

BLUNSDON

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

August 2025

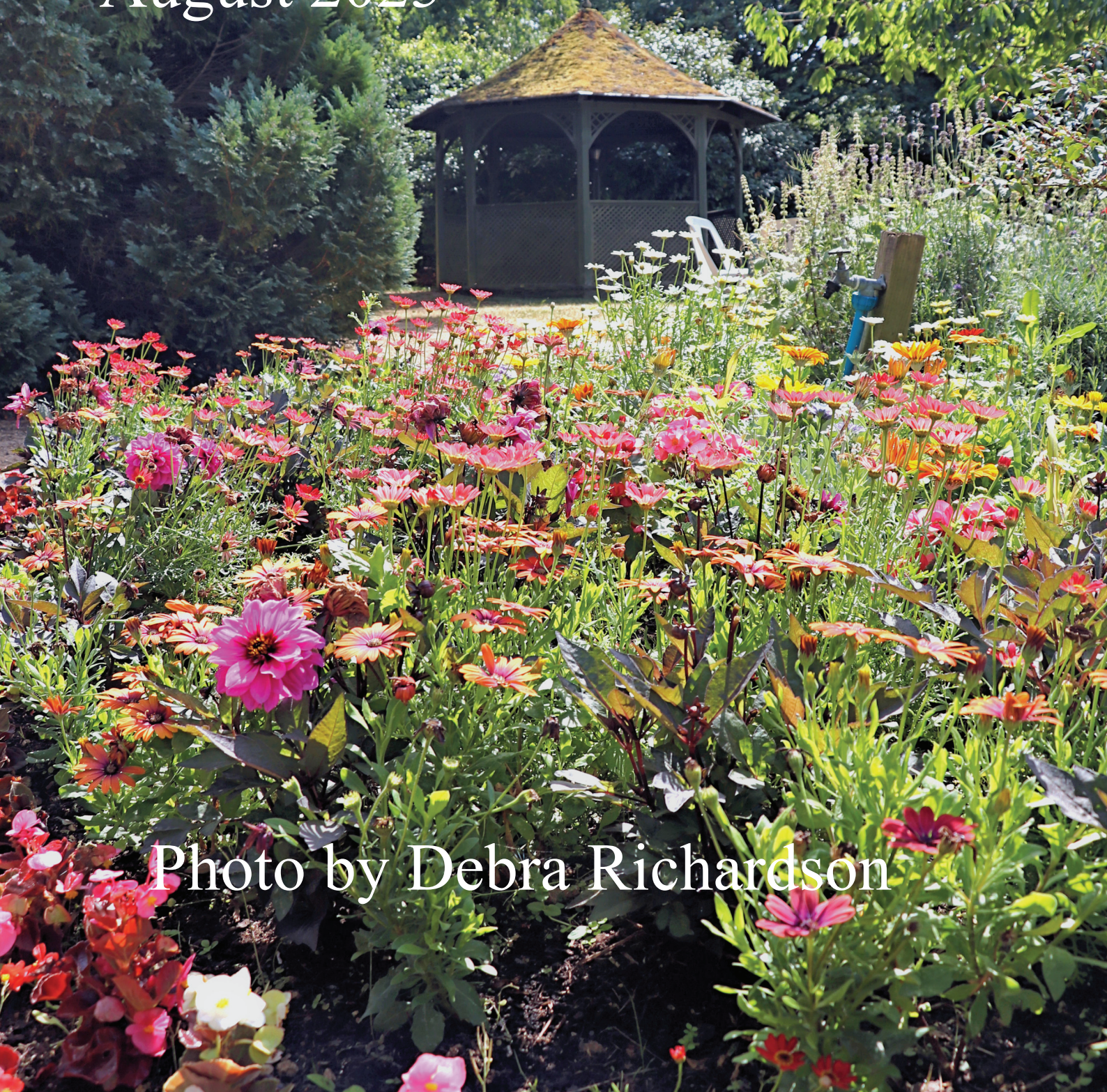


Photo by Debra Richardson



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SEASONED FIREWOOD



Community Shop
—BLUNSDON—

We're a month into selling our **Summer Raffle Tickets** for only £1.00. Thank you to everyone that has bought tickets so far. Let's smash our goal of 2,000 tickets! Our suppliers have been very generous again with prizes ranging from a luxury weekend away, £100 and £50 food hampers, coffee and tea basket, a round of golf for 2 and Sunday lunch for 2 at the Heart in Hand, to name a few prizes. Our prizes are on display in the cafe area if you want to see them in more detail.

Our draw this year will be held at **3 pm on Saturday 30th August** and we will be hosting a BBQ too, so please come along and support our fund raising and have a social time with local residents and visiting friends.

Highworth Mayor Visit - We had the pleasure of hosting Madam Mayor, Julie Murphy on Thursday 17th July. Several of our volunteers and customers travel in from Highworth, so it was lovely to share our story and demonstrate the value we add to our lovely community

Gift Cards - We launched our £5.00 Gift Cards in July and they were very popular for Teacher Gifts at the end of the school term. They are ideal gifts for local friends or just a simple Thank You.

VJ Day Talk - 12th August

Our VE Day Talk was so popular in May, Larry Banda has been asked in conjunction with his work with the Commonwealth War Graves to give us a talk on VJ Day. We are offering a glass of fizz or hot drink with a slice of cake for only £5.00. Please pop into the shop to reserve your place as we only have 30 seats available.

Late Night Opening

We have provided late night openings for several months now and after careful consideration we have taken the decision to no longer open late on Thursdays. From the 1st August we will only be open late on Friday's till 7 pm. If there are any local social groups that would like to use our cafe on a Friday evening till 7 pm please get in touch. We would obviously need you to purchase drinks whilst you socialise in our cafe.

Blunsdon Community Shop AGM

Where has this year gone! Our 2025 AGM will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday 3rd September in the Blunsdon Village Hall. Only shareholders can attend this meeting, as it is where we share our achievements of the past year, financial accounts and plans for 2025/26. You can become a shareholder for as little as £10, just pop in to the shop to sign up. Don't forget as a shareholder you also get a Shareholder Loyalty Card!

Dates for your diary

- Tuesday 12th August 2.30 pm: VJ Day Talk with Larry Banda (Reservations only)
- Saturday 30th August 3 pm: Summer Draw and BBQ
- Wednesday 3rd September 7 pm: Blunsdon Community Shop AGM
- Wednesday 17th September 7 pm: Wine Tasting (Tickets on sale during August)

Finally... We are very grateful to The Heart in Hand Pub for their generous gift of a new laptop to our Book Keeper. They are using the funds raised from their weekly Lucky Number Game to give back to the Blunsdon Community. Thank you so much, true "Unity in the Community"

Shop opening times are: Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, Sat: 8 am - 5 pm, Fri: 8 am - 7 pm

Sunday: 8 am - 4 pm. Cafe closes 1 hour before the shop.



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**Social Walking from
Blunston Community Shop**

**Every 2nd and 4th Thursday
of the month at 10:00am**

We start and finish at the shop.

**New walkers
always
welcome**

**Any queries, please message
Alex on 07554 811779**



SAVE THE DATE!

**BLUNSDON VILLAGE QUIZ 2025
FRIDAY 14 TH NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM
IN THE LARGE VILLAGE HALL**

**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE APPLICATION FORM IN THE SEPTEMBER
ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

Caretaker Vacancies

Blunsdon Parish Council is seeking two part-time Caretakers to support the upkeep of our community facilities and help deliver our vision of a clean, safe and attractive parish. These roles cover a variety of parish spaces including the Village Hall, Pavilion, Recreation Grounds, Play Areas, Community Building and the new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

Details of the Role

- 10 hours per week, flexible working pattern
- £13.47 per hour
- One role to start as soon as possible, with the second commencing in August when the MUGA opens

Main Responsibilities

- Cleaning and preparation of venues for bookings and general use
- Safety checks including fire alarms, emergency lighting, playground equipment and site security
- Litter picking and general tidying of outdoor areas
- Minor repairs, furniture setup and portage
- Unlocking and locking venues and assisting with viewings for hirers
- Reporting maintenance issues and supporting energy efficiency initiatives
- Liaising with members of the public, contractors and councillors as required

Requirements

- Ability to work independently with good initiative
- A practical, hands-on approach with attention to detail
- Willingness to undertake training as needed (e.g. Health & Safety, equipment checks)
- Good communication skills and a positive attitude to supporting the community

If you're interested in joining our small and dedicated team, please contact:

Debbie Braiden Email: debbiebraiden@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk

Applications by **14th August 2025**

SUMMER EVENING

GREGORY STEWARD - TENOR
GUEST SOPRANO - ELLEN STEWARD



Songs from
My Fair Lady
Mack and Mabel
West Side Story
The Sound of
Music
and many more...

Friday 1 August - 7pm
St Andrew's Church,
North Swindon

Refreshments available

Tickets on the door, visit our website
www.nschurch.org.uk
or email publicity@nschurch.org.uk

Under 18s free

£12





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

From the Rector's pen

Dear friends,

Apologies for not having written for a while, life has been a little hectic.

On 6th July, instead of leading worship at St Leonard's, or at St Michael's in Highworth, I was in Bristol Cathedral, where Bishop Vivienne was ordaining a new group of curates to come and work across the diocese. One of whom was Andy Bissex.

Andy will be working with me in Blunsdon, Highworth, Sevenhampton, Inglesham and Hannington for the next three years. I am absolutely delighted to receive him and I know that you will make him most welcome when you see him around. Andy worked for thirty-eight years for the Bible Society before being ordained and will bring a wealth of experience to the churches and communities here.

Some of you will have come over the last few years to our popular Breakfast Church, which meets on the fourth Sunday at St Leonard's. We are looking for ways to help it continue to grow and to make it more accessible to the whole community. Moving forwards, we will be changing to "Breakfast with St Leonard's" where we will have a community breakfast with Christians round-the-tables discussion rather than a formal service. Please feel free to bring your friends and families to join at our next breakfast on Sunday 24th of August at 9am.

Rev Phil.



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!





Join us for Breakfast with St Leonard's

**Sunday, August 24th
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
St Leonard's Church**

Fellowship
and
nourishment
for the soul !

Come together to enjoy a
continental style breakfast
(and possibly sausages!)
and connect with one
another in our wonderful
church.

**ST
LEONARD'S
CHURCH
AND LEGO
CLUB
PRESENTS**

family **FUN MORNING**

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH BLUNSDON

SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST

9.30AM UNTIL NOON

**IN ADDITION TO LEGO, WE WILL HAVE
CRAFTING
FACE PAINTING AND TATTOO PARLOUR
SECOND HAND CHILDREN'S BOOKS SALE
AND MORE!**

IT'S FREE (DONATIONS WELCOME)

Come and join in
at our Lego Club
for the usual
building and
breakfast and
more!

**Bring your
friends and
family. All
welcome!**





Parish Council News – August 2025

Scorchio!! (For those who remember The Fast Show.) What a great July for sun lovers. Hottest since 1976. Everything dry and brown and hose pipe bans! Who'd a thought it.

A grateful thank you to **Judith Pearce and Brenda Boyd** for looking after the planters at the Village Hall, and to **Karen Jankinson** for doing the same at the planters on the corner of Ermin Street and High Street. Unfortunately, some lovely Dahlias that she had planted and were flourishing were, unbelievably, stolen from those planters. Please let us know if you see anyone abusing their efforts.

We are pleased to announce that we have a new Parish Councillor – (we still have a vacancy). **Nick Gardiner** has joined the Parish Council this month. He will be a great asset as he already has experience in local government and knows the area well. He is also a Town Councillor at Highworth and a Borough Councillor for the Blunsdon and Highworth Ward. He will give us closer ties to SBC and in his words 'learn more about local issues that I can help influence at a Borough level'. Welcome Nick we are happy to have you on board.

You can also meet up with him and his Borough Colleagues at their monthly surgery in the **Village Shop and Café on the first Saturday of each month at 11:30 to 12:30.**

Village Caretaker Vacancies

With the loss of Mark Jones who was the Parish Caretaker we have published details of our vacancies for Parish Caretaker in this magazine. Applications should be to the **Parish Clerk – debbiebraiden@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk** or by post to **Debbie Braiden – Parish Clerk, Blunsdon Parish Council, High Street, Blunsdon, SN26 7AR. Applications can also be hand delivered to the BPC post box at the Village Hall.** (closing date 14th August)

Thank you to those that have variously cut back and trimmed their bushes and shrubs that are close to walkways and paths. Some of you still have work to do and we are out of the nesting season now so please do your best for others passing your property.

Linley Road Refurbishment – Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

The extra parking that we have needed for the village is now done and the ground work finished on the new courts and pitches. We will add some signage to Sams Lane to direct visitors to the parking areas which hopefully will ease the matchday congestion in Sutton Park. Also, it should help with school pick-up and drop-off congestion.

The technical work on the fencing and surface is now being completed. As soon as the courts and pitches are safe and up and running, we will set them up for booking through the Parish on-line booking system. (<https://blunsdonparishcouncil.co.uk/page/village-hall>) There will be two, five-a-side pitches and two full size tennis courts available to hire from 5pm until 9:30pm weekdays and from 9am to 9pm at weekends. We anticipate the first bookings will be available in September.

Village Hall

We have replaced the faulty refrigerator at the Village Hall. If you use it for a booking, please make sure you leave it empty when you leave, thank you.