

THE PARISH OF BLOCKLEY

A BRIEF COMMUNITY PROFILE

May 2005

Blockley itself is a village in the Cotswolds, in the county of Gloucestershire. It is set in some of the most beautiful, typical Cotswolds countryside, in the middle of a triangle formed by 3 internationally known Cotswold market towns: Moreton-in-Marsh (4 miles), Chipping Campden (3½ miles) and Stow-on-the-Wold (6½ miles).

ADMINISTRATION

Blockley is also the name of a Civil Parish which incorporates 4 other smaller villages/settlements: Aston Magna, Draycott, Northwick Park and Paxford.

Total electorate of the Parish is currently just over 1,600, represented by 11 members of the Parish Council.

For electoral purposes, the Parish is divided into 3 wards:

Blockley Ward: 7 Councillors representing 950 electors in Blockley village;

Aston Magna Ward: 2 Councillors representing 218 electors in Aston Magna & Ditchford;
and 184 electors in Draycott;

Paxford Ward: 2 Councillors representing 173 electors in Paxford;
and 97 electors in Northwick Park;

The Parish in its entirety is the Blockley Ward of the District Council (electorate 1,622) and elects its own District Councillor to sit on Cotswold District Council in Cirencester. The District Council has an area office in Moreton-in-Marsh to serve the north of the District.

Elections to Parish & District Councils are held every 4 years; the next such elections will be in 2007.

Elections to the County Council are also held every 4 years, the last being in May 2005 when divisions changed following a Periodic Electoral Review. Blockley Parish is now part of the North Cotswold Division, which comprises 8 parishes and 2 District Council wards (Blockley and Campden-Vale); total electorate circa 6,300, electing one Gloucestershire County Councillor.

POPULATION

The following statistics are estimates obtained from various surveys conducted by the Parish Council. Numbers in each of the age bands are for estimated permanent residents.

	<u>Dwellings</u>	<u>Electors*</u>	<u>Under 12</u>	<u>12-21</u>	<u>22-39</u>	<u>40-59</u>	<u>60 & over</u>
Blockley	675	950	150	115	250	340	355
Aston Magna	105	218	50	30	55	75	50
Draycott	110	184	70	45	65	85	65
Paxford	110	173	30	25	25	70	60
Northwick Park	<u>80</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>55</u>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>1,080</i>	<i>1,622</i>	<i>315</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>410</i>	<i>610</i>	<i>585</i>

* Electors as per Register of Electors May 2005.

15-20% of dwellings in the Parish are second homes. 20-25% of permanent dwellings are single occupancy; under 25% have 3 or more permanent residents.

The resident population probably now comprises under 40% who have lived most of their lives in the Parish and over 60% those who have resided here for less than 15 years.

Incomers have been, hitherto, predominantly retirees. But over the last few years, an increasing number have been working-age with young families, particularly those who are able to do much of their work at or from home.

BUSINESS

Perhaps surprising to some: within this Parish - set as it is in the heart of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - there are 3 business centres (at Northwick, Draycott & Paxford) which, between them, are home to over 70 businesses employing more than 450 people.

The business centres are mostly well-hidden within the AONB, the major impact on the community being the traffic that they generate on the rather inadequate rural roads.

Additionally, agriculture/estate management in the Parish continues to provide employment for over 50 people, whilst quarrying/brick making employs about 75. Catering & Tourism is a big employer, occupying around 100 full- and part-time employees.

There are two shops, both in Blockley: the Post Office Stores and Murray's Delicatessen/Coffe shop (where a variety of beauty treatments for ladies are also available). At Northwick Business Centre, there is a retail DIY/Engineering supplier, a shoe maker/repairer and companies to care for your motor vehicles.

There are three pubs/restaurants: The Crown Inn and The Great Western in Blockley and The Churchill Arms in Paxford.

COMMUNITY & LEISURE

Blockley is a very busy Parish, with a variety of active organisations.

In Blockley village, there are no fewer than 3 village halls: St George's Hall (seated capacity 165), complete with stage and fully equipped catering facilities, the Jubilee Youth Centre and the Little Village Hall (seating 40).

Paxford has its own village hall and Draycott has the Mission Hall for community events.

Some of the organisations active in the Parish:

<u>Sports & Fitness:</u>	Badminton Bowls Cricket Football Hockey Pilates Ramblers Yoga
<u>Gardening:</u>	Allotments Horticulture Society Open Gardens
<u>Music, Dance & Drama:</u>	Bellringers Brass Band Ladies Choir Mystery Players Tap Dancers Theatre Group
<u>Literature & The Arts:</u>	Antiquarian Society Art Society Bookworms Decorative & Fine Arts Society Discussion Group
<u>Community & Youth:</u>	Womens Institute Draycott Dames & Damsels Paxford Ladies Cakes & Company Jubilee Youth Club

Additionally, the Parish Council runs The Picture Playhouse at Blockley: regular cinema or theatre performances in one or other of the village halls.

There are services in St Peter & St Paul's Church every Sunday in Blockley and in Paxford Church twice each month.

SCHOOLS & PLAY AREAS

In Blockley, there is an extremely popular Primary School, also a Nursery School and a Playschool. The nearest secondary school is in Chipping Campden.

In Blockley, there are two children's Play Areas (on Churchill Close and at Springfield); Aston Magna & Draycott also have children's Play Areas and one is shortly to be added in Paxford, on the newly-acquired Village Green.

NEWS & PUBLICITY

News of what is happening in the Parish - and who the contacts are for what - is available from many sources; the Parish Council recognises one of its most important functions being as a central information point for all that goes on in and around the Parish.

Council matters are reported and publicised on 6 noticeboards: in Post Office Square and in Winterway, Blockley, by the Village Hall in Paxford, by the 'phone boxes in Draycott and Aston Magna and in the bus shelter at Church View, Aston Magna.

Various of the organisations also have their own noticeboards adjacent to the Post Office in Blockley and there is a general community noticeboard in Bell Lane.

Annually, the Council publishes a Newsletter which is delivered to every household in the Parish, giving information not only on Council matters but also up-to-date reports from each of the organisations and who to contact for what.

More regularly (10 times per year), Church & Village News (C & V N) is distributed to subscribers in the Parish. Included in C & V N is the Blockley Diary which shows what is happening in and around the Parish during the coming month.

The Diary is also displayed in the Post Office and Murrays in the Squares in Blockley - and on the Blockley web-site at blockleyvillage.org, where one can also read Parish Council reports and news.

The Council also provides an e-mail service to all who request it:

Playhouse: to receive details of forthcoming Rural Cinema events (in both Blockley and the surrounding area).

Council: to receive Agendas for and Minutes of Council Meetings (plus special Council reports from time-to-time);

Diary: to receive copies of the list of everything known to be going on in the Parish over the coming four months. If you are planning an event, it's often useful to know what else might already have been fixed for that day!;

All these are **ONLY** sent to those who have specifically requested them (by sending an e-mail to the Clerk at pauljekirby@aol.com saying 'Please add me to the circulation for Parish', specifying which list(s) you want to be on).

Note: 'Playhouse' can be read by any e-mail system. For the other two you will need to have the program 'Acrobat Reader' on a computer and be able to accept the bulletins as attachments.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Blockley village and Draycott have good bus services: from Blockley, 10 times per day (Draycott 7 times per day), 6 days per week, to both Moreton-in-Marsh and Chipping Campden (then onwards to Stratford) and return. Additionally, there is a market bus each Tuesday - serving all the villages - to the market in Moreton-in-Marsh, plus a special shopping bus into Moreton-in-Marsh each Friday, again serving all the villages.

From Moreton-in-Marsh there is a good (1¾ hours) train service to London Paddington, with more than 12 trains daily.

The whole Parish has access to Broadband facilities.

DOCTORS & HOSPITALS

Two satellite surgeries (from the main health centres in Moreton-in-Marsh) function in Blockley. Nearest Accident & Emergency department is at Moreton Hospital; major local hospital is in Cheltenham.