

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

August 2026



Photo by Debra Richardson



BLUNSDON
HOUSE HOTEL
★★★★

Sunday Carvery

Join us for a sumptuous Sunday Lunch Carvery in our bright, contemporary Flame Restaurant.

Enjoy an extensive range of starters, perfectly cooked roasts and irresistible desserts, the ultimate family treat! Large parties welcome – pre-booking essential.

£27 per adult | £14 per child (under 12 years)

60 Years of Value, Quality & Service.

Blunsdon House Hotel, The Ridge, Blunsdon, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN26 7AS Tel: +44 (0)1793 721701



blunsdonhouse.co.uk

Grant Carpentry & Construction Ltd

We specialise in all construction.

- * loft conversions
- * garage conversions
- * new build houses and extensions
- * new construction and repairs/restorations
- * kitchen planning/install

We offer an end-to-end client experience that includes seamless communication, budgeting, staffing, on-site organisation, and solid, quality handywork every time

Please visit our webpage <https://grantcarpentry.com/> or phone 07974 797849 / 07789 740405

One
stop shop
for all your
fireplace needs.

We specialise in installation of
woodburner stoves and flue liners.
Also offering Building work
including, hearth and
surround installations



The
**Woodburner
Showroom**

01793 435067

Pigeon House Lane, Stratton St Margaret
Swindon SN3 4QH

www.thewoodburnershowroom.co.uk

sales@thewoodburnershowroom.co.uk



**A Professional
Carpet & Upholstery
Cleaning Company
you can count on!**

ON SITE CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING.
CARPET AND FABRIC PROTECTION TREATMENTS.

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE CARPET AND
UPHOLSTERY CLEANING INDUSTRY.

LOCALLY BASED, PROVIDING PERSONAL AND
INDIVIDUAL SERVICE.

A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CARPET
CLEANERS ASSOCIATION
(MEMBER NO. 1399)

**Yours Carpets & Upholstery deserve the best
care possible**

To arrange a free, no obligation quotation
please ring:

SWINDON (01793) 421802

www.abacuscleaningservices.co.uk

Bond Builders

Fencing & Patio Services

Fencing - Gates - Patios - Sheds

01793 824272 or 07725 979494

bondbuilders@yahoo.co.uk

facebook.com/BondBuilders



S Burnett
Tree Surgery

✓ Insured ✓ Qualified

(01793) 264 851

07866 940 732

sbtreesurgery.co.uk

Tree Felling & Dismantling.
Pollarding & Removal.
Hedge Reduction & Trimming.
Stump Grinding. Site Clearance.

SEASONED FIREWOOD

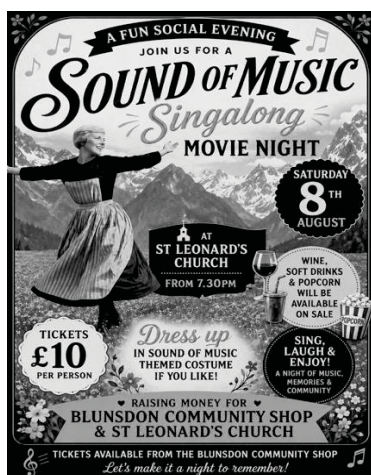


Blunsdon Community Shop & Cafe

Well, what can we say, the weather was amazing, Laura and Sharon's meticulous planning paid off and you all turned out to support our Summer Fete and Raffle – Thank you!

Richard Radway was the star of our raffle, our virtual Dog Show was great fun and we crowned our Queen Vic of the Baking Competition. We would like to thank both our sponsors, Suzie Rosewell (Blunsdon Groom Room) and Rosalind Jenkins Cake Designs, all our suppliers, volunteers and customers who generously donated prizes for our raffle and stalls, RRT for their BBQ and the Heart in Hand Pub for lending us their bouncy castle, corn hole and slushy machine.

Our Fete was a huge success and it was fantastic to see families and people of all ages joining in with the fun, whilst fundraising for our community shop & cafe. The village has had a reel “buzz” during the past few months with all our community events and we are proud to be part of these events. Our village is an amazing place to live!



Singalong Sound of Music

You enjoy our Singalong Bingo Nights, why not join us for a Singalong Movie Night?

We are hosting a joint fundraiser with the St Leonard's Church Project “Space for All” on 8th August in the Church. We still have some tickets remaining at £10 each if you fancy joining us – but be quick!

There will be a bar serving wine and soft drinks and of course we will have popcorn.

The movie music license for this event has been generously sponsored by PPL PRS Ltd (UK's music listening company).

Have your Say – in our recent survey our customers asked for “**improved stock reliability**”. Our survey action is to ensure our Top 30 products are always in stock, but we thought it would be useful to share our delivery days for your everyday essentials.

Milk – Mon, Wed, Fri	Eggs – Wed	Bread – Tues, Thurs, Sat
Sandwiches – Mon, Wed, Fri	Fresh Produce – Thurs *	Flowers – Thurs
Magazines – Tue, Wed, Thurs	Newspapers – Daily	Rosalind cakes -Thurs
Andrews Meat – Fri (Order by Tues)	Lynwood – Sat (order by Tues). * top ups as needed	

We do not expect customers to do their “weekly food shop” with us, but if everyone chose to shop local for their everyday essentials like milk, bread and eggs, along with any treats like cakes, wine or gifts, this would really support us – **Please Shop Local where you can, Thank you!**

Love our

SHOP & CAFÉ

LOVE A GOOD EVENT?



Community Shop & Café
— **BLUNSDON** —

*We're run by volunteers,
for our community.*

*Together, we make
great things happen!* 



Join our Events Team!

Do you enjoy planning, organising and making things happen? Have a flair for fundraising and creating fun, unforgettable events?



Fundraising



Planning & organising



Creative ideas



Making events fun



Working with a
friendly, supportive team

UPCOMING EVENTS YOU CAN HELP MAKE AMAZING!



Wine Tasting

THURSDAY
1st OCTOBER

An evening of fine wines,
great company and
delicious nibbles.
Cheers to that!



Singalong Bingo

SATURDAY
10th OCTOBER

Sing your heart out,
eyes down for prizes and
join in the fun for a
fantastic night!



*Sound of Music
Singalong*

SATURDAY
8th AUGUST

Dust off your vocal cords
and enjoy everyone's
favourite musical!

 *More events. Stronger community. Memorable moments.* 



Our volunteers are the heart of
Blunsdon Community Shop & Café.
From stocking the shelves to hosting events,
everything we do is for and because of
our incredible community.

*Thank you to every volunteer
who makes it all possible!* 



NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED...
just enthusiasm and a few hours to spare!



INTERESTED? LET'S CHAT!



Email us at
chair@blunsdoncommunityshop.co.uk



Follow us on Facebook
for updates and events!

Your time. Your talents. Your community. Make it happen! 



**rwk
goodman**

Your personal life. Our specialist lawyers.

In life, change is inevitable. Whatever it is you're facing, our job is to deliver the best possible results for you.

Wills – Estate planning & inheritance tax – Loss of mental capacity – Need for long-term care – Property ownership structures – Lasting Powers of Attorney – Trusts – And more.

**We're here to support you.
Book your free home visit or one-to-one call.**



Call Partner, Mandy Casavant on
07879 456965 or email
mandy.casavant@rwkgoodman.com
and quote **RWKGBLUNSDON**

For more info visit rwkgoodman.com

*. FOOD FOR THOUGHT.
Outside Catering*



**Mobile fish & chip van will be at Blunsdon,
Blunt Rise from 5pm
Thursday 20th August**

(only one visit in August due to holidays)

**If you would like a copy of our menu
please email grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com
or WhatsApp 07515 288414**

Pre orders welcome by WhatsApp or text 07515 288414.



Parish Council Update – August 2026

August has arrived, and after the challenging weather over the last few months it's been wonderful to see people looking out for one another and making use of our community spaces to cool off. Swindon Borough Council has shared an update on the Local Plan, with clearer policies, stronger environmental protections and long-term plans for homes, transport and infrastructure. The Community Shop Summer Fete took place on 11 July and was a great success, bringing families together in true village spirit. With the summer holidays now underway, please keep an eye on school websites for return dates and September updates. There's plenty to enjoy locally this summer, from Museum & Art Swindon and open air theatre to food festivals at Lydiard Park, plus Coate Water's miniature railway running every Sunday. Coate Water also offers nature walks, fitness sessions and seasonal activities, while Town Gardens continues to host music events and community gatherings throughout the season.

Planning Highlights

The parish council's role is to provide local knowledge, raise concerns or objections, and represent the views of the community. Its comments are only considered part of the decision-making process. Members of the public can view applications, read parish council comments, and submit their own feedback on the Swindon Borough Council website.

SBC Decision

S/PHOU/26/0435 Proposal: Prior Approval Notification for the erection of a single storey rear extension measuring 5.0m (from existing rear wall), 2.9m (maximum height) and 2.9m (height to eaves). Site Address: 12 Sams Lane, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7AY

S/HOU/26/0511 - Proposal: Erection of proposed single storey side/rear extension, two storey rear and associated works. Site Address: Lilac Cottage, Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN255DL

S/TWC/26/0488/WOODCL Tree: Works to trees in a Conservation area. Site Address: Holly Cottage, 48 High Street, Blunsdon, Swindon

NEW applications deposited from Swindon Borough Council for comment listed:

Planning Application Ref: S/LDE/26/0727

Description: Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) for the on-going and unrestricted residential use of the property. Site Address: Happy Acre, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL (extension granted by sbc) **Comments:** BPC have no objections.

Application Ref: S/HOU/26/0758 Description: First floor extension over existing Playroom to create self-contained annexe. Site Address: Portquin Lodge, Portquin Cottage, Broad Bush Blunsdon Swindon. **Comments:** BPC have no objections.

Application Ref: S/HOU/26/0805

Description: Erection of detached garage. Site Address: Eden Field, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL **Comments:** BPC have no objections.

Revised documents on application: Application Ref: S/RES/26/0396

Reserved matters application in respect of scale, layout, appearance, and scale in relation to approval of outline application reference S/OUT/20/0549 for the erection of 8 no self build dwellings. All matters reserved except for access. At: Land East of Woodbine Cottage, Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL. **Comments:** BPC have no objections

Planning Correspondence**Application Ref: S/HOU/26/0603**

Description: Erection of detached garage to rear garden. Site Address: Land Adjacent to Fairview Plot 3, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL. To review comments from SBC Planning Dept in relation to BPC response. **Comments:** BPC have no objections.

Speed watch Update

During the summer months our Speed Watch volunteer numbers naturally drop, as many of our regular helpers are supporting school holiday cover or taking well earned breaks. This means we have fewer people available to help keep our village roads safe. If you have a little spare time and would like to support the community, we would be incredibly grateful for new volunteers to join the team. Even one session a month makes a real difference. Speed Watch is friendly, straightforward, and a great way to help keep Blunsdon safe for everyone. If you are interested in offering some time, please get in touch.

Village Update

Blunsdon Parish Council continues its work to keep Burytown Cemetery a safe, tidy and respectful place for families and visitors. Regular maintenance of the grounds is ongoing, including grass cutting and the removal of unsafe items. We recognise that the cemetery has not looked its best recently and changing weather conditions have made vegetation growth more challenging. We are committed to improving this and ensuring the cemetery is cared for in a way that reflects its importance to the village. We are also in the process of transferring all historic burial records from our old burial books into a secure digital database. This will provide a safer, more reliable way of storing records and associated paperwork for the future.

We also have some updates coming to the MUGA. With Wi-Fi now installed on site, we are progressing with the setup of a new automatic gate access system linked directly to our bookings. This will work alongside timed lighting, helping users enjoy a more streamlined and reliable access process, especially during the winter months. These improvements are part of our ongoing work to make community facilities easier to use and better supported. The new wildflower areas along Ermin Street which we resowed last winter have been colourful and flowering with many species of flower previously unseen. Through our ongoing good management of these areas, we expect species diversity to improve every year. We will be cutting these areas in late summer. Our new trees have been suffering in intense heat waves and consistently dry weather. We have been watering the 55 larger trees we planted but the 3,900 smaller ones are impractical to water and some have died already, we will be replacing any dead ones this winter. Also, in this area we have an interpretation board coming, this will explain what has been done in the area, together with details of planting and maintenance.

Meet Your Councillor / Staff Member

Meet Debbie - Clerk

How long have you been part of Blunsdon Parish Council?

I moved from St Andrews Parish Council to Blunsdon in March 2024 as Finance Officer.

What are the main things you get involved with as part of BPC?

I serve as the Parish Clerk for Blunsdon Parish Council, managing the Council's governance, administration, and day-to-day operations. My role includes preparing agendas and minutes, overseeing compliance and statutory duties, assisting the finance officer with finance and budgets, coordinating facilities and contractors, supporting councillors, and acting as the primary point of contact for residents, partners, and external agencies. I ensure the Council operates transparently, efficiently, and in line with legislation, enabling informed decision making and effective delivery of local services.

What do you enjoy most about the village?

I enjoy the strong community spirit in Blunsdon, for a small village, the level of communication, connection and support is remarkable. People look out for one another, share information quickly, and come together when it matters. That sense of belonging and togetherness is what makes the village feel so special.

What is your favorite spot in the village?

I'd say my favourite spot in the village is the cemetery, it's serene, beautiful, and carries that quiet blend of history meeting the present day. It's a place where you can feel the village's story stretching back through generations, yet it still sits at the heart of modern community life. There's a calmness there that makes you pause, reflect, and appreciate the continuity of Blunsdon and the people who have shaped it.

What are you currently working on or supporting within the parish?

I'm currently focused on bringing the MUGA and the new Parish Office through to full completion, ensuring all final works are properly finished. From 15th July, I hope to be working from the office every Wednesday, which will strengthen day-to-day coordination and make it easier for residents and partners to reach me directly. Alongside these projects, I'm involved in almost everything that happens within the Council, from facilities, finance and governance to community initiatives, contractor liaison and operational support - helping to keep the parish running smoothly and ensuring each area progresses as it should.

Is there a fun fact or interesting skill you would like residents to know about?

I've always been fascinated by the stars. I'm interested in astrology, and in my mid 30's I studied astronomy alongside budding college teenagers, which was both eye opening and great fun. I love anything to do with the night sky. I'm also outrageously competitive and will give almost anything a try. For my 50th birthday I climbed 40 metre boulder rock faces, I've had a go at diving, played competitive badminton for my council team, and even owned my

own motorbike for a while. I enjoy a challenge and I'm rarely one to sit still. Funny fact - I was introduced to His Royal Highness King Charles (then Prince Charles) back in 1981 when he opened the council offices in Trinity Road, Cirencester. We pulled up his general rates account for Highgrove as a system demonstration and found we had to embarrassingly inform him he was late with his rates payment! He took it well.

Would you like to share a short quote about what serving the community means to you?

Serving the community means being part of something bigger than myself. I've worked in local government since I was 17, first with Cotswold District Council and later with Parish Councils after early retirement. For me, serving the community is about commitment, continuity and care. After a lifetime in local government, I've seen how vital parish councils are in maintaining the everyday fabric of village life. The work isn't always visible, and it isn't always appreciated, but it does make a difference. Supporting residents, safeguarding local assets and helping the village function smoothly is something I take pride in. Community service is rarely glamorous, but it's the backbone of village life. After decades in local government, I value the chance to support residents at the most local, meaningful level.

Dates for Your Diary

Parish Council Meetings – The next two meetings for the Parish Council will be on:

Full Council Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday 4th August at 7.30 pm

Finance Parish Meeting will be on Monday 17th August at 7.30 pm

Ward Surgery will be on 1st August 11:30am, at the Village Shop

Golden Gatherings on 5th & 19th August at 3pm, at the Village Shop

Summer Bank Holiday 31st August

Did You Know?

In August, Blunsdon station plays host to one of the Swindon & Cricklade Railway's longest running traditions — the Teddy Bears' Picnic. Heritage trains depart from Blunsdon Station on 29th and 30th August, offering a special family weekend that celebrates the village's role as the headquarters of Wiltshire's only preserved standard gauge railway.

Blunsdon Station remains the operational heart of the Swindon & Cricklade Railway, making this annual August event a charming reminder of the village's living railway heritage.

Blunsdon Open Gardens and Scarecrow Trail took place on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June and what another great Blunsdon event it was! 13 gardens opened and a massive thank you to all those gardeners for their efforts.

Each gardener spends weeks and months trying to get their garden prepared as they would like it, and then spend the weekend welcoming friends, family and strangers in to look at it and comment. This willingness to share is hugely appreciated and I know they must have been exhausted by the end of it. Unfortunately, this means that generally they don't get to see each other's gardens, so on Monday 6th, the gardeners and a couple of the organisers did a little mini tour followed by a thank you glass of Pimms.

On the trail there were 39 scarecrows to find and name and well done to all the scarecrow builders for their creativity. A list of the answers is displayed on the village hall railings if you haven't seen it already. As usual, this was a pan-village event with music, art and the Millenium Slide Show in the Church and bees everywhere adorning our village - thank you to all those who contributed to make this happen. Thank you to our breakfast crew, who served 94 cooked breakfasts and 35 sausage/bacon baps, the WI for the massive supply of teas, cakes and scones in the afternoons and the Rapid Relief Team for supplying an additional ices-and-refreshment stop in the lower village on Saturday when it was very hot. Thank you too to Darren from the Heart in Hand for the loan of his slushie machine. The orange juice slushies were very popular. Thanks also to Debra Richardson for taking photographs and Richard Peterson for coming with his Bee-Farmer products.

In total £4000 was raised, and on Monday 13th July a cheque for £2000 was presented to the Hannah@Prospect Hospice, with the other £2000 going to St Leonard's PCC. Thank you once again to everyone involved who made this happen - organisers, creators and visitors. Well done all it was **bee-autiful!!**





Driven by trust. Powered by experience

 **Thameswood Veterinary Clinics**
Making Life Better

Protecting your pet, your
pocket and the
environment

-  Unlimited FREE veterinary consultations
-  Booster vaccinations
-  Discounts on retail products, food and any prescribed flea & worming products
-  Substantial discounts on our prescription charges
-  Seasonal offers through our newsletters, plus much more!



Launching in February 2026!

From £16.50 (Cat) | £16.66 (Dog)

thameswoodvets.co.uk



making the most of Swindon's waste
REGISTERED WASTE CARRIER

**Cheaper Than a Skip &
Twice the Capacity!**

**Clearance & Recycling
of Commercial &
Domestic Waste**

- Commercial, Home, Garden, Garage, Site Clearance
- Load Assist & 24 Hour Service

TRrecycling (SWINDON)

t/f: 01793 706447 m: 07737 371393
e: trrecycling@swindon.myzen.co.uk
w: www.trrecycling.co.uk

**Living
with pain
or injury?**

We can help.

**We have extensive
experience treating...**

- Sciatica
- Shoulder pain
- Sports injuries
- Back and neck pain
- Rehabilitation after surgery
- Ergonomic/work injuries

Located in
Blunsdon House Hotel

www.parnellharper.com


PARNELLHARPER
INJURY CLINIC


Cow Parsley Studio

Lorraine Green Artist

Beautiful watercolour paintings of British farm animals and wildlife.

Original art, prints, greetings cards and gifts inspired by the countryside.

www.lorrainegreenartist.com



Grace Electrics Ltd Est. 1970

DOMESTIC APPLIANCE SPECIALIST

Spares and repairs for most makes

HOME VISITS

Cookers and ovens, Microwaves, Hobs (induction), Tumble Driers,
Vacuum cleaners, Fridge Freezers (also American style),
Washing Machines, Dishwashers

MUCH MUCH MORE

114 Rivermead Business Park, Rivermead Drive, SN5 7EX

Tel: 01793 693858

Email: grace-electrics@hotmail.com

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Landscaping
Paving
Groundworks
Driveways
Demolition

Bathrooms
Kitchens
Plumbing
Ramps
Fencing



Digger & Driver Hire

DISABLED ACCESS & CONVERSION SPECIALIST

07980 740835

15 Ermin Street, Blunsdon
Swindon, SN26 8AA

Experienced Tradesmen With Good Reputation

CHATWIN PLUMBING & HEATING

Blunsdon based Gas Safe
Registered Engineer

.....

Local, friendly & reliable
Domestic Plumbing Service

Boiler Breakdowns

Boiler Services

Boiler Installations

Bathroom Renovations

.....

Call us on 07825912979



HINTON
ABBOTT
ACCOUNTANTS

HINTON ABBOTT ACCOUNTANTS

Come and see our team (next to Arkells Brewery) or give
us a call for a chat about your Tax concerns on the
number below.

2 Kingsdown Orchard, Hyde Road, Swindon, SN2 7RR.

Tel: 01793 686454



GM 4 ELECTRICAL
DOMESTIC ELECTRICIAN
POWER POINTS
EXTERNAL SOCKETS
GARDEN ROOMS
SECURITY LIGHTING
NO JOB TOO SMALL !

07900 243116

www.gm4electrical.com

info@gm4electrical.com

Hearing loss certainly leads to isolation, but it also leads
to **loss of self-esteem** and **depression**.

Ear Wax Removal, Hearing Assessment
Discrete Digital Hearing Aids
Tinnitus Counselling

Mrs Laura A L Reed RN BSc MSc FdSc RHAD

Dr David J Reed BA MSc MBA AuD RHAD



Call or Text: 07585 525993

reeds@reedsear.co.uk * www.reedsear.co.uk

Amnigilda, 4 Raglan Close, Lawn, Swindon. SN3 1JR

REEDS HEARING CARE LTD

CHELWORTH NURSERIES

Unit 6 Blakehill Business Park - Chelworth-Cricklade SN6 6HD

Open 6 DAYS 10am – 5pm Sunday 10am – 4pm (closed Monday)
Herbaceous plants, Climbers & Shrubs, Fothergill Seed stockists,
Peat, Compost and Grow Bags, Bark Chipping's, Calor Gas
stockists

Small shop on site for your garden needs, seeds, gardening tools,
feeds etc

Tel: 07946347233

From Cricklade follow the B4040 at the crossroads, follow the sign
for Chelworth Industrial Estate to the left, take the 1st turning right
for the Nursery into Blakehill Business Park



St Leonard's Church
Blunsdon
Connecting with God, each other
and our community



OUR REGULAR EVENTS AND SERVICES AT ST LEONARD'S

- Baby & Toddler Group every Wednesday 10am–12pm
- Lego Club 1st Saturday 9.30–11am
- Men's Breakfast 2nd Saturday 9am in the shop
- Coffee & Book Sale 3rd Saturday 10am–12pm
- Community Prayers Monday 10–10.30am Fortnightly
- Bell Ringing every Friday 6–7pm
- Communion Service 1st & 3rd Sunday 10am
- Morning Worship 2nd Sunday 10am
- Breakfast Church 4th Sunday 9am (with breakfast!)



Everyone welcome!



*****Blunsdon Baby and Toddler Group*****

We meet every Wednesday morning in St Leonards church from 10 to 11.30am, term time and holidays.

The group includes foster carers, parents and grandparents, so a good mixture and plenty of experience if you wish to pick people's brains!

We ask £1 per session to cover costs, and this includes hot drinks and biscuits.

There might be singing and craft sessions as well so come along and see who we are.

Social Walking from Blunsdon Community Shop



**2nd and 4th Thursday of every month
starting at 10:00am at the Community Shop**

**We always start and finish at the shop... coffee and cake
afterwards isn't mandatory, but it is highly recommended!**

Any queries, please message Alex on 07554 811779

New walkers are always welcome, and welcomed

In July and August we take a break from our normal meetings and go on outings. Many thanks to those organising these. July's trips include NT Hidcote and a guided tour of Inglesham church. Quenington sculpture park proved to be success "with its amazing array of outdoor artwork set in such a beautiful environment."

Our lunch out was hosted by Hazel and was indoors in the end because of the extreme heat. We each brought a dish and what a wonderful spread of food.

Many thanks to all the very hard working WI ladies that provided the tea and delicious cakes on the Open Gardens weekend. The Slushies curtesy of the Heart in Hand were also in great demand. Surplus cakes were donated to Park View nursing home.

We are reviewing "Remarkably Bright creatures" on Netflix at our film club and our next book is "The Frozen river" by Ariel Lawhon.

Blunsdon WI meet in the large hall of Blunsdon Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm from September.

To find out about our WI call Anna on 01793 706392 or visit our website jackie707.wixsite.com

*******BLUNSDON SURGERY Tel 01793 721254*******

Phone lines are open to book appointments from 8am Tues, Thurs and Frid and from 3pm on Mon and Weds. EMERGENCIES - Call NHS 111 (outside surgery hours)

Day	Doctor Times	Reception
Mon	3.10pm - 4.40pm	3pm-6.15pm
Tues	8.30am - 10.40am	8.45am - 12.15pm
Weds	4pm - 7.10pm	3pm - 7.15pm
Thurs	8.30am - 10.40am	8.45am - 12.15pm
Frid	8.30am - 10.40am	8.45am - 12.15pm

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

EDITOR: Please email all items for the magazine to blunsdonmagazine@gmail.com
Arlene tel. 07493 978388

ADVERTS: For advert enquiries please contact Penny on 01793 722073

Front Cover: Busy Bees on Sams Lane

Your September Magazine will be delivered from: 28th August

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
September	19th August

Community Messaging

Hi, I'm Rachel. I'm a mum of 2 and nurse living in Blunsdon. Like many of you I have been absolutely horrified by the case in the news of Preston Davey and the abuse he suffered. We need to make a change in safeguarding practices. I have started a petition to make body mapping in A&E mandatory for the under 5's when they present with a fracture. Body mapping is already used in hospitals so staff are familiar, it is easily implemented and there is a low associated cost. This is a simple



safeguarding measure that could save lives if mandated. I would be so grateful for any signatures and shares, and please also contact your MP if you have time. We need to make a change for our children. Use the QR code or the link: change.org/injurymapping

Volunteers to Deliver Highworth Link Magazine

We are looking for some new volunteers to deliver the Link magazine in Blunsdon from the beginning of September this year. We need help with deliveries to some of our existing areas and there are still several areas in the village that don't receive the magazine, including some of the newer estates.

Highworth Link is a free community magazine containing news and articles about Highworth and its surrounding villages. A broad range of local organisations contribute including schools, churches, charities, clubs & societies, businesses and councillors. The magazine is paid for by advertising and thus also contains details of many excellent local tradespeople.

The commitment is to deliver to a given area, as little or much as you would like to do, at the start of every month except January and August. The magazines are delivered to your home so there's no need for you to collect them. If you think you might like to help please contact me either by phone 07914 767606 or email rjmorris49@gmail.com



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

School Holidays

It's that time of the year again, Wimbledon, cricket, strawberries, heat wave! and of course the school holidays. It will probably rain then so here are two recipes you can let the children make or help to make. They are both quick and easy delicious treats to make, the second recipe is a healthier version. Nothing beats a homemade cookie.

Dark Chocolate and Oat Cookies (makes about 20)

125g unsalted butter, softened	80g light brown sugar
1 egg, beaten	50g self-raising flour
125g rolled oats	½ tsp baking powder
175g dark chocolate (75 per cent cocoa solids), roughly chopped	

1. Preheat the oven to 180C (160C fan/gas mark 4). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg a little at a time, then stir in the remaining ingredients. Mix well.
3. Place teaspoonfuls of the mixture, spaced well apart, on the prepared baking sheet. Bake in the oven for 15 mins.
4. Remove and put on a wire rack to cool.

Tip: you can freeze the raw cookie dough in balls and cook another day from frozen.

Dark Chocolate Pecan Cookies (makes about 12)

3 tbsp brown sugar	3 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp ground flaxseed + 4 tbsp water	200g ground almonds
50g chopped pecans	80g dark chocolate, chopped
Pinch of salt	

1. Preheat the oven to 180C (160C fan/gas mark 4). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a small bowl mix together the flaxseed and water, leave to thicken.
3. In a large mixing bowl put the brown sugar and olive oil together and mix well. Add the thickened flaxseed mixture and mix well.
4. Add in the ground almonds and fold through until a dough is formed.
5. Add the salt, chopped dark chocolate and pecans, then fold again until everything is evenly distributed.
6. Divide the dough into 12 balls. With wet hands flatten each ball slightly and place each cookie on the baking sheet.
5. Bake for around 10 minutes until the edges are lightly golden. Remove and put on a wire rack to cool.

ENJOY

Did you know Blunsdon has a World champion and a double European champion?

Following on from success in Poland in 2013 with the WAF (World Arm-Wrestling Federation), France in 2022 and Greece in 2024 with the IFA (International Arm-Wrestling Federation), Alan Milne of Berton Close won gold and silver at the IFA 2025 world championships in Baku, Azerbaijan last October and has recently followed this up with 2 golds at the IFA European championships in Codlea, Romania this June, 2026, giving a total of 3 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals at World and European competitions.

In the world championships Alan won the gold on the left arm and silver on the right, in the senior grand master under 78kg class, fighting off stiff competition from the host country Azerbaijan and also Israel in the finals. The competition took place over 7 days at the Jolly Joker Stadium in Baku, with weigh in and different weight categories and arms being contested on different days.

Double gold was won this June at the European championships over 4 days in Codlea, Romania, beating Greece in the final on both arms.

Having competed for over 20 years and also being treasurer for the PAA UK&I (Professional Arm-Wrestling Association UK and Ireland) since 2019, Alan had previously placed 3rd at the WAF tournament in 2013 in Poland, 2nd and 3rd in France in 2022 and 2nd and 3rd in Greece in 2024, gold in Baku was Alan's greatest achievement to date until winning double gold at this year's European championships in 2026.



Should you be interested in learning tips, techniques and arm-wrestling specific training – contact either: Swindon Crusaders arm-wrestling on Facebook – training is every Sunday evening from 7pm in Swindon at Absolutely Fit Studios in Swindon or on the web at www.paa-armrestling.com for general information and updates about all things arm wrestling in the UK.



BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB

Recent Results – 4th (out of ten) Wiltshire League Division 6

Goatacre – lost by 9 runs, with four wickets for **Harry “Mystery” Roke**, three wickets for **Dave “Botty” Bott** and 40 runs from opener, **Shaun “Doddery” Dodson**.

Norton St Philip – won by 6 wickets, thanks to 4 wickets apiece from spin twins **Harry “Mystery” Roke** and **Phil “The Welsh Wizard” Jones**.

Keovil – won by 120 runs, with an unbeaten 104 from **Arul Mr Average” Ramasamy**, three wickets from **Harry “Mystery” Roke** and a man of the match display of 67 runs and five wickets from **Dave “Botty” Bott**.

Chippenham – won by 130 runs, with an unbeaten and then hobbley 68 from **Shaun “Doddery” Dodson** and a man of the match performance from skipper **Harry “Mystery” Roke** who smashed 60 runs and then ripped out 4 Chippy wickets.

Upcoming fixtures – Saturday. Play begins at 1 p.m. Home Ground, Sutton Park

1st August – away to Nationwide at the Pipers Way HQ

8th August – home to Spye Park

15th August – away to Burbage and Easton Royal, at the Mind The Tree Ground

22nd August – away to Goatacre, at the Goats Make Great Nannies Arena

29th August – home to Norton St Philip

Golden Gatherings

Fancy a cuppa and chat?



Dates for August: Wednesday 5 & 19th from 3pm

Blunsdon Community Café

A warm welcome awaits you.

Come along to meet fellow Blunsdon residents,
enjoy good company and make new friends.

Dial-A-Ride transport is available for both journeys.

If you are interested for yourself or someone you know, please email
Hazel Wakefield at goldengatheringsblunsdon@gmail.com



Hello and happy summer; whether you are basking in the sunshine or relaxing in the shade I have the perfect read for you...and a cooling beverage selection for you to choose from!

I just finished *The House of Hidden Letters* by Izzy Broom and cannot

recommend it enough. It is based on the Greek island of Folegandros and is a

dual timeline between Skye and her reasons for entering the house for a Euro competition and Katerina's story of survival during the occupation of the Second World War. The way that both communities build in the story are testament to the way that humans can come together when needed. It has everything you need for a summer read, an idyllic setting over the azure sea, a romance or two to be invested in, true friendships, some strong women and delicious sounding food plus history to discover. I would seek out a Greek wine to go with this to really feel as though you are raising a glass to Skye and her new friends, in particular Joy who brings sheer joy, as the sun sets over the Aegean Sea. Head to Asda for their Cavino Assyrtiko Historoots- the name itself is a pairing to the book! And furthermore, it is described as the living history of Greece; a bright sunshine yellow with both citrus and white blossom notes; just perfect.

My second recommendation is *Escape to Starshine Cove* by Debbie Johnson (a long term favourite of mine!) ...if I could visit here on holiday I know that I would never leave. A hidden gem on route to Cornwall the village of Starshine Cove holds a fabulous community, a beautiful beach and a cave that reflects the moonlight from the sea...just what I need to relax with a good book; oh, and the Starshine Inn sounds up my street too with its glittery gin cocktails. Ella leaves her London life behind and sets off in her ex-husband's car with no plan except to go where the road takes her...as luck would have it after a few service station sleeps she ends up in Starshine Cove and the people welcome her in with open arms...and a brilliant game of wacky cricket. Again, it is beach reading perfection, a literal journey of self-discovery and some undiscovered strength; my favourite kind of stories and even more so when you throw in a rooftop beach view too...plus Jake sounds quite dreamy! My pairing of choice for this one has to follow in the Starshine special footprints...start with the Mystical Unicorn Gin from Manchester Drinks (or Home Bargains!); a marshmallow and candy floss flavour that also sparkles, add some soda and top with prosecco and ice, and if you fancy it marshmallows and strawberry laces too. It's super sweet, just like the story itself!

Last but by no means least, for a laugh out loud unique look at life, go for *The People Pleaser* by Bryony Gordon. In what some of us can only dream of as an alternative dimension, Olivia starts to say what exactly is on her mind and never mind the consequences. As you can imagine, this has a variety of outcomes and releases a chain of events; some with eek moments and some that are downright hilarious! I particularly enjoyed the Harland moments and the calling out of the very much evil step 'daddy' and the much 'loved' company manager! The slow hiding in plain sight revenge is genius. The family dynamics are spot on and many of us will be able to relate to the real world of parenting, working, the washing, the cooking, the food shop and the cleaning; imagine just saying, nope not today! It genuinely is comedy gold- and my gold of the summer cocktails is a newcomer to the scene, the Saartii Spritz; just like this book it's refreshing, new and a bit fruity! The sweet sister of Aperol, Saarti contains blood orange, mango and passionfruit, serve it with prosecco, ice and a slice of lime for summer in a glass...the perfect way to dream about what you would say to THAT person in your life; we all have one! I could write a whole directory about summer reads this year- look at G.D Wright, Sarah Morgan, T.Logan and Heidi Swain. It's definitely Spritz season...how are you making yours? Share your creations, reads and reviews with me at @reading_with_wine on Instagram.

The Chatterbox – Thanks to Those with Green Fingers

At the end of June, some residents of Blunsdon opened up their gardens to the wider public so that we could see the fruits (and flowers) of their labour during the Open Gardens and Scarecrow weekend. I enjoy gardening but don't consider myself very knowledgeable or skilled and, although I really wanted to see the gardens, I felt some trepidation beforehand. They would, no doubt, be well-informed and I was worried I'd ask a question that would make me look daft or might cause a 'real' gardener to roll their eyes and sigh at my lack of knowledge. I also wondered if I'd return to my own little garden totally despondent and overwhelmed by their offerings that would be worthy of The Chelsea Flower Show, at least.

The Horticultural Trade Associates has some interesting statistics on its website. It's estimated that there were around 203 million visits to the UK's approximate 1,500 garden centres and each of those individuals visited about 5.1 times over a 12-month period. Outdoor flowers and pot plants made up most of the sales. In terms of how people use their outdoor space, the majority use their garden for growing plants, trees or flowers. This is followed by entertaining family and friends and thirdly for growing fruit and vegetables. UK households spend around £9 billion on garden retail annually with the average household spending £320 per year. It's clearly a booming (or 'blooming'?) business.

Back to the Open Gardens. My concerns regarding looking like a simpleton within the gardening fraternity were completely unfounded. The proud owners of each garden were welcoming, friendly and hospitable and I confess that the visits that were only meant to take up one day became the whole weekend as conversations flowed and each garden was worthy of so much more than a mere cursory glance. As well as the obvious pride they rightly felt and hard work they clearly put in to produce such beautiful gardens, it was interesting to hear what their reasons and motivations were for making a year-round and sometimes very hard-going commitment. For many it was a therapy and focus – they could while away the hours creating and nurturing something beautiful in a place where they enjoyed being. Feeling closer to nature was another as many of the gardeners made efforts to choose plants that attracted bees and butterflies and gave refuge to wildlife. Some had organised stunning areas for entertaining or designed quiet spaces, surrounded by scented plants such as honeysuckle or jasmine where they could sit and read or enjoy their morning coffee outdoors. Varying in size and purpose, each lovely garden was unique and very personal. Stunning ponds and water features were evident in many gardens along with some enormous fish! Sometimes the tinkling sound of running water can be incredibly relaxing on a hot day, as well as somewhere to cool down for our garden birds. Gardens can be the perfect antidote to noisy, chaotic days bringing calm, creating purpose, restoring balance and providing beauty. Visiting them was a truly, lovely way to spend my weekend. The gardens I saw represented effort, patience, hope and love both in the way they were created and had evolved over time. Far from making me feel dissatisfied with my own garden, I came home full of enthusiasm and inspiration from the lovely gardeners of Blunsdon that opened up their individual plots of paradise for us.

Thank you so much!

Enjoy your month of August. Till next time.



Rotary

Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown

Registered Charity No: 1023031

Website: rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk

Email: rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com

Bringing People Together to Make a Difference

Rotary brings people together with a shared purpose: to use their time, skills and energy to help others. Rotary is one of the world's largest and most successful membership and humanitarian service organisations with more than 1.2 million members in over 200 countries.

Rotary membership offers people the chance to meet others, build friendships, support good causes and take practical action where it is needed most.

Whether helping a local project, raising funds, supporting young people or contributing to international campaigns, Rotarians share a simple belief: communities are stronger when people work together.

For example, Rotary has played a leading role in the fight to end polio. Since 1985 this has been one of Rotary's key humanitarian priorities. At that time there were more than 1,000 cases a day in 125 countries. Today, through Rotary's End Polio Now campaign and its global partners, polio cases have been reduced by 99.9%.

Rotary is also about fellowship, friendship and local action. Members come from many walks of life but they are united by a desire to contribute something positive: whether that is supporting community events, helping local charities, encouraging young people or raising awareness of causes that matter.

Rotary's vision is to see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change: across the globe, in their communities and in themselves.

That vision begins with people who are willing to get involved, share ideas and take the first step. If you enjoy meeting people, care about your local area, or would like to make a difference in a friendly and practical way, Rotary could be a rewarding place to start. If Rotary interests you please get in touch to learn more about what we do, meet our members, and discover how you could be part of making a positive difference, locally and internationally. To speak to Ken phone 07710 228697 (or Chris phone 07712 078942), or send an email to rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com



JOIN US!

NOTE WE WILL JUST MEET ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY
DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

CREATE and CONNECT

**EVERY FIRST WEDNESDAY
AT 10:00AM - 11:30AM**

**Blunsdon Community Shop and Cafe
Unit 1 Blunt Rise, Broad Blunsdon
SN26 7DA**

An opportunity to meet with others over a cuppa and cake to create. Whether you draw, paint, knit, crochet or simply colour, you can bring your own project, or you can use our materials. Or you can just come along for a chat!



CREATE • CONNECT



AN ADULT

HALLOWEEN BALL

THE BEST *Party* IN TOWN!

SATURDAY
31ST OCTOBER 2026

7PM TO LATE
BLUNSDON HOUSE HOTEL
 Blunsdon, Swindon, SN26 7AS





HOT BUFFET



LIVE MUSIC
 BY
MOJO
 DYNAMIC COVERS BAND



RAFFLE



AUCTION



COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!
 Dress to impress ... if you dare!!
 A prize for the best overall costume

Join us for a night of frightful fun,
 great entertainment and fantastic company –
*All profits from this event will be
 donated to Prospect Hospice*



TICKETS £40 PER PERSON
 contact Julie Hennessy 07710 777392
 or Mandy Martin 07732 595321

ANDY COMPTON
Plumbing & Heating Services



Installation of heating systems,
bathroom suites, showers etc

Boiler servicing and repairs undertaken

T: 01793 721290
M: 07785 984033
acomptonplumbing.co.uk

WORCESTER
Bosch Group
Accredited Installer

safe
120235

Maker of bespoke
curtains, blinds
& cushions


REBECCA TYE

+44 (0) 7740 371334
info@rebeccatye.co.uk
www.rebeccatye.co.uk

Thinking of Selling your
home?

For a **free** market appraisal
contact **Hanley's**

25 High Street, Highworth Tel: 01793 762005
www.hanleys.co.uk

Forrester Sylvester Mackett Solicitors
Providing legal services for you, your family and
your business for over 170 years.



6 Little London Court,
Albert Street, Old Town,
Swindon, SN1 3HY.
T: 01793 522688

Get in touch with us today or visit www.fmsolicitors.co.uk

FM
SOLICITORS

The Help Group
EXEMPLARY CARE
AND HOME STAFFING
SERVICES



*Your help at
HOME*

CALL OUR FRIENDLY
TEAM
01285 339050
WWW.THEHELPGROUP.CO.UK

OFFERING QUALITY ASSISTANCE IN YOUR
HOME WITH A SELECTION OF SERVICES
INCLUDING:

- LIVE-IN CARE
- CLEANING SERVICES
- HOURLY CARE
- MOTHER'S HELP
- HOME HELP & COMPANIONSHIP
- HOME CHEF & MEAL PREPARATION

YOUR FUNERAL WISHES
Our local experts



Unattended Funerals from
£1545.00

Attended Funerals from
£2795.00

A. E. Smith & Son
Queens Drive, Swindon SN3 1AW
01793 522023

G. & L. Evans
27 Newburgh Place, Highworth SN6 7DN 01793 765138
4 Covingham Square, Swindon SN3 5AA 01793 526999

We're here for you anytime.
Whatever your wishes or budget,
we can provide a funeral to suit you.

DIGNITY | dignityfunerals.co.uk/local

*Pricing is correct at time of going to print and is subject to change.

ZUMBA
ZUMBA IS LOVE

ZUMBA gold

Wednesday @ 5pm till 6pm at **blunsdon village hall**

ZUMBA kids/kids jr.

Are you looking for
a mortgage?

RED KITE
Financial Solutions

**We can help
with:**

- * HELP-TO-BUY
- * FIRST TIME BUYERS
- * REMORTGAGING
- * BUY-TO-LET
- * COMMERCIAL SPECIALISTS
- * REVIEW YOUR MORTGAGE
- * EMPLOYED OR SEL-EMPLOYED CLIENTS
- * LIFE PROTECTION

Please contact us on 01793 228121 or
email us on info@redkitefsLtd.co.uk

Head Office
Crowood House, Gypsy Lane
Swindon, Wilts
SN2 8YY

As a mortgage is secured against your
house, it could be repossessed if you do
not keep up the mortgage repayments



Hillier
Funeral Service

Family Run and Independent
Bereavement Support Service
24 hour Service Everyday

Compassionate, Professional Service
Competitive Prices with Free No Obligation Quote

Your local family funeral director since 1923

7 Lechlade Road, Highworth SN6 7HF



Blunsdon Community Shop and Café

Monday – Thursday: 8am – 5pm
Friday: 8am – 6pm
Saturday 8am – 5pm
Sunday: 8am – 5pm

The café closes one hour before the shop

01793 700915

Instagram: @blunsdoncommunityshop

Facebook: Blunsdon Community Shop

www.blunsdoncommunityshop.co.uk

Proudly serving our community for over 20 years



**SWINDON
MEMORIALS**

Extensive range of memorial packages available:
Lawn, Traditional, Childrens and Cremation.

Please contact us for details

Tel: **01793 766 138** | Mob: **07532 032 054**

Email: info@swindonmemorials.co.uk

Swindon Memorials: Unit 19, Blackworth Industrial Estate,
Highworth, Swindon, SN6 7NA

Website: www.swindonmemorials.co.uk

PC Doctor Dan (Cricklade)

Tel: 01793 759192 Mob: 07890 377517

Home and Business Computing Services

20 years IT experience @Intel Corporation

www.pdoctor-dan.co.uk

WP Gardens & Landscapes

- Patios, fencing, driveways, maintenance –
Contact us for a quote.

wpgardens.co.uk 07783 643319

info@wpgardens.co.uk

“Warrick did a fabulous job for us. His team
are cheerful, hardworking and skillful.”

Swindon / Avebury / Bourton

T: 01793 329898
M: 07737 505243



We run classes for all standards of swimmers from 4 to 12 years old at
our venues in Swindon, Avebury and Bourton.

We follow the Swim England Learn to Swim and Reward Programme
Stages 1-7 including Distance Awards. This progressive, structured
approach means that we can build on children's progress to teach
strokes and develop their all round water skills and confidence.

We have been successfully teaching 4-12 year olds for over 15 years
and have a wealth of experience of supporting children with different
needs and swimming backgrounds including learning and physical
disabilities.



www.swimstars.org.uk

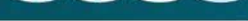
printmx
the **easy way**
to **buy print**

Simply visit www.printmx.co.uk
and see for yourself...



printmx
www.printmx.co.uk

Find us on:



**VEALE'S
WHEELS**

TRANSFERS

07 400 400 316

“Serving
Blunsdon,
Highworth,
and beyond.”

For further information about prices, and
services offered, or to make a booking, go to:

bookings@vealeswheelstransfers.com

or www.vealeswheelstransfers.com

or call 07 400 400 316

COTSWOLD BOAT HIRE



Office: 01793 354079

Mobile: 07947 993784

Email: info@cotswoldboat.co.uk

Web: www.cotswoldboat.co.uk

Small electric powered boats
and cruisers for 2-4 hours.

Larger electric and motor cruisers
for full day hire, holidays and short breaks.

Book online or give us a call then collect
your craft from Buscot, Brandy Island
SN7 8DA.

No experience needed, we give you instruction
before you depart.

For Boat Hire information visit our website,
book online, phone
or drop us an email.

For Boat Sales,
Moorings, Marine
Services and Winter
Storage contact
the office.



**AGB Bathrooms
& Kitchens**
35 years Experience
From Design to Installation

- * Bathroom & Kitchen renovations
- * All types of Wall & Floor tiling
- * All types of Plumbing work
- * Boiler Servicing & Repairs
- * Central Heating Installations
- * Carpentry & Joiner Work
- * Plastering & Artexing
- * All work guaranteed

City & Guilds
Qualified

For a free estimate call Sean on

Mob: 07749 862361

Built upon Quality & Service