close by with a weekly poo count! Whilst it sounds unusual, we have been advised it has really reaped results by making offenders think twice.

If anyone is interested in taking part in this unusual but community spirited scheme, please do get in touch.

Blunham Village Hall

It is great to see the village hall back open. This hall is a wonderful community asset & we are really lucky to have such a great space in the Parish. We can all support our hall by using it as much as possible. Not only are there lots of regular clubs & events (including a community cinema), it is a great venue to hire.

For more information about the hall, go to blunhamvillagehall.com, or on [Facebook](#) at [Blunham Village Hall](#).

East West Rail

As a reminder, this is the new rail link between Oxford & Cambridge. The line is due to be fully operational by 2030, so not too far in the future. The exact route in this area is as yet unknown, but it will travel across the north of Bedford towards Cambridge. There are two route options currently under consideration; One travels just north of



Remembrance Sunday

Wilden & Roxton to a new station proposed at St Neots. The alternative route travels south of Wilden & Roxton to a new station proposed at Tempsford.

For more information go to Eastwestrail.co.uk

Christmas Lights



By the time you read this, the Blunham Christmas lights should be festively lighting up our evenings.

We really hope you enjoy them & have a very Happy Christmas, & a peaceful New Year.

Ian Smith,
Chairman
Blunham Parish Council



GOODBYE AND THANK YOU

On Tuesday 30th November, after twelve and a half years as Clerk of Blunham Parish Council, Gill Wiggs clerked her final meeting for us. She will fully retire on 31/12/21.

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Gill has been a skilled and well-respected Clerk who has provided huge support to past and present members of the Council and given good advice to villagers - always going the extra mile to support the local community. She will be sorely missed.

We would like to extend every good wish to Gill and hope she and her husband enjoy a long, happy and healthy retirement.

goodbye and
thank you



Jane Marner

Parish Council Communications Committee

On behalf of Blunham Parish Council

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](mailto:clerk@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 February 2021**

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



SOME HISTORICAL NEWS ITEMS FROM JANE MARNER

The Bedfordshire Times and Independent - 31 March 1922

Arthur Bembridge begs to announce that on Monday next, 3rd April, he is taking over the Butchers business of Mr Harry Brown, of Blunham, and hopes by strict personal attention to merit a continuance of the favours and support so kindly conferred on his predecessor.

Biggleswade Chronicle 18th August 1950.

BLUNHAM.

Death of Mr J Burns

The death occurred last week of Mr John Burns familiarly known as "Jock". A Scotsman, Jock tramped to Blunham many years ago and lived in a hut in one of Mark Young's fields where he was employed. Mr Burns was taken to St Peters Hospital about three months ago and was later removed to Clapham.

The Chapel Bell

The bell of the Cemetery Chapel has now been repaired after many years and was rung at the funeral of Mr John Burns.

Merry
Christmas

Wishing all Blunham residents
a Christmas that is full of
peace & joy.
We look forward to 2022
being a year of happiness
& hope for us all.