

BLAŻOWA



Issue 6  
November/December 2025

# BLAZOWA'S Past and Present *News and Historical Notes*

Compiled by the Municipal and Communal Library in Blazowa





# Table of contents

Dear Readers . . . . .	3
News from Błazowa . . . . .	3
Old Photos Tell Their Story. . . . .	7
Tales From Years Gone By. Part 5 – Long Preparations	11
Interesting Facts About the Priests of Błazowa . . . .	13
In Tribute to the Unknown Heroes . . . . .	16
Before Winter Comes . . . . .	18
The History of Education in Futoma from 1888 to 2025. Part 1. . . . .	19
25 Years of Municipal Services in Błazowa . . . . .	20
National Reading Campaign 2025 . . . . .	22



## Dear Readers,

As the first year of sharing stories from Błazowa's past and updates from our town comes to a close, we want to express our gratitude for your support and encouragement throughout this journey. We hope you will continue travelling with us through Błazowa's past and present.



As the holiday season approaches, we extend our heartfelt wishes to you, wherever you may be. May the joy of Christ's birth fill your hearts as you celebrate with family and friends. We wish you a year filled with faith, hope, and love.

To our Jewish friends who are preparing to celebrate Hanukkah, may the light of the menorah brighten your homes and fill them with love. We wish you a joyous and blessed Festival of Lights. Chag Hanukkah Sameach!



Anna Heller



Magdalena Kowalska-Cheffey

## News from Błazowa

**In recent months, we have celebrated a series of anniversaries.**

The Primary School in Błazowa Dolna celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. The celebrations began with a solemn Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop Stanisław Jamrozek. In his homily, he emphasised the school's importance in shaping the younger generation and its contribution to the local community.

Following the Mass, a special event was held, attended by the school's principal, current and former teachers, students, local government representatives, residents of Błazowa Dolna, and guests. The event featured a presentation on the school's rich history, shared memories of former teachers, and highlighted the school's achievements over five decades.

There were also artistic performances by students, commemorative presentations, and expressions of gratitude towards those who contributed to the school's development. This gathering provided an opportunity to celebrate together, reflect on the past years, and discuss future developments.

The autumn season at the Primary Music School in Błazowa was filled with remarkable events, artistic achievements, shared experiences, and emotional moments. Alan Chucla, a student at the school, achieved

international recognition by placing 5th in the Classica A category at the 50th International Accordion Competition, Premio Internazionale Fisarmonica, held in Castelfidardo, Italy. This event was particularly significant, as Castelfidardo is widely regarded as the capital of the accordion, and the competition itself is known as the oldest and most prestigious accordion competition in the world. Congratulations, Alan!

On 19 October 2025, a solemn and moving ceremony was held in Futoma to honour Corporal Adolf Mierzwa. He was a soldier of the Polish September



The Primary School in Błazowa Dolna celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.





Campaign, a Siberian exile, and served in General Władysław Anders' Army. As an artilleryman in the 1st Motorised Artillery Regiment of the 1st Armoured Division under Gene-

parish representatives, clergy, and historians who specialise in the history of Błażowa and its surrounding areas. The conference highlighted the church's rich history, its architecture, significant events associated with it, and its role in residents' lives over the past century.

The Friends of Błażowa Land Society celebra-

highlighting their daily duties and the significant roles they played in rural society. The students portrayed hard work in the fields, carrying heavy buckets of water, harvesting potatoes, digging with hoes, and raking. The audience experienced what it was like to be a farmer, beekeeper, blacksmith, miller, and forester, gaining insight into the immense effort required for daily life in the countryside.

The performance also emphasised an important tradition: no one wor-



On 11 November, Błażowa hosted the official celebration of Poland's 107th anniversary of regaining independence.

ral Stanisław Maczek, he had fought valiantly from Falaise to Wilhelmshaven. In recognition of his service, he was posthumously promoted to the rank of second lieutenant in the Polish Army.

The grave of Adolf Mierzwa and his wife, Julianna, who served as a Home Army courier during World War II, has been officially registered as a veterans' grave in recognition of their contributions to Poland's freedom and independence. A commemorative plaque was placed on the grave by their grandson, Łukasz Wieczorek, to honour their legacy.

On 25 October, a conference was held to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the local church. This event brought together residents,

ted its 45th anniversary this year, providing an opportunity to reflect on its achievements and emphasise the association's role in preserving the region's history, culture, and traditions.

On 30 October, second-grade students from Błażowa Primary School presented a folk theatre performance titled „Four Seasons in the Countryside.” The performance provided an engaging and colourful introduction to rural life in the past.

The characters of the farmer and housewife were portrayed,



Adolf Mierzwa was a soldier of the Polish September Campaign, a Siberian exile, and served in General Anders' Army and General Maczek's Armoured Division.

ked on Sundays; it was a day of rest, communal celebration, and feasting. The event was further enhanced by a band performing old folk songs, which transported everyone back to those bygone times. To conclude the performance, the young artists presented a cheerful dance called „Poleczka,” which was enthusiastically received by the audience.

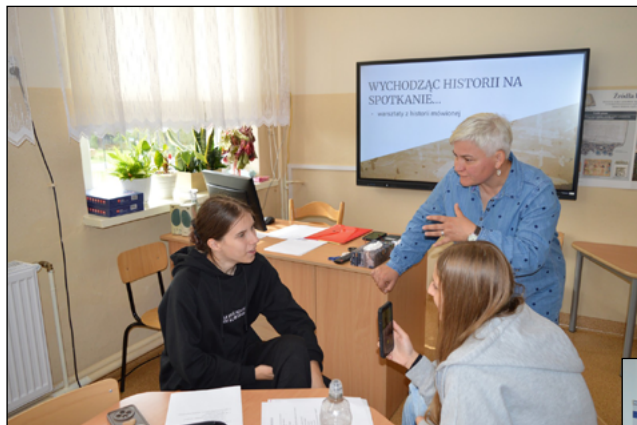


On 7 November, the first „Run for Independence – In the Footsteps of Błażowa Heroes” took place, celebrating the 107th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence.





On 7 November, the first „Run for Independence – In the Footsteps of Błażowa Heroes” took place, celebrating the 107th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence.



During these workshops, we aimed to deepen our understanding of oral history and the significance of social archiving in „saving from obscurity” the people, places, and events that might never appear in history textbooks, yet knowledge of which is essential for a fuller understanding of the past in our small homelands.

The event was organised for students from schools in the Błażowa Commune as well as all residents who wished to commemorate this special day through a sporting activity.

On 9 November 2025, the fifth edition of the patriotic concert „Singing Together Has Power” was held at the Municipal Cultural Centre auditorium. The purpose of this event is for the artists on stage and the audience to sing together in honour of those who fought for independence. The concert primarily features songs from the national liberation uprisings, legionnaire songs from World

War I, and beautiful partisan ballads from World War II.

On 11 November, Błażowa hosted the official celebration of Poland's 107th anniversary of regaining independence. This event marked the final day of this year's three-day celebration, which was full of moving moments and patriotic activities, honouring those who sacrificed

their lives for a free Poland.

The official ceremonies began with a procession of banner bearers and guests, led by the Brass Band under the direction of Krzysztof Ogorzelec, as they made their way to St. Martin's Church in Błażowa. Following a solemn Mass dedicated to those who died defending their homeland, flowers were laid at the monument commemorating the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence.

After the ceremony at the monument, participants marched through the town's streets to the auditorium of the Municipal Cultural Centre, where a commemorative ceremony was held.

Our project, titled „I Will Tell You About the Błażowa Land, Which No Longer Exists,” is part of the „Act Locally” initiative and includes oral history workshops for young people. During these workshops, we aimed to deepen our understanding of oral history and the significance of social archiving in „saving from obscurity”



Presentations at local schools about the importance of donating blood.

the people, places, and events that might never appear in history textbooks, yet knowledge of which is essential for a fuller understanding of the past in our small homelands.

The goal of our workshops was not only to familiarise participants with the theoretical aspects but also to help them acquire practical skills. We learned how to engage with



On 30 November, the Informal Historical Group „To Save from Obscurity” organised a walking tour of Błażowa, exploring locations integral to our town's history.



witnesses of history, record their memories, and archive and interpret these accounts.

Composing practical open-ended questions and properly setting up recording equipment requires specific training. The students recorded each other during mock interviews, which we later analysed together, identifying areas for improvement as well as those aspects where we excelled almost instinctively. Excerpts from the collected stories will be featured in a documentary film premiering on 17 December, which will also be available to watch on YouTube.

On 30 November, the Informal Historical Group „To Save from Obscurity” organised a walking tour of Błażowa, exploring locations integral to our town's history. We began our journey at Maria Bator's former general store and concluded at the church. Old photographs enhanced the stories we shared about the various places we visited, including the stores, restaurants, bakeries, and butcher shops that once thrived in our town. This was just the first part of our project, as there are many more sites we wish to rediscover.

After the walk, we gathered at the library, where we enjoyed refreshments while watching a film related to the places we had explored.

Stay tuned for more updates! Please follow our website and Facebook page for the latest news. The „Działaj Lokalnie” („Act Locally”) program is an initiative of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation, implemented by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland and the „Działaj Lokalnie” Centres.

**Magdalena Kowalska-Cheffey**



The walk generated significant interest.



The walk ended in the library.





Jakub Heller

## Old Photos Tell Their Story

### Bringing photography to life

Using AI to animate old photos has recently become a popular way to bring still images to life. These tools utilise facial mapping, voice synchronisation, and motion prediction to add natural movements to vintage portraits. From family photo collections to old



Still from an AI animation.

Kalandyk bakery in Błazowa. The results were quite amusing: the foal ended up with two rumps, the coachman appeared to be holding a rifle, even though he hadn't had one before, and the wagon had planks instead of wickerwork.

While moving images are visually striking and can spark the imagination, it's important to remember that AI creates them and should be viewed with caution. They represent



Original photo.

vinyl records, people are using this technology to bring familiar faces back to life. A „live” photo definitely attracts more attention than a standard post. You can animate pictures of your grandfather, great-grandmother, pets, or even famous historical figures.

I decided to test this technology using a photo of a coachman and a queue of people buying bread at the

a particular interpretation of the past rather than reliable historical sources.

Link to the image: <https://www.facebook.com/100064422804930/videos/pcb.1280942964063118/2303991746736373>

Time flows relentlessly, and unfortunately, we cannot stop it. Only old photographs can capture the atmosphere





of years gone by. A moment preserved on paper serves as a testament to the lives and activities of those who came before us and, like us, had their own families, dreams, and plans. They lived!

Looking at old photos of Błażowa offers an extraordinary journey into our city's past, revealing many places that no longer exist or have changed significantly. It's important to remember that visiting a photographer was once a remarkable event. These photographs document important moments in the lives of families and communities.

This time, I would like to present a selection of group photos. Unfortunately, people rarely provide descriptions

for these images. Over the years, many of them fade into just... pictures of unknown individuals.

As always, I encourage you to share your memories, not only through old photos. Perhaps someone would like to highlight an event from our region in the „Kurier Błażowski” page, share a fascinating family story, or engage others in their passion. If you have historical photos at home that you'd like to share, you are warmly invited to visit the library. The images will be scanned with the owners' permission and returned afterwards.

**Jakub Heller**







In the past, taking a photo was a significant event.





Wilczak, 1930s.





Anna Gellermann

## Tales From Years Gone By. Part 5 – Long Preparations



On 25 October 2025, at 9:00 AM, a solemn Mass was held in thanksgiving for the 125th anniversary of the construction of the parish church in Błażowa. As I stood among the other faithful of the parish, with the organ's sound and the fragrance of incense surrounding us, I envisioned all the priests who, according to the Church's belief in the communion of saints, were concelebrating this Mass from the afterlife. Among them was Father Leon, who was delighted to see that the church in Błażowa had withstood all the storms and remained filled with the singing and prayers of the faithful after 125 years.

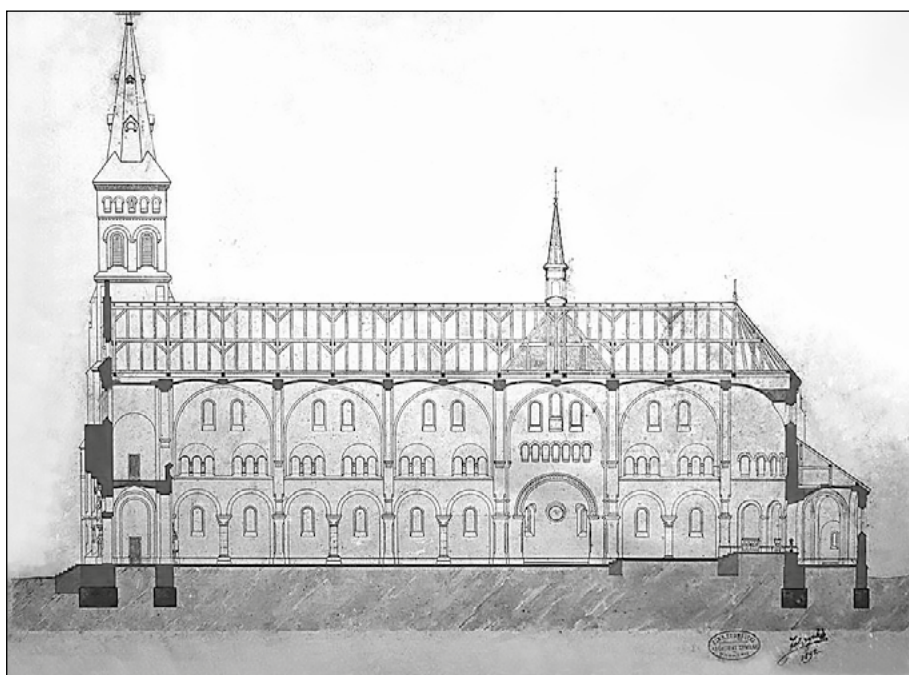
After a solemn Mass attended by Bishop Stanisław Jamrozik of Przemyśl, a popular science conference was held to commemorate the anniversary of the church's construction and the 45th anniversary of the Society of Friends of the Błażowa Land. The conference featured many interesting lectures. In this article, I will reference notes I took during Rev. Prof. Jan Twardy's lecture titled „The Construction of the Church of St. Martin in Błażowa,” information from our parish's website, and the „Memoirs” of Kazimierz Krygowski, the sculptor who designed the church's furnishings.

Let's return to the year 1879.

On 29 June, young Leon Kwiatkowski, just 27, was ordained a priest in Przemyśl by Bishop Maciej Hirschler. In August of that same year, he embarked on his journey to his first parish, where he would serve as a vicar for two years. He was likely satisfied with Bishop Ostoja-Solecki's decision to assign him to the Błażowa parish. The parish priest there, Father

on me and ignited a desire to assist my parish priest with this project, even as a young vicar. I was the first to order several cartloads of stones to ensure a successful beginning.” Over time, an abundance of stone was brought to the church, eventually surrounding the entire church square. In response, Father Markiewicz asked the parishioners to place the stone in their own yards, as there was no longer any space around the church.

Additionally, Father Markiewicz began raising funds for construction and successfully collected 1,600 Rhenish Gold. After two years, Father Leon was transferred to Tyczyn, where he worked for 15 months. In May 1883, Bishop Ostoja-Solecki visited the Błażowa parish. The wooden and brick church, constructed in 1822, has



Project for the church in Błażowa.

Bronisław Markiewicz, was someone he knew from Przemyśl and had been his confessor since high school. He anticipated working in a pleasant and friendly atmosphere.

Here's how he recalled the day he arrived in Błażowa: „On 16 August 1979, I arrived in Błażowa as a newly ordained priest, serving as a young vicar. That same day, when I entered the old church for the first time with Father Markiewicz, my first parish priest, he said to me, „Father Leon, we will be building a new brick parish church, because this one is narrow and small.” His words made a strong impression

developed cracks over time. The bishop also notes that the church is too small to accommodate the large number of worshippers, and the air inside is hot, stuffy, and potentially harmful to health.

The idea of building a new House of God has found a new advocate. It was already known that after seven years of work in Błażowa, Father Bronisław Markiewicz would be returning to Przemyśl to teach pastoral theology at the local seminary. In light of this, Father Markiewicz has requested that the bishop appoint Father Leon Kwiatkowski as the new parish



priest. He believed the young vicar had the spiritual and organisational potential to manage such a significant undertaking.

The request was approved, and in March 1884, at the age of 34, Father Leon became the administrator of the parish in Błażowa. In April, he took on the role of parish priest. Preparing for construction, gathering funds and materials, and selecting a suitable location required significant time and effort.

Initially, an architect from Przemyśl, Ostrowski, was approached to design; however, his vision was not well-received. As a result, Ramułt from Lviv and Jan Sas-Zubrzycki from Kraków were invited to collaborate on the project. Ultimately, it was Jan Sas-Zubrzycki's design that gained recognition and was selected for implementation. Father Kwiatkowski suggested that Jan Sas-Zubrzycki use Ostrowski's drawings as a reference. Still, Sas-Zubrzycki chose to create his own unique design instead.

In contrast to the prevailing fashion of his time, the young architect drew inspiration from the oldest buildings dating back to the formation of the Polish State. He viewed this approach as both an act of patriotism, honouring the glory days of the

Kingdom, and an architectural choice, as it represented a tried-and-true style that had withstood the test of time for centuries.

The buildings he designed exhibit the heavy, monumental characteristics of Romanesque architecture. In keeping with the eclectic spirit prevalent at the turn of the century, these structures incorporate soaring Gothic elements that add a sense of lightness, making the buildings appear more slender and elegant. The features of both architectural styles—primarily Romanesque elements, which are beautifully balanced with Gothic details—are also evident in the design of St. Martin's Church in Błażowa. In this structure, we can observe a harmonious combination of stone and brick. It features Romanesque semi-circular arches, buttresses, and Gothic ribbed vaults. The design includes a cruciform plan with a nave and transept, along with apses, two towers, and a bell tower. Above the neo-Romanesque stone portal, there is a stunning rose window reminiscent of Gothic cathedrals. The tympanum above the portal bears the inscription „MAGNIFICAT ANIMA MEA DOMINUM.”

The design and model were completed on time and received approval

from the diocesan curia in Przemyśl. The architect showcased the project at an exhibition in Lviv, where he was awarded a gold medal. Zubrzycki also prepared a cost estimate of 200,000 crowns; adjusting this to today's currency is quite challenging, but it would likely amount to tens of millions of zlotys. Years later, after the church was built and completed, Father Kwiatkowski reviewed the total cost and determined it to be 230,000 crowns. This indicates that the initial estimate was quite accurate.

Along with raising funds, gathering materials, and preparing the design, the next task was to select a site for the new church. This proved to be a very challenging endeavour.

Previously, churches that not only served liturgical functions but also provided defence during Tatar invasions were often built in wetlands and marshes, which were plentiful in the Błażowa area. Records indicate that these locations effectively fulfilled their protective roles in such situations. The most recent church was constructed in the city centre, close to the road. Unlike earlier churches that served a defensive purpose, this one was designed to be easily accessible to residents and to stand out as one of the city's most significant buildings.



Map of Błażowa from 1853



In his „Memoirs,” written towards the end of his life, Kazimierz Krygowski discusses the challenges of selecting a building site for a church. He likely learned about these issues through stories, as he was not in Błażowa at the time. Krygowski began working on the church furnishings only after the church was completed.

„Kwiatkowski's stubbornness serves as the best evidence that there was a beautiful hill above the church, which the entire parish population clamoured for to build a new church. In response, the priest fled to his relatives. He stayed with them for a few weeks and remained unconvinced by the architect, the priests, or even his own brothers. Ultimately, he got his way and built the church on what was formerly Jewish sewage.” He argued that the church's foundation, built partly on stable and partly on unstable ground, would lead to instability. We now know that cracks appeared in the walls during the 1920s and 1940s. In January 1964, the ground beneath the rectory buildings began to slide, putting pressure on the church wall and causing serious cracks in both the walls and vaults. The residents of Błażowa bravely fought to save the building from collapse. Was it truly Father Leon's stubbornness alone that led to this seemingly poor choice of location?

Father Professor Jan Twardy's lecture provided further insight into this topic. The selection of the final construction site took two years. Father Kwiatkowski suggested several different locations, including a hilltop site above the current location, which Krygowski had mentioned. However, all of these locations were rejected by the parish council for various reasons. The hilltop site, in particular, was deemed unsuitable, especially for the elderly and those with mobility issues. Several proposals were considered for the location, including sites near the bridge on Ryjak, adjacent to the cemetery, at the former old school, on the plain towards Rzeszów, and where the Jagiełło monument currently stands. However, none of these options was accepted.

In the end, a decision had to be made. Father Leon determined that the new church would be built on the site of the previous one. This choice faced resistance from residents, but perhaps it was the priest's persistence, as noted in Krygowski's diary, that ultimately enabled the construction to move forward. Without this determination, consistency, and patience, it might not have been possible to carry out such a significant and costly project at that time, especially in

impoverished Galicia during the Austrian partition and without the support of the state or today's European Union subsidies.

Dr Monika Gała-Walczowska highlighted in her lecture about the architecture of our church that the construction site was chosen in consultation with Jan Sas-Zubrzycki. According to her, the location is ideal from an urban planning perspective. The church's position remains convenient for both worshippers and tourists, and its beautiful design, situated in the heart of Błażowa, enhances the city's charm like a jewel in a crown.

Father Kwiatkowski believed that fundraising should rely on voluntary donations rather than mandatory contributions from parishioners' households. He emphasised the importance of ensuring that the construction did not place an undue burden on residents. Each individual should give freely, whether through their labour or financial contributions, according to their means and without feeling compelled. Over 27 years, funds were raised for the construction and furnishing of the church. In the next instalment of „Kurier Błażowski”, I will discuss how the contributions were collected, the donors and benefactors involved, and the Golden Book.

Anna Gellermann



Zdzisław Chlebek

## Interesting Facts About the Priests of Błażowa

Parish priest **Tomasz Raskowicz** hailed from Pyzdry in Greater Poland. He

served our parish for 44 years, from 1582 to 1626, during the transition from the 16th to the 17th centuries. Significant activity and accomplishments within the parish marked his tenure. Raskowicz is widely regarded as an exceptional priest and humanist. He lived and worked during the late 16th century, often referred to as the „Golden Age of Polish Culture,” and

the 17th century, a period marked by devastating wars and natural disasters. He established a scholarship fund to support talented and underprivileged youth from Pyzdry and Błażowa. He initially donated 1,000 złoty and later contributed another 1,000 złoty. Thanks to these funds, several gifted young men were able to study at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. During his tenure as parish priest, records indicate that a thriving church hospital operated. Toward the end of his life, he made preparations to help the church effectively defend against



the Tatars, who attacked Błażowa, Harta, and the upper Futoma in 1624.

In 1624, Vicar **Feliks Moreszewicz** from Przeclaw was captured during the Tatar invasion of Błażowa, Futoma, and Harta, while serving under Parish Priest Raskowicz. Somewhere in Moldavia, he managed to escape and eventually returned to Błażowa, where he continued his work in the parish until his death.

Father **Jan Nepomucen Szarmachowski** was a long-time parish priest, serving from 1744 to 1794, according to some sources, for a total of exactly



50 years. This indicates that he likely became the parish priest at a young age and enjoyed a long life and good health.

Other sources indicate that he served as the parish priest from 1775 until his death in 1809, amounting to 34 years of leadership in the Błażowa parish. Documents collected by Father Professor Dominik Bialic reveal that in 1800, during Szarmachowski's tenure as parish priest, two conscripts, seeking to evade conscription into the Austrian army, hid in the parish buildings with the priest's knowledge. In their carelessness, they accidentally started a fire in the farmyard, which destroyed most of the parish and farm buildings. This suggests that the timeline of his service as parish priest from 1775 to 1809 is more credible. However, this raises questions about the parish's leadership between 1744 and 1775.

Father **Franciszek Bekier** served as the parish priest from 1809 to 1847. He passed away in Błażowa at the age of 67 during the famine and plague of 1847. In the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, the parish priests of Błażowa were distinguished scholars and active social leaders who significantly contributed to the parish's development in various ways.

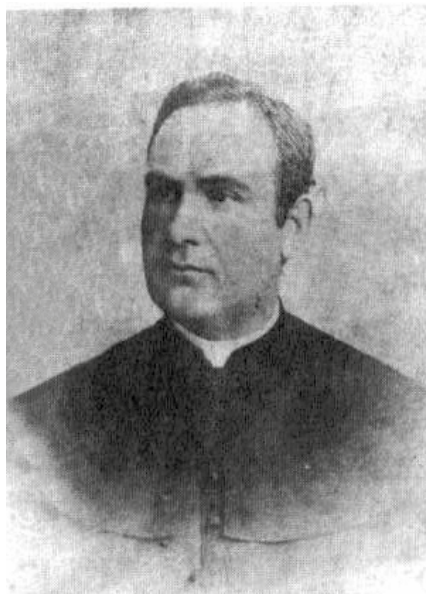
Father **Józef Krukowski** (1870-1877) was instrumental in promoting the establishment of schools within the parish. In 1873, he donated a plot of land for the construction of a new, larger school in Błażowa. He became a member of the school council overseeing the project. Additionally, at his initiative, a primary school was established in Białka. He also possessed a private library of 864 items, which he generously made available to interested parties.

Blessed Father **Bronisław Markiewicz** (1877-1884) was the founder of the Michaelite Order in Miejsce Piastowe. Renowned for his fight against alcoholism, he established the Temperance Brotherhood, the Savings and Loan Company, and was the originator of both the Weaving Society and



the Vocational Weaving School. He also proposed building a new church in Błażowa and initiated fundraising efforts for it. The parishioners expressed their gratitude to this distinguished priest by naming a street after him and commissioning a stained-glass window and a commemorative plaque in his honour.

Father **Leon Kwiatkowski**, the builder of the new church, established the Circle of Founders and Benefactors. Thanks to the generosity of



parish priests, vicars, and faithful individuals from Błażowa, Kąkolówka, Białka, and Lecka, as well as contributions from newlyweds, the Polish diaspora, and various organisations like the „Pomoc” Financing Association, funds were collected over 27 years,

totalling half a million crowns. He also prepared special prayers known as the XII Encouragements and a 14-day retreat.

He founded the „Pomoc” Financing Association, where he served as both a member and president. He initiated the construction of a chapel in the old cemetery, a vicarage, and a bridge. Additionally, he was the president of the Volunteer Fire Department and served on the Board of the Weaving Society. He also spearheaded the establishment of three new parishes in Kąkolówka, Lecka, and Białka, and launched fundraising efforts for these projects. Unfortunately, his ambitious plans were cut short by his premature death from typhus in 1914. The remarkable priest is honoured with a street sign and a commemorative plaque.

Father **Franciszek Lonc** served as a vicar in the parish from 1907 to 1913 and was a passionate theatre enthusiast and director. He closely collaborated with teachers, the youth, the school principal, Walenty Jenke, and Kazimierz Krygowski. His departure from the parish brought great sorrow to the community.

Father **Ignacy Bocheński** served as a catechist and principal of the Primary School from 1927 to 1932. He was a talented teacher and educator

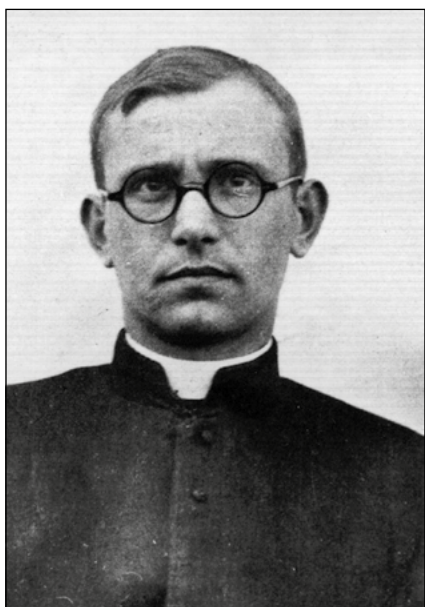


for young people. During the occupation, he participated in clandestine teaching.



In 1922, he founded a theatre group and choir, where he trained young actors for the stage, created set designs, prepared the stage and costumes, and painted decorations. He also demonstrated his talents in painting and photography, as well as a keen interest in writing. Among his artistic works, he painted the Lord's Tomb, a Nativity Scene, and portraits of notable individuals, including Parish Priest Józef Kruczek and Franciszek Danda, who was well known among the residents of Błażowa. Additionally, he purchased a camera with which he created documentary films.

Father **Michał Pilipiec** served as a vicar in Futoma from 1938 to 1939



and in Błażowa from 1939 to 1944. He was a catechist and chaplain for the „BUK” Home Army post in Błażowa, part of the Rzeszów-South Sub-District, and later the Home Army District. Additionally, he was a co-organiser of the „Kuznica” Clandestine Teaching Organisation and published the newspaper „Na posunku.” He attained the rank of captain in the Polish Army.

Father Pilipiec was brutally murdered in the Głogów forests by officers of the Security Service and the Citizens' Militia from Rzeszów. In his honour, one of the streets in Błażowa was named after him. After a significant political turning point, the parishioners decided to rename

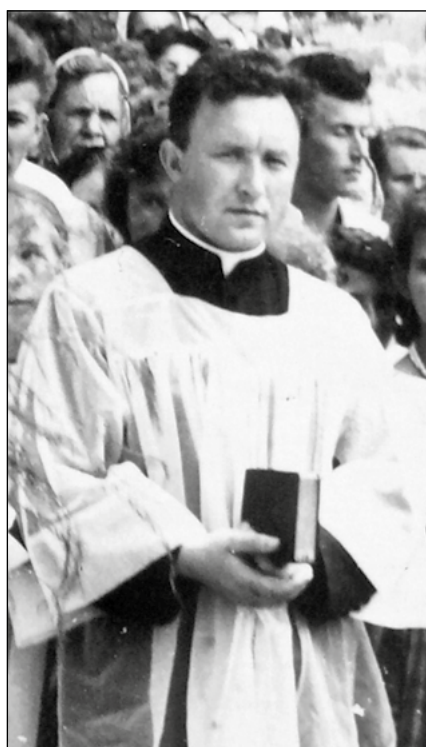
W. I. Lenin Street to Father M. Pilipiec Street.

Father **Józef Kruczek** (1946-1970) was widely respected and recognised by his parishioners for his sensitivity



to human poverty and need. He was a humble man, and his parishioners placed great trust in him. Due to the persecution of those who practised their faith and supported the Church, he often performed weddings and baptisms under the cover of darkness. In addition to his pastoral duties, he had a strong passion for horses and pigeons.

Reverend Prelate **Adolf Kowal** played a crucial role in saving the



church in Błażowa. He served as an exceptional parish priest from 1970 to 1998. He was an outstanding manager and organiser of socio-economic, religious, and cultural life within the parish. His contributions were evident not only during the church's restoration but also in the construction of the church in Białka, the Parish House, the chapel on Dolna Błażowa, and the cemetery chapel. He also managed a parish farm and organised religious, patriotic, and independence celebrations to commemorate Independence Day on 11 November, combined with a parish fair, as well as events for the Constitution Day on 3 May.

He donated parish land for the construction of a health centre, a department store, a cooperative bank, and a high school. Additionally, he collaborated with local authorities, as well as a kindergarten, a primary school, a secondary school, the Municipal Cultural Centre, and the fire department.

In the Parish House, he organised the Błażowa People's University from 1986 to 1989. He invited distinguished professors from Rzeszów, Lublin, and Kraków to give engaging lectures. Notable retreat leaders, such as Father Władysław Zązel from Kamesznica, were also invited. He himself was an excellent retreat leader, conducting retreats for healthcare workers and various other groups. His significant authorities included his fellow countryman, Pope John Paul II, Archbishop of Przemyśl Ignacy Tokarczuk, and Primate of the Millennium Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. During martial law, he supported outstanding artists and creators who were persecuted for their support of Solidarity. He distributed the aid received from Western countries among parishioners in need.

After 1989, he organised retreats for teachers and local government officials and met with school principals. He collaborated with the Ministry for the Teachers. He established the Catholic Youth Association, which included creating a library and café in the



parish house. Additionally, he initiated Catholic Action, organising alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebrations at the parish house for three consecutive years. Just before his death, he invited Radio Maryja to the parish. Many of his ideas were left unrealised due to his untimely passing in 1998 at the age of 65. He is commemorated by a monument erected on the tenth anniversary of his death, a square in front of the school complex, and several commemorative publications.

Father **Michał Drabicki**, the parish priest, organised a meeting with Ra-



dio Maryja at the parish less than six months after the death of his predecessor. He led the parish into the new Third Millennium, which was marked by the erection of the Millennium

Cross in the town green. Together, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Błażowa parish in 2000, commemorated by the restoration of the graves of distinguished priests and the installation of plaques honouring the church's builders. He also oversaw a significant renovation of the Błażowa rectory and the expansion of the Nuns' Convent. Additionally, we shared the experience of mourning the death of Pope John Paul II in 2005.

Next year, Reverend Prelate **Jacek**



**Rawski** will celebrate 20 years of pastoral work in Błażowa. He has proven to be an excellent successor to Father Adolf Kowal. This is evident in several accomplishments, including the major renovation of the interior of the Błażowa church, the successful construction of the church in Błażowa

Dolna, the significant renovation of the Parish House, the reconstruction of the chapel in Wilczak, and the restoration of the historic chapel built by Father Leon Kwiatkowski at the old cemetery.

An excellent way to promote our parish is through a mobile nativity scene, which is continually being improved and enriched. The parish priest is not only a dedicated clergyman but also a devoted pilgrim who has been part of the St. Adalbert Group on pilgrimages to Częstochowa for many years. Each May, we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary at chapels throughout the parish.

He collaborates effectively with the Society of Friends of Błażowa Land, local schools, firefighters, and government authorities, and he actively supports the development of the Community Museum. He pays tribute to the memory of his predecessors, priests Father Michał Pilipiec and Father Adolf Kowal. A great passion of his is hunting, and he celebrates Holy Mass for Hunting Clubs in honour of St. Hubert's feast day.

**Zdzisław Chlebek**

This text is based on numerous articles from „Kurier Błażowski”, authored by Rev. Professor Jan Twardy, Anna and Jakub Heller, Dr Małgorzata Kutrzeba, and Augustyn Rybka. It also includes materials collected by Rev. Professor Dominik Bialic, as well as books by Dr Małgorzata Kutrzeba and Stanisław Koczela. Additionally, the „Golden Book” provided by Rev. Prelate Jacek Rawski has been referenced, along with photographs from the archives of the Błażowa Library.

## In Tribute to the Unknown Heroes

On 2 November, we commemorated the centenary of a memorable event. On that day, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was unveiled in Saxon Square in Warsaw. This monument stands as one of the most important symbols of national remembrance. It honours those who fought and died for their homeland throughout

history—those whose blood has stained countless battlefields, and whose remains lie in nameless graves scattered around the world.

The First World War resulted in millions of casualties, including many who died without their bodies being found or identified. Mothers, fathers, and wives were left waiting in vain for

news about the burial places of their husbands or sons. Frederic Simon, a French patriot and social activist, lost three sons at the front. Despite his diligent searches, he was unable to locate their graves. As a result of his experience, he became one of the movement's pioneers to honour unidentified fallen soldiers.





The focus was not on honouring a „great man.” As they argued, the Unknown Soldier was not a renowned writer, scientist, or politician. He deserved to be buried in a special place dedicated to him because the sacrifice he represents is unmatched, and millions will be commemorated there. In 1920, on the second anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I, the remains of the unnamed fallen soldier were buried under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and in Westminster Abbey in London. Other countries, including Poland, soon joined France and Great Britain.

In 1925, the idea was finally put into action. The chosen location for the memorial was the colonnades of the Saxon Palace in Warsaw.

From fifteen potential battlefields where the body of the unnamed hero could be exhumed, the Cemetery of the Lviv Eaglets was selected by lot. This cemetery contained the remains of soldiers who had fallen in battles against Ukrainians. The process of

choosing the remains to be laid to rest in Warsaw was also influenced by fate. Jadwiga Zarugiewiczowa, whose son had died fighting the Bolsheviks near Zadwórze and was buried in an unmarked grave, chose one of the three exhumed coffins. It happened to contain the remains of a 14-year-old volunteer who had perished in the battle for Lviv. After a ceremony in Lviv, the coffin with the Unknown Soldier's remains was transported to Warsaw.

What was the ceremony like? Let's hear from witnesses. The Warsaw daily „Express Poranny” published a detailed report on the ceremony on Tuesday, 3 November 1925. Here are some excerpts:

„Yesterday, Warsaw experienced one of the most extraordinary days in its history. It was unlike the significant anniversaries from Poland's history celebrated during times of unfreedom, unlike the moments when freedom was welcomed and independence regained, and unlike days marked by

national fear and mourning... unlike a day of triumph and glory.[...]

After the service, an impressive funeral procession emerged from the Cathedral. [...] The coffin carrying the body of the Unknown Soldier was placed on a large gun carriage, draped with a scarlet shroud that featured a white eagle. Bells began to ring! The heavy wheels and harnesses of the gun clattered against the cobblestones, and human hearts beat in unison.

Following the coffin was a symbolic family: two orphans of fallen soldiers, two mothers, and two widows dressed in mourning attire. Then came the invalids—cripples using crutches. The bells continued to ring, and the crutches echoed dully against the cobblestones. Hearts bled with pain as the procession moved forward. [...]

-Present arms!

The ranks of troops fall silent and still, the crowds uncover their heads, the forest of banners bows in respect...



Photograph of soldiers and officers from the 5th Legions Infantry Regiment in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in October 1928. Photo: NAC.



As the national anthem plays, eight non-commissioned officers from all branches of the armed forces, all recipients of the *Virtuti Militari* order, carefully remove the coffin from the gun berth. The wind rustles the Kościuszko eagles, battle symbols of the 1831 insurgents, and the bullet-riddled banners with the Virgin Mary from the 1863 uprising. Funeral bells toll. Following the coffin are the President, the government, and the legislative bodies, along with Minister Sikorski, who is carrying the foundation act enclosed in a tin box adorned with eagles.

An air squadron flies over Saxon Square, its engines roaring in a steady rhythm that mixes with the fluttering hearts of the observers below. The crowd listens intently to the national anthem while gazing at the coffin of the Unknown Soldier. They seem united in a single thought. As the coffin, placed on a crane, slowly descends into the tomb, it vanishes from sight. At that moment, the first powerful

cannon shot is fired from the battery positioned in Saxon Garden, echoing against the city walls. [...]

The President of the Republic approaches the grave and symbolically throws a handful of earth onto the coffin. Minister Sikorski presents the foundation act. Around the coffin, workers place urns filled with soil from all the battlefields that were entered into the draw. Additionally, there are urns containing soil from the Italian and Yugoslav battlefields. Finally, a heavy stone slab inscribed with the words „Here lies a Polish soldier, who fell for his Fatherland” seals the grave. The President of the Republic then lights the Eternal Flame. [...]

Throughout the day, tens of thousands of people passed through Saxon Square. Women knelt at the grave where the Eternal Flame of Love and Remembrance burns, offering prayers for those who died defending their homeland. Four enormous candles illuminated the area, casting dramatic reflections on the General Staff

building, which was adorned with greenery and wreaths from various delegations. The square, once quiet behind the monument to Prince Józef, seemed to come alive with activity. Crowds gathered late into the night to pay homage to the Unknown Soldier, amid solemnity, concentration, and silence.”

A hundred years have passed since that day. We celebrate the gift of freedom and the miracle of an independent Poland. She should not have existed after years of partition, foreign rule, and the turmoil of history. Yet she rose from her knees, breaking the chains through the love and sacrifice of her sons and daughters, including those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Almost every cemetery contains the graves of unknown soldiers. As we visit these cemeteries and light a candle, let us remember them and whisper quietly:

„Sleep, Soldier, in your dark grave –  
May you dream of Poland...”

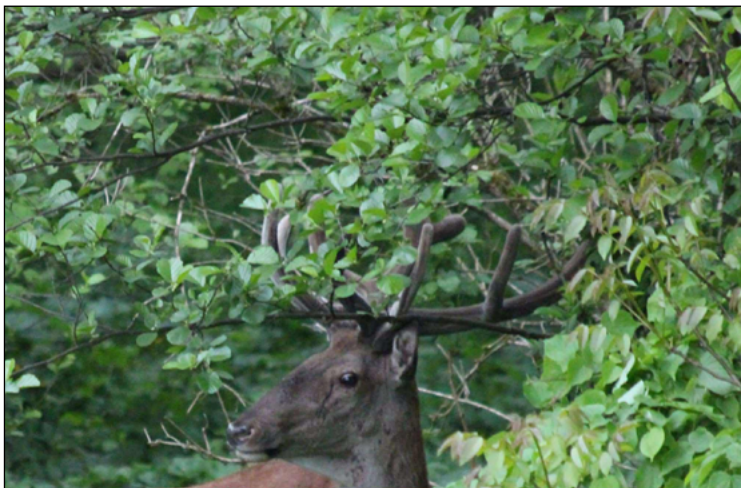
**Magda Kowalska-Cheffey**

## Before Winter Comes

When golden-yellow flames flicker in the fireplace, providing warmth, and the trees outside our window display their vibrant colours, we know that autumn has arrived. The morning mists, the first frosts, and shorter days signal to all the wild animals that it's time to prepare for the challenges of winter ahead.

It's common to observe squirrels busily gathering their favourite nuts for storage. Wild boars roam in packs, foraging for rhizomes and enjoying the leftover corn in the fields, while also searching the forests for beechnuts and acorns. Deer, including the frequently spotted roe

deer and the more elusive red deer, dedicate much of their time to foraging. Our area offers numerous opportunities due to its history as agricultural land, with ample shelter spots, expan-



sive grasslands, abandoned orchards, and popular winter crops.



Badgers actively clean their underground chambers after dusk. They replace their bedding and block some

passages to protect themselves from the approaching cold. Throughout the night, they explore their surroundings in search of tasty morsels. While their diet is now primarily vegetarian, they will also eat carrion when available. The fat stored under their skin serves as an energy reservoir, allowing them to enter a state of lethargy during the harshest frosts.

Autumn is a busy season for the impressive and majestic red deer (*Cervus elaphus*). These large animals have males, known as stags, that can weigh up to 290 kg,



while females, called hinds, can weigh up to 150 kg and stand about 150 cm tall at the shoulder. Red deer have antlers, which they shed and regrow each year, unlike the horns of domestic cattle. Initially, red deer inhabited open grasslands, but they are now more commonly found in forested areas.

Anyone who has ever encountered an adult male of this species will never forget the experience. However, it's not easy to spot them, as they are extremely cautious animals. Once a year, we have the opportunity to witness an extraordinary spectacle during their rutting season, which occurs from mid-September to early October.

During this time, strong adult males follow herds of females, subduing them and guarding them against competitors. Young males, known as spikers, are attracted by the scent of the females in heat and stay nearby, which forces the dominant male to remain vigilant. When males of comparable strength meet, fierce fights can occur, sometimes resulting in one of them dying.

The rut is accompanied by incredible sounds that resonate throughout our forests. The roar of a deer is deafening and varies between individuals. Experts can imitate these calls to attract males. They can also recognise the animal's age and intentions based

on its vocalisations. The sound may serve as a challenge for a fight or a call for the doe. The loudest ruts are often favoured by cold, even frosty weather.

By October, the forest quiets down. Exhausted males, who can lose up to 25% of their body weight during the mating season, begin to form bachelor groups, with the oldest male typically taking the lead. After this tumultuous period, their testosterone levels drop, which triggers the shedding of antlers.



In the autumn, deer change their coats; the new fur is no longer tawny red or rusty brown but a more uniform tawny colour.

Years ago, during the rutting season near an old orchard in Poręby Borkowskie, I frequently spotted bulls close to my house. Their regular path to the forest and the cultivated areas of Wilczak Błazowski passed right through here. The salt I had laid out

served as an attraction and a stopover for them, allowing me to capture these moments in photos. Does with calves and young bulls were much more cautious and harder to spot during the day. They live in groups, led by an experienced doe known as a „licówka”. The female herds tend to be larger. After enduring the hardships of winter, the pregnant females leave the flocks a few weeks before giving birth in late May and early June. If the calves survive, after about six weeks, the doe and her young will rejoin the herd.

I fondly remember the times when deer would „visit” me. Now, such occurrences are extremely rare. Unfortunately, rising urbanisation, fencing, noise, and light pollution have compelled these cautious animals to alter their migration patterns. Additionally, the increasing wolf population is affecting their behaviour, driving them to seek out new habitats more frequently.

Winter is approaching, and it's time to set up bird feeders. Be sure to fill them regularly until April, and ensure the seed is of good quality for the birds' health. If you haven't started feeding them yet, I encourage you to do so. You might be pleasantly surprised by the variety of bird species that visit your feeders.

**Dagmara Wichłacz**

## The History of Education in Futoma from 1888 to 2025. Part 1.

The origins of education in Futoma date back to 1888. During the challenging period of the Partitions, several teachers and social activists gained notable recognition within the local community. Among them were Jan Kolanko, the founder of the Wici Rural Youth Union and the theatre club,

and Józef Makowicz, who directed the choir. In 1913, before the onset of World War I, when the school celebrated its 25th anniversary, they staged an ambitious play titled „Wóz Drzymały” (Drzymala's Wagon), which resonated widely within the local community and among guests.

During the partition period, Saint John Kanty became the school's patron saint, but the exact date of this significant event has not been recorded.

Władysław Halig served as school principal for 18 years, from 1922 to 1940. He established the oldest chronicle in 1923, starting it with a quote





from Marshal Józef Piłsudski's speech to teachers on 10 September 1923:

„To regenerate human souls, transform humanity, and elevate mankind, this is the teacher's mission! You more than anyone deserve recognition for your contribution to Poland's rebirth and the betterment of humanity!”

During the interwar period, the residents of Futoma held the long-

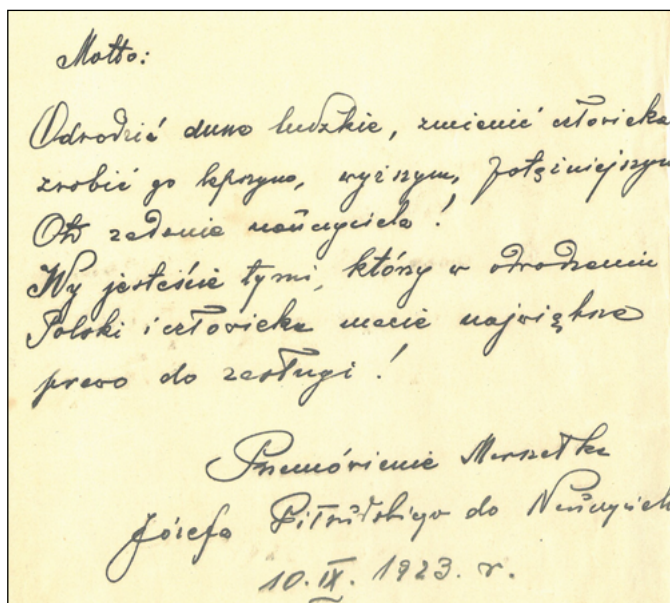
Władysław Halig highlighted the strong collaboration with the parish in shaping the character and minds of the younger generation. Joint



-serving school principal, Władysław Halig, in high regard. Upon assuming his position, he promptly began constructing a new school building. Additionally, the married couple Maria and Leon Horyń made significant contributions to the village's cultural life by founding a choir and a theatre group.

commemorate the school's 50th anniversary. This celebration included honouring the President of Poland, Ignacy Mościcki, and the establishment of the Student Eucharistic Crusade.

His colourful chronicle notes reveal that, despite significant challenges in space, organisation, and staffing,



Christmas wafer exchanges were organised, and in 1938, a ceremonial event was held to

the school served as a vital centre for the development of the village's social and cultural life. Children of the small Jewish minority living in the village attended school alongside their Polish peers.

In 1935, a plot of land was purchased for the construction of a new seven-grade school, and bricks were collected from the local brickyard. However, the outbreak of World War II postponed these ambitious plans.

**Zdzisław Chlebek**

## 25 Years of Municipal Services in Błażowa

This year, the Municipal Services in Błażowa marked the 25th anniversary of its transformation into a limited liability company. However, its history dates back even further, to 1950.

At that time, the municipal and housing department, established by the Praesidium of the Municipal National Council, employed four „street sweepers.” Their task was to maintain order and cleanliness in our city.

Over the following years, the scope of activities expanded. In 1968, another company was established to handle construction and renovation work on houses, streets, roads, and municipal facilities.



The 25th anniversary of Municipal Services provided an opportunity to thank all those involved in the Company's development.



On 1 January, 1971, the District Municipal and Housing Management Office was established in Błażowa, under the District National Council in Rzeszów. Its area of operation included the towns of Błażowa, Tyczyn, and Głogów Małopolski.



The scope of operations continued to encompass municipal matters as well as renovation and construction

Błażowa, serving both Błażowa and Tyczyn. Starting on 1 January, 1991, it functioned as an organisational unit within the Błażowa commune.

The next step involved Błażowa's membership and the execution of



tasks within the „Wisłok” Municipal Association in Rzeszów, which was officially registered on 17 February, 1994. The main task of the Associa-



There were expressions of gratitude and praise.

issues. Following the administrative reorganisation of the country in 1975, which dissolved the District National Councils, the Housing and Municipal Services Company was established in Łańcut. This Company also opened branches in Błażowa and Głogów Małopolski.

In February 1981, an independent Municipal and Housing Services Company was established in

tion was to carry out environmental protection activities in its member municipalities, with a primary focus on preventing adverse changes in the water quality of the Wisłok River basin. The „Wisłok” Inter-Municipal Association was dissolved on 30 June, 2014, following a resolution passed by the Association's General Assembly.

On 8 December 1999, the City Council passed a resolution to transform

the Municipal and Housing Services Company into a single-member limited liability company for the Błażowa commune. As a result, it began operating as a commercial entity under the name „Gospodarka Komunalna w Błażowej Spółka z o.o.” The em-



ployees from the previous organisation became employees of this newly established Company.

Some of the original employees still work there today. The Company has its headquarters in a former bakery building located on 3 Maja Street in Błażowa. Since its inception, it has undertaken various projects to serve our community, including water acquisition, water treatment, sewage disposal, construction of municipal facilities, renovations, repairs, waste collection, and maintaining cleanliness and order.

Over the years, our employees' dedication and the strategic directions set by the Company's management have enabled consistent growth and a stronger market position. As time went on, we expanded our services beyond our municipality, reaching out to other municipalities as well.

There is much to say about our activities and the achievements we have attained over the years. However, I want to emphasise the individuals





who have made our development and growth possible. Among these are our longest-serving employees, including Lucyna Bocek, Wiesław Dziepak, Marta Filip, Paweł Kruczek, Ryszard Kutrzeba, and Marta Płaza.

They are familiar with every corner, every process, and every employee who has been part of our Company. During the anniversary ceremony, employees were presented with statuettes in recognition of their dedicated work over the past twenty-five years. Those who joined later and consistently demonstrated their commitment to

completing tasks, even under challenging, unfavourable conditions, for the benefit of the residents, were also honoured.

The anniversary provides a chance to express our gratitude to our contractors, clients, and advisors—essentially, everyone who has played a role in the Company's development. We extend our thanks to the members of the Supervisory Board, the Mayor of Błażowa, the City Council members, the presidents and employees of our partner municipal companies and institutions, and the residents of our municipality.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone—though it would be impossible to mention everyone by name—who, over the past few years, has overcome obstacles in pursuit of their goals with unwavering commitment and perseverance. Your efforts have significantly contributed to the development of a stable, modern company that is both resident-friendly and environmentally conscious. We can truly be proud of what we have achieved together.

**Jadwiga Szermach**



After the official proceedings concluded, the DJ invited everyone to join him on the dance floor.

## National Reading Campaign 2025

The National Reading Campaign has been organised by the President of the Republic of Poland since 2012. Its goal is to promote classic Polish literature and encourage reading among people of all ages.

On 27 September, this year's edition of the National Reading took place at the „Ostatni Grosz” (“The Last Penny”) inn in the hamlet of Wilczak, Błażowa. The event was made

possible thanks to the generosity of Augustyn Rybka. The inn is located in a charming area surrounded by forest, near the „Potoki” Museum of Material Culture.

Ms Stefania Dyło, a long-time educator with extensive knowledge and a passion for literature, introduced us to the works of Jan Kochanowski.

Jan Kochanowski is regarded as one of Poland's most distinguished

poets and a prominent figure of the



Anna Heller



European Renaissance. He was born in 1530 in Sycyna, near Zwoleń. Kochanowski studied at the Kraków Academy and the University of Padua, and



Stefania Dyto

he travelled extensively throughout Europe in his youth. In 1559, he returned to Poland and took on the role of courtier at both the magnate courts and the royal court. Several years later, he permanently settled on his hereditary estate in Czarnolas, where he dedicated himself to writing. Jan Kochanowski is considered one of the most outstanding Polish poets and one of the greatest European creators of the Renaissance. He was born in 1530 in Sycyna near Zwoleń. He studied at the Kraków Academy and the University of Padua, and travelled throughout Europe in his youth. In 1559, he returned to Poland

and accepted a position as a courtier at the magnate courts and the royal court. A dozen or so years later, he settled permanently on a hereditary estate in Czarnolas, devoting himself to writing.

During this time, he continued to write poems and epigrams. Following the death of his beloved daughter, Urszula, he published a collection of



Jerzy Kocój

poems titled „Laments,” considered a masterpiece of Old Polish literature. Kochanowski passed away suddenly in 1584 while attending the Sejm session in Lublin and was interred in the crypt of the Zwoleń church.

Jan Kochanowski's poetry covers a wide range of topics, from serious and significant themes to lighter, more

humorous ones. He portrays life at court and among the gentry, incorporating patriotic themes, moral reflections, and references to ancient and biblical texts. His poems exhibit a humanistic approach to religion, an appreciation for life, and profound reflections on transience and human destiny. Kochanowski played a vital role in the development of the Polish literary language, and his remarkable works continue to inspire and resonate today.

Jan Kochanowski's works were read by local authorities, librarians, and friends of the Błazowa Library.

The conversations at the



Jadwiga Szermach

beautifully set table were not limited to poetry; they enriched this wonderful afternoon even further.

**Anna Heller**







**BLAZOWA'S**  
Past and Present  
*News and Historical Notes*  
Compiled by the Municipal and Communal Library in Blazowa

Issue's editors: Jakub Heller, Magdalena Kowalska-Cheffey  
Translations: Magdalena Kowalska-Cheffey  
Typesetting and technical editing: Jakub Heller  
Photography: Jakub Heller and others  
Archive photographs: Jakub Heller's Collection, Municipal and Communal Public Library in Blazowa  
Unless otherwise specified the editors do not return received materials. We reserve the right to edit and shorten texts and change titles. Signed articles reflect the views of their authors only. Reprinting is permitted with the source indicated. The editors are not responsible for the content of advertisements.

Composition completed 6 December 2025

Editorial office address: Miejsko-Gminna Biblioteka Publiczna,  
36-030 Błazowa, ul. 3 Maja 24, tel. 17 22 97 170  
e-mail: blazowa.past.and.present@gmail.com

Webside: [www.biblioteka.blazowa.net](http://www.biblioteka.blazowa.net)  
[kurier-blazowski/blazowa-past-and-present/](http://kurier-blazowski/blazowa-past-and-present/)  
[www.facebook.com/bibliotekablazowa](http://www.facebook.com/bibliotekablazowa)  
[www.facebook.com/hellerjakub](http://www.facebook.com/hellerjakub)





