

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

September 2026



Photo by Debra Richardson



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SEASONED FIREWOOD



Blunsdon Community Shop & Cafe

In September we say goodbye to Molly as she heads off to University. We are always sad to lose our Weekend Assistants but we are equally very proud of their achievements and how they grow within the role. Molly you will be missed by the Team and our customers! Good Luck at University!

We advertised our weekend vacancy and WOW what a response. Within 3 days we had 14,000 views on social media and we had to bring the closing date forward. In the end we had over 120 applications. We are really proud that so many people applied for the opportunity to join our team.



Singalong Sound of Music

We had fun on 8th August with our first Singalong Movie Night. Nearly 50 people enjoyed an evening of singing, drinks and popcorn - with ticket sales being donated to the shop and the church - thank you for supporting us! Our next fundraising event will be **Singalong Bingo on 10th October** – tickets go on sale soon.

Have your Say – in our survey our customers asked for “**Increased visibility of shop products in the cafe**”. We have purchased “display” tables to promote our local products or crafters within the café space and we are also moving our gondolas again to make more space in the café.

Thank you to our volunteers - Summer months are often a time to relax here or away and spend more time with friends and families. So we are really grateful to our volunteers who continue to donate their time and energy in the shop and café to help us keep operating our normal service. Please show your appreciation when you are next in the shop/café by thanking our volunteers in person, I know you will make their day!

Dates for your diary - follow us on social media for up to date event news.

Wed 2nd Sept at 7 pm

BCS AGM

(Shareholder only event)

15th Sept at 2.30 pm

Tea & Talk “Ageing Well”

Wed 3rd and 17th Sept

Golden Gatherings 3 pm

Wed 1st Oct 7 pm

Wine Tasting with Arkell’s
Grape & Grain.

Sat 10th October 7.30 pm

Singalong Bingo at the Village
Hall.

Shop opening times are: Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, Sat: 8 am – 5 pm, Fri 8 am – 5pm.
Sundays: 8 am – 4 pm. Café closes 1 hour before the shop.



BARN DANCE

Saturday 26th September 6.30pm – 9pm

St Leonard's Church

Families welcome

Adults £10 Children £5

Tickets Available from Blunsdon Shop

Proceeds to "A Space for All"

Caller: Phil Goodey

Highworth Regency Dancers to perform!

Drinks and Sausage Baps to purchase.

More details contact Helen 07814876932





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



Parish Council Update – September 2026

As we step into September and the start of autumn, hopefully after a hot few months, more rainfall will take place to green up the village again. It's lovely to look back at the moments that brought the village together over August. Blunsdon has been busy, from summer gatherings and family activities to the smaller day-to-day things that make our community feel connected. Thank you to everyone who supported, attended, or volunteered at local events and helped with litter collecting; these occasions only happen because of the people who give their time and energy. Blunsdon even had a visit from the Mayor of Swindon, Neil Hopkins, at the cafe in early August. It was great for members of the parish council and residents to meet and share information. Do not forget to keep an eye out for events at the community shop; August saw Books & Brews, Singalongs, and plenty of other interesting events.

With the new season ahead, we will continue sharing updates, reminders, and opportunities to get involved across the parish. Community awareness remains important, so if you spot anything that needs attention, whether it is fly tipping, overgrown vegetation, or graffiti or damage within the village, please let us know at clerk@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk. Your reports help keep Blunsdon safe, tidy, and welcoming everyone.

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

GRANTED - S/25/1500/RACH

Land At Eden Field, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon, Swindon SN25 5DL
Erection of 5 No dwellings.

GRANTED - S/HOU/26/0758/HAPA

Proposal: First floor extension over existing Playroom to create self-contained annexe.
Site Address: Portquin Lodge, Portquin Cottage Broad Bush Blunsdon Swindon

GRANTED - S/LDE/26/0727/BURGES

First Schedule: Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) Occupation of dwelling in breach of the agricultural occupancy condition for a period in excess of ten years
Second Schedule: Happy Acre, Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL

NEW applications deposited from Swindon Borough Council for comment by BPC

Application Ref: S/RES/26/0873

Description: Reserved matters application (following planning application S/OUT/23/1499)

for details of appearance, landscaping and layout

Site Address: Little Rose Farm, Lower Village, Blunsdon SN26 7BJ BPC Comments: No reason to object

Application Ref: S/26/0892

Description: Erection of 4 no. Dwellings in lieu of the 5 no. Conversions approved by Application S/PAG2R/25/1059.

Site Address: Stubbs Hill Farm, Broad Bush, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7ES BPC Comments: Objected

S/HOU/26/0805 - Erection of detached garage.

At: Eden Field, Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL BPC Comments: No reason to object

Village Update

Please Do not Park on Grass Verges. We are asking residents to avoid parking on grass verges around the parish.

When cars park on the verges, it can block visibility for other road users that are entering or exiting junctions, making it harder, and sometimes unsafe for drivers and pedestrians to see clearly. It also stops our ground maintenance team from being able to cut the grass properly. Residents will be contacted directly where parking may cause a safety issue for other drivers. A small change makes a big difference — thank you for helping keep our verges tidy, safe and easy to maintain.

We recognise that Burytown Lane Cemetery has not looked its best recently, and we feel that more care and attention are needed, especially with the changing weather that affects vegetation growth and maintenance. The Parish Council is committed to improving the cemetery's appearance and upkeep. We will soon be sharing our updated Cemetery Regulations, outlining what families can expect from Blunsdon Parish Council and what responsibilities come with grave ownership. This is not a quick fix, but rather an understanding between the Council and families, showing how small, consistent changes can make meaningful improvements over time. The cemetery includes old graves, some of which are no longer maintained, alongside newer plots that are well kept. Our goal is to bring a balanced, respectful approach that honors both heritage and care. Thank you for your patience and support as we work together to preserve this important part of our village.

We are currently trialing our new Gate Entry System at the MUGA sports ground. This system links online bookings directly with remote gate access, meaning users will be able to enter the facility automatically at their allotted time. Once fully in place, this will allow our caretakers to focus on other important tasks around the site, improving efficiency across all our facilities. This project has taken a little time to complete as we were waiting for our onsite Wi-Fi installation, but now that it is up and running, we are able to move forward.

The new Wi-Fi also means our Parish Clerk will be based in the office most Wednesdays and welcomes any residents who may wish to drop in with questions or queries.

The Big Conversation on Care has now launched, and you are invited to share your views on adult social care. Whether you use care services, care for someone else, work in the sector

or have opinions on how care should work in the future, you can have your say and help shape the future of care. Find out more on <http://caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation>

Speed watch Update

Over the past few months, our Community Speed Watch team has been monitoring traffic through key points in the village; feedback to drivers and valuable data on speeding vehicles and traffic flows have been shown below. These checks continue to highlight where speeds are creeping above safe limits, helping us build a clearer picture of where action is most needed. To support this ongoing work, the Parish Council is now exploring the installation of SID devices – *Speed Indicator Displays* – at selected locations around the village. These signs provide instant feedback to drivers and have been shown to reduce speeds in similar communities. Once approved, we hope to see the first units in place over the coming months. In the meantime, we warmly encourage new volunteers to join the Speed Watch team. If you would like to take part in occasional roadside sessions, help keep our village safe, and contribute to this important community effort, please get in touch. Together, we can make a real difference to road safety in our village.

Date	Location	Vehicles Counted	Exceeding limit	Maximum Speed (mph)	Speed Limit (mph)	Start	Finish	Area
06/05/2026	Lady Lane	403	7	49	30	16:00	17:00	Cycle Track
06/08/2026	High St	113	10	30	20	16:00	16:45	Heart in Hand
06/12/2026	Ermin St	233	11	43	30	15:30	16:30	Minerva Heights
06/15/2026	Turnpike	82	9	45	30	15:00	16:00	Opp. No. 16
06/19/2026	High St	165	30	35	20	16:00	17:00	Heart in Hand
07/15/2026	Turnpike	69	8	52	30	15:50	16:50	Opp. No. 16
07/17/2026	Broadbush	346	2	36	30	08:00	09:00	The Shrubbery
07/22/2026	Ermin St	126	7	40	30	16:00	17:00	Minerva Heights
07/29/2026	Lady Lane	384	19	43	30	15:50	16:50	Cycle Track
07/30/2026	Ermin St	225	10	46	30	16:00	17:00	Minerva Heights
08/04/2026	Ermin St	130	17	44	30	08:30	09:30	Minerva Heights
08/05/2026	Ermin St	95	12	48	30	15:25	16:25	Minerva Heights
08/07/2026	Lady Lane	260	13	42	30	15:30	16:15	Cycle Track

A Speed Enforcement Summary for the 13th August 2026 was shared with us from the Speed Enforcement Officer from Devizes. A speed enforcement session was conducted on Thursday 13th August 2026, between 10:05 and 10:30, at Minerva Heights, Blunsdon. During this operation, 6 vehicles were recorded exceeding the posted 30 MPH speed limit. The highest recorded speed was 50mph.

Following initial checks:

- 5 drivers will be offered a Speed Awareness Course.
- 0 drivers will receive a £100 fine and 3 penalty points.
- 1 driver met the threshold for a court summons.

Further administrative processes are now underway to ensure appropriate outcomes for each offender. This includes checks for MOT compliance, valid insurance, and whether any individuals are totting up points. Captured footage will also be reviewed for additional offences such as seatbelt non-compliance and mobile phone use.

Meet Your Councillor / Staff Member

Meet Hazel a new member to the parish council.

How long have you been part of Blunsdon Parish Council? I was co-opted onto the Parish Council earlier this year in May.

What do you enjoy most about the village? Having lived in various places over the years, what sets Blunsdon apart for me is the strong community. Neighbours look out for each other and there are lots of opportunity to socialise.

What is your favorite spot in the village? On a Friday early evening, when the bell ringers are practicing in St. Leonard's Church Bell Tower, I go and sit on the churchyard wall, looking out across the fields and zone into the sound of the bellringing.

What are you currently working on or supporting within the parish? Whilst I still have much to understand and learn about local government responsibilities, having volunteered for Age UK for numerous years, I do have a particular interest in supporting older Blunsdon residents to have opportunities to live life to the full and stay connected with their community.

Is there a fun fact or interesting skill you would like residents to know about? In my mid-50's, when we were living in Shropshire, I left full time employment and decided to go back to college to study for a qualification in floristry. I then ran a small floral design business with my floristry tutor and fellow former students. Hard work but great fun! I still enjoy 'messaging about with flowers', as my husband calls it!

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 Monday 7th September at 7.30 pm

Finance Parish Meeting will be on Monday 21st September at 7.30 pm

Ward Surgery will be on 5th September 11:30am, at the Village Shop

Golden Gatherings on 2nd & 16th September at 3pm, at the Village Shop

Did You Know?

For much of the 19th and early 20th century, Blunsdon was known locally for its small village orchards, especially around Broad Blunsdon and the High Street. September was the key month when families would gather to press apples for cider, store cooking apples for winter, and hold informal harvest gatherings.

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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



BLUNSDON WI

July and August we take a break from our normal meetings and go on outings. Many thanks to those organising these. July's trips included a trip to Hidcote where everybody commented on how the stunning gardens were (amazing achievement in the current heatwave) and a much cooler guided tour of Inglesham church. "What history we have on our doorstep and in such a beautiful setting". The church is open to look around at all times and well worth a visit.

In August, Cerney house gardens and tea shop beckon and there is also a trip booked to the Arkells brewery - we take our rehydration very seriously ha-ha.

Ahead of our regular meeting in September there is a trip to Oxford taking the bus from Shrivenham for a walking treasure trail. WI ladies please let it be known if you wish to join us - newer WI ladies you'd be very welcome.

Our book club (now at capacity) has been going for 19 years and has reviewed over 150 books. The next book is "The girl with seven names" by Hyeonseo Lee.

And film club will be reviewing "Bank of Dave" which is on Netflix.

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

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

From the Rector's Pen.....

For those who have been involved in education September is a time of new beginnings much like January. It is the start of the busiest season in the life of the church, with Harvest, All Saints, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas all seeming to flow one into another.

We have been very blessed over the last few months to see many new faces joining us for Sunday worship both in St Michael's and St Leonard's and I am reminded that in Matthew's Gospel Jesus says "He will build his church (Matt 16.18) We often see it as our job to get more people to join us. We think that it is our job to save souls, but maybe we are trespassing on his work when we try to do it ourselves. God is bringing people to us. Our job is to love God and Love our neighbours (Matt 22.37-39) and leave the work of salvation to Him.

This September St. Michael's congregation are offering a new opportunity to strengthen the bonds within our church family with an away day to Sidmouth on September 26th This will involve a lot of planning and it would be most helpful if you could let us know as soon as possible (If you haven't already) if you would like to join us for this trip, we would love to have you with us. So, as we begin this new season in the life of the church let us focus on how we can love God and one another more and more, in the words of Richard of Chichester: *"may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day."* Amen

God Bless

Rev Phil Goodey

**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!



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Fundraising for

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Coffee morning with Book Sale

St Leonard's Church

**Saturday 19th September
10am-12**

Please come along and browse / buy books,
have a coffee and support Macmillan



Organised in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity
in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the
Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland.



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: Looking out across the fields to Kingsdown from Broadbush

Your October Magazine will be delivered from: 25th September

Magazine issue	Deadline for items for inclusion
October	16th September

Community Messaging

St Leonard's Church in Blunsdon

will be showing the climate crisis film

“The People’s Emergency Briefing”

at 6.30pm on Monday 21st September.

The film is designed to ensure that people across the UK are informed about the climate and nature crisis.

The National Emergency Briefing was launched in November 2025 in Westminster Hall and was introduced by Chris Packham CBE.

The film was launched on 7th April and is now being screened in communities across the UK. It brings together leading scientists to present a clear picture of the challenges ahead, while creating space for local communities to consider what these issues may mean in their local area, and how they can support their MP to call for stronger action.

*******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.

Thirty Years with Sarah

Some love stories begin with a romantic gesture. Mine started with a kiss with Sarah in the stationery cupboard at work in 1993!

Sarah Ellis was also very special back then: fiery and opinionated. She reminded me of Julia Roberts and I thought 'well out of my league'.

1996 Sarah and I started the journey of 'togetherness' sharing the marriage with Euros and the film Trainspotting.

There are so many shared and individual highs and lows over these years, one of the highest is moving to Churchway, Blunsdon in 2020.

Without Sarah, Tom, Jack and I would not be the people we are today. Sarah has a special power to see a different side to something or somebody and her knowledge of English has helped me to find the right word at important times. Sarah is rare and so valuable to her family and her friends for her enduring love and respect.

The best marriages can be built on many things... for us it is love with kindness and friendship, plus allowing me to get a word in sometimes.

We still laugh together and have fun.

Sarah is the centre of everything I do. Making new dreams with my best friend.

Happy 30th. Love you always.

Bryan x

I got lucky then, I still am.



A Recipe from CookFoodFan

Easy Recipe

With the constant hot days, I have not enjoyed getting hotter from cooking. So, it's been lots of salads. But that is not ideal when you are looking after an eight year old, a boy who likes pasta, sausages, pizza, etc. But I remembered an easy recipe that I had not cooked for a while. It doesn't take a lot of cooking and he loved it.

Sausage Carbonara (serves 4)

300g dried tagliatelle
6 sausages
1 tbsp olive oil
1 egg, beaten
A bunch of parsley (about 30g)
2 large eggs
60g parmesan, grated

1. Cook the pasta in a pan of boiling water, then drain, reserving a mugful of pasta water.
2. Squeeze the sausagemeat out of the skins, then, with wet hands, shape the sausagemeat into 36 even-sized balls.
3. Fry them in a pan with 1tbsp olive oil, tossing regularly, until golden and cooked through. Turn the heat off.
4. Finely chop the parsley, stalks and all, beat it with the eggs and a splash of pasta water. Add in most of the grated parmesan
5. Toss the drained pasta into the sausage pan, pour in the egg mixture, and toss for a minute (off the heat). Loosen with some pasta water. Season with salt and pepper.
6. Serve with the leftover parmesan.

Enjoy



BLUNSDON CRICKET CLUB

Recent Results – 5th (out of ten) Wiltshire League Division 6

Blue Brigade – lost by 8 wickets, with 48 runs from **Harish “The Windmill” Kumar** & 38 from **Dean “Deano” Tomlin**.

Bathford – lost by 73 runs, despite 3 wickets from **Dave “Botty” Bott**.

Nationwide – won by 7 wickets, with another man of the match display from captain **Harry “Mystery” Roke** with 4 scalps and 52 not out. Plus 3 stumpings for **Guy “The Gloverman” Thomas**.

Spye Park – lost by 3 wickets, despite an 8th wicket 92 run partnership from **Phil “The Welsh Wizard” Jones** and **Arul “Mr Average” Ramasamy**. The Wizard also cast his magic spell over 3 Spye batters.

Burbage & Easton Royal – lost by 6 wickets. Well played The Tree. Enough said.



BLUNSDON FOOTBALL CLUB

Blunsdon are ready to compete in the Swindon & District Premier League again this season in what appears to be a competitive 12 team division including newcomers Lambourn, a returning Purton and local rivals Cricklade.

The club also welcome back Iain Rosewell, Blunny’s most successful manager of the past 50 years. Hopefully, there will have been some much needed rain to help the pitch recover and at least provide a safe grassy surface for the players.

Upcoming fixtures, Kick Off 2.30 p.m. Saturday, unless stated

Date	Opponent	Venue
5th September	Lambourn Sports	Lambourn Sports Ground
19 th September	Ramsbury	Sutton Park
26 th September	Marlborough Town	Sutton Park

Come and support the Amber & Black at The Theatre of Trees & beyond



Hello! The supermarkets have really upped their game in terms of both books and wine so here's my September Supermarket Special! My recent favourites have been *Until Summer Do Us Part* by Meghan Quinn from Aldi at just £2.99- it's a brilliant rom com with an emotional underlayer and some stunning lake views at what is essentially an American Summer Camp but for couples! We follow Scottie and Wilder in what starts as a pretend couple but as they both begin to reveal more than they let on, they fall for each other and you will fall for them! The camp leader, Saunders is just what you would want in a camp leader; he sings, badly, he dances, badly but has all the enthusiasm for the range of activities such as three-legged crazy golf and an aqua park; these are the bits that will make you laugh out loud. But there are also tones of loss and grief which give it more of an edge than your regular romcom. In terms of the pairing, Aldi do a cracking range of premixed summer cocktails; my choice would be the Hugo Spritz; it's a premix and it brings together elderflower, mint, lime and sparkling wine. It comes in both cans or bottles so you can choose a single reading session or a book club discussion with a bottle! The elderflower is a smooth and settled as Scottie but the mint and lime give it the Wilder kick! Other options that I picked up were the *Paradise Problem* by Christina Lauren and *Beach Bodies* by Sienna Sharpe and other drinks options are the Aperitivo and Limoncello; all good choices!

Asda still have their paperbacks on offer so you can pick up 2 for £9 and there are some really good options from the summer specials from the likes of Sarah Morgan and Heidi Swain; I've previously recommended *Walking on Sunshine*. But my selection this month is for the new Ruth Jones, *By Your Side*. I've loved her previous books so this was an auto buy for me. Linda is facing being alone in early retirement after her husband left and the council restructured making hers a job for a computer not a self proclaimed nosy biddy whose job it was to find the missing next of kin to the recently deceased. She is given one final case and she travels to a remote Scottish island to see if the dead ends she has encountered so far, really are going to end up as her only unsolved mystery. A local landlord comes to her rescue, in more ways than one. Linda is a fabulous character, her views on life are comedic and spot on. I would love to have been at her retirement party- they had me with the image of office staff singing, Hey Fab Linda...If you fancy something darker, go for the new one by T.M. Logan, *The Weekend*; a twisted tale of friendship coming apart over money. Harlan Coben's *I Will Find You* or the whole *Housemaid* series by Frieda McFadden. So much choice; and that's before you get to the wine aisle! My current favourite is the Four Lines Rueda Vedejo- It is made up of lemon and tropical fruit with just a twist of fennel to bring those outdoor vibes. A beautiful fresh summer white wine, other good options are the Rosé Prosecco by Fillipo Sansovino and the chillable red Campo Viejo Tempranillo; pop it in the fridge for 20 minutes before you serve and you will have a talking point beyond the stories. Well Done to the supermarkets- let me know your finds on Instagram! As always, find all the book bargains that you can but please drink responsibly.

Reading with Wine

The Chatterbox – Cooling Off

Do you think it's safe for me to put my Factor 50 Sunscreen away yet? I suffer from prickly heat and seem to have next to no melanin in my body so the sun and I have a testy relationship at the best of times. I've had to dig very deep to get through the waves of heat over the last couple of months. I've not experienced anything like it before, even though I can recall the heatwave of 1976 – this seemed on a different level altogether and I think even the most ardent sun-lover must have begun to feel a little wilted around the edges.

We're just not used to it, are we? When we go abroad on holidays it's for a couple of weeks, say, of intense heat when we can swim in pools or in the sea, sit outside at beachfront restaurants cooled by a sea breeze and sleep in air-conditioned rooms. Lovely!

However, when it comes to a Boiling Summer in Blunsdon, there is little to help us cool down. I personally don't have an air-conditioning unit but I think it's something that many of us may think about having installed in the future, if this is going to become the new normal. Much of my time has been spent poring over various websites giving advice on how to keep cool. I think I am at least partly responsible for drinking most of the contents of the local reservoir and for the subsequent drought. I've have sat with an ice-pack on my head and even tried meditating and visualising images of snow and ice whilst directing two fans at my over-heated body. Cool showers twice a day, curtains and windows closed during the day, and both wide open at night to allow the non-existent cool air in. It's pretty much been in vain as I've sweated for Britain (I'd have won gold, I'm sure) and I suspect any night-time walkers would have been lulled by the soft snoozing sounds coming from all those wide-open bedroom windows.

I've often wondered how people in other countries whose summers last longer than ours manage when temperatures soar to figures that would be far more unbearable than what we've experienced? I suppose having years of practice help, whereas we've suddenly been thrown in to the deep end and have found that every fan has sold out in every supermarket! Over time, bodies do adjust and regulate their temperatures more efficiently. Homes are designed better for the climate with tiles instead of carpets, air-conditioning is standard in homes and shops. Thicker walls and smaller windows are typical in traditional buildings and the day is used more efficiently by starting the working day earlier while it's cooler, taking a siesta at the hottest part of the day as well as eating later in the evening when the temperature falls. These all help. It's all a matter of adjusting to the circumstances. It seems we have a fair amount of adjusting to do!

Take care this month and let's hope for lots of rain to replenish those low reservoirs and bring the parched earth back to life.



Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown

Registered Charity No: 1023031

Website: rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk

Email: rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com

Swimmers go to great lengths with waves of support for Phoenix Enterprises. Earlier this year we selected Phoenix Enterprises as the main beneficiary of our annual Swimathon and this month we invited their CEO, Clare McDougall, to our meeting to give us a talk and to receive a cheque for £4,500, Phoenix's share of the £9,000 proceeds.

Phoenix Enterprises was founded in 2002 and supports more than 120 vulnerable adults in Swindon each year. That's people with Autism, Asperger's, Down's Syndrome, depression, anxiety and other special needs. Clare spoke warmly of her dedicated staff team, trustees, ambassadors and volunteers. They provide a structured, supportive working environment where individuals gain confidence and employability skills through packaging and hand-assembly work for local businesses. Around 30% of Phoenix's running costs are met through this commercial income, with the remainder raised through grants and fundraising. Clare's connection to this work began early in life: her grandmother founded Cluny Farm in South Africa, a home for people with special needs, where Clare learned how much individuals can achieve when given the chance.

Our Swimathon back in May in Highworth Recreation Centre attracted nearly 100 entrants and raised over £9,000, making it one of our most successful events. On the day we were honoured to welcome the Mayor of Swindon, Councillor Fay Howard, who presented every participant with a medal and certificate. Also, several members of the Phoenix team were there, some swimming, others counting lengths and assisting with presentations. We are deeply grateful to all the swimmers, supporters and volunteers who helped make our Swimathon 2026 such a success.

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



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Golden Gatherings

Fancy a cuppa and chat?



Dates for September: Wednesday 2nd & 16th 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**

Golden Gatherings is now in its 11th month and continues to attract older residents to come together for conversation, companionship and connection. We now regularly have 16 to 18 participants attending each time.

In August, at our first gathering of the month, we had a TV picture quiz and a visit by the Swindon Mayor, Councillor Neil Hughes, who spent his time with us going around the tables talking to everyone present. Then during the second event, we deviated from our usual conversation and a quiz. The Golden Gatherings' volunteers facilitated discussions in small groups about care services, as part of the Casey Commission 'Big Conversation on Care', with some lively debate!

New participants are always very welcome to come along to Golden Gatherings. We would be delighted to have other Blunsdon older residents joining us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 3pm in the Community Cafe, where a welcome smile is guaranteed and great cake is always on offer. In September we plan to offer participants the opportunity to have a game of Scrabble, as well as the usual quizzes and over the coming months we are planning to invite other local guests to join us.'

The Big Conversation on Care

This month the Big Conversation on Care was launched. What do you think the future of adult social care should look like? You can have your say and find out more here: <http://caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation> or use the QR code below.



Join the Wessex

If you love to sing – we want you!

Do you sing along to songs in the car? Maybe when you are in the shower?

Perhaps with your mates at the pub? How about taking it to the next level?

We are a Male Voice Choir, based in Swindon and have been in existence for 25 years. We currently have around 60 members but are always looking for anyone who would like to join us. We rehearse once per week (on a Tuesday evening) and have several concerts throughout the year. We are a registered charity and regularly raise funds for good causes.

No previous singing experience needed. You don't need to be able to read music.

If you can hold a tune and follow instructions – we'll teach you the rest!

Take the next step – come to our next recruitment evening and see what you think.

The Deanery School, Wichelstowe. Tuesday September 22nd at 7.30pm

It could be you on stage at one of our concerts very soon!

Everyday Histories of St Andrew's Parish

Saturday 12th September 2026, 10am-3pm



Discover stories of the people who lived in St Andrew's parish in times gone by, explore the historic church building and graveyard, and the beautiful stained-glass windows.

This year, we will reveal the stories of families who lived here in the "Roaring '20s", plus talks by local historians about the building, stained-glass windows and a graveyard tour.

There will be family friendly activities and refreshments available throughout the day, with lunch served from 12.30-2pm. More details about the event are on the Heritage Open Days website.

St Andrew's is a small Grade II* listed building, dating back to the 13th century but renovated by architect William Butterfield in the 1860s. It contains some excellent examples of Victorian and 20th century stained-glass windows. The church is now surrounded by modern housing estates but is hidden down a track off the main road and so it still has a tranquil rural atmosphere and is surrounded by a spacious churchyard where many generations of local families are buried.

The church is not just a historic building but continues to be a worshipping community serving the parish of North Swindon. We worship every Sunday at 10am and at other times during each month. You can find more details of these events and others in the life of our church on our website www.nschurch.org.uk

Find us on Tadpole Lane, SN25 2DW or via What3words address: [///stage.clattered.serious](https://www.what3words.com/stage.clattered.serious)

Please try to walk, cycle or use public transport, as only a small number of disabled parking spaces will be available on site. Contact: Reverend Sally Robertson on 07588594410.

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