

Blunham Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Jubilee Weekend Programme of Events in Blunham

Thursday 2nd June

4pm Union flag to be raised on the church to mark the start of the celebrations. The national anthem will be played as the flag is raised. People will be invited to bring a picnic to eat in the churchyard, weather permitting.

5pm Service of Thanksgiving – outdoors in the churchyard, again weather permitting.

Friday 3rd June

9am onwards - Breakfast baps in the church, followed by live-streaming of the Service of Thanksgiving from St Paul's which will begin at 10.20am.

“Blunhamfest” at the playing fields hosted by the Cricket Club. A large marquee (6m x 12m) on the car park hosting a real ale bar and many local food vendors. If anyone wants a stall to promote a club, etc they will be welcome, free of charge. Live music from 2.30pm and a DJ in the evening. Face painting, some exotic animals and lots of things for children and family.

Saturday 4th June

Cricket match at the Playing Fields, bar open. The Horseshoes will be offering **afternoon teas** on Saturday 4th at a special price.

Film night at the Village Hall with a supper of Coronation Chicken and jacket potatoes. (Priscilla, Queen of the Desert).

Sunday 5th June

Street-party style afternoon tea at the Playing Fields. A Jubilee cake will be provided by the Parish Council – please bring your own food and drink. The Cricket Club/ BPFA will staff the bar.

A marquee and long tables will be set up. We will look into the possibility of some fun activities (such as tug-of-war), sack race, family races. John Donne



School have organised a **‘make your own crown’** competition, as well as a painting competition ‘a portrait of the Queen’, both to be judged at their end of term afternoon cream tea. The children are encouraged to wear their crowns to the party at the Playing Fields.

With so many activities happening in Blunham it will be great to see your photos, we would like to have some photos in the next edition of Blunham Matters – *please send any you wish to be included to the Clerk at the email address below.*

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, & 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.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Blunham Parish Council currently have a Councillor vacancy. If you care about where you live and are passionate about your community, we need you.

If you would be interested in joining Blunham Parish Council or would like to find out more about being a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk.

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.

Dogs in the Cemetery

We have received reports that dogs are being exercised off the lead in the Cemetery. Dogs are allowed in the Cemetery as long as they are on a lead, new signs will be displayed at both entrances to avoid confusion.

Cemetery Chapel

The Council are looking into bringing the Chapel in the Cemetery back into use after carrying out some repair work and would like ideas from residents as to what events could take place in it. Unfortunately, it does not have heating or electricity, but it is a lovely little building which could be used for daytime meetings etc.

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
t. 07563 527415 by 5th August





The Blunham P3 group would like to say a big 'thank you' to all those who joined us for the litter pick on April 10th. We ended up with a garden full of rubbish sacks, and a much cleaner village. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

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.

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

BIO-DIVERSITY IN BLUNHAM



Birds of Blunham – nest box update, Spring 2022

Most of the nest boxes in Blunham were checked at the end of April. Blue Tits had taken up residence in 4 of the nest boxes around the village with between 5 and 13 eggs per box. Hopefully they will have a successful season.

Unfortunately, one of the nest boxes in the Cemetery was damaged when the tree fell on the shed during the storms in February and another nest box has been damaged by a squirrel or woodpecker.

A song thrush has also made its nest in the Cemetery and there have been signs that a bird of prey, possibly a kestrel or little owl has been active there too.

Saxifrage in the Churchyard

Many years ago a botanist spotted the leaves of the locally scarce wild flower, Meadow Saxifrage growing in Blunham Churchyard. It hardly ever flowered as it was always cut by the mowers.

Since then an area of the grass sward has been marked off each spring and not cut until July until the flowers have seeded.

The Saxifrage has now increased, and this year a much larger area was left uncut with the result we were treated to a magnificent display in mid-May.

Once this plant was widespread on lowland grassland but extensive ploughing, fertilising and habitat loss has restricted it to a few places - and we are fortunate it is protected here in Blunham.

Biodiversity in the cemetery

In addition to the Churchyard's wildflower area (managed by the Parish Council) an additional grass area is being left uncut in the Cemetery this spring and summer.

In future years it may be possible to introduce more wildflowers into this area and the Council would be interested in hearing from any volunteers willing to help with this project.

BLUNHAM BELLS & THEIR JUBILEE CONNECTION



The bells ring out not only for worship but also in celebration and mourning.

There are currently four dedicated ringers living in Blunham and we are always looking for new recruits or returning ringers. Perhaps you have moved into our wonderful village and would like to join in with one of the

many activities. Bell ringing can be a fascinating hobby. It is suitable for anybody, male or female, is fun as well as good exercise. We are a friendly bunch of all ages and ring across all our four towers including Gt Barford, Roxton and Tempsford.

The six bells at Blunham are one of the heaviest rings in the county; the tenor weighing in at 18 ½ cwt. The two oldest are ornate bells each inscribed 'be Yt known to all that doth me see that Newcombe of Leicester made me anno domine 1602'. Another is dated 1609 inscribed with the alphabet from A to T. The tenor was made in 1741 and records the church wardens and the rector of the time and to complete the original five is the 2nd which has a Latin inscription and is dated 1752. These five bells were rehung in 1926 in an oak frame when new floors were completed in the bell chamber and the ringing chamber which was originally on the ground floor. Access to



the ringing and clock chambers is no easy feat approached by way of steep timber ladders and up to the bells themselves is a fixed aluminium ladder which bounces!

They were rehung again in 1954 when the new treble (just over 7 cwt) was added. This bell, The Coronation Bell, was presented by Charles Harding (a local family name many will recognise) and is inscribed 'I ring to all the country round God bless Elizabeth new crowned'.

Blunham bells will be ringing as part of the country's events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

They will also be ringing for the traditional Rose Queen Fete in June and our fundraiser Bells, Beer and Bangers taking place on the afternoon of **Saturday July 23rd**. Please do support us. Look out for further information.

For more information contact Davina on blunham@bacbr.org.uk

BLUNHAM STREET WATCH

We are approaching the **1st year anniversary** of our Blunham Street Watch Scheme this month. So far our patrols have been going well with our volunteers contributing with at least 2 hours each per month of patrolling the village.

We have had some great support from the Beds Policing team and have provided guided tours with our local PCSOs.

We are happy to announce today that we are launching our **Blunham Dog Watch Scheme** this month too, with Dog Watch Co-ordinators Dee Royston and Trish Swatton (who are our existing Street Watch volunteers) taking the lead with their canine pal.

Our scheme will be now known as Blunham Street & Dog Watch Scheme. This will allow both Dog Watchers and Street Watchers to patrol together with our High Viz jackets on. We are hoping this will enable more volunteers to join us in keeping Blunham safe.

