

Parish Council Newsletter September 2014

Chairman's Report

We welcome you all to our Autumn Newsletter and sincerely hope that you have had a wonderful summer.

The Tony Rowell Orchard has had good crops this year and we would remind you that you are welcome to help yourself, but to limit it to 1 bag per family.

We are pleased that good progress is being made with regard to the footpath on Station Road and our thanks go to Messrs Dolby & Wadsworth for the work they have undertaken with cleaning out the ditch ready for the fence to be erected.

Thanks are also due to our County Councillor Steve Criswell who is negotiating with the County regarding the cycle/pedestrian path through to St. Ives and we will report progress in our next Newsletter.

We await hearing from the Feoffees regarding the refurbishment of the bus shelter on Block Hill (their meeting to take place after distribution of this Newsletter).

We do endeavour to keep the village verges cut on a regular basis and we would ask you, please, not to park on this grass.

With regard to the prolific growth of weeds etc. on Meeting Walk this year, every endeavour will be made to ensure that we keep this under control.

Unfortunately, we have had problems recently with fly tipping on the village walks and we would respectfully ask that any green matter etc. is put in the relevant bins for collection, or it be taken to the Recycling Centre.

If you have gravel on your driveway then please ensure that it is swept off the highway as it can cause cracked windscreens and headlights.

You will see the article about the WW1 Commemoration with BacStage and the Meridian Singers and we are hoping that you will all be able to attend as this will incorporate a 1 Act Play and an exhibition, and all the funds raised by ticket sales will go to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

We would also welcome more new members to the Parish Council to swell our numbers, so do feel free to join us and see how we work.

Joan Gutteridge - Chairman
Margaret Lumb - Vice Chair

Councillor Vacancy

Bluntisham Parish Council are seeking new Councillors to help us to carry on our good work within the Village.

Together we can make a definite difference to our community.

If you are interested in becoming involved then please feel free to attend a couple of meetings which are held on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall to see how we work. We would then ask you to send in a letter together with a CV so that we can set up an informal meeting with the Councillors.

Contact details can be found at the foot of the page.

Highway Update

The Parish Highway Warden continues to walk round the village every three months with the Highways Supervisor responsible for this village. Potholes in the roads and footpaths are noted. Although I can request repairs it remains the decision of the Highways Department to authorise and action them. Major roads always take priority unless a location is deemed dangerous and qualifies for emergency repair. The Highways team do request that residents keep hedges and overhanging trees alongside the footpaths trimmed back.

Please raise areas of concern with the Clerk who will pass them onto Mrs Margaret Lumb as some things are missed during the walk about. Weather and other emergencies will dictate the speed of works being carried out.

Allotment Update

The AGM for the allotment committee will be held on Saturday 27 September at 10am in the Village Hall. All tenants are expected to attend to sign their new agreements. If you are unable to attend then please contact the Parish Clerk.

If you are interested in having an allotment then please contact the Parish Clerk who will be happy to help you.

Hedge Cutting Update

Following a successful tender process Upwood Tree Services will be maintaining the village hedges for the next 3 years. Due to the additional maintenance required this will be done in stages to reduce the costs. We will start with the following hedges:

- Outer perimeter hedge – Recreational Field
- Mill Lane – Colne Road – Recreational Field
- Inner Dog Walk – Recreational Field
- Meeting Walk
- Allotment

Work has already commenced with the remainder being carried out early October. Please make sure your own hedges are maintained especially if they back onto footpaths or junctions. If you are unsure of the ownership of your hedge you can contact Huntingdonshire District Council who will be able to help you.



Your Parish Council needs you!

If you are interested in becoming a councillor and would like to be involved in helping to shape the future of your village, please contact Tracey Davidson on 01487 740230 for details.

Local Events & Activities

Cut out and keep for useful contacts for local events in and around Bluntisham:

- WI – Maggie 01487 741514 or Joy 01487 841371
- Meridian Singers – rachel@solosite.net 01480 300039
- Bluntisham Cricket Club – Richard 07831 328225
- Bluntisham Rangers Football Club - Kenny 07976 292189 or James 07866 461038
- Bluntisham Baptist Church – Miriam Webb 01487 843538 or Miriam.webb@bluntishambaptist.org
- Bluntisham Running Club – Emily 07880 975432
- Bluntisham Blasters Football Club – Jaki Davis jaki_davies@btinternet.com 07777688858
- Bluntisham 1st Brownies – Michelle 01487 843414
- Ballroom Dancing – Susan Stopps 07876 130037
- Over 60's – Denise Young 01487 841893
- Bluntisham Social Badminton Club – Helen Gilbert 01487 841233
- Aerobics, Pilates & Zumba – Tracey Davidson 07725 308115
- Rugbtots – Andy Kirby 08453 133243
- French Lessons – Jeanette Cooney jecooney41@hotmail.com

Bluntisham cum Earith Remembers

A World War 1 Commemoration

With BaCStage and
The Meridian Singers

An evening of drama and music to remember those from Bluntisham cum Earith who served during the First World War.

There will also be an exhibition dedicated to the men from both villages – those who died and those who came home.

Bluntisham Village Hall

Friday 10th October and Saturday 11th October 2014

Doors open at 7pm

Café style seating

Small Bar and Raffle

Tickets £5.00

All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal 2014

For tickets, or for more information, please contact
Sue Morgan on 01487 741361 or email
sue.morgan54@btinternet.com



Beacon Café Open

Wednesdays 2pm – 4.30pm

Bluntisham Baptist
Church Hall

Come and have a chat
with friends or just relax
in a warm, welcoming
child-friendly Café
environment. We serve
fresh teas and coffees,
soft drinks and a mouth-
watering selection of
homemade cakes.



Independent Living Fund (ILF) closure, June 2015

The Independent Living Fund (ILF) aims to support long term, independent living for severely disabled people by helping them to live at home instead of in residential care. In March 2014, the Government announced that it will be closing on 30th June 2015 when the County Council will take over responsibility for meeting the eligible care and support needs of ILF users. The County Council and ILF are working closely together to make sure the transfer of responsibility for funding arrangements takes place as smoothly as possible. The ILF website www.dwp.gov.uk/ilf includes more information about the programme's closure, or you can phone the County Council's Customer Services on 0345 045 5202

Christmas Gift Fair

Calling all you crafters out there, Bluntisham Village Hall will be hosting a Christmas gift event on Saturday 15 November from 2-6pm. Tables are available £10 large or £8 small. Contact Emily for more details and to book your space 01487 843377

Free Entry, Father Christmas, Refreshments, Raffle, all proceeds will go into the community funds charity to boost facilities within the village.



Village Issues

The Barograph -is finally ready to be upgraded and work will commence by the middle of November. For full details on the work to be done visit the website or view the plans on the village notice boards.

Village Benches – you might have noticed a few additional benches in the village. We are really pleased with these which include 1 new bench located on the recreation field mid way between the cricket and football pitches. Another new bench looking out onto the small football pitch and the community orchard. Both of these benches are thanks to the Godfrey's. Also we would like to thank John Dench for all his hard work in repairing the Coronation Bench along Wood End to its former glory. A further bench will be situated along Station Road in the next few weeks.

The Parish Council have agreed to invest in the long term maintenance of the football and cricket pitches, which starts with spraying & fertilizing of the whole recreational area. This was carried out on 10th September and hopefully by now you can see the benefits. Lush green grass for all to enjoy.

Your Parish Council has tight budgets and lots of expenditure to manage throughout the year. So far this year we have spent £62,778 which is 49% of our total budget and our income is £60,927 which is 45% of our total target. Financial information is always displayed on the notice boards and published on the website.

Have you been to the Village Hall recently.....? If not take time to go and see some of Bluntisham's history. The Fire Hooks which have been part of the village for many years are now restored and hanging on the wall in the foyer for all to enjoy. More historic items will be on display soon.

New Bus Timetables – as part of this leaflet drop you will find a simple and clear to read bus timetable showing the times, locations of all local buses. Clear timetables are also on display at all bus stops within the village. The Parish Council would like to thank Ed Cameron for all his help with producing this leaflet and posters.

Dog Walk – Changes have been made to the recreational area of the dog walk to enable the Blasters football club to accommodate larger football pitches. The Parish Council would like to thank the patience of the dog walkers and remind all users of the recreational area that it is a dog exclusion zone. Dogs are only permitted on the dog walk and dog recreational area. If you see anyone misusing the recreational area then please point them to the signs which clearly display the areas which can be used by dogs and their owners.

In Memory Of - Many residents will be aware that Mr. Barry Holmes, Head teacher for 21 years & Mrs Joyce Dighton, lunchtime staff for 40 years at St. Helen's School, died recently. Mrs Kathy Searle & Mrs Margaret Lumb have opened a charity account with the Cambridge Building Society in their memory. This is to fund raise for benches for the quiet area in the school playground. Donations can be made in person at the Cambridge Building Society quoting account reference: 1814017940 or electronic payments can be made via Barclays Bank. Account ref: Dighton & Holmes Benches. Account Number: 40338346. Sort Code 20-17-22, you must quote reference 1814017940. Alternatively cheque payments can be given to the school made payable to "Dighton & Holmes Benches"

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch remains active in the village but we need new co-ordinators in the following areas:

- The Poplars
- Wheatley Crescent
- Mill Lane
- Rectory Road
- Station Road

We get together every 3-4 months for a short meeting. Bluntisham is a low crime village and we want to keep it that way. Please report anything you think is suspicious on the non-urgent number 101 or if urgent 999. Due to low police manpower we do not have daily patrols but police will do so if concerns are raised. Co-ordinators received regular updates on crime, if any in their location. If you would like to join the scheme or become a co-ordinator please contact Ian Montgomery on 01487 841303 or Margaret Lumb on 01487 841687.

CALLING ALL LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

- Would you be interested in placing an advert in our local village newsletter?
- Printed quarterly and distributed to every household in the village (750) + copies in local community areas.
- For as little as £15

Contact the Clerk for more details.

Police matters

With summer now over and the dark nights and frosty mornings becoming a reality I would like to take this opportunity to speak about road safety.

As a police officer the saddest part of my job is delivering bad news to relatives when a person has been seriously injured or worse in a road accident. During the autumn road users are often caught out by the bad weather and some people just don't seem to know how to drive according to weather conditions.

On frosty mornings please ensure that all windows of your vehicle are defrosted and clear, not just the windscreen. It never ceases to amaze me how often I see cars waiting to pull out at a junction when it is obvious that the drivers are only guessing whether or not the road is clear because they simply cannot see clearly out of misty or frosted side windows.

Always use headlights when driving in reduced visibility; this applies in the daytime as well as at night. Again it's always a shock to see a car suddenly appear out of the gloom on a foggy or rainy day when being driven without lights.

By far the most vulnerable road users at this time of year are cyclists. I know it's an old cliché but "Always be seen". Cars and lorries are usually moving much faster than bicycles and bear down on them very quickly. Sometimes the legal requirement of a red light to the rear and a yellow one at the front are simply not enough to be seen in time. Always wear brightly coloured clothing during the daytime and reflective at night, that way you will be seen in good time by the drivers of approaching vehicles.

In conjunction with partners we will be running a local Safe Cycling Campaign during the next few months where we will be putting out advice regarding cycle safety and cycle security. We are also hoping to run some adult safer cycling training sessions.

On the crime front, it has been a very good summer for Bluntisham. The only crimes that were reported to police over the past three months were in relation to youths climbing lampposts and damaging the sensors in the streetlights. This happened in early July and thankfully there have been no reported cases since.

There have been some shed and garage burglaries in nearby villages and I would ask everyone to be vigilant regarding the security of their property.

Report from Sgt Andy Street, St Ives & Ramsey Neighbouring Policing - Problem Solving Team, St Ives Police Station.

Village Hall

Situated at the edge of the cricket field in the pretty village of Bluntisham. Our village hall offers the ideal setting – whatever the occasion.

- Wedding receptions
- Children’s/teenage parties
- Christenings
- Evening classes
- Sports events
- Conferences
- Business meetings
- Training days & team building



Extensive catering facilities and ample car parking.

For more details contact: **Tracey Davidson** on **01487 740230** or **07725 308115** or email: bluntishamvillagehall@gmail.com



**Bluntisham and Colne
Stage Group**

For those new to the village, BaCStage is your local am-dram group. We’ve been performing in the area for over 16 years, starting out as The Millennium Players in 1997 and changing to BaCStage in 2001. Since then we have staged 2 (sometimes 3) productions a year, usually in the Bluntisham Village Hall. We are based in The Old Day School in the High Street, Bluntisham, and can often be seen there on “clean-up”/maintenance week-ends. Please feel free to pop in and meet us if you’re passing and curious!

As mentioned in the last newsletter we are pleased to be taking part, alongside The Meridian Singers, in the *Royal British Legion First World War Commemoration Poppy Appeal on the evenings of Friday 10th and Saturday 11th October 2014* with readings and a short play. We hope you will be able to join us and support this worthy cause.

Next production: our PANTOMIME Dick Whittington and His Cat – 19th to 21st February 2015. We are currently in the process of casting, following a great turn out of young people and adults to our audition evenings (not as scary or as formal as that sounds!) The plea for panto members in our last article obviously worked—thank you to those who have signed up! There is still time to come forward, though—there are chorus places and the jobs are plentiful! Ring Jackie on 01487 842482 for more details.

If you’d like to know more about BaCStage you can visit our website: <http://bacstage.net> where you can see what we’ve been up to—and what we’re about to get up to!

Of course, it’s not just about performing, we really need an audience! We can promise a great evening (ask someone who’s seen one of our productions!) We always have cabaret-style seating, as we feel this is less formal and more enjoyable, and you are invited to bring your own refreshments: drinks, nibbles, etc. Some even bring their supper. That’s fine with us! Hope to see you!

September 14



- Regular activities in the village hall include:**

 - Ballroom Dancing (Monday)
 - Aerobics (Tuesday)
 - Fitness Pilates (Tuesday & Saturday)
 - Badminton (Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday)
 - Rugbtots (Thursday)
 - Over 60’s (Thursday)
 - Zumba (Friday)
 - Cricket (Saturday)
 - Football (Saturday)
 - French Lessons (Tuesday term time only)

NEWS FLASH.....

Calling all you cyclists, anyone interested in attending an adults safe cyclist training sessions.....? Contact the clerk for more details.



Your Councillors

Mrs Joan Gutteridge (Chairman)	01487 740210
Mrs Margaret Lumb (Vice Chair)	01487 841687
Mrs Kathy Searle	01487 842293
Mr Gary James	01487 841895
Miss Emily Godfrey	01487 843377
Mr Frank Hudson	01487 741290
Mrs Cynthia Curtis	01487 841246
Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk)	01487 740230