

The Oaks



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Parish Council Chairman
Wynne Frankum

Parish Council Clerk
Helen Pratt

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Chairman's Letter

The opening of our new temporary post office at All Saints' Church has been the result of much hard work by the Parochial Church Council and on behalf of you all I would like to thank them. It is so convenient to be able to go along on a Monday morning or Friday afternoon to see Angela, and of course on Mondays there is the added bonus of coffee being served with homemade goodies.

The Royal Wedding celebrations are coming along well. As most of you know, the two pubs are planning to celebrate from 10am in the morning and Bucklebury Farm Park will host the parish ticketed event from 1pm - 6pm. Please see inside for further details of the Farm Park event. The day will culminate in a wonderful firework display at the Cottage Inn. I am sure it will be a most memorable day. Lots of people are working very hard to make it so.

Lots of you will have seen the press and television cameras around the parish. We are experiencing media coverage from all over the world from New Zealand and Vietnam to Canada and Europe. Bucklebury will be a household name! Perhaps!

The Sunday Times will be running a feature on Bucklebury, we understand, the Sunday before the wedding, and in the same week Bucklebury will feature in an ITV programme. There may be more! On the wedding day as you've probably heard, there will be television cameras filming the celebrations.

On a more mundane note, some people wonder what the Parish Council actually does!

It has overall responsibility for the well-being of the parish and this work falls into three categories:

- Representing the local community.
- Delivering services to meet local needs.
- Striving to improve the quality of life in the Parish.

Planning applications take up a lot of our time. We also look after the cemetery, the Hockett field and the bus stops. We attend meetings at WBC to keep abreast of what is going on. We monitor the condition of the roads and the Common. We keep an eye on crime in the area and have a good relationship with the local police. We support the village halls and generally do all we can to help those working to make Bucklebury a pleasant place in which to live. We are extremely fortunate to have a very dedicated and hard working clerk in Helen Pratt.

There are council elections on 5th May, followed by our Annual Parish Assembly on 13th. Please come and find out what is going on in the Parish. I hope to see you there.

Wynne Frankum Chairman BPC

STOP PRESS!

Royal Wedding Celebrations at Bucklebury Farm Park on 29th April.

Important Information inside. See page 10.

STOP PRESS!

Annual Parish Assembly

Friday 13th May at 8pm

Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury

All parishioners welcome - find out what is going on in the Parish.

Parish Council Planning

Having written about the planning application process as far as Bucklebury Parish Council (BPC) is concerned in the last issue of *The Oaks*, I will, in what will be a regular entry, review some recent applications and cover topical planning issues.

There have been the regular crop of applications for extensions, double glazing, detached garages and variation of planning conditions on the use of external materials. We have also had an application for a lawful development certificate. This is for where the existing operation/use of land or a building is occurring lawfully and is therefore beyond enforcement. Talking of enforcement-it does happen. There are currently three sites within the parish where enforcement actions are taking place.

From time to time we receive retrospective applications. It is a myth that retrospective applications can be refused on that principle. They are judged as if they are a proposal. It is not an offence to build without planning permission. Interestingly the new Localism Bill could well see charges for retrospective planning applications being raised.

The best guidance I can give anyone contemplating raising a planning application is to do some background research. Talk to the planning officers at WBC, speak to your local Parish or District Councillor. Look at the Parish Plan (which is being refreshed) and Bucklebury Vision which is our published Design Statement guideline and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by WBC.

Early discussions often result in later saving of time, effort and cost.

Barry Dickens Chair BPC Planning Committee

Parish Council Matters Arising



Bucklebury Cemetery

Helen Pratt, the Parish Clerk, is now responsible for the allocation of graves. Please address all enquiries to her.

The chapel is available for funerals or services of remembrance for

any religion or none. It is a lovely peaceful place, with its own charm.

C.R. Landscapes have offered to renew their maintenance contract for a further year without raising their price and this has been gladly accepted. We are fortunate to have a local family looking after it.

Now we no longer have a superintendent there is an opportunity for a volunteer to keep an eye on the cemetery and keep it tidy. It is a lovely place to potter about in so if you would like to volunteer please contact Helen Pratt.

Wynne Frankum Chairman, Burial Board

Bucklebury Common Update

As usual on behalf of the Parish Council I have been working with WBC, The Police and Bucklebury Estate on the problems of Fly-tipping and illegal 4x4 use.

This has been a relatively quiet period in terms of actual reports/captures – although we have had the usual off-road and fly-tipping activities.

Just a reminder; if vehicles don't have full insurance, tax and MOT it is illegal to drive on an unrestricted byway, and even with these they need to be considerate to others, not damage the surface and observe road and bylaws. Driving anywhere off-road is illegal and needs to be reported and ideally photos taken.

Please continue to help by reporting incidents - email stevebeeson@yahoo.co.uk 01635 862918. We need vehicle registration numbers! Please report fly-tipping to streetcare@westberks.gov.uk; they normally collect within 48 hours.

You might have noticed that the old pumping station used as toilet and for other "nocturnal activities" has now gone – finally. My plan to knock it down with sledgehammers was ambitious – in the end we used a JCB and created 20 tons of rubble!

We have also tried to block off the area around the fish ponds with banks and fallen trees. Please keep reporting incidents.

The Hockett Field is privately owned by BPC and not to be used for motor cycles – if your children are doing this please stop them.

Please continue to be vigilant and report incidents and enjoy our fantastic countryside.

Steve Beeson BPC 01635 862918
stevebeeson@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Plan Refresh

It may appear to have gone quiet after the Public Consultation in November that was reported in the January issue of *The Oaks* but beneath the surface the Steering Group have been paddling hard to get the Parish Plan Refresh report and action plan written and ready for submission to West Berkshire Council for adoption.

Endorsement of the draft report and action plan by the Parish Council takes place in April before submission for review by WBC and the Community Support Network of voluntary and statutory agencies. This review takes 6-8 weeks. We expect to make the final amendments from their comments in June and get WBC's final endorsement in July at a meeting between the chairpersons of the Parish Council, Wynne Frankum, and the Parish Plan Steering group, Peter Brook, and Councillor Pamela Bale and other WBC representatives.

Once we have received WBC's endorsement we shall distribute the final Parish Plan Refresh report and action plan to parishioners, hopefully in September. Look out for an update on progress in the next issue of *The Oaks*.

Peter Brook, Chair Parish Plan Refresh, 0118 9712045, phrjbrook@googlemail.com

Red Telephone Kiosk

Chapel Row

Are any of you interested in saving our last remaining red phone box in the parish? This design icon is part of our heritage but will soon be removed by BT unless the Parish Council adopt it. The cost is only £1 but of course there will be maintenance costs – at the moment it looks as if it could do with a lick of red paint to spruce it up although it is cheering to see no glass is broken.

The phone line will be removed (it was rarely used) and the question then is what could the kiosk be used for? Many parishes have gone for adoption with a variety of different purposes. Some parishes have put shelves in and used it as a swap shop for books, both adult and children's. Some have used it as a local fruit and veg produce exchange. Others have used it for a display, for example, of local wildlife, flora and fauna, or of local history. In fact one parish recently transformed theirs by using the window panes to inscribe a timeline of significant events in their village's history. There are all sorts of possibilities.

Have you got any ideas what it could be used for? Would you be interested in being part of a small group to keep an eye on it? Most importantly do you support the Parish Council in adopting it? Otherwise it will go. Please contact me if you have any views or if you would like to get involved. "Use it or lose it" has never been truer.

Lindy Clarke Parish Councillor

0118 9712768, johnlindyclarke@hotmail.com.

Greening is coming!

CONCERNED ABOUT RISING ENERGY BILLS?
WANT TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?



We are all concerned about our escalating energy bills and wonder what the future holds. Well, we have the opportunity to do something about it. Greening Bucklebury is going to happen! The Greening Bucklebury work group are working on the arrangements for the Public Meeting which will take place in September. They are contacting representatives of organisations in Bucklebury who might like to help us make the Greening Bucklebury campaign a success. At the Public Meeting we shall choose the energy and resource saving challenges for our community to take up. These challenges will be put on the Greening Bucklebury challenge cards which will be distributed to all households and businesses after a special Launch Meeting in October. Each household will be asked in the month following the Launch Meeting to show what challenges have been successfully completed by displaying the Greening Bucklebury Card in their window. A little saving by each of us will add up to something substantial if we all join in it together.

If you or someone from your family or organisation wants to be part of the Greening Bucklebury campaign please contact Peter Brook at phrjbrook@googlemail.com or on 0118 9712045 for details or come along to our next work group meeting in the Memorial Hall Committee Room at 7.45pm on Tuesday 5th April 2011. Thank you.

Peter Brook Acting Chair Greening Bucklebury, 0118 9712045, phrjbrook@googlemail.com

West Berks District Councillors

Bucklebury Ward contains the parishes of Bradfield, Bucklebury, Frilsham, Hermitage and Stanford Dingley. Our councillors are:

GRAHAM PASK

Tel/Fax 01635-864023

Email:

gpask@westberks.gov.uk

QUENTIN WEBB

Tel/Fax 01635-201435

Email:

qwebb@westberks.gov.uk

WBC Councillors' Report

The District Council budget has been set with, in line with Government Guidance, a zero increase in council tax despite having to make savings of £3.5million. Every effort has been made to minimise the impact on front-line services especially to the elderly and vulnerable. We have increased our spending for Adult Social Care to take account of the growth in the number of people in need of help whilst having to reconfigure our day-care centres to reflect the way in which they are being used.

Following the coldest winter for many years with more snow than we are used to, I hope you agree that the winter road clearing program worked well. Most of our main roads were cleared of snow very efficiently with the highways teams working very hard. Inevitably some road surfaces have suffered but work has been underway for some time to repair the damage. Our investment in road maintenance has been increased for next year; as much work has been completed on main roads our focus is now on minor rural roads. The Council has held a "scrutiny review" on the way the winter weather affected us so we can learn from what happened.

Graham is nearing the end of his year as Chairman of Council - never has a year passed so quickly! He is very pleased to report that his main charity fund-raising event (for Macmillan Cancer Support), the Centenary Concert in St Nicolas church raised over £4,000 and was very well attended! Many thanks to all who came to a very enjoyable event and gave their support. It would not have been possible without the amazing help of Daniel and Sandra Nicholls who kindly took over the organising of the concert in a very professional way!

Graham Pask & Quentin Webb



Caleb's Biscuit

West Berks Community Information

Thatcham and Newbury libraries carry leaflets on most local organisations. For community-related information, contact Jim Sweeting (Arts & Leisure Information Officer) on 01635 519251 (jsweeting@westberks.gov.uk).

Family

Bucklebury Toddler Group

This term the children have been busy painting, making valentine cards, silly faces, snakes, snowmen and spiders. They have also been growing cress and enjoyed decorating cakes and pancakes with sweets and strawberry sauce which turned into quite a sticky affair. For Comic Relief they made clown faces with biscuits, chocolates and glacé cherries. Not to be outdone with all this eating the parents also enjoyed a delicious Chinese banquet and a great night out at the Mandarin Court which opened especially for us.

We hope to acquire some new equipment by collecting Sainsbury vouchers so if you shop there and would like to help us please drop them into the Memorial Hall on Friday morning from 10-12am (during term time).

We are a small friendly group of parents and grandparents who welcome all newcomers so if you have young children and are looking for something to do on a Friday morning please feel free to drop in for a tea, chat and play. For more information contact Cara Shearn 01635 866559.

Cara Shearn 01635 866559



Toddlers having fun for Comic Relief

Bucklebury Pre-School

We have been very busy at Bucklebury Pre-School over the past year, dealing with a range of new and exciting challenges. The baby boom of 2006/7 means more families are sending their children to us and this has offset the recent trend towards September only entry to many primary schools. We will be totally full this summer term and have a lot of activities planned for our children and families. There are still spaces in September but these are going fast!

Our children have been able to enjoy a wide range of new experiences thanks to the creativity of our staff, the generosity of our parents and the dedication of our committee members. Themes the children have covered recently include:

- Sports day and the summer fête; this was attended by nearly 150 people and proved to be an excellent and exciting day. The children had been training hard and the races proved to be highly competitive.

- Animals and their babies; a number of parents brought in pets, including baby chicks and a pony, for the children to meet and learn about.

- Christmas Nativity Play; the children shone this year as ever, and we enjoyed some wonderful singing and acting accompanied by the village's very own professional pianist, who helped the children greatly during rehearsals and on the day.

- Chinese New Year; the children made a dragon, and a stir fry meal (vegetarian) for the Year of the Rabbit.

- Pirates; including a range of stories and references to historical and fictional characters and lots of designing and making of under sea animals, plants and artefacts.

Activities in the near future include our Easter Bonnet Parade,



Lily's Biscuit

Sports Day and Fête. Last year we collected nearly £1000 thanks to the fantastic generosity of our children's families. This is testament to the quality experience our children are receiving from our dedicated staff and has enabled us to purchase some wonderful new equipment.

Part of the strength of BP-S is the way the staff allow our children to identify their own interests. I have seen children grow greatly whilst at BP-S; they play beautifully together by sharing and caring in a way many adults would not expect three and four year olds to behave. These children are a credit to their families and at BP-S we care passionately that our parish can continue to benefit from such a resource.

The money we raise through our fundraising activities is much needed but there are other ways we can be helped: are you interested in helping us? We have two current projects that you may want to become involved with.

Broaden the Committee Membership: we feel that our community would gain by having one or two committee members from the parish who are not parents and who could provide continuity in roles such as purchasing, marketing and treasurer. We elect a new committee in April at our AGM and welcome applications from parishioners who would like to help out a worthy cause for a couple of hours a week. We are legally obliged to safeguard our children and so anyone who wishes to be involved in BP-S is CRB checked and interviewed, but the benefits to such individuals outweigh this minor inconvenience.

IT equipment: Have you or your company recently upgraded computers and don't know what to do with the old ones? We can use computers six years old or younger, and we will supply all our own software. You can use various free programmes to clean or overwrite the data on your hard drive and we can help you with this if you wish. Alternatively, you could take out your hard drive and BP-S could pay for a new one on some machines.

The need for internet access and audited administration is hitting Pre-Schools just like everyone else. There are many opportunities for the children to use computers educationally. We limit usage on time and content at BP-S, to ensure our children do not become too absorbed on this one activity but even at this age they can gain a great deal from controlled and supported access. We would benefit greatly from having three or more laptops: two for the treasurer and administrator and a second one for the children.

If you are able to help us in any way, please contact us.

Derek Wiggins BP-S Chairman 01635 868072

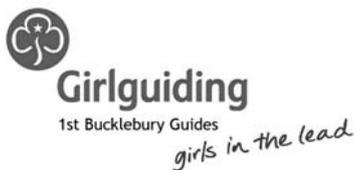
1st Bucklebury Brownies

This term we have been doing lots of art and craft. The Brownies have shown me how to finger knit (a new craze that has hit the local primary schools). We decorated some cakes and biscuits for Red Nose Day and they were really yummy. We have been looking at endangered species and what it means to be an endangered species.

I would like to boost numbers. In order to do this I would need more Brownies and volunteers. If you or someone you know is a young girl between the ages of 7 and 10 and would like to give Brownies a try please contact me using the details below. Or if you are aged 18 or over and have some spare time and you would like to share your skills or time with these young girls then please do not hesitate to contact me as the help would be greatly appreciated by the Brownies and myself.

Tanya Pocock (Ratty) 07833465105, 01189714745
tan12po90@aol.com

1st Bucklebury Guides



Another edition of *The Oaks* and another busy few months at Bucklebury Guides! On the 18th of December we decided

to have a 'practise' Christmas Eve at a sleepover in the Victory Room. We did our own treasure hunt version of the 12 days of Christmas, watched a movie with popcorn and plenty of chocolate, and had a junk fashion show. In the morning we woke up and opened presents before having a



Vicky Pratt and Katie Tompkins
are awarded their 2nd Year Challenge Certificates



Wedding buttonholes made by the Guides

cooked breakfast. Unfortunately the snow decided to fall heavily at this point and we had to go home earlier than we had expected, but everyone got home safely and had a fab time.

This term we have welcomed a further 4 girls to the Guide unit, making a total of 27 Guides at the moment. We have been working towards a number of badges including one based on the forthcoming Royal wedding. The girls have been designing Kate's dress, making buttonholes, and even coming up with menus fit for a king and queen to be. To follow on from this we hope to be an active part of the forthcoming local celebrations at Bucklebury Farm Park.

Just after half term we were also pleased to award two girls from the unit with their 2nd year challenge certificates, the first ones given out by Bucklebury Guides. So congratulations to both Katie Tompkins and Vicky Pratt for their hard work to complete their challenges.

As well as the numerous activities, games, badges and trips we have been on over the past few months, we have also been planning for our forthcoming summer camp. This year we will be going to an activity centre near Oxford for 5 days, and putting to use some of the camping equipment that we have raised money for. A huge chunk of the funds we raised was kindly donated to us by Bucklebury Parish Council, The Colefax Charitable Trust and the Englefield Charitable Trust, so many thanks to these organisations in helping us get the vital equipment needed.

Our waiting list is becoming very large at the moment, so if you are interested in putting your name down, please get in contact with us as soon as possible (details below). To try to ensure that places are available when girls are 10-11 years of age, it would be better to have names down for a place when they turn 9. Guiding in the local area is also in need of adult volunteers, either people interested in becoming leaders, or those that would prefer to just help out on occasion. Bucklebury has two units, Brownies and Guides, who could always use help, or alternatively there are Rainbow (5-7 years), Brownie (7-11 years), Guide (10-14 years) and Senior Section (14-25 years) units in the surrounding areas too. So get in touch for more information.

Claire Powers elisaplate@yahoo.co.uk.



The Nutcracker

West Berks Ballet School



We were able to welcome our ballet students back in January with the wonderful news of their successes in their November exams. The senior girls obtaining Distinction in their vocational exams and a host of Merits throughout all the levels.

Although our two coach loads of students & parents had a wonderful evening at the London Coliseum in January, watching the English National Ballet's new production of The Nutcracker, we are confident that our own version in June will be just as good! With the end of our spring term only a week away, we shall have a short month before we are on stage at Arlington Arts. Tickets are selling fast and we know our audience will be in for a treat. The sewing machines have been getting hot under the pressure and, as you will see from our photograph, even the winter snow has not deterred our dancers from practising!

For the first time ever, our very youngest dancers will be making an appearance. The total cast numbers 84 students with ages ranging from 5 year to young adult.

Many of our students will be auditioning next term for their special ballet classes in London. We currently have 2 Cecchetti Scholars and 7 Associates who have experienced a wonderful year of lessons with a variety of teachers from the best of British ballet companies.

Juliette Brennan-Ruiz (15 years) and Tegan Ford (just 16) have been chosen to perform at The Lowry in Manchester in July as part of an International competition for ballet students from all over the world – we all wish them lots of luck. I shall be travelling up to see them represent WBBS.



When next I write, our June performances will be over so Claire and I would like to wish all the dancers a wonderful experience which we hope they will treasure for a long time to come.

Jane & Claire

www.wbbs.org



Kaleidoscope Choir

Welcome to the Kaleidoscope Choir!

This fantastic local choir was started about three years ago by Nan Waters with the help of Tasha Howlett. Nan has encouraged and welcomed any local children who want the fun, friendship and sense of achievement that singing together can bring you. None of the children auditioned, the only requirements were enthusiasm, commitment and a willingness to try.

Initially, the choir performed relatively informal concerts to parents and friends (and continue to do so) but as they have grown in voice, they have received other requests, including invitations to sing in the parish churches and they have performed three years running at the hugely popular Bradfield's Got Talent Variety Show.

In August 2010, the choir gathered at the Reading Citadel to take the Trinity Guildhall Bronze Choral Assessment. The children were involved in producing the programme and some of the written notes for the examiner. This was a tense time as this was the choir's first formal assessment and no one was sure exactly what to expect! After performing several pieces and exercises, followed by a period of waiting, the news came through that the choir had passed the exam with distinction - a very rare achievement for any choir.

In December, the choir was extended to include a small group of adults and there are currently 39 members. This has enabled a greater range and complexity of pieces to be undertaken and, with that, the challenge of returning to Reading Citadel in March 2011, to take the Trinity Guildhall Silver Choral Assessment.

Choir members are currently made up of children from Bucklebury and Bradfield and some towns and villages further afield. They meet on most Saturdays in term time at 5.30-6.15pm in St. Peter's Church, Bradfield Southend. If you are in Year 3 or above (and especially if you are a boy!) and you would like to come along, just give Nan a ring on 0118 9744082.

Tara Duffy

In the Area

Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC5233 Jason Murphy Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

Thatcham Police Station

20 Chapel Street, Thatcham, RG18 4LQ

Internal no: 7675133

Mobile: 07974125967

Non Emergency no: 0845 8505505

Find out more about your local policing team on our website
www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Bucklebury Friendship Circle

It is that time of year again when I am writing to our enthusiastic supporters past, present and future, to tell you that our very enjoyable annual Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday 4th May 2011 at 10.30am, at Briff Farm (off Briff Lane) Upper Bucklebury. This will, as previously, be held in aid of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

I am delighted to tell you that last year we crossed the £1000 threshold again and raised the amazing sum of £1159.05. We could not have achieved this without your generous support and enthusiasm.

We will, as usual, have an excellent cake/produce stall, a large and well-run plant stall; as well as gifts and bric-a-brac, books and a treasure hunt, with a bottle of whisky as a prize! We will, of course, have our ever-popular raffle.

We hope that as many of you as possible will come and be able to enjoy the house and garden, all in aid of a very worthy cause.

Judy Fleming – 01635 863814

Spanish Lessons at Bucklebury

Five years ago, a group of people of different backgrounds, ages, circumstances and motives began to take Spanish classes here in All Saints' Church Hall, Upper Bucklebury

Some took the course because their children were studying Spanish, others have property in Spain and some just like to study languages. Learning a new language has been a new and exciting challenge for different groups of people in Bucklebury.

Initially, they learn basic phrases to help them get by in Spanish then gradually their vocabulary expands. Before you know it they are reading the newspaper, listening to the radio and watching TV in Spanish!

As part of the course they do short presentations, we discuss the national and international news and look at different traditional festivals and cultures from Spain and Latin America.

Various Spanish groups have been running over the last five years because the atmosphere is relaxed, we have fun and people come away having learnt something new. Would you like to join a Spanish class? They meet every Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:30p.m.

If you're a beginner you can join a completely new group, which starts on Tuesday 3rd May at 9:00 a.m. Its never too late to start!

More about Spanish courses: www.spanish121.co.uk

Elizabeth Vega Spanish Tutor

07979050980, elizabeth@spanish121.co.uk

Organisations

Bucklebury History Group

Hopefully all our projects are progressing well but at this point in time we are concentrating our efforts on the Village History Day, to be held Saturday 21st May, 11.00 am – 5.00 p.m., in the Old Kitchen at Bucklebury House by kind permission of Willie & Marina Hartley-Russell. Details of our projects will be on display as well as other items of interest from individuals, groups and archives from Bucklebury House.

Do come along and see what we have to offer as a group and discover more about our village, its past, present and maybe future!

We will need help on the day itself so if you feel you could offer a couple of hours to act as a steward then please let one of us know.

Below is the final instalment of memories from Ann Tetlow. We would be interested in receiving other memories, either written or spoken, for the village archives plus any old photographs, which could be scanned onto a computer for future reference.

Helen Relf 01635 867619, helenrelf@relfsociety.org

David Tipton 0118 971 2148, drptipton@yahoo.co.uk

Cyril Lewington 0118 971 2572, c.lewington@pss-europe.com

VILLAGE HISTORY DAY

SATURDAY, 21st MAY 2011
11.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

To be held in the historic kitchen at Bucklebury House, by kind permission of Willie and Marina Hartley-Russell.

The Bucklebury History Group invites you to look at **LOCAL HISTORY** from the Romans to the present day.

This is a special, one-day event for the whole community.

On display – archaeological finds, archives from Bucklebury House, details of on-going projects from the History Group, Photographs, Memorabilia, Census returns and much more.

If you, or an organisation you belong to, have any items, photos, or records that you would like to exhibit on the day (space permitting), please contact:

Cyril Lewington 0118 971 2572

Helen Relf 01635 867619

or David Tipton 0118 971 2148

If you have important items that you are willing to exhibit then we would ask that you take full responsibility for these during the open day.

We would also like to hear from you if you think you can help on the day in any way.

Bucklebury Wedding Celebrations

Tea in the Park

FREE PARKING at the Farm Park. Please access Pease hill from Bucklebury Common. If possible car share, or walk to avoid congestion! **OR BETTER STILL:-** a free tractor/trailer service will run between Upper Bucklebury/Chapel Row and the Farm Park from 12.30 pm on the day of the party. A timetable will be posted at Peach's Stores and the bus shelter at Chapel Row. The service will only be available for those carrying tickets for Tea in the Park.

REMEMBER – Entrance by Invitation only. Don't forget to bring yours with you!

CROWNS and TIARAS. Children's Competition. Bring your wonderful creations on the day.

Overall winners will receive a prize and will have the honour of cutting the first slice of wedding cake.

BUCKLEBURY BRIDES

An Exhibition of Bucklebury Brides photographs through the years will be on display. If you would like to display your wedding photo on the day and have a copy kept for the Bucklebury History Society archives, then please send your photos with S.A.E. for their return, to Wynne Frankum at 16 Berry's Road, Upper Bucklebury. RG7 6QN 01635 863372. Copies will be made and the originals returned.

COMMEMORATIVE MUGS

We have commissioned from Emma Bridgewater Pottery a Limited Edition of unique mugs available **ONLY** in the village. All **BUCKLEBURY CHILDREN** (babies to under 16's) will be presented with a free mug after the 29th April. To apply for these, please fill in the form below and return as soon as possible to:- Chris Ewing at 11 Berry's Road Upper Bucklebury Reading RG7 6QL

No of Children under 16

Names

Address

.....

Phone

There are also two sizes of mug available for sale at £9.50 for the small ones and £13.50 for the large ones. **THE MUGS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE FARM PARK ON THE 29TH.** (Subject to availability)

Please note:- No BBQ's. Please help us to keep the Farm Park tidy by taking your rubbish home or using the designated refuse points. Sorry – **NO DOGS, EXCEPT GUIDE DOGS.**

Bucklebury 'Tea in the Park'

Volunteers Needed on 29 April 2011

Help the afternoon go with a swing!

Would you be able to spare the odd hour? The wedding celebration event runs from 1-6.30pm and there are lots of jobs, including helping to:

- Serve the Hog Roast
- Serve in the Tea Tent or Bar
- Sell Commemorative Mugs
- Cut & distribute wedding cake
- Sell souvenirs
- Hand out programmes
- And lots more!

Email Oli Brooke on oli@buckleburyfarmpark.co.uk, or phone Wynne Frankum on 01635 863372, indicating how long you can volunteer for, and which job you'd like to help with (if you have a preference).

THANK YOU!

Memories of Bucklebury from Ann Tetlow - 1950's

THE PASSION AND NATIVITY PLAYS

Mrs Hardy, the Vicar's wife, had, I think received acting training. She and Cecilia Millson, the wife of a local builder, were instrumental in putting on Passion and Nativity plays in Bucklebury Church the 1940's and 50's, ending in 1958 when The Rev. & Mrs Hardy left the parish. As well as Bucklebury people, singers and actors from neighbouring villages took part as well. My friend, Joan Cutherbertson, was one of the angels in the Nativity Play, and in 1954, when the Farnborough Air Disaster claimed the lives of Jean and Audrey Maccabee from Upper Bucklebury, who played two of the angels, Joan suggested me as one of the replacements.

Sheila Dennis (later Kent) played the Virgin Mary, Reg Allum was one of the Shepherds and Janet Sellwood (later Allum) was one of the angels. Gabriel was played by Jenny Burgess of Marlston Farm. George Stocker, the Captain of the Tower, played Herod, and for some years I was promoted (or demoted!) from being an angel to playing Herod's Wife. Cecilia Millson was St. Elizabeth.

Commander Hilary Ewart and his wife were in the choir, and Cdr. Ewart started the play by singing *Comfort Ye*, from *The Messiah*.

Mr Hardy spoke the narrative – the actors didn't speak.

In the Passion Play, Beatrice Perry played Mary Magdalene – she was the only woman around who had long hair! – and Basil Johnson played St John. Dr Ashman was Judas and during one full dress rehearsal he was called away to a patient, whom he attended in full costume and make-up! We never knew if the patient recovered from the shock!

The three weeks leading up to Christmas and then to Easter were filled with rehearsals and performances. It was a very moving thing to be involved in – and very professional (on a par with the Aldermaston Play) and a wonderful lead up to the two great Christian feasts. Janet Allum and I agree that Christmas and Easter have never been the same without it.

I think we gave 6 or 7 performances and the church was filled each time. Coaches came from quite a wide area – one year I remember, a coach load came from Bath.

Ann Tetlow



Written by Trevor Hughes

Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society present a war time revue combining a mixture of comedy and music from the outbreak of war to victory!

BUCKELBURY MEMORIAL HALL
Wednesday 27th - Saturday 30th July 2011 7.30pm
Matinee on Saturday 30th July 2011 2.30pm
Tickets £10/£8 to include a two course supper
Box Office: The Family Bookshop, Thatcham
(0870 285 5287) or visit www.kats.org.uk



Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society



Following the success of the KATS pantomime *Trouble in Pantoland* KATS have started rehearsals for their next production *Don't Forget Your Gas Mask* scheduled for 27-30 July 2011 at the Bucklebury Memorial Hall.

Join us as we step back in time to present a war time revue set in the Second World War. There will be a wartime theme throughout the venue which will include a piping hot meal, while the show combines a mixture of comedy, music and a glimpse into life both home and abroad from the outbreak of war to Victory!

Tickets available from the Box Office The Family Bookshop, Thatcham (0870 285 5287) or visit www.kats.org.uk

Mandy Cole

KATS



We have had a great start to the year in Berkshire – Those of you who came to the concert at St. Nicolas in Newbury will have enjoyed an entertaining concert – masterminded by Daniel and Sandra Nicholls. Daniel performed a song written for the wedding of Kate Middleton to Prince William called *A Song for Kate and William*. Graham and Hilary Pask are to be congratulated on organising a super concert and raising over £4000 for Macmillan.

Last year also saw the expansion of our practical, emotional and financial support services. This helped us provide a record of over £10 million in Macmillan grants and secure at least £70 million in benefits for people affected by cancer. £57,000 in grants was given in West Berkshire.

None of this would be possible without the passion, commitment and energy of all our supporters, volunteers, staff and professionals. Thank you for all your support and loyalty. In difficult economic times, people affected by cancer will need our support more than ever before. More people than ever are being diagnosed and living with cancer.

This year we have some very different events – The Welsh Choir *Cor Melbion Morlais* 7th May 2011 at The Arlington Centre Newbury. Very few tickets left!

A rock concert at the Corn Exchange 3rd July 2011

A luncheon at The Vineyard October 21st – Sir Peter Michael will be our guest speaker – just to visit the Vineyard and to see some of the wonderful paintings is a treat in itself.

Exact date to be announced – a Sunday in November/December for a children's tea party and show with surprise guest celebrities, at The Watermill. Mums/grandparents: Bubbles and smoked salmon sandwiches - children: traditional fun tea party.

Our 10th Annual Christmas Cancer Concert – a very special cathedral choir and wonderful speakers Saturday December 3rd 2011.

April 23rd 2012 - Very special lunch at The Vineyard – Guest speaker Pam Ayres who will also be signing her autobiography coming out later this year.

Please continue your support; it is very necessary and much appreciated.

Erica Tipton, Chair Newbury Committee, 0118 9712148 - erica.tipton@yahoo.co.uk

Celebrations at Pubs

The Cottage Inn

The Cottage Inn in Upper Bucklebury is now a family-run pub. Gary, Mandy and their children Carly, Gavin and Callum - not forgetting the family's pet dog Nikita who is a big friendly Old English Sheepdog welcome you to the pub which offers a warm, friendly atmosphere.

The pub's opening hours are,

Monday	6.00pm - 11.00pm
Tuesday	12.00am - 11.00pm
Wednesday	12.00am - 11.00pm
Thursday	12.00am - 11.00pm
Friday	12.00am - 2.00am
Saturday	12.00am - 2.00am
Sunday	12.00am - 11.00pm

We are now serving at lunch time, evening food menu and Sunday roasts.

Kitchen is closed on Mondays

Lunch time menu served from 12am-3pm, Tuesday - Saturday. Last orders at 2.30pm.

Evening menu served from 6-9pm, Tuesday - Saturday. Last orders at 8.30pm.

Sunday Roasts served from 12am-3pm. Last orders at 2.45pm.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our customers that have continuously been supporting us since we opened in December.

The Cottage Inn is holding a Party in the paddock to celebrate the wedding of Kate and Will on Friday 29th April.

Our day begins at 6am with the Choir singing in the pub being filmed by Breakfast TV. ITV, NBC America and Channel 7 Australia film crews will be with us throughout the day. We have a very popular ITV crew with us on the day.

Free bacon baps offered between 10-11am.

The wedding will be shown in the bars.

Events in the paddock begin from 10am include Beer tent, BBQ, Hog Roast, Champagne & Strawberries, Wedding cake & cup cakes, sale of ex-stock beautiful wedding gowns at amazing prices, craft stalls, bouncy castle, bungee run, rodeo bull, candy floss & balloons

The day ends in the paddock at 9pm with a Spectacular firework display

Join us for a fun packed day!

We look forward to seeing you!

Gary, Mandy, Carly, Gavin & Callum
The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury



The Green

To celebrate the wedding of Catherine and William, Chapel Row Sheep Racing will be holding a special wedding day party from 8am – 1pm on Friday 29th April on the Green opposite the Bladebone.

A large marquee will hold a screen where the activities in London can be viewed. There will be a beer tent, tea tent, Hog Roast and BBQ. The local Morris men will be in attendance.

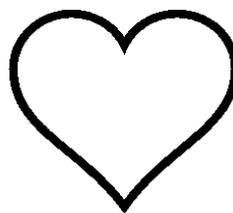
During the morning and early afternoon there will be a number of 'royal' duck races to entertain you. Special commemorative T-shirts will be available on the day or can be ordered in advance on the website www.chapelrowsheep racing.co.uk

The Bladebone

In the evening there will be a party at the Bladebone with a fancy dress theme (this is optional but do your best!).

As large numbers are expected there will be no restaurant service but instead a buffet will be provided during the course of the evening. Please collect your free tickets from the Bladebone.

All profits raised will be donated to the Princes Trust Charity



WANTED

We need helpers for the royal wedding celebration on the 28th, 29th & 30th April, if you can help please contact John Lafferty on:

Mobile: 07970 850839

Work: 0118 9820988

Home: 01189 712421

Email: john@ims-franking.co.uk

Halls

Memorial Hall Improvement Committee

MORE FACILITIES FOR OUR YOUNGER PARISHIONERS

Following the successful completion of our Oak Room extension and the renovation of the Fred Dawson Play Park, we now wish to try and help another group of Parishioners, namely teenagers.

The committee have been conscious of the lack of facilities for this group and after considerable discussion are proposing to build a 'BMX' type cycle track on the old and no longer used football area as well as providing a teens shelter.

Over the last few months we have been considering a number of possible options such as a skate ramp or hard surface area [MUGA] but after a number of meetings with young people and WBC youth officers opted for the cycle track, as this



Spring 2011 at The Fred Dawson Memorial Play Park

option would be less noisy and the favoured choice from the discussion groups. The present old football area would have needed major work, levelling, draining, and re-seeding to make it into a usable area.

We are also very conscious of the need to keep noise and nuisance levels to a minimum for existing hall users as well as neighbouring properties. A cycle track would be much less noisy than a skate ramp.

Funding for the track and shelter will come from some existing monies left over from The Oak Room project. We are also very grateful for the very generous donations from a parishioner, The Greenham Trust, The Parish Council, and West Berkshire Community fund.

Tenders are at present being obtained and we hope to carry out the work in May.

Jeremy Brooke

Memorial Hall Improvement Committee

The Fred Dawson Memorial Play Park, Upper Bucklebury

Now that the weather is getting a little warmer, it is a joy to see so many children enjoying our local village play park. Tucked behind Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall and by the tennis courts, it is proving to be a fantastic play facility for the kids as well as a focal point for all ages to meet and make new friends.

The decision to invest in well-designed, quality equipment is working out very well. It has been over a year already since the play park was re-opened on 10th November 2009. Playground Facilities who built the refurbished park are currently helping to get the tube slide to run even better so watch this space!

Funding came from several sources at the time, including The Veolia Environmental Trust, which awarded a fantastic grant of £29,899 through the Landfill Communities Fund. A generous £9,000 came from the Playbuilder Programme, donated by West Berkshire Council's D.C.S.F. The local community also raised money and there were many other Sponsors that included:- The Bucklebury Memorial Hall Improvement Committee; Vibrant Villages with the Greenham Common Trust; The Englefield Charitable Trust; Grassroots Greenham; The Cumber Family Trust; Bucklebury Pre-School and Scottish & Southern Energy. Bucklebury Parish Council were also instrumental in facilitating the project.

There is enormous gratitude to everyone who helped to make the refurbishment of Fred Dawson Memorial Park a reality and a very big thank you also goes to the local community who use and take care of the park on a day-to-day basis.

Suzi Poole



Enjoying the Fred Dawson Play Park

The Victory Room Bucklebury Village



Two highly entertaining evenings were held at the Victory Room recently, in support of the fund-raising efforts for the Parish's Royal Wedding celebrations. On 12th February, a ceilidh (Scottish Dancing) was led once again by the fantastic St Andrews Scottish dancers and the amazing piper, Ron Patterson. After a warming supper and brilliant puddings, the keen crowd tried the various reels with excellent guidance from the dancers. We will definitely have St Andrews back again, as they are so helpful (and patient!), and love to share their enthusiasm for these traditional dances. If you've missed this fun event previously, do come along next time.

On 5th March, a Wine Quaffer's evening was held in the Victory Room - what a pleasant way to spend an evening, sampling wines! A 'Call my Bluff' game kept the audience guessing; how can 3 panellists lie so convincingly?! Each table also had a fun, challenging wine quiz to complete, and a delicious ploughman's supper to enjoy. It was a delightful evening - congratulations to the Bucklebury Village Events committee for pulling it together and raising funds for the royal wedding event.

MARK YOUR DIARIES!

BBQ & Country music evening – Saturday 2nd July 2011

With warmer weather approaching, summer bar-b-ques come to mind, and the Victory Room committee is planning a fun event on July 2nd. A delicious BBQ and lively country music is a perfect way to spend a long summer evening, so watch for flyers with more details!

HIRE THE VICTORY ROOM FOR YOUR PARTY OR EVENT

The Victory Room is the perfect venue for up to 80 people. The hall has everything you'll need - tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery and table cloths – plus a stage! All of the furniture is also available for local hire.

The Victory Room is located right next to the village recreation ground with plenty of room in the car park. For information on the availability of the hall and hiring charges, please contact Lindy Clarke on 0118 971 2768.

Anne Ryder Trustee Chairman, 01635 867186

Victory Room dates - see back page

Sports

Bucklebury Badminton Club



The club has hosted two successful open evenings in January and March when professional coach, Steve Heath, gave us all some new ideas to work on during club nights. We hope to hold another open evening in the summer, so watch out for the

notices in local shops or check out our website listed below for more details. Meanwhile, we are pleased to welcome several new members including a group of very promising juniors who are keeping us on our toes around the courts. With the influx of new blood, we are hoping to field two men's teams next season.

Plans are well under way to start a junior club on a Tuesday night from 6.30 to 8 p.m. at Elstree School. We have one volunteer coach, but we would be very pleased if any other local coaches feel they could give up some time to help with this exciting venture. If you are interested or you have children who might like to come please contact us.

The men's team continue to win matches this season and look likely to finish in the middle of their division. The mixed team are putting up a brave fight in division two, but are faced with relegation in September.

Our summer club will run until the first week of July. Please come and have a knock around or a have some more serious games if you're an experienced player. We play on Tuesday evenings from 8 to 10 at Elstree School in Woolhampton.

Margaret Neville 01635 873811

<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

Tennis Club

THE SUMMER SCHEDULE IS UP AND RUNNING!

As from Tuesday 29th March we started on our summer Mix-ins. The Courts are booked for Club Members on Tuesday & Friday evenings from 5.30p.m. until dark. This is a great opportunity to get into the swing of tennis early in the season. For those who are not members but keen to play come along and introduce yourselves and join the Club. It is a painless process! We continue to look for new faces at the Club. Membership is very reasonable and there are plenty of

opportunities to enjoy both social and league tennis.

LAST SEASON

Before we forget the end of another year, we should congratulate our teams who proved so successful in both the summer and winter leagues, and the veterans who came very close to the top of their own league competitions. Several of our successes have meant promotion to the next Division.

LTA PLACES TO PLAY

Bucklebury Tennis Club has now registered with the LTA and enjoys all the benefits of membership. One of the perks is that the Club now has an allocation of Wimbledon tickets. Once received this allocation will be balloted amongst members (at face-value charges for tickets.) So if you are a keen Wimbledon tennis fan, join up now and extend the chances of winning a ballot for one of the tickets. Our distribution will be for Members only.

NEWBURY & DISTRICT LEAGUES

Once again we have entered several teams into this local competition. Two Men's Teams, two Ladies' teams, two Mixed teams. Although competitive, there is room to accommodate most players who would like the challenge of playing against other local clubs yet still end the match on friendly terms with the opposition!

COACHING

For those who have no confidence in their game there is a fully qualified coach available. We usually offer this as a group arrangement, which allows you to learn without feeling the pressure of being the sole beginner. Sharing your failings alongside others frequently leads to you realising that you are not the only duffer around!

On a more organised and formal base we have specific sessions for our younger players with Under 12's on Monday evenings (usually two groups divided on skills/age) and Teens on Saturday mornings. These start in May and usually comprise 10 sessions over the summer term. The complete programme costs £30 to members and £35 to non-members. Places for this need to be booked and paid for in advance. Anyone interested should contact Emma Spriggs ejn@asalimited.com or the undersigned.

QUIZ NIGHT

For those of you who don't feel confident about tennis but shine in challenges for the brain why not come along to our quiz evening on Saturday May 7th.

If you would like to join the Club, or if any of the above is of interest to you and you would like to know more, please contact: Mike James

Mike James 0118 9712285, m-a-james@tiscali.co.uk



Bucklebury Cricket Club

Would you like to play cricket for Bucklebury this summer? You can play regularly or just the occasional game and all standards are welcome. We play for fun and enjoyment and there are 18 matches between April and September. All games are on Sunday afternoons (normally 2.30pm start) with our home games at Brockhurst School.

Our first match of the season is away at Englefield on 24th April (yes, that's Easter Sunday). Before then please join us for pre-season nets. Alternatively, come along to one of our evening practices during the summer.

For more details, please check the club's website, <http://bucklebury.play-cricket.com>, where you can find the times of our nets and practice sessions or contact the captain.

Piers Allison Team Captain 0118 971 2596

Bucklebury Wolves FC

Still Growing!

The third full season for 'Bucklebury Wolves FC' kicked off early in February with the very first session setting a new attendance record of 25 players. This broke the previous record who attended the club's World Cup tournament last June.

The number of goals scored, and indeed the number of individual's scoring - both in the weekly practice matches and in our first 'friendly league' match last month - has increased

since last season, and there is more competition than ever for the end of season 'Top Scorer' trophy. Coaches' awards are made at the end of every session, with annual awards being presented at the end of the season in November. During this season, as well as the usual training session, the club will hold an internal tournament and play around 10 matches against local sides.

The 'Wolves' team, comprising 7, 8 and 9 year olds is now at maximum capacity with 32 players registered. A core of five coaches delivers the training.

To ensure the long-term development of the Club, and to allow more children to participate, the 'Bucklebury Wolf Cubs' team also started in February. The Cubs team is for 5 and 6 year olds. It has already grown to 14 players with two coaches, though there is space for more players and more coaches.

Should you or your children wish to become involved with the Cubs team, or join the waiting list for the Wolves team, please contact Jonathan Poole or visit our website.

All the club activities are free to attend and participate in. This is only possible through the generosity of those who support the Club, which includes our kit sponsors - MCD Plastering and bfs Pressroom Solutions Ltd - together with Bucklebury Parish Council, West Berkshire Council, Greenham Common Trust and the Berkshire Community Trust.

Finally, the Club would like to take this opportunity to thank the Victory Room and Recreation Ground Committees for both their support and use of their facilities, without which we would be unable to continue.

Jonathan Poole 07879 890080, jpoole@ridge.co.uk

www.buckleburywolvesfc.sports.officelive.com



Bucklebury Wolves FC Team of 2011

Bluebell Walk – 23

The Wimbles & Burden's Heath

From the Memorial Hall car park walk back towards the village and turn left down Longrove immediately before Peach's Garage. At the end of the path turn right through the woods and down the hill (the bluebells here are excellent, especially on a sunny day). Keep to the path heading virtually straight down as the paths to the left and right are private. At the bottom, (it can be muddy, go over the bridge and out into the field. Bear right and keep the hedge on your right until you see the footpath sign leading off to the right. Go down a steep bank and over the bridge (can be muddy here and path a little difficult to negotiate) and over stiles up the hill towards The Wimbles.

At the houses follow the lane to the permitted path and turn left heading towards Thatcham. Go down this path as far as the steps and then carefully exit the path onto the road and turn right back up to the corner to take the footpath on the left. Follow this wide path with trees on your left and the gravel extraction on your right (excellent blackberries!). At cross paths follow the footpath sign straight ahead and at the left hand bend also follow sign straight ahead and bearing slightly right until you reach the road.

Cross the road towards The Slade and take the path on the right before the Quiet Lane signs. This path runs almost parallel to the road – turn left at the telegraph line and carry on until you come to a wider path where you turn right. Cross the road and follow the Byway – at the Y junction follow the red Byway sign bearing to the right.

Turn right at the junction with the main track, cross the road and then turn left onto Broad Lane and back to the start.

HeLen ReIf 01635 867619. helenreIf@relfsociety.org



Negotiating mud on the Bluebell Walk in the rain

Royal Wedding Bells

A wedding would not be complete without bells sounding out to welcome the bride and to ring the newly-weds off to their reception. The forthcoming Royal Wedding is no exception: bells will be sounding out both at Westminster Abbey and at St. Mary's Bucklebury, Kate Middleton's parish church.

As I write, plans are not yet completely finalised, but the current plans at St. Mary's are:

The afternoon before the wedding, we will be attempting a quarter peal of Bucklebury Delight Major;

On the wedding day itself, there will be ringing by the local band from 9:30 to 10:15 to 'ring the bride in' and then in the afternoon we will ring a full peal in a new method especially devised for the occasion and to be named "Chapel Row Delight" This will take place during the party at the Farm Park, so you will all be able to hear it.

My initial thought for the band to ring the peal was to get together ringers from a 10-mile radius of Chapel Row and make it a truly local band peal. However, not enough local peal ringers were available to make this practical, so I've cast my net wider including, as I later found out, one ringer whose daughter was at school with Kate Middleton and who has been on holidays with the Middletons. Another ringer is an old hand at Royal ringing, having rung at the Windsor Castle Curfew tower for the present Queen's Coronation as well as for many other Royal occasions. As well as myself, there are two other ringers from the local band: Ros Durham, ringing her first peal for 27 years, and Graham Brown. The band is completed by ringers from Thatcham, Newbury, Hungerford and Goring.

To maximise our chances, I've got a couple of practice quarter peals arranged, these will have taken place - successfully I hope - by the time this is published.

As for the ringing that will be heard on television from Westminster Abbey.

Not many people know that:

- The Collegiate Church of St Peter, to give it its proper title, has a ring of ten bells, the heaviest weighing 30 cwt, 1 quarter and 15 pounds (1544 kg) in the key of D.

- To bellringers, it is simply known as "The Abbey"

- The bells are rung by the Westminster Abbey Company of Ringers and ringing is strictly controlled. Ringing is by invitation only and The Abbey is one of the few belfries in the world where a visiting ringer cannot just turn up and expect to ring.

- On at least two occasions, ringers applied to "Jim'll Fix It" to get a ring at the Abbey. Jim was never able to Fix It.

- The Abbey Company is made up of a fixed number of Principal members, supplemented by Supernumerary members. For practical reasons, they are drawn from ringers working or living in London, and it is one of the peaks of a ringing career to be invited to become a 'Supernumerary at The Abbey'.

- The bells will be rung before the bride arrives, and afterwards a full peal will be rung, consisting of 5040 changes in two methods: London and Bristol Surprise Royal. This will take around three and a quarter hours of intense concentration.

- At least two local (but not Bucklebury) ringers will be in the congregation at the Abbey.

- The ringers will have a unique view of the ceremony via the closed-circuit TV installed in the belfry.

- The ringers will have to stay in the belfry from 8:30 in the morning till after the peal has ended, a total of around 10 hours.

- There are no toilet facilities in the belfry!

Incidentally, "Blue Peter" was filming the ringers at The Abbey in mid-March, with the segment due to be broadcast a couple of days before the Royal Wedding.

John Durham - Bucklebury Tower Captain

01635 866524 - john.durham@btinternet.com

Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers

Spring is with us again and with it comes the urge to get out into the countryside and enjoy the rural idyll. And while you are at it why not join the volunteers to help keep the countryside in a state fit to be enjoyed?

With the advent of our new chairman, Frank Hayward from Baughurst, our voluntary tasks are breaking new ground, not least in maintaining some Thames-side water meadows at Streatley. Now that the birds are beginning to nest we must slow up on coppicing and hedge laying until the Autumn. Our schedule for the Spring and Summer months will include pulling invasive alien species such as Himalayan Balsam from King's Copse just off the Avenue. We will also be carrying out footpath maintenance on the Common and elsewhere and later be bracken bashing.

We live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - the N. Wessex AONB; but the beauty is due to several hundred years of man - and women - management. If we give up now we will lose the beauty that has been achieved as a by-product of farming and other land use over the years.

All details of our future tasks will be appearing in the Spring edition of *UpStream* the quarterly news letter of the Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys Countryside Project, which will be out soon. It will also contain full details for volunteering, joining organised walks or contributing to all the conservation efforts by joining "The Friends of the P, K & L Vs C P". Your support for all our work is always appreciated.

UpStream is available from the local shops, pubs and the surgery; but if you would like your own copy delivered, then joining the 'Friends' for an annual subscription of £15 per household will achieve this and help the fund raising too.

The long serving 'Friends' committee will be standing down at the AGM in July. This will be your opportunity to do your bit for the countryside by joining the committee and supporting our efforts. Your contact for details is: Nathan Walker at the Countryside Project Office at Englefield - tel 0118 930 5335/6

Dennis Gower

Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group

We have completed our winter programme, all burnt up and tidy round the edges, but not too tidy!

On the areas we cleared 8 years ago, it is difficult to remember that it was covered by 20ft high silver birch trees and 40ft high scots pine. Now there is a thick covering of mature heather to add to the acreage that W.B.C. have reclaimed on Snelsmoor, Crookham and Greenham Commons.

We have created about 80 acres of lowland heath in the last 25 years which is providing an ideal habitat for our "specials" Nightjar, Woodlark and Tree Pipit. I hope they had a good winter in Southern Spain and Africa and come safely back to us.

There are two Nightjar - Glow Worm walks this Summer on Wednesdays 22nd June and 6th July; meet 8:30 at the "Scout Hut" - come if you can!

Tim Culley

Stop press: Tim heard a Woodlark singing on the Lower Common in March!

Contributions

Material to appear in *The Oaks* should be sent neatly typed for scanning or as a word-processor document (eg MS Word), attached to an e-mail, to "johnlindyclarke@hotmail.com". 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 Parish Council reserves the right to adapt or omit submissions.

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

Wynne Frankum

Parish Diary Dates

APRIL

5 th	Bucklebury Greening	Open Meeting	7.45pm	Memorial Hall
7 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10.00am	The Cottage Inn
24 th	Bucklebury Cricket Club	1 st Match	2.30pm	Englefield
29 th	The Bladebone	Royal Wedding Celebration	8.00am	The Green
	Bucklebury Bellringers	Bell ringing	9.30am	St Mary's Church
	The Cottage Inn	Royal Wedding Celebration	10.00am	The Paddock
	Parish Council	Tea in the Park	1.00pm	Bucklebury Farm Park

MAY

3 rd	Spanish for beginners		9.00am	All Saints Church
4 th	Bucklebury Friendship Circle	Coffee Morning	10.30am	Briff Farm
5 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10.00am	The Cottage Inn
7 th	Bucklebury Tennis Club	Quiz Evening	7.30pm	Memorial Hall
	Macmillan Nurses	Welsh Choir Concert <i>Cor Melbion Morlais</i>	7.30pm	Arlington Centre
13 th	Parish Council	Annual Assembly	7.30pm	Memorial Hall
21 st	Bucklebury History Group	Village History Day	11.00am	The Old Kitchen, Bucklebury House

JUNE

22 nd	Bucklebury Heathlands	Nightjar-Glow Worm walk	8.30pm	Scout Hut
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JULY

2 nd	Victory Room	BBQ/Country Music	7.30pm	Victory Room
3 rd	Macmillan Nurses	Rock Concert	7.30pm	Corn Exchange
6 th	Bucklebury Heathlands	Nightjar-Glow Worm walk	8.30pm	Scout Hut
27-30	KATS	<i>Don't forget your Gasmask</i>	7.30pm	Memorial Hall

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by Bucklebury Parish Council.

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