

about ongoing and upcoming projects. However, we're always keen to hear your ideas and feedback directly.

If you have suggestions about what projects the Parish Council should consider, please let us know by using the **Contact Us** page on our website:

**[blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk/page/contact](http://blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk/page/contact)** You're welcome to submit your thoughts anonymously—simply enter NA in the name and email fields if you prefer not to provide those details. Alternatively, please pop your comments in an envelope and post it in the Village hall post box marked for the Clerk's attention.

**Parish Council Meetings –**

The regular Parish meetings will be on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup>** and **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025**, at 19:30 in the Village Hall. If you want to come along, please let us know, details are on the Parish Council, notice boards, Website in the Blog section and on our Facebook page.

**Ian Jankinson – [ianjankinson@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ianjankinson@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk) – 07702 684281**

**Parish contact details – Tel: 01793 705617 – [clerk@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk)**

. FOOD FOR THOUGHT.  
Outside Catering



**Mobile fish & chip van will be at Blunsdon, Blunt Rise  
from 5pm**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August**

**4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September**

**If you would like a copy of our menu,  
please email [grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com](mailto:grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com) or**

**WhatsApp 07515 288414**

**Pre orders welcome by WhatsApp or text 07515  
288414.**

### Notes from the Editor

The magazine is run by volunteers from the village. All your ideas, comments and contributions will always be welcome.

Blunsdon Village Magazine is available to read online at Blunsdon Parish Council website: [blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk)

EDITOR: Please email all items for the magazine to [blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com)

Arlene tel. 07493 978388

ADVERTS: For advert enquiries please contact Penny on 01793 722073

**Front Cover:** Blunsdon House Hotel gardens

**Your August Magazine will be delivered from: 29<sup>th</sup> August**

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
<b>September</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>

**New children's page** - I hope our younger readers have fun with the new Cool Kids page, (see page 20) designed and submitted by a Blunsdon mum who is keen to look at new activities for children in the village. If you have any ideas or would like to be put in touch then please message me and I can pass on.





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## *A Recipe from CookFoodFan*

### Sweet Endings

I haven't done a sweet recipe for a while so thought I would do this one. Soft stewed cherries, apple and vanilla topped with buttery maple oats and dark chocolate. Yum!

I like using frozen fruits as they are good value and nutritious, a great alternative to fresh ones and this recipe is less calorific than a lot of dessert recipes.

### **Cherry Chocolate Crisp** (serves 4)

1 cooking apple, peeled, cored and chopped  
250g frozen pitted cherries  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
50ml boiling water  
2 tbsp pure maple syrup  
1 tbsp melted unsalted butter  
80g porridge oats  
50g dark chocolate (70 per cent cocoa solids), finely chopped  
Pinch of ground cinnamon  
Pinch of salt

1. Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas mark 7.
2. Put the apple, cherries, vanilla extract and boiling water in a saucepan and simmer for 10 mins until the apples and cherries are soft. Stir and smash them together while they cook.
3. In a bowl mix the melted butter and maple syrup. Add the porridge oats and a pinch of salt, stir well then add the chocolate bits and mix in.
4. Put the cherry mix into a small baking dish (a 20cm one), then top with the oats. Sprinkle over the cinnamon.
5. Place into the oven and bake for 8 mins until the oats are golden.
6. Serve with cream, custard, Greek yoghurt or vanilla ice cream.

Tip:

A quick summer dessert recipe is **Baked Nectarines with Cinnamon Honey Sauce**.

Cut nectarines (1 per person) in half and remove stones, put them (cut side up) in a shallow baking dish. Mix 1 tbsp (per nectarine) honey, cinnamon and vanilla extract in a small bowl and drizzle over. Bake at 200C/180C fan/gas mark 6 for 25 mins until the nectarines are soft. Serve with ice cream, the honey sauce and perhaps some roasted hazelnuts for crunch.

## **Enjoy**



## ***BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB***

**The Foxes are currently top of the league.**

### **Recent Results:**

Lacock – won by 5 wickets, with 4 wickets and 59 runs from skip **Dave “Botty” Bott**. (see photo below)

Swindon Super Strikers – won by 6 wickets in the table topping clash, skittling the Strikers all out for 47 with 3 scalps apiece for **Dave “Botty” Bott** and **Harish “The Windmill” Kumar**.

Nationwide House – won by 7 wickets with a scintillating 63 runs from **Mitch “The Pitch” Dodson**.

Bathford – won by 128 runs after a sublime 136 runs from **Dave “Stiff Neck” Bott** and 4 wickets from **Phil “The Welsh Wizard” Jones** and 3 wickets from **Harish “The Windmill” Kumar**.

**Upcoming matches in August, Wiltshire league Division Six – Every Saturday. Play begins at 1 p.m.**



**2<sup>nd</sup>** – away to Goatacre 3rds, at the Billy Goat Gruff Ground

**9<sup>th</sup>** – home to Keevil

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – home to Lacock

**30<sup>th</sup>** – FINAL GAME away to Swindon Super Strikers at Croft Sports Centre

Photo on left: **Batmen. Bowler. Leader. Legend.**

Come and see if **Skip Dave “Botty” Bott** can lead the Foxes to a first league title in 12 years...



## **BLUNSDON WI**

We have had another fun packed month. No traditional meetings this or next month.

Instead, we have day trips organised.

This month we went to Devizes for a canal trip. We went using the no 49 bus from Wroughton on what radio 2 rightly in my mind described as the best bus route in the country. We wandered around the beautiful town on an easy treasure trail finding parts we wouldn't otherwise see and finished off with a leisurely trip on the canal and a return trip on the bus.

Some of us also did a private tour of the Cotswold Farm Gardens with tea and cake of course.

The next book to be discussed at book club will be 'Three Hours' by Rosamond Lupton (warning: upsetting topic)

And film club will be discussing "Devine secrets of the ya-ya sisterhood".

Future trips planned include Aston pottery, Kelmscott, and Dents glove factory.

To find out about our WI call Anna on 01793 706392 or visit our

website [jackie707.wixsite.com](http://jackie707.wixsite.com)



### **ROTARY CLUB OF SWINDON NORTH & THAMESDOWN**

Meetings held at the Blunsdon House Hotel

[www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk](http://www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk)

Email: [rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com)

Phone: 07710 228697 (Ken) or 07712 078942 (Chris)





Rotary has 1.2 million members worldwide and Clubs like ours have long been making a meaningful impact in communities, particularly focusing on causes such as education, health, clean water, peacebuilding and economic development. For example, since 1988 Rotary's End Polio Now has seen

a worldwide reduction in polio cases of 99.9%. Only two countries remain polio endemic: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

### **A NEW "CORPORATE" MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY**

Now, through its Corporate Membership initiative, Rotary is seeking small, medium and large businesses to join it in these efforts. Corporate Membership gives a company a unique platform for service, networking and professional and personal growth, rooted within the local community.

As a corporate member of Rotary, a single membership for a company offers:

- A way to demonstrate the Company's Social Responsibility by being part of the Rotary projects in the Swindon area;
- Networking with other companies who share similar values;
- An opportunity for members of staff to share and develop their skills in leadership presentation and team work;
- An opportunity to expand and grow its network within the community.

### **ROTARY IN SWINDON**

Rotary has had a presence in Swindon for 100 years and, for example:

- It has supported the Prospect Hospice since its formation in 1980;
- It contributed £1m towards the £3m Brighter Futures Appeal for a Radiotherapy Centre at the Great Western Hospital;
- It has organised seven Poppy Balls at STEAM raising tens of thousands of Pounds for charity;
- It facilitated the Ridgway mid-summer midnight walk raising over £200k;
- It has supported hundreds of small local charities.

The Rotary Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown was founded 60 years ago, the second Rotary Club formed in Swindon, and in that time, we have donated over a million and a half Pounds to local, national and international charities.

### **GET IN TOUCH**

For companies, particularly SMEs. we're confident Rotary can help put their community impact plans into action.

Please get in touch if Rotary's Corporate Membership, or Individual Membership, interests you. We meet on the first, third and fifth Mondays of the month at the Blunsdon House Hotel.

Website: [rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk](http://rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk)

Email: [rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com)

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## **The Chatterbox – Hanging on to the Past**

In the dark and dusty silence in my mother's attic, is stored a lifetime of memories. Strictly speaking, there are several lifetimes up there as there are items belonging to my late grandmother, late aunty, and my late uncle. Then there are items from my mother's life, my late father's and also many keepsakes and belongings of both mine and my siblings from our younger days.

During my father's lifetime, he was very much a DIY enthusiast and at some point, he decided to partition the attic into separate rooms and each one of them is jam-packed, stuffed to the gunnels, and chockfull of 'memories'. Some of these include ornaments from my grandmother's house which I remember playing with as a child, such as a pottery biscuit barrel in the shape of Romany caravan, a little condiment set made from silver and blue glass and a black, wooden elephant.

There are numerous bags and suitcases crammed with old clothes. There are wedding dresses, several bridesmaid's dresses, toys, books and games, LP records, photographs and mirrors. There are dressing up costumes, gifts that weren't wanted, and stuffed toys. It's a bit like a scene from a car boot sale. There are even three sets of dentures, should anyone find themselves suddenly toothless.

I've had discussions with my mother so many times about the sheer volume of things that really do need to be sorted out up there but it always falls on deaf ears and, since I know the reasons why, I don't insist she starts parting with anything, nor do I take it upon myself to start the task. They are the physical remnants and reminders of my mother's connection to her family and a link to the memories that she keeps inside and, although we laugh about the sets of false teeth, she cannot bear to let these possessions go from her care, or from her life. I understand and accept this and know that during her lifetime, she'll never part with the contents of the attic.

Why do we hold on to these inanimate objects, these symbols of the past? Well, to my mind, it must be because of what or who they represent. I point out to my mother that these "things" are NOT the person and that the person they belonged to lives on forever in our heart and memories. How, then, do I explain to myself why I have never thrown away my children's artistic efforts from infancy or their first pair of shoes or why I have kept some birthday cards from friends that I went to school with? Well, because I too, am holding on to the past, keeping these memories from days-gone-by safe and close, reminding me of times that are impossible to recreate. Times that make me smile, fill me with happiness, and they allow me the opportunity to reminisce.

My siblings and I joke with our mother that after her days, it'll be much simpler to burn the house down as the task awaiting us in the attic will be too big to tackle. However, there's also a part of me that's worried that once I start rummaging around up there and find items that trigger memories of my own, I'll just end up boxing them all up and transporting it to my own attic for ever. The false teeth can stay where they are though!

Wishing you all a wonderful, summery month of August.



## Reading with Wine

Hello!

As we creep towards the summer holidays, I'm going to stick with holiday reading for one more month, whether you are staying here or heading further afield I have some really good options to pop in your case.

I'm starting with a go to summer author for me, Veronica Henry. I've been a long term fan but *The Secret Beach* might just be my favourite yet- it's a glorious summer read but with added depth and gravitas.

Nikki finally owns the cottage she has dreamt of living in since her childhood visits to the secret beach, and gorgeous new neighbour Adam is the cherry on top of what she hopes is a fabulous new chapter to her life. Until one postcard changes everything and it's very much not what you wish you were here. Nikki is presenting as a happy part of the community who loves where she lives...the trouble is someone who knows a deeply buried secret about her seems to also know where she lives and the past of twenty years ago seems to be catching up with her fast. Will it be as bad as she fears or will her new determination mean that she can face things head on?

The wine pairing is from another favourite of mine, the incredible producers at Redhead Wines. The She Rox Chardonnay is described as a diamond in the rough, which happens to match the project cottage that Nikki takes on. The very thought of the range being called She Rox makes it perfect for her as she faces challenges that she has been hiding from for too long. The burgundy butter flavour means it's smooth to drink; but it's also got a bright lemon hint which gives you a glimpse of a hopeful and bright future.

Secondly, a very different option, *The Castaways* by Lucy Clarke. (Maybe don't read this one before you fly!) A plane goes down on a tiny island just outside Fiji- there are survivors but the world doesn't know that and the fight to live takes on a whole new meaning. I loved the fact that the viewpoints were from two sisters who just felt that they could find their way back to each other. This one has also been made into a series with the incredible Sheridan Smith; the ending is very different from the book so please let me know which you prefer and why...

@reading\_with\_wine on Instagram.

For this pairing, I've gone for a Hidden Sea wine; the rosé as the season is definitely in full swing. As well as producing exceptional wine, the team behind the brand commit to removing plastic from our oceans with every bottle sold. The choice is clear with the storyline as the plane crash lands somewhere completely hidden, and completely unspoilt by humans, we can live here and not damage it being the message.

The wine itself is super fruity and light with strawberries and cream making a perfect combination and just a hint of everything coming up roses. It is currently in Asda for just £3.77 so get yourself a bargain wine and do something good for the world too!

Wherever you go, whatever you read, whatever you drink, I hope you have a lovely month...remember read everywhere but please drink responsibly.

Reading with Wine



## JOKES!

Why did the banana go to the Doctor?

*Because he wasn't peeling very well.*

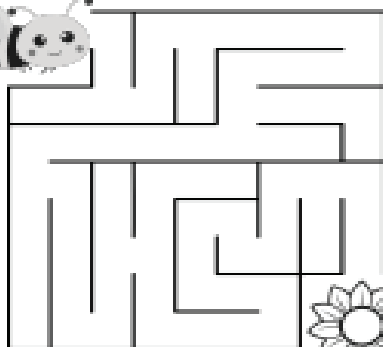
Knock knock

Who's there?















You

You whoo

HELP THE BEE FIND THE SUNFLOWER



## MATHS CHALLENGE

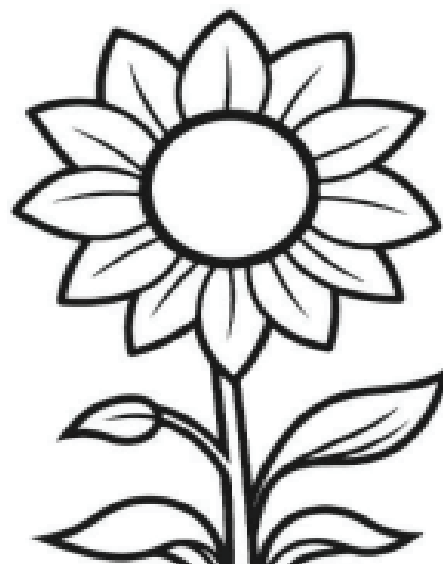
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## DID YOU KNOW?

Sunflowers turn their flower heads from east to west, following the sun's path during the day!

Parents, please write in with suggestions for community events for children & families

COLOUR ME IN





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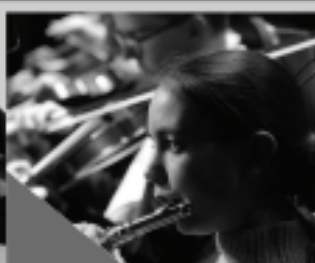
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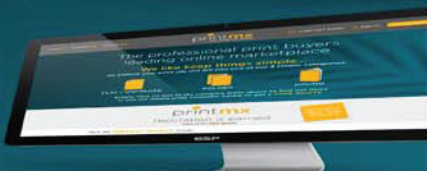
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