

The Oaks



Inside this issue:

Bucklebury Parish Council	
WB Councillors	7
Family	8
Organisations	11
Halls	13
Country Life	14
Sport	17
Contributions	19

Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

After the appealing last VE 80 Day-themed issue of the Oaks we are back to our usual format of a record of everyday goings on in our rural community which I hope you continue to find informative and of interest. That's not to say there will not be 'special editions' in the future, if events so dictate. We are also considering publishing the Oaks in colour.

Let me begin with an update on the NE Thatcham development. Following WBC's adoption of the Local Plan (LP) in June a scheduled 12 month period of masterplanning, leading to the production of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), is underway. A cornerstone of the masterplanning process, which will build upon the framework in the LP and provide further details to guide development, will be consultation with local communities and stakeholders. To this end public engagement and consultation events will take place in Upper Bucklebury and Thatcham in the Autumn followed by a formal consultation on the draft SPD early in 2026. As a PC we have asked to be closely involved in the delivery and management of the event in Bucklebury. As more information becomes available on the event it will be widely publicised. Progress on the PC's engagement on the process leading to the SPD is discussed at each PC meeting, the minutes of which are on our website.

As many are probably now aware Hash and Chan after 27 years have decided to sell Peach's stores. They have found a buyer and expect to leave shortly. They will be moving to Slough and in the immediate future will be living with Hash's elder brother who is unwell and for whom they will help care. As a community we must give them a send-off in recognition of the fantastic service they have given us.

A farewell tea party is being organised on a date to be finalised.

Having access to the Common is one of the joys of living in Bucklebury. I recently accompanied the Steward of The Common, Alasdair, on a tour to see how things had progressed some 6 months since the main regeneration and improvement work ended. It is amazing to see regeneration has already taken place with heathers, gorse and grasses coming back in the cleared areas. Removal of the piles of brash, the byproduct of the tree and vegetation clearance, has been delayed by a contractual hold-up but it will happen later this year. The gravel paths that have been laid will be extended further to provide some circular walks. The 10 Belted Galloway cows have arrived and are in a field being trained with their GPS monitoring system. In the coming months they will be put out on the Common where they can selectively graze. In essence, the Common has undergone a significant transformation and regeneration for the benefit of our community, visitors and the generations to come.

As a PC we are investing a good deal of effort into vehicle speed awareness in the parish. We have a number of volunteers who are going out to monitor traffic at approved sites including Chapel Row, Upper Bucklebury and Burdens Heath and record its speed in 30mph areas. That done the data is sent to the Police who log it and carry out any necessary follow-up action. We chase WBC to maintain roadworthy surfaces and ensure road signs and white lining are fit for purpose. Elsewhere in this Oaks you can find more detail on our speed awareness endeavours.

Parish Council Chairman:
Barry Dickens

Parish Council Clerk:
Helen Pratt

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The PC has recently co-opted a new councillor and welcomed Tim Williams. He has lived in the parish for nearly 30 years during which he has been an active volunteer with the countryside group.

Cllr. Barry Dickens—Chair of BPC.

News from the Parish Council

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The team of volunteers has continued to deploy SID on a daily basis to educate motorists throughout the Parish. We are still seeing SID cause the majority of cars to slow down where it is deployed and the data shows an average speed reduction. About 1.2 million vehicle movements are now recorded and shared with WBC and TVP to ensure they remain aware of the problem. A summary of all of this data is available on the BPC website. Sadly we still see a minority of road users who have no regard for the speed limit and the safety of our residents by driving at excessive speeds. We still await WBC to release its policy on Parish Councils installing permanent SIDs in key areas before we can progress this area further. Our Ward Councillor is trying to resolve this situation. Two new SID sites at Hillfoot are with WBC for approval. New volunteers to deploy SID have come forward and been trained and more are always welcome. Please contact Councillor David Southgate if you are able to help deploy and recover SID on a daily basis at a site near where you live. It really doesn't take very much time and helps make a difference to your community.

Cllr. David Southgate—BPC

Community Speed Watch (CSW)

TVP and WBC have advised us that CSW is how our Parish should educate those who are putting our communities at risk by excessive speeds in our 30mph zones. We have followed the TVP process, signage, licencing and been issued the appropriate equipment. At the time of writing we have conducted 11 CSW sessions in the Parish. The consequence of which has resulted in 180 motorists being contacted or visited by TVP Officers. These motorists represented 9% of the total traffic. Deployment locations, times and days are varied based on volunteer availability and our SID data analysis. We are aware of light flashing warnings of our CSW activity by passing motorists, which if

it educates drivers to slow down is a positive outcome. We have a growing number of volunteers who have had enough of speeding through the Parish and have come forward to be trained to join our CSW. More volunteers to deploy CSW are always welcomed as this would enable more deployments. If you would like to find out more or volunteer please contact Cllr. David Southgate or Cllr. Graham Pask. Training takes an hour and each deployment is about 90 minutes so the commitment required is limited and flexible. Availability and location can be accommodated in our deployments in Chapel Row and Upper Bucklebury so please consider helping make Bucklebury Parish a safer place.

Cllr. David Southgate—BPC

Thursday Coffee Mornings

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

Thursday 30th October 2025
Thursday 27th November 2025
Thursday 18th December 2025
Thursday 29th January 2026
Thursday 26th February 2026



All Welcome – come and enjoy a cuppa!

If you need a lift, please call

Helen on 01635 863581

Sustainable Bucklebury

It has been fantastic to see photos of summer wildflowers grown from seeds distributed by Sustainable Bucklebury. In the spring we distributed wildflower seed envelopes across the parish and have now been receiving photos of some very impressive results (despite the exceptionally warm and dry summer!) If you have any photos of wildflowers you have grown please send them in so we can share them. If you still have your wildflower seed envelope but didn't plant them then autumn is a great time to get them ready. Seeds sown in the autumn (late September to November) can have better germination and growth in the spring and will have the benefit of natural rainfall. Details of how to sow your seeds are available on our website.

At our summer meeting we welcomed Penny Locke of Hungerford Food Community who gave a very interesting presentation on reducing food waste. Hungerford Food Community teach people of all ages to cook more from scratch, educate people as to where their food comes from and encourage people to buy food from local producers by running monthly markets. They raise awareness of the problem and offer solutions to food waste. Thirty percent of global greenhouse gas emissions come from food (mostly from food production) and 25 million tonnes of greenhouse gases are created by wasted food annually in the UK. If you would like to find out more, Penny's notes are available on our website.

In the last edition of the Oaks we reported on our April meeting where Nikki Coome (accompanied by Jenny and Eloise) gave an extremely interesting and informative talk about the issues we have with plastic usage and how Bucklebury, as a community, could become part of the Plastic Free Communities movement. The aim would not be to eliminate plastic but to reduce its use within our community. We are hoping to become part of the scheme but need a volunteer or two to lead our "Plastic Free Bucklebury" initiative.

Bucklebury Repair Cafe

Repair Cafes are community events that can be used to get help fixing items you own without having to dispose of them, reducing waste, and saving money. If you have an item such as a small appliance, a piece of clothing, or a faulty computer then you can bring them along to get help from a volunteer repairer. Your item can be assessed, and a volunteer will work with you to attempt a repair. There is

no charge to bring your item, but donations are appreciated to pay for the venue, small parts, refreshments, and insurance costs.

During the summer, a small group from Sustainable Bucklebury attended the Thatcham Repair Cafe to see how it is organised. The organisers were very helpful, and we had a look around and left with a lot of photos and copies of the forms and material used at the Thatcham and Newbury events. After posting about the meeting, we have had further volunteers come forward to help with the cafe and administration, so continue to build up volunteers to help run our own Bucklebury Repair Café.

We are aiming to run our own taster event on **Saturday 11th October 2025** in the Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury.

We are still after more volunteers to help with repairs!

If you have skills, you could share to help our community repair items then please contact us.

If you have an item you would like to bring along for repair, please let us know before the event.

You can either e-mail us using our contact details below or visit our website where there is a form to submit details of the item you need help with.

If you have any ideas of anything our group should be doing or would like to run a project with the support of our group, please get in touch or come along to one of our regular meetings.

For more details, please visit our website or join our Facebook group.

Tom Peddie, Nina Peddie, Graham Loader

contact@sustainablebucklebury.org.uk

www.sustainablebucklebury.org.uk



Planning

The number of planning applications considered by your Councillors is currently very low, this is reflected by a number of Planning Committee meetings being cancelled this year. The list, however, looks long. This is because WBC are taking much longer to determine some applications; some on the other hand are being determined very quickly!

Helen Pratt—Clerk to BPC.

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
24/00701/FUL	<u>Ivinghoe, Stanford Dingley (Adjacent Parish)</u> Demolition of Existing bungalow and replacement with a new dwelling and landscape enhancements. Amendment to single storey only.	Object	Awaiting decision
24/01767/FUL	<u>Spring Cottage, Chapel Row.</u> Retrospective: We would like to be permitted to regularly rent out our existing swimming pool to local swim schools for lessons. The pool and changing room areas are entirely self-contained, with its own entrance and toilet facilities. There is a specified parking area to the side of the house. There are 6 swim schools that would like to use the pool, covering 28 hrs a week spread over 7 days.	No Objection	Approved retrospectively
24/01964/LBC	<u>Briar Cottage, Byles Green.</u> Replace rear kitchen window with a French window; replace kitchen door and boot room door and replace four single glazed windows in kitchen/utility room with double glazed windows (retrospective for the four single glazed windows in the kitchen and the kitchen door).	No Objection	Approved
24/02120/FUL	<u>Sewage Treatment Works, Paradise Way.</u> Extension and upgrade of Chapel Row Sewage Treatment Works (STW) onto land to the west of the existing operational STW site with associated fencing and landscaping works.	Support	Approved
25/00297/FUL	<u>Staff accommodation, Bucklebury Farm Park.</u> Section 73 application to vary the wording of condition 3 (Permitted Use Class) of approved 23/01803/FUL – 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	Approved
25/00292/HOUSE	<u>Cadby House, Long Grove.</u> 2 storey side extension and garage conversion into habitable space. Side extension to include double garage and rear entry lobby on ground floor and store area above the garage.	No Objection	Approved
25/00702/FUL & 25/00703/LBC	<u>Picton Farm, The Slade.</u> The repair and conversion of existing outbuildings to ancillary residential use. The repair and extension of an existing storage outbuilding following demolition of small existing store. Definition of the residential curtilage associated with Picton Farmhouse.	No Objection	Withdrawn
25/00770/HOUSE	<u>Iona, Bucklebury.</u> Proposed 2 nd storey extension only (on top of the existing ground floor extension).	No Objection	Approved
25/00824/HOUSE & 25/00825/LBC	<u>Picton Farm, The Slade.</u> The repair and extension of the existing Farmhouse following demolition of modern side and rear extensions. The construction of an upgraded access track and frontage parking area. The installation of drainage, soakaways and treatment plant located to the	No Objection	Withdrawn

25/00900/FUL	<u>Beenham Hatch, The Avenue.</u> Erection of a barn to house sheep and store hay.	Object	Awaiting decision
25/00804/HOUSE & 25/00805/LBC	<u>Bucklebury House.</u> Erection of new entrance hall building, associated alterations and works.	No Objection	Approved
25/01023/HOUSE	<u>Bucklethwaite.</u> Demolish existing timber framed double garage/store/room above and replace with Oak framed building consisting of double garage / store / workshop and annex above.	No Objection	Withdrawn
25/01010/FULMAJ	<u>Tall Pines, Chapel Row.</u> A 1 ½ storey replacement dwelling of an existing bungalow, including provisions for new landscaping and car parking arrangements.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
25/00912/FUL	<u>Appletrees, Chapel Tree.</u> Erection of two standalone supported living units, staff facility, elevational external alterations to an existing building, and ancillary works associated with the existing care facility.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
25/01011/HOUSE	<u>Hawkridge Farm.</u> Part retrospective application for replacement electric metal gates and gate posts 1.85m wide x 2.1m high (at highest point) to main drive, erection of new 1,83m high x 50m long wooden fence alongside western boundary in rear garden, and erection of wooden pedestrian side gate 1.83m high x 1.20m wide adjacent to farmhouse on eastern boundary.	No Objection	Approved
25/01325/HOUSE	<u>White Lodge, Hatch Lane.</u> Extension to existing double garage to provide ancillary accommodation (granny annexe).	No Objection	Approved
25/00999/HOUSE	<u>Westrop Farm (Cold Ash Parish).</u> Retrospective application for replacement carport, and subsequent extension of carport to house new gym.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
25/01614/HOUSE	<u>The Farmhouse, Westrop Farm (Cold Ash Parish).</u> Proposed single storey extension, new front porch, amendments to external treatment and fenestration.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
25/01597/MDOPO2	<u>Former 5-10 Paradise Way, Chapel Row.</u> Request to modify/discharge a section 106 planning obligation dated 4 May 2023 between (1) West Berkshire District Council and (2) Sovereign Housing Association Limited (the Section 106 Agreement) in accordance with Section 106A(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
25/01860/FUL	<u>The Barns, Manor Farm.</u> Restoration and conversion of redundant agricultural buildings into one dwelling, creation of carport, landscaping and associated works.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
25/01790/FUL & 25/01791/LBC	<u>Picton Farm, The Slade.</u> The repair and conversion of existing outbuildings to ancillary residential use. The repair and extension of an existing storage outbuilding following demolition of small existing store. Installation of replacement surface water and foul water drainage. Replacement entrance gates, form new parking area and path to Farmhouse. Definition of the residential curtilage associated with Picton Farmhouse which is listed at Grade 2.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
25/01913/HOUSE	<u>Shepherds Heath, Chapel Row.</u> Erection of 1 ½ storey side extension and upward side extension, with associated internal and external alterations.	No Objection	Awaiting decision

Bucklebury Parish Council

Common Clearing and Parish Litter Pick

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

Saturday 4th October 2025

Meet Bucklebury Memorial Hall

2.00pm

Equipment will be provided

SKIP at the Memorial Hall

Free refreshments afterwards

“Keep Bucklebury Beautiful”

Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field

Following on from the work we had done on the trees in the meadows in Upper Bucklebury earlier in the year we are about to start some repairs to the fences particularly on the southern boundary of the big meadow where the holly was cut back to stop dogs running through with easy access to Broad Lane, especially if they see a rabbit! Other fencing will be improved on the northern boundary between the main meadows and to mark the boundary of Parish owned land. We have some ideas about securing the “kissing gates” to prevent dogs from nudging them open with their noses. This should help keep dogs safe. After a positive trial, with garden wire, it appears to be a welcome development so please secure the gates when this is installed!

Sadly there has been vandalism to the benches in the Hockett Field during the summer. Two benches were damaged, and subsequently repaired only for someone to have apparently put a disposable BBQ on one of them which has caused minor damage. If you are a regular visitor to the Hockett please report any damage or antisocial behaviour you notice to the Parish Council. The benches have been provided for everyone to enjoy so please spread the word that mindless damage will be reported to the

police!

The amazing West Berkshire Conservation Volunteers have agreed to come back to us to help maintain the meadows later in the year, if you have any suggestions for what we can ask them to do then please let us know or we will ask them to help with maintaining the hedgerows and cutting back the brambles around the edges.

Cllr. Graham Pask—BPC

Road Salt/Grit Bins

BPC maintains the 12 grit bins within the parish for our public roads and paths using volunteers. If you are aware of a bin becoming 50% or less full please can you advise the Parish Clerk. If you see a lid that has blown open on the yellow containers please close it to ensure the contents remain effective. Please keep them litter free as they are an important part of all of our Autumn and Winter Road Safety. To apply road salt by hand most effectively, use the scoop in the bin to pick up a small amount of salt and distribute it evenly across the surface, walking in overlapping patterns, ensuring you cover the area with a thin layer. A handful of road salt for every square metre (10 – 30 grams of rock salt per square metre) is usually sufficient.

Cllr. David Southgate—BPC

Carols by Candlelight

**Cemetery Chapel,
Byles Green**

Monday 22nd December

At 6pm

**Mulled Wine and Mince
Pies**

All welcome



West Berks District (WBC) Councillor

WBC Councillor's Report

For those gardeners out there the rain (although a little heavy at times) was a welcome relief from the continual pot watering regime, and I can see from our kitchen window whilst writing that the grass on Bucklebury Common is greening up already.

By the time you will have read this the local community groups will have met Bucklebury Estate again as part of the Bucklebury Common Interest Group (BCIG) hearing about the next steps to increase the management, the resilience of The Common and the many Public Rights of Way (PROW) we all enjoy in the parish, making it one of the top parishes for public access to the countryside in England. Walking through the thinned trees on Upper Common it was truly beautiful to see the light coming through the canopy on to the bracken underneath (and seeing that local children have taken the opportunity to build some well-crafted "camps" with the fallen sticks in the new spaces created by the works.)

Dr Tony Vickers, who many of you know is Chair of West Berkshire Council, has stepped back as the Council Member representative on the Local Access Forum and has asked me to step forward and try to fill his very capable shoes. The Mid and West Berkshire Local Access Forum (LAF) is a statutory body, set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It advises West Berkshire Council (as well as Reading and Wokingham Borough councils) on matters that affect access to the countryside for public recreation and enjoyment. It also advises the councils on the implementation of their Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP). It is an independent group that tries to strike a balance between representatives of people that use the countryside (eg: walkers, cyclists, equestrians, vehicle-users), the owners of the land, and other people and organisations with relevant interests. If anyone has any points or observations regarding matters they believe relating to LAF I would be more than happy to meet up to discuss the matter.

Walking through Turners Green recently I met a local hard-working volunteer mowing the grass in front of the Congregational Chapel. I asked if the Chapel was being used much and found that sadly it was not. Considering the beautiful setting of of the building it is such a shame. If anyone has any ideas or wishes to help maintain its future

please reach out to me and I will put you in touch with the right people. If you want to find out more about the chapel just search for the excellent articles by the Bucklebury History Group on the internet and you will find out more, and the reason why Bucklebury Common was never enclosed in the 19th Century.

Seeing the hard work put in to keep the grounds of the chapel well maintained reminded me of the importance of volunteers keeping groups active that maintain the rural life we all so enjoy as residents of Bucklebury parish. We are all grateful to these volunteers who put in so many hours, and also to the Parish Councillors who not only maintain important assets of community amenity, but organise many successful activities and events themselves and in tandem with local volunteer groups. These include the D-Day and VE-Day 80th anniversary on Chapel Row Green; the successful launch of the new Sustainable Bucklebury Group; local Guides and Scouts Groups; Community Speed Watch; animal charities; school PTAs; Toddler Groups and Pre-School Committees . If anyone has any ideas on new amenities or community groups they think would benefit the parish, please either pop along to one of my regular district councillor surgeries in the ward or drop me an email and we can discuss how to move the idea forward.

Finally, if anyone has any concerns about West Berkshire Council services please reach out to me. Also please remember the weekly food caddy service and fortnightly green recycling service will remain as is when the black bin collection changes to 3 weeks. You can find when your bins are collected at <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/binday> (if you don't have internet or are having issues give me a call with your postcode and I will look it up for you).

Please do not forget that if you spot anything which needs addressing from potholes, to fly-tipping, bins, or even works carried out by a utility company – please visit <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem> and log the issue, and if need be also raise with me. If the issue is an emergency (immediate danger, etc.) please call the 24-hour emergencies line 01635 55111.

Stay safe everyone!

Regards

District Cllr. Chris Read

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

Family

Girlguiding

1st Bucklebury Guides & Rangers

This summer 1st Bucklebury Guides went to the Netherlands with Guides and Rangers from Pangbourne, Cold Ash, Compton and Thatcham. We travelled by train from Newbury, getting the Eurostar from St Pancras to Amsterdam. We stayed in a hostel in Soest, about 40 minutes by coach outside Amsterdam.



On our first day we travelled into Amsterdam by train and went on a canal cruise. The group saw all the main sites in Amsterdam including the iconic canals, and learnt about the culture and history as we travelled. In the afternoon we walked through the city centre to the Anne Frank Museum where we had an educational workshop before visiting the museum. To finish the day we stopped for a freshly cooked Stroopwafel on our way back to the station!



The leadership team exploring Amsterdam.

We visited Efteling theme park on the second day which was a firm favourite across the group. The Guides and Rangers got to explore the park in groups, go on lots of different rides, try new foods and experience the fairytale atmosphere that had been carefully curated across the site.

On the Thursday we visited Rotterdam where we explored the food market in the Markthal and tried various different toppings on frozen yogurt! Following this we visited Adventure City, a high ropes course just outside the city centre. The group conquered fears and challenged themselves on various indoor and outdoor high rope courses. Most of the group had a go on the zip line course which started three stories high!

On our final day we visited Zaanse Schans which is a huge site with multiple windmills, museums and shops to look round. We learnt about the industrial history of the Zaan region before exploring the clog museum, sampling cheeses, learning about weaving and seeing operational windmills sawing wood and milling pigment for paints. Very excitingly two Rangers made their promise at the top of a windmill – what a memorable place to make your promise and officially be welcomed into Rangers!

The whole group (leaders included) thoroughly enjoyed our action packed week in the Netherlands! For some of the members it was their first time abroad, or their first time using trains, or their first time travelling with big backpacks but what an experience everyone had.

Guiding locally is 100% run by volunteers and trips like this wouldn't be possible without people giving up their time each week to run meetings, let alone the week away. Without volunteers we wouldn't be able to provide young people with these unique opportunities.

If you're interested in joining Girlguiding as a volunteer, whether that be helping to plan weekly meetings, being an extra pair of hands or helping with the admin behind the scenes we would love to hear from you!

Or if your daughter is interested in joining us and getting the opportunities to experience trips like this, email us to arrange a free taster visit.

Vicky Pratt—1st Bucklebury Guides
buckleburyguides@gmail.com

West Berks Ballet School

Celebrating 50 Years of Dance at
West Berkshire Ballet School



This year is a very special one, as the school celebrates its 50th anniversary—half a century of teaching, inspiring, and sharing dance within our community. To mark the occasion, students across the school in the Ballet, Musical Theatre and Tap departments are preparing for a

spectacular performance, *“The Golden Gala”*, which will take place on Friday 8th November at Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury. This promises to be an evening full of sparkle, talent, and a look back at five decades of dance.

Alongside the celebrations, we are also welcoming students back for a new term of classes. It's the perfect opportunity for anyone—children or adults, complete beginners or

seasoned dancers—to join in. Whether you're learning your very first steps or returning to a passion you once loved, there's a place for you at West Berkshire Ballet School.

Over the years, WBBS has grown into a thriving programme offering ballet, tap, modern and now musical theatre. Generations of dancers have found confidence, creativity, and friendships here, with many now bringing their own children and grandchildren through the doors.

For more information about the new term, class times, enrolment, or to book tickets for *The Golden Gala*, please get in touch with the details below.

Lucie Wilson—Principal WBBS

WBBSlucie@gmail.com

<https://www.westberkshireballetschool.com/>



WBBS Students on exam day.

Bucklebury Primary School

The beginning of the school year typically brings a range of emotions. The excitement of reuniting with friends, the nervous energy of a new class. And for some pupils, the terrifying first steps on a 14 year journey. At Bucklebury, we have a number of conventions that help channel this energy and make for a successful autumn.

Early in the term, captains are appointed. For the oldest, this includes Year 6 pupils who apply to be considered for the prestigious role of school captain by senior staff with a short list interviewed by the headteacher. We also mark the entry of the youngest pupils into the life of the school with our presentation of jumpers. As term gathers pace, Year 6 collectively goes on residential and we hold our first open morning.

During the open morning, I give a brief talk about the school family and what I feel is distinctive about our work. We believe in growing the whole child in every child. The values of love, faith and hope are our roots helping us to live out the trust deed of the school.

The school was founded in 1811 by Rev. Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley with the presentation of an inscribed buckle to each child. To this day, every child is precious and we do everything in our power to enable every child to flourish.

Throughout our history the school has served the children of Bucklebury. Today, how we go about the business of educating has three newly defined pillars. They are collectively known as the 'Bucklebury Bests' and are combined in the following sentence; The Best People deliver the Best Practice in the Best Place.

As a result, we hope to pass on capable, confident and curious children balanced in mind, body and spirit. The Bucklebury child is distinctive for their leadership of self and others. They have the skills and knowledge to thrive at secondary school, able to pursue an active and healthy lifestyle, secure in their sense of self and the contribution they might make to the world.

Much of what we believe could be said by many schools. The difference in the Bucklebury way is that, as visitors saw at open morning, and as was noted by Ofsted in early October 2024, we do more than just say such things. The published report is available here - <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50259996>. A quote from the report says;

"The personal development provision for pupils is exceptional...Pupils at this school consistently show the

school values of love, hope and faith. They respect each other's differences."

As our vision statement begins, love is tangible every day. Every aspect of school life is rooted in our core purpose of growing the whole child in every child.

The year ahead is crucial. Every child will only get this year once. Together we must ensure that every child has the very best chance of growing in mind, body and spirit.

Kind regards

Mr A. Higgs
Headteacher

Second Bradfield Brownies

Wow, here we are at the end of the summer holiday and looking forward to a fun packed autumn term! We spent last term outside as much as we could. We had a go at archery, soft axe throwing, and orienteering. The term ended with our Teddy Bear's Picnic and award presentations. We had three girls move up to Guides, two had gained their Gold Award and one had gained her Silver award. We are always very proud of the girls who move up to Guides and spend some time reflecting on how they have grown over their time with us. Whilst we will miss them very much, we do wish them every success on their next Girl Guiding adventure. We also had a visit from the West Berkshire Foodbank and collected food items for them.

Looking ahead to this term, we are planning a climbing session, we will be working on our Skills for my Future Theme Award and of course having a go at some Christmas craft. At our last meeting of the term, we decorated pebbles to be entered in the Children's Section at The Newbury Show. We are waiting with baited breath to see if any of them win a rosette!

We are often asked "Why Girlguiding?" Girlguiding empowers girls by providing them with all-girl spaces to develop confidence, learn new skills and discover their potential. We offer a unique blend of adventure, fun and structured activities designed to build resilience, teamwork and leadership skills which are vital in helping girls become the young women they aspire to be. Studies have shown that girls in Girlguiding have significantly higher confidence levels than their peers. The skills and confidence gained in Girlguiding are taken into adulthood.

We make lifelong friends, learn new skills in a fun way, and we help girls explore, create and grow. Everything we do is designed to build confidence, teamwork and new skills, be it reaching the top of the climbing wall, crafting an imaginative masterpiece or learning how to lead together.

You may have seen in the press that Girlguiding have launched 72 new interest badges. At Second Bradfield Brownies, we are going to have a go at the new Games Master badge, which amongst other things involves inventing and testing a new game, be it a board, card or running around game. We are excited to try one of the new badges and the girls will wear them with pride.

If you or your daughters are interested in joining us, please do visit our website www.girlguiding.org for more information and to register.

Vicki Beesley (AKA Tigger)

Secondbradfieldbrownies@yahoo.co.uk

Organisations

Bucklebury Walkers

We are a mixed group of walkers who meet on the first Thursday of each month at 10.00 a.m. and walk for about 3 – 4 miles or 10.30 a.m. for a shorter walk, about 2 miles. You are welcome to join either group

We have had a mixture of walks again this year in all sorts of weather! Usually enjoying a coffee and lunch at The Cottage Inn afterwards.

We had a very different time in September as Bucklebury Farm Park had offered us the opportunity to visit the deer and then have coffee in the café. About 20 of us, some walking there and back, were able to feed the deer and hear about their history.

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

St. Martin's Club

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. We hold indoor meetings at The Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury during the winter months, February, March and November, commencing at 14.00. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £3.00. Our November meeting is a talk by Sarah Somerville on Historic Houses, including Highclere Castle.

Coach trips begin in April of each year and, if there is space on the coach, we welcome visitors at the full cost of the outing. Our September trip was to see the poppies at The Tower of London. What a wonderful day out despite the long journey home. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it wasn't that busy. Our October trip is to the small town of Martock in the morning with a tour of Somerset Cider in the afternoon.

In August, as it is the school holidays, we don't have a coach trip but instead 60 plus members enjoyed a cream tea at The Cottage Inn. As you can imagine it was very noisy!

The committee are busy working on next year's programme, which will be available ready for our AGM in January. Please contact me if you would like more information about the club or would like to be put on the waiting list.

Helen Relf,

01635 867619 grannyrelf@btinternet.com



Poppies at the Tower of London

Tuesday Ladies Club (TLC)

Our June visit was to St. Crispin's Apple Farm, Chapel Row, where the co-owner James Bywater gave up his afternoon to take us on a most interesting walk round the orchards. In July we held our annual tea party in the Oak Room and sampled a delicious array of goodies members had brought along.

Our first meeting of the Autumn is supper at the Cottage Inn on 16th Sept. at 6.30pm.

Continuing with the food theme! In October Catherine Sampson will be enlightening us on the art of Georgian Cookery (18th -19th Century) this will cover recipes, cookery, cooking and table manners. On November 11th the well known local historian Nick Young will be talking about "Newbury's Round the World"

On Dec.9th we hold our Christmas Party in the Oak Room.

We start 2026 with a plonk and puzzle evening.

We meet on the second Tuesday in the month in the Oak Room, at 7.15pm. There is no membership fee, just £3.00 per session. We're a friendly informal group and all are welcome.

Wynne Frankum

Indoor Bowls

Come and join the Memorial Hall Indoor Bowls, held on Monday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30 and on Friday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

There is a small charge of £3.00 for each session per person and there is plenty of space for 6 people per carpet lane. There are two carpet lanes to play bowls.

So if there are lots of us, there is always the opportunity to do the scoring or sit and have a chat!

We have a break for a drink (bring your own if more than water!) halfway through the session, as it is much more exercise than you would think! Added to which it is sometimes very hard to get the bowls to meet up with the 'jack' without hitting it!

Come and try it out, it is fun and everyone is welcome.

Dee Burgess : ianddburgess@blueyonder.co.uk
07722 431280

Yoga

Find Your Balance with 1-2-1 Yoga Coaching

Are you curious about yoga but not sure where to start? Or perhaps you've tried a class before and felt it wasn't quite right for you. My 1-2-1 yoga coaching sessions are designed for anyone who wants a gentle, supportive way to begin their yoga journey.

Yoga is so much more than stretching — it's a practice that supports both your body and your mind. Through simple, guided movement and breathwork, yoga can help you:

- Improve mobility and flexibility
- Build strength and balance
- Reduce stress and find calm
- Boost confidence in your body's abilities

Working together one-to-one means I can tailor each session to your needs, your pace, and your goals, whether that's feeling more confident before joining a group class, recovering from injury, or simply making space for more movement and mindfulness in your week.

If you'd like to explore how yoga can bring more ease and balance into your life, get in touch to book or have a friendly, no-pressure chat: jfordtherapies@gmail.com

Janine Ford.

Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

The Media, who only measure history in terms of their own lifetime, are obsessed with our changing climate, As a gardener, I do not wish to add to their premature frenzy. We know for certain that the planet will get warmer as our Sun develops, Astronomers tell us so, but its a long, slow process. It is also true that the continuing success of human reproduction is a strain on our Earth's resources. Get used to it by all means, but it is not happening tomorrow. To put recent events into local context, it is only twenty years since we were mourning the disappearance of our stretch of the River Pang, and the Ford has been dry on at least three occasions since. At present it is flowing at a depth of eighteen inches. Every year there are forest fires in Europe. However I admit that in recent years, gardening has been challenging. The mower rests in the garage as the grass turns crispy brown, and for those outside Thames Water's ban, the time saved from mowing is taken up by watering. The lack of rain has continued to disappoint, inevitably the Summer Show was down on entries, but an increase on last year. The Victory Room was well attended by many villagers enjoying a typical summer flower show. The cream teas provided a popular attraction.

At the Autumn Show on Saturday 6th September, members rose to the challenge with some superb entries.

We invite all to attend our AGM on the 24th October, in the MEMORIAL HALL, at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments, a chance to meet fellow gardening friends and enter the 2026 daffodil competition. You would be welcome to join our small committee. We shall also draw the lucky numbers for three months of Century Club winners. Please come along.

The social is a repeat of last year's French themed evening at the Cottage Inn on Saturday 4th October. Ticket only, and is almost sold-out again. Contact Wynne Frankum (01635 863372) with regard to details and availability.

Happy gardening.

Derek Matthews
0118 9712587 mgderek45@gmail.com

Zen Fitness

Thursday afternoons are more fun and more relaxed now for some local residents who have joined the new Zen Fitness with Rachel Tai Chi QiGong and Zumba Gold classes at Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall. The classes started after Easter this year and have been growing in popularity.

After popping along to the monthly coffee morning in August it was great to see a great turnout of villagers at the start of September to try out the classes.

The Tai Chi QiGong that Rachel instructs is the Shibashi form, which is accessible for anyone to participate in and can even be practised seated. It integrates physical postures, breathing techniques and mental focus to develop balance, flexibility, stability and relaxation.

Zumba Gold is a dance-based fitness class, designed to suit the older adult and people who want an aerobic workout that's not too fast paced. It's about being active while having fun, with a wide range of Latin American and modern upbeat music.

Some of the participants who are already enjoying the classes have said:

Tai Chi QiGong

"Rachel was calm and relaxed and I felt the same way after class. Highly recommended." Julie

"Lovely slow exercise class and all fully explained by the

instructor, Rachel. Looking forward to next week's class." Carol

Zumba Gold

"Enjoyed the exercises and music and Rachel's class was so welcoming." Becca

"Very friendly and welcoming, suitable for all levels and all ages, highly recommended." Maggie

Rachel's classes are informal and suitable for beginners, returners and the exercise-anxious and cautious.

If you are free on Thursday afternoons and would like to try out a new fitness activity, Rachel offers First Class Free for new participants and welcomes drop-in's to join for a taster session. Classes are from as little as £6 per session and no need to block book. More details can be found at www.zenfitnessrachel.co.uk

Halls

The Victory Room

There will be two more events at the Victory Room this year. The first will be a quiz night on Saturday 22nd November. The advert with all the details of the evening is below.

The Bucklebury Events Committee will also be holding a Christmas tree Festival on December 14th. The details of the event will be in their post.

If you want to find out about all the activities held at the Victory room they are on our website www.buckleburyvictoryroom.com

John Brims

Chair of the Trustees of the Victory Room

0118 9713308 or 07799 348451

jbrims@outlook.com



Quiz Night

At the Victory Room, Bucklebury Village

Saturday 22nd November, 7.30pm start

Tickets £15 per head

Supper and desserts

Bring your own drinks

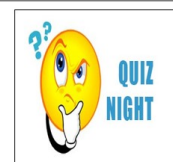
Raffle

To enter a team of minimum 4,

ideally 6 to a maximum of 8

Contact: John Brims 07799 348451

or email jbrims@outlook.com



Country Living

Bucklebury Common Restoration

Following two years of research and consultation with specialist organisations and stakeholders, significant implementation got underway to restore the Common during autumn 2024. An area of 860 acres of private land that is treasured by the estate and members of the community.

The restoration project was bound to conjure differences of opinion, but at the heart of the undertaking was to safeguard the Common for future generations and restore habitats that had either been lost or in decline.

The enhancement of habitat on the Common is not considered rewilding, far from it, a management plan was devised to restore diversity which had almost become a monoculture undermined by invasive species. Intervention is key to establishing a thriving environment and we are already seeing the resilience and vigour of nature.

To date the estate has undertaken twenty public consultations. It has always been the intention to keep members of the community informed every step of the way.

We have been extremely fortunate that Samantha Kerr has joined the estate as the first Ranger of the Common. During her first year, Sam has demonstrated significant knowledge, enthusiasm, tenacity, and an unwavering commitment to achieving exemplary environmental stewardship across the whole Common.

The challenge of unpredictable weather patterns was prevalent as we commenced operations during the wettest autumn on record followed by the driest summer of equal measure! To date we have restored heathland; Bucklebury is an incredible example - 85% of heath has been lost in southern England during the last 150 years. Bucklebury is the most significant area of heath in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape supporting dwarf shrub and assemblages of migratory and indigenous birds, reptiles, and invertebrates.

The mechanical undertaking was met with some concern and scepticism as we cleared areas of invasive birch scrub revealing the bare gravels of the Bucklebury plateau. Already heather and European gorse seedlings are germinating and

naturally colonising again which was expected given a dormant seed bank.

Over two hundred mature and veteran trees have been haloed, a significant amount of holly has been pulled to provide light to the woodland floor, wood pasture creation is underway, gulleys have cleared retaining feature ecological English oak trees amongst wet woodland rich in mosses and sedge grass. Six ponds have been restored and an additional six have been dug. Sixty leaky dams have been installed retaining water, slowing percolation to the river Pang. Twelve wader scrapes have been created on the heath as well as ten hibernacula to support reptile refuge.

During the year an all weather surface was laid for residents of Burdens Heath to avoid walking the public highway, car parks have been improved, access and interpretation boards installed and shortly we will be introducing a small herd of Belted Galloway cattle for conservation grazing. This rare breed has been selected because it is native to the British Isles, it is a hardy breed, and the heifers will live on the Common all year round. Belted Galloway have a distinctive marking or 'white belt' around their girth. Sam is experienced in handling livestock - specifically cattle grazing on an extensive system.

There have been so many rewarding moments, but the most important element is that Willie Hartley Russell as owner has given his unwavering support, enthusiasm, knowledge, and energy to achieve exemplar standards of environmental management. Without Willie's attitude and desire, the Common would decline and species would be lost, as well as the treasured heathland.

Our cyclical work on the Common continues albeit with less dramatic visual impact. This Autumn we will continue with wood pasture establishment mainly to the east of the Common, more pond restoration, more access enhancement, more holly removal, removal of soil bunds from the existing heath, more scrapes, ponds, hibernacula and leaky dams, and the desilting of the monastic ponds off Pease Hill. You will be delighted to know that the heaps of stumps on the edge of the restored heath will be removed!

Members of the community have already offered their support to Sam to become a 'friend of Bucklebury Common.' if you would like to volunteer, Sam can be contacted at ranger@buckleburyestate.com Sam has also set up a Facebook page which provides the community with up to date information on our progress.

We hope to conduct another community walk during

October so that you can see firsthand the work that has been undertaken and the progress of restoration. A date and time will be posted in due course.

Please remember that wildlife conservation will only thrive if disturbance is kept to a minimum. Please therefore kindly remain on the rights of way and always keep your dog on a lead.

Alasdair Jones-Perrott MRICS
Steward of the Manor



This project has been partly funded by the Partnerships for Nature programme which is led by the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (NWDNL) and funded by the Government's Species Survival Fund. The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

**SPECIES
SURVIVAL
FUND**

Funded by
UK Government

Heritage
Fund



**North Wessex
Downs
National
Landscape**

Bucklebury

**CHRISTMAS
TREE FESTIVAL**

Sunday 14th December 2025
10.30 – 4.30

Victory Room
Bucklebury, RG7 6PS

Free entry • Stalls
Seasonal refreshments

All Bucklebury groups, societies, businesses and individuals can enter a tree.

Prizes for

- ★ The funniest tree
- ★ The most original tree
- ★ The tree with the most votes

All visitors can vote

To enter a tree, please contact Wynne Frankum
rwfrankum@outlook.com • 01635 863372



West Berkshire Countryside Society

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

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 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.

Tuesday 14th October 10.00am—Bucklebury Common.
Heathland and woodland management. Meet at the Crossroads or as directed on the website SU556 691
What Three Words: taskbar.flagpole.sensual

Tuesday 2nd December 10.00am—Rushall Manor Farm, Bradfield.
Continuing woodland conservation management tasks. Meet at the Black Barn off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield SU584 723
What Three Words: telephone.brink.crate

Tuesday 9th December 10.00am—Bucklebury Meadows.
Working on hedges around the meadows behind the pub/restaurant in Upper Bucklebury. Park in Morton's Lane or as directed on the website SU543 686
What Three Words: chuckling.notion.regaining

New Flood Defence for Bucklebury Village

With the generous support of Willie Hartley Russell and Bucklebury Estate, this summer we have finished the construction of an extra flood alleviation scheme for Bucklebury Village.

Scheme Objectives

Bucklebury Village has sometimes suffered from surface water flooding during winter storms when the groundwater has been high. The surface water runs off the hill and field to the southwest of the village, entering the village by the Thames Water pumping station next to the house Waven. On each occasion, the road drain network could not cope with the inflow and water lapped at the edge of properties. Only by pumping with John Munro-Ashman's tractor and his 8,000-litre tanker was actual property flooding averted.

This flood scheme has been designed to alleviate the risk from water flowing off the Waven field into the Village.

Funding and Leadership

The project was funded by a grant from the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) that we bid

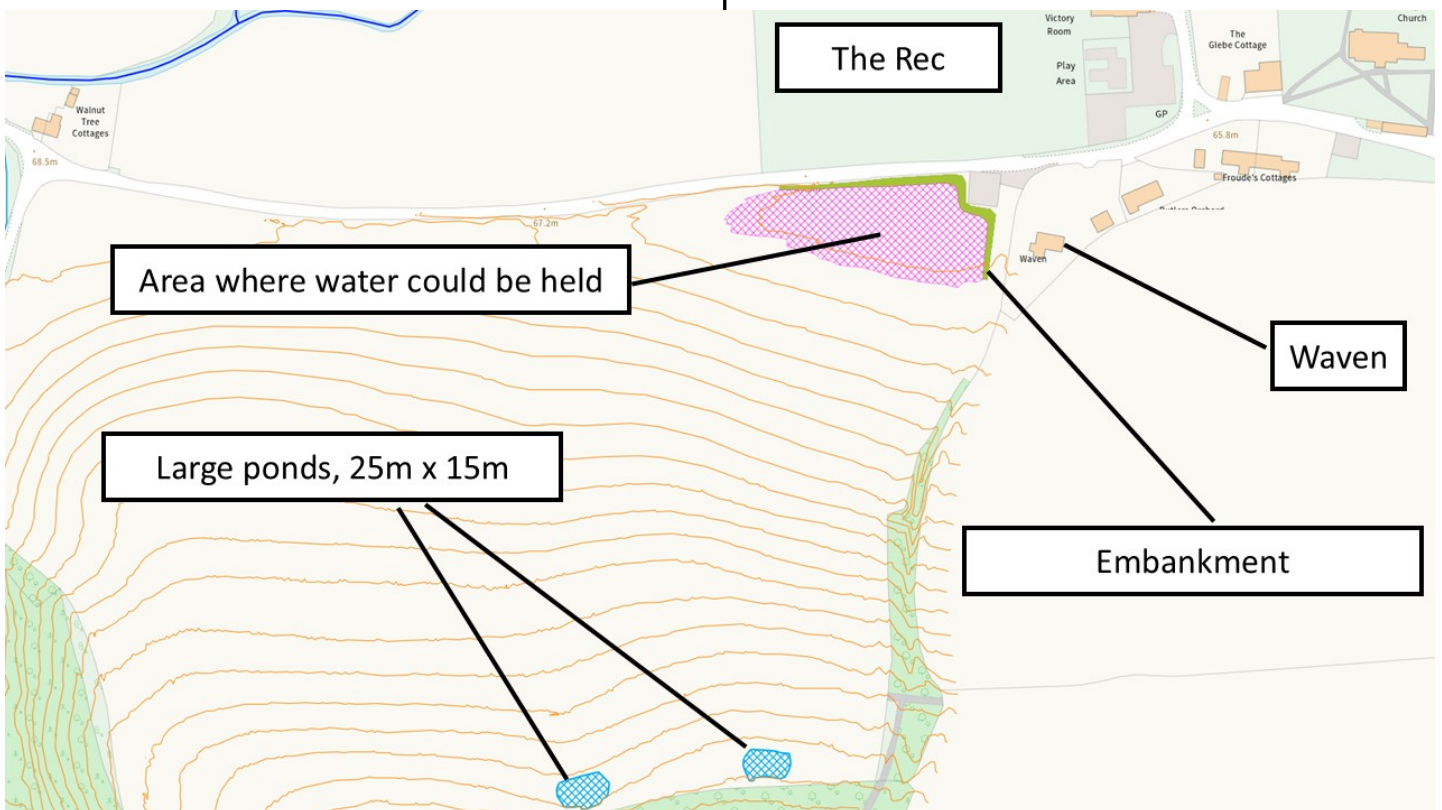
for via the Pang Valley Flood Forum. The project was sponsored by West Berkshire Council and kindly managed by Bucklebury Estate.

Design

At the top of the Waven field, by the wood to the south, the land is clay. At the bottom of the field, the bedrock geology is chalk with sand gravel deposits. To stop the water flowing into the village, the scheme has constructed the following: two holding ponds have been dug at the top of the field, on the edge of the wood, in an area that becomes boggy in wet winters; the clay dug out of those ponds has then been used to construct a 0.80m high embankment around the Thames Water pumping station at the bottom of the hill. This embankment tapers into the hill at the 67.20m contour. By the embankment a soakaway pit has been dug to a depth of 2.5m, giving direct access to the permeable strata, and that pit was filled with shingle.

Thus, in the event of another 'Storm Dennis' like event, the embankment will fill with the water running off the field and hill. After the storm it will then soakaway into the chalk and gravel beneath.

The embankment can hold back 1,430 m³ of water (1,430,000 litres). In the autumn the embankment will be seeded with a grass mix.



Thank yous

Big thank yous go to:

- Willie Hartley Russell and Bucklebury Estate who own the land on which the scheme has been built and who have kindly supported the project.
- John Munro-Ashman who farms that field and who has lost a small area of crop (and who hopefully now won't need to deploy his tractor and tanker).
- Ben Mitchell who sketched and designed the scheme and advised on the construction.
- Alasdair Jones-Perrott who manages Bucklebury Estate and has supported and managed the works.
- Sam Breakspear (SJB Contracting) who ran the digger team that carried out the construction.
- The Pang Valley Flood Forum through which I was able to bid for the funds from the Thames RFCC.

There are further details on the PVFF website here: <https://www.floodalleviation.uk/projects/#WavenField>

Piers Allison

Sports

FC Bucklebury Cougars

After a fantastic get together to end the season at Bucklebury Recreation Ground, followed by summer football tournaments, our coaches and players are now back and ready for the new 2025/2026 season! We are starting the new season bigger than ever with twelve teams catering for youth players aged between 5 and 16 years old, and ladies over 16 in our new FC Bucklebury Sabres women's team. We now have over 170 players registered to the club from Bucklebury, Thatcham, and the local area. During the lighter months, our teams train at Bucklebury Recreation

Ground during the week. Our younger teams play at Bucklebury Primary School on Sunday morning with the older age groups playing at Henwick in Thatcham.

The club continues to be an FA Accredited Club, which means we are recognised by the FA for offering a consistent standard on and off the pitch and creating the ideal environment to nurture players, coaches, and volunteers. The club delivers inclusive football for our local community for those who want to play regular competitive football or enjoy regular training sessions. We offer both league based football and training only for those looking to come along and give it a try. We welcome boys and girls of all abilities and our ladies team are playing in the development division of the Thames Valley Counties League – everyone is welcome!

Our new Under 6 cubs team, for children now in school year 1, are set to start training this Autumn. The first season at the club is completely free and future membership fees are great value to cover pitch fees, referee fees, training equipment, affiliations, and insurances. Most of our youth players start at under 6s or under 7s and work their way all the way through to our oldest age groups – so this is a great opportunity to be there from the start. We are also looking for volunteers to help run the new team. All volunteers get full support from the club to get their FA qualifications, and we provide coaches kit and free or discounted membership for their child. It is very rewarding helping young footballers develop and enjoy playing the sport.

Most of our teams are now running at capacity but we do have some limited spaces left for the new season across our age groups – so please visit our website or contact us to find out more!

Graham Loader

graham@fccougars.com

www.fccougars.com



**NEW TEAM FOR
2025/2026 SEASON!**

**UNDER 6 CUBS
SCHOOL YEAR 1
TRAINING STARTS NOV 2025
PRE-REGISTER NOW!**



The poster features a central image of a smiling cougar cub with its paw on a red and black soccer ball. In the background, a soccer goal is visible. The FC Bucklebury Cougars logo, which includes a cougar head and the text 'FC BUCKLEBURY COUGARS' and 'EST. 2013', is positioned in the top right corner of the poster.

Bucklebury Badminton Club

The Bucklebury Badminton Club held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July and we were delighted to see a strong turnout from members who enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on a year of growth and achievement. The club is all about the members, and there was a real feeling of camaraderie, optimism, and commitment to the club's future.

Helen Daniell, Chairperson of the Club, highlighted the fact that there has been an overall increase in membership over the last season, with players travelling from Reading, Chieveley, Newbury, Thatcham and other surrounding areas to enjoy the friendly, yet competitive club vibe.

The club is in a good financial state, and Treasurer Matt Lorrimore presented a healthy balance sheet, crediting much of this not only to the increase in membership fees but also to the success of various fundraising initiatives and social events

Some changes are coming. After a staggering 19 years the club secretary, Linda Cross, will be stepping down from her responsibilities after Christmas at the end of this year. The club thanked Linda for her endless support and tireless organisation as she leaves some very big shoes to fill!

At the AGM there were some awards to celebrate players achievements and Helen Daniell presented awards for "Best Female Player" (presented to Elizabeth Brown), "Best Male Player" (presented to Alan Arnold), "Best Newcomer" (presented to Saanchi Agrawal) and "Most Matches Played" (presented to Sabrina Cook).

The summer club which runs from mid June to early September has been incredibly busy with plenty of guests and would-be members joining play. And as the new season approaches in September it has been agreed to run the annual club tournament on Tuesday 16 September with pairs being selected at random from members and appropriate handicaps allocated.

Then following on from the huge success of the summer quiz night the club have started organising another on Thursday 9 October at The Cottage Inn, Bucklebury. This is open to teams of 6 with an entry fee of £10 per team. If you would like to enter, please contact the Club. Finally, in December there will be the annual Christmas meal where, once again, the club will roll out the popular Rudolph's Raffle with some amazing prizes to be won.

The club is open to new members - in particular those who have played before and are interested in participating in matches. We are especially looking to boost our ladies team, so if you've played some badminton in the past, dust off that racket and try it out one Tuesday evening.

Bucklebury Badminton Club is all about the membership and the community that has been built over the years. Many members have commented that this club isn't just about badminton—it's about friendship, fitness, and fun. The AGM reminded us how far we've come and how much more we can achieve together

With its strong foundation and enthusiastic membership, Bucklebury Badminton Club is poised for another exciting season on and off the court.

Bucklebury Badminton Club play at Elstree School, Woolhampton every Tuesday from 8-10PM. Visit buckleburybadmintonclub.com

Helen Daniell—Chair of Bucklebury Badminton Club



Members at the Bucklebury Badminton Club AGM

Bucklebury Tennis Club

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

This summer has seen the successful completion of the conversion to LED lighting of the existing court floodlights. As well as the environmental benefits, this will substantially reduce the ongoing maintenance costs which the previous lighting entailed and this in turn is expected to reduce the charge to members for using the floodlights. The floodlighting is used in the autumn and winter months by individual members sessions but also for Club evenings, drills and League matches.

Membership

In order to encourage new members to join the Club, we are offering a half price membership for both adults and family members from the 1st October. As a result the membership rates for new members joining from that date will be as follows:-

Family - £47 (instead of £95)

Adult - £32 (instead of £65)

Student - £25

Junior - £15

The membership year runs until the 31 March 2026 so members will be able to play throughout the winter months. New members may join the Club by visiting the Club website at www.buckleburytennisclub.com from the 1st October at the special half price rate by clicking the Membership and Join Now links and paying the subscription to the Club bank account shown.

On joining the Club you will then be sent the combination code to the courts. If you have any queries relating to joining the Club, please contact the Club Secretary Norman Casson at normancasson@aol.com

Club Mix-ins and general recreational play.

The Club holds Club general mix-ins on Tuesday and Friday evenings as well as Mens and Ladies Mix-ins on Saturday and Monday mornings respectively and these are open to all members over the age of 18.

As a member you may book a court for your own recreational play by using the booking link on the Club website at www.buckleburytennisclub.com.

Drills.

Drills are held by our Club coach Damian Lane on Mondays and occasional Thursdays evenings and for further details please contact our Drills Organiser Karen Pegg on kppegg61@gmail.com.

Junior Coaching.

Junior Coaching may be available and for further details, please contact our Junior Co-ordinator Karen Pegg as above.

League Competitions.

The Club have entered teams in the Newbury and District Winter League and in the Berkshire Winter League. If you are of a suitable standard and would like to be considered for match play, please contact our Match Co-ordinator Sarah Lewington on sarah@sarzen.com

If you have any general enquiries relating to the Club, please contact the Club Chair Rosie Macgregor below.

Rosie Macgregor—Chair of Bucklebury Tennis Club

rmac1951@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.

Barry Dickens

Parish Diary Dates

October

2nd	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am & 10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
3rd	Bingo night	7.30pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
4th	Common Clearing	2.00pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
11th	Bucklebury Repair Café	10.00am—12 noon	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
13th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.00pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
14th	West Berkshire Countryside Society	10.00am	Bucklebury Common crossroads
14th	TLC	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
24th	Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society AGM	7.30pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
27th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.00pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village
30th	Community Coffee morning	10.30am - 12 noon	Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury

November

6th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am & 10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
10th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.00pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
11th	TLC	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
21st	Quiz night	7.30pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
22nd	Quiz night	7.30pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village
24th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.00pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village
27th	Community Coffee morning	10.30am - 12 noon	Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury

December

4th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am & 10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
6th	Jumble Sale		Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
8th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.00pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
9th	West Berkshire Countryside Society	10.00am	Bucklebury Meadows, park in Morton's Lane
9th	TLC	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
14th	Christmas Tree Festival	10.30am—4.30pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village
18th	Community Coffee morning	10.30am - 12 noon	Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
22nd	Carols by Candlelight	6.00pm	Cemetery, Byles Green, Upper Bucklebury

January

1st	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am & 10.30am	To be confirmed
12th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.00pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
13th	TLC	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
26th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.00pm	The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village
29th	Community Coffee morning	10.30am - 12 noon	Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury

Published in Winter, Summer and Autumn By Bucklebury Parish Council.

Helen Pratt, Clerk, Jasmine Cottage, Byles Green, Upper Bucklebury, Reading. RG7 6SD. Telephone: 01635 863581

E-mail: clerk@bucklebury-pc.gov.uk

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