

The Oaks



Inside this issue:

Bucklebury Parish Council	
WB Councillors	8
Family	9
Organisations	13
Country Life	17
Halls	20
Exercise	20
Sport	22
Contributions	23

Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

I make no apology for once again devoting space in this letter to a major issue of concern in the Parish namely the West Berkshire Council Local Plan (LP) and, within it, the proposed NE Thatcham development. The Local Plan process has now moved into the next phase which will involve a public examination by an Inspector during May and June.

In line with the views of the majority of our residents the Parish Council will continue to oppose this development on a number of counts, principally, the environmental impact, the sustainability of the development, a projected vast increase in traffic through Upper Bucklebury and Chapel Row, without any associated road improvements, and the insidious merging of Upper Bucklebury and Thatcham. We are working closely with Thatcham Town Council who are addressing other significant concerns such as medical and education provision, flooding, supporting infrastructure and WBC's shortcomings in consultation on the LP.

Over 70 parishioners attended a meeting on 9th February to learn how the 'Bucklebury Says No' campaign will be responding to the public examination. Our consultants, who supported us during the previous LP phase, are on board again and spoke at the meeting. Our initial response to the Inspector's preliminary questions has just been submitted. Keep abreast of developments via the PC website.

This year the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 1944 with a series of major commemorations and events across

the UK and in France. Also known as D-Day, the historic operation saw the Allied Forces mount a large-scale invasion of Nazi-occupied France that ultimately tipped the course of the Second World War in the Allies' favour. Along with many other communities across the country the Parish Council has decided we should take part in the commemorations by lighting a beacon at 9.15pm on 6th June on the Hockett Field. We are proposing to have a beacon stand fabricated which will be able to be used at future celebrations and commemorations. The International Tribute will be read out which recognises those whose sacrifice enables us to have the freedoms we enjoy in our way of life. It is worth remembering young men quartered in Bucklebury in 1944 left to embark on ships bound for the D-Day invasion beaches.

Two days later on 8th June there will be a Best of Bucklebury event. The plan is for arts and crafts and history exhibitions, Church floral displays, teas in the Victory Room, open gardens and activities at the Cottage Inn. Keep an eye out for more details on these two events in the coming weeks.

The PC continues to press WBC about the general condition of our roads and associated road signs and markings. We tend to think of potholes and resurfacing but let's not forget missing and damaged road signs, indistinct white lines and dirty road signs all of which have an influence on road safety. For once, in the short term, finance should not be an issue as Central Government recently awarded an additional £679K to WBC towards road

Parish Council Chairman:
Barry Dickens

Parish Council Clerk:
Helen Pratt

The Oaks Editorial Team
Editor: Barry Dickens
Typography: Helen Pratt
Proofing: Lindy Clarke &
Anne Hillerton

maintenance. Our District Councillor, Chris Read, is fully engaged with WBC Highways Dept on this matter including the present troubling slowness of their response.

Cllr. Barry Dickens—Chair of BPC.

Parish Council Matters Arising

Latest News on the Local Plan and the NE Thatcham development (SP17)

The Local Plan review has been submitted for public enquiry. The independent Inspector has asked his preliminary questions of West Berkshire Council and has set out a plan for public hearings which will take place in May/June this year.

The ‘Bucklebury Says No’ Bucklebury Parish Council Working Group, held a public meeting in Upper Bucklebury on 9th February to update parishioners and to provide a further opportunity for questions to the panel of experts, including Chris Read, Councillor (Bucklebury) and BPC’s consultant, Andrew Black. Chris Read’s overview of the current situation, a summary of the comments and updates from the panel, and the questions asked, can all be found on the BPC website.

The background to the present situation, in brief, is that in late 2023 WBC’s LibDem majority tried firstly to alter the submission to remove Northeast Thatcham (THA20) but the inspectorate declined. An EGM in December 2023 was called to vote to have the Local Plan submission withdrawn but the power to do so was negated at the last minute by the Minister of State, Lee Rowley MP. The Minister’s Letter of Intervention can be seen on the BPC website. The LibDem leader, Lee Dillon, wrote to the Minister but the current submission remains the one which will be examined at the public enquiry.

At the public meeting in Upper Bucklebury in February, Andrew Black, BPC’s consultant, outlined the next steps. The Independent Inspector, William Fieldhouse, will be assessing the plan against the four tests of soundness as set

out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), namely that it is: positively prepared, justified, effective, and is consistent with national policy. The notes of the meeting include more details on the Local Plan Examination and the key issues to be presented. Key dates in this process are:

- 16th February 2024 – Initial matters statements. A copy of these statements, prepared by Andrew Black on behalf of BPC, is on the BPC website.
- 22nd March 2024 – Further matters statements (including the NE Thatcham Policy for SP17)
- May/June 2024 – Hearings

The ‘Bucklebury Says No’ BPC Working Group will continue to update parishioners on the Local Plan and the hearings. See the BPC website (NEThatcham Development) and the Facebook page: “*Say NO to Thatcham NE Development (2500 houses in the countryside)*”. Alternatively, you can email us at BuckleburySaysNo@gmail.com and we will send out updates.

Allison Butcher—Bucklebury Says No Working Group.

Thursday Coffee Mornings

**Last Thursday of the month
Bucklebury Memorial Hall,
Upper Bucklebury
10.30am – 12 noon**

Thursday 28th March 2024
Thursday 25th April 2024
Thursday 30th May 2024
Thursday 27th June 2024
Thursday 25th July 2024
Thursday 29th August 2024



All Welcome – come and enjoy a cuppa!

If you need a lift, please call

Helen on 01635 863581

Community Coffee Mornings

The monthly parish coffee mornings at the Memorial Hall continue to be well attended. The numbers have slowly increased and expansion from the Oak Room to the Main Hall is planned for the future to allow the attendance to continue to grow.

Free coffee and tea and a wonderful array of cakes makes for a great way to catch up with established friends and also provides the opportunity to create some new ones. All parishioners are invited and the event is normally held between 10:30 to 12:00 on the last Thursday of the month. New Parishioners are welcome to come. Any questions on the event or access options please contact the Bucklebury Parish Clerk.

Cllr. David Southgate.

Speed Reduction in the Parish

Our small band of devoted volunteers have continued to deploy SID (Speed Indicator Device) in the parish in 2023. Over 252,000 car movements were recorded in 2023 by SID with reductions in speed being recorded when it has been deployed. The acquisition of SID by the Parish Council and its deployment by parishioners is our current approach to addressing the serious speeding issues that exist.

We now have funding for new Community Speed Watch (CSW) signage.

Our District Cllr Chris Read has been chasing up WBC Senior Management over the broken Vehicle Activated Speed Indicator signs and our hope is that these will finally be repaired over the coming month as a consequence of sustained requests from both Chris and many members of the local community. Ours are two of thirteen currently awaiting repair in WB.

I am aware speed remains a key concern for many members of the community and would encourage them to come forward to volunteer to help deploy SID and CSW. Both TVP and WBC have limited resources and see the majority of the activity in this area falling upon local volunteers. If you wish to help address this issue please contact Councillor David Southgate or the Bucklebury Parish Clerk.

Cllr. David Southgate.

Bucklebury Cemetery

Those of you who visit the Cemetery on a regular basis, may have noticed that a number of the shrubs have been cut back. This has been to discover the wording on some memorials and has led to the discovery of memorials which have been hidden for many years.

A willing parishioner volunteered, initially to look at recording the memorials in the Cemetery, but this has morphed into a much bigger, very rewarding and interesting project. Over half of the old Cemetery has currently been remapped with the assistance of memorials, the Burial Register, old paperwork and a little guess work.

Since the Cemetery was laid out in around 1885, the plots in the old Cemetery have been renumbered at least three times. There are also periods of time during when burials were entered in the Burial Register with no associated plot number.

The work has led to some interesting questions, particularly about what names should be included on a memorial. In several cases memorials have been found with the correct surname, but a different Christian name or a nickname, by which they were known—but it doesn't tally with the register! A number of names have been found on memorials which don't appear in the Burial Register and it is unclear whether or not they are actually buried there.

We'll include more information and some of the stories discovered in a future edition of The Oaks.

Helen Pratt—Clerk to BPC.

Grit bins

The grit/salt bins in the Parish have all been cleared of brambles and topped up in case we have snow or ice over the coming months so they can be used by local parishioners on our public roads and public footpaths. If they are being used and the levels are getting low please contact the Bucklebury Parish Clerk to ensure we can arrange for a refill in a timely manner.

Cllr. David Southgate.

Planning

Planning has been relatively quiet for the last few months with BPC being consulted on very few applications. Having said that there is a long list of applications below, many of which have been in the “planning system” for a significant period of time awaiting determination (approval or refusal). The good news is that many of these applications have now been determined and there are a lot less applications (in Bucklebury) awaiting determination. Hopefully this means that the Planning Department is beginning to get back on top of things!

You might notice that BPC has “supported” the application for the extension to the Western and Eastern Carparks, Broad Lane (the car parks on either side of the Common straight or Camp Road). BPC only supports applications which have a benefit to the community as a whole. As a general rule, BPC only offers “object” or “no objection” to private applications.

Helen Pratt—Clerk to BPC.

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
21/02133/FULMAJ	<u>Frilsham Lime Quarry (Adjacent Parish).</u> Two new residential dwellings (Use Class C3) of exceptional quality and design, garaging, access, hard and soft landscape enhancements, biodiversity improvements and associated works.	Object	Approved
22/01442/FULD	<u>Middle Wood, Hatch Lane.</u> Erection of a dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.	No Objection	Refused. Dismissed on appeal
23/00562/FUL	<u>Oak Acre House.</u> 28 panels mounted via a ground mounted racking system. The panels will be pitched at 25 degrees with the highest part of the panel sitting ~2m off the surface of the ground. The proposed panels are ‘all black’ in finish to improve the aesthetic and also make the installation less visually obtrusive. The installation is expected to generate in the region of 11,202 kWh/year which will offset circa 2,201 kgCo2/year (based on MCS approved carbon intensity values).	No Objection	Approved
23/01184/FUL	<u>49 Roundfield.</u> Proposed new build detached bungalow, including basement level, and additional parking space (renewal of approval ref: 17/02279/FULD).	No Objection	Approved
23/01676/HOUSE	<u>Little Copse House, Paradise Lane.</u> Single storey side extension and conversion of outbuilding to gym (ancillary to main dwelling).	No Objection	Approved
23/01507/FUL	<u>Westrop Farm, The Ridge.</u> Proposed solar array to serve various properties at Westrop Farm.	No Objection	Approved
23/01917/OUT	<u>Land adjacent Pine Lodge, Bucklebury Alley (Adjacent Parish).</u> Outline application for proposed new single dwelling on a site within the settlement boundary. Matters to be considered: Access.	No Comment	Awaiting decision
23/02008/HOUSE	<u>Uplands, Burdens Heath.</u> Single storey rear extension.	No Objection	Approved
23/02095/HOUSE & 23/02096/LBC	<u>Woottens, Upper Woolhampton.</u> Part two-storey, part single-storey replacement extension to existing dwelling. Terrace doors in existing modified window opening.	No Objection	Approved
23/02161/HOUSE & 23/02160/LBC	<u>The Cottage, Magpie Farm. (Adjacent Parish).</u> Proposed kitchen door canopy, HV oil tank on plinth and fluepipe additions to rear elevation, replacement entrance door and alterations to two window openings, replacement windows, and internal works.	No Objection	Approved

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
23/01803/FUL	<u>The Lodge, Bucklebury Farm Park.</u> Change of use of an existing Log Cabin at Bucklebury Farm to allow a flexible use of space for farm workers dwelling, office space, meeting room, workshop and studio – class C3, E(c), E(d) and E(g).	No Objection	Awaiting decision
23/02190/HOUSE	<u>Connemara, Drove Lane (Adjacent Parish).</u> First floor roof extension to create 4 no. bedrooms and detached car port over existing parking area.	No Comment	Approved
23/02240/HOUSE	<u>Well Cottage, Long Grove.</u> Extension and reconfiguration.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
23/02259/FUL	<u>Well Cottage, Long Grove.</u> Ancillary accommodation to the existing first-floor space above a detached carport.	No Objection	Approved
23/02243/HOUSE	<u>Tree Tops, Hatch Lane.</u> Proposed ground floor rear extension, floor plan redesign and all associated works.	No Objection	Approved
23/02276/HOUSE	<u>71 Roundfield.</u> Two storey front and single storey rear extension.	No Objection	Approved
23/02316/HOUSE	<u>1 Paradise Way.</u> Garden room replacement.	No Objection	Approved
23/02523/HOUSE	<u>Hyakinthos, Upper Bucklebury.</u> Proposed single storey rear extension, single storey side extension and associated alterations.	No Objection	Approved
23/02603/FUL & 23/02604/LBC	<u>Barn, Hawkridge Farm.</u> Internal and external alterations to allow change of use of listed barn to dwelling, including erection of car port and diversion of the definitive footpath.	Object	Awaiting decision
23/02694/HOUSE & 23/02695/LBC	<u>Little Thatch, The Avenue.</u> Single-storey infill rear extension with internal alterations, addition of dormer window and covered porch and replacement windows.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
23/02773/HOUSE	<u>Glencoe, Chapel Row.</u> Erection of single storey rear extension and external alterations to existing dwelling. Erection of single storey detached garage.	No Objection	Approved
23/02760/CERTE	<u>Red Hill House.</u> Continued use of land as garden land.	No Objection	Withdrawn
23/02835/HOUSE	<u>7 Mortons Lane.</u> Proposed single storey rear extension.	No Objection	Approved
24/00146/HOUSE	<u>Connemara, Drove Lane (Adjacent Parish).</u> Section 73 application to vary condition 2 (Approved Plans) of approved 23/02190/HOUSE – First floor roof extension to create 4 no. bedrooms and detached car port over existing parking area.	No Comment	Awaiting decision
23/02973/HOUSE	<u>Cherry Cottage, Bucklebury Alley (Adjacent Parish).</u> Two-storey side and rear extension to the existing residential dwelling and the construction of an outbuilding following the demolition of the existing outbuilding.	No Comment	Awaiting decision
24/00175/FUL	<u>Western and Eastern Car Parks, Broad Lane.</u> Proposed extension and resurfacing of car parks.	Support	Awaiting decision



Come to the Beacon Lighting.

21:15

6 June 2024

HOCKETT FIELD

**To commemorate the 80th
anniversary of the D-Day
landings**

80th Anniversary of D-Day and Bucklebury Common

The whole aspect of the Common changed during the war as much of the vegetation including most of the heathland was stripped back to gravel to form a large depot for the refurbishment and storage of armoured vehicles. We are still trying to identify the actual unit of the Royal Engineers and any information on any of the units mentioned would be gratefully received.

It is important to commemorate the role of the Common during the allied invasion of Normandy and there are plans in place to arrange the lighting of a Beacon at 9.15 pm on Thursday, 6th June. This will be in tandem with the lighting of many other beacons including those on the beaches of Utah, Omaha, Juno, and Sword, all in Normandy, France.

From first hand accounts we know that Canadian Army units were billeted between Fannys Road (Lane) and Briff Farm in late May 1944 before these units moved further south to the coast for embarkation probably through Southampton.

American Army units were billeted in the Avenue from Woodgate to the Beenham Turn and in St Saviour's Wood with total racial segregation; black units on one side and whites on the other. This was mainly a tented camp but this did include a picture house which was sited adjacent to Hilliers. They also made good use of the "Iron Church" – St Saviour's (rebuilt 1902).

The army camp on the Common was a substantial operation of the 72 Vehicle Reserve Depot. The camp had its own concrete hardstanding and water tower. The latter was in position until fairly recently and, although it was forbidden, like many young lads we used to climb up the ladder and sit on the top, which provided spectacular views especially south towards Greenham Common. The concrete hardstanding and foundations for administration buildings can still be seen just to the north west of the cross roads. Many of the subsequent temporary buildings were taken over by squatters directly after the war.

The camp was off limits to the locals and only those with a pass on essential business were permitted access.

Although not specifically linked to D-Day, the Common housed a number of searchlights, units being situated at Ryders in the Avenue, one on the Lower Green in the Slade directly opposite Kennel Barn and one on the Upper Green. Typically, these comprised of a generator, a predictor emplacement for calculating height and range of targets, a light anti-aircraft machine gun and hutted accommodation for the crew.

During our research we also found reference to New Zealand sappers billeted on the Common and 306th Fighter control squadron, US Army Airforce (Ninth Air Force) in Chapel Row.

J. Allum – Bucklebury Commoners Association & Councillor



The Reserve Depot on Bucklebury Common

West Berks District Councillor

WBC Councillor's Report

It was good to see many of you at the Parish meeting at the Memorial Hall on the 9th February regarding the current status of the proposed NE Thatcham development. I am always happy to respond to any further questions as to what the Council and Councillors are doing to try to achieve the right outcome.

Moving to other matters I was delighted to be invited to both schools in the Parish. At Brockhurst and Marlston House School Allison Butcher and I presented the prizes for the Parish speed awareness painting competition, whilst at Bucklebury C of E Primary School I immensely enjoyed conversations with Deer and Fox classes regarding their "Animals and Us" project work, and the partnership between West Berkshire Council (WBC) and BBOWT (Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust).

I am pleased to announce Bucklebury Speed Awareness (led by David Southgate) and 1st Bucklebury Guides were both awarded small grants from WBC to support their community work. The grants come from an annual capital grant by WBC that all council members such as myself can commend an application for. I am lobbying the current administration executive to increase this annual grant for all Councillors as I have always thought that building and supporting the foundations of society through localism is the most effective way to make genuine changes to people's lives.

Many thanks to all those who have taken part in the recent Council consultation on the savings that are required to achieve a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year. Many of you will be aware of the huge increase on demands of council services with a below inflation increase to budget allowed from central government. The consultation saw more than 2,500 responses and after listening to residents' feedback, decisions have been taken to continue the current service levels in relation to emptying gulleys, bins, and weed spraying. Community Transport funding continues at current levels and the proposal to close Willows Edge care home will be amended as the Council seeks to find an alternative provider for all three of its care homes. I am also glad to report that the capital programme will see more than £10m invested in schools and education for West Berkshire, and £4m on improving roads.

As to roads, more can always be done, and I will be speaking with the Portfolio Holder and Council Officers to ensure we maintain appropriate levels of service for road signage maintenance, pothole repairs, and road white-lining and on how we can improve reporting and visibility of repair prioritisation. Also, I have finally managed to get commitment, by Council Highways Traffic, to undertake works at all non-functioning Vehicle Activated Sign and School Flashing Sign sites across the district, including both the Chapel Row and Upper Bucklebury locations.

As always, if you see a problem (and it is safe to do so) please raise issues on potholes, white-lining, signage, fly-tipping etc., at: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem> and please feel free to email me the reference number back (and include a short description of state and location with a picture of the issue if you have one). That way I can help drive appropriate prioritisation of the council response.

As always please contact me if I can help you with anything to do with the Council.

District Cllr. Chris Read

Chris.read1@westberks.gov.uk / 07714 081 565

Bucklebury Parish Council

Common Clearing and Parish Litter Pick

**Come to help clear litter from the paths
of Bucklebury**

Saturday 23rd March 2024

Meet Bucklebury Memorial Hall

2.00pm

Equipment will be provided

SKIP at the Memorial Hall

Free refreshments afterwards

"Keep Bucklebury Beautiful"

Family

West Berks Ballet School

Our dancing new year began with the lovely news that the ballet students, who took their exams just before Christmas, all passed with more than 50% being awarded Distinction!

So now we're off to a flying start to our production of The Nutcracker taking place in the lovely theatre at Arlington Arts Centre, during the summer half-term holiday. Even our youngest dancers will be included this time, so we shall have a cast of 75 and, at the present moment, more than half the tickets have been sold. This is the perfect opportunity, for anyone contemplating starting their 4 year old with dancing classes, to come and watch. You can imagine the excitement as we are at the costume fitting stage with nearly all the choreography learnt – only 10 weeks left to polish and practice our smiles.

Claire's Musical Theatre classes proudly presented their term's work at the end of the autumn term– all in an array of colourful costumes, to an audience of family and friends and now they're off learning a brand new repertoire for a mini production in the summer.

This summer Claire's ever popular Summer School will take place over two weeks from 30th July – 9th August – it's 'Oliver' which is definitely one of the favourites – email Claire if you think your dancer would like 4 days of fun and would be up for producing a show in 4 days!

Jane

WBBS contact details

Musical Theatre & Tap - Claire: cbowden1602@gmail.com
Ballet - Lucie: wbbsslucie@gmail.com
Enquiries – Jane: westberksballet@gmail.com



Girlguiding 1st Bradfield Rainbows

1st Bradfield Rainbows celebrated Bonfire Night by making fruit and veg skewers fireworks. The Rainbows learnt about different fruits and vegetables, how they are different colours and how to safely cut them up.

At the end of term we had a Christmas party where the Rainbows all bought party food to share and we played lots of Christmas party games.

This term the Rainbows are completing the 'Adventures in the Dark' challenge badge. They started by learning about nocturnal animals by playing games with different actions for each animal. They also learnt how they can make sure



Toilet Roll Owls

they can be seen if they are outside at dusk or after dark. We made nocturnal animals from recycling - the first animal the Rainbows made was an owl from a toilet roll tube followed by a glow in the dark insect from a plastic bottle which they had great fun flying around the hall with the hall lights off!

The Rainbows also made lava lamps this term from bicarb, oil, vinegar and food colouring. The Rainbows learnt what happens when different colours are mixed and saw the resulting reaction mixing the bicarb and vinegar. The lava lamps looked really effective when held over torches!

If your daughter would like to join Rainbows, please use the below QR code to register.

Vicky Pratt—1st Bradfield Rainbows.



2nd Bradfield Brownies

Christmas seems so long ago but we have cast our mind back to the winter term. We had a brilliant term with lots going on!

The Brownies completed the Charities badge, which involved picking a charity they felt strongly about, finding out about the charity and raising money for them. They chose Foxies Future, which is a charity that has been set up to save Foxlease in the New Forest, a Girl Guiding Training Centre that has been closed by Girl Guiding and is to be sold. The girls chose to hold a tombola and guess how many sweets were in the jar at the end of one of our meetings. They raised over £60.00!!

We also completed the Take Action skills builder, took part in the Remembrance Day Parade, made junk monsters, had a go at debating and considered where we thought the greatest place on earth is. We also had a go at Christmas craft and a trip to the pantomime at The Watermill Theatre. We are looking forward to our own unit Thinking Day event where we will be traveling around the world and having a go at activities from other countries, and also the District Thinking Day where we will gather with other units in the area.

World Thinking Day is a celebration of ten million girls worldwide that has taken place every year on 22nd February since 1926. It remains a day for all Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters all around the world. In 1926, delegates from Guide and Girl Scout organisations across the world met in the USA for the 4th World Conference. They decided to create a day for Guides and Girl Scouts to celebrate being part of an international movement. Delegates chose to hold the first celebration on the joint birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the scout and guide movement, and his wife Olave, who served as World Chief Guide. And so, 'Thinking Day' was born.

Children's mental health is so important and Brownies provides 7 – 10 year olds with a safe space to express themselves, gain confidence, learn new things and most importantly have fun! Our last meeting of the winter term showed exactly this, with a very special presentation of awards to some of the Brownies. When working through the Brownie programme, the girls have the opportunity to gain the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. We were very proud to have two Brownies complete their Gold Awards – an amazing achievement for both of them! They were presented by our District Commissioner and parents came to watch. It was wonderful to see them being given their

awards. We have one other Brownie who is on track to finish her Gold Award this term. As leaders we are so proud of all of the girls' achievements throughout their time with us. It is always with mixed feelings that we wave them off to Guides, both sadness that they are leaving us but great excitement for the adventures they will have in the future.

As a Leader, I would recommend volunteering with this amazing organisation – it is extremely fulfilling but more importantly fun as well! Anyone looking for a volunteering opportunity for DofE or just something to do, could do far worse than join us at Girlguiding.

Vicki Beesley (Tigger)

Secondbradfieldbrownies@yahoo.co.uk

www.girlguiding.org.uk



1st Bucklebury Guides and Rangers had a busy end of 2023. In November we visited Code Ninjas in Newbury where the Guides and Rangers got to have a go at coding their own

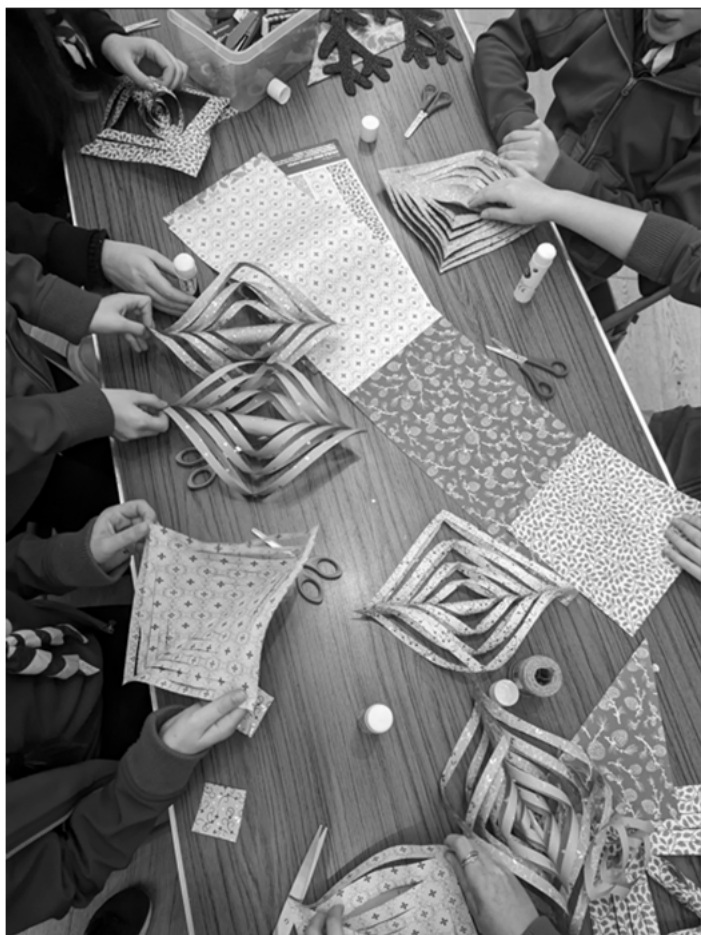


Guides at Code Ninjas

games or virtual environments which they could then upload to VR headsets, mini game consoles and even arcade style game consoles! They also got to try designing something to be 3D printed and got to play around with circuits and understand the different elements required. They had such a good time that we have booked to return later this term!

We also completed the Girlguiding South West England Inter-Railing challenge which was written by the participants of the region Inter-railing trip this summer. The Guides and Rangers made and cooked German Sausages, learnt how to peel and core apples safely and learnt about travelling internationally with Girlguiding.

In the run up to Christmas we had a big Christmas craft night where we had multiple stations set up for everyone to go round. They made clay ornaments (which were painted the



Making paper Christmas decorations

following week), Christmas cards, paper Christmas decorations and battery tea light snowmen.

In January we went on a night walk around Upper Bucklebury - you might have seen us in our high vis jackets walking along Broad Lane! We walked a big loop around the

village across the common and along the roads. The Guides and Rangers saw the stars and moon (star gazing has been very popular this winter!), heard an owl and learnt about the importance of being visible when out at night.

To celebrate Pancake Day we held a bring a Friend evening, made pancakes and sampled lots of different toppings. Biscoff spread was definitely the most popular!

We've just started the Girlguiding South West 'Swish' challenge badge which is all about sustainable fashion. Nationally, Girlguiding have asked for help designing our new uniform so as part of the 'Swish' challenge badge we asked the Guides and Rangers to design a new uniform with sustainability in mind.

We've got lots of exciting things planned for this term including a sleepover, a trip to IKEA, finishing the 'Swish' challenge badge and of course celebrating Easter.

If your daughter is interested in joining Guides (10-14) or Rangers (14-18) please follow the below QR code to register.

**Vicky Pratt—1st Bucklebury
Guides and Rangers**



Could you volunteer with Girlguiding?

Have you thought about volunteering?

By volunteering with Girlguiding, you'll be helping girls build their confidence, have adventures and learn new skills. It doesn't matter what your experience or background is, or how much time you have. Volunteering with Girlguiding is a great way to meet new people and take a break from your daily routine. You can also build your own skills by completing the Leadership Qualification, becoming a first aider or maybe even a qualified outdoor activity instructor!

Becoming a role model doesn't need to be a full time commitment, there are all sorts of flexible ways to get involved. Whether you want to help behind the scenes, at events or get involved every week, there's lots of ways to inspire girls within Girlguiding.

Please email pangvalleydistrictcommissioner@gmail.com to find out more.

Bucklebury Cof E Primary School

Every child has the right to an excellent education. We should accept nothing less. At Bucklebury, we are passionate about our mission to grow the whole child in every child.

Our vision as a Church of England school is rooted in Jesus' command to his disciples to love one another. Values of love, faith and hope anchor us as we strive to know every child, enabling personalised provision that is exceptionally delivered. To that end, we endeavour to pass on young people who are capable, confident and curious; balanced in mind, body and spirit.

Mind

Growing *capable* pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to become critical thinkers, ready to embrace local and global challenges of the 21st century. A love for learning within a curriculum where every individual is valued for their unique contribution. We construct our provision across the curriculum within the crucible of inquiry, co-constructing learning in response to authentic and engaging questions. As a result, we aim to nurture academically confident children who are ready to take risks, reflect and communicate, applying knowledge and skills in a variety of contexts. We expect children to constantly ask but one question during their time at Bucklebury and beyond: Why?

Body

To flourish, a child must be *confident* and ready to spread their wings and fly, so to speak. Through specialist provision, professional expertise and a breadth of opportunity, children are given every opportunity at Bucklebury. Across our spacious grounds, in and out of the classroom, children are challenged physically. Learning

permeates both the formal PE curriculum and the broader perspectives of health and wellbeing. Through our House system, and in plentiful opportunities to represent the school, children experience the value of competition and the humility of making a contribution. Whether it's football, cross country or dance, there is something to keep every child challenged.

Spirit

Curious with a sense of something beyond themselves, comfortable with the great questions of life and death, meaning and truth. Children should be ready to accept each other for who they are; connected by the school values of love, faith and hope. Utilising oracy, written skills and the power of silence, we seek to provide space for the whole child to grow. Collective worship, prayer and the breadth of the curriculum shape our response to that which is within, and that which surrounds us. We are rooted in our foundation as a Church of England primary school, and the distinctive inclusivity this demands. It shapes how we approach the teaching and formation of children, balancing academic, physical and spiritual development.

Enrichment

As a school we strive towards academic excellence and encourage our pupils to reach for their potential. We are committed to giving our children a wide range of experiences and opportunities across the curriculum, and in other areas beyond the formal curriculum. The environment we offer is lively and stimulating, and provides a secure and happy context in which the children can learn and thrive. We provide an excellent range of clubs and activities, whether your interest is sporting, musical, artistic and linguistic. Lunchtime and after school provision enables a great breadth of interests to be pursued, provided by both school staff and external specialists.

In addition, educational visits take place throughout each academic year. Many are to local areas of interest with relevance to a specific area of the curriculum. Some involve visitors coming into school for special activities. We are eager to ensure all children get the best experiences from a wide range of events and activities.

We know that many of you are well aware of the work of the school. We appreciate your continued support. Weekly and termly news is published via our substack; <https://bucklebury.substack.com/>

We hope that as the school year continues, we will be able to inform you about our continued work.

Kindest regards,

Mr A. Higgs
Headteacher

Organisations

Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

In harmony with our gardens the club is waking to a new year. Our current bright yellow schedule is in circulation and members will find all the details of our 2024 activities within its pages. Our new website is now up and running, it will keep all informed of current events. It is simple to find. Just type "Bucklebury Horticultural Society" within the heading of your browser page and you are in. It will give you information to all our activities and plans for the future. As time goes by and with your help, we should be able to increase the content.

The first of this season's meetings may have already passed by the time you are reading this article, but you are welcome to come along to two talks at the Memorial Hall on Friday 15th March and Friday 19th April. Both starting at 8pm. The first will give advice around planting and pruning trees in small gardens, the second is a personal account from Meri Mower, with particular reference to Boxford House and the exclusive guided visit that is planned during May.

The Spring Show is on **Sunday 7th April**. We are looking forward to repeating the success of last year at the **Victory Room** down in the Village. Entries are staged from 12.30 until 13.30, once judging is complete, all are welcome to view the display and enjoy the fragrance of spring flowers from 2.30pm until 4pm. Entry is free, and refreshments will be available.

The Summer Outing this year is, as last year, a collaboration with Bradfield Gardening Club. Members wishing to join this trip will need to liaise with Tony Powell.

Reduced price visits to RHS Gardens at Wisley can be achieved using our Affiliated Society 50% discount card, which is held by Wynne Frankum.

The Summer Show is on **Saturday 6th July** in the Victory Room and our Autumn Show at the same venue on **Saturday 7th September**. Full details are in the schedule. Take a look to see if you can plan to produce a few entries. Visitors are welcome during the afternoon. There is no charge to see all the wonderful exhibits.

The renamed Century Club is flourishing and has kept us financially afloat, and kept subscriptions low. Draws are monthly and the annual fee is £12.00. If you would like further details, please contact Margaret Grannum on 0118

9713944. Our Socials also contribute to our funds, and despite last year's failure we will try to do better this year. We are forming a sub-committee to plan a good one, if you would like to help make yourself known to any of our present committee.

New members are always welcome, bring a friend or neighbour to any of our events. If you feel you have the energy to improve the Society, why not join our small and friendly committee? Contact John Wright (01635 863429).

Happy Gardening
Derek Matthews (0118 9712587)

Best of Bucklebury 8th June 2024



The Bucklebury Events team are putting on Best of Bucklebury again after a 5 year break.

We are holding an art exhibition in the Victory Room and gardens will be open around the parish.

There will also be an history exhibition in the Victory Room along with refreshments.

Calling all bakers: there will be a cake competition with different categories for everyone to enter.

There is a scarecrow competition too.

The day will finish at The Cottage Inn with stalls and live music!

If you would like to exhibit your art or crafts or would like to open your garden please contact us.

Also if you are able to help on the day please get in touch.

Regular updates about the event will be on Facebook.

Email: buckleburyevents@gmail.com

Or call Wynne on 01635 863372

St. Martins Club

In November we had a really interesting talk by Chris Baines on 'Paul Nash and the Wittenham Clumps', an area in South Oxfordshire which Nash loved to paint.

In December we had our members' Christmas Lunch at the Mercure Hotel when 60 members enjoyed a very good meal. The AGM in January was well attended and members were given the programme for 2024. February saw Sarah Somerville give us a brief history of Shaw House. Members who had been to school there found it especially interesting. We still have a waiting list of new members so, if you are interested, please do get in touch with me to get your name down now. However, we do like to have visitors at a cost of £3 for the indoor meetings and if there are spaces then visitors are welcome on our trips. Some meetings are for members only.

The talk in March is *Growing Old Disgracefully* which sounds fun.

The trips are listed below and costs will be available on request once we have heard from the venues. If you would like more details or to go as a visitor, please get in touch with Jenny Thurgut 01635 33985 or Jean Sellwood 01635 864038.

April 2 nd	- Stratford on Avon
May 7 th	- Bourton House & Garden & Moreton in the Marsh.
July 2 nd	- Swanage Railway
September 3 rd	- Hamble River Trip
October 1 st	- Tyntesfield, Bristol, N.T. House & Garden

Helen Relf.

01635 867619. grannyrelf@btinternet.com

Tuesday Ladies Night (TLC)

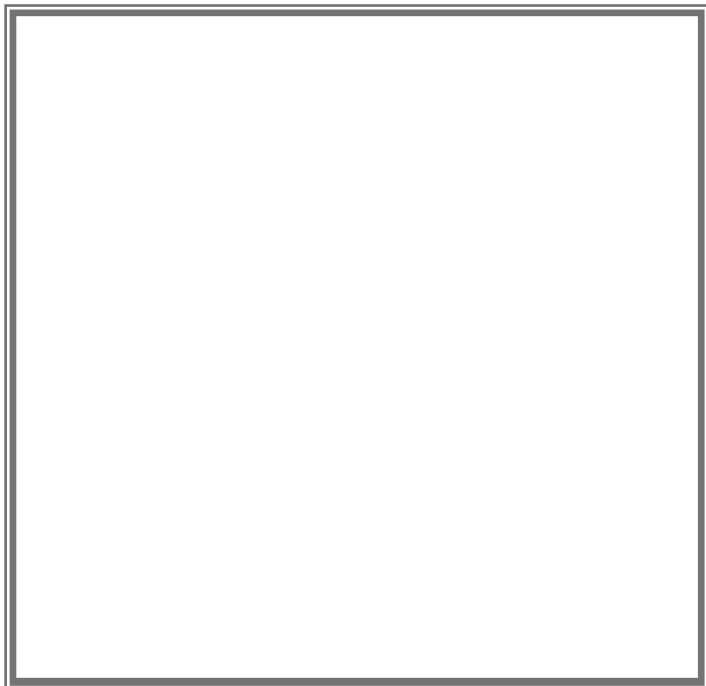
Following our Christmas Party where members excelled themselves with the delicious plates of food to share with, of course, a seasonal tippie, we had our very well attended "Plonk and puzzles" evening in January.

We look forward in February to a talk on The History of Quiz Shows and in March we're off to Turkey to sample Oz's delicious cooking.

In May, Kathy Macdonald is giving us a talk on her life as a pilot.

As you see, it's a varied programme. We meet in the Oak Room at 7.15pm on the second Tuesday in the month and we welcome new faces. We hope to see you there.

Wynne Frankum & Diane Dalgano



Bucklebury Walkers

The group all started because a nurse at the surgery asked if I would lead some health walks. I declined thinking that it would involve too much responsibility but said that I would lead some social walks where everyone is responsible for their own safety.

So, on the first Thursday in January 2006, after posting leaflets through doors and by word of mouth the first walk took place. There were nine of us! By March this had increased to 16 – we had new people at the pub so we were able to stay for coffee after the walk. The December walk that year was WET – we had heavy rain, thunder & lightning. Nine brave walkers turned up and two slipped in the mud!

We had our first Christmas meal at the pub on December 13th and there were 29 of us. Chris enjoyed a pint of Rocking Rudolph! Stella, landlady and cook, coped with all

those meals with no help, having been let down at the last minute by the kitchen helper. At that first meal I introduced The Green Welly Award and the first ‘winner’ was Brian Wall, who had fallen flat on his face in the mud! Brian had the Wellies put onto a plinth and so the custom began. The Wellies have been given every year since for various reasons – funny hats, getting stuck on stiles, getting lost, decorating the Walkers’ Christmas Tree in the village competition, writing a poem etc. Over the years the wellies have had additions – they now boast a pair of welly socks and a scarf!

We had some Christmas meals at The Bladebone when ‘our’ pub was going through a difficult time but since 2011 we have been supporting The Cottage Inn. A special blue pair were given to Gary one year for all the fantastic meals prepared for us and for the umpteen cups of coffee and pints of beer.

We still walk on the first Thursday of the month and are a mixed group who meet at 10.00 a.m. and walk for about 3 – 4 miles or 10.30 a.m. for a shorter walk, about 2 miles. We then meet back at the venue for coffee (or go back to The Cottage Inn, where we also enjoy a lunch). You are welcome to join either group.

In December, 30 of us enjoyed a Christmas meal at The Cottage Inn. Thanks go to Gary, Nigel, Kimberley and everyone for making it such an enjoyable evening.

Please contact me for more details or just turn up at any of the walks – the diary is in The Oaks and on the village website.

Please note that these are social walks and you are responsible for your own safety.

Helen Relf,

01635 867619. grannyrelf@btinternet.com

Bucklebury History Society

We had a really interesting talk in November 2023 by David Peacock on The Swing Riots. The riots had started in Thatcham on November 15th 1830 and coincidentally our meeting was on the 16th. We couldn't have planned it better!

A group of 300 or so labourers joined together to ask for more work and more money. They joined with men from Bradfield, Bucklebury and Stanford Dingley, destroyed 33 threshing machines and demanded money from the farmers. Later machinery was destroyed at Colthrop paper mill and a combined mass of labourers were involved in a battle at Brimpton Common with a force of constables and tradesmen. Eventually 11 men, some from Thatcham, were arrested and taken to Reading gaol. In December, 88 men were found guilty of various offences at a special assize court and four men from Thatcham were sentenced to be transported to Australia. In 1831 these men left Portsmouth in the prison transport ship "Elenor" for Sydney, Australia.

Our first meeting of 2024 is on 14th March in The Victory Room, Bucklebury at 19.30. Jon Willis is coming to speak about The Kennet & Avon Canal & Crofton Pumping Station. Cost will be £4 per person to cover the cost of hall hire, refreshments and the speaker.

Please also let me know if you would like to help with organising all the items in the archives that need putting into some sort of order! Thank you.

Helen Relf, 01635 867619
grannyrelf@btinternet.com

First Copy of Bucklebury and Marlston Parish Magazine

In the Parish Magazine of October 1989, the following appeared. I would really like to know if anyone has a copy of the original magazine or, in fact, any magazines from the beginning of the twentieth century, please.

Helen Relf, 01635 867619, grannyrelf@btinternet.com
Bucklebury History Group

Looking Back – Our monthly Parish Magazine apparently began at the start of the century ...

Bucklebury and Marlston Parish Magazine

No. 1

January 1900

Price Three-Half-Pence

INTRODUCTORY – The Vicarage, S. Stephen's Day 1899

My Dear People

The objects of this new Monthly Magazine are threefold:- (1) to chronicle all passing events of Church and Parish and place them on record for future reference; (2) to help to keep all parishioners in touch with their Clergy and with each other – a most important thing in so scattered a parish, and to inform them of what is going on around them; (3) to provide some periodical literature for Sundays and leisure hours in many a cottage home.

An effort will be made to send a copy of this first number into every house in the parish. You will then be able to decide whether or no you will like to become regular Subscribers. As we are starting without any advertisements, and as I am determined to make this a self-supporting Magazine, I shall be obliged to charge 1 ½ d per month, or 1/6 per annum if delivered at your house or 2/- per annum post free. This charge may be lowered as time goes on, if we can secure a sufficiently large number of subscriptions – and perhaps of advertisements.

A number of ladies have kindly promised to distribute the Magazine every month, for which purpose I propose dividing the parish into districts. These ladies will call at your houses during this month and find out how many of you are willing to become subscribers, and I have good hopes that most of you will be able to say Yes. But they will have to insist upon all payments, monthly or annual, being made in advance – the monthly payment being made on receipts of each issue.

I have found it no easy task at this busy Christmas season to prepare a new Magazine for the press, as well as the Parish Almanack and the Year Book, the latter being also, as you know, quite a new venture. But I feel sure it is a good work and one which you will all appreciate. Space forbids me to say more now except to wish you all a very HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Your sincere Friend – CECIL H GILL
(Vicar from 1897 to 1907)

Country Life

West Berkshire Countryside Society (WBCS)



The Society exists to promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of the West Berkshire Countryside. We also learn a lot and get to have fun while we do so. We hold free events where you can meet friendly and like-minded folk; organise regular walks guided by a knowledgeable leader; organise talks on natural and local history; and support Barn Owl conservation. When you join the Society, there is a £15 annual subscription. This entitles you to four copies of the 'Upstream' newsletter per annum.

Find out more and become a member!

membership@westberkshircountryside.org.uk

Events Diary March, April & May 2024

The events below give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. Tasks begin at 10.00am and finish by 3.00pm. You are welcome to stay for as long as you wish. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, bring work gloves and make sure you have refreshments for your day. All tools will be provided. Grid references and 'What Three Words' listings locate the task meeting point. Please check the website for updates:

http://www.westberkscountryside.org.uk/event_diary.html

Tuesday 12th March Rushall Manor Farm

Continue hedge laying. Parking off road at Black Barn. SU584 723 telephone.brink.crate

Tuesday 26th March—Cold Ash.

Maintenance work on the Parish Wildlife site. Park on the access track to Westrop Farm. SU514 701 newsstand.consumed.eruptions

Vehicles carrying tools should park in the layby by the allotments on The Ridge at SU514 699

Tuesday 16th April—Bucklebury Common

Heathland management. Clearing/felling around veteran trees plus removing invasive Scots pine and silver birch. Meet at the Crossroads. SU556 691 taskbar.flagpole.sensual

Tuesday 21st May Rushall Manor Farm

Woodland management and ride widening. Meet at the Black Barn off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. SU584 723 telephone.brink.crate

Tuesday 4th June Grimsbury Castle #1

Parking near the Estate house at the castle—by the interpretation board. Clearing invasive rhododendron from this ancient hill fort. SU511 723 blip.slumped.nametag

Tuesday 11th June Grimsbury Castle #2

Parking near the Estate house at the castle—by the interpretation board. Clearing invasive rhododendron from this ancient hill fort. SU511 723 blip.slumped.nametag

Wednesday 12th June—Nightjars—a short walk.

Join Society members to look for and hear these summer visitors to the heathland. Meet at the Crossroads on Bucklebury Common. SU556 691 taskbar.flagpole.sensual



River Barn Farm (aka Marlston Mill) Part 1

Over the years since our winning bid at the auction for River Barn Farm, Marlston in December 2018 we have been trying to learn about the property's history. Although the property is considered of heritage value it is not listed and we have found very little documentation relating to it. But here is what we have gleaned so far.

An inscription on an old oak beam in the farmhouse reads "YH 1632 AB" but, apparently, there was no house on the site until the late 1700s. We assume, therefore, that rather than build the house from scratch an old oak barn was brought from another (unknown) location. Upstairs in the farmhouse there is evidence of rebates cut into beams to accommodate other structural elements which are no longer there. Furthermore, an upstairs doorway has been cut into one of the main frames which, we conclude, means that there was no first floor in the original construction... hence it would probably have been a barn. When we recently removed the timber cladding on the south facing gable we revealed empty mortice joints where there had previously been brace timbers, which means that the building was shortened at some stage. This was corroborated by old OS

maps, which show the farmhouse extending to the bank of the River Pang.

While most of the old farmhouse is still with the 1632 timber frame the north gable, adjacent to Brocks Lane, is in brick! We assume that this end of the house collapsed at some stage and was rebuilt in brick; as part of this rebuild the roof was raised to give clear headroom in the bedroom at this end of the house. As can be seen in the old painting, the farmhouse originally had a thatched roof which was replaced in 1938 with thin fibre-based tiles. We recently replaced the fibre tiles with new hand-made clay tiles and found on the backs of two of the old tiles were the words "April 20th 1938, A. W. Millson, W. Chappel" and "J. Marshall, L. Hissey (21 today), B. Carden, January" respectively, written in pencil. The part of the second tile with the year is missing but we assume that it was also 1938 and that this part of the roof was installed in two tranches, one in January and one in April by two separate teams. We wonder whether this could have been due to poor weather, lack of funds or some kind of disagreement with the first team!!! Both of the inscribed tiles are grey as were half of the old tiles while the other half were red, which further implies that the roof was put up in sections, maybe with whatever tiles were in stock at the time at the building material suppliers.



An early painting of River Barn Farm

The 1842 Diocesan Tithe Records map at the Royal Berkshire Archives shows the farmhouse and main barn but no water mill; we understand that this was installed in 1865, which is generally confirmed by the mill being shown on the 1877 OS plan. The description of the small area of land west of the farmhouse is “Sawyers Mead” and “Shaw”. We assume “Sawyers Mead” either means a meadow where timber was sawn up, presumably by hand in the absence of the water wheel, or a pasture named after Mr Sawyer. The term “shaw”, according to the Collins Dictionary, refers to a small wood, thicket or copse. According to later sales particulars, the whole farm extended to 205 acres and, in 1842, it was owned by Henry Howard Hartley Winchcombe as part of the Bucklebury Estate and was occupied by William Hayward.

In 1865 the water wheel was cast at Hedges Foundry located at the next mill downstream in Bucklebury. The mill channel was constructed by using the benefit of rising ground to the north and building a raised bank to the south, thereby the maximum head of 3ft was created to drive the 12ft diameter water wheel. It is interesting to note that the next two water wheels downstream at Bucklebury Forge and Black Barn were also cast at Hedges Foundry but were only half the size. We assume that these smaller wheels did not benefit from the greater head afforded by the significant earthworks necessary to construct the mill channel at River Barn Farm. The 1877 OS plan shows both the mill channel and a parallel channel which, we assume, was the original River Pang channel which has subsequently silted up and is no longer discernible on site.

We now leap forward to approximately 1937 when Tom Froude bought the farm and set about the improvements to the farmhouse, such as the tiling of the roof in 1938. A 9” brick wall was also built to create separation between the southern third of the house, which was used as a workshop (with an area of wooden floor upon which the horses were shod) and the main residential part of the house. The bricks used were “wire cuts”, usually associated with the late 1800s and early 1900s but we have not researched the type of bricks produced at the Pot Kiln. Interestingly, while this wall was clearly an internal wall, the mortar joints had a “struck” finish which was normally used for external brickwork!

During WWII Tom Froude worked at the Vickers-Armstrongs aircraft factory in Newbury, reportedly making parts for Spitfires; it was here that he met Kathleen who became his wife and in March 1947 their daughter, Elaine, was born. Tom died in 1974 and the main farm land plus

agricultural machinery was all put up for auction. The farmhouse and various barns, plus the two acres of land between Brocks Lane and the River Pang were all retained by Tom’s widow, Kathleen, as a home for her and Elaine. I am not sure of his role, but Peter de Savary (of Littlecote House and Land’s End fame) applied for and was granted planning consent for two small cottages adjacent to the old green barn on Brocks Lane, which was part of River Barn Farm at the time. These cottages were never built and the green barn, with the land it is on, subsequently became part of Hillfoot Farm, which is now farmed by Andreas Hempell and daughters.

Just before he died, Tom Froude witnessed a fire which destroyed much of the old ‘L’-shaped mill barn at River Barn Farm; one leg of this barn ran along Brocks Lane and the other leg ran down to the water wheel. Many mills (particularly of the flour grinding type) burnt down due to the presence of highly flammable fresh ground flour in the air. However, at River Barn Farm the flour mill end of the barn remained unscathed in the fire so this clearly had a different source of incendiary. A new gable end wall was built at the surviving end of the barn but there remains evidence of charred timbers in the now restored mill barn. The mill stones and milling equipment have been rescued so that, at some time, the mill can be brought back to life.

For the next edition of The Oaks we hope to write an article about our current activities and future plans for the site.

Ben Mitchell

Halls

The Victory Room

Our final event of 2023, a Quiz Night on Friday 17th November was a huge success with 95 people attending. Sadly, we couldn't fit any more people in! The trustees agreed to donate the profits from the raffle to charity and added to the remaining share of the Beerfest profits we have decided to donate £500 to each of Newbury Street Pastors and Bridge for Young People. We had already donated £1,000 to MacMillan Cancer Support from the Beerfest profits.

We completed our second financial year after refurbishing the Victory Room and lettings were up 41% on our first year. We made profits of nearly £4,000 from our fundraising and have now donated £2,000 to the charities above.

We have instructed a painter to redecorate the meeting room which will hopefully be completed in the next couple of months and we are making some improvements to the kitchen.

We are starting to plan this year's fundraising events and we will be involved in the Best of Bucklebury event on Saturday 8th June with an Art and Crafts Exhibition, History Exhibition and refreshments on the patio. (hopefully!)

We are planning to hold the Beerfest again over the Bank Holiday weekend on Saturday 24th August but we do need to have some confirmation of help over the weekend. We particularly need help setting up on Friday and clearing away on Sunday. On Friday, the set up normally takes a couple of hours from 9.30 to midday. On Sunday, very similar, from 9 to 1 and clearly with more hands it will be quicker! If you are willing to help, please let me know.

For the organisation of the Beerfest event, if anyone is willing to take on organising trade stands or sponsorship, your assistance would be most welcome.

We are still looking for a new trustee to join us. The work is not very time consuming; we have a meeting roughly every quarter and a couple more related to the community events. If you are interested, please email or give me a call.

John Brims—Chair of the Victory Room Trustees
0118 9713308 or 07799 348451
jbrims@outlook.com

Exercise

Indoor Carpet Bowls

"Ode to the game of bowls"

(Well, how we enjoy it!)

*Mike is his name and one of his goals
Was to get all the oldies out, playing at bowls.
There's now quite a few and, as I speak,
A mixed bag of players meet two days a week.
There's men and there's ladies, of varying skills
And varying ages – and varying ills!
Some creak and some mean that their knees are in pain
And some get depressed, but they still come again.
It's noisy, and friendly, and people we like
So let's raise a glass and say "thank you" to Mike.
(M.P. 2024)*

Following the last of the Christmas celebrations we held our first group social gathering in early January, when we all met for a lunch party at the Cottage Inn. As well as the good food that Gary and his team laid on for us the above text was presented and now is proudly on display!

Our meetings are usually well attended and numbers gradually growing, so we have recently extended our playing capacity with a further set of bowls and we now can accommodate another team onto our two lane set-up. We still have room for one more team of two on our present lanes, but then it will be essential to introduce a new lane, and that will bring a extra challenge due to the cost of the carpet.

For those interested, we always welcome newcomers, the two hour sessions pass very quickly and you can savour both the highs and lows of winning or losing all within the 2 hours bowling.

To summarise the package on offer:

Come along on either Monday morning or Friday afternoon and have a trial run, if possible let me know beforehand but if that is not possible just put your head in the door and you will be welcomed

Our meetings are held in Bucklebury Memorial hall:
We Meet:

Every Monday morning 10.30 a.m. to 12.30p.m.
Every Friday afternoon 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Charges are: £3 per head for each two hour session attended, this covers the cost of hiring the hall and the odd bit of equipment. N. B. all the equipment is provided.

We have a coffee break mid-session and we ask everyone to bring their own supplies, so that no one is required to do the washing up!

COME AND TRY OUR HAPPY SESSIONS!

Enquiries to:

Mike James: m-a-james@tiscali.co.uk 0118 971 2285

Yoga in the Memorial Hall

Weekly classes on a Monday at noon have been going since 2019 and are also broadcast online thanks to the wonderful WiFi at the Memorial Hall.

Led by Janine Ford, classes are suitable for all levels. Beginners are welcome and mats are available to borrow.

We practice and combine different styles of yoga, mindfulness and movement approaches including “pranayama” (breathing techniques), meditation, vinyasa, hatha and qigong.

Benefits of gentle movement are numerous but include:

- Relaxation
- Improved posture, strength, flexibility, mobility & balance
- Reduced muscle tension & pain
- Healthier breathing
- Increased awareness (mindfulness) of your body, emotions and thoughts
- Better sleep & more energy

Janine has been practicing yoga for over 25 years, classes are relaxed, informal and aimed at anybody who wants to learn and practice yoga in a down to earth, friendly and non-intimidating setting (see photo of students practicing an energising “Ksepana” mudra AKA Charlie’s Angel mudra!).

Gentle Strength Yoga

Mondays noon to 1pm

In the Oak Room at Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall and online.

Drop-in £12 or block book 6 classes for £60

Students practicing “Ksepana”

Term dates & prices are available at www.janineford.com
To book a space email: jfordtherapies@gmail.com
Next 6-week block begins on February 26th

FREE Seated wellbeing for all (at Educafe)

Wednesdays 2.15-3pm

In the Carnegie Room at Newbury Library

As part of Educafe (a weekly community cafe based at Newbury Library), Janine is part of a schedule for this free chair yoga class. The 30-minute session is very friendly and aims to help participants stretch, move, breathe well and relax comfortably.

Yoga 1-2-1s in and around Upper Bucklebury

Private yoga sessions can help to build confidence and ease your journey into yoga. (Limited availability)

Janine Ford

Sports

FC Cougars

FC Cougars are a fun and friendly local youth football club with children from across the Bucklebury Parish area and Thatcham. We are a non-profit community club run entirely by volunteers. The club are now running ten youth teams and are providing football to approaching 150 children from school years 1 to 11. All our age groups run a training session during the week and, from Under 7s upwards, play organised matches on Sundays. Our Under 7s, Under 8s and Under 9s are based at Bucklebury Primary School and we very grateful to the school for use of the school field to allow us to get young children off the games console and out playing regular football! When the light evenings return at the end of March we look forward to resuming training on grass at Bucklebury Recreation Ground on weekday evenings.

With what seems like constant rain this winter (particularly just before Sunday matches!) our younger teams have continued to play organised Futsal (indoor football) matches through January and February. The Futsal has been great fun for all our players and helped develop their football

skills. It has also gone down very well with our supporters who swapped cold and wet sidelines for a warm and dry sports hall. Our older age groups have continued on grass throughout the winter with our Under 12s, Under 14s and Under 16s playing in full competitive leagues across the season.

All of our team managers, coaches and assistants have enhanced DBS checks and safeguarding qualifications in place. This season we have been working hard to increase the number of fully qualified FA coaches at the club and we now have nine fully qualified FA coaches – one for each of our age groups. It is a big time commitment from our coaches to get their FA qualifications, and is excellent for the children who can benefit from knowledgeable coaches who can deliver football in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Looking ahead, the summer will allow all our teams to attend 6-a-side summer tournaments across Berkshire and further afield. At the end of the season we will be holding our end of season presentation day at The Victory Room, where all the boys and girls will get a trophy for their efforts this season. We will also look to raise some funds to keep our membership fees as low as possible to keep the club accessible to all. If any local businesses would like to donate something for the raffle or provide sponsorship then please get in touch – any donations will be helping keep children active and are very much appreciated.

Most of our teams are running at capacity, but we do have limited places in some age groups. At the time of writing we are looking for keen players in school year 3, so please do get in touch if you know of a young player! We welcome boys and girls of all abilities who want to play regular football. We would also like to hear from any adults that would like to volunteer with coaching the children, which is hugely rewarding.

For more details on the club please contact Graham Loader on graham@fccougars.com or see our website at www.fccougars.com

Graham Loader

One of the FC Cougar teams.

Bucklebury Tennis Club

Bucklebury Tennis Club continues to flourish for recreational play, drills, junior coaching and competitions.

Drills:

Drills with our Coach Damian Lane, continue to be very popular with sessions on a Monday and Thursday evening. For further details contact: Karen Pegg: kppegg61@gmail.com

Junior Coaching:

Junior Coaching with Paul Boyd-Leslie will resume for the Summer Term 2024
For further details contact our Junior Co-ordinator: Karen Pegg: kppegg61@gmail.com

Competition:

League Tennis

Bucklebury Tennis Club have teams in the Newbury and District Leagues Winter 2023-2024. Bucklebury Tennis Club also have a Ladies Doubles Team in the Berkshire Winter Leagues.

Summer Tennis will soon be upon us with teams once again entered into the NDLTA and Berkshire Leagues.

Our thanks must go to all the Captains and Team Members.

If anyone is interested in playing for any of our teams please do not hesitate to contact me:

Robin London: robinlondon145@gmail.com

Club Membership:

New members and visitors are most welcome. There is plenty of opportunity to play - Mens Mornings; Club Nights; League matches (both Newbury and Berkshire); Social tennis. Visitors or non-members can play on a pay and play basis.

Details regarding membership and visitors are on the website: www.buckleburytennisclub.com

Please contact our Membership Secretary, Norman Casson: normancasson@aol.com if you would like to join or there are any queries.

Robin London: robinlondon145@gmail.com
www.buckleburytennisclub.com

Contributions

Material to appear in The Oaks should be sent neatly typed for scanning or as a word-processor document (e.g. MS Word), attached to an e-mail and sent to “clerk@buckleburyparish.org”. Don’t worry about layout as it will be re-formatted to the house-style. Please supply any pictures or artwork as separate files, as they are not usually recoverable from word processor files and don’t forget to include captions for the pictures.

All contributions appertaining to the Parish are very welcome but the Editor reserves the right to adapt or omit submissions.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month preceeding publication.

Barry Dickens

Published in February, May and October

By Bucklebury Parish Council.

Helen Pratt, Clerk,

Jasmine Cottage, Byles Green, Upper Bucklebury,

Reading. RG7 6SD. Telephone: 01635 863581

E-mail: clerk@buckleburyparish.org

Copyright © Bucklebury Parish Council, 2024

(Printed by The Alpha Xperience, Newbury

Telephone 01635 523240)

Distributed free to all households in Bucklebury Parish,
and on the web:

<http://buckleburyparish.org>

Parish Diary Dates

March

7th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
11th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
12th	Tuesday Ladies Club	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury
14th	Bucklebury History Group	7.30pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
23rd	Common Clearing	2.00pm	The Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury.
25th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
28th	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am	The Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury

April

4th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
7th	Horticultural Society—Spring Show	2.30pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village
8th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
9th	Tuesday Ladies Club	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury
22nd	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
25th	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am	The Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury

May

2nd	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
10th	Bucklebury Annual Parish Assembly	7.45pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
13th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
14th	Tuesday Ladies Club	7.15	The Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury
28th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
30th	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am	The Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury

June

6th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
6th	Beacon lighting	9.15pm	The Hockett Field
8th	Best of Bucklebury	All day	Various locations around the Parish.
10th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
11th	Tuesday Ladies Club	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury
24th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
27th	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am	The Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury