

# 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](http://blunham-pc.gov.uk), & 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. We are keen to encourage suitable applications and 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.

### Parking on verges and pavements

We have received numerous reports of cars being parked on pavements and grass verges. This can make it difficult for people in wheelchairs or with pushchairs to get past without going on the road and in the winter it churns up the grass which makes it harder for our maintenance team to manage and could mean it will not grow back in the spring. Please could you be considerate where you choose to park.

### Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

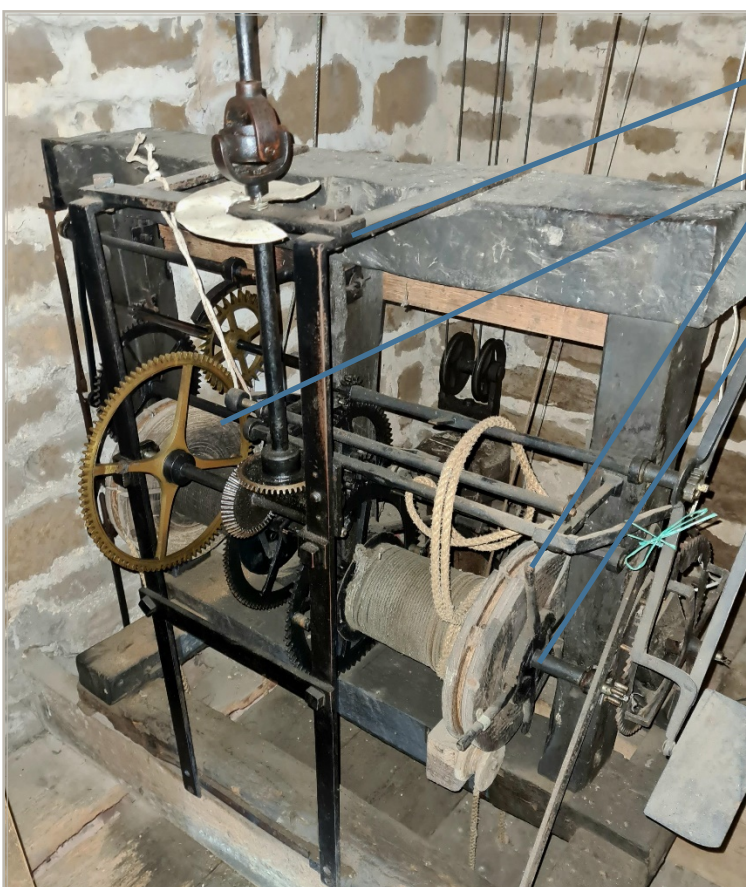
Planning is underway for events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June – *more details to follow in the May issue of Blunham Matters.*

### Save the date:

**Sunday 5th June** – Platinum Jubilee Big Tea Party is being held at the Pavilion from 2.00-5.00pm. If you have any ideas for other activities please contact [clerk@blunham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@blunham-pc.gov.uk)

## BLUNHAM CHURCH FINDS A RARE PIECE OF HISTORY

Whilst investigating how we may go about restoring the church clock, we commissioned a Master Clock Maker to give advice. On seeing the clock, located in the church tower and carrying out some further investigations, he has said the clock mechanism is a rare example of a striking clock made in 1670. That is, it originally would not have had clock faces but would have struck one of the bells in the belfry.



The added frame can be seen in front of the original clock.

In addition, he said the two winding wheels made of wood were also a later addition.

Originally the clock would have been wound using the turnstiles by hand.

We will be seeking further information and funding with the aim of restoring the clock to working order.

### So how can you help?

We would like, as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee year, to carry out this work this year. We have already had a £400 donation, so we would like to get the whole village behind this project as it is more than just a church clock, but part of Blunham's history. **If you would like to help, please make a donation.**



You can do this by leaving an envelope with your donation in, marked **CLOCK**, and post it in the red safe in the church. This is located opposite the first set of pews at the rear of the church. You may do this anonymously or if you are a tax payer and leave your name and address and we will be able to claim Gift Aid from HMRC. In addition you may make a bank transfer to PCC of Blunham, Sort Code 30-90-79, Account No. 00943501. Please mark this **CLOCK**.

Thank you. Phil Rose

## BLUNHAM P3 GROUP

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CBC provide training in the safe use of power tools, insurance and some equipment. The Blunham P3 was formed at the beginning of 2020, so we are still a fairly new team. Our small group of volunteers focus mostly on trimming overgrown footpaths when the scheduled cutting just isn't enough, but we also undertake some additional tasks such as litter picking, conservation projects and replacing signposts as needed. We generally meet about once a month from March to October.



We are always looking for more members so if you are interested in joining the Blunham P3 group, or would like to raise any issues, please email Peter [Ertl.pertl@btinternet.com](mailto:Ertl.pertl@btinternet.com).

**For more information on P3 Groups please** visit [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/82/countryside/433/countryside\\_volunteers](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/82/countryside/433/countryside_volunteers)

## GET INVOLVED WITH BLUNHAM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Following lockdown when many, if not all, our village groups were closed and not able to run, they are now opening up and need your support. This could be through attending groups or events in the village, or if you have some spare time volunteering to help run the group. If you are new to the village, please do get involved!

### Blunham Village Hall Committee

After two years of lock down Blunham Village Hall is looking forward to completely re-opening and getting back to providing activities and events for Village residents. Events in the past have included Quiz Nights, Race Nights, Themed Dinner Evenings, Spring/Summer/Autumn Luncheons and more. If you would like to get involved in the Committee you can contact [blunhamvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:blunhamvillagehall@gmail.com) or through the Village Hall's Facebook page.

The Village Hall Committee are also forming an Events Crew to assist with Hall sponsored events. This would be on an ad hoc basis, as and when people are available. They also need volunteers to assist with leafleting for events that they are planning as well as helping on the day with set up, clean up and running the bar. Email or contact via Facebook as above to add your name to our list of helpers!

### Coffee Morning

Every Monday from 10.30am to 12.00noon there is a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall, all welcome.

### Blunham Community Cinema

We are part of the Village Hall and operate a cinema on the last Friday of the month. We have a large screen and state of the art projector and sound system. As a Community Cinema we try and keep prices low, but it does cost £99.60 for the licence to show every film. We occasionally show additional films during the year and these are well advertised. Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30pm with refreshments, ice creams and confectionary sold before and during the interval.

#### Forthcoming films:

25th March – **Dark Waters** (Cert 12A)  
29th April – **Blinded by the Light** (Cert 12A)  
27th May – **Red Sparrow** (Cert R (18))  
24th June – **The Father** (Cert 12A)

### BBC (Blunham Breakfast Club)

We are a group of men (currently 26 of us) of a certain age who meet up on the morning of the last Friday of the month to go and have breakfast (fry up) in a local venue. So, if you are retired, live in Blunham and would like to join us please email [phil.rose47@outlook.com](mailto:phil.rose47@outlook.com)

### Blunham and District Gardening Club

The gardening club was started over 10 years ago by a group of people who love their gardens and wanted to come together to share this love. Over the years we have had a variety of speakers, who have entertained us with their knowledge. In the summer months visits to local gardens have been



organised. We also have social evenings, having fun doing quizzes and sharing plants and seeds.

The group meetings in Blunham Village Hall on the first Tuesday at 7.30pm each month. If you would like more information on this small, friendly group please contact **Brenda** on **01767 640623**.

### Blunham Playing Fields Association

The Blunham Playing Fields Association (BPFA) is a small charity which is run by a committed group of volunteers whose objective is to provide a community space for the whole village to enjoy. During the Summer months there is always something to do, whether that is to play with the kids in the playground or maybe a game of football, come to support the Cricket and Football Clubs or just enjoy a drink at the bar. There is also a regular bootcamp which welcomes all. Many large events also take place in this wonderful community space, more information on events for the Platinum Jubilee will follow. The pavilion building is available to hire throughout the year. Our membership night will be held in early April ([further details to follow](#)). We are always on the lookout for new trustees to join us, so if you are interested in any of the above please contact us as [enquiresbpfa@outlook.com](mailto:enquiresbpfa@outlook.com) we would love to hear from you.

### St Edmund's Fellowship

The St Edmund's Fellowship hold their meetings every third Wednesday of the month at 10.30am in Blunham Village Hall. We usually have a speaker or activity followed by refreshments. You are welcome to join our meetings as a visitor. Visitor's fee is £2 and if you enjoy the meeting the annual subscription costs £10. For further information please call **Stella** **01767 640515**.

### Blunham Community Neighbourhood & Street Watch Schemes

Since the launch of our Blunham Street Watch Scheme was launched last year (May 2021) we have been patrolling our streets with approximately 10 volunteers from our village.

Residents have seen and welcomed our Street

Watchers as we actively patrol in our pairs/groups with our high-visibility jackets and official IDs on. Our Blunham community would have seen some of us assisting at the Christmas 2021 Tree lighting.

Our volunteers have been inducted, vetted and insured by Bedfordshire Police's Watch Team, with guided patrols and training.

Our aim is to patrol in pairs at least 2 hours per month. Our patrols take place during any time of the day/week and are logged and monitored by Bedfordshire Police.

As a Street Watch scheme we can only observe, report and signpost (where possible) activity to the police we come across during our patrols, the intelligence we gather is important to help reduce crime and keep our village safe. We do advise, recommend and signpost residents to report non-urgent issues or concerns via 101 or online via <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Information-reporting#a2ac948f>. If there is active crime in progress please contact 999 emergency services. We welcome more volunteers to join us. We are hoping to encourage a Dog Watch scheme and invite more volunteers and their canine friends to join us and patrol the village alongside our Street Watch volunteers.

Please do contact either **Chris Smith** ([c5rpu@yahoo.com](mailto:c5rpu@yahoo.com)), myself ([rosewoodhead@gmail.com](mailto:rosewoodhead@gmail.com)) or **Juliet Wright** ([Juliet.Wright@beds.police.uk](mailto:Juliet.Wright@beds.police.uk)) at Beds Police for more info.

Stay well and safe.

## 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:**

[clerk@blunham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@blunham-pc.gov.uk)  
by **9th May 2022**  
t. **07563 527415**

