

The Blandford Bugle

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL THINGS GOOD IN
BLANDFORD: GOOD HOMES, GOOD NEIGHBORS, GOOD FUN.

Vol. 2, Issue 3 Blandford, Massachusetts Spring 2013 BlandfordBugle@hotmail.com

Five Things Everyone Should Do In Spring

Down with a case of “cabin fever?” Chances are, you’re not alone. After months of shoveling driveways, wearing five layers of clothing, and drinking excessive amounts of hot chocolate, spring is nearly here! To celebrate, I’ve compiled a list of activities to partake in nearby this spring.

Feed the ducks at Stanley Park ~ It’s always pleasant to grab a loaf of old bread or sleeve of stale crackers and head to Stanley Park. Several duck ponds have picturesque bridges and walkways winding throughout. Although the ducks are

notoriously overfed, children will still enjoy tearing off chunks of bread to throw.

Make Easter cookies ~ With all the hype about paint-



ing eggs, it’s sometimes easy to forget the plethora of pastel food dyes, delicious recipes and spring-themed cookie cutters that make baking a breeze. Beautiful and delicious, these sweet treats make excellent gifts; plus, you’ll have a blast playing chef.

Jump in a mud puddle ~ In years past, as soon as the thermometer wavered at the fifty-degree mark, my sisters and I would dig out shorts and rain boots and head outside. The attraction, of course, was the heaping mound of mud suffocating the newly sprouted grass. No matter your age, nothing quite compares to the satisfying squelch of mud under rubber boots, or the spray of murky water when you stomp your foot in a particularly murky puddle.

Get a head start on gardening ~ It’s not too early to search for seeds and bulbs to adorn your lawn come summer. Yet too soon to plant anything in the ground, you could always grab a pot, trowel, seeds, and watering can, and start a new house-plant.



Go on a nature walk ~ Sometimes, the best cure for cabin fever is simply getting out of the house. As the days grow increasingly warmer and sunnier, now is the perfect time to take a walk. Whether it be a leisurely stroll through a park or town or a vigorous hike across the wide expanses of local woods, walking is a great way to take in the newly emerging bounty of spring. Trek across the Littleville Dam for a peaceful and scenic walk, or head to Northampton if you prefer the cheer of a bustling village. If you crave the wilderness, try hiking at the Chesterfield Gorge, Sanderson Brook Falls, or the Keystone Arch- es. The feeling of fresh New England air in your lungs and the sights of budding spring are unrivaled at this time of year.

Whether you channel your energy into baking a delectable treat, feeding local ducks, or dreaming of a garden, be sure to take advantage of these early spring days. While March can often be written off as



a time of slush and mud, it is truly a great opportunity to experience the rebirth of New England nature and culture after the seemingly endless winter months.

Submitted by Charlotte LeBarron

Blandford in Bloom



If you're working off the winter's doldrums, here are several local opportunities to meet new neighbors, have fun, laugh out loud and make your world more beautiful. You are invited to join us...

Do you have an abundance of flowers in your garden? Do the flowers in your garden make you smile? Wouldn't it be wonderful to share your joy with someone that doesn't have any by giving a bouquet of cut flowers? What an easy way to share goodwill and happiness.

Here's how it works: We supply you with a clean vase, you supply the cut flowers and goodwill, we distribute the bouquets to those who need them. From the humble purity of a handful of daisies to a raucous symphony of color both are equal in the eyes of the recipient. This will run spring, summer and fall. No pressure or deadlines. If you have extra flowers, you share. Easy.

Would you like to share some of your beautiful flowers? Do you know someone who could use a "pick-me-up" bouquet? We can't guarantee a bouquet; we will do our best to coordinate a match between people and flowers. Do you have vases you would like to donate to a worthy cause? We'll pick them up. Vase donations should be considered permanent, you won't get them back. Please e-mail the bugle@townofblandford.com with any questions or positive comments you may have.

Do you have clean, extra yarn lying around that you'd like to donate to a good cause? The Council on Aging would gladly accept any yarn donations you may have. They make hats, mittens, lap warmers and other items then donate them to local hospitals and centers. They politely request that **No** wool be donated as many of these items are going to babies and chemo patients. Drop yarn off at the COA room at the Town Hall or call Margit at 848-2776 to arrange pickup.

Historical Society

Join us as we spring clean Watson Park on Saturday, April 20. Meet at the park at 9, we'll work until noon. Bring garden tools, be ready to pick up any litter, leftover winter debris, etc. There will be a variety of projects. Everyone welcome.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT:

1) Getting a few friends together and reopening the access gate on the west side of Watson Park? This beautiful entrance has been long neglected and overrun with weeds and poison ivy.

What we'd like to do is: clear the weeds and lay down some mulch around the entrance. Things we'd need to do it: garden size backhoe with operator, dump body pickup to haul the weeds to another point in Watson Park, real friendly people to pitch in with hand labor and THE BEST PART: Join in the potluck supper when the work is done.

2) Having a town wide tag sale weekend like they do in Granville and Granby? One weekend a year is selected, anybody that wants to join in does, free of charge. Maps with addresses showing the participating houses are made available to the public.

If this is something you may be interested in please e-mail us at bugle@townofblandford.com saying, "What a great idea." If we get enough positive responses you will be contacted for date preferences and other info.

3) Starting a community vegetable garden.



Unique Blend Of:
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Sheepskin Items
Gifts — Fine Art

Sheepgate

Maureen Bury Costello
Blandford, MA 01008
(413) 848-0990

Thurs - Sun 11-5pm



MEMORIAL DAY

It is the soldier, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the organizer,
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier,
Who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the
flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protestor to burn the flag.

By: Father Denis Edward O'Brien M.M.

USMC

"And I'm proud to be an American,
where at least I know I'm free. And I
won't forget those who died, who gave
that right to me." - [Lee Greenwood](#)

Memorial Day 2012



Recreation Committee News

Annual Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 31 at the Gazebo in Watson Park

Directly following the Parade

Entertainment, Children's Games, Music,

Softball Game and Food.

We will provide hamburgers and hotdogs. Please
bring a dish to share and your own beverages.

LIBRARY NEWS

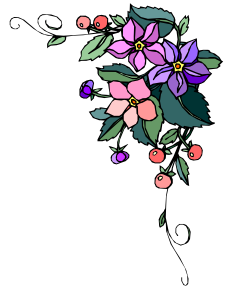
Toddler Time at the Porter Memorial Library with Cara Letendre. Cara puts her educational background into making lively afternoons for local children. Thursdays at 2 at the library.

Speak French with the Francophiles the second Tuesday every month from 4 to 5 p.m.

Knitting continues on Tuesdays beginning at 2 p.m. Come share your expertise, learn new tricks, and enjoy the company!

The Blandford Library and Garden Club are looking into a joint venture to begin a "Seed Library". Garden-minded library patrons would be able to check out a packet of seeds to grow. At the end of the growing season gardeners would collect mature seeds and then package and donate them to the Seed Library for use the following year. We will post more information as it becomes available.

Happy Mothers
Day to the
mother's to be,
the mother's
that are, the
father's who are
mother's and the
mother's no
longer with us.



When your mother asks, "Do you want a
piece of advice?" it is a mere formality.

It doesn't matter if you answer yes or
no. You're going to get it anyway.


-Erma Bombeck

"Be careful how you speak to
your children. One day it will
become their inner voice."

- Peggy O'Mara

Blandford Events Calendar



April	2013					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Don't forget to stop by the Blandford Store for a cup of coffee!</p> 	1	2	3 COA 2-4 p.m. Writing Workshop	4	5 COA 1-3 p.m. Blandford Stitchers	6 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Blandford Ski Area Moonlit snowshoe walk and wine tasting 7-9 p.m.
7	8 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA: 9:00 - 10:00 Strength, Flexibility & Balance Class	9 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	10 COA 2-4 p.m. Writing Workshop	11 Library open 1-8 p.m. Hist. Soc. 7:30 p.m. History & Future plans of Water Dept.	12 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA 1-3 p.m. Blandford Stitchers COA 1:30 p.m. Movie "Somethings Gotta Give"	13 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
14	15 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA: 9:00 - 10:00 Strength, Flexibility & Balance Class	16 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. COA 1:00 Coffee Hr & BP Clinic	17 COA 2-4 p.m. Writing Workshop Town Informational Meeting at town hall	18 Library open 1-8 p.m.	19 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA 1-3 p.m. Blandford Stitchers	20 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Hist. Soc. 9 a.m. celebrate Earth day join in spring clean-up of Watson Park
21	22 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA: 9:00 - 10:00 Strength, Flexibility & Balance Class	23 COA: 1:00 p.m. Cookie Exchange & Chinese Auction Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	24 COA 2-4 p.m. Writing Workshop	25 Library open 1-8 p.m. Hist. Soc. 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts of Blandford A look at local Scouting	26 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA 1-3 p.m. Blandford Stitchers	27 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
27	28 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA: 9:00 - 10:00 Strength, Flexibility & Balance Class	29 Library: CLOSED Christmas Day	30 COA 2-4 p.m. Writing Workshop Hist. Soc. 7:30 p.m. Director's Meeting	<p>Foerster Landscaping <i>Serving Blandford & the Hill towns</i> Dump Truck & Bobcat Services [X] Tree Removal [X] Chipping [X] Lawn Care [X] Seasonal & Storm Clean-ups [X] Lot Clearing [X] Jon Letendre 848-2459 or (413) 427-7398 Fully Insured</p>		



Blandford Events Calendar



May	2013					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Falls Brook Farm 39 Herrick Road Blandford, MA 01008 Fresh Eggs! Pygora yarn from our own herd. Open Wednesday through Sunday 8 am to 6 pm. 413.848.2846 □ FallsBrookFarm@verizon.net www.FallsBrookFarm.com			1	2 Library open 1-8 p.m.	3	4 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Hist. Soc. 9:30 a.m. White Church Spring Cleaning
5	6 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA: 9:00 - 10:00 Strength, Flexibility & Balance Class	7 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	8	9 Library open 1-8 p.m.	10	11 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
12 Mother's Day	13 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA: 9:00 - 10:00 Strength, Flexibility & Balance Class	14 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	15	16 Library open 1-8 p.m. Hist. Soc. 7:30 p.m. Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival, 20th Anniversary held at White Church	17 Library open 5-8 p.m.	18 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
19	20 Library open 5-8 p.m. COA: 9:00 - 10:00 Strength, Flexibility & Balance Class	21 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	22	23 Library open 1-8 p.m.	24 Library open 5-8 p.m.	25 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
26	27 Memorial Day Parade 11 a.m. Picnic to follow in park Hist. Soc. Open House after parade	28 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	29	30 Library open 1-8 p.m.	31	

Watson Park

An incomplete history

Mary Kronholm

Some time in the 1920s, landscape plans for the development of Watson Park were secured by the town, at no expense, but came from a new planning and development office in Springfield. Herbert W. Headle of the Springfield Emergency Relief Construction Act office was in charge of the refurbishing.

The native growth of hemlock, pines, birches, laurel and other desirable shrubs and flowers were part of the overall plan. The main entrance was to have been on Russell Road, where the former elementary school, now town hall stands. There was a parking area is just about the same location. Where the school is, the plan was for a beautiful pair of stone bridges that crossed a stream to paths that wound over more bridges at either end of what was a good sized pond.

Bridle paths trailed off to the south before going to the top of the hill, and wound around returning to the main gate.

Apparently the hemlocks and pines were a long-time feature of the area. According to a local legend, the early settlers took shelter from a storm under the great branches of the hemlocks when they first trekked over the Indian paths to Blandford, where they subsequently settled in and built their homes, schools and churches.

In the 1920s it was expected that later tourists would be able to enjoy the shelter of those

same hemlocks along with the beauty of bridle trails, nature trails, a bird sanctuary, winding streams, and open cooking in the park. There is no reference as to why these plans were apparently abandoned, since the park does not today resemble the original landscape drawings.

The park includes 12.6 acres of the original Watson homestead, and an additional 9.6 acres from Dr. Wallace H. Deane on his death in 1920.

Electa B. Watson died in 1909 and she left her home, the Watson House once situated on Main Street just to the west of the current entrance to the park to Dr. Deane, who used the home as a

summer residence from 1909 until his death.

In the park were fireplaces, swings, a tennis court, horseshoe and croquet courts, as well as flower beds and a rolling green turf that was mowed all season, according to a newspaper report in 1922. It was noted that

townspeople “used the park very little” and that the caretaker found that it was “almost impossible to keep croquet or horseshoe equipment...because it is destroyed or carried away.”

What remains are vestiges of former glory, and between the Garden Club, the Historical Society and the Historical Commission, there is great hope that once again Watson Park will be a showcase.



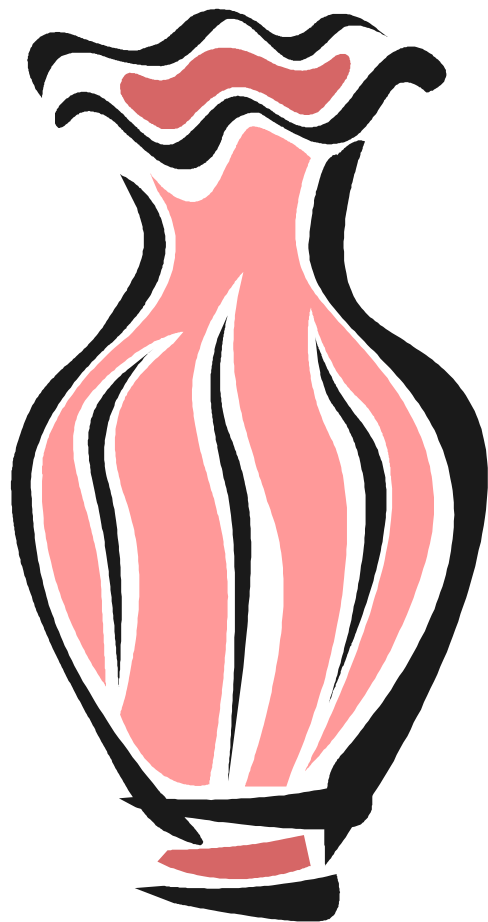
From an original photograph, possibly 1937



Watson Park, circa 1929 ~ from a post card

Happy Mother's Day!

Make a gift for the mom in your life. Draw a beautiful bouquet of flowers for her in this vase. Make sure to add lots of color! Don't be afraid to be creative and even a bit silly. Why not polka dots and stripes?



The Blandford Bugle
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Blandford, MA 01008

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All Blandford things you need to know

Postal Patron
Blandford, MA 01008



The Blandford Bugle

The early years of Watson Park when it was known as the Deane Memorial Park, circa 1929.

From an old post card

Send all communication to:
The Blandford Bugle C/O Recreation Committee
Blandford, MA 01008 Or, Drop in the town box outside town hall
Or, Email us at blandfordbugle@hotmail.com

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