

# The Oaks



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## Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

After our public meeting in December on the Local Plan the PC has been involved in submitting a representation to WBC on the Main Modifications to the Local Plan and assisting and giving guidance to parishioners wishing to do the same. The PC has made it clear that our focus now is on constructive engagement with WBC on the forthcoming masterplanning process to minimise the impact on our community of the proposed NE Thatcham development. We will be concentrating on the implications of hundreds more car journeys going daily through the parish and protecting the 50% of the development site that will have a green buffer with no building. Additionally the threat of the urbanisation of Upper Bucklebury and setting on the National Landscape (AONB as was) from the loss of the strategic gap between Upper Bucklebury and Thatcham will be on our agenda.

The future Local Plan timetable is likely to see the Planning Inspector's report issued in March/April with adoption of the Plan by WBC and the start of the masterplanning process in May.

Following our successful celebration of D-Day 80 last year plans are well advanced for a VE-Day 80 beacon lighting on 8 May. Amongst the attractions there will be hot food and live music including the Three Rivers Choir and the participation of Kennet School. Look out for more detail elsewhere in this Oaks.

May I make a belated tribute to one of our councillors, Lindy Clarke, who retired from the PC last year. Lindy served on the PC for 17 years and was a fearless and always positively-opinionated advocate for the Village. She also was involved with the refresh of the Parish Plan and Bucklebury

Vision-the Parish's planning advice document. Although wanting to step down a little while ago Lindy was conscious that would have left the PC without a female councillor, so she kindly agreed to stay and help Georgina and Lesley settle in.

Under rainy skies our annual carol concert at the chapel on the Common took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. As always the singing, instrumental music and atmospheric lighting plus mulled wine and mince pies got everyone in the festive spirit. The generosity of those attending saw £550 raised for the Chapel Row Community Service Group. This charity provides support to local people with periodic lunch clubs and transport for medical appointments and shopping.

Walkers in the PC-owned meadows in Upper Bucklebury will have noticed recent work on cutting back tree branches which could have been a danger to the public and stripping out some holly. When the developers of Mortons Lane handed over the meadows to the PC they did so with a one-off payment as they wished to divest themselves of any further responsibility for maintaining the meadows. We are dipping into that to fund the tree work.

Many Burdens Heath residents choose not to walk into Upper Bucklebury to go to Peaches or the primary school because there is no pavement and, as we know from our speed monitoring, many motorists do not abide by the speed limit. Well they now have a long sought option of using a footpath. With the availability of plant and aggregate from the Common work the Estate has kindly laid and funded this new path.

Cllr. Barry Dickens—Chairman of BPC.

## News from the Parish Council

### Bucklebury Meadows

Bucklebury Parish Council took ownership of the meadows behind The Cottage Inn/Morton's Lane in Upper Bucklebury around fifteen years ago after the developer had completed Morton's Lane and was given a sum of money for their maintenance.

The meadows are well used by many who exercise both themselves and their dogs and I'm sure you have seen that some of the oak trees are in need of removal of dead branches and that there are six ash trees that have succumbed to ash die-back disease and need felling. It is always sad to lose a tree but when ash dies the branches becomes very brittle and are likely to snap off as has happened a couple of times in the northern meadow recently!

Towards the end of last year I took advice from four tree



One of the oak trees to be tidied up.

surgeons about the best way forward to keep everyone safe from falling branches and to preserve and enhance the many trees we own so starting early in February Masons Tree Surgery, a local specialist, are carrying out this work.

In addition to removing the ash trees and pruning various oak trees Masons will trim several elm trees between the two main meadows which are suffering from dutch elm disease (with the hope they can regenerate with some resistance to the disease) and heavily trim the tall holly on the southern boundary of the large meadow which is growing up into the four magnificent oak trees on that boundary.

I hope this work will last a number of years and we intend to replant the trees we are losing with disease resistant varieties with help from the West Berkshire Countryside Volunteers (please see the separate article written by Wynne Frankum) who have spent two days recently working very hard to remove scrub and maintaining hedges around the meadows. Their help is very much appreciated!

Cllr. Graham Pask— BPC  
01635 864023

### **Bucklebury Parish Council**

## **Common Clearing and Parish Litter Pick**

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

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Meet Bucklebury Memorial Hall**

**2.00pm**

Equipment will be provided

SKIP at the Memorial Hall

Free refreshments afterwards

**“Keep Bucklebury Beautiful”**

## Sustainable Bucklebury



**SUSTAINABLE  
BUCKLEBURY**

Sustainable Bucklebury is a group that started last summer aiming to get people together to promote living sustainably.

We're excited to progress and start new projects in 2025 and do what we can as a community to tackle climate change.

We held public meetings in October and November and our **next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th February at 7pm at The Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury**. There will be tea, coffee, and cake and hopefully a great turnout of people looking to get involved and contribute some ideas!

During the year we will be sending out some newsletters via e-mail with general information and updates. The plan is for our first newsletter to have information from our home energy advisory group. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please sign up using the link on our website. We would also welcome contributions!

One of the suggestions at our recent meetings was to produce a map, specific to our area, to include all sustainable initiatives, organisations, and recycling facilities. The general feeling was that it was hard to find specific information, and people were unaware of what could be recycled at which facilities. We are pleased to say that our Sustainable Bucklebury map is now live. We will be looking to add to this map, as we are sure we are missing some initiatives and local facilities, and are aiming to form a complete picture of what is available within, and around, Bucklebury. Please contact us with your updates and suggestions.

Our plans for later in 2025 include wildflower planting and planting a community orchard in the parish meadow in Upper Bucklebury. We have met at the meadows with those experienced in this area and received some fantastic advice on what to plant, how to plant and how to maintain the fruit trees. The next step will be to secure funding so we can begin planting towards the end of the year. We would like to get as many people as possible involved with this project and the on-going care of the orchard.

In the last issue of the Oaks we reported on the success of the Thatcham and Newbury Repair Cafes and our hope to

run regular Repair Cafes in Bucklebury. Repair Cafes can be used to get help fixing items you own without having to dispose of them, reducing waste and saving money. There are several keen volunteers, but we would still need a few more. If you have skills you would like to share with the community, for a couple of hours once every three months, let us know. If you think you would come along to a local Repair Café, please visit our website where there is a form to submit your interest and tell us what you might like to bring along to get help with.

We want to make the Sustainable Bucklebury group an enjoyable community endeavour, whether you want to simply access more information, occasionally join a project for a couple of hours or get more involved. If you have time, ideas, comments, or energy to spare, or just want to know more, please get in touch.

**Graham Loader / Nina and Tom Peddie**

[contact@sustainablebucklebury.org.uk](mailto:contact@sustainablebucklebury.org.uk)

[www.sustainablebucklebury.org.uk](http://www.sustainablebucklebury.org.uk)

<b>REPAIR CAFE</b> Newbury & Thatcham	<i>Bin it? No Way!</i>
<b>Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> February 10:00 to 12:30</b> Frank Hutchings Community Hall, Thatcham RG18 4QH NOTE:- Items usually accepted for repair until 30 minutes before closing	
<b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 14:00 to 16:30</b> Methodist Church Hall, Newbury RG14 1AN	
<b>What is a Repair Café?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Fixing a broken toaster</li><li>- Reducing waste</li><li>- Chatting over coffee, tea &amp; biscuits</li></ul> Voluntary contributions welcome	
Electrical / electronic goods – Toys -Tool sharpening – Clothing / Textiles – Costume jewellery repairs – Small items of furniture / wooden objects – General repairs Mobile phone & IT advice / troubleshooting	
For more information visit <a href="http://www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/newbury-and-thatcham-repair-cafe">www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/newbury-and-thatcham-repair-cafe</a> e: <a href="mailto:newburythatchamrepaircafe@gmail.com">newburythatchamrepaircafe@gmail.com</a> f: Newbury and Thatcham Repair Café	
Electrical Safety Fund	Supported by Greenham Trust

## Helping at the Repair Cafe

The Newbury & Thatcham Repair Café has just celebrated its first year. I have been helping as a repairer for last 6 months. I am on the general repair desks ... which means trying to mend everything from Buzz Lightyear toys to Rollators, many knives and shears sharpened, vacuum cleaners repaired, pan handles riveted.. the variety of tasks is what makes each repair a challenge. It's very much a team effort as repairers share tools and ideas on the problem and solution. The Café Team is not just repairers as a variety of roles ensure that visitors seeking repairs are welcomed, triaged, and supplied with tea/coffee whilst the items are repaired. I think it's great fun and the Café is always after more volunteers. I am looking forward to the Bucklebury Repair Café opening its doors

The Newbury & Thatcham Repair Cafe runs events about once a month, on the last Sunday of the month, alternating between Newbury and Thatcham. The next venues and dates in 2025 are as follows:

- Sunday February 23rd 2025 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m at Frank Hutchings Community Hall, Thatcham, RG18 4QH
- Sunday March 30th 2025 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Newbury Methodist Church Hall, RG14 1AN

As part of the Café we have recently been trained and certified as Electrical Equipment Testers (what used to be called PAT). All electrical items brought into the café are EET tested on arrival and after a repair for safety. Items brought into the Repair Café have frequently been found to have unsafe plugs, fuses and cables. Electrical items requiring 3A fuses have been found to have 13A fuses fitted which creates a significant hazard to the user. Using a fuse that is rated too high for a circuit poses a significant risk of electrical fires due to overheating, as the fuse won't blow when excessive current flows through the circuit, potentially damaging wires and components and leading to ignition of nearby flammable materials; essentially, it defeats the safety mechanism designed to protect against overload situations.

Cllr. David Southgate—BPC

## Speeding

### Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The team of volunteers have continued to deploy SID on a daily basis throughout the Parish. 850,000 vehicle movements are now recorded and shared with WBC and TVP to ensure they remain aware of the problem. 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 are still seeing SID cause the majority of cars to slow down where it is deployed. BPC alongside grant and publicly raised funds are now looking to progressively purchase and install permanent SIDs to key areas. We await WBC to produce its policy on the matter before we can progress this further. The two existing Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) at Chapel Row and Upper Bucklebury have recently been repaired. WBC have informed us that if they require replacement they will be removed and it may be for BPC to resource replacements. More volunteers to deploy SID are always welcomed.

### Community Speed Watch (CSW)

TVP have now agreed our monitoring sites and our equipment so with the signage in place we are now ready to deploy at these locations. We are unlikely to see additional resources from TVP and WBC to address our speeding problems and they have advised us that CSW is how our community should address those who are putting our communities at risk by excessive speeds in our 30mph zones. Those recorded by CSW activities receive letters or visits from TVP officers. More volunteers to deploy CSW are also welcomed.

Cllr. David Southgate—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. 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



## Black Ice

BPC have recently reported an area in Chapel Row that sees black ice form and requested help from WBC. They have responded with warning signs and are aware of the area when gritting. Not all of Bucklebury Roads are gritted but where they are if black ice is regularly occurring it seems that WBC are willing to take some additional measures if the area is reported to WBC Road Maintenance and the WBC Drainage and Flood Teams.

## Cemetery Carols

Cemetery Carols were well attended just before Christmas and raised £550 for the Chapel Row Community Service Group.

This was the first use of BPC electronic card readers at the event. A big thankyou again to all of those who helped make it happen. Any requests / suggestions / additions for changes to the carols sung or service are welcomed as this is an event for the parish.

BPC are also looking to see if a suitable summer music event could be staged in the chapel and would welcome volunteers who would be willing to help or perform.

Cllr. David Southgate—BPC

## Chapel Row Community Service Group

This registered charity was formed in 1980 by Dr. John Raban and Mrs. Georgina Cardy and is funded solely by donations. The parish council were delighted to support this volunteer group and had great pleasure in presenting one of



Cllr. Allum presenting Mrs. Cardy with a cheque for £550

the founders with a cheque from the proceeds of the Cemetery Carol Service. Unfortunately, the late Dr. Raban passed away in 2018 but his legacy remains.

The Group provides two lunch clubs for those living on their own held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12.30 at Woolhampton Village Hall. Transport is available if required.

The Group is staffed entirely by the volunteers and was setup to help the elderly, lonely and those in need, by such means as:

- A Transport service for those unable to use public transport to and from the dentist, chiropodist and opticians, hospital visiting and appointments etc.
- Befriending the lonely, bereaved, housebound, handicapped and the mentally ill.
- The Group covers the areas of Bucklebury, Woolhampton, Midgham, Lower Padworth, Beenham and Brimpton.

If you wish to help this very worthy Group in any of these projects, then please offer your services, you will be very much welcomed but not overburdened.

Please call for more information on 0118 971 3334 between 09.30 to 11.30 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Cllr. Jason Allum — BPC

## Bucklebury Annual Parish Assembly

7.45pm Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
The Memorial Hall,  
Upper Bucklebury

\*\*\*\*\*

Come along, find out what is  
going on in the  
parish and meet your  
local councillors over  
a glass of something!



## Planning Applications

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.	Object	Awaiting decision
24/00924/HOUSE	<u>Bridle End, Westrop Green.</u> Detached garden building to replace existing outbuilding. Solar panel array to south elevations roof.	No Objection	Approved
24/01101/PIP	<u>Land between The Cottage and Eden Cottage, Chapel Row.</u> Application for Permission in Principle: Residential development for 1 new home at land at Chapel Row.	Object	Refused Dismissed on appeal
24/01258/FUL	<u>Westfield Stables, Tylers Lane.</u> Part Retrospective: Conversion of redundant stable to form one dwelling, car parking, landscaping and associated works.	Object	Refused Taken to appeal
24/01264/HOUSE	<u>Red Hill House, Briff Lane.</u> Erection of a swimming pool, plant and changing rooms and associated works.	No Objection	Withdrawn
24/01506/HOUSE	<u>Heathgate, The Avenue.</u> Erection of annexe.	No Objection	Approved
24/01554/HOUSE	<u>Kingsmead (Stanford Dingley Parish).</u> Two storey side extension with internal alterations to create additional master bedroom.	No Comment	Approved
24/01430/PACOU	<u>Boars Hole Farm, Marlston (Hermitage Parish).</u> Application to determine if prior approval is required for a Proposed: change of use of a barn on the site from its current agricultural use to a commercial/storage/distribution/business (Class B8/Class E) use.	Comment made relating to traffic	Withdrawn
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	Awaiting decision
24/01866/FUL	<u>Middle Wood, Hatch Lane.</u> Erection of a dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.	No Objection	Approved Eastern Area Planning Committee
24/02048/HOUSE	<u>Woodside, Long Grove.</u> Removal of existing double garage wood store and store, formation of new triple garage with Ancillary annex accommodation above.	Object	Withdrawn
24/01897/HOUSE	<u>Woodside, Long Grove.</u> Removal of existing goat shed and store area. Formation of new goat shed, store room and small tractor shed.	No Objection	Approved
24/02041/HOUSE	<u>Oaklea, Burdens Heath.</u> Single storey rear extension and garage conversion to form granny annexe.	No Objection	Approved
24/01870/HOUSE	<u>Bucklebury House.</u> Construction of an outbuilding to accommodate a machinery store and home office.	Object	Withdrawn

24/01519/FUL	<u>Hilliers, The Avenue.</u> Installation of a small ground mounted solar photovoltaic system and a paddle court, 45 panels. Both to be situated within the ground of the domestic residence, Hilliers, on a former horse training area. The application area, including access routes and cable runs is 0.198 hectares.	No Objection	Approved
24/02122/HOUSE	<u>Eliezer Cottage, Zin Zan.</u> Conversion garden room into home office.	No Objection	Approved
24/02084/HOUSE	<u>57 Broad Lane.</u> Proposed ground and first floor extension.	No Objection	Approved
24/02085/HOUSE	<u>Hilltop Cottage, Hopgoods Green.</u> Single storey kitchen extension.	No Objection	Approved
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	Awaiting decision
24/02183/LBC	<u>Woottens.</u> Section 19: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of previously approved application 23/02096/LBC: Part two-storey, part single-storey replacement extension to existing dwelling. Terrace doors in existing modified window opening.	No Objection	Approved
24/02075/HOUSE & 24/02076/LBC	<u>Fairchilds, Sadgrove Lane.</u> Two storey extension to c20th south wing and minor internal and external alterations.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
24/02210/FUL	<u>Ganbridge, Briff Lane.</u> Erection of replacement two-storey dwelling and detached garage following the demolition of an existing bungalow.	Object	Awaiting decision
24/02409/HOUSE 24/02410/LBC	<u>The Manor, Bucklebury.</u> Replacement of front and rear gates.	No Objection	Approved
24/02377/HOUSE	<u>Woodlands, Hatch Lane.</u> Single storey rear extensions and minor alterations to the first floor.	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	Awaiting decision
24/02465/HOUSE	<u>Shepherds Heath, Chapel Row.</u> Erection of 1 ½ storey side extension, upward side extension and new front porch; with associated internal and external alterations.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
24/02474/HOUSE	<u>Shepherds Heath, Chapel Row.</u> New storage shed.	No Objection	Approved
24/02401/HOUSE	<u>Butlers Orchard, Bucklebury.</u> Side extension.	No Objection	Approved
24/02637/HOUSE	<u>Kings Copse House, Southend.</u> Conversion of loggia to enlarge kitchen.	No Objection	Approved
24/02664/FUL	<u>Bucklebury House.</u> Construction of Machinery Store and Estate Office.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
24/02471/OUT	<u>Land adjacent to Pine Lodge, Bucklebury Alley (Cold Ash Parish Council).</u> Outline application for a proposed new single dwelling on a site within the settlement boundary – Matters to be consider: Access	No Comment	Awaiting decision

## **Community Coffee Mornings At the Memorial Hall**

BPC continue to host between 35 to 60 parishioners each month. The event is open to all who would like to come and share good company, tea / coffee and some great donated cakes. It is a great opportunity to meet old friends and also make some new ones. The next dates are 27<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30am to 12 noon.

## **Erica Tipton's 50 years of service**

On the 24th November a tree planting ceremony for Erica Tipton BEM took place to celebrate her 50 years in the village and her many voluntary contributions to village and community life. A Rowan tree was chosen, and a plaque marks the occasion. Lindy Clarke and Jason Allum organised the event with much appreciated help from local cake makers. Barry Dickens led the appreciation.

Erica arrived in the village in 1974 when she took over the village stores and post office. She soon got involved in



Erica Tipton BEM and the rowan tree

voluntary work, serving as secretary and treasurer of the Victory Room for 12 years. She joined the Parish Council and stayed for 20 years, 13 of them as chair. She has also been chair of the recreation ground management committee for over 20 years and still holds this position. Her other voluntary commitments include 30 years as Chair of the Chapel Row Community Service Group, 14 years as chair of the Patient Participation Group, Trustee of the Lady Winchcombe Group, 12 years as chair of the Patient Panel at West Berks hospital, all this in addition to her 30 years in local Macmillan Cancer Support. She is also an independent examiner for 5 societies. What a record!

It was a popular event despite the rain and many stayed on afterwards for tea and cakes in the Victory Room. Thanks go to the three local organisations who covered the cost of the project.

Lindy Clarke

## **Thursday Coffee Mornings**

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

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025



**All Welcome – come and enjoy a cuppa!**

**If you need a lift, please call**

**Helen on 01635 863581**

## West Berks District (WBC) Councillor

### WBC Councillor's Report

Many thanks to all the people who have contacted me about the Public Rights of Way in the ward and, particularly, on Bucklebury Common. The exceptionally wet weather and the necessary works for the Common ecology regeneration work required to complete before nesting starts has taken a bit of a toll on the footpaths and bridleways. However, it is good to see the vision starting to take shape. The haloing of the old and veteran trees especially in the area where I live in The Slade has revealed some truly stunning examples of Oak, Beech and even Silver Birch previously covered with smothering holly. As always please contact me directly if you have any concerns.

I would also like to personally thank the Estate for the enhanced path on the Upper Common by Burdens Heath road. Now the path material has been well compacted it was good to see people making the most of it with buggies being pushed and young children cycling safely off the main road. I will take the ideas of people who have kindly met me on the Common for other rights of way enhancements to the next Bucklebury Common Interest Group meeting in March. Hopefully this is something I can bid for from the central Community Infrastructure Levy fund.

It is really good to see that the Sustainable Bucklebury group is going from strength to strength with lots of supports and good ideas coming in. Many thanks again to Nina and Tom Preddie and Cllr Graham Loader for their superb enthusiasm and leadership for all things Green!

It was good to meet Olivia Bailey MP again, who took a keen interest in our concerns on the proposed Northeast Thatcham development. Along with Barry Dickens and Anthony Fenn (Chair of Midgham Parish Council), we highlighted the issues and met up with a local landowner who is north of the 30 acres likely to go under the bulldozers in Midgham by Cox's Lane. Also, many thanks to Bucklebury Parish Council for leading the charge on pushing the comments out on the Local Plan Main Modifications. You will have heard my thoughts on the Local Plan at the Parish Council hosted public meeting in December, so no need to repeat them here (but, as always, happy to talk with anyone on the topic).

On to more positive topics I was absolutely delighted to be

invited again this year to talk to classes at Upper Bucklebury Primary School who were running a Community Learning Week on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. I could not resist dusting off my knowledge of Palaeontology (Fossils) from my University of Reading days (and 5 years as a geologist in the oilfield). It was great seeing the children examine the collections of fossils I brought (ammonites, belemnites, dinosaur teeth and even turtle coprolites) and seeing if they could guess what the fossils would have been when alive and how many millions of years old the fossils are.

I am also delighted that my Council Members Bid for CIL funding this year is for the Bucklebury Primary School and the necessary refurbishment of the children's trim trail. Please reach out to Sarah Belcher, Chair of Friends of Bucklebury School, if you would like to help out in the raising the rest of the necessary funds for this very worthy cause.

Finally, there will be another survey through doors in the ward this spring to gather your feedback and opinions on West Berkshire Council services. The 10 minutes to read, complete and send back by freepost (or dropped through my door to help me on freepost costs) is most appreciated and all the results are fed back to the senior Service Delivery Leads in the Council. 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, raise also with me. If the issue is an emergency (immediate danger, etc.) please call the 24-hour emergencies only line 01635 55111 straight away.

Stay safe everyone!

Regards

District Cllr. Chris Read

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

Tiverton House, The Slade, Bucklebury, RG7 6TL

# Green Fest

## GreenFest: West Berkshire's Sustainable Event of the Year!

Save the Date:

April 5th, 2025  
10:30am to 3pm  
St Bartholomew's School  
Newbury RG14 6LP

GreenFest is coming to West Berkshire, bringing together local businesses, sustainability experts, and passionate individuals for a day of eco-friendly inspiration.

GreenFest will feature six key themes to help you live more sustainably:

- **Food & Farming** – Support local producers, zero waste, growing your own
- **Home** – Make your home more energy-efficient.
- **Travel** – Discover low-carbon ways to get around.
- **Community** – Work together for a greener future.
- **Nature** – Protect nature and fight climate change.
- **Stuff** – Learn how to reduce waste and reuse, recycle better.

Expect talks, exhibitions, and hands-on workshops covering zero waste, reducing carbon footprints, and living without single-use plastics. Special guests (experts in sustainability) will share their knowledge and inspire you to take action!

## Our goal?

To make West Berkshire the Green County of the UK - a place where communities come together for a cleaner, greener future.

Join us - RSVP on Facebook @greenfestwestberkshire  
For more info: [www.wbge.org.uk/greenfest.html](http://www.wbge.org.uk/greenfest.html)

Follow us on:

Instagram @greenfest\_west\_berkshire  
TikTok @greenfestwb for updates!

Let's make GreenFest a turning point for a sustainable future in West Berkshire.

wbgreenexch@gmail.com



# Family



On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 Bucklebury Guides celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday! We organised a big birthday weekend celebration which we held at Thirtover Place, Cold Ash where we were joined by Guides from Compton, Cold Ash and Pangbourne. The Guides had a great weekend completing a '50 themed' scavenger hunt, making Taylor Swift inspired friendship bracelets, playing traditional party games and having a movie night. Luckily our birthday fell on a Monday so we continued our celebrations with a disco and pizza!

Every year we make poppies for Remembrance Sunday. This year we made poppies from paracord and wore them when we paraded and laid a wreath at Bradfield. As leaders we were very proud of how smart our Guides and Rangers were.

In the run up to Christmas we did some pottery painting and painted ceramic Christmas tree decorations. We also held a board game and hot chocolate evening and made Oreo cookie Christmas pudding truffles which we all really enjoyed!



## Guides making their hot chocolate

This term we are working on the Cheesy Cheese Challenge badge which we have written ourselves to fundraise. The Guides started the challenge with a cheese rolling activity and had to see how far they could roll a BabyBell! They then

had the challenge of making cheese s'mores which whilst relatively successful the general consensus was that marshmallow s'mores are better! The Rangers had a go at making mozzarella and had a great time stretching and folding the cheese before chilling it in iced water. They served it on cheese biscuits with tomatoes, basil and a balsamic dressing.

This summer we going to the Netherlands with other Guides and Rangers from the local area! We are planning to visit Eftling theme park, Adventure City, Amsterdam and Zaanse Schans. The team have been busy fundraising and held successful chocolate tombolas at Newbury Fireworks and Thatcham Lights Switch on. Our next event will be an online silent auction where we have a range of items to bid on including vouchers for many local businesses, various hampers, drinks, food and so much more! The auction will be going live on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and can be found at the QR code below or the following link:

<https://auctionofpromises.com/NetherlandsGirlguidingValleyTrip25>

We currently have spaces available and offer free taster sessions to young people aged 10-17. Please contact us at [buckleburyguides@gmail.com](mailto:buckleburyguides@gmail.com) for more information.

Vicky Pratt—Leader 1st Bucklebury Guides & Rangers

QR Code for the online silent auction (from the 22<sup>nd</sup> February):



## West Berks Ballet School

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news from across the school this month! First and foremost, a huge congratulations to all our students who recently took their ballet exams – we are delighted to announce that we have achieved a 100% pass rate! Even better, every single student earned either a Merit or Distinction, reflecting the dedication, hard work, and talent that they bring to every class. Well done to everyone involved; we couldn't be prouder of you all!

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our upcoming Musical Theatre and Tap show “Matilda” at the Hall! The performances will take place on 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, and we can't wait to see our students shine on stage. This promises to be an unforgettable experience for both performers and audience alike.



Some musical theatre and tap students in their Matilda show t-shirts.

Finally, a very warm welcome to all the new families who have recently joined WBBS. We're so pleased to have you as part of our dance community and look forward to sharing many wonderful moments together as you embark on this exciting journey with us.

Here's to a brilliant start to 2025, with much more to come!

With love,  
The WBBS Team

All enquiries to contact:  
Lucie Wilson—Principal, West Berkshire Ballet School  
Email: [wbbsslucie@gmail.com](mailto:wbbsslucie@gmail.com)

## Bucklebury 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 have just enjoyed our 9th annual community learning week. This year there was a STEM theme. 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

Despite the appalling weather our gardens will soon be waking into a new year. Our current bright green 2025 schedule is in circulation and members will find all the details of this year's activities within its pages. It will also be posted on our new website to keep all members informed of current events. It is simple to find, just type "Bucklebury Horticultural Society" in the heading of your browser page and it will pop up on your computer. As time passes and with your help, we should be able to increase the content.

The first of this season's presentations, which is about easy plants for difficult places, may have passed by the time you are reading this article, but you are welcome to come along to enjoy two talks at the Memorial Hall on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Both starting at 8pm. The first will give help in living with wildlife in your garden. The second is a personal account from Austin Crabbe, who manages Englefield Garden Centre.

The Spring Show is on **Sunday 6th April**. We are hoping to continue our successes of our displays at the **Victory Room** down in the Village. Entries are staged from 12.30pm until 1.30pm. Once judging is complete, all are welcome to view the display and enjoy the fragrance of spring flowers from 2.30pm until 4.00pm. Entry is free, parking easy, and refreshments will be available.

The Summer Outing this year, as last year, is a collaboration with Bradfield Gardening Club. It will be in June to the RHS Gardens at Wisley, and members wishing to join this trip will need to liaise with Tony Powell.

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

The Summer Show is on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July** in the Victory Room and our Autumn Show at the same venue on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. (**Not Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> as front cover our new schedule!**) Full details are inside the schedule. Take a look to see if you can plan to produce a few entries. Visitors are welcome, free of charge, during the afternoon.

The Century Club is flourishing and helps our finances and keep 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. Last year's Social at The Cottage Inn was successful and it is hoped to

repeat a similar event this autumn.

New members are always welcome, bring a friend to any of our events. If you feel you have the energy to improve the Society, why not join our small and friendly committee?

Happy Gardening  
Derek Matthews (0118 9712587)

### Tuesday Ladies Club (TLC)

Our members surpassed themselves by producing the most delicious plates of snacks for our annual Christmas Party. The combination of wine, good food and excellent conversation made for a great evening.

We have, as usual, a very varied programme this year, from talks on "Life as a Pilot", "The history of Pop on the Box" and "Blind Man with a Backpack", to name just a few and in March, Oz returns for a cookery demonstration and tasting of her delicious Middle Eastern Food.

We meet in the Oak room in the Memorial Hall at 7.15pm on the second Tuesday in the month. There is no membership fee, only a charge of £3.00 per evening to cover expenses. New members are very welcome.

Wynne Frankum

## SAVE THE DATE! To Celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day

**8 May 2025, 7-10pm**

**The Green, Chapel Row**

- Beacon Lighting
- Music
- Food & Drink and more!

We'd love to have some memories from those who remember VE Day. All memories are good, even second hand.

If you have any, please get in touch with Georgina Woods at [Georgina.Woods@buckleburyparish.org](mailto:Georgina.Woods@buckleburyparish.org)

## Bucklebury History Group

It was lovely to see so many historians (and those of us just interested!) at the last meeting when Dr David Peacock shared his "History of the Second Battle of Newbury". Who knew so much happened around our villages? It has made walking in the area fascinating, imagining the armies close by with Donnington Castle and Shaw House playing major parts.

Our next meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 with Sarah Somerville 'A Guide's Guide': Working in Historic Houses in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Usual time, 7.30pm in the Victory Room. £5 cash entry fee thank you.

As mentioned at the last meeting we are planning a group visit to the historic Dell Gardens at Bucklebury Place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 3pm. There is room for 25 people and we may be able to book another visit if more people would like to come. Please email: [sandranicholls64@outlook.com](mailto:sandranicholls64@outlook.com) The cost is £5, which will be donated to St. Matthew's Church, Midgham. Please bring your cash on the day.

In the meantime, let us all enjoy the New Year!

Sandra Nicholls  
Chair History Group Committee

## Bucklebury History Group

### Historic Houses

**A Guide's Guide: Working in Historic Houses in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, including Highclere Castle**  
**Sarah Somerville, Visitor Services Officer**  
at Shaw House, Newbury.

**THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025**  
**7.30p.m. in The Victory Room,**  
**Bucklebury.**

**Suggested donation of £5.00 cash to cover cost of the hall and refreshments**

## St. Martin's Club

In December we had a Members' only Christmas lunch at The Chequers in Newbury, when 60 members enjoyed lunch in lovely surroundings. In January we held our AGM and now have 82 members plus a waiting list.

Visitors will be welcome at our February and March Meetings, at a cost of £3. February sees the return of the Rev Jill Bentall talking on The Last Romance and March is a visit from Bob Whelpton, Chocolate Man, with goodies to purchase. Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month, starting at 2pm in The Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury.

Our trips commence in April with a visit to Salisbury, including the Cathedral. May is a trip to Cheltenham and a train ride to Broadway.

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](mailto:grannyrelf@btinternet.com)

## 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! Always enjoying a coffee and lunch at The Cottage Inn afterwards.

38 members of the walking group met up at The Cottage Inn for our annual Christmas Supper and had an excellent evening with good food and good company.

In January we met at Bucklebury Farm Park where everyone survived the very muddy walks! The café made us very welcome afterwards with lovely coffee or tea.

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](mailto:grannyrelf@btinternet.com)

## Bowls

Our meetings are held in Bucklebury Memorial Hall.

We Meet:

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

Charges remain at £3.00 per head for each two hour session, intended to cover the cost of hiring the hall.

All equipment is provided.

We have a coffee break mid-session, at the moment we ask everyone to bring their own supplies.

If you haven't played before come along to try it out, everyone is welcome.

Enquiries to: Dee Burgess

Email: [ianddburgess@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ianddburgess@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Exercise–Yoga/Pilates/Tai Chi

New class: Restorative movement

Do you need to move more in 2025?

Getting a healthy dose of movement doesn't need to be stressful or high impact to benefit you. Gentle approaches to exercise and fitness are becoming more popular as people seek to slow down and de-stress from their hectic lives.

This weekly one-hour gentle movement class aims to support:

- Joint mobility
- Balance
- Relaxation
- Posture
- Muscle tone
- Fall prevention
- Mood, sleep and energy regulation

Sessions and techniques are inspired by practices including Yoga, Pilates and Tai Chi and take place on a mat (ie reclined, seated etc) and standing. Some strength work is included but always with options to dial up or down to suit the individual.

Beginners and all levels welcome. Mats, blocks and bolsters are available to borrow.

Tuesdays from noon to 1pm

Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall

6-week terms £72. Drop-in £15

More info: [www.janineford.com/yoga](http://www.janineford.com/yoga)

Email to book: [Jfordtherapies@gmail.com](mailto:Jfordtherapies@gmail.com)

## Halls

### The Victory Room

The hall and entrance corridor were decorated between Christmas and New Year. We added a dado rail to the walls of the main hall and corridor to protect them from the tables and chairs marking the walls. The trustees met recently and agreed to make further improvements to the meeting room by way of new blinds to replace the old curtains and a new electric heater that can be operated remotely.

Two dates for your diary; our AGM will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm and we are planning a Call my Bluff wine tasting evening on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

John Brims

Chair of the Trustees of the Victory Room

0118 9713308 or 07799 348451

[jbrims@outlook.com](mailto:jbrims@outlook.com)

### **CALL MY BLUFF**

**True or false?**

**Test your wine knowledge**

**VICTORY ROOM**

**Sat April 5<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**

**Tickets £17.50**

**6 tasting wines**

**Ploughman's and Pudding.**

**Bring your own glasses**

**(And extra drinks)**

**Tickets from John Brims**

**07799 348451 / 0118 9713308**

**[jbrims@outlook.com](mailto:jbrims@outlook.com)**

## Country living

### Friends of Bucklebury Common

#### Join the 'Friends of Bucklebury Common'!

Are you passionate about nature and eager to make a difference in your local community? Bucklebury Estate are excited to announce the formation of the 'Friends of Bucklebury Common,' a volunteer group dedicated to preserving and enhancing the beauty of Bucklebury Common. This is your chance to get involved, learn about the local ecology, and contribute to the well-being of this cherished natural space.

#### Who We Are

The 'Friends of Bucklebury Common' will be a group of enthusiastic individuals from the local community who have come together to support Bucklebury Estate in managing Bucklebury Common. Our mission is to protect and promote the natural beauty and ecological health of the Common for future generations to enjoy.

#### What We Do

Our activities are diverse and engaging, offering something for everyone:

- **Educational Outreach:** We explain the work and ecology on site, helping visitors understand the importance of preserving this unique environment.
- **Public Education:** We educate the public on adhering to the rules of the countryside, ensuring everyone can enjoy the Common responsibly.
- **Site Monitoring:** We assist with monitoring the site, keeping an eye on the health of the ecosystem and reporting any issues.
- **Practical Volunteer Tasks:** We work alongside the Bucklebury Estate Ranger on various practical tasks, from habitat restoration to trail maintenance.

#### Why Join Us?

By joining the 'Friends of Bucklebury Common,' you will:

- **Make a Positive Impact:** Your efforts will directly contribute to the conservation and enhancement of Bucklebury Common.
- **Learn and Grow:** Gain valuable knowledge about local wildlife, plants, and conservation techniques.
- **Meet Like-Minded People:** Connect with others who share your passion for nature and community service.

- **Enjoy the Outdoors:** Spend time in the beautiful surroundings of Bucklebury Common, getting fresh air and exercise.

#### How to Get Involved

Becoming a member of the 'Friends of Bucklebury Common' is easy! Simply reach out via email at [ranger@buckleburyestate.com](mailto:ranger@buckleburyestate.com). We welcome volunteers of all ages and backgrounds – no prior experience is necessary, just a love for nature and a willingness to help.

Join us today and be a part of something special. Together, we can ensure that Bucklebury Common remains a vibrant and thriving natural space for everyone to enjoy.

**Friends of Bucklebury Common – Protecting Nature, Building Community.**

### Tales from the Cemetery

I mentioned in the previous issue that Bucklebury Cemetery has some unsolved cases. There are graves whose occupants cannot be identified, and people known to have been buried here but whose graves cannot be found.



An unknown grave—do you know who is buried here?

### Unidentified burials

There are places where the ground shows clear evidence that a burial has taken place, but there is no headstone or other grave marker and the surviving cemetery records (the Burial Register and various types of supporting documents) do not provide the answer. The only remaining chance is that someone might know exactly where their friend or relative is buried, even though the grave is now unmarked. There is one for which I am a little hopeful – pictured on page 16 is an unmarked grave against the east wall that shows evidence of some attention in recent years. If someone knows who is buried in this plot, could they please let me know? I can be contacted through the Parish Clerk.

### Unrecorded burials

I have discovered that not every burial was entered in the Burial Register, human error at work. Evidence found elsewhere has so far confirmed twenty-five such cases. Four of these were in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, random cases some years apart. However, the other twenty-one were all buried in the period 1970-1979. There was clearly a bit of a problem in the Seventies and I am certain that there are a few more omissions from these years, still to be discovered.

For many residents the 1970s are not so long ago (oh!!), so I am cautiously hopeful that family memories and archives might throw up some names, people who you know were buried in our Cemetery between the late-1960s and 1980. If you can name any names, please let me have them.

### Peter Burra - an unmarked grave

As some readers may recall, Helen Relf wrote an article about Peter Burra which appeared in the Oaks in 2019. Helen has kindly allowed me to quote here from that article.

Peter James Salkeld Burra was killed in 1937. He was a passenger in a twin-seater monoplane which had flown low over Bucklebury Common on the afternoon of April 27<sup>th</sup> 1937 before crashing in High Wood, Midgham. He died instantly and his funeral and burial took place in Bucklebury Cemetery two days later. (There was nothing odd about this happening so quickly – we are nowadays accustomed to delays of several weeks between death and funeral, but it was not always so.)

Aged just 27 and living at the time at Foxhold (along the track leading north from Angels Corner), Peter Burra was a well-known writer, as an essayist and as a critic of drama, literature and music. His works include highly-regarded biographies of both the Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh and the English poet William Wordsworth; also an essay entitled “The Novels of E M Forster”, and the introduction to Forster’s most popular novel “A Passage to India”. He was a book reviewer for the news magazine The Spectator and a special arts correspondent for the Times.



Peter Burra

Peter’s close friends included the tenor Peter Pears, the composers Benjamin Britten and Lennox Berkeley, and the poet W H Auden. Britten and Berkeley were among the mourners at his funeral.

When Helen wrote her article, the whereabouts of Peter’s grave was unknown. However, I am pleased to report that it has now been identified.

**Joe Kelly**

## West Berkshire Countryside Society (WBCS)

On two winter Tuesdays, the West Berkshire Countryside Society Volunteers turned up in force, most ably led by Majorie Slatter, to work on the meadows behind the Cottage Inn.

The hedges that the volunteers had planted in previous years, had grown so well that they now needed cutting back.

Much scrub, bramble and bracken, that was encroaching on the grassland, was hacked back and haloes were cleared around the mature oaks, so they didn't have to compete, mainly with holly, which in our parish thrives!



WBCS volunteers hard at work.

Having started at 10.00am, by coffee time, the stokers of the bonfires were having a job to keep up. By lunch time, the amount of vegetation that had been cleared was very impressive and by the end of the day, the locals were commenting on the huge improvement that had been wrought in so short a time.

We are very lucky to be able to call upon such a band of expert, enthusiastic volunteers to help look after our wonderful countryside and in particular the unimproved hay meadows, now an increasingly rare habitat.

Wynne Frankum.

On Wednesday 11th June, the WBCS has organised a guided walk to listen and look for the nightjars on Bucklebury Common. Meet at the Crossroads at 9.15pm (SU556 961, What3Words: taskbar.flagpole.sensual

## Sports

### Bucklebury Badminton Club

#### WHAT A RACKET!

New Year is here, and there's no better time to dust off that racket and get back on the court! If you've played badminton before (even if it's been a while), Bucklebury Badminton Club is the perfect place to revive your skills, get active, and have some fun.

We're a **friendly yet competitive** club, welcoming players who enjoy a good game—whether you're looking for a casual hit or a chance to sharpen your skills in a lively atmosphere.

#### 🌟 Why join us?

- 🏸 Enjoy friendly, fast-paced games
- ✅ Improve your technique with coaching and support
- 🏊 Get fit while having fun
- 🤝 Meet like-minded players in a relaxed, social setting

We play **every Tuesday night at Elstree School, Woolhampton**, and we'd love to see you there!

Come along, give it a go, and rediscover your love for the game.

Find out more at [buckleburybadmintonclub.com](http://buckleburybadmintonclub.com)



## Bucklebury 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 and have been running since 2013. The club is FA accredited and affiliated with Berks and Bucks FA. We have players from school year 1 all the way up to school year 10 and are currently running 9 teams.

Our U7s and U9s have been enjoying playing Futsal (indoor football) through the winter months and have been able to play on through the winter on Sundays while our older age groups have had to suffer waterlogged pitches and cold and rain when they have been able to play! I think all players and parents are looking forward to the Spring and Summer which will see all our teams back out on grass before competing in Summer tournaments.

We are now taking enquiries for our new Under 6 age group (boys and girls in school year 1) which will look to get started this spring. As it will be a new age group, we will also need some new coaches to help. It is a very rewarding opportunity that would be perfect if you are a parent of a year 1 child, enjoy working with children and are looking to put something back into the local community. The club helps all our coaches gain suitable FA qualifications and pays for suitable training courses.

Our Under 7s and Under 8s are based at Bucklebury Primary School and we are very grateful to the school for use of the school field to allow us to get young children playing football. Summer training for all age groups is held at Bucklebury Recreation Ground, with winter training mainly on artificial pitches in Thatcham and Newbury. If you know a keen footballer, or someone who would like to give football a try, please get in touch. We are a mixed ability club keen to give the opportunity to play football to all local children. We would also like to hear from any adults that would like to volunteer with coaching the children.

**Graham Loader**

[graham@fccougars.com](mailto:graham@fccougars.com)  
[www.fccougars.com](http://www.fccougars.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**

Published in February, June and October

By Bucklebury Parish Council.

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# Parish Diary Dates

## February

18th	Sustainable Bucklebury Meeting	7.00pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
23rd	Repair Café	10.00am—12.30pm	Frank Hutchings Community Hall, Thatcham
24th	Bucklebury Planning Meeting	7.45pm	The Committee @ The Victory Room, Bucklebury
27th	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am—12 noon	Bucklebury Memorial Hall
27th	Victory Room AGM	7.30pm	The Victory Room

## March

4th	St. Martin's Club	2.00pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall
6th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00/10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
10th	Bucklebury Parish Council meeting	7.45pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
11th	TLC	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
20th	Bucklebury History Group	7.30pm	The Victory Room
24th	Bucklebury Planning Meeting	7.45pm	The Committee @ The Victory Room, Bucklebury
27th	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am—12 noon	Bucklebury Memorial Hall
30th	Repair Café	2.00pm—4.30pm	Methodist Church Hall, Newbury

## April

3rd	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00/10.30am	Chapel Row
5th	Greenfest	10.30am—3.00pm	St. Bartholomew's School, Newbury
5th	Call My Bluff, True or False	7.30pm	The Victory Room (tickets in advance)
6th	Horticultural Society Spring Show	2.30pm—4.00pm	The Victory Room
8th	TLC	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
14th	Bucklebury Parish Council meeting	7.45pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
24th	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am—12 noon	Bucklebury Memorial Hall
28th	Bucklebury Planning Meeting	7.45pm	The Committee @ The Victory Room, Bucklebury

## May

1st	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00/10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
8th	VE Day Celebrations	7.00pm—10.00pm	The Green, Chapel Row
12th	Bucklebury Parish Council meeting	7.45pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
13th	TLC	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
23rd	Annual Parish Assembly	7.45pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall
27th	Bucklebury Planning Meeting	7.45pm	The Committee @ The Victory Room, Bucklebury
29th	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am—12 noon	Bucklebury Memorial Hall

## June

5th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00/10.30am	To be confirmed
9th	Bucklebury Parish Council meeting	7.45pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
11th	TLC	7.15pm	The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall
11th	WBCS Nightjar walk	9.15pm	Common Crossroads
23rd	Bucklebury Planning Meeting	7.45pm	The Committee @ The Victory Room, Bucklebury
26th	Community Coffee Morning	10.30am—12 noon	Bucklebury Memorial Hall