

# Parish Council Newsletter June 2014

## Chairman's Report

At the beginning of a new year on the Parish Council we say a big 'Thank You' to Tim Ellis who has completed his 2 year term as Chairman and also decided to leave us to pursue personal interests.

The Dog Exclusion Order commenced in early March for the whole of the Recreation Ground excluding the dog walk/recreation area.

We are pleased, so far, that it seems to be proving successful and would like to thank all dog owners for picking up after their animals.

The current fencing is a temporary measure for a 12 month period when a decision will be made as to whether to erect hedging. This depends entirely on the current situation prevailing and that the notices are adhered to and that the recreation grounds and dog walk are mess free.

We are pleased that after several site meetings the proposals to improve the area surrounding the Barograph have now been accepted and funding allocated and we hope to see the work commencing shortly.

Our County Councillor Steve Criswell is in consultation with the County Council in our bid to have a cycleway from the bridge towards St.Ives.

Also, we hope, shortly, to have a footpath over the bridge to link up with the current footpath, but this is now dependent upon the harvesting of the crop that is now growing and once this has happened then fencing etc. will commence.

Our thanks to Jonathan Clarke and his many volunteers who did the litter pick recently, and we will publicise further details in our next Newsletter, and invite as many of you as possible to join in.

We are in the early stages of planning a multi-sports facility to the rear of the Village Hall and each month we will publish details in the minutes of the Parish Council as to progress.

Look out for full details of the very exciting event that will take place in the Village Hall by the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in conjunction with BaCStage to commemorate the WW1 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Finally, I hope that we have some wonderful weather and you all enjoy the summer.

**Joan Gutteridge**  
**Chairman**

## 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.

## Allotment Update

### Ever thought about growing your own?

A great way to save money, stay fit, eat healthier and meet new and interesting people.

Full allotment - £30 pa

Half allotment - £20 pa

3/4 allotment - £25pa

Prices include water.

All available from October 2014.

If you would like more information on the allotments please contact the Parish Clerk who will be happy to help you.



## Highway Update

The Parish Highway Warden continues to walk round the village every three months with the Highways Supervisor responsible for this village. Parking is one issue in certain areas of the village, please observe the rules from the highway code:

**DO NOT** stop or park

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend

Concerns regarding the state of the roads and footpaths in the village have been raised, but due to financial constraints mean that only patching work can be completed. The resurfaced footpath along Colne Road was made possible with funding from the Safer Routes to School initiative.

The Heavy Commercial Vehicles Joint Area Committee is working to reduce the HCV traffic through the villages by weight limit restrictions & better signage of Strategic Freight routes & education. If deemed necessary CEO's of companies are contacted which often results in co-operation.

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.

## 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

### The Woodlands Cancer Centre, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital

The Woodlands Cancer Centre at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital has been supporting cancer patients throughout Huntingdonshire and the surrounding areas since it was officially opened by HRH Prince Charles in January 1998. The centre has around 30 full and part-time staff, and delivers the same high quality care patients would receive at Addenbrooke's or Peterborough hospitals. In fact the standard of care delivered was formally recognised in December 2012 when the Centre was awarded a prestigious Quality Environment Mark (MQEM) by Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Centre has developed plans to extend their current premises, including re-modelling the existing building to create a new main entrance and waiting area, a light and airy lounge plus a courtyard garden for patients and relatives. These facilities will cost around £1 million and a major fundraising appeal was launched in 2013. Over £300,000 has been raised so far, however, there is still a long way to go. If you would like to find out more about the Centre, make a donation towards this vital new extension or have a fundraising idea, please contact Karen Pryor on 01480 416283 or [Karen.pryor@nhs.net](mailto:Karen.pryor@nhs.net)



### Bluntisham and Colne 2014 WI

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at Colne Village Hall at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated.

**For more details contact:**  
Maggie 01487 741514  
Joy 01487 841371

### Meridian Singers

The Meridian Singers will be giving a concert on Friday 18th June in St Mary's Church, Bluntisham at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come and hear a selection of songs, mostly well known, from our local community choir. There will be wonderful refreshments during the interval.

The Meridian Singers meet during term times in the church room by St Mary's Church on a Wednesday evening between 7 and 8.30pm. The members come from all over the area and many new friendships have been forged.

Our new term will start on Wednesday 10th September. If you are interested in joining, please email [rachel@solosite.net](mailto:rachel@solosite.net) who will answer any questions.

**WEA**



Learning for Life

### **Writing about War**

The course will explore and discuss writing about war through the ages, from Homer to the present day, by both combatants and civilians, from propaganda to protest.

**10-week course starts on  
Monday 15 September 2014 at  
Bluntisham Baptist Church Hall  
10.00am to 12.00pm**

To register, or for more information, please contact Jan Eaton on 01487 843959 or email [jan.eaton@talktalk.net](mailto:jan.eaton@talktalk.net)

### Bluntisham Running Club

We meet every Wednesday evening from 7pm at the Barograph. We run for half an hour, usually in loops in order for the fast and not so fast runners. Absolutely free, do come along if you are interested or if you have any questions please call or text Emily on 07880 975432.

### Bluntisham Cricket Club

Cricket has been played in Bluntisham since before 1881, albeit with a break in the 1970's. The present Club reformed in 1984/5 and play in The Cambs Senior League & Cambs Junior League. There is also a mixed ability side, including introducing younger players to Adult Cricket, in the Cambridge Business House League. Friday nights and Sunday mornings you will see our Under 9's & Under 13's practicing. Both age groups are playing in the Hunts Junior Leagues. New members are always welcome and if you or your children are interested please contact Richard on 07831 328225 for further details. You are more than welcome to come down on a "hopefully" warm and sunny Saturday afternoon to watch.

### Bluntisham Baptist Church

Bluntisham Baptist Church, High Street,  
Bluntisham

The Revd Tim Williamson welcomes you into the church and looks forward to seeing you at a regular Sunday morning service. 10.30 – 11.30 every Sunday. Why not pop into the Beacon Cafe for a homemade cake and friendly cuppa, open every Wednesday 14.00 – 16.30 For more details contact: [Miriam.webb@bluntishambaptist.org](mailto:Miriam.webb@bluntishambaptist.org) or 01487 843538

### Football club

Bluntisham Rangers Football Club has two teams both playing in the Cambridge Saturday league. Players have to be 16+ to be able to play for the club. The first team have been very successful over the last three years winning promotion to the senior league and two cup finals. The reserves are made up of young players striving to make the first team along with older experienced players. Training will start early July, if you are interested please contact Kenny on 07976 292189 or James on 07866 461038.

## Police matters

As we approach the summer I would like to remind people about their home security. We all have our windows open to let in the fresh air and cooling breeze, but please remember to secure ground floor windows at night, an open window is a very tempting opportunity for a passing burglar.

Although Bluntisham is a very pleasant village with relatively low crime rate, the thieves are often around. Over the past few months there has been a spate of house and shed burglaries in St Ives and surrounding villages and Bluntisham is included in this. Ensure your outbuildings are secured with a good quality lock and make sure that bicycles are not left lying outside where they can be an easy target for a thief.

We ask you to keep an eye on the car park within the Village Hall and note any suspicious behaviour. Always take vehicle details to enable a thorough investigation.

Parking within the village is also a concern so remember to park safely and within the law. Some examples of poor parking include:



Be sensible where you park and think of others using the pavements, trying to cross the road or access a junction. **Report from Sgt Andy Street, St Ives & Ramsey Neighbouring Policing - Problem Solving Team, St Ives Police Station.**

## 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.

## Village Issues

**The Community Orchard** is now planted and an official naming ceremony will take place on 5 July at 11am. The Parish Council would like to thank all those involved with the planting and preparation of this Orchard and look forward to enjoying the fruits in future years.

**The District Council** now produces a quarterly e-newsletter called Huntingdonshire Online. The e-newsletter aims to keep residents up to date with news and events taking place in Huntingdonshire. To receive Huntingdonshire Online please log onto the following website [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/subscribe](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/subscribe) and provide your name and email address, it's as simple as that.

### **Help the Parish Council become more e-friendly**

The Parish Council would love to be able to contact you electronically and would like to know your thoughts on producing this bi-monthly/quarterly newsletter electronically. Please email the clerk your contact details at [bluntishamclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bluntishamclerk@gmail.com) if you would like to be added onto a distribution list or have opinions either way.

### **Electrical Waste Kerbside Collection on behalf of BLUNTISHAM Parish Council**

Do you have electrical items that you no longer use or want? WISER Recycling can help YOU, and YOU can help your Parish Council.....

WISER Recycling are a local recycling company based in St Ives and will be conducting a collection of household Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014**.

Electrical items will be collected in the morning by WISER vehicles. We will collect any electrical item (including non-working) from hairdryers, videos and microwaves to televisions and fridge/freezers. Basically anything with a plug on! WISER Recycling will collect from right outside your house. All items will be taken to our fully licensed treatment facility in St Ives for reuse, refurbishment or recycling.

The Parish Council will receive revenue for the WEEE Waste collected, to be spent on Community Projects.

**PLEASE PLACE YOUR ITEMS KERBSIDE BY 10.00. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE AVOID PLACING OUTSIDE THE EVENING BEFORE.**

If you are unable to move your larger items outside, please contact us on 01480 464111 and our Operatives will attend your property to assist.

If you would like to find out more about WISER's services, please visit our website: [www.wisergroup.co.uk](http://www.wisergroup.co.uk)



## 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](mailto: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.

Our latest offering was 'Murdered To Death' by Peter Gordon, a comedy 2-act 'whodunit' play. We had record audiences for this production—and we'd like to say a HUGE thank you to all who came to support us. You were a brilliant audience each night and we hope you enjoyed watching as much as we enjoyed entertaining you!

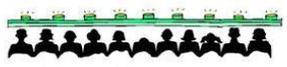
In October 2014 we will be performing a short play in the Bluntisham Village Hall at The Royal British Legion First World War Commemoration Poppy Appeal. Watch out for the posters advertising this. We hope you will be able to join us and support such a worthy event.

We are pleased to announce that our next production will be A PANTOMIME which will run from 19th to 21st February 2015. We are really excited about this and can't wait to start rehearsing. We're in the early stages of choosing a script so can't tell you which panto it will be yet but look out for our 'Coming Soon' adverts/posters. In the meantime put the date in your diaries!

Are you interested in joining us? Would you like to be in the panto? Can you sing, dance, act, prompt, paint, hammer or shift furniture? The jobs are plentiful, and there is something to suit all. If you'd like to know more, please ring Jackie on 01487 842482. You can also visit our website: <http://bacstage.net> to see what we've been up to—and what we're about to get up to! Anyway, we'd love to hear from you.

Our productions always have cabaret-style seating, as we feel this is less formal and more enjoyable, and people are asked to bring their own refreshments: drinks, nibbles, etc. Some even bring their supper. That's fine with us!

Hope to see you - either on stage, behind the stage or, more importantly, in front of the stage in the audience!



### Regular activities in the village hall include:

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

### NEWS FLASH.....

Did you know that Bluntisham now has its own defibrillator? Located at the Garage it is an asset to any community and could save your life. Fully trained staff are available at the garage if our MAGPAS team are not.



### 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.

### 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